Ireland Wales Programme 2014-2020

Programme Monitoring Committee - Meeting 1
Thursday 30 April 2015
Council Chamber of Dublin City Council, Dublin City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin
13:00

2014-2020 Programme Monitoring Committee PMC1420 Meeting 1

Agenda

1. Welcome - Opening and Introduction – brief introduction from members, the joint Chairs and officials

2. Background to the Ireland Wales Programme (Joint Presentation – to follow) *IWPMC1420 (01) 01*

3. Programme Monitoring Committee – Approval of Draft Rules of Procedure *IWPMC1420 (01) 02*

4. Programme Implementation *IWPMC1420 (01) 03*

5. Selection Criteria *IWPMC1420 (01) 04*

6. Joint Secretariat (JS) Work Programme *IWPMC1420 (01) 05 – to follow*

7. Establishment of Programme Steering Committee (PSC) *(Oral update)*

8. Indicative PMC Business for 2015 - Future Meetings *(Oral update)*

9. Any Other Business

2007-2013 Programme Monitoring Committee PMC Meeting 14

Agenda

1. Reconstitution & Functions of the 2007-2013 PMC   *PMC14 (01)*

2. Minutes of PMC 13 – Lucan, Co. Dublin 4 March 2014 (for information) *PMC14 (02)*

3. 2007-2013 Programme Update Report   *PMC14 (03)*

4. Any Other Business

Joint Secretariat 2014-2020 - April 2015

Ireland Wales Programme 2014-2020

Programme Monitoring Committee – Induction and Meeting 1

Dublin City Hall / Davenport Hotel, Dublin

Thursday 30 April 2015

Attendance is shown at Annex 1.

A table of Action Points is set out at Annex 2.

Induction Session

- *Opening remarks and Introduction*

The Joint Chairs welcomed all members to the induction session of the 2014-2020 PMC.

Attendees were asked to briefly introduce themselves, their organisation and the experience they would be bringing to the 2014-2020 PMC.

The Joint Secretariat (JS) were also introduced, with a brief explanation of their role and where they would be based.

- *Presentation*

The Head of the European Territorial Co-operation in the Managing Authority in WEFO provided a short presentation, setting the scene for the Ireland Wales Programme in the wider context of European Territorial Co-operation (ETC), complementarity with the regional programmes of both Ireland and Wales, as well as an introduction to the role of the PMC. The importance of results orientation for the 2014-2020 programme was highlighted..

- *The European Commission's perspective*

Officials in both regions were congratulated on the work which had led to the approval of a high quality programme. It was underlined that the challenge for the programme was to demonstrate the added value of ETC and evidence results and added value. The PMC plays an important role in ensuring the programme is

delivering its objectives and that the programme is of a positive benefit to stakeholders and citizens – the communication of these benefits is key to success. Synergies must also be made with other programmes to increase the results on the ground.

The new focus on results is important in terms of the PMC's strategic role.

- *Q&A*
The floor was opened for questions from the PMC members. Matters raised included:

o "Coastal Communities"
It was confirmed that some interventions will have a specific focus on coastal and maritime areas, in particular within Priority Axis 3 which focused on coastal communities.

- Communication
It was also highlighted that the programme has a number of different 'audiences' – the Programme has a duty to disseminate information to citizens and the Communications Strategy to be presented at the next PMC would take this into full account..

o Function/role of the PMC
The PMC has a specific role to approve the Selection Criteria. The intention was for funding decisions for individual operations to be undertaken by the Programme Steering Committee (PSC). The PMC will monitor the overall outputs of those projects. It was underlined that the Selection Criteria, to be agreed by the PMC, plays a key role in achieving the results orientation approach.

o The link with communities
In noting a clear emphasis on concentration and the strategy had been developed on identifying those key areas which could add greatest added value through co-operation, the importance of community engagement was recognised. The programme had been developed to take due account of inclusive growth as well as the headline aims of smart and sustainable growth so that the smaller bottom up community based operations will be able to play an important role in the successful delivery of the Programme.

o The rationale behind the Priority Axes
Lessons learnt from previous programmes were discussed, as well as partnership consultations which had taken place. The 2014-2020 programme would have a focus on the Irish Sea on, innovation, climate change and maritime links as borne out by the financial allocations within each Priority Axis, however if, during the course of the programme, the PMC had views on re-balancing allocations, this could be discussed and proposed to the European Commission, although there would have to be a real

justification for doing so as the financial allocations had already been negotiated and agreed based on the priorities of the cross-border area.

Programme Monitoring Committee 2014-2020 – Meeting 1

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Opening remarks

The Joint Chairs welcomed members to the first PMC Meeting of the 2014-2020 Ireland Wales Programme, including those not present at the earlier induction session.

Agenda Item 2: Background to the Ireland Wales Programme

A joint WEFO/SRA presentation provided background to the 2014-2020 Programme, including its development, vision, identification of key challenges, strategy, focus and priorities.

A discussion took place around the types of partnership under PA1 (Cross-border Innovation) – it was underlined that PA1 required a good mix of partners, to include HE/FE institutions, SMEs and private sector engagement. Operations must also be genuinely cross-border.

It was confirmed that all Priority Axes were open to a wide range of organisations as stipulated in the Co-operation document which had been copied to members. This included smaller third sector organisations and social enterprises – providing they could evidence sufficient capacity to deliver.

It was agreed that an illustration of successful projects from the 2007-2013 programme would be helpful for members.

Action: The MA/JS would consider content of the videos shown at the recent launch in Swansea and 20-year event at Dublin Castle and set up a DVD to be shown at the next PMC meeting.

Action: JS to explore options for projects to present to members at the next PMC meeting and build in the possibility of project visits looking forward.

Agenda Item 3: Approval of Draft Rules of Procedure

The MA introduced the Rules of Procedure paper (IWPMC1420 (01)02) which the PMC were asked to consider and agree at this meeting. A brief overview of the PMC's functions and tasks was outlined, in particular the strategic monitoring function of the PMC, the need to achieve agreement by consensus as had been the case in all previous programmes was highlighted as was the importance of continuity of attendance to PMC meetings. The delegation of approval of operations by constituting a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) was emphasised.

Amendments to draft Rules of Procedure

It was suggested by the Joint Chairs that an amendment be made to para 33 (fees and expenses) to include social partners and private organisations as eligible to claim travel and subsistence costs. This amendment was agreed by the PMC.

An amendment was suggested to para 21 (decision-making in the absence of a simple majority) – the wording should be changed to reflect that this option would only take place if there was no consensus either way. This amendment was agreed by the PMC.

A further discussion took place on consensus and the need for written procedure – it was underlined that the default position is to resolve all issues during meetings. It was also agreed that names of the PMC members should be published on the website.

A question was also raised about members' declaration of interests (para 26) – it was confirmed that a register of interests would be drafted and sent to all members and it was the responsibility of the individual to declare any interest both at this meeting or acquired in future.

The Draft Rules of Procedure was agreed by the PMC, subject to the amendments above.

Action: JS to make the necessary amendments to the Rules of Procedure and re-circulate to the PMC in the next couple of weeks

Action: JS to draft and circulate a register of interests paper to all members

Agenda Item 4: Programme Implementation

WEFO's Head of the JS provided a brief description of the Joint Secretariat (JS) structure and implementation process as set out in more detail in paper IWPMC1420 (01) 02), including detail on the open call process, the '3-level approach', mobilisation period and evaluation. The Joint Chair commended the procedure now put in place as a result of lessons learnt from the previous programme period.

Matters raised by members included:

o *Length of operations* – most will last around three years but this will depend on the size of the operation and needed to be considered on a case by case basis. Some projects exceeding three years duration were anticipated.
o *Length of development process* – it is expected that development will last 2-3 months, with a maximum of 6-9 months;
o *Pre-planning stage* – it was confirmed that this would have a high level focus on strategic issues such as outputs, results and target audiences. Early discussions

would also take place regarding eligibility criteria. It was also confirmed that if the operation failed to complete the mobilisation stage in time, the operation would be returned to the PSC for a decision.

- o *Expected size of operations* – it was agreed that this would need to balanced, with a range of smaller pilots to medium and larger operations. After the first year or two of monitoring, the PMC will need to evaluate how funding is being used;
- o *Timing* – it was confirmed that 2023 would be the final year of spend, and the PMC would need to agree a cut off date;
- o *Calls* – The MA and JS needed to manage a continuing pipeline of operations to ensure that programme N+3 expenditure targets were met. The PMC would have a key role on monitoring progress of the programme as it evolved and in managing risk. Specific calls could be initiated if required.

The PMC noted the Programme Implementation paper.

Agenda Item 5: Selection Criteria

The Head of JS provided a summary of the draft Selection Criteria paper (IWPMC1420 (01) 04) and the PMC was invited to consider and approve the content. The selection criteria need to be formally approved to expedite the implementation process.

Matters raised by members included:

- o *Type of criteria* – it was confirmed that the criteria was based on pass/fail and not intended as a way of ranking operations against each other;
- o *Regional proofing* – it was confirmed that the operations would be proofed against the programme itself, which in turn has been proofed against the priorities of both countries. It was also confirmed that advice on operations would be taken from policy leads in the Welsh Government and from leads within Irish Government departments and that the PSC membership would include expertise from various sectors;
- o *Governance of operations* – it was suggested a sentence was added to the section on governance within parent organisations to ensure due diligence within these organisations – this was agreed by the Joint Chairs;
- o *Smart Specialisation Strategies* – incorporating a specific reference into the selection criteria was discussed, however as smart specialisation strategies are not relevant to each of the Priority Axes and the document serves as criteria covering the whole programme, it was agreed on balance that this reference would not be added;
- o *Long term benefits* – it would be beneficial to document the long term benefits of the programme to report in future. This was agreed and would be facilitated as part of the evaluation stage;

o *'Value added'* – this term was considered to be applicable to any investment, not purely EU investment – <u>this amendment was agreed;</u>

o *Innovation* – the possibility of including "innovation" as a core criterion was considered. On balance, it was decided that innovation was inherent in the philosophy of the programme, so that a specific criterion was not required. This could be revisited in future if need be.

o *Alignment with Specific Objectives* – the need for clarity was discussed, in practical terms and aligned to the intervention logic. It was agreed that the JS should revisit the wording to reflect this;

o *Indicators/Outputs* – it was confirmed that Operations Officers would monitor the outputs of operations from a very early stage, and challenge as required along the implementation process.

o *A call 'launch'* – it was confirmed by the JS that details for the Open Call were already published on the website, and that the Operations Officers were operational and developing proposals.

The Joint Chair stressed that the programme needs to be operational as soon as possible and it is vital that the Operations Officers have the framework of the Selection Criteria approved. The document can however be subject to review.

It was agreed by the PMC that a revised Selection Criteria paper taking account of PMC comments should be circulated.

Action: *MA and JS to work on amendments and circulate a revised paper to be approved by the PMC within a couple of weeks. The PMC could approve the revised paper within five days by written procedure.*

Agenda item 6: Joint Secretariat (JS) Work Programme

The PMC were asked to note and agree the JS work programme paper (IWPMC1420 (01) 05) which included an indicative timetable work programme for 2015.

It was confirmed that a Draft Eligibility Rules paper would be published on the Ireland Wales website shortly, together with the draft guidance documents The Communications Strategy and Evaluation Strategy for the Programme would be presented to the PMC for approval at the July PMC meeting.

The paper was agreed by the PMC.

Agenda Item 7: Establishment of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC)

The MA presented a paper on the day (IWPMC1420 (01)) which set out plans for constituting a PSC responsible for selection of operations. It was stressed that the

priority had been to set up the inaugural meeting of the PMC, therefore work on establishing a PSC was still ongoing and subject to tri-lateral discussions between WEFO, SRA and DPER.

The Joint Chair confirmed that the PMC is the sovereign Committee for the programme but in accordance with the PMC Rules of Procedure which had been agreed, decisions on funding operations would be undertaken by the PSC. The PMC was asked to agree this mandate to the PSC.

Matters raised by members included:

o *PSC Membership* – it was confirmed that PSC members would consist of experts and practitioners who would have an interest and expertise in the policy areas within the three programme Priority Axes and that individuals with experience, expertise and practical knowledge of ETC and ERDF would be sought as part of the nomination process. PSC work would be more technical and focussed than that of the PMC, although theoretically a PMC member could also sit on the PSC. The size of the PSC was still being considered. Officials would keep PMC members informed of developments with establishing the PSC and its members;
o *Role of PSC* – it was confirmed that while the JS will report and give an opinion on how an operation has met the selection criteria, they will not advise the PSC on funding decisions. The PSC will have the definitive decision on selecting operations;
o *Role of PMC in this process* – it was confirmed that the PMC will have no direct role in decision-making in terms of operations, however they will be informed of all decisions made by the PSC. The PMC will look at the operations from a <u>programme</u> perspective – delivery of outputs and results, commitment of funds etc. The PMC can however comment if, for example, operations are not delivering as expected;
o *Delay in process* – there was some concern over delay in development given the nomination process – the MA confirmed its intention to agree PSC composition and set up a first PSC meeting by the end of June.

The PMC agreed to the proposal in the paper for setting up of the PSC.

Agenda Item 8: Indicative PMC Business for 2015 – Future Meetings

An indicative structure for future meetings was set out for members

➢ Remaining 2015 meetings: July and November – July date to be confirmed urgently
➢ Future meetings: generally bi-annual, to take place in April and September
➢ PMC meetings would take place on a Thursday, preceded by the offer of an evening meal on the Wednesday evening
➢ Meeting locations will alternate between Ireland and Wales

Members were asked to agree on holding the PMC meetings at different locations throughout the programme area and that these could be combined with possible project presentations and/or visits – this was agreed by the PMC.

Members requested that meeting dates be sent a year in advance.

Action: MA/JS to send date for next PMC meeting to members urgently

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

There were no items discussed under AOB.

2007-2013 Programme Monitoring Committee

Meeting 14

Agenda Item 1 – Reconstitution & Functions of the 2007-2013 PMC

The PMC was asked to approve the proposal to take responsibility for the remaining work of the 2007-2013 Ireland Wales PMC. The Joint Chair confirmed that the closure process would be led by SRA, the 2007-2013 Managing Authority and not by the PMC. However the Committee will have to approve the Final Implementation Report.

The PMC agreed to this proposal.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of PMC 13 (March 2014)

The minutes were noted and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – 2007-2013 Programme Update Report

The Joint Chair confirmed that the programme was fully subscribed, with 102% of funds committed and based on current estimates it is projected that the final programme spend will be in the order of 97-98% of the programme commitment – which would be a very successful outcome. The outputs are looking positive, and the remaining tasks include closure of the remaining live projects by the end of 2015 which will enable the programme to be closed by March 2017.

It was also confirmed that this PMC would need to approve the 2014 annual implementation report before it is formally submitted to the Commission – this would be around the end of May, and be done by written procedure.

Matters raised by members included:

o *Cautiousness of 2007-2013 indicators (in particular SMEs/jobs created)* – it was confirmed that the indicators had previously been discussed by the 2007-2013 Monitoring Committee. Targets were set at a relatively low level, however ETC programmes were not primarily aimed at job creation to the same extent as larger regional programmes. That said, the subject of indicators in the context of drilling

down beneath the numbers to provide a narrative on what was being achieved had been an ongoing issue raised by the 2007-2013 PMC. PMC comments were noted and it was agreed that there should be a greater emphasis on this subject in the new programme.

o *Targets/indicators* – members requested clarification of targets and indicators for the new programme through a presentation during the next meetings – <u>this was agreed by the Joint Chairs;</u>

o *Effect of economic outlook* – the effect of the economy in both countries on the programme was discussed, however it was stressed that this would be monitored and the new grant rate of 80% would be beneficial in this context;

o *Current proposals* – it was highlighted that there were a good number of proposals in the pipeline. Members asked for more details – the JS agreed to keep the PMC informed as operations <u>as they progressed through the selection system</u>**.**

It was also highlighted by the JS that as final out-turns of indicator figures for the 2007-2013 had not yet been finalised, these were subject to change.

Action: *MA/JS to prepare a presentation for the next meeting on targets/indicators for the 2014-20 Programme*

Action: *JS to provide an update on development of operations under the new programme at the next meeting.*

Agenda Item 4 – Any Other Business

Members asked for copies of the presentations at the 2014-2020 induction and meeting to be circulated by email

The Joint Chairs concluded business by thanking the PMC for their active contribution to the first meeting.

The PMC also recorded its thanks and appreciation to Diana Wilson, member of the Ireland Wales team in WEFO's ETC Unit for her contribution to the programme and congratulated her on her retirement.

Action: *JS to send presentations to all members following the PMC meeting*

Annex 1 – Attendees list

Attendees – Members	
Name	**Organisation**
Stephen Blair	Southern Regional Assembly – Joint Chair
Damien O'Brien	Welsh European Funding Office – Joint Chair
Manon Antoniazzi	Welsh Government
Lucy Corfield	Welsh Government
Cllr Seamus Cosai Fitzgerald	Southern Regional Assembly
Brian Dalton	Irish Government
Prof. Richard Davies	Swansea University – Higher & Further Education
Terry Dunne	Irish Government – *on behalf of Dave Corcoran*
Jonathan Earl	Chambers Ireland
Donie Fell	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Deirdre Garvey	WHEEL
Cllr Meryl Gravell	Welsh Local Government Association
Patricia Hennessey	Irish Government
Darren Hollick	Wales Council for Voluntary Action – *on behalf of Judith Stone*
Cllr Ronnie Hughes	Welsh Local Government Association
Cllr Brian McDonagh	Eastern & Midlands Regional Authority
Bernard O'Shea	Irish Government
Stewart Roche	HE Authority Ireland
David Rosser	Welsh Government
Sian Williams	Natural Resources Wales
Maria Jose Doval Tedin	European Commission
Attendees – Officials	
Barbara Burchell	Welsh Local Government Association
Helen Morgan	Welsh Local Government Association
Breda Curran	Southern Regional Assembly
Enfys Dixey	Welsh European Funding Office
David Kelly	Southern Regional Assembly
Jane McMillan	Welsh European Funding Office
Mike Pollard	Welsh European Funding Office
Siobhán Rudden	Southern Regional Assembly
Roger Seddon	Welsh European Funding Office
Linda Weaver	Welsh European Funding Office
Apologies	
Des Clifford	Welsh Government
Dave Corcoran	Irish Government
Iestyn Davies	Commerce Cymru
Fiona Grant	Marine Institute
Chriss O'Connell	Welsh European Funding Office
Andy Richards	Wales TUC
Judith Stone	Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Carole Sullivan	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
Patrick Lilly	Welsh European Funding Office

Annex 2 – Table of Action Points

Meeting	Date	Action	Assigned	Deadline	Status
PMC 2014-2020: Meeting 1	30.04.2015	Consider content of the videos shown at the recent launch in Swansea and 20-year event at Dublin Castle and set up a DVD to be shown at the next PMC meeting.	MA/JS	Next PMC meeting – 23.07.15	
	30.04.2015	Explore options for projects to present to members at the next PMC meeting and build in the possibility of project visits looking forward.	JS	23.07.15	
	30.04.2015	Make the necessary amendments to the Rules of Procedure and re-circulate to the PMC in the next couple of weeks	JS	18.05.15	Completed
	30.04.2015	Draft and circulate a register of interests paper to all members	JS	23.07.15	
	30.04.2015	Work on amendments and circulate a revised Selection Criteria paper to be approved by the PMC within a couple of weeks. The PMC could approve the revised paper within five days by written procedure.	MA/JS	18.05.15	Completed
	30.04.2015	Send date for next PMC meeting to members urgently	MA/JS	07.05.15	Completed
PMC Meeting 2007-2013: Meeting 14	30.04.2015	Prepare a presentation for the next meeting on targets/indicators for the 2014-2020 Programme	MA/JS	23.07.15	
	30.04.2015	Provide an update on development of operations under the new programme at the next meeting	JS	23.07.15	
	30.04.2015	Send presentations to all members following the PMC meeting	JS	05.07.15	Completed