

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL  
COOPERATION GOAL  
PART A**

**IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

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## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### **Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.**

Note: this report concerns performance in 2019 but has been prepared as the Covid-19 pandemic is unfolding. Therefore, comments about forecast performance must be considered in the context of the impacts of that pandemic which are unknown at this stage but likely to be significant.

Six joint operations worth over €14m ERDF were approved during 2019, two in Priority Axis 1, two in Priority Axis 2, and two in Priority Axis 3. At the end of December 2019:

- 21 operations formally approved (figure includes TA project)
- €75m ERDF committed
- 95% of the ERDF allocation for the Programme committed

The total commitment figure also includes additional funding awarded to five Phase 2 applications of circa €10.6m which were approved by the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) in autumn 2019:

- 2 in Priority Axis 1 – (Dwr:Uisce and CALIN)
- 3 in Priority Axis 2 – (CHERISH, Eco-structures and Acclimatize)

Nine operations have been approved under PA1 (Cross-Border Innovation), seven approved under PA2 (Climate change), four approved under PA3 (Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage), and one in PA 4 (Technical Assistance).

Joint operations approved, as at the end of December 2019, are forecast to support over 738 enterprises by project completion. The achievement at December 2019 of 75 enterprises and research institutions cooperating in research and innovation projects exceeds the target set for the programme.

Operations are forecast to support 59 organisations working in partnership to enhance the marine and coastal environment.

Support for 17 coastal communities to enhance cultural, natural or heritage tourism along the coasts of the cross-border region was forecast by the end of 2019.

Forecast data from approved operations show that more than 100% of the job creation target is forecast to be met by the end of the programming period.

Section 3.2 shows the progress made against the Programme's indicator targets for each Priority Axis.

During 2019, the Managing Authority (MA) and Joint Secretariat (JS) and delivery partners in Ireland continued to promote and advance the profile of the Programme. This included a twitter campaign in March, organised events for Europe Day in May and news items on the programme website. National

broadcasters/media picked up a number of the news items issued, significantly raising the profile of the programme.

### **Programme Meetings**

The PMC met once in 2019:

PMC9 – 6th June 2019 – Dublin, Ireland. The PMC noted good progress with programme delivery, the grant commitment profile and the position with projects in the business planning system. The PMC took note of the position on transition measures in light of the deliberations within the UK on Brexit.

Given the overall programme position and potential complications associated with Brexit, the PMC agreed measures to accelerate grant commitment levels, mandating the MA and JS in conjunction with its delivery partners to identify those approved projects which were successfully delivering activity with a view to considering a second phase of activity and to consider the development of successful pilots.

The PSC, mandated by the PMC to select operations for funding, didn't meet during 2019; however, in accordance with procedures agreed for the programme, continued to make decisions on operations for funding virtually and via written procedure.

### **Communications**

Publicity surrounding the Ireland Wales Programme remains positive with news stories prominent in both Wales and Ireland, with support to projects and the positive engagement across the Sea border subject to recognition from politicians, news outlets and stakeholders on both sides of the cross -border area.

The **@IrelandWales** Twitter account now has over 1,300 followers. During 2019, its content was viewed on around 70,000 occasions and the account was visited over 3,000 times.

The website (<http://irelandwales.eu/>) continues to attract interest and was visited on 9,200 occasions during 2019 – a rise of 19.5% on the previous calendar year. Each approved project is showcased and promoted with a brief description and a link to their project home website. An interactive map identifies the regions where Ireland Wales projects are delivering activity.

The JS has liaised closely with approved projects and focussed on maintaining a flow of regular twitter updates and news items for uploading to the Ireland Wales website.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

#### 3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA1	Cross-Border Innovation	<p>Approximately 98% of the total allocation available had been committed to nine operations under the Priority (€31.08m of EU funds) by the end of 2019. Two cross border operations were approved in 2019; Selkie - the development of a streamlined commercialisation pathway for the marine energy industry through establishing a cross-border network of developers and supply chain companies in Ireland and Wales; and Brainwaves, which aims to develop innovative and sustainable added-value technologies for a resource recovery-based approach to dairy wastewaters.</p> <p>Two approved operations were awarded additional second phase EU funding for the delivery of extra outputs and outcomes – Dwr:Uisce (€0.87m) and CALIN (€5.37m).</p> <p>At the close of 2019 there were no proposals in the pipeline for the Priority and one operation, Healthy Oats, linking oat breeding to product development, in detailed business planning.</p> <p>The Cross Border Social Enterprise Accelerator project was rejected by the PSC.</p> <p>No significant problems with the Priority Axis were identified.</p>
PA2	Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change	<p>By the end of 2019 the programme had marginally exceeded the total allocation available, €30.8m had been committed to seven operations with two operations approved in 2019.</p> <p>Coastal Communities Acting Together (CCAT) – monitoring impacts of climate change through a participative citizen science research project and ECHOES – addressing issues of climate change on migratory birds with a focus on white fronted geese and curlew.</p> <p>Three approved operations were awarded additional second phase funding for the delivery of extra outputs and outcomes CHERISH(€0.83m), Acclimatize (€1,96m) and Eco-structures (€1.61m)</p> <p>At the end of 2019 there were no proposals in the pipeline, and one at the business planning stage: Wildlife in a Changing Climate (WICC) – looking at the effects of climate change on mammal populations.</p> <p>The Flood Partnership proposal was withdrawn as a result of capacity and resource issues at the Lead Partner.</p> <p>No significant problems with the Priority Axis were identified.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA3	Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage	<p>At the end of 2019 around 58% of the total allocation available had been committed to four operations (€8.75m of EU funds).</p> <p>Two operations were approved for funding during 2019, LIVE – Eco-museums and Ports Past &amp; Present – enhance and diversify experience of travel between Ireland and Wales and open up new tourism opportunities.</p> <p>At the close of 2019 there were no operations in the pipeline or in detailed business planning.</p> <p>BetarLoop and e-Insist were rejected by the Programme Steering Committee.</p> <p>Time Credits 4 Tourism was withdrawn due to partner lack of match funding.</p> <p>Overall, the development of quality projects in PA 3 has been more problematical than in the other operational Priority Axes. The priority of the MA, JS and its programme partners in Ireland was to increase programme commitment at the macro level across all three operational Priority Axes by the end of 2019 due to the potential complications of Brexit. The intention, subject to the options available to the Programme in early 2020, was for the MA and its Irish partners to consider further measures to encourage engagement in PA3 for presentation to the PMC in 2020.</p> <p>Other than the lower level of commitment in this Priority Axis, no other problems with the Priority Axis were identified.</p>
PA4	Technical Assistance	<p>By end 2019 around 97% of the total allocation available remained committed to one operation under the Priority. This operation is to enable WEFO and the Southern Regional Assembly to manage and implement the delivery of the Programme. The operation continued to progress during 2019, with indicators reported broadly in line with forecast, as detailed on page 13 of this report, and spend currently just under 26% of the committed funds. Both have been actively monitored, and the operation supported the Joint Secretariat during 2019 in the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Lead Partners to finalise business plans;</li> <li>• Completing Funding Decision Reports;</li> <li>• Preparing documentation for PSC members' decision, via the portal;</li> <li>• Drafting Offer Letters;</li> <li>• Post approval visits; and</li> <li>• Supporting the Managing Authority.</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

#### Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	PA1 - Cross-Border Innovation
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA1.1b**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	1,200.00	259.00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	1,200.00	738.00	
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	1,200.00	259.00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	1,200.00	738.00	
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	35.00	11.00	
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	35.00	61.00	
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	70.00	75.00	
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	70.00	62.00	
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	791,984.00	558,000.00	
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	791,984.00	658,000.00	
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30.00	15.00	
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	30.00	25.00	
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	600.00	30.00	
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	600.00	164.00	
F	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	50.00	75.00	
S	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Enterprises	50.00	62.00	
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	45.00	12.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	45.00	22.00	
F	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	Networks	6.00	3.00	
S	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	Networks	6.00	9.00	
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	3.00	0.00	
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	3.00	3.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	89.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	598.00	479.00	341.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	89.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	598.00	479.00	341.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	57.00	47.00	21.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	46.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	60.00	60.00	46.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	9,203.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	558,000.00	558,000.00	558,000.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	22.00	20.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	161.00	141.00	72.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	46.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO41	Productive investment: Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	66.00	54.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	17.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	20.00	18.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS01	Number of new or enhanced cross-border innovation networks	8.00	6.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA1 - Cross-Border Innovation</b>
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
Specific objective	SO1 - To increase the intensity of knowledge transfer collaborations involving research organisations and SMEs in line with the shared priorities of the smart specialisation strategies

**Table 1: Result indicators - PA1.1b.SO1**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
RI01	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies	TBC	0.00		0.00			
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-border collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies	% increase	1,493,568,970.00	2015	1.00			
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)	% increase	2,451,253,000.00	2013	0.20			Data not yet available for 2019.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
RI01	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies					0.00		0.00	
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-border collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies	120,700,038.00							
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)	3,312,438,000.00							

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI01	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-boder collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies	0.00	
RI01A	Levels of investment in R&D and innovation arising from cross-border collaboration in shared priorities as specified in smart specialisation strategies		
RI01B	Business spend on R&D (BERD)		

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA2 - Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change</b>
<b>Investment priority</b>	<b>5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches</b>

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA2.5a**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	10.00	12.00	
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	10.00	21.00	
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	0.00	
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	1.00	
F	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	Awareness raising initiatives	60.00	17.00	
S	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	Awareness raising initiatives	60.00	75.00	
F	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	24.00	26.00	
S	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	24.00	54.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	15.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	18.00	15.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	16.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS03	Number of new awareness raising initiatives targeting coastal communities	56.00	44.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	23.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	47.00	37.00	4.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA2 - Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change</b>
Investment priority	5a - Supporting investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem-based approaches
Specific objective	SO2 - To increase capacity and knowledge of Climate Change adaptation for the Irish sea and coastal communities

**Table 1: Result indicators - PA2.5a.SO2**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	TBC	0.00		0.00			
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	% of communities and businesses	64.00	2015	70.00			Data not yet available for 2019.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses					0.00		64.00	
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	59.00						64.00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI02	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses	0.00	
RI02A	Levels of knowledge of adaptation to climate change amongst communities and businesses		

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA3 - Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage</b>
<b>Investment priority</b>	<b>6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</b>

**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA3.6c**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	10.00	0.00	
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	10.00	8.00	
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	0.00	
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	Completed pilot projects	2.00	0.00	
F	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	Cross-border networks	12.00	1.00	
S	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	Cross-border networks	12.00	5.00	
F	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	20.00	6.00	
S	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	20.00	17.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	6.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS02	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS05	Number of new tourism networks promoting cultural, natural or heritage assets	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	12.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>PA3 - Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage</b>
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	SO3 - To sustainably realise the potential of natural and cultural assets in increasing visitor numbers to coastal communities in the Programme area

**Table 1: Result indicators - PA3.6c.SO3**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2019 Total	2019 Qualitative	Observations
RI03	Total number of overseas visitors to the coastal communities of the Programme area	Number of overseas visitors	6,902,000.00	2012	7,040,040.00			Latest data relates to 2017 as this is the latest year for which data are available.

ID	Indicator	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative
RI03	Total number of overseas visitors to the coastal communities of the Programme area			10,483,492.00				6,902,000.00	

ID	Indicator	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
RI03	Total number of overseas visitors to the coastal communities of the Programme area	6,902,000.00	

## Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	PA4 - Technical Assistance
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**Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - PA4.Technical Assistance**

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2019	Observations
F	PS07	Number of training events held	Training Events	4.00	3.00	
S	PS07	Number of training events held	Training Events	4.00	4.00	
F	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Project visits	300.00	80.00	
S	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	Project visits	300.00	300.00	
F	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	PMC meetings	14.00	8.00	
S	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	PMC meetings	14.00	15.00	
F	PS10	Number of press releases	Press releases	10.00	9.00	
S	PS10	Number of press releases	Press releases	10.00	10.00	
F	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number of FTEs		11.00	
S	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number of FTEs		11.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	PS07	Number of training events held	3.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS07	Number of training events held	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	49.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS08	Number of project visits and participations in project events by JS	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	6.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS09	Number of PMC meetings	15.00	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS10	Number of press releases	9.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS10	Number of press releases	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
F	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	11.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00
S	PS11	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	11.00	11.00	11.00	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

### 3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	Final target (2023) total	2019	Observations
PA1	F	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	4,751,906	39,599,224.00	9,006,383.83	
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	5		5.00	
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	0	70.00	75.00	
PA2	F	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	4,157,919	34,649,320.00	7,434,318.06	
PA2	I	IS02	Number of projects approved with organisations cooperating on a cross-border basis to enhance the marine and coastal environment	Number of projects	4		6.00	
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	0	24.00	26.00	
PA3	F	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	2,257,156	18,809,632.00	290,044.32	
PA3	I	IS03	Number of projects approved involving coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Number of projects	4		3.00	
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	0	20.00	6.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
PA1	F	FI01	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	4,913,090.51	254,355.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA1	I	IS01	Number of projects approved with enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Number of projects	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA1	O	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	46.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	F	FI02	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	3,850,163.37	199,653.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	I	IS02	Number of projects approved with organisations cooperating on a cross-border basis to enhance the marine and coastal environment	Number of projects	5.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA2	O	PS04	Number of organisations cooperating in enhancing the marine and coastal environment	Organisations	23.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	F	FI03	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	EUR	12,628.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	I	IS03	Number of projects approved involving coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Number of projects	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PA3	O	PS06	Number of coastal communities participating in cross-border cooperation around cultural, natural or heritage tourism	Communities	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



### 3.4. Financial data

**Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level**

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
PA1	ERDF	Total	39,599,224.00	80.00	29,638,988.68	74.85%	28,824,968.05	11,713,214.59	29.58%	8
PA2	ERDF	Total	34,649,320.00	80.00	29,619,740.00	85.48%	29,114,266.00	8,668,395.28	25.02%	6
PA3	ERDF	Total	18,809,632.00	80.00	7,612,880.00	40.47%	7,414,273.00	290,375.92	1.54%	3
PA4	ERDF	Total	5,939,883.00	80.00	5,735,197.00	96.55%	5,735,197.00	1,534,549.49	25.83%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>98,998,059.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>72,606,805.68</b>	<b>73.34%</b>	<b>71,088,704.05</b>	<b>22,206,535.28</b>	<b>22.43%</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>98,998,059.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>72,606,805.68</b>	<b>73.34%</b>	<b>71,088,704.05</b>	<b>22,206,535.28</b>	<b>22.43%</b>	<b>18</b>

**Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)**

Not applicable to this Programme.

**Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention**

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		02	UKL12	1,188,842.00	1,188,842.00	784,541.70	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		11	IE021	3,336,795.00	3,336,795.00	1,452,322.75	1
PA1	ERDF	062	01	05	01	01		22	IE025	5,270,000.00	5,085,000.00	0.00	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	01	01	01		24	IE021	1,119,174.68	895,339.05	1,119,174.68	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	03	01	01		02	IE024	2,282,090.00	2,282,090.00	1,496,438.60	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	05	01	01		20	UKL18	11,951,329.00	11,564,621.00	4,821,710.61	1
PA1	ERDF	064	01	05	01	01		24	UKL14	4,490,758.00	4,472,281.00	2,039,026.25	2
PA2	ERDF	087	01	01	03	05		22	IE021	1,605,765.00	1,566,765.00	0.00	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	01	07	05		22	IE023	4,071,492.00	4,066,702.00	1,795,082.49	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	01	05		02	IE024	5,410,225.00	5,410,225.00	121,228.95	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	01	05		22	IE021	6,722,945.00	6,722,945.00	1,137,521.63	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	03	05		02	UKL12	6,633,329.00	6,423,252.00	3,484,781.89	1
PA2	ERDF	087	01	05	03	05		22	UKL14	5,175,984.00	4,924,377.00	2,129,780.32	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	02	03	06		23	UKL14	1,989,687.00	1,989,687.00	244,475.00	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	05	03	06		23	IE024	3,249,536.00	3,249,536.00	0.00	1
PA3	ERDF	091	01	05	03	06		23	UKL14	2,373,657.00	2,175,050.00	45,900.92	1
PA4	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	UKL1	5,735,197.00	5,735,197.00	1,534,549.49	1

**Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area**

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
Catalyst	73,906.00	0.09%	0.00	

(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

#### 4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

As mentioned in the previous AIR in 2018, the mid-term evaluation of the Ireland – Wales Programme was undertaken in 2019 and below are the recommendations of the evaluation. The MA will be considering the recommendations in conjunction with its operational partners in Ireland in due course.

Recommendations made:

- The Managing Authority should continue with the open/rolling call process for project applications but seek to increase communication with applicants around the expected time taken for delays in applications and provide deadlines by which time applicants can expect feedback.
- In recognition of the importance of having high levels of attendance at Programme Monitoring Committee meetings, the Managing Authority should explore the possibility of drawing up Memoranda of Understanding or using other mechanisms to ensure that stakeholders' resource commitment is recognised by the organisation they are representing.
- The Programme's Joint Secretariat should further explore ways to improve attendance at Programme Monitoring Committee meetings, including the use of robust videoconferencing solutions, if required.
- The Managing Authority should work with projects to draw up a charter that clearly sets out what a project can expect when engaging with the Programme's management, particularly in terms of response times to queries and timescales for decision-making.
- The Programme should develop a plan for the communication of the benefits/emerging impacts of the Programme and its projects to the general public. One mechanism for doing this would be to reorganise the Programme website so that it focuses on the benefits of the Programme's projects.
- In light of the problematic nature of the Programme's result indicators, the Managing Authority should specify that the Final Evaluation should adopt a Contribution Analysis approach to assessing the impact of the Programme, in addition to the required quantitative approach.
- The Managing Authority should provide guidance to projects to ensure that they and/or their project-level evaluations collect qualitative and quantitative data on their effects that can be used by the Programme's final evaluation to explore the impact as a whole.
- The Managing Authority should also provide guidance to projects to ensure that they and/or their project-level evaluations collect evidence of the project's contribution towards the Cross-Cutting Themes.
- The final evaluation of the Programme should explore the rationale for the Programme's approach to Cross-Cutting Themes and analyse the extent to which it has been successful.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
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## 5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

### **(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken**

In advance of the likely withdrawal of the UK from the EU (Brexit) the Managing Authority directed the Joint Secretariat to prioritise the progression of proposals in pre-planning and in development through to the decision point for the Programme Steering Committee to maximise commitment levels for the programme.

During 2019, enquiries from potential partners significantly fell away in both Ireland and Wales, much of this considered to be as a direct result of the situation with Brexit and knock on uncertainty about sustainability of the programme. No proposals were therefore identified or registered by the JS at the early or pre-planning stage.

The Managing Authority took a number of steps in 2019 to keep programme partners informed about developments related to Brexit. Updates were also posted on the Ireland Wales website relaying UK Government announcements.

Whilst the focus for the JS during 2019 was to maximise commitment levels there was also a key responsibility to monitor and provide support to operations post approval.

The JS initiated induction meetings for all newly approved projects and followed this up with regular contact and quarterly or biannual face-to-face meetings. This resulted in the JS establishing effective working relationships with project delivery bodies and the agility to react quickly to any emerging issues. The JS continued its policy orchestrated in conjunction with the MA and its operational partners, to capture good news items and success stories from those projects supported by the programme.

**(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.**

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## **6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

**7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

**8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)**

**8.1. Major projects**

**Table 7: Major projects**

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

**Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them**

Not applicable to the Programme.

**Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme**

Not applicable to the Programme.

## 8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable to the Programme.

**Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)**

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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**Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

Not applicable to the Programme.

**9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)**

**9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Priority axis	PA1 - Cross-Border Innovation
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Priority axis	PA2 - Adaptation of the Irish Sea and Coastal Communities to Climate Change
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Priority axis	PA3 - Cultural and Natural Resources and Heritage
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Priority axis	PA4 - Technical Assistance
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**9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

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**9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

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**9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)</b>	<b>Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)</b>
PA2	23,695,792.85	85.48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,695,792.85</b>	<b>29.92%</b>

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**9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

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**10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013**

**10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations**

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Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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**10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy**

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**11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)**

**11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme**

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**11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF**

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### 11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

All three operational Priorities have some alignment with the Atlantic Strategy and its Action Plan although clearly the geographical reach of the Ireland Wales cross-border programme covers only part of the Sea Basin territory.

The Programme's selection process requires an assessment of the extent that joint operations fit with each of its nine selection criteria. These are split into three core criteria analysed at a Gateway 1 stage and a further six selection criteria analysed at Gateway 2 – detailed business planning stage. One of the three core criteria addresses strategic fit including an assessment of the alignment of the cross-border operation with the Atlantic Strategy, where this is relevant.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

**Priority(s) and objective(s) that the programme is relevant to:**

	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Objective</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.1 - Sharing knowledge between higher education organisations, companies and research centers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.2 - Enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacities in the maritime economy of the Atlantic area
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.3 - Fostering adaptation and diversification of economic activities by promoting the potential of the Atlantic area
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.1 - Improving maritime safety and security
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.2 - Exploring and protecting marine waters and coastal zones
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.3 - Sustainable management of marine resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.4 - Exploitation of the renewable energy potential of the Atlantic area's marine and coastal environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Improve accessibility and connectivity	3.1 - Promoting cooperation between ports
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.1 - Fostering better knowledge of social challenges in the Atlantic area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.2 - Preserving and promoting the Atlantic's cultural heritage

**Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the Atlantic SBS**

**A. Are the Sea Basin Strategic coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators or members, and/or Objective coordinators or members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?**

Yes  No

**B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the ATLSBS?**

Yes  No

**C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the ATLSBS?**

Yes  No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSAIR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

Currently, there are no plans to invest in ATLSBS

**D. Obtained results in relation to the ATLSBS (n.a. for 2016)**

n.a.

**11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation**

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**13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

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**14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN  
— PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

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