



Ireland Wales Programme 2014-2020

Programme Monitoring Committee - Meeting 9

Thursday 6th June 2019 10.15 a.m.

The Croke Park Stadium, Dublin

		Papers
1	10:00 – 10:15 Tea and Coffee on arrival	
2	10:15 – 10:20 Welcome, Opening and Introduction - David Kelly Chair and Peter Ryland Joint Chair	
3	10:20 – 10:25 Minutes of PMC Meeting 8 including action points – 12 th July 2018 Cardiff – David Kelly	IWPMC1420(09)01
4	10:25 – 10:45 EU Transition Update Des Clifford/Peter Ryland	Oral
5	10:45 - 11:05 Joint Secretariat Programme Update and Development Report - Linda Weaver	IWPMC1420(09)02
6	11:20 – 11:55 Annual Implementation Report (AIR) 2018 - Kathryn Helliwell/Jon Mercer	IWPMC1420(09)03
7	11:55 – 12:35 Mid-Term Evaluation - Miller Research	Presentation
8	12:35 – 13:00 Project Presentation	Presentation
	13:00– 13:15 AOB - date of next meeting Lunch	



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A list of attendees is at Annex 1.

A list of apologies is at Annex 2.

Agenda Item 2 – Welcome – Opening and Introductions

1. The Chair, David Kelly (DK) delayed the start of the meeting to ensure the PMC was quorate.
2. DK welcomed members to PMC 9 at Croke Park Stadium, and thanked those members that had travelled from Wales.

Agenda Item 3 – Minutes of PMC Meeting 8 including action points – 12th July 2018 Cardiff

3. The minutes of the last meeting, circulated via written procedure, approved with no actions arising.

Agenda Item 4 - EU Transition Update

4. Des Clifford (DC) provided an update from the Welsh Government (WG) perspective stating that the 31st October 2019 remains the legal default date to leave the EU.
5. DC set out the three outcomes facing the UK Government:
 - a. leave with a deal by commanding a majority in the House of Commons or securing agreement on a deal;
 - b. leave the EU without a deal, or

- c. staying in the EU for an indefinite period to seek a resolution, if there was no way forward.
6. DC confirmed that WG's position has recently shifted and now advocated a second referendum.
7. DC reassured Irish members that WG continue to work hard to develop the Ireland Wales partnership. Examples include a recent meeting between the First Minister and the Irish ambassador; an invitation extended to the Irish President to visit Wales and the Irish Government opening a Consulate Office in Cardiff.
8. WG are actively planning for post 2020 to secure and extend relationships within Europe.
9. DK thanked DC for his contribution and said that while politically we are facing uncertain times it is reassuring to hear that WG remain committed to the programme and developing their relationships. DK emphasised the importance of relaying this message to our programme stakeholders.
10. Peter Ryland (PR) explained the need for further conversations to determine a way forward. PR confirmed that the Managing Authority (MA) are considering all the options for the future including the possibility that we will not be leaving the EU.
11. In response to a question PR confirmed that there had been many conversations with HM Treasury about their funding guarantee up until March 2019, nevertheless there remain some areas that require further clarity. Legislation is in place should it be required, to allow UK to fulfil its financial responsibilities.
12. A member expressed concern for those projects that are yet to be approved citing nervousness around the availability of funds. Approved operations share an unease given that they are scheduled to deliver beyond 31st October 2019.
13. PR confirmed that WEFO are continuing to pay claims and develop proposals but noted that there are no 100% guarantees for the future. WEFO are undertaking measures to ensure that relationships with our stakeholders continue. Consideration to ensure that we have the financial mechanisms in place to allow the programme to continue with its commitments is fundamental. There is a commitment at all levels from both countries to continue and ensure future collaboration.
14. DK responded to a question on the consequence for Irish partners if joint projects stopped, stating that very little was certain at this point but that there should be support, as they would remain in the EU.

15. Marianne Van De Vorle (MVDV) felt that it was difficult for her to comment and limited in what she could say. However, she confirmed that the EC would not ignore the Irish partners and would continue to support Ireland.
16. PR stated that WEFO had undertaken a risk analysis for the continued funding of projects. WG/WEFO has chosen to continue to accept the risk and fund projects. Without this positive decision, WEFO would have issued correspondence to beneficiaries withdrawing funding.

Agenda item 5 Joint Secretariat Programme Update and Development Report

17. Cllr Phil Baker asked that a potential conflict of interest be noted as his employer Pembrokeshire County Council are engaged on some of the projects that are to be discussed within the JS Report and this agenda item. Declaration noted.
18. Linda Weaver (LW) summarised the key information in the JS report and updated members with latest information.
19. To maximise commitment of the funding available LW outlined options for members to consider:
 - a. Commit additional funding to projects that are successfully delivering; i.e. to deliver additional activities and outputs.
 - b. Reallocate funding between Priority Axis - this option would require a programme modification; and
 - c. Invite new proposals including smaller scale pilots
20. DK noted a healthy number of approved projects and reminded members of the PA3 project call and noted that despite a positive number of submissions ultimately there were a significant number that failed to progress. LW confirmed and DK corroborated a significant reduction in enquiries since Christmas.
21. DK asked PMC member's for their thoughts on the options identified.
22. LW discounted a proposal for a final push to attract more interest before considering the three options due to timing issues.
23. DK pointed out that option 2 would require a modification and if this were the chosen route, this would require immediate attention.
24. MVdV confirmed that it could take up to three months to process a modification request.

25. Patrick Lilly (PL) felt that some projects would be keen to receive additional funds, however staff shortages and match funding are areas of concern for operations. DK confirmed that he was also aware of projects that would welcome further funding.
26. A member asked whether there was any analysis available to determine if any of the approved operations were in a position to receive additional funds.
27. PL noted that given his knowledge of the projects he manages he was aware of two projects that would be in a position to utilise additional funding. He also noted that many projects had not progressed sufficiently to countenance further funding.
28. An observation was made that circa €21m is currently unallocated – taking into account projects in business planning and uncommitted funding.
29. To allow for meaningful project development, JS assessment and decision by the PSC a prompt decision on the options was required.
30. Geraint Green (GG) confirmed that the MA closely monitor the financial risk to the projects and the programme.
31. DK felt that a decision would need to be made in a timely manner so that the opportunity to utilise staff time as match funding is not lost.
32. Members agreed that an approved project allocated additional funding is a 'phase 2' and not an extension.
33. Breda Curran (BC) expressed concern at the time taken for proposals to achieve approval and queried if there was time to work up new proposals.
34. It was suggested by DPER that a paper should be prepared to work through the options but it was felt that this could be counter productive due to the limited time available.
35. GG recommended that WEFO should look to develop potential pilots and identify projects for phase 2 activity.
36. PL suggested that Operation Officers should encourage projects to network with other projects; this engagement could be a basis going forward to develop phase 2 activity.
37. A member noted that there are a large number of research-based projects funded by the programme that work around the Irish sea, and it would be an enormous loss should their work not continue.

38. GG highlighted the synergies between current and future priorities for the Welsh and Irish governments, e.g. low carbon and innovation, and the potential for this commitment exercise to build on that.
39. Members welcomed the evaluation and streamlining of the process for this exercise noted by DK.
40. PMC members mandated the MA and JS to maximise commitment of the funding available by identifying successfully delivering projects for Phase 2 activity and to consider the development of pilots.

Agenda Item 6 - Annual Implementation Report 2018 (AIR)

41. DK introduced Jon Mercer (JM) from WEFO Research Monitoring & Evaluation (RME) team who led on this item. JM highlighted the key messages in the report and confirmed that members are required to consider and approve the Ireland / Wales Territorial Co-operation Programme Annual Implementation Report, prior to its submission to the European Commission by the regulatory 30 June deadline.
42. The 2018 report is 'enhanced' providing significantly more detail than previous submissions. WEFO RME will address all PMC member comments prior to report submission.
43. DPER thanked RME for all their hard work in preparing and collating this report.
44. MVDV stated that she would forward her comments in due course. MVDV noted that the performance framework for PA3 had not been included in the correct area.
45. MVDV advised that the underperformance on PA3 had resulted in the issue of correspondence to the MA.
46. PMC members confirmed approval and submission of the report to the EU.

Agenda Item 7- Mid Term Evaluation

47. DK introduced Adam Greenwood (AG) from Millar Research who led on this agenda item.
48. AG noted that this was the first draft of the Mid-Term Evaluation and summarised the key points within the presentation.
49. DK thanked AG and welcomed the positives contained with the review.

50. In response to a question on indicators, DK explained that choosing indicators proved to be a considerable challenge at programme inception and in hindsight; were the incorrect indicators selected?
51. DK also highlighted the findings regarding the collaboration aspect of the programme concluding that without the programme these collaborations would not have occurred. Finally, it was interesting to note that without the willingness of the Ireland Wales Programme to take managed risks the many wider benefits of the activities supported would not come to fruition.
52. AG responded to a number of queries and agreed to update the draft report accordingly.
53. Kathryn Helliwell noted the comments made around the weakness of the indicators and the perceived disconnect from the programme and recognised the importance of capturing this point.
54. DK thanked AG for his and his colleague work on the Mid-Term Evaluation

Agenda Item 8 – Acclimatise Operation Presentation

55. The Chair welcomed Professor Wim Meyer from the University College Dublin to the PMC. Professor Meyer, Professor David Kay and Joanne Chadwick provided an informative presentation on The Acclimatize project.
56. Members noted that this operation was a good example of the collaboration and added value points discussed in the previous agenda item.
57. The Chair thanked the project representatives for the very useful presentation and Q&A session.

Agenda Item – Any Other Business

58. The next PMC meeting will be in Wales, dates to follow.

Annex 1 – List of those attending

<u>Name/Organisation</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Des Clifford	Office of the First Minister and Cabinet Office
Julie Cook	Wales TUC
Gavin George	Innovation Team, Welsh Government
Councillor Phil Baker	WLGA (South)
Gwyn Evans	Observer
Colm O'Connor	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Irish Government
Hugh O Reilly	The WHEEL
Stewart Roche	Higher Education Authority Ireland
Veronica Cunningham	The Marine Institute
Pip Breen	Southern Regional Assembly Councillor
Donal Nolan	Chambers Ireland
Councillor Brian McDonagh	East Mid Regional Assembly Councillor
Dave Corcoran	Dept. Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Michael McGrath	EU Structural Funds & Cohesion Policy Unit, DPER
Marianne Van De Vorle	EU Desk Officer
Adam Greenwood	Miller Research
Professor Wim Meijer	Acclimatise Project
Joanne Chadwick	Acclimatise Project
Professor David Kay	Acclimatise Project

Peter Ryland	WEFO
Geraint Green	WEFO
Linda Weaver	WEFO
Patrick Lilly	WEFO
Bethan Thomas	WEFO
Phillipa Morgan	WEFO
Kathryn Helliwell	WEFO
Jon Mercer	WEFO
David Kelly	SRA
Derville Brennan	SRA
Breda Curran	SRA
Samantha Richardson	SRA
Karen Coughlan	SRA
Lorna O'Brien	EU Structural Funds & Cohesion Policy Unit - DPER

Annex 2 – List of apologies

<u>Name/Organisation</u>	<u>Signature</u>
David Letellier	Natural Resources Wales
Lucy Corfield Department for Natural Resources Wales Decarbonisation and Climate Risk, Welsh Government	Department for Natural Resources Wales Decarbonisation and Climate Risk, Welsh Government
Darren Hollick	Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)
Lucy Corfield	Department for Natural Resources Wales Decarbonisation and Climate Risk, Welsh Government
Jason Thomas	Dept. of Cultural Sports and Tourism, Welsh Government
Dr Alastair Davies	Dept. of Innovation, Welsh Government
Sian Williams	Natural Resources Wales
Jessica Williams	WCVA (now resigned from the Committee, Darren Hollick is the new member)
Councillor Ronnie Hughes	WLGA (North)
Barbara Burchell	Observer
Richard Davies	Higher Education Wales (Universities Wales)
Andy Richards	Wales TUC
Chriss O'Connell	Equalities – Welsh Government (only attends meetings held in Wales)
Sarah Clarke	Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
Jonathan Earl	Chambers Ireland
Niall McDonough	The Marine Institute
Cllr Seamus Cosa Fitzgerald	Southern Regional Assembly
Deirdre Garvey	The WHEEL

Siobhan O'Higgins	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Anne Marie Caulfield	Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
Mike Pollard	WEFO