PWYLLGOR MONITRO RHAGLENNI CYMRU

CRONFEYDD STRWYTHUROL A BUDDSODDI EWROPEAIDD 2014-2020

Dyddiad: 4 Mai 2018

Amser: 9.30yb

Lleoliad: Sywddfeydd Llywodraeth Cymru, Merthyr Tudful

AGENDA

1.	Croeso ac Ymddiheuriadau	09:30 - 09:35	
2.	Cofnodion cyfarfod mis Rhagfyr, camau gweithredu a materion eraill sy'n codi.	09:35 – 09:45	WPMC(17)M16
3.	Y diweddaraf am hynt y Cronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd, gan gynnwys gwaith datblygu portffolio	09:45 – 10:00	WPMC(18)125
	Gan gynnwys: (a) Rhaglenni ERDF (b) Rhaglenni ESF (c) Rhaglenni Datblygu Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru (d) Cronfeydd Strwythurol: Rhestr o Weithrediadau Cymeradwyo (e) WGRC-RDP 2014 – 2020: Rhestr o Weithrediadau Cymeradwyo Economaidd-Gymdeithasol (f) Fframwaith Perfformiad	 10:00 – 10:15 10:15 – 10:30 10:30 – 10:45 10:45 – 11:00	 WPMC(18)126 WPMC(18)127 WPMC(18)128 WPMC(18)129 WPMC(18)130 WPMC(18)131
4.	Themau Trawsbynciol: Cyfleodd Cyfartal	11:00 – 11:20	WPMC(18)132
5.	Addasiadau'r Rhaglenni: a) ERDF b) ESF c) RDP – Ar lafar	11:20 – 11:40	 WPMC(18)133 WPMC(18)134
6.	Diwygiadau i'r Meini Prawf Dethol RDP	11:40 – 11:50	WPMC(18)135
7.	Y diweddaraf ynghylch Dyfodol Polisi Rhanbarthol	11:50 – 12:05	
8.	Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol: CYMUNEDAU GWLEDIG LLYWODRAETH CYMRU - RHAGLEN DATBLYGU GWLEDIG (WGRC-RDP) 2014-2020 GORLLEWIN CYMRU A'R CYMOEDD ERDF GORLLEWIN CYMRU A'R CYMOEDD ESF DWYRAIN CYMRU ERDF DWYRAIN CYMRU ESF	12:05 – 12:30	WPMC(18)136
9.	Crynodebau Ymchwil (Papur am wybodaeth yn unig)	12:30 – 12:40	WPMC(18)137
10.	Unrhyw Fater Arall	12:40 – 12:45	

CRONFEYDD STRWYTHUROL A BUDDSODDI EWROPEAIDD 2014–2020
PWYLLGOR MONITRO'R RHAGLENNI CYMRU

Dydd Gwener 1 Rhagfyr 2017
Llywodraeth Cymru, Merthyr Tudful

Nodiadau Cyfarfod

EITEM 1: Croeso, cyflwyniadau ac ymddiheuriadau

1. Croesawodd y Cadeirydd yr aelodau i gyfarfod Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni (PMRh) Cymru ac esboniodd y byddai swyddfeydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn cynnal munud o ddistawrwydd am 12 ganol dydd er cof am Carl Sargeant. Rhestrir y bobl a oedd yn bresennol ac ymddiheuriadau yn **Atodiad A.**

EITEM 2: Cofnodion cyfarfod mis Medi, camau gweithredu a materion eraill sy'n codi

2. Hysbyswyd yr aelodau bod y diwygiadau a gafwyd wedi'u cynnwys yn y cofnodion a ddosbarthwyd i'r aelodau. Ni chafwyd rhagor o sylwadau, felly, gan ystyried y diwygiadau hynny; cytunwyd bod y cofnodion yn gofnod gwir a chywir o'r cyfarfod.

EITEM 3: Diweddariad ar Gynnydd y Cronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd, gan gynnwys datblygiad portffolio

Trosolwg

3. Rhoddodd Sioned Evans drosolwg o gynnydd Rhaglenni ers y cyfarfod ar 15 Medi 2017:

- Yn gyffredinol, neilltuwyd 67% (63% ERDF, 74% ESF) o adnoddau'r Cronfeydd Strwythurol: mae hyn yn gynnydd o gymharu â'r 66% a adroddwyd yn y cyfarfod diwethaf.
- Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig wedi'i neilltuo'n llawn ar 102%: ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRh, gwariwyd £20m arall hyd at ddiwedd mis Hydref, y mae £13m ohono'n arian UE.
- Er gwaethaf cynnydd da, mae angen i wariant prosiectau barhau i fod yn ffocws i bawb.
- Er bod canrannau Rhaglenni cyffredinol yn parhau i fod yr un peth, bu cynnydd ym muddsoddiad Cronfeydd Strwythurol mewn Busnesau ac unigolion.
- Neilltuwyd £435m i'r cynlluniau economaidd-gymdeithasol, £322m i gynlluniau tir a £30m i Gymorth Technegol.
- Mae targedau N+3 Cronfeydd Strwythurol ar gyfer 2017 wedi'u cyflawni ac mae WEFO yn agos at gyflawni targedau 2018.
- Mae cyhoeddiadau ariannol diweddar yn cynnwys:
  - Buddsoddi £4.2m o Gronfeydd yr UE mewn nifer o dechnolegau ffrwd

lanw ym Mharth Arddangos Morlais.
- Prototeip o'r trawsnewidydd ynni tonnau, WaveSub, a gafodd ei ddadorchuddio gan yr Ysgrifennydd dros Gyllid.
- Cyhoeddodd yr Ysgrifennydd dros Gyllid estyniad i Raglen Graddedigion Gwasanaethau Ariannol Cymru – £1m o arian ychwanegol.
- Cyrhaeddodd SEREN a Chenedl Hyblyg rownd derfynol gwobr Regio Stars Comisiwn yr UE ar gyfer y prosiect gorau a ariennir gan yr UE.
- Mae llun o Ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd (yr A465) wedi ennill cystadleuaeth lluniau yr UE yn Fy Rhanbarth.

- Hefyd, dangoswyd nifer o astudiaethau achos, gan gynnwys:
  - prosiect Gweithffyrdd – helpu pobl sydd wedi bod yn ddi-waith ers cyfnod hir i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith.
  - Syniadau Mawr Cymru – buddsoddi yn entrepreneuriaid y dyfodol.
  - Cronfa Fusnes Cymru – buddsoddiad diweddar ym musnesau Sir Gaerfyrddin.
  - Busnes Cymru – ehangu manwerthwr maes mamolaeth ar-lein yn y gogledd.
- Mae blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y cyfnod i ddod yn cynnwys gwneud y gorau o wariant a'r symiau a neilltuwyd, ynghyd â chais newydd am Ymchwil ac Arloesedd ERDF gyda £30m ar gael ar gyfer cynigion uchelgeisiol.
- Mae digwyddiadau'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig sydd i ddod yn cynnwys
  - pedwerydd cyfarfod y Gweithgor Pobl a Chymunedau ar 12 Rhagfyr yn Llandrindod;
  - digwyddiad LEADER ar gyfer Thema 1 a 2 ar 11 Rhagfyr yn Llanfair-ym-Muallt;
  - cyfarfod grŵp llywio Rhwydwaith Gwledig Cymru ar 28 Chwefror 2018 yn y Drenewydd.
  - cyfarfod ymgynghori Datblygu Lleol dan Arweiniad y Gymuned ar 24 Ionawr 2018 yn y Drenewydd.

4. Gofynnodd aelod am y sail resymegol y tu ôl i'r gwahaniaeth o 10% yn y cyfraddau cyfnewid rhwng rhaglenni'r Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig a'r Cronfeydd Strwythurol a hefyd yr amrywedd â'r gyfradd fusnes bresennol, sef €1.13.

5. Mewn ymateb, esboniodd Peter Ryland y gwahaniaeth rhwng rheolau'r Rhaglen ar gyfer Cronfeydd Strwythurol a'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig, lle y cytunir ar gyfradd y Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig â'r CE drwy'r Rhaglen ei hun. Ychwanegodd Peter Ryland y gellir esbonio'r gwahaniaeth o ran y gyfradd fusnes bresennol gan anghenion cynllunio tymor hwy ar gyfer y Rhaglenni, gan fod angen i'r cyfraddau adlewyrchu'r sefyllfa dros gyfnod y Rhaglenni, nid y sefyllfa bresennol yn unig. Mae rheolwyr y rhaglenni yn edrych ar y marchnadoedd a rhagolygon arbenigol eraill wrth bennu'r gyfradd ac yn cydnabod bod angen sefydlogrwydd er mwyn sicrhau bod y risg i gyllideb Llywodraeth Cymru yn cael ei rheoli'n briodol.

6. Wrth ateb cwestiwn arall ar warant Trysorlys EM ac effaith bosibl amrywiadau'r gyfradd gyfnewid, cadarnhaodd Peter Ryland na roddwyd rhagor o eglurder ar

hyn. Fodd bynnag, roedd bellach yn ymddangos yn fwy tebygol y byddai cytundeb ar gyfnod pontio â goblygiadau o ran y sail y byddai Gwarant y Trysorlys yn gweithredu arni.

7. Gofynnodd aelod am ddyddiadau digwyddiadau'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig sydd i ddod o ystyried nad oedd rhai grwpiau wedi cael unrhyw ohebiaeth.

CAM GWEITHREDU: David McNeill i gadarnhau a gafodd e-bost ei anfon at aelodau'r grŵp ar ddyddiadau digwyddiadau'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig sydd i ddod.

8. Wrth ateb cais gan aelod am eglurhad ar y ffigurau dangosyddion a gyflwynwyd ym mhapur WPMC(17)113, esboniodd David McNeill fod anghysondeb yn y ffigurau a oedd wedi'u cyflwyno yn y papurau hynny a fyddai'n cael ei ddatrys yn y dyfodol.

CAM GWEITHREDU: Edrych ar y ffigurau a diwygio'r anghysondebau ar gyfer yr adroddiad nesaf.

<u>Rhaglenni ERDF</u>

9. Rhoddodd Sue Price, Pennaeth Rhaglenni ERDF, WEFO, wybod i'r aelodau y byddai'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ERDF yn myfyrio ar y 12 mis diwethaf er mwyn rhoi cyd-destun i'r sefyllfa bresennol. Y ganran neilltuo bresennol yw 63%: y nod yw bod yn agos at 70% erbyn y Nadolig. Mae 27 o weithrediadau wedi'u cymeradwyo eleni. Y ganran neilltuo yr adeg hon y llynedd oedd 49%.

10. Aeth Sue Price ymlaen i esbonio bod y gyfradd gyfnewid anwadal dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf wedi cynyddu'r cyllid sydd ar gael ar gyfer prosiectau newydd. Roedd y cynnydd hwn mewn cyllid wedi bod yn ffactor yn y penderfyniad i gyhoeddi ceisiadau ynghylch Blaenoriaeth 1.

11. Mae targedau N+3 2017 wedi'u cyflawni ac, ar ben hynny, mae targedau N+3 Dwyrain Cymru ar gyfer 2018 wedi'u cyflawni eisoes hefyd. Mae gwaith sylweddol i'w wneud o hyd ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd ac mae'r neges allweddol i'r buddiolwyr ar gyflwyno hawliadau'n un bwysig o hyd.

12. Rhoddodd Sue Price y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r aelodau ar weithgarwch o fewn pob blaenoriaeth, gan dynnu sylw at y canlynol:

- <u>Blaenoriaeth 1: Ymchwil ac Arloesedd –</u> Y ganran neilltuo bresennol yw 82% ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 84% ar gyfer y Dwyrain Cymru. Roedd y cais cyntaf ar gyfer y flaenoriaeth hon yn llwyddiannus gyda 17 o weithrediadau'n dod i law, y mae 2 ohonynt eisoes wedi'u

cymeradwyo, a disgwylir y bydd trydydd yn cael ei gymeradwyo dros y Nadolig a'r Flwyddyn Newydd. Caiff cais arall ei wneud hefyd, gydag amserlen dynn: bu ymgynghoriad helaeth â rhanddeiliaid eisoes. Pwysleisiwyd y bydd angen i'r prosiectau o'r cais gael eu cymeradwyo erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn nesaf, felly ni fydd modd newid yr amserlenni. Rhoddwyd gwybod i'r aelodau hefyd am ddigwyddiad ym Mrwsel lle estynnwyd gwahoddiad i WEFO wneud cyflwyniad ar synergeddau rhaglenni (h.y. â Horizon 2020), gyda llawer o ddiddordeb wedi'i ddangos o'r CE yn yr hyn sy'n digwydd yng Nghymru.

- Blaenoriaeth 2: Cystadleurwydd BBaCh – Mae Cronfa Fusnes Cymru yn parhau i berfformio'n eithriadol o dda, gyda'r newid enw i Fanc Datblygu Cymru heb gael effaith ar y gronfa bresennol. Bydd adolygiad o'r rhag-asesiad yn y Flwyddyn Newydd yn gyfle i nodi a oes angen arian ychwanegol. Mae'r Gronfa Busnes Cymdeithasol hefyd yn gwneud yn dda iawn ac mae gweithdy Blaenoriaeth 2 wedi'i gynnal gyda theulu Busnes Cymru. Roedd lefelau presenoldeb yn dda ac roedd modd cynnal sgyrsiau ynghylch perfformiad.

- Blaenoriaeth 3: Ynni Adnewyddadwy ac Effeithlonrwydd Ynni – Mae cynnydd ar y flaenoriaeth arloesol hon wedi parhau i fod yn her ac wedi cyflwyno rhai problemau o ran cydymffurfiaeth. Ariannwyd y broses ganiatâd ar gyfer Porth Arddangos Morlais ac mae'r broses o gymeradwyo Parth Sir Benfro yn parhau i fynd rhagddi. Ar ben hynny, bu cais am gynlluniau cymunedol sydd wedi cael ymateb da iawn: mae 15 o brosiectau wedi symud ymlaen i'r cam Cynllunio Busnes gydag asesiadau risg yn parhau.

- Blaenoriaeth 4: Cysylltedd a Datblygu Trefol – Y ganran neiltuo ar gyfer y flaenoriaeth hon yw 50% ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 23% ar gyfer Dwyrain Cymru ac mae hyn yn symudiad mawr ers y llynedd. Mae'r newid mwyaf wrth gyflawni P4 yn ymwneud â thrin METRO fel prosiect mawr: diolchodd Sue Price i Guus Muijzers o'r CE am ei gymorth gyda sgyrsiau manwl diweddar ag arbenigwyr JASPERS CE. Bydd WEFO bellach yn cymeradwyo prosiectau ar wahân heb leihau'r arian a gaiff y prosiectau trawsnewidiol hyn.

- Llongyfarchodd Guus Muijzers WEFO a phwysleisiodd na fydd y trefniadau'n newid dim byd, ond y byddant yn symleiddio'r weithdrefn.

- Gwnaeth aelod sylw ei bod yn ymddangos yn synhwyrol dadansoddi prosiectau'n unigol a gofynnodd a oedd hyn yn peri unrhyw broblemau posibl eraill. Cadarnhaodd Sue Price na fyddai hyn yn digwydd oherwydd yr ymgynghorwyd â Trafnidiaeth Cymru yn llawn ac y gellir cynnal

dadansoddiad cost a budd ar lefel uchel o hyd. Cadarnhaodd Sioned Evans fod y Metro yn dal i gynrychioli un o'r prosiectau mwyaf sylweddol yn rhaglenni Cymru ac mai mater technegol yn unig yw'r penderfyniad hwn ynghylch sut y caiff elfen Cronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd ei hariannu, gan ddefnyddio'r hyblygrwydd sydd ar gael i reoli'r cyllid hwnnw.

13. Diolchodd Julie Morgan AC i Sue Price am roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ac ailadroddodd bwysigrwydd hawlio'r cyllid sydd ar gael.

Rhaglenni Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop

14. Rhoddodd Jane McMillan, Pennaeth Rhaglenni Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop, WEFO, wybod i'r aelodau bod gweithgarwch sylweddol yn gysylltiedig â Chronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop wedi cael ei gynnal dros y dyddiau diwethaf. Er enghraifft, ddydd Iau 30 Tachwedd, cynhaliodd WEFO ei Digwyddiad Gwybodaeth Blynyddol yn Stadiwm Liberty, Abertawe, lle dathlwyd 60 mlynedd ers sefydlu Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop.

15. Rhoddwyd gwybod i'r aelodau bod cynnydd da yn cael ei wneud yn holl raglenni Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop gyda'r ganran neilltuo yn 77% ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 61% ar gyfer Dwyrain Cymru: nid cynnydd mawr ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRh ac yn cynrychioli oddeutu £5m o fuddsoddiad ychwanegol. Mae £224m arall i'w neilltuo, drwy gymysgedd o brosiectau newydd a phrosiectau sydd yn yr arfaeth: £54m wedi'i neilltuo i brosiectau newydd a'r gweddill i ehangu prosiectau presennol. Ar ben hynny, mae targedau N+3 2017 wedi'u cyflawni ac mae targedau 2018 ar y trywydd iawn.

16. Hefyd, ailadroddodd Jane McMillan y neges bod ar WEFO angen i fuddiolwyr wario a chyflwyno eu hawliadau.

17. Mae Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop wedi ymgysylltu â 104,000 o gyfranogwyr, sy'n cynrychioli 24% o'r targed cyffredinol; mae 37,000 wedi cael cymorth i ennill cymhwyster uwch ac mae 5,000 wedi dod o hyd i gyflogaeth.

18. Tynnodd Jane McMillan sylw hefyd at y canlynol:

    - Blaenoriaeth 1 - Trechu Tlodi drwy Gyflogaeth Gynaliadwy – Y flaenoriaeth hon yw'r anoddaf i'w chyflawni, yn enwedig yn Nwyrain Cymru oherwydd ystod o ffactorau, gan gynnwys effaith pwysau ariannol ar y Sector Cyhoeddus; gweithio gyda grwpiau cleientiaid anoddach ac effaith y farchnad lafur dynn. Roedd cais yn yr haf ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn Amcan Penodol 1 ac ar gyfer y flaenoriaeth gyfan yn Nwyrain Cymru. Mae WEFO hefyd yn ceisio sefydlu blaenoriaeth newydd a

adroddwyd yn flaenorol, ac mae camau'n cael eu cymryd i gysoni cynnydd ar ddiweithdra byrdymor â chyfranogwyr sydd wedi bod yn ddiwaith ers cyfnod hir ac sy'n economaidd anweithgar.

- Blaenoriaeth 2 - Sgiliau ar gyfer Twf – Mae lefelau neilltuo uchel yn y flaenoriaeth hon gyda buddsoddiad diweddar o dros £4 miliwn yng Nghorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn gysylltiedig â phrosiect Deunyddiau a Gweithgynhyrchu Prifysgol Abertawe, sy'n adeiladu ar brosiect llwyddiannus dan Raglenni 2007-2013. Y ganran neilltuo ar gyfer y flaenoriaeth hon yw 87% yng Nghorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 53% yn Nwyrain Cymru. Mae ychydig o brosiectau bach yn yr arfaeth ac mae'r perfformiad cyffredinol yn dda – mae'r flaenoriaeth hon wedi rhagori ar ei thargedau Fframwaith Perfformiad ar gyfer 2018.

- Blaenoriaeth 3 - Cyflogaeth a Chyrhaeddiad Pobl Ifanc - Mae hyn yn adeiladu ar flaenoriaeth newydd ac yn canolbwyntio ar y rhai sy'n NEET ac mewn perygl o ddod yn NEET. Y ganran neilltuo yw 73% ac mae 19,000 o gyfranogwyr wedi ymgysylltu, sy'n golygu y rhagorwyd ar y targedau a bennwyd ar gyfer pobl ifanc 11 – 19 oed. Mae cynnydd da hefyd yn cael ei wneud ym maes STEM a Gofal Plant Cynnar ac mae trafodaethau yn cael eu cynnal ynghylch sut y gallwn gyflwyno hyfforddiant gwell. Mae'r prosiect gwerth £4m, CAM Nesa, hefyd bellach wedi'i gymeradwyo a fydd yn dod â'r ganran neilltuo i 79.4%.

19. Gofynnodd un aelod am yr her o gyrraedd y rhai pellaf o'r farchnad lafur a sut mae hyn yn cael ei bortreadu yn nhargedau WEFO. Mewn ymateb i'r cwestiwn hwn, cadarnhaodd Jane McMillan fod yr her hon eisoes wedi'i hystyried yn y Rhaglenni a bod hyder y bydd y targedau'n cael eu cyflawni. Arweiniodd problemau technegol ar y dechrau at gynnydd cychwynnol araf wrth reoleiddio cyfranogwyr, ond mae prosiectau bellach yn fwy hyderus ac wedi dechrau rhagori ar y targedau.

20. Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn arall ar effaith dod â chyllid Cymunedau yn Gyntaf i ben, cadarnhaodd Jane McMillan, er nad Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop sy'n ariannu Cymunedau yn Gyntaf, fod Cymunedau am Waith yn brosiect Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop a fydd yn helpu i liniaru rhywfaint o golled Cymunedau yn Gyntaf drwy'r dull atgyfeirio ymlaen sydd ar waith. Nid yw effaith dod â chyllid Cymunedau yn Gyntaf i ben wedi'i gweld eto ac mae angen mwy o drafod sylweddol.

21. Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn arall ar effaith y Rhaglenni ar ‘dlodi yn y gwaith’, cadarnhaodd Jane McMillan fod Rhaglenni Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop yn galluogi uwchsgilio a chamu ymlaen mewn cyflogaeth gyda phosibiliadau ar gyfer

ymyriadau gwaith yn cael eu harchwilio.

Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig

22. Rhoddodd David McNeill, Dirprwy Bennaeth Awdurdod Rheoli'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig, y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r aelodau, gan dynnu sylw at y ffaith bod y pwyntiau gweithredu o'r cyfarfod diwethaf wedi'u trafod yn yr adroddiad diwethaf a bod prosiectau bellach yn cael eu cynrychioli'n fwy cywir. Roedd yr adroddiad bellach yn fanylach na rhai blaenorol; fodd bynnag mae ychydig o anghysondebau'n parhau y mae angen ymdrin â nhw; er enghraifft lle mae ffigur a gyflawnwyd yn uwch na'r rhagolwg – gallai hyn fod yn wall neu mae'n bosibl y gall y rhagolwg gael ei gynyddu yn yr Addasiad nesaf.

23. Roedd y ganran neilltuo'n 102% o hyd gyda lefel neilltuo sylfaenol y prosiect yn 60%. Roedd hyn yn gynnydd o 1% ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRh. Byddai cynnydd yn amrywio, ac nid yn llinellol oherwydd natur y broses a arweinir gan gyfnodau cyllido. Mae'r ganran neilltuo economaidd-gymdeithasol yn 47% gyda gwariant yn 5.9% ac mae'r ganran neilltuo tir yn 75% gyda gwariant yn 30%. Mae amrywiaeth llawer ehangach o gynlluniau o dan y Rhaglenni economaidd-gymdeithasol ac mae llai o unffurfiaeth o broffiliau talu. Mae ffigurau uwch ar gyfer cynlluniau tir yn adlewyrchu natur wahanol cynlluniau economaidd-gymdeithasol, gyda chyfnod neilltuo tir llawer hwy o oddeutu 5-7 mlynedd.

24. Ymddiheurwyd am yr anghysondebau yn y ffigurau a gyflwynwyd ym mhapurau WPMC(17)113 a WPMC(17)116, (e.e. Nifer y cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant – 0 yn erbyn 10,010), gyda sicrwydd y byddai hyn yn cael ei ddatrys yn y dyfodol. Nid yw'r ffigurau a ddangosir ar hyn o bryd yn yr adroddiadau'n cynnwys prosiectau sydd wedi'u cwblhau'n rhannol. Nid yw hyn yn rhoi'r darlun llawn o'r cynnydd a wnaed.

25. Cadarnhaodd David McNeill nad oedd unrhyw bryderon ynglŷn â'r targedau N+3. Fodd bynnag, bydd targedau perfformiad a cherrig milltir yn fwy o her. Mae rhywfaint o oedi wrth fynd o Ddatganiad o Ddiddordeb i gais llawn, yn enwedig yn y Trydydd Sector lle nad oes cymaint o allu gan y buddiolwyr. Aeth David ymlaen i gadarnhau y bydd gwariant yn dod trwodd ac yn bwrw chwarter cyntaf 2018 o brosiectau a ddechreuodd yn 2016, felly dylai fod cynnydd da mewn gwariant yng nghyfarfod nesaf PMRh.

26. Croesawodd un aelod y cynnydd ar neilltuo a gwariant a gofynnodd i adroddiadau yn y dyfodol fod yn fwy penodol mewn perthynas â chynnydd yn erbyn targedau fframwaith perfformiad.

27. Siaradodd David McNeill am yr anawsterau wrth adrodd ar gyflawniadau rhannol a rhoddodd enghraifft o'r meysydd penodol sy'n cael sylw ar hyn o bryd - megis

Hyfforddiant a Chyngor Blaenoriaeth 1.

28. Byddai adrodd ar berfformiad yn erbyn targedau a cherrig milltir perfformiad yn cael sylw yn y cyfarfod gyda'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn ystod yr wythnos sy'n dechrau 4 Rhagfyr gyda'r nod o wella adroddiadau'r dyfodol.

29. Pwysleisiodd Tom Smithson y gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd i wella adroddiadau'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig a sicrhaodd yr aelodau fod cynnydd yn cael ei wneud ar hyn. Esboniodd Tom hefyd fod y tîm yn ystyried newid i gyfres safonol o adroddiadau yn yr holl gronfeydd.

30. Rhoddodd Marek Beran wybod i'r aelodau am gyfathrebiad newydd gan yr CE, a gyhoeddwyd ddydd Mercher 29 Tachwedd, ar Ddyfodol Bwyd a Ffermio. Mae'r cyfathrebiad yn trafod yr heriau a wynebir, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â''r amgylchedd, newid yn yr hinsawdd a chynaliadwyedd gydag awydd i roi mwy o hyblygrwydd i'r Aelod-wladwriaethau a chaniatáu iddynt ddewis sut a ble i fuddsoddi eu cyllid PAC yn y dyfodol.

CAM GWEITHREDU: Ysgrifenyddiaeth i anfon y ddolen at yr aelodau.

31. Gofynnodd yr aelodau am ddadansoddiad o'r ganran neilltuo o 102%, yn ogystal â mwy o wybodaeth am y 17 o brosiectau ym Mhartneriaeth Arloesi Ewrop (EIP) sy'n mynd rhagddynt drwy'r system ar hyn o bryd.

32. Esboniodd David McNeill y byddai'n rhoi dadansoddiad i'r ysgrifenyddiaeth y gellir ei ddosbarthu wedyn gyda'r cofnodion.

CAM GWEITHREDU: DM i roi dadansoddiad i'r ysgrifenyddiaeth a'r Ysgrifenyddiaeth i'w ddosbarthu gyda'r cofnodion.

33. Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn ar yr her o olrhain cynnydd wrth wneud newidiadau sylweddol i'r adroddiadau, cadarnhaodd Tom Smithson na fyddai'r data sylfaenol yn newid, gan roi'r cyfle i olrhain cynnydd wrth barhau i ychwanegu gwybodaeth at yr adroddiadau.

34. Esboniodd aelod ei fod wedi bod yn edrych yn ôl drwy hen adroddiadau'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig o 2010 ac y byddai'r tîm yn cael budd o ystyried a allai gwybodaeth debyg gael ei rhoi hefyd ar lefel cynllun. Cytunodd Tom Smithson i ddod yn ôl at yr adroddiadau hynny ac ystyried pa wybodaeth ychwanegol y gellid ei chyhoeddi ar y wefan i roi manylion ychwanegol i'r aelodau a oedd yn ceisio hynny.

<u>Fframwaith Perfformiad</u>

35. Rhoddodd Tom Smithson wybod i'r aelodau y cynnydd diweddaraf ar y Fframwaith Perfformiad, gan gadarnhau bod gwaith wedi'i wneud ar dablau'r ERDF a Chronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop, i adlewyrchu'r targedau y byddai angen eu cyflawni ar gyfer 2018 os bydd yr addasiadau'n mynd rhagddynt yn ôl y bwriad. Mae angen mwy o waith ar adroddiad y Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig i'w wneud yn fwy hygyrch gan nad oes gwybodaeth am "brosiectau sydd wedi'u cwblhau'n rhannol" wedi'i chynnwys yn y tabl ar hyn o bryd.

EITEM 4: Addasiadau i Raglenni ERDF a Chronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop

ERDF

36. Rhoddodd Tom Smithson y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r aelodau am y cynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud gyda'r addasiadau arfaethedig i Raglenni'r Cronfeydd Strwythurol. Esboniodd fod strategaeth Rhaglenni a rhesymeg ymyrryd gyffredin yn briodol o hyd, mewn termau cyffredin. Nid oes cynigion i newid canlyniadau, targedau na dangosyddion ac eithrio METRO sydd ond yn newid i ffocws daearyddol y dangosydd i'r de.

37. Rhoddodd Tom Smithson grynodeb o'r addasiad a fydd yn arwain at newid rhai dyraniadau ariannol:

- Yng Nghorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, ni fydd newidiadau rhwng dyraniadau â blaenoriaeth, ond bydd oddeutu €20m yn cael ei symud rhwng yr 'Amcanion Thematig', er mwyn rhoi hwb i'r cyllid sydd ar gael ar gyfer buddsoddiadau ecwiti mewn Ymchwil, Datblygu ac Arloesedd drwy'r Offeryn Ariannol.
- Bydd €17.5m yn cael ei symud o Flaenoriaeth 3 Dwyrain Cymru, oherwydd cynnydd mewn ymyriadau llai a drafodwyd nifer o droeon yng nghyfarfodydd blaenorol PMRh - bydd €11.7m yn symud i Flaenoriaeth 1 gan fod hon wedi bod yn flaenoriaeth allweddol ac mae'n perfformio'n dda. Caiff y €5.85m sy'n weddill ei symud i Flaenoriaeth 2 er mwyn rhoi hwb i Offerynnau Ariannol Banc Datblygu Cymru.

38. Aeth Tom Smithson ymlaen i esbonio ymhellach ystod o newidiadau arfaethedig i ddangosyddion ERDF er mwyn adlewyrchu newidiadau yn null cyflawni ERDF; er enghraifft, mwy o ffocws Ymchwil ac Arloesedd ar drefniadau arbenigo clyfar gyda llai o fusnesau'n cael cymorth, Cystadleurwydd BBaCh sy'n canolbwyntio'n ddwysach ar fusnesau sydd â photensial gwirioneddol i dyfu.

39. Datganodd un aelod Wrthdaro Buddiannau yn y trafodaethau hyn a gofynnodd i beidio â chymryd rhan yn y trafodaethau nac yn y penderfyniad ynghylch yr addasiad hwn.

40. Croesawodd yr aelodau'r diwygiadau rhaglen gan gydnabod bod yr amodau economaidd macro wedi'u newid yn sylweddol ers cyflawni rhaglenni 2007-2013.

Erbyn hyn, mae angen addasiadau manwl er mwyn adlewyrchu anawsterau defnyddio methodoleg sy'n seiliedig ar berfformiad ac amodau'r gorffennol.

41. Rhoddodd Tom Smithson wybod i'r aelodau am y bwriad i gyflwyno'r addasiadau i'r CE ym mis Ionawr 2018.

Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop

42. Mae addasiadau arfaethedig Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop yn gysylltiedig â thynhau amodau'r farchnad lafur a phroblemau a nodwyd gydag arian cyfatebol mewn rhai meysydd. Ni chynigir newidiadau i'r dangosyddion, dim ond yn y dyraniadau ariannol. Crynhoir y newidiadau fel a ganlyn:
    - Yng Nghorllewin a'r Cymoedd, caiff €8.19m ei symud allan o Flaenoriaeth 1 (Trechu Tlodi drwy Gyflogaeth Gynaliadwy) ac €8.19 arall allan o Flaenoriaeth 2 (Sgiliau ar gyfer Twf) i mewn i Flaenoriaeth newydd ar gyfer 'Meithrin Gallu Sefydliadol a Gweithio'n Rhanbarthol'.
    - Yn Nwyrain Cymru, mae cynigion i symud arian o Flaenoriaeth 1 (€11.7m) a Blaenoriaeth 2 (€9.36m), i mewn i Flaenoriaeth 3 (Cyflogaeth a Chyrhaeddiad Pobl Ifanc) a'r flaenoriaeth newydd ar feithrin gallu (€15.12m).
    - Ar gyfer Dwyrain Cymru, caiff Amcan Penodol newydd ei ychwanegu ar gyfer sgiliau lefel uwch er mwyn adlewyrchu rhaglen Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a galluogi dull gweithredu Cymru gyfan.
    - Bydd yr holl dargedau ariannol yn y Fframwaith Perfformiad yn newid er mwyn adlewyrchu ailfantoli'r arian, ond gyda'r targed cyffredinol yn parhau.

43. Cafodd manylion am y flaenoriaeth newydd eu rhoi yn y papur adolygu llenyddiaeth drafft er mwyn rhoi gwybod i'r aelodau am y gwaith a'r rhesymeg ymyrryd ddrafft. Cadarnhaodd Tom Smithson fod WEFO wedi cyfarfod â rhanddeiliaid allweddol ac y bydd yn parhau i wneud hynny.

44. Gwnaeth yr aelodau y sylwadau canlynol:
    - Croesawu cynnig amserol blaenoriaeth newydd a chydnabod yr ymgynghoriad sydd wedi'i gynnal ledled y rhanbarthau.
    - Nodi bod yr addasiad yn gysylltiedig â Chytundeb Partneriaeth y DU a gofyn am y fethodoleg ar gyfer dangosyddion newydd/wedi'u haddasu ac a fydd targedau Fframwaith Perfformiad yn cael eu cyflawni.
    - Cydnabod y gwaith sydd wedi'i wneud i baratoi'r papurau, ond hefyd ar bwysigrwydd cyfleu negeseuon ynghylch y newidiadau hyn yn ofalus er mwyn sicrhau na chânt eu canfod fel newid o fuddiannau dinasyddion uniongyrchol i seilwaith. Bydd angen gwerthu'r effaith gadarnhaol a'r cyfiawnhad dros y newidiadau.

45. Ymatebodd Tom Smithson fod y defnydd o'r cronfeydd wedi'i ddihysbyddu ar bob lefel a bod llawer o dystiolaeth i gadarnhau y gall fod effaith gadarnhaol i'r math

hwn o newid. Mae gwersi wedi'u dysgu o'r cyllid yn y maes hwn dan rownd flaenorol y Rhaglenni gyda fframwaith polisi cryfach y tu ôl i'r cynigion sydd bellach ar waith.

46. Cadarnhawyd hefyd nad oes risg ar hyn o bryd na chaiff dangosyddion y Fframwaith Perfformiad eu cyflawni.

47. Ardystiodd Jane McMillan y sylwadau hyn, drwy ychwanegu i hyn gael ei drafod yn helaeth dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Ar ben hynny, yn ystod cais diweddar Blaenoriaeth Cyflogaeth y dwyrain, dim ond £20m o'r £40m a oedd ar gael a gafodd ei hawlio. Byddai targedau'n parhau i fod heb eu newid er mwyn adlewyrchu'r ffaith bod angen i'r Rhaglenni wario a chyflawni yn y maes hwn o hyd. Byddai'r newidiadau'n adlewyrchu tirwedd fwy cydgysylltiedig ac yn galluogi rhagor o waith gyda phartneriaid er mwyn sicrhau effaith tymor hwy y Rhaglenni. Caiff mwy o wybodaeth ei rhoi yng nghyfarfod nesaf PMRh er mwyn ymdrin â phryderon eraill.

48. Cytunodd yr aelodau ar y canlynol:
    - Tirwedd wedi'i newid yn galluogi ymyriad mwy cydgysylltiedig ledled Cymru.
    - Angen sicrhau bod dyluniad y newidiadau'n dangos yr effaith benodol a'r buddiant hirdymor i'r dinesydd.
    - Angen sicrhau na chaiff ymyriad ei ddyblygu lle caiff ei gynnal ar lefelau rhanbarthol a sicrhau bod newidiadau'n gyson â diwygiadau Llywodraeth Leol.
    - Pwysigrwydd yr angen i drafod a datblygu newidiadau'r Rhaglen ar yr un pryd. Dull gweithredu sydd wedi gweithio'n dda mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol.
    - Calonogol gweld bod allbynnau'n fwy cyson gan fod hyn wedi bod yn faen tramgwydd o'r blaen gyda llawer o dystiolaeth werthuso ar gael wrth asesu dyluniad yr ymyriadau.

49. Cytunodd yr aelodau a oedd yn bresennol ar yr addasiadau ar gyfer Rhaglenni ERDF a Chronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop. Fodd bynnag, gan nad oedd cworwm yn y cyfarfod, gofynnir i'r aelodau nad oedd yn bresennol gytuno ar yr addasiadau drwy'r weithdrefn ysgrifenedig.

Eitem 5: Addasiadau'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig

50. Esboniodd David McNeill fod y papur yn gryno gan mai'r bwriad oedd cyflwyno'r addasiad i'r CE ym mis Ionawr ac mai rhybudd cynnar oedd y papur ac mai'r gobaith oedd y byddai'n cael ei gyflwyno cyn cyfarfod PMRh ym mis Mai. Roedd cyfarfod technegol yn cael ei gynnal gyda'r CE yn ystod yr wythnos sy'n dechrau ar 4 Rhagfyr; roedd y papur hwn yn cael ei gyflwyno heddiw ar gyfer trafodaeth ragarweiniol yn unig, gyda phapur manylach i'w ddosbarthu drwy'r weithdrefn ysgrifenedig. Byddai rhagor o gyfarfodydd neu gyfarfodydd dwyochrog ar gael os oedd angen trafod y cynigion yn fanylach.

51. Cytunodd yr aelodau ar yr angen am ragor o fanylion a chyfiawnhad cyn y gall aelodau roi barn lawn am yr addasiadau arfaethedig.

52. Nododd Marek Beran, yn dilyn y cyfiawnhad dros y newidiadau arfaethedig, y dylai eu heffaith a'r manylion ynghylch newidiadau ariannol a dangosyddion gael eu hychwanegu hefyd.

Eitem 6: Thema Drawsbynciol: Trechu Tlodi

53. Cyflwynodd Chriss O'Connell, Pennaeth Themâu Trawsbynciol, y papur hwn sy'n darparu'r adolygiad blynyddol o gynnydd gweithredu thema drawsbynciol Trechu Tlodi ac Allgáu Cymdeithasol yng nghronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd (ESI) 2014 – 2020 Cronfa Datblygu Rhanbarthol Ewrop (ERDF) a Chronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop. Gwahoddwyd yr aelodau i nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad a rhoi sylwadau arno.

54. Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn aelod ar ostyngiad ffigur yn Atodiad 2 (yn ymwneud â thalu'r cyflog byw), cadarnhawyd bod canran y gostyngiad yn fach iawn (yn cynrychioli 1 prosiect) ac, wrth ei weld yng nghyd-destun nifer fwy o brosiectau, nad oedd yn peri pryderon enbyd. Byddai'r cynnydd yn parhau i gael ei adolygu.

Eitem 7: Diwygiadau i'r Strategaeth Monitro a Gwerthuso

55. Rhoddodd Kathryn Helliwell, Uwch-swyddog Ymchwil, WEFO, gyflwyniad ar y Strategaeth Monitro a Gwerthuso ar gyfer Cronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd. Rhoddodd wybod i PMRh i'r strategaeth gael ei chymeradwyo ddiwethaf yn ôl ym mis Medi 2015 gyda newidiadau sylweddol ers hynny. Tynnwyd sylw at newidiadau 2017 a dim ond dau newid sylweddol oedd yn ymwneud yn llwyr â gwerthuso (h.y. nid monitro). Dychmygwyd yn wreiddiol y byddai arolygon busnes ERDF mwy rheolaidd yn cael eu cynnal. Fodd bynnag, ar ôl adolygu'r data lefel busnes, teimlir nad oes digon eto i warantu cynnal arolwg tan 2019.

56. Hefyd, cyflwynwyd cyfres newydd arfaethedig o astudiaethau, yn ymwneud â'r amgylchedd allanol yn rhannol, ac roedd yn ddefnyddiol i'w hystyried wrth roi'r Rhaglenni presennol ar waith. Dangosir y rhain ar dudalennau 11 – 14 o'r strategaeth. Mae dull gwerthuso Timau Ymgysylltu Rhanbarthol a Thîm Ewropeaidd Arbenigol y Trydydd Sector wedi newid ac mae'r Tîm Strategaeth yn trafod hyn â'r Timau Ymgysylltu Rhanbarthol a Thîm Ewropeaidd Arbenigol y Trydydd Sector.

57. Mae'r Tîm Strategaeth hefyd yn ystyried cynnal treialon rheoli ar hap dros y flwyddyn nesaf

58. O ran y Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig, yr astudiaethau ychwanegol i'r hyn a oedd yn y strategaeth wreiddiol yw'r Astudiaeth Ddichonoldeb Amaeth-yswiriant, Astudiaeth Gwmpasu Cymorth Ffoaduriaid, cyfraniad at yr Arolwg Arferion Ffermio, ac ymchwil i gyfraniad amaethyddiaeth a chynhyrchu bwyd at gymunedau gwledig – yr un olaf yn edrych ar gyfraniad cymdeithasol yn lle un economaidd.

59. Aelodau:

- Gofynnwyd am eglurhad o oblygiadau arolwg gohiriedig ERDF o fusnesau i noddwyr prosiectau ERDF.
- Gofynnwyd a ellid rhannu'r canfyddiadau lefel uchel o'r astudiaethau cynhyrchiant economaidd.
- Nodwyd bod Gwybodaeth Economaidd Cymru Banc Datblygu Cymru yn gyfle mawr i weithio gyda thimau WEFO a Llywodraeth Cymru.
- Gofynnwyd pam mae'r data ar gael yn fwy ar gyfer y Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig a Chronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop - gydag angen i ddod ag ERDF i'r un lefel.
- Gofynnwyd am statws diweddaraf cronfa ddata mentrau WEFO a fyddai'n gallu nodi pryd mae menter wedi cael cymorth gan sawl ymyriad. Bernir bod amseru hyn yn hanfodol, yn enwedig yn ystod unrhyw gyfnod pontio gadael yr UE a chynigion polisi rhanbarthol yn y dyfodol.
- Gofynnwyd, mewn perthynas â'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig, a oedd yr Astudiaeth Ddichonoldeb Amaeth-yswiriant ar gyfer Cymru yn unig neu'n Fframwaith ledled y DU a'r sefyllfa ar ôl gadael yr UE.
- Canmolwyd y dull integredig o gynnal y gwerthusiadau a thynnwyd sylw penodol at werthuso cymorth i fusnesau.
- Gofynnwyd am y sefyllfa bresennol gyda'r gwerthusiad ôl-weithredol.

Cadarnhaodd Kathryn Helliwell y canlynol wrth ymateb:

- Dim disgwyliad i fuddiolwyr gomisiynu eu harolygon busnes ERDF eu hunain, ond bod angen rhagor o drafod â Thîm Strategaeth WEFO. Mae gweithrediadau Llywodraeth Cymru yn aros i WEFO gwblhau ei harolygon cyn iddynt gynnal eu rhai eu hunain.
- Mae'r dadansoddiad o gynhyrchiant economaidd bron â'i gwblhau ac mae'n cael ei reoli gan economegwyr Llywodraeth Cymru gyda'r contractwyr a fydd yn cyflwyno eu canfyddiadau'n fuan.
- Mae Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop yn fwy sefydledig ac mae'r Tîm Strategaeth eisoes ar y blaen gyda data Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop ac mae WEFO wedi gorfod bod yn llawer llymach gyda gweithrediadau ERDF ar ofynion data nag yn y cyfnod blaenorol. Mae'r anawsterau wrth fesur allbwn lefel busnes ERDF hefyd yn effeithio ar hyn o'i gymharu ag allbwn seilwaith.
- Mae cyfres o wersi wedi'u dysgu o raglenni 2007-2013. Un ohonynt yw y

dylem fod yn ofalus i beidio â chynnal arolwg busnes yn rhy gynnar gan fod oedi yn aml rhwng y busnes yn cael y cymorth ac unrhyw effaith a gaiff y cymorth hwn.

- Mae gwaith yn mynd rhagddo ar gronfa ddata mentrau WEFO er mwyn sicrhau y bydd data digonol ar gael i gynnal llawer mwy o ddadansoddi yn y dyfodol.
- Er y gall anawsterau fod weithiau wrth amseru gwerthusiadau'n briodol er mwyn cofnodi data digonol, mae tîm WEFO yn cynnal deialog dda â gweithrediadau ac mae'n hyderus bod ganddo ddull gwerthuso da ar waith.
- Mae'r Astudiaeth Ddichonoldeb Amaeth-yswiriant yn ymwneud â Chymru yn unig gyda'r sefyllfa ar ôl gadael yn aneglur ar hyn o bryd.
- Mae'r Tîm Strategaeth wrthi'n caffael gwerthusiad Cyswllt Ffermio, sef y mwyaf datblygedig o'r gwerthusiadau lefel cynllun. Mae'r Tîm Strategaeth wrthi'n datblygu manyleb y gwerthusiad o'r Cynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy.
- Caiff y gwerthusiad ôl-weithredol ei gyhoeddi yr wythnos nesaf.

60. Cytunodd yr aelodau a oedd yn bresennol ar y newidiadau i'r Strategaeth. Fodd bynnag, gan nad oedd cworwm, gofynnir i'r aelodau nad oedd yn bresennol gytuno ar y newidiadau drwy'r weithdrefn ysgrifenedig.

<u>Eitem 8:</u> Cyflwyniad: Banc Datblygu Cymru

61. Gwahoddwyd Rob Hunter, Cyfarwyddwr Strategaeth Banc Datblygu Cymru, i roi trosolwg o'r banc. Wrth wneud hynny, nododd na fyddai Banc Datblygu Cymru yn bodoli heb Gronfeydd Strwythurol a'r weledigaeth ar gyfer Offerynnau Ariannol a bod hyn yn stori llwyddiant mawr ar gyfer cyllid yr UE.

62. Croesawodd yr aelodau'r cyflwyniad a gofynnwyd ychydig o gwestiynau o ran pa mor gystadleuol roedd cyfraddau benthyciadau'r banc; sut y byddai'r banc a'i wasanaethau'n fwy hygyrch i ardaloedd gwledig; sut mae'r neges yn cael ei chyfleu?

63. Mae gan y banc broses gymedroli sydd wedi dod â chyfraddau llog i lawr oddeutu 1.5/2% i 7.5/8%; esboniodd fod Cronfa Buddsoddi Hyblyg Cymru yn hygyrch i unrhyw fusnes ledled Cymru; mae'r banc yn gwneud cyfres o lansiadau, hysbysebion radio, hysbysebion ar-lein, hysbysebion cefn bws, posteri, dosbarthu taflenni a hefyd negeseuon ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol.

<u>Eitem 9:</u> Diweddariad ar Ddyfodol Polisi Rhanbarthol

64. Rhoddodd Rob Halford, Pennaeth Cynllunio a Strategaeth, WEFO, wybod i'r

aelodau am y cynnydd diweddaraf. Mae'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf wedi'i rhoi ym mhob cyfarfod PMRh, ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi nodi ei sefyllfa gyffredin yn y ddogfen Sicrhau Dyfodol Cymru, a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Ionawr 2017: na ddylai Cymru golli unrhyw arian o ganlyniad i BREXIT, ac y dylid parchu cymwyseddau datganoledig. Bu ymdrechion i ymgysylltu â Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch trefniadau olynu ers mis Ionawr ond, hyd yn hyn, ni chafwyd ymateb.

65. Fodd bynnag, roedd Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol y DU wedi'i chyhoeddi'n ddiweddar: dogfen â 275 o dudalennau nad yw'n agor deialog ynghylch manylion Cronfa Ffyniant Gyffredin y DU. Mae hyn yn bwysig o ystyried yr ansicrwydd parhaus ynghylch sut y bydd yn berthnasol i'r DU gyfan. Mae'r Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol yn cyflwyno neu'n estyn ystod o gyfleoedd ariannu sail cronfa her neu fargen, gan gynnwys bargeinion Dinas a Thwf.

66. Bydd papur polisi Llywodraeth Cymru ar ddyfodol buddsoddiad rhanbarthol, un o gyfres sy'n gysylltiedig â Sicrhau Dyfodol Cymru, yn cael ei gyhoeddi cyn y Nadolig, gyda dau ddigwyddiad ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid i'w trefnu gan WEFO yn ystod ail hanner mis Ionawr.

67. Mae WEFO hefyd yn awyddus i ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid yn fwy uniongyrchol drwy gymryd rhan mewn cyfarfodydd/digwyddiadau y gallent fod am eu trefnu gyda'u rhwydweithiau/etholaethau eu hun ac mae eisiau ymgysylltu â phroses o gyd-ddylunio ar drefniadau polisi rhanbarthol a ffefrir yn y dyfodol.

.

68. Atgyfnerthodd Sioned Evans bwysigrwydd cynifer o bobl â phosibl yn cymryd rhan yn yr ymarfer hwn ac anogodd bawb i hysbysebu'r cyfle i wneud hynny mor eang a chyn gynted ag y bo'n bosibl.

Eitem 8: Unrhyw Fater Arall

69. Ni chodwyd unrhyw fater arall.

70. Cynhelir cyfarfod nesaf PMRh ddydd Gwener 4 Mai 2018 yn swyddfa Llywodraeth Cymru ym Merthyr Tudful.

Ysgrifenyddiaeth PMRh Rhagfyr 2017

Cronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd 2014-2020 PMRh Cymru
1 Rhagfyr 2017

Swyddfa Llywodraeth Cymru, Merthyr Tudful

Cadeirydd – Julie Morgan (AC)

Enwebir yr aelodau ar sail gynrychioliadol, o bartneriaid a chyrff statudol:

Tom Whyatt	Busnes a Menter (Diwydiant Cymru)
Derek Walker	Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru
Lowri Gwilym	Llywodraeth Leol (CLlLC)
Charlotte Priddy	Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru (UAC)
Rachel Lewis-Davies	Undeb Cenedlaethol yr Amaethwyr (NFU)
Rebecca Williams	Y Gymdeithas Tir a Busnesau Cefn Gwlad
Huw Bryer	*Eilydd dros Duncan Hamer* - Llywodraeth Cymru (Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol)
Tove Oliver	*Eilydd dros Dr. David Blaney (CCAUC)*
Jessica Williams	*Eilydd dros Phil Fiander, Cyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru (CGGC)*

Aelodau wedi'u dethol drwy'r broses Penodiadau cyhoeddus:

Sian Price
David (Dai) Davies
Joy Kent
Beth Winkley

Cynghorwyr:

Guus Muijzers	Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, Swyddog Desg y DU sy'n gyfrifol am Raglenni 2014-2020, DG Regio
Joanna Gawrylczyk-Malesa	Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, Swyddog Desg ar gyfer Rhaglenni Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop, DG Employ.
Marek Beran	Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, DG AGRI

PRESENOLDEB AC YMDDIHEURIADAU **WPMC(17)M16 - ATODIAD A**

Awdurdodau Rheoli Rhaglenni:

Swyddfa Cyllid Ewropeaidd Cymru / Adran yr Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol

Sioned Evans	Prif Weithredwr, WEFO (ERDF, Cronfa Gymdeithasol
David McNeill	Dirprwy Bennaeth yr Is-adran Datblygu Gwledig
Rob Halford	Pennaeth Cynllunio a Strategaeth, WEFO
Peter Ryland	Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr, Perfformiad Rhaglenni a Chyllid (ERDF, Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop)
Sue Price	Pennaeth Rhaglenni ERDF
Jane McMillan	Pennaeth Rhaglenni Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop
Tom Smithson	Pennaeth Strategaeth, WEFO
Cath Cleaton	Ysgrifenyddiaeth
Rhiannon Clancy	Ysgrifenyddiaeth
Kathryn Helliwell	WEFO
Chriss O'Connell	WEFO

YMDDIHEURIADAU

Rudi Plaut	Northmace & Hendon
Duncan Hamer	Llywodraeth Cymru (Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol)
Phil Fiander	Cyngor Gweithredu Gwirfoddol Cymru (CGGC)
David Blaney	CCAUC
Yr Athro David Shepherd	Prifysgol Bangor
Lowri Owain	Cadwyn Clwyd
Dr Grahame Guilford	
Yr Athro Richard Davies	Prifysgol Abertawe
David Hughes	Swyddfa'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yng Nghymru

PWYLLGOR MONITRO RHAGLENNI CYMRU, CRONFEYDD STRWYTHUROL A BUDDSODDI EWROPEAIDD 2014 – 2020

ADRODDIAD MONITRO'R RHAGLENNI

Trosolwg

Mae'r papur hwn yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am weithredu Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd: Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru – Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020, ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a Rhaglenni ESF a Rhaglenni ERDF ac ESF Dwyrain Cymru. Ceir adroddiadau ar gronfeydd penodol yn Atodiadau 1 i 3. Mae'r holl ddata'n gyfredol ar 31/10/2017. Y cyfraddau cynllunio a ddefnyddir yn yr adroddiad yw £1:€1.17 ar gyfer Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol a £1:€1.25 ar gyfer Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020. Mae cyfeiriadau at gyfarfod blaenorol Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni drwy'r ddogfen gyfan yn cyfeirio at y cyfarfod ym mis Medi 2017.

Y sefyllfa gyffredinol

- Mae 188 o weithrediadau gwerth £2,787m (gan gynnwys arian yr UE gwerth £1,496m), yn cael eu cefnogi ar hyn o bryd gan y Cronfeydd Strwythurol a byddant yn cynorthwyo dros 41,100 o fusnesau ac yn rhoi cymorth hyfforddiant/cyflogaeth i fwy na 426,100 o bobl.
- Mae Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020 yn cefnogi cyfanswm o 7,117 o gontractau amaeth-amgylchedd ar hyn o bryd, sy'n cwmpasu 689,186ha ynghyd â 593 o gontractau organig newydd sy'n cwmpasu 72,562ha. Crëwyd 660ha o goetir newydd trwy Glastir - Creu Coetir. Mae 6,400 o gyfranogwyr wedi'u hyfforddi gyda 951 o fuddiolwyr wedi eu cynghori.

Cynnydd ariannol

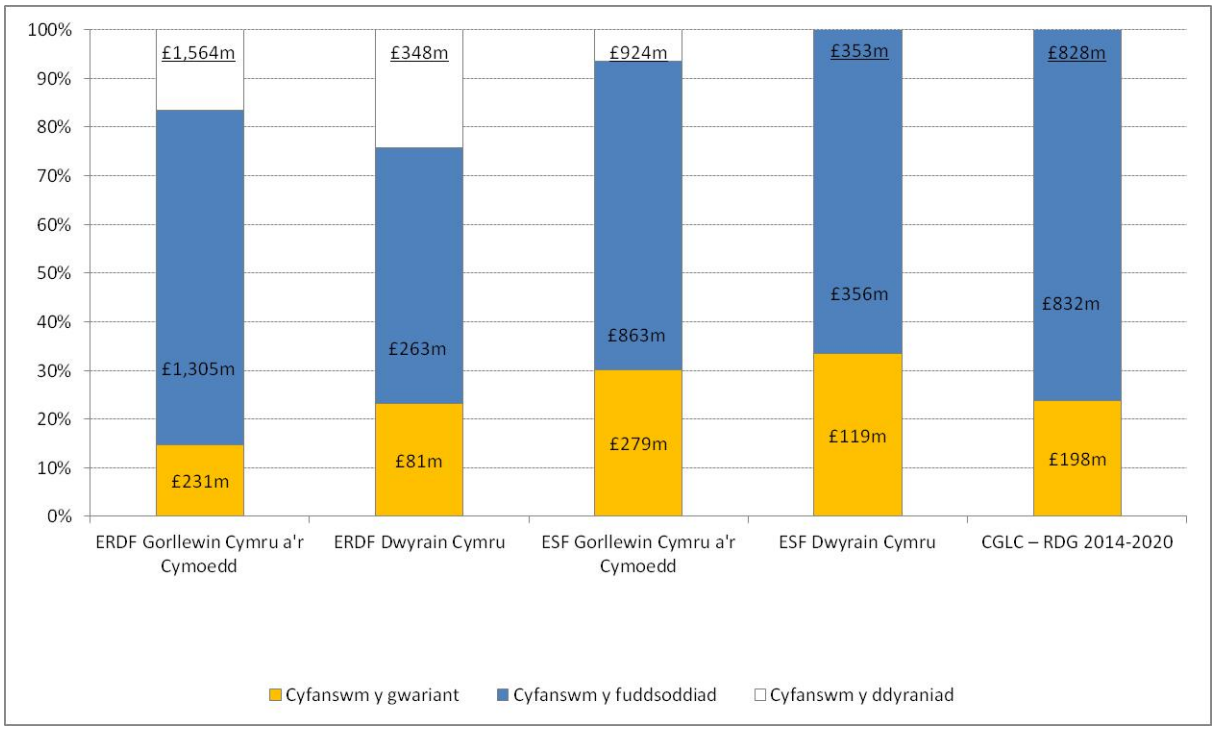
Neilltuo cyllid

- O dan Raglenni ERDF, mae cyfanswm o £1,568m wedi cael ei neilltuo ar hyn o bryd (82% o gyfanswm y dyraniad), mae £827m ohono yn arian yr UE (69% o ddyraniad yr UE).
- O dan Raglenni ESF, mae cyfanswm o £1,219m wedi cael ei neilltuo ar hyn o bryd (95% o gyfanswm y dyraniad), mae £669m ohono yn arian yr UE (78% o ddyraniad yr UE).
- O dan Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020, mae cyfanswm o £832m (100% o werth y rhaglen) wedi ei neilltuo, mae £556m ohono yn arian yr UE (101% o ddyraniad yr UE).

Gwariant

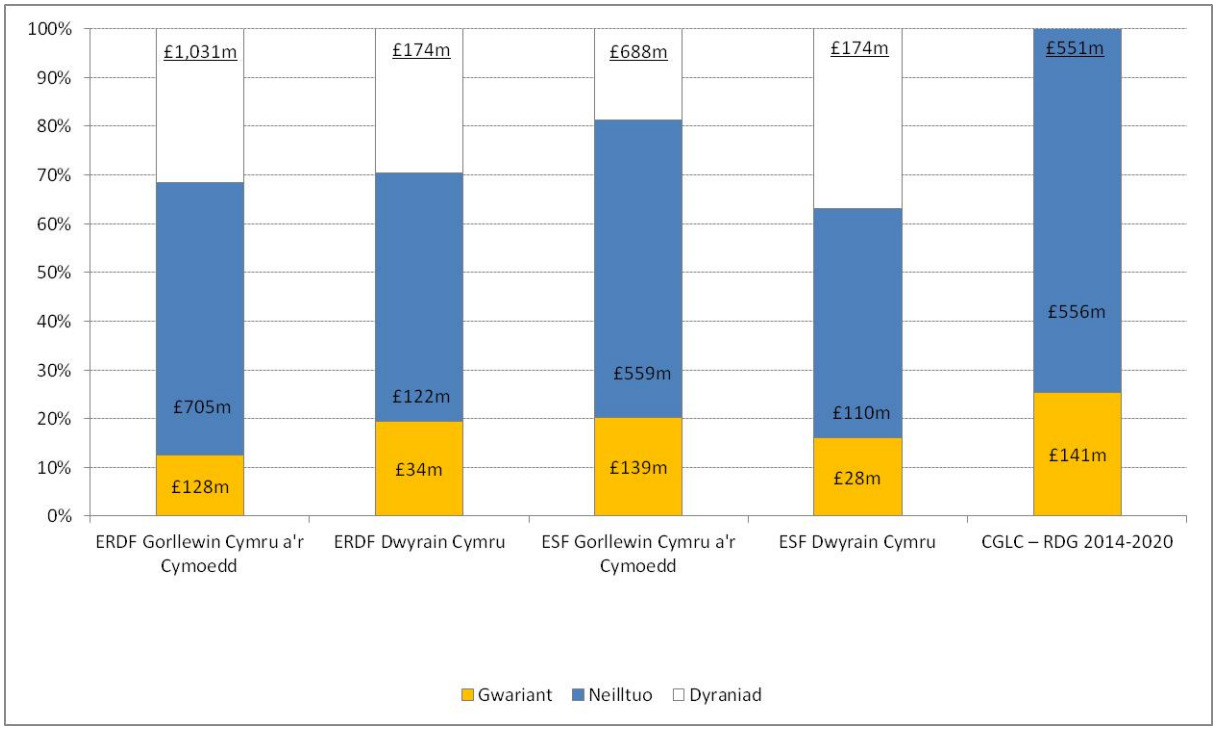
- Mae tua £312m o gyfanswm y gwariant wedi'i gofnodi o dan Raglenni ERDF, mae £162m ohono yn arian yr UE.
- Mae tua £398m o gyfanswm y gwariant wedi'i gofnodi o dan Raglenni ESF, mae £167m ohono yn arian yr UE.
- Mae gwariant o gwmpas £198m wedi'i gofnodi yn Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020, mae £141m ohono yn arian yr UE.

Siart 1: Cyfanswm Gwariant Rhaglenni a Neilltuwyd / a Wariwyd



Ar gyfer Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020 mae Cyfanswm Gwariant y Rhaglen yn cynnwys Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig ynghyd â chyllid domestig Llywodraeth Cymru. Ar gyfer y Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol mae'n cynnwys ERDF neu ESF ynghyd ag arian cyfatebol.

Siart 2: Cronfeydd yr UE a Neilltuwyd / a Wariwyd (ERDF / ESF / EAFRD)



Data ar Ddangosyddion

Dangosydd	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yn hyn
ERDF				
Mentrau a gefnogir	45,512	41,174	12,291	3,714
o rhain				
Mentrau a grëwyd	7,400	10,047	2,878	394
Cynydd cyflogaeth yn y mentrau a gefnogir	26,980	32,019	8,845	3,504
Maint o gyllid ymchwil a sicrhawyd	£230m	£192m	£51m	£45m
Cynnydd yn lefel allforio	£233m	£215m	£58m	£34m
Capasiti ychwanegol o gynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy	28	1	-	-
Nifer y cartrefi â dosbarthiad defnydd o ynni gwell	9,700	3,825	-	-
Gwasanaethau trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus a grëwyd neu sydd wedi gwella	2,920,000 vehicle km	-	-	-
ESF				
Pobl a gynorthwyir	434,100	426,149	159,807	132,643
o rhain				
Pobl ifanc a gynorthwyir	150,000	124,506	49,604	35,380
Pobl a gefnogir i gael gwaith	40,642	51,568	13,351	7,874
Pobl sy.n ennill cymwysterau	194,633	232,092	51,233	40,576
EAFRD				
Ardal ffisegol a gefnogir	688,000	528,010	-	689,186
Pobl dan hyfforddiant	13,000	13,500	-	6,400
Taliadau amaethyddol a gefnogir	3,773	542	-	882

Ffynhonnell: Llywodraeth Cymru, 31/03/2018

Atodiadau

Atodiad 1: Diweddariad ERDF

Atodiad 2: Diweddariad ESF

Atodiad 3: Diweddariad WGRC-RDP 2014-2020

Atodiad 4: Cronfeydd Strwythurol: Rhestr gweithrediadau a gymeradwywyd

Atodiad 5: Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru – Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020 – Rhestr Prosiectau Economaidd-Gymdeithasol a gymeradwyid

Atodiad 6: Fframwaith perfformiad

Adran 1: Rhaglenni ERDF: Neilltuo Cyllid

1. Mae'r adran hon yn nodi'n fanwl y cynnydd ariannol presennol o dan Raglenni ERDF, gan gynnwys trosolwg o'r Rhaglenni a gwybodaeth ar lefel Blaenoriaeth.
2. Dengys Tabl 1 nifer Grantiau'r UE a'r symiau a neilltuwyd ar gyfer Gweithrediadau cymeradwy o dan Raglenni ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a Dwyrain Cymru.
3. Mae'r data ar gyfer gweithrediadau a gynhwyswyd trwy gydol yr adroddiad yn cynnwys gweithrediadau a gymeradwywyd ers cyfarfod blaenorol y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni , ynghyd â'r rheiny sydd, ar adeg ysgrifennu, wedi'u rhaglennu i gael eu cymeradwyo erbyn dyddiad cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni.

Tabl 1: Neilltuo Grant yr UE yn ôl Rhaglen a Blaenoriaeth: Gweithrediadau Cymeradwy

£ Miliynau

Blaenoriaeth	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm [1]	Grant yr UE[1]	Cyfanswm[2]		Grant yr UE[2]		Cyfanswm[3]		Grant yr UE[3]	
ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
1	26	388.7	258.0	389.5	(100%)	232.2	(90%)	60.8	(16%)	35.7	(14%)
2	7	284.8	177.8	275.8	(97%)	146.4	(82%)	102.1	(36%)	51.1	(29%)
3	8	210.3	146.0	80.4	(38%)	49.6	(34%)	17.3	(8%)	9.0	(6%)
4	27	652.6	428.5	532.8	(82%)	256.9	(60%)	44.5	(7%)	28.0	(7%)
5	7	27.6	20.6	26.4	(96%)	19.5	(95%)	6.1	(22%)	4.3	(21%)
Cyfanswm	**75**	**1,564.0**	**1,030.9**	**1,304.9**	**(83%)**	**704.6**	**(68%)**	**230.8**	**(15%)**	**128.2**	**(12%)**
ERDF Dwyrain Cymru											
1	13	152.3	76.2	164.6	(108%)	73.6	(97%)	25.2	(17%)	8.5	(11%)
2	7	68.2	34.1	63.2	(93%)	31.6	(93%)	42.1	(62%)	18.5	(54%)
3	1	38.3	19.1	7.1	(19%)	3.6	(19%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)
4	3	81.8	40.9	21.6	(26%)	10.8	(26%)	12.4	(15%)	6.1	(15%)
5	6	7.0	3.5	7.0	(101%)	2.8	(81%)	1.2	(17%)	0.5	(15%)
Cyfanswm	**30**	**347.5**	**173.8**	**263.5**	**(76%)**	**122.4**	**(70%)**	**80.9**	**(23%)**	**33.7**	**(19%)**
Cyfanswm ERDF	**105**	**1,911.5**	**1,204.6**	**1,568.4**	**(82%)**	**826.9**	**(69%)**	**311.7**	**(16%)**	**161.8**	**(13%)**

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

[1] Yn seiliedig ar gyfradd gyfnewid o £1:€1.17
[2] Mae'r canrannau'n dangos y swm sydd wedi'i neilltuo fel cyfran o'r dyraniad
[3] Mae'r canrannau'n dangos y gwariant fel cyfran o'r dyraniad

Diweddariad Cyffredinol o'r Rhaglenni

4. Mae'r ddwy Raglen ERDF yn parhau i wneud cynnydd da gyda 105 o weithrediadau wedi'u cymeradwyo gan neilltuo grant gwerth bron i £827 miliwn, sef 69% o werth y rhaglenni (68% Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 70% Dwyrain Cymru). Mae'r symiau sydd wedi'u neilltuo'n parhau i wneud cynnydd cyson, gyda nifer iach o weithrediadau posibl a diddordeb parhaus yn y rhaglenni yn cael ei gynnal. Cyflwynir y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i aelodau Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni Cymru (PMRhC) am y symiau sydd wedi'u neilltuo yn ystod y cyfarfod ym mis Mai.

5. Wrth i'r broses o gyflawni'r rhaglenni fynd rhagddi, mae'n amlwg nad yw'r rhagolygon a oedd yn sail i ddyluniad gwreiddiol rhai o feysydd y rhaglenni wedi dod yn wir. Yn ystod cyfarfod PMRhC ym mis Rhagfyr 2017, cytunodd PMRhC ar argymhellion o ran sut y dylid addasu'r ddwy raglen ERDF. Ers hynny, cynhaliwyd trafodaethau anffurfiol pellach gyda Chomisiwn yr UE. Anfonir dogfennau'r Rhaglenni gyda'r newidiadau wedi'u nodi at aelodau PMRhC i'w cymeradwyo fel y dogfennau terfynol drwy weithdrefn ysgrifenedig er mwyn gallu cyflwyno'r addasiadau i'r rhaglenni i'r Comisiwn yn ffurfiol yn fuan wedi hynny.

6. Hyd yma, mae £128m (12% Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd) a £34m (19% Dwyrain Cymru) wedi cael ei dalu i noddwyr prosiectau. Ar hyn o bryd, mae taliadau gwerth £16m ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a £4m ar gyfer Dwyrain Cymru yn aros i gael eu hawdurdodi gan WEFO; gan ystyried y rhain, mae'r taliadau i noddwyr yn cynyddu i £143m (14%) yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a £38m (22%) yn Nwyrain Cymru.

7. Mae'r ffigurau gwariant hyn wedi arwain at ddefnyddio cyllid gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd gwerth 12% o'r dyraniad grant yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 21% o'r dyraniad grant yn Nwyrain Cymru, sy'n uwch o lawer na chyfartaledd yr UE, sef 8%. Mae Dwyrain Cymru wedi cyrraedd ei darged N+3 2018 a gwneir cynnydd tuag at gyrraedd targed N+3 2018 ar gyfer Rhaglen ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd.

Adran 2: Cynnydd yn ôl Echel Blaenoriaeth

Blaenoriaeth 1: Ymchwil ac Arloesi

Tabl 2: Neilltuo Grant yr UE yn ôl Amcan Penodol

£ Miliynau

Amcan Penodol	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE		Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE	
ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
AP1.1	9	154.2	102.3	162.4	(105%)	101.3	(99%)	14.6	(9%)	8.6	(8%)
AP1.2	17	234.6	155.7	227.2	(97%)	130.9	(84%)	46.2	(20%)	27.2	(17%)
Cyfanswm	**26**	**388.7**	**258.0**	**389.5**	**(100%)**	**232.2**	**(90%)**	**60.8**	**(16%)**	**35.7**	**(14%)**
ERDF Dwyrain Cymru											
AP1.1	4	57.5	28.7	51.2	(89%)	21.9	(76%)	19.7	(34%)	6.0	(21%)
AP1.2	9	94.8	47.4	113.4	(120%)	51.7	(109%)	5.5	(6%)	2.5	(5%)
Cyfanswm	**13**	**152.3**	**76.2**	**164.6**	**(108%)**	**73.6**	**(97%)**	**25.2**	**(17%)**	**8.5**	**(11%)**

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Nodiadau:
AP1.1: Capasiti ymchwil
AP1.2: Masnacheiddio

Cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni (PMRh)

	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd		Dwyrain Cymru	
	Cyfanswm	**Grant yr UE**	**Cyfanswm**	**Grant yr UE**
Lleihau Allyriadau Carbon Diwydiannol (RICE)	9.2	6.0		
Peirianneg Dylunio Uwch	1.91	1.22	0.88	0.44
Pysgod Cregyn	3.95	2.77		
Accelerate	13.39	7.03	10.62	5.31
GEOM	3.68	2.28		
Canolfan Peirianneg Ynni Clyfar	3.56	2.35		
Cyflymydd Arloesedd Data			3.52	1.86
ACNM			3.2	1.8

Bu nifer sylweddol o gymeradwyaethau ers y cyfarfod diwethaf sy'n adlewyrchu'r 'prif don' o geisiadau y rhoddwyd blaenoriaeth iddynt yn dilyn yr alwad o dan Amcan Penodol 1.2. Disgwylir i symiau pellach wedi'u neilltuo gael eu dyfarnu yn y ddwy raglen erbyn mis Mai.

Rhoddir sylw bellach i'r alwad ddiweddar am geisiadau ar gyflymu trefniadau cydweithredu o'r radd flaenaf ym maes ymchwil ac arloesi. Daeth yr alwad i ben ar 28 Mawrth a chafwyd 40 o geisiadau ledled Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a Dwyrain Cymru. Megis dechrau y mae'r broses asesu ond byddai hyn yn awgrymu y bydd yn hawdd neilltuo'r gyllideb sy'n weddill.

Ceir ffocws cryf ar gyflawni o hyd ac mae WEFO yn parhau i adolygu'r gweithrediadau sydd eisoes ar waith er mwyn sicrhau bod unrhyw gyllid a allai gael ei ddadneilltuo yn cael ei nodi'n gynnar fel bod modd ailgylchu'r cyllid.

Mae'n bosibl y bydd yr aelodau hefyd yn ymwybodol bod Adroddiad Blynyddol Horizon 2020 yng Nghymru wedi'i gyhoeddi ym mis Mawrth ac y cynhaliwyd Digwyddiad Blynyddol Horizon 2020 ar 15 Mawrth. Tynnodd y ddau sylw at gryfderau Cymru ym maes ymchwil ac arloesi ac arfer da yng Nghymru wrth ddatblygu synergeddau rhwng cronfeydd yr UE. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd wedi cyflwyno papur safbwynt i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar Raglen Fframwaith 9, sef olynydd Horizon 2020.

Tabl 3: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP1.1: Adnoddau Ymchwil	Swm y cyllid ymchwil a sicrhawyd	£165m	£137m	£22m	£17m	£65m	£55m	£29m	£28m
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cydweithio â sefydliadau ymchwil a gynorthwyir	160	894	36	98	90	81	6	2
	Nifer y gwell cyfleusterau seilwaith ymchwil	6	8	2	-	2	2	1	1
	Nifer yr ymchwilwyr newydd mewn endidau a gynorthwyir	470	381	63	36	290	102	63	54
	Nifer yr ymchwilwyr yn gweithio mewn gwell cyfleusterau seilwaith ymchwil	200	384	49	7	110	66	61	66
AP1.2: Masnacheiddio	Nifer y mentrau a gynorthwyir i gyflwyno cynnyrch sy'n newydd i'r farchnad	490	211	9	11	300	86	-	-
	Nifer y mentrau a gynorthwyir i gyflwyno cynnyrch sy'n newydd i'r cwmni	725	446	56	49	440	136	-	-
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cydweithio â sefydliadau ymchwil a gynorthwyir	1,212	366	153	175	715	159	5	2
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael grantiau	520	330	60	-	320	357	37	-
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth anariannol	3,750	1,444	221	194	2,245	329	66	56
	Nifer y mentrau newydd a gynorthwyir	30	41	3	2	20	6	-	-
	Buddsoddiad preifat sy'n cyfateb i gymorth cyhoeddus mewn prosiectau arloesedd neu ymchwil a datblygu	€42.8m	€66.3m	€9.5m	€0.4m	€26.2m	€28.2m	€3.0m	€0.0m
	Cynnydd cyflogaeth mewn mentrau a gynorthwyir	1,125	474	21	2	670	170	1	-
	Nifer y patentau sydd wedi eu cofrestru ar gyfer cynnyrch	519	181	15	14	315	61	3	4
	Nifer y prosiectau peilot a gwblhawyd	n/a	52	7	-	n/a	-	-	-
	Mentrau sy'n mabwysiadu:								
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau cydraddoldeb ac amrywiaeth a systemau monitro	956	20	-	-	515	-	-	-
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau datblygu cynaliadwy a systemau monitro	956	20	-	-	515	-	-	-

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Cydnabyddir bod natur tymor canolig i hirdymor buddsoddiadau ymchwil ac arloesi yn golygu y bydd yn cymryd amser i'w heffaith ddangos. Mae WEFO hefyd yn ymwybodol bod swm sylweddol o weithgarwch i'w hawlio o hyd. Fel y nodwyd yn flaenorol, cynigir rhai newidiadau i'r dangosyddion fel rhan o'r addasiadau presennol i'r rhaglenni.

Bydd y cymeradwyaethau diweddar yn cynyddu'r ffigurau a ragwelir ar gyfer targedau allweddol megis 'mentrau sy'n cydweithio' a 'chynnyrch sy'n newydd i'r cwmni/marchnad' yn sylweddol. Mae'r alwad ddiweddaraf hefyd yn targedu dangosyddion allweddol.

Blaenoriaeth 2: Cystadleurwydd BBaChau

Tabl 4: Neilltuo Grant yr UE yn ôl Amcan Penodol

£ Miliynau

Amcan Penodol	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE		Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE	
ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
AP2.1	1	93.9	58.6	149.6	(159%)	74.8	(128%)	61.2	(65%)	28.2	(48%)
AP2.2	1	23.5	14.7	31.0	(132%)	18.6	(127%)	11.5	(49%)	6.6	(45%)
AP2.3	1	14.9	9.3	8.6	(58%)	5.2	(56%)	3.2	(21%)	1.5	(17%)
AP2.4	3	125.4	78.3	45.2	(36%)	27.0	(35%)	18.8	(15%)	11.1	(14%)
AP2.5	1	27.2	17.0	41.4	(152%)	20.7	(122%)	7.4	(27%)	3.7	(22%)
Cyfanswm	**7**	**284.8**	**177.8**	**275.8**	**(97%)**	**146.4**	**(82%)**	**102.1**	**(36%)**	**51.1**	**(29%)**
ERDF Dwyrain Cymru											
AP2.1	1	18.4	9.2	22.3	(121%)	9.9	(107%)	19.6	(106%)	7.9	(86%)
AP2.2	1	7.0	3.5	10.3	(147%)	6.2	(176%)	4.2	(59%)	2.2	(63%)
AP2.3	1	2.8	1.4	3.5	(127%)	1.7	(122%)	1.4	(50%)	0.5	(38%)
AP2.4	3	34.3	17.2	14.3	(42%)	8.3	(48%)	6.2	(18%)	3.6	(21%)
AP2.5	1	5.6	2.8	12.7	(227%)	5.5	(197%)	10.7	(192%)	4.3	(154%)
Cyfanswm	**7**	**68.2**	**34.1**	**63.2**	**(93%)**	**31.6**	**(93%)**	**42.1**	**(62%)**	**18.5**	**(54%)**

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Nodiadau:
AP2.1: Mynediad at Gyllid
AP2.2: Busnesau newydd
AP2.3: Niferoedd sy'n defnyddio TGCh ac yn manteisio arni
AP2.4: Twf Cyflogaeth mewn BBaChau
AP2.5: Cyllid Cyfalaf Risg

Cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni (PMRh)

8. Dim cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod blaenorol PMRhC.

9. Mae'r flaenoriaeth yn sefydlog, gyda'r lefelau neilltuo yn dda ar gyfer y ddwy raglen (82% Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 93% Dwyrain Cymru) a phortffolio integredig wedi'i ddatblygu yn seiliedig ar y gweithrediadau sy'n rhan o 'Deulu Busnes Cymru' sy'n cwmpasu Llywodraeth Cymru, Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru, Banc Datblygu Cymru a CGGC. Rhagwelir y bydd cyllidebau llawn y ddwy raglen wedi'u neilltuo erbyn diwedd 2018.

10. Mae Cyllid Cymru bellach wedi esblygu'n llawn yn Fanc Datblygu Cymru (BDC) ac mae'n parhau i berfformio'n dda yn erbyn y proffil. Ceir potensial o hyd i fuddsoddi rhagor o arian yng Nghronfa Fusnes Cymru er mwyn amsugno rhywfaint o'r cyllid nad yw wedi'i neilltuo o fewn y Flaenoriaeth ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a'r cyllid ychwanegol a nodwyd fel rhan o'r addasiadau i'r rhaglenni ar gyfer Cystadleurwydd BBaChau, Dwyrain Cymru. Mae WEFO wrthi'n ymgymryd ag ymarfer caffael er mwyn adnewyddu rhag-asesiad Cronfa Fusnes Cymru a gwblhawyd ar ddechrau'r cyfnod

rhaglennu. Bydd yn cynnig y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y 'bwlch' yn y farchnad a ph'un a ellir gwneud buddsoddiadau pellach o ERDF, y tu hwnt i'r rheini y cynlluniwyd ar eu cyfer eisoes. Cwblheir y broses adnewyddu erbyn diwedd mis Mehefin 2018.

11. Caiff cyfleoedd ariannu eraill yn seiliedig ar weithgareddau 'niche' eu hystyried ond o gofio bod y flaenoriaeth yn sefydlog yn y ddwy raglen, mae'r sylw i raddau helaeth ar gyflawni ac mae WEFO yn parhau i fonitro'r cynnydd yn agos, gan roi sylw penodol i gyflawni a chyflwyno adroddiadau ar ddangosyddion, ac mae hyn wedi cyfrannu at adolygiad canol tymor o weithrediadau a ariannwyd o dan y flaenoriaeth, gan lywio'r Addasiadau arfaethedig i'r Rhaglenni.

Tabl 5: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP2.1: Mynediad i Gyllid	Buddsoddi mewn mentrau	£91.6m	£149.6m	£24.8m	£44.3m	£25.9m	£22.3m	£3.6m	£61.3m
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael grantiau	160	-	-	-	45	-	-	-
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth ariannol ac eithrio grantiau	235	228	37	52	65	31	5	25
	Buddsoddiad preifat sy'n cyfateb cymorth cyhoeddus i fusnesau bach a chanol	€132.0m	€74.8m	€16.7m	€25.7m	€37.3m	€12.4m	€2.8m	€49.2m
	Cynnydd cyflogaeth mewn mentrau a gynorthwyir	2,300	1,954	-	53	650	265	-	10
	Mentrau sy'n mabwysiadu:								
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau datblygu cynaliadwy a systemau monitro	190	-	-	-	60	-	-	-
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau cydraddoldeb ac amrywiaeth a systemau monitro	190	-	-	-	25	-	-	-
AP2.2: Busnesau newydd	Nifer y mentrau newydd a gynorthwyir	5,150	6,000	1,745	275	2,200	4,000	1,130	117
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth anariannol	275	-	-	-	120	-	-	-
	Unigolion sy'n cael cymorth	14,350	6,000	-	-	6,200	4,000	-	-
	Unigolion sy'n cael cymorth - Benywaidd	7,300	-	-	-	3,100	-	-	-
	Unigolion sy'n cael cymorth - Pobl dduon a lleiafrifoedd ethnig	375	-	-	-	445	-	-	-
	Unigolion sy'n cael cymorth - Pobl anabl	3,650	-	-	-	1,350	-	-	-
	Cynnydd cyflogaeth mewn mentrau a gynorthwyir	8,800	10,250	3,150	555	3,800	6,750	2,074	130
	Mentrau sy'n mabwysiadu:								
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau datblygu cynaliadwy a systemau monitro	2,710	1,500	459	28	465	1,000	307	4
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau cydraddoldeb ac amrywiaeth a systemau monitro	2,710	1,500	459	35	1,165	1,000	307	6
AP2.3: Defnyddio TGCh a manteisio arni	Nifer y mentrau a gynorthwyir i gyflwyno cynnyrch sy'n newydd i'r cwmni	1,480	1,480	380	-	400	400	100	-
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth anariannol	3,450	3,823	1,423	969	900	1,094	413	566

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP2.4: Twf Cyflogaeth	Cynnydd cyflogaeth mewn mentrau a gynorthwyir	6,450	7,215	2,191	1,949	2,550	4,606	1,408	783
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael grantiau	40	30	11	-	10	15	5	-
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth ariannol ac eithrio grantiau	330	-	-	-	115	-	-	-
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth anariannol	13,650	12,400	3,977	854	5,400	8,170	2,587	511
	Buddsoddiad preifat sy'n cyfateb i gymorth cyhoeddus i fusnesau bach a chan	€4.3m	€0.4m	€0.1m	€0.0m	€2.2m	€0.4m	€0.1m	€0.0m
	Buddsoddiad preifat sy'n cyfateb cymorth cyhoeddus i fusnesau bach a chanol	€6.6m	€0.0m	€0.0m	€0.0m	€3.4m	€0.0m	€0.0m	€0.0m
	Cynnydd mewn lefelau allforio	£167.1m	£130.0m	£37.5m	£23.7m	£65.9m	£85.0m	£20.5m	£10.1m
	Mentrau sy'n mabwysiadu:								
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau datblygu cynaliadwy a systemau monitro	8,700	5,000	1,440	54	1,300	3,300	966	45
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau cydraddoldeb ac amrywiaeth a systemau monitro	8,700	5,000	1,440	89	3,200	3,300	966	68
AP2.5: Cyllid Cyfalaf Risg	Buddsoddi mewn mentrau	£26.5m	£41.4m	£6.8m	£8.3m	£7.2m	£12.7m	£2.0m	£18.3m
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth ariannol ac eithrio grantiau	90	49	-	13	25	13	-	19
	Buddsoddiad preifat sy'n cyfateb cymorth cyhoeddus i fusnesau bach a chanol	€23.8m	€20.7m	€4.6m	€6.0m	€14.1m	€7.2m	€1.6m	€12.2m
	Cynnydd cyflogaeth mewn mentrau a gynorthwyir	490	265	-	2	145	70	-	20
	Nifer y mentrau a gynorthwyir i gyflwyno cynnyrch sy'n newydd i'r cwmni	20	24	-	1	5	6	-	-
	Mentrau sy'n mabwysiadu:								
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau datblygu cynaliadwy a systemau monitro	45	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
	- neu'n gwella strategaethau cydraddoldeb ac amrywiaeth a systemau monitro	45	-	-	-	13	-	-	-

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

12. Mae mesurau perfformiad ar waith sydd wedi arwain at welliannau o ran cyflwyno adroddiadau ar berfformiad ac mae'r cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion yn galonogol.

Blaenoriaeth 3: Ynni Adnewyddadwy ac Effeithlonrwydd Ynni

Tabl 6: Neilltuo Grant yr UE yn ôl Amcan Penodol

£ Miliynau

Amcan Penodol	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE		Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE	
ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
AP3.1	6	123.6	85.8	42.5	(34%)	23.4	(27%)	17.3	(14%)	9.0	(11%)
AP3.2	1	28.8	20.0	9.4	(33%)	6.5	(33%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)
AP3.3	1	57.9	40.2	28.4	(49%)	19.7	(49%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)
Cyfanswm	**8**	**210.3**	**146.0**	**80.4**	**(38%)**	**49.6**	**(34%)**	**17.3**	**(8%)**	**9.0**	**(6%)**
ERDF Dwyrain Cymru											
AP3.1	0	7.7	3.8	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)
AP3.2	1	30.6	15.3	7.1	(23%)	3.6	(23%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)
Cyfanswm	**1**	**38.3**	**19.1**	**7.1**	**(19%)**	**3.6**	**(19%)**	**0.0**	**(0%)**	**0.0**	**(0%)**

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Nodiadau:
AP3.1: Ynni'r Môr
AP3.2: Ynni Cymunedol (AP3.1 Dwyrain Cymru)
AP3.3: Effeithlonrwydd Ynni mewn Tai (AP3.2 Dwyrain Cymru)

Cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni (PMRh)

13. Dim cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRhC.

14. Cynigir addasiadau i'r rhaglenni fel rhan o addasiadau i'r rhaglenni ar gyfer Dwyrain Cymru.

15. Mae natur arloesol y flaenoriaeth yn parhau i achosi heriau ond mae'r cyflymder yn cael ei gynnal gyda Datblygwyr Ynni'r Môr yng Ngorllewin Cymru ac mae cynnydd da yn cael ei wneud er na wnaed unrhyw gymeradwyaeth newydd ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRhC. Er bod natur dechnegol y gweithrediadau morol hyn yn cymryd amser i'w datrys, mae'r galw am gyllid yn galonogol o hyd, er gwaethaf yr ansicrwydd ynghylch argaeledd cymorth refeniw er mwyn symud yn agosach at fasnachadwyedd. Fel y cyfryw, ni chynigir unrhyw addasiadau i'r rhaglenni ar hyn o bryd.

16. Mae WEFO yn parhau i weithio gyda sefydliadau i ddatblygu achosion busnes ar gyfer gweithrediadau Ynni Cymunedol ar Raddfa Fach. Mae problemau o ran capasiti o fewn rhai sefydliadau wedi bod yn arafu cynnydd, ond cafwyd cymorth ychwanegol gan Lywodraeth Cymru ac eraill felly rhagwelir y bydd y cymeradwyaethau yn dechrau ar ddechrau'r haf.

Tabl 7: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP3.1: Ynni'r Môr	Gallu ac adnoddau ychwanegol cynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy	20	1	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cynlluniau paratoi safle cynorthwyo ynni	2	3	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Nifer y prototeipiau ynni adnewyddadwy a brofwyd	8	3	-	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AP3.2: Ynni Cymunedol (AP3.1 Dwyrain Cymru)	Cynlluniau ynni cymunedol	3	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth anariannol	150	-	-	-	70	-	-	-
	Nifer y mentrau a gynorthwyir i gyflwyno cynnyrch sy'n newydd i'r cwmni	75	1	-	-	35	-	-	-
	Nifer y prosiectau peilot a gwblhawyd	4	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
	Gallu ac adnoddau ychwanegol cynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	-	-	-
	Cynlluniau paratoi safle cynorthwyo ynni	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	-	-	-
	Nifer y prototeipiau ynni adnewyddadwy a brofwyd	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	-	-	-
AP3.3: Arbed Ynni (AP3.2 Dwyrain Cymru)	Nifer yr aelwydydd â dosbarthiad gwell o ran y defnydd o ynni	5,500	3,060	-	-	4,200	765	-	-
	Amcangyfrif o'r gostyngiad mewn nwyon tŷ gwydr	10	-	-	-	5	-	-	-

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

17. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n rhy fuan i ddod i unrhyw gasgliadau pendant ynglŷn â chyflawni'r dangosyddion ond mae'r arwyddion cyffredinol yn edrych yn gadarnhaol yng Ngorllewin Cymru. Mae papur Addasiadau'r Rhaglenni yn nodi'r sail resymegol dros newidiadau arfaethedig i ddangosyddion yn y Flaenoriaeth hon.

Blaenoriaeth 4: Cysylltedd a Datblygu Trefol

Tabl 8: Neilltuo Grant yr UE yn ôl Amcan Penodol

£ Miliynau

Amcan Penodol	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE		Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE	
ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
AP4.1	4	138.5	90.9	146.1	(106%)	90.9	(100%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)
AP4.2	2	224.1	147.1	27.2	(12%)	18.8	(13%)	23.7	(11%)	15.0	(10%)
AP4.3	2	72.5	47.6	30.3	(42%)	19.9	(42%)	16.3	(22%)	10.9	(23%)
AP4.4	19	217.5	142.8	329.3	(151%)	127.3	(89%)	4.5	(2%)	2.1	(1%)
Cyfanswm	**27**	**652.6**	**428.5**	**532.8**	**(82%)**	**256.9**	**(60%)**	**44.5**	**(7%)**	**28.0**	**(7%)**
ERDF Dwyrain Cymru											
AP4.1	1	61.7	30.9	3.0	(5%)	1.5	(5%)	0.0	(0%)	0.0	(0%)
AP4.2	2	20.1	10.1	18.6	(92%)	9.3	(92%)	12.4	(62%)	6.1	(61%)
Cyfanswm	**3**	**81.8**	**40.9**	**21.6**	**(26%)**	**10.8**	**(26%)**	**12.4**	**(15%)**	**6.1**	**(15%)**

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Nodiadau:
AP4.1: Ffyrdd
AP4.2: Trafnidiaeth Gyhoeddus (AP4.1 Dwyrain Cymru)
AP4.3: Seilwaith TGCh (AP4.2 Dwyrain Cymru)
AP4.4: Safleoedd Strategol

Cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni (PMRh)

	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd		Dwyrain Cymru	
	Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE
Safle Cyflogaeth Strategol Penrhos, Caergybi	3.9	2.3		
Safle Cyflogaeth Strategol Coed Elái	3.9	2.6		
Safle Cyflogaeth Strategol Tresalem	3.9	2.6		
Safle Cyflogaeth Strategol Llwynhelyg	2.0	1.0		
Hwb Menter Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr	3.9	2.6		
Canolfan Dechnoleg Bae Abertawe	8.5	3.0		
Gwelliannau i Orsaf Llandaf a Radur (METRO)			3.0	1.5

18. Mae'r flaenoriaeth yn parhau i wneud cynnydd da iawn a neilltuwyd tua £16m o ERDF ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRh. Bellach mae 60% wedi'i neilltuo yng Ngorllewin Cymru a 26% yn Nwyrain Cymru. Mae'r holl arian sy'n weddill o dan y flaenoriaeth naill ai wedi'i ddyrannu gan weithrediadau ym maes Cynllunio Busnes neu wedi'i glustnodi ar gyfer y Metro. Felly rhagwelir y bydd y Flaenoriaeth hon wedi neilltuo'r holl arian sydd ar gael erbyn diwedd 2018.

19. Mae'r chwe gweithrediad Safleoedd ac Eiddo a flaenoriaethir yn rhanbarthol a gymeradwywyd ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRhC yn golygu bod cyfanswm o 14 gweithrediad a flaenoriaethir yn rhanbarthol wedi'u cymeradwyo. Mae gan WEFO 6 gweithrediad arall o'r fath ym maes Cynllunio Busnes a disgwylir y byddant wedi'u cymeradwyo erbyn i PMRhC gyfarfod ym mis Medi 2018.

20. Rhaid i brosiectau o dan weithrediadau Cyrchfan Denu Twristiaeth ac Adeiladu ar gyfer y Dyfodol gael eu blaenoriaethu'n rhanbarthol hefyd. Mae WEFO bellach wedi cytuno ar 18 o brosiectau unigol neu wedi anfon llythyrau o fwriad atynt (11 o brosiectau o dan y gweithrediad Twristiaeth a saith o dan Adeiladu ar gyfer y Dyfodol, sef dros £22m a £15m o gyllid ERDF ar gyfer y naill a'r llall). Disgwylir i WEFO ystyried y ddau brosiect sy'n weddill o dan y Gweithrediad Cyrchfan Denu Twristiaeth yn ystod yr ychydig fisoedd nesaf. Er bod nifer o gynigion eraill heb eu cyflwyno o hyd o dan y gweithrediad Adeiladu ar gyfer y Dyfodol, mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru gyflenwad iach o gynigion i'w hystyried ac mae WEFO yn gobeithio y bydd mewn sefyllfa i gymeradwyo'r holl brosiectau o dan y ddau weithrediad erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn.

21. Mae WEFO hefyd yn bwriadu cymeradwyo'r holl weithrediadau P4 eraill ym maes Cynllunio Busnes cyn diwedd y flwyddyn. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys cynigion Band Eang pwysig er mwyn ymdrin â'r diffyg yn y gwasanaethau brand eang Mynediad Cenhedlaeth Nesaf a ddarperir i bob safle yng Nghymru, ynghyd â buddsoddiad sylweddol o tua £160m (ar draws y ddau faes rhaglen) ar gyfer y Metro. Disgwylir y caiff cynlluniau busnes y Metro eu cyflwyno erbyn mis Ebrill 2018 a bydd WEFO a Llywodraeth Cymru yn anelu at gyflwyno cynigion terfynol yn ystod yr haf. Cymeradwywyd gweithrediad gwelliannau i Orsafoedd Metro Llandaf a Radur (ERDF o £1.5m) ym mis Rhagfyr.

22. Mae'r cyfnod paratoi sydd ei angen ar gyfer y buddsoddiadau seilwaith a gefnogir o dan P4 yn golygu mai dim ond yn ystod rhan olaf cyfnod y rhaglen y byddwn yn gweld cynnydd sylweddol yn erbyn targedau allbwn.

Tabl 9: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP4.1: Ffyrdd	Cyfanswm hyd y ffyrdd a ailadeiladwyd neu a uwchraddiwyd (gan gynnwys TEN-T)	15	18	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Llwybr troed neu lwybr beicio wedi'i greu neu ei ailadeiladu	10	5	-	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AP4.2: Trafnidiaeth Gyhoeddus (AP4.1 Dwyrain Cymru)	Gwasanaethau trafnidiaeth gyhoeddus wedi'u creu neu eu gwella	2,500,000	-	-	-	420,000	-	-	-
	Cyfleusterau rhyngfoddol wedi'u creu neu eu gwella	25	6	5	6	5	2	-	-
	Cyfanswm hyd rheilffordd newydd (gan gynnwys TEN-T)	15	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfanswm hyd y rheilffordd a ailadeiladwyd neu a uwchraddiwyd (gan gynnwys TEN-T)	15	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
	Cilometrau teithwyr gros ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus	400,000,000	1,790,041	-	-	67,200,000	-	-	-
	Cyfanswm hyd y ffyrdd a ailadeiladwyd neu a uwchraddiwyd (gan gynnwys TEN-T)	5	1	-	1	5	-	-	-
	Lleihad mewn allyriadau cyfatebol ag CO2	10,700	-	-	-	1,800	1	-	-

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP4.3: TGCh (AP4.2 Dwyrain Cymru)	Eiddo ychwanegol â mynediad band eang 30 Mbps o leiaf - Aelwydydd	28,000	42,304	69,524	42,304	28,000	35,422	46,801	35,422
	Nifer y Mentrau a gynorthwyir i gysylltu â rhwydweithiau 100Mbps neu uwch	250	250	250	-	25	25	25	-
	Poblogaeth ychwanegol sy'n derbyn band eang cyflym iawn (>100Mbps)	n/a	68,751	91,053	68,751	n/a	39,096	43,494	39,096
AP4.4: Safleoedd Strategol	Nifer y swyddi y crëwyd lle ar eu cyfer	1,770	3,242	155	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Tir wedi'i ddatblygu	50	111	3	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Adeiladau a grëwyd neu a adnewyddwyd	56,430	164,541	10,385	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Nifer y busnesau bach a chanolig y crëwyd lle ar eu cyfer	235	398	19	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

23. Mae'n rhy fuan i ddod i unrhyw gasgliadau pendant ar gyflawni allbynnau; ond, o ystyried yr hyn sydd wedi cael ei gymeradwyo a'r hyn sydd ar gamau cynllunio busnes a chyn cynllunio, mae'n ymddangos bod y gwaith o gyflawni allbynnau a thargedau ar y trywydd cywir. Mae papur Addasiadau'r Rhaglenni yn nodi'r sail resymegol dros newidiadau arfaethedig i ddangosyddion yn y Flaenoriaeth hon.

Atodiad 1: Diweddariad ERDF

Blaenoriaeth 5: Cymorth Technegol

Tabl 10: Neilltuo Grant yr UE

£ Miliynau

	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE		Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE	
ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
Cyfanswm	7	27.6	20.6	26.4	(96%)	19.5	(95%)	6.1	(22%)	4.3	(21%)
ERDF Dwyrain Cymru											
Cyfanswm	6	7.0	3.5	7.0	(101%)	2.8	(81%)	1.2	(17%)	0.5	(15%)

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni (PMRh)

24. Dim cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod blaenorol PMRh.

25. Mae'r holl weithrediadau Cymorth Technegol wedi'u cymeradwyo ac yn y broses o gael eu cyflawni. Nid oes unrhyw broblemau penodol wedi'u codi ac, yn sicr, mae'r Timau Ymgysylltu Rhanbarthol yn weithredol ac yn helpu WEFO mewn meysydd blaenoriaeth penodol.

26. Bydd yr holl arian Cymorth Technegol wedi'i neilltuo erbyn diwedd 2018.

Adran 1: Rhaglenni Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop (ESF): Neilltuo Cyllid

1. Mae'r adran hon yn rhoi manylion y cynnydd ariannol presennol o dan Raglenni ESF, gan gynnwys trosolwg o'r Rhaglenni a gwybodaeth ar lefel Blaenoriaeth.

2. Dengys Tabl 1 nifer Grantiau'r UE a'r symiau a neilltuwyd ar gyfer Gweithrediadau cymeradwy o dan Raglenni ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a Dwyrain Cymru.

Tabl 1: Neilltuo Grant yr UE yn ôl Rhaglen a Blaenoriaeth: Gweithrediadau Cymeradwy

£ Miliynau

Blaenoriaeth	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm [1]	Grant yr UE[1]	Cyfanswm[2]		Grant yr UE[2]		Cyfanswm[3]		Grant yr UE[3]	
ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
1	11	212.1	167.5	160.9	(76%)	118.3	(71%)	35.3	(17%)	20.7	(12%)
2	17	412.3	297.3	429.7	(104%)	263.1	(89%)	164.5	(40%)	73.9	(25%)
3	15	281.3	209.2	248.2	(88%)	164.3	(79%)	72.3	(26%)	41.0	(20%)
4	6	18.4	13.7	24.6	(134%)	13.8	(101%)	6.8	(37%)	3.3	(24%)
Cyfanswm	**49**	**924.1**	**687.7**	**863.4**	**(93%)**	**559.5**	**(81%)**	**278.9**	**(30%)**	**139.0**	**(20%)**
ESF Dwyrain Cymru											
1	7	74.8	37.4	31.6	(42%)	15.8	(42%)	5.6	(7%)	2.3	(6%)
2	10	168.6	81.6	192.8	(114%)	47.7	(58%)	82.1	(49%)	13.6	(17%)
3	12	102.5	51.3	125.7	(123%)	43.5	(85%)	29.9	(29%)	11.2	(22%)
4	5	7.0	3.5	5.6	(80%)	2.7	(77%)	1.6	(24%)	0.7	(21%)
Cyfanswm	**34**	**352.9**	**173.8**	**355.6**	**(101%)**	**109.7**	**(63%)**	**119.3**	**(34%)**	**27.9**	**(16%)**
Cyfanswm ESF	**83**	**1,277.0**	**861.4**	**1,219.0**	**(95%)**	**669.1**	**(78%)**	**398.1**	**(31%)**	**166.8**	**(19%)**

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

[1] Yn seiliedig ar gyfradd gyfnewid o £1:€1.17
[2] Mae'r canrannau'n dangos y swm sydd wedi'i neilltuo fel cyfran o'r dyraniad
[3] Mae'r canrannau'n dangos y gwariant fel cyfran o'r dyraniad

Diweddariad Cyffredinol o'r Rhaglenni

3. Neilltuwyd cyfanswm o 78% ar gyfer y ddwy raglen, gydag 83 o weithrediadau wedi'u cymeradwyo a chyfanswm o £670 miliwn wedi'i neilltuo, sef £35m ychwanegol o ESF ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRh. Mae'r swm ychwanegol a neilltuwyd yn adlewyrchu'r ffaith bod pedwar gweithrediad newydd wedi'u cymeradwyo, yn ogystal â nifer o estyniadau i weithrediadau presennol. Mae WEFO yn bwriadu neilltuo'r £191m sy'n weddill o ESF drwy gyfuniad o brosiectau newydd a phrosiectau sydd yn yr arfaeth a thrwy ymestyn prosiectau i gyflawni mwy dros gyfnodau hwy (lle bo prosiectau'n perfformio'n dda yn erbyn eu targedau).

4. Hyd yma mae £139m (20% Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd) a £28m (16% Dwyrain Cymru) wedi cael ei dalu i fuddiolwyr prosiectau. Mae'r ffigurau gwariant hyn wedi arwain at ddefnyddio cyllid gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd gwerth 27% o'r dyraniad grant yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 31% o'r

dyraniad grant yn Nwyrain Cymru, sy'n uwch o lawer na chyfartaledd yr UE, sef 10%.

5. Mae pob Rhaglen ar y trywydd cywir i gyrraedd targedau N+3 2018. Yn ogystal, mae'r rhan fwyaf o gerrig milltir y Fframwaith Perfformiad ar gyfer 2018 eisoes wedi cael eu cyflawni, gan gynnwys, ar gyfer y ddau faes Rhaglen, Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig â chymwysterau hyd at a gan gynnwys addysg uwchradd is (cyfranogwyr gwrywaidd a benywaidd); cyfranogwyr NEET (16-24 oed); a Di-waith hirdymor sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth (25 oed a hŷn).

6. Mae gan bob maes Blaenoriaeth ac Amcan Penodol unigol bortffolio cytbwys o weithrediadau sy'n anelu at gyflawni ar gyfer yr amrywiaeth gyfan o grwpiau cleientiaid targed sy'n cymryd rhan a'r canlyniadau targed. Gallai gweithrediadau newydd sy'n cael eu datblygu ar hyn o bryd ac estyniadau i rai gweithrediadau cymeradwy arwain at neilltuo £79m arall ac maent yn cynnig gweithgarwch arbenigol wedi'i deilwra i lenwi bylchau yn yr amrywiaeth o ddarpariaeth a gynigir neu'r grŵp cleient a dargedir. Mae hyn yn cynnwys rhai cynigion newydd sydd wedi deillio o'r alwad ddiweddar gan WEFO o dan flaenoriaeth Tlodi.

7. Yn ychwanegol at reoli symiau neilltuo'r dyfodol, mae prif ffocws ESF bellach ar gyflawni. Mae'r rhaglenni eisoes wedi ymgysylltu â thros 132,000 o gyfranogwyr hyd yma (30% o'r targed cyffredinol), wedi helpu bron i 8,000 o bobl i ddod o hyd i waith a thros 40,000 i ennill cymwysterau.

Adran 2: Cynnydd yn ôl Blaenoriaeth

Blaenoriaeth 1: Trechu Tlodi drwy Gyflogaeth Gynaliadwy

Tabl 2: Neilltuo Grant yr UE yn ôl Amcan Penodol

£ Miliynau

Amcan Penodol	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE		Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE	
ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
AP1.1	2	53.0	39.4	47.6	(90%)	35.5	(90%)	6.7	(13%)	0.9	(2%)
AP1.2	8	125.1	102.8	108.5	(87%)	79.5	(77%)	26.1	(21%)	18.1	(18%)
AP1.3	1	33.9	25.2	4.8	(14%)	3.3	(13%)	2.6	(8%)	1.8	(7%)
Cyfanswm	**11**	**212.1**	**167.5**	**160.9**	**(76%)**	**118.3**	**(71%)**	**35.3**	**(17%)**	**20.7**	**(12%)**
ESF Dwyrain Cymru											
AP1.1	7	74.8	37.4	31.6	(42%)	15.8	(42%)	5.6	(7%)	2.3	(6%)
Cyfanswm	**7**	**74.8**	**37.4**	**31.6**	**(42%)**	**15.8**	**(42%)**	**5.6**	**(7%)**	**2.3**	**(6%)**

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Nodiadau:
AP1.1: Helpu pobl i gael gwaith
AP1.2: Cynhwysiant ac ymgysylltu yn y farchnad lafur (AP1.1 Dwyrain Cymru)
AP1.3: Helpu pobl i aros mewn gwaith

Cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni (PMRh)

8. Gwnaed dwy gymeradwyaeth newydd ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRh. Yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, cymeradwywyd £1.6m o ESF ar gyfer gweithrediad ***Gwell Swyddi, Gwell Dyfodol ... ar gyfer Pobl dros 25 oed***, o dan arweiniad Coleg Gŵyr, Abertawe. Bydd y prosiect yn darparu amrywiaeth o wasanaethau cymorth a mentora unigol i gyfranogwyr di-waith byrdymor (25 oed a hŷn) i'w helpu i ddod o hyd i swydd barhaus, ac mae'n rhan o gyfres newydd o ymyriadau ar gyfer dod o hyd i waith ac ymyriadau yn y gwaith yn Abertawe. Yn Nwyrain Cymru, cymeradwywyd £1.2m o ESF ar gyfer gweithrediad ***Journey 2 Work*** o dan arweiniad Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd, gan ddod â phartneriaeth gydweithredol o Awdurdodau Lleol, Landlord Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig a'r trydydd sector ynghyd i ddarparu pecyn cymorth cynhwysfawr i'r rheini sydd bellaf o'r farchnad lafur.

9. Dyfarnwyd £9.9m o gyllid ESF ychwanegol yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd ac estyniad o 4 blynedd hyd at 2022 hefyd i weithrediad ***Gweithffyrdd II*** o dan arweiniad Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot i helpu mwy o gyfranogwyr economaidd anweithgar neu gyfranogwyr di-waith hirdymor (25 oed a hŷn) sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth. Mae'r prosiect yn helpu cyfranogwyr i gymryd eu camau cyntaf wrth ail-ymgysylltu neu ymuno â'r farchnad lafur am y tro cyntaf, gan gynnig gwasanaeth mentora un-i-un, cymorth o ran cyflogadwyedd a sgiliau chwilio am swyddi, a'r cyfle i ennill cymwysterau newydd.

10. Mae hyn yn golygu bod y lefelau neilltuo ar gyfer y Flaenoriaeth yn 71% yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 42% yn Nwyrain Cymru, gyda chyfanswm o £134m o gyllid yr UE wedi'i neilltuo a £71m heb ei ddyrannu eto. Mae'n bosibl y caiff cyllid pellach ei neilltuo drwy estyniadau i weithrediadau sy'n bodoli eisoes, yn amodol ar berfformiad.

11. Roedd y galwadau'n cynnig cyfle i neilltuo £20m pellach o arian ESF ym mhob un o ardaloedd y rhaglen. Cafwyd cynigion gwerth tua £21m, sef £19m o ESF o dan AP3 yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a £2m o ESF yn Nwyrain Cymru. Cefnogodd aelodau PMRh gynnig i addasu'r Rhaglenni Gweithredol yn ystod y cyfarfod ym mis Rhagfyr 2017 a fydd, os caiff ei gymeradwyo gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, yn symud rhywfaint o'r dyraniad ESF i Flaenoriaethau eraill.

12. Mae portffolio Blaenoriaeth 1 yn ymdrin â'r rhwystrau, sy'n aml yn gymhleth, y mae unigolion yn eu hwynebu wrth ddod o hyd i waith ac aros mewn gwaith. Gan adeiladu ar lwyddiannau cylchoedd cyllid ESF blaenorol, maent yn parhau i ganolbwyntio i raddau helaeth ar gyflogaeth fel y prif amcan er mwyn i unigolyn ffynnu a mynd i'r afael â thlodi. Mae'r gweithrediadau yn canolbwyntio fwy byth ar yr unigolion hynny sydd bellaf o'r farchnad lafur ac sy'n wynebu'r rhwystrau mwyaf cymhleth i gyflogaeth megis cyflyrau iechyd ac anableddau sy'n cyfyngu ar eu gallu i weithio, cyfrifoldebau gofal plant neu ofalu am oedolion, a sgiliau cyflogadwyedd gwael.

Tabl 3: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP1.1: Helpu pobl i mewn i waith	Nifer y di-waith tymor byr heb sgiliau/sgiliau isel neu gyflwr iechyd neu anabledd sy'n cyfyngu ar eu gallu i weithio	5,999	5,399	96	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Unigolion y mae dileu swydd yn effeithio arnynt	12,001	15,269	4,787	2,383	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr di-waith yn y tymor byr â sgiliau isel neu gyflwr iechyd neu anabledd sy'n cyfyngu ar eu gallu i weithio mewn cyflogaeth wrth adael	33%	54%	28%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr di-waith yn y tymor byr â sgiliau isel neu gyflwr iechyd neu anabledd sy'n cyfyngu ar eu gallu i weithio sy'n ennill cymhwyster wrth adael	50%	80%	0%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Unigolion y mae dileu swydd yn effeithio arnynt sydd mewn cyflogaeth wrth adael	55%	54%	44%	24%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Unigolion y mae dileu swydd yn effeithio arnynt sy'n ennill cymhwyster wrth adael	70%	78%	63%	69%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP1.2: Cynhwysiant ac Ymgysylltu mewn LM (AP1.1 Dwyrain Cymru)	Economaidd anweithgar (25 oed a hŷn) nad ydynt mewn addysg na hyfforddiant sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth	36,000	42,655	11,765	9,222	12,700	14,611	3,610	2,223
	Di-waith tymor hir (25 oed a hŷn) sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth	10,800	18,615	5,304	4,539	3,800	5,863	1,627	1,129
	Economaidd anweithgar (25 oed a hŷn) nad ydynt mewn addysg na hyfforddiant sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth sy'n mynd i gyflogaeth gan gynnwys hunangyflogaeth wrth adael	20%	19%	15%	18%	20%	18%	18%	20%
	Economaidd anweithgar (25 oed a hŷn) nad ydynt mewn addysg na hyfforddiant sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth sy'n ymwneud â chwilio am swydd wrth adael	25%	12%	10%	8%	25%	14%	16%	7%
	Economaidd anweithgar (25 oed a hŷn) nad ydynt mewn addysg na hyfforddiant sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth sy'n ennill cymhwyster neu ardystiad perthnasol i waith wrth adael	50%	31%	24%	20%	50%	24%	18%	13%
	Economaidd anweithgar (25 oed a hŷn) nad ydynt mewn addysg na hyfforddiant sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth sy'n cynyddu eu cyflogadwyedd drwy gwblhau lleoliad profiad gwaith neu gyfle i wirfoddoli	54%	25%	20%	12%	54%	23%	21%	5%
	Di-waith hirdymor (25 oed a hŷn) sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth sy'n mynd i gyflogaeth gan gynnwys hunangyflogaeth wrth adael	25%	19%	15%	12%	25%	18%	17%	13%
	Di-waith yn yr hirdymor (25 oed a hŷn) sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth sy'n ennill cymhwyster neu ardystiad perthnasol i waith wrth adael	50%	27%	20%	20%	50%	20%	16%	12%
	Di-waith hirdymor (25 oed a hŷn) sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth sy'n cynyddu eu cyflogadwyedd drwy gwblhau lleoliad profiad gwaith neu gyfle i wirfoddoli	54%	23%	19%	14%	53%	19%	16%	6%

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP1.3: Helpu pobl i aros mewn gwaith	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig sydd â chyflwr neu anabledd sy'n cyfyngu ar eu gallu i weithio	4,000	4,232	3,371	2,199	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr sydd wedi eu tangyflogi sydd â rhwystrau i gyflogaeth lawn	4,000	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Nifer y busnesau micro bach a chanolig a gynorthwyir	2,000	-	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Rhaglenni iechyd yn y gweithle	300	130	102	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Mentrau â chymorth sydd wedi mabwysiadu neu wella strategaethau cydraddoldeb ac amrywiaeth a systemau monitro	50%	0%	0%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig â chyflwr iechyd neu anabledd sy'n cyfyngu ar eu gallu i weithio sy'n dychwelyd i'r gwaith ar ôl cyfnod o absenoldeb	50%	19%	19%	100%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig â chyflwr iechyd neu anabledd sy'n cyfyngu ar eu gallu i weithio sydd mewn sefyllfa well ar y farchnad lafur wrth adael	50%	31%	31%	70%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr sydd wedi eu tangyflogi sydd mewn sefyllfa well ar y farchnad lafur wrth adael fel contract parhaol ag oriau uwch	40%	0%	0%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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13. Mae'r perfformiad cyffredinol ar gyfer y Flaenoriaeth hon yn dal yn addawol gyda thros 21,000 o gyfranogwyr wedi cael cymorth hyd yma fel rhan o'r ddwy raglen. Yn gyffredinol, mae nifer y cyfranogwyr a ragwelir, sef tua 86,000, yn rhagori ar dargedau'r rhaglen yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd. Mae'r cynnydd yn erbyn y targedau a ragwelwyd yn dangos nad yw tybiaethau cynllunio cychwynnol gan weithrediadau wedi cyflawni'n unol â'r disgwyl. Mae hyn yn aml gan eu bod wedi tanamcangyfrif yr amser sydd ei angen i fod yn gwbl weithredol, yr oedi rhwng cofrestru a chyflawni canlyniad cadarnhaol wrth adael wrth weithio gyda'r rheini â rhwystrau lluosog a dwfn i gyflogaeth, ac effaith y gwelliant yn sefyllfa'r farchnad lafur sy'n dangos lefelau isel o ddiweithdra ar eu gallu i gyflawni. Er bod y ffigurau diweithdra hyn i'w croesawu, mae'n golygu bod rhaglenni ESF yn gynyddol yn ceisio denu'r unigolion sydd bellaf o'r farchnad lafur a gweithio gyda nhw, sy'n aml wedi bod yn economaidd anweithgar am gyfnod hir ac y mae angen lefelau cymorth dwys arnynt cyn y byddant yn barod i weithio. Mae WEFO yn parhau i fonitro gweithrediadau unigol yn ofalus ond gwelwyd gwelliant o ran rhai o'r canlyniadau a gyflawnwyd fel y nodir isod.

14. *Colli swydd a diweithdra byrdymor (AP1.1 Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd):* Nid yw nifer y bobl sydd wedi gwneud cais am gymorth ar ôl colli swydd o dan weithrediad ***ReACT*** wedi bod mor uchel â'r hyn a ddisgwyliwyd yn wreiddiol gan fod nifer y swyddi a gollwyd yn y farchnad lafur yn is na'r disgwyl. Felly, mae'n gadarnhaol ar y cyfan bod y niferoedd yn is na'r disgwyl ond mae'n rhywbeth y bydd angen i WEFO ei fonitro o ran lefelau gwariant cyffredinol yn yr amcan penodol hwn. Hefyd, mae gweithrediad ***ReAct*** wedi cael ei newid er mwyn ei alluogi i gefnogi diweithdra byrdymor o fis Mawrth 2018.

15. *Economaidd Anweithgar a Di-waith yn yr Hirdymor (AP1.2 Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd ac AP1 Dwyrain Cymru):* Mae'r rhagolygon yn rhagori ar dargedau'r rhaglenni o ystyried y lefel neilltuo ond, o ganlyniad i'r prinder ymatebion i'r alwad yn Nwyrain Cymru, ceir heriau o ran cyflawni'r maes hwn o fewn y rhaglen. Mae'r nifer y cyfranogwyr yr ymgysylltwyd â nhw hyd yma yn erbyn y proffil yn adlewyrchu'r ffaith ei bod wedi cymryd mwy o amser nag a ragwelwyd i roi systemau ar waith a dechrau cyflawni, ynghyd â'r ffaith ei bod yn fwy heriol ymgysylltu â grwpiau targed anos eu cyrraedd, sy'n sail i amcanion y rhaglen. Adlewyrchir hyn hefyd yn y dangosyddion canlyniadau yn yr ystyr bod angen ymyriadau dwysach yn y tymor hwy gyda'r garfan anos ei chyrraedd ac felly caiff y canlyniadau a ragwelir eu sicrhau'n ddiweddarach nag a gynlluniwyd. Mae'r canlyniadau a gyflawnir ac a gyflwynir i WEFO bob chwarter bellach yn gwella, yn arbennig yn y garfan Economaidd Anweithgar sy'n mynd i mewn i waith – gydag 18% ac 20% o'r cyfranogwyr economaidd anweithgar yn mynd i mewn i waith yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a Dwyrain Cymru, yn erbyn targed o 20% ym mhob rhaglen.

16. *Unigolion tangyflogedig ac unigolion cyflogedig â chyflyrau iechyd sy'n cyfyngu ar eu gallu i weithio (AP3 Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd*)*:* Unwaith eto, mae'r hyn a gyflawnwyd yn is na'r disgwyl ar y cam hwn o'r broses weithredu am ei bod wedi cymryd mwy o amser nag a ragwelwyd i roi prosesau cyflawni ar waith. Bydd yr alwad yn 2017 am gynigion ar gyfer yr Amcan Penodol hwn ac estyniadau i'r gweithrediad presennol yn neilltuo'r holl adnoddau sydd ar gael ac yn cyfrannu at berfformiad cryfach erbyn diwedd 2018.

Blaenoriaeth 2: Sgiliau ar gyfer Twf

Tabl 4: Neilltuo Grant yr UE yn ôl Amcan Penodol

£ Miliynau

Amcan Penodol	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE		Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE	
ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
AP2.1	5	192.5	143.4	152.3	(79%)	88.5	(62%)	51.3	(27%)	24.1	(17%)
AP2.2	8	133.3	89.5	208.3	(156%)	125.8	(141%)	94.3	(71%)	35.7	(40%)
AP2.3	2	61.9	46.1	60.6	(98%)	42.5	(92%)	13.0	(21%)	9.0	(19%)
AP2.4	2	24.6	18.3	8.5	(34%)	6.4	(35%)	5.9	(24%)	5.2	(28%)
Cyfanswm	**17**	**412.3**	**297.3**	**429.7**	**(104%)**	**263.1**	**(89%)**	**164.5**	**(40%)**	**73.9**	**(25%)**
ESF Dwyrain Cymru											
AP2.1	3	106.8	53.4	75.2	(70%)	19.0	(36%)	23.1	(22%)	3.9	(7%)
AP2.2	6	53.4	24.0	114.5	(215%)	26.2	(109%)	56.7	(106%)	7.4	(31%)
AP2.3	1	8.4	4.2	3.0	(36%)	2.4	(58%)	2.2	(27%)	2.2	(53%)
Cyfanswm	**10**	**168.6**	**81.6**	**192.8**	**(114%)**	**47.7**	**(58%)**	**82.1**	**(49%)**	**13.6**	**(17%)**

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Nodiadau:
AP2.1: Sgiliau Sylfaenol
AP2.2: Addasrwydd a Datblygiad
AP2.3: Ymchwil ac Arloesi
AP2.4: Cydraddoldeb Rhywiol (AP2.3 Dwyrain Cymru)

Cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni (PMRh)

17. Gwnaed un cymeradwyaeth newydd ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRh. Yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, cymeradwywyd £0.7m o ESF ar gyfer gweithrediad ***Gwell Swyddi, Gwell Dyfodol ... i Fenywod mewn Cyflogaeth*** o dan arweiniad Coleg Gŵyr, Abertawe a fydd yn helpu menywod ar gyflogau isel sy'n meddu ar lefel sgiliau is i wella eu sefyllfa yn y farchnad lafur, fel rhan o gyfres newydd o ymyriadau ar gyfer dod o hyd i waith ac ymyriadau yn y gwaith yn Abertawe.

18. Bu nifer o estyniadau hefyd i weithrediadau presennol, tri yn ardal rhaglen Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd ac un yn ardal rhaglen Dwyrain Cymru. Yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, dyfarnwyd £2.8m ychwanegol o ESF i ***Ysgoloriaethau Sgiliau'r Economi Wybodaeth II*** o dan arweiniad Prifysgol Bangor, er mwyn ehangu'r gweithrediad flwyddyn a chynnig cymorth i fyfyrwyr doethuriaeth ychwanegol. Dyfarnwyd £0.9m ychwanegol o ESF ac estyniad o ddwy flynedd i weithrediad ***Arwain Twf Busnes*** o dan arweiniad Prifysgol Abertawe er mwyn cefnogi entrepreneuriaid ychwanegol a darpar arweinwyr i ddatblygu sgiliau o ansawdd uchel drwy raglen arweinyddiaeth wedi'i thargedu. Dyfarnwyd £1.4m ychwanegol o ESF i weithrediad ***M_2ETaL*** er mwyn ehangu'r gweithrediad bedair blynedd a chynnig hyfforddiant technegol pellach er mwyn helpu i ehangu'r sector Deunyddiau a Gweithgynhyrchu

Uwch yng Nghymru. Yn Nwyrain Cymru, dyfarnwyd £0.8m ychwanegol o ESF ac estyniad o ddwy flynedd i weithrediad ***Arwain Twf Busnes Dwyrain Cymru*** o dan arweiniad Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd er mwyn cefnogi entrepreneuriaid ychwanegol a darpar arweinwyr i ddatblygu sgiliau o ansawdd uchel drwy raglen arweinyddiaeth wedi'i thargedu.

19. Mae hyn yn golygu bod y lefelau neilltuo ar gyfer y Flaenoriaeth, sy'n eithaf uchel yn barod, yn 88% yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd a 58% yn Nwyrain Cymru, gyda chyfanswm o £310.7m o gyllid yr UE eisoes wedi'i neilltuo a dim ond £68.2m heb ei ddyrannu eto. Mae nifer o gynigion yn dal i gael eu datblygu a cheir potensial i ymestyn rhai gweithrediadau cymeradwy sydd eisoes yn bodoli am gyfnodau hwy, yn amodol ar berfformiad. Mae'r portffolio o weithrediadau hyd yma yn adeiladu ar gyflawniadau rhaglen 2007-13, drwy ganolbwyntio ar ddarparu'r sgiliau hanfodol, technegol ac arbenigol sydd eu hangen i greu gweithlu ystwyth ac ymatebol sy'n barod i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar y cyfleoedd a'r potensial o ran twf a gynigir gan economi wybodaeth fodern. Er bod sgiliau sylfaenol a hanfodol yn sylfaen gyffredin, ac angenrheidiol, i'r gweithlu cyfan, mae'r wybodaeth am gyfleoedd twf allweddol a'r sectorau sy'n datblygu a'r sectorau â blaenoriaeth a nodwyd yn y Fframwaith Blaenoriaethu Economaidd, ynghyd â'r Cynlluniau Cyflogaeth a Sgiliau sy'n cael eu datblygu gan y Partneriaethau Dysgu Rhanbarthol a Gwybodaeth am y Farchnad Lafur yn adnoddau allweddol i arwain y gwaith o dargedu ymyriadau sgiliau a'u ffocws, yn enwedig y rhai sy'n cyflwyno sgiliau ar lefel ganolraddol ac uwch.

20. Mae buddiolwyr sy'n awyddus i roi hyfforddiant i'r gweithlu cyflogedig yn ymateb yn gadarnhaol i gyfeiriad polisi newydd cyd-fuddsoddi gan gyflogwyr a nodwyd yng Nghynllun Gweithredu Sgiliau Llywodraeth Cymru ac sy'n cael ei annog gan y Rhaglenni Gweithredol. Mae arian cyfatebol preifat o gyfraniadau arian parod cyflogwyr yn rhan annatod o'r gweithrediadau hyn wrth iddynt gael eu datblygu a'u cymeradwyo.

Tabl 5: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP2.1: Sgiliau Sylfaenol	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig heb gymwysterau ffurfiol - Dynion	14,029	5,280	2,546	674	7,799	1,950	854	120
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig heb gymwysterau ffurfiol - Menywod	12,771	5,599	2,434	529	7,101	2,025	1,022	130
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig sydd â chymwysterau hyd at a chan gynnwys addysg uwchradd is - Dynion	23,870	21,561	9,087	8,374	13,296	8,938	3,341	4,069
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig sydd â chymwysterau hyd at a chan gynnwys addysg uwchradd is - Menywod	21,730	26,093	9,725	8,538	12,104	10,625	3,763	4,714
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig heb unrhyw gymwysterau ffurfiol sy'n ennill sgiliau hanfodol neu gymhwyster technegol neu benodol i swydd wrth adael - Dynion	72%	79%	49%	50%	72%	79%	36%	23%
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig heb unrhyw gymwysterau ffurfiol sy'n ennill sgiliau hanfodol neu gymhwyster technegol neu benodol i swydd wrth adael - Menywod	72%	79%	54%	59%	72%	79%	35%	18%
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig gyda hyd at ac yn cynnwys addysg uwchradd is sy'n ennill cymhwyster sgiliau hanfodol neu benodol i swydd ar lefel uwchradd is wrth adael - Dynion	72%	79%	51%	47%	72%	80%	48%	44%
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig gyda hyd at ac yn cynnwys addysg uwchradd is sy'n ennill cymhwyster sgiliau hanfodol neu benodol i swydd ar lefel uwchradd is wrth adael - Menywod	72%	79%	55%	46%	72%	80%	48%	40%

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP2.2: Hyblygrwydd a Chynnydd	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig sydd ag addysg uwchradd is (FfCChC 2) - Dynion	16,070	22,488	7,894	5,335	6,438	9,873	3,334	2,803
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig sydd ag addysg uwchradd is (FfCChC 2) - Menywod	14,630	27,465	8,659	5,621	5,862	12,240	3,895	3,186
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig sydd ag addysg uwchradd uwch (FfCChC 3) neu uwch - Dynion	10,731	12,173	5,554	6,422	4,292	5,441	2,244	3,650
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig sydd ag addysg uwchradd uwch (FfCChC 3) neu uwch - Menywod	9,769	12,919	7,509	11,781	3,908	5,507	3,686	7,156
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig ag addysg uwchradd is (FfCChC 2) sy'n ennill cymhwyster galwedigaethol technegol neu benodol i swydd wrth adael ar lefel uwchradd uwch (FfCChC 3) neu uwch - Dynion	60%	80%	47%	42%	60%	80%	45%	45%
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig ag addysg uwchradd is (FfCChC 2) sy'n ennill cymhwyster galwedigaethol technegol neu benodol i swydd wrth adael ar lefel uwchradd uwch (FfCChC 3) neu uwch - Menywod	60%	80%	50%	41%	60%	81%	52%	39%
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig ag addysg uwchradd uwch (FfCChC 3) neu uwch sy'n ennill cymhwyster galwedigaethol technegol neu benodol i swydd ar lefel uwchradd uwch (FfCChC 3) neu uwch wrth adael - Dynion	60%	79%	47%	31%	60%	79%	53%	30%
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig ag addysg uwchradd uwch (FfCChC 3) neu uwch sy'n ennill cymhwyster galwedigaethol technegol neu benodol i swydd ar lefel uwchradd uwch (FfCChC 3) neu uwch wrth adael - Menywod	60%	79%	37%	31%	60%	80%	38%	32%

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP2.3: Ymchwil ac Arloesi	Cyfranogwyr sydd ag ôl-radd neu gymhwyster cyfwerth - Dynion	780	478	231	225	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr sydd ag ôl-radd neu gymhwyster cyfwerth - Menywod	720	394	165	141	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Nifer y Mentrau sy'n cydweithio â darparwyr dysgu	750	566	263	229	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr ag ôl-radd neu gymhwyster cyfwerth sy'n ennill cymhwyster wrth adael ar lefel Meistr (FfCChC 7) neu Ddoethuriaeth (FfCChC 8) - Dynion	63%	82%	5%	3%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr ag ôl-radd neu gymhwyster cyfwerth sy'n ennill cymhwyster wrth adael ar lefel Meistr (FfCChC 7) neu Ddoethuriaeth (FfCChC 8) - Menywod	63%	80%	0%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr â gradd ôl-radd neu gymhwyster cyfwerth sydd mewn cyflogaeth wrth adael - Dynion	52%	0%	0%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr â gradd ôl-radd neu gymhwyster cyfwerth sydd mewn cyflogaeth wrth adael - Menywod	52%	0%	0%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AP2.4: Cydraddoldeb Rhywiol (AP2.3 Dwyrain Cymru)	Nifer y mentrau micro bach a chanolig a gynorthwyir (gan gynnwys mentrau cydweithredol, mentrau yr economi gymdeithasol)	800	422	359	270	300	153	153	110
	Cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig	4,400	1,707	1,457	920	1,500	800	800	724
	Cyfranogwyr sy'n ennill cymhwyster wrth adael	75%	66%	57%	60%	73%	80%	57%	60%
	Mentrau â chymorth sydd wedi mabwysiadu neu wella strategaethau cydraddoldeb ac amrywiaeth a systemau monitro	50%	77%	78%	69%	50%	80%	76%	68%
	Cyfranogwyr sydd mewn sefyllfa well ar y farchnad wrth adael	40%	44%	17%	11%	40%	40%	25%	15%

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

21. Mae'r sefyllfa o ran perfformiad ar gyfer y flaenoriaeth hon yn dal yn galonogol iawn. Lle y ceir bylchau yn yr allbynnau a neilltuwyd i fuddiolwyr mae cyllid ar gael o hyd i fynd i'r afael â nhw. Hyd yma, mae dros 75,000 o gyfranogwyr eisoes wedi'u cofrestru gan weithrediadau cymeradwy yn y Flaenoriaeth hon. Mae'r cyflawniad yn erbyn y rhan fwyaf o ddangosyddion yn gymharol agos at y proffil. Adlewyrchir y darlun calonogol hwn yn gyffredinol mewn data cymwysterau yn ogystal â nifer y cyfranogwyr, er bod y ffigurau ar gyfer canran y cyfranogwyr y rhoddwyd gwybod i WEFO eu bod eisoes wedi ennill cymhwyster yn dangos rhywfaint o amrywiad o ganlyniad i'r cylchoedd sy'n gysylltiedig â phan fydd cyfranogwyr yn ymuno â phrosiectau, yn cwblhau eu cyrsiau ac yn derbyn eu dyfarniadau. Mae mwy o gyfranogwyr ar gyrsiau lefel 3 ac uwch (AP2) na'r cyrsiau lefel ganolradd (AP1). O ystyried bod y prif weithrediadau cynnal a'r prif weithrediadau rhanbarthol yn cynnig darpariaeth yn y ddau AP hyn, ymddengys fod y nifer uwch o gyfranogwyr a gofnodir ar gyfer AP2 yn dangos cynnydd mewn anghenion sgiliau yn y gweithle.

22. *Cynyddu lefelau sgiliau'r rhai sydd â sgiliau isel os o gwbl (AP2.1)*: Mae'r rhagolygon yn uchel yn erbyn targedau'r rhaglen, o ystyried y swm cymharol isel a neilltuwyd hyd yma (47% ar gyfartaledd), ac mae'r cyflawniadau hyd yma yn galonogol. Yr eithriad yw cyfranogwyr heb ddim cymwysterau ffurfiol; mae hyn oherwydd ei bod yn profi'n anodd diffinio ystyr ‘dim cymwysterau ffurfiol’. Mae rhai gweithrediadau yn nodi bod gweithwyr sgiliau isel iawn yn aml yn dweud bod ganddynt o leiaf ryw fath o gymhwyster blaenorol (e.e. dyfarniad lefel mynediad) sy'n golygu eu bod yn cofnodi llai o gyfranogwyr ‘heb gymwysterau’ na'r disgwyl.

23. *Lefelau sgiliau canolraddol ac uwch (AP2.2):* Ledled Cymru disgwylir rhagori ar bob targed a chanlyniad. Yn galonogol, mae targedau fframwaith perfformiad 2018 yr AP hwn (sy'n ymwneud â chyfranogwyr ag addysg uwchradd is) bellach wedi cael eu cyflawni. Mae nifer y cyfranogwyr ag addysg uwchradd uwch, yn enwedig merched, hefyd yn gryf iawn.

24. *Gweithgarwch Ymchwil ac Arloesi (AP2.3 yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn unig):* Hyd yn hyn, neilltuwyd cyllid a fydd yn helpu ychydig dros 800 o gyfranogwyr yn yr AP hwn (sef doethuriaethau diwydiannol ac ysgoloriaethau ymchwil meistr). Mae rhai cynigion ar gyfer prosiectau newydd wrthi'n cael eu harfarnu ar hyn o bryd a fyddai'n ychwanegu at nifer y cyfranogwyr yn yr AP hwn.

25. *Gwella sefyllfa menywod yn y gweithlu (AP2.4 Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd / AP2.3 Dwyrain Cymru)*: Mae'r targed ar gyfer y ddwy raglen yn unol yn fras â'r disgwyliadau.

Blaenoriaeth 3: Cyflogaeth a Chyrhaeddiad Ieuenctid

Tabl 6: Neilltuo Grant yr UE yn ôl Amcan Penodol

£ Miliynau

Amcan Penodol	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE		Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE	
ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
AP3.1	7	154.7	115.0	160.6	(104%)	101.9	(89%)	49.9	(32%)	25.3	(22%)
AP3.2	6	98.1	73.0	77.3	(79%)	55.1	(75%)	20.3	(21%)	14.5	(20%)
AP3.3	1	14.4	10.7	4.0	(28%)	3.2	(30%)	1.3	(9%)	1.3	(12%)
AP3.4	1	14.1	10.5	6.4	(45%)	4.2	(40%)	0.8	(6%)	0.0	(0%)
Cyfanswm	**15**	**281.3**	**209.2**	**248.2**	**(88%)**	**164.3**	**(79%)**	**72.3**	**(26%)**	**41.0**	**(20%)**
ESF Dwyrain Cymru											
AP3.1	8	76.9	38.4	104.3	(136%)	33.3	(87%)	23.9	(31%)	8.4	(22%)
AP3.2	4	25.6	12.8	21.4	(83%)	10.3	(80%)	6.0	(24%)	2.9	(22%)
Cyfanswm	**12**	**102.5**	**51.3**	**125.7**	**(123%)**	**43.5**	**(85%)**	**29.9**	**(29%)**	**11.2**	**(22%)**

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Nodiadau:
AP3.1: Diweithdra ymhlith Pobl Ifanc
AP3.2: Cyrhaeddiad Pobl Ifanc ac Ymgysylltu â Nhw
AP3.3: STEM
AP3.4: Y blynyddoedd cynnar

Cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni (PMRh)

26. Gwnaed un cymeradwyaeth newydd ers cyfarfod diwethaf PMRh. Yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, cymeradwywyd £4m o ESF i brosiect ***Cam Nesa*** o dan arweiniad Cyngor Sir Penfro i ddarparu amrywiaeth lawn o weithgareddau ymgysylltu, dysgu a hyfforddi i bobl ifanc rhwng 16 a 24 oed er mwyn lleihau diweithdra ymhlith pobl ifanc a hefyd leihau nifer y bobl ifanc sy'n NEET yn Ne-orllewin Cymru.

27. Bu nifer o estyniadau hefyd i weithrediadau presennol. Yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, dyfarnwyd £1.5m ychwanegol o ESF ac estyniad tair blynedd i ***STEM Cymru 2***, o dan arweiniad Cynllun Addysg Beirianneg Cymru, er mwyn cynyddu nifer y disgyblion rhwng 11 ac 19 oed sy'n astudio pynciau STEM a gwella eu lefelau cyrhaeddiad. Yn olaf, dyfarnwyd £9.5m ychwanegol o ESF (£8m Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd, £1.5m Dwyrain Cymru) ac estyniad o bedair blynedd i'r gweithrediad ***TRAC 11-24*** Cymru-gyfan, o dan arweiniad Cyngor Sir Ddinbych, er mwyn helpu mwy o bobl ifanc sy'n ymddieithrio o addysg ac y mae perygl y byddant yn dod yn NEET.

28. Mae hyn yn golygu bod lefel neilltuo'r Flaenoriaeth wedi cynyddu i 79% yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd ac 85% yn Nwyrain Cymru. Mae cyfanswm o £207.8m o gyllid yr UE eisoes wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer y Flaenoriaeth hon, a dim ond £53m sydd heb ei ddyrannu. Gan fod nifer o weithrediadau'n dal i

gael eu datblygu, ceir cyfle pellach i adeiladu ar y lefelau neilltuo cadarnhaol a chadarn o dan y Flaenoriaeth hon.

29. Mae'r portffolio o weithrediadau yn canolbwyntio ar fynd i'r afael â diweithdra a chyrhaeddiad ymhlith pobl ifanc yr ystyrir eu bod yn NEET neu'n debygol o fod yn NEET.

Tabl 7: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP3.1: Diweithdra ymhlith ieuenctid	Cyfranogwyr NEET (16-24 oed)	42,700	52,616	19,547	15,727	21,200	28,266	10,344	6,369
	Cyfranogwyr NEET (16 - 24 oed) sy'n ennill cymwysterau wrth adael - ag addysg gynradd neu uwchradd is	20%	40%	15%	27%	20%	42%	13%	26%
	Cyfranogwyr NEET (16 - 24 oed) sydd mewn addysg/hyfforddiant wrth adael	17%	17%	14%	22%	17%	17%	14%	29%
	Cyfranogwyr NEET (16 - 24 oed) sy'n mynd i gyflogaeth wrth adael	28%	30%	25%	20%	28%	32%	27%	20%
AP3.2: Cyrhaeddiad ac ymgysylltu ieuenctid	Cyfranogwyr sydd mewn Perygl o fod yn NEET (11-24 mlwydd oed)	49,700	24,570	11,052	5,742	13,000	8,943	3,648	1,969
	Cyfranogwyr sydd mewn perygl o fod yn NEET (11-24 oed) sy'n ennill cymwysterau wrth adael - ag addysg gynradd (FfCChC 1) neu uwchradd is (FfCChC 2)	7%	13%	10%	6%	27%	17%	11%	3%
	Cyfranogwyr sydd mewn perygl o fod yn NEET (11-24 oed) sy'n mynd i addysg/hyfforddiant wrth adael	19%	15%	8%	8%	18%	13%	8%	8%
	Cyfranogwyr sydd mewn perygl o fod yn NEET (11-24 oed) sydd â llai o berygl o fod yn NEET wrth adael	-	54%	46%	17%	-	56%	45%	27%

Amcan Penodol	Allbynnau	Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd				Dwyrain Cymru			
		Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Targed	Rhagolwg Prosiect	Proffilio hyd yma	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma
AP3.3: STEM	Pobl Ifanc 11 -19 oed - Dynion	8,400	4,407	2,199	2,481	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Pobl Ifanc 11 -19 oed - Menywod	15,000	5,704	2,814	3,092	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Pobl Ifanc 11-19 oed sy'n cwblhau hyfforddiant mewn mathemateg Gwyddoniaeth Peirianneg a Thechnoleg - Dynion	55%	52%	46%	39%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Pobl Ifanc 11-19 oed sy'n cwblhau hyfforddiant mewn mathemateg Gwyddoniaeth Peirianneg a Thechnoleg - Menywod	55%	25%	23%	22%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr 11-19 oed sy'n parhau i astudio pwnc Mathemateg Gwyddoniaeth Peirianneg a Thechnoleg ar ôl 16 oed - Dynion	45%	13%	3%	4%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr 11-19 oed sy'n parhau i astudio pwnc Mathemateg Gwyddoniaeth Peirianneg a Thechnoleg ar ôl 16 oed - Menywod	45%	4%	1%	1%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AP3.4: Blynyddoedd cynnar	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig o sector y blynyddoedd cynnar a gofal plant - dynion	300	73	73	15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig o sector y blynyddoedd cynnar a gofal plant - menywod	2,700	1,370	1,370	441	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig o sector y blynyddoedd cynnar a gofal plant sy'n ennill cymwysterau wrth adael - Dynion	77%	77%	15%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig gan gynnwys hunangyflogedig o sector y blynyddoedd cynnar a gofal plant sy'n ennill cymwysterau wrth adael - Menywod	77%	76%	15%	11%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

30. Mae'r perfformiad cyffredinol ar gyfer y flaenoriaeth yn parhau i fod yn gryf iawn, gyda mwy na 35,000 o gyfranogwyr yn cymryd rhan hyd yma.

31. *Lleihau NEET (AP3.1):* Ar y cyfan, mae'r perfformiad hyd yma yn gadarnhaol ac mae'r rhagolygon yn dangos y bydd y flaenoriaeth yn cyrraedd y nod, sef cael 28% o bobl i mewn i gyflogaeth. Mae'n cymryd mwy o amser na'r bwriad i gyflawni'r canlyniadau hyn, yn bennaf oherwydd cryfder y farchnad lafur ac effaith gweithio gyda grŵp carfan anos ei gyrraedd. Bu cynnydd sylweddol yn nifer y cyfranogwyr sy'n ennill cymwysterau, yn bennaf am fod nifer fawr o gyfranogwyr yn gwella eu cyflogadwyedd drwy ennill cymwysterau drwy'r rhaglen Hyfforddeiaethau o dan arweiniad Llywodraeth Cymru.

32. *Wynebu risg o ddod yn NEET (AP3.2):* Mae'r gwaith o gyflawni gweithgarwch yn mynd rhagddo'n dda ac mae'r wybodaeth am berfformiad prosiectau yn awgrymu bod y gweithrediadau yn llwyddo i dargedu'r rhai sy'n wynebu'r risg fwyaf o ddod yn NEET ac sydd â llawer o rwystrau cymhleth i ymgysylltu ag addysg. Fodd bynnag, mae'n cymryd mwy o amser nag a ragwelwyd i ymgysylltu â'r garfan hon a chyflawni ymyriadau iddi. Mae WEFO yn gweithio gydag arweinwyr y gweithrediadau i ystyried dichonoldeb rhoi cymorth mwy dwys ac effeithiol i gyfranogwyr. Bydd y targedau cyffredinol yn y maes hwn yn cael eu hystyried fel rhan o'r addasiadau arfaethedig i raglenni.

33. *Astudio pynciau STEM (AP3.3. Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn unig):* Mae'r cynnydd yn erbyn yr allbynnau yn parhau i wella ac, wrth i weithgarwch prosiectau ddwysáu, mae'r cyflawniad yn erbyn rhai o'r canlyniadau i'w weld bellach. Yn bennaf, amseru'r flwyddyn academaidd yw'r rheswm dros y lefelau isel o barhau i astudio pynciau STEM ôl-16 a gofnodwyd. Bydd rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael gan ysgolion a cholegau ym mis Medi.

34. *Gweithlu Gofal Plant y Blynyddoedd Cynnar (AP3.4 Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn unig):* Mae'r gwaith o gyflawni gweithgarwch yn mynd rhagddo, ond ni chyflwynwyd unrhyw adroddiadau ffurfiol i WEFO ar unrhyw ddangosyddion hyd yma. Mae gwybodaeth am reoli perfformiad gan arweinydd y gweithrediad yn dangos cynnydd da hyd yma.

Blaenoriaeth 4: Cymorth Technegol

Tabl 8: Neilltuo Grant yr UE

£ Miliynau

	Gweithrediadau	Dyraniad		Wedi'i neilltuo				Gwariant			
		Cyfanswm	Grant yr UE	Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE		Cyfanswm		Grant yr UE	
ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd											
Cyfanswm	6	18.4	13.7	24.6	(134%)	13.8	(101%)	6.8	(37%)	3.3	(24%)
ESF Dwyrain Cymru											
Cyfanswm	5	7.0	3.5	5.6	(80%)	2.7	(77%)	1.6	(24%)	0.7	(21%)

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglenni (PMRh)

35. Dim cymeradwyaethau ers cyfarfod blaenorol PMRh.

36. Sefydlwyd pedwar Tîm Ymgysylltu Rhanbarthol i helpu i wella'r ffordd rydym yn cyflwyno ac yn rheoli rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol Ewropeaidd 2014-2020. Maent wedi'u lleoli yn y gogledd, yn y canolbarth, ym Mae Abertawe ac yn y de-ddwyrain.

37. Maent yn ychwanegu gwerth at y ffordd y mae WEFO yn cyflwyno ac yn rheoli'r rhaglenni drwy sicrhau y caiff y gwaith hwn ei integreiddio'n rhanbarthol. Maent hefyd yn cyfrannu at y cam tuag at fodel cyflawni mwy strategol gyda fframwaith cliriach ar gyfer blaenoriaethu economaidd drwy sicrhau cysoni rhanbarthol a chydlyniant gweithrediadau. Un o brif swyddogaethau'r timau yw hwyluso'r broses o brawfesur gweithrediadau a gynigir o safbwynt rhanbarthol er mwyn rhoi barn ranbarthol i WEFO ynghylch y graddau y mae'r holl weithrediadau arfaethedig yn gyson â'r strategaethau perthnasol ac ymyriadau a gweithgareddau ehangach ac, ar adegau, hwyluso'r broses o flaenoriaethu rhai gweithrediadau arfaethedig yn rhanbarthol yn unol â chais gan WEFO (er enghraifft, ar gyfer Amcan Penodol 4.4 ERDF). Mae'r timau hefyd yn gweithio gyda'r Partneriaethau Sgiliau Rhanbarthol mewn perthynas â phrawfesur rhanbarthol ac ymgysylltu â gweithrediadau ESF.

38. Mae'r holl weithrediadau Cymorth Technegol wedi'u cymeradwyo bellach.

Adran 1: Rhaglen Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru – Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig (WGRC-RDP 2014-2020) Neilltuo Cyllid

1. Dengys Tabl 1 y gwariant hyd yma, y dyraniad hyd yma a swm Grant yr UE a neilltuwyd o dan WGRC-RDP2014-2020.

Tabl 1: Dyraniad, Gwariant a Chyllid a Neilltuwyd

£ Miliynau

Dyraniad[1]		Wedi'i Neilltuo[2]				Gwariant[2]			
CYFANSWM	EAFRD	CYFANSWM		EAFRD		CYFANSWM		EAFRD	
828	551	832	*(100%)*	556	*(101%)*	198	*(24%)*	141	*(26%)*

Ffynhonell: SCEC, 31-03-2018

[1] Yn seiliedig ar gyfradd cynllunio gyfnewid o £1:€1.18
[2] Dengys y canrannau gyfran o'r dyraniad

Diweddariad Cyffredinol o'r Rhaglenni

2. Mae WGRC-RDP2014-2020 yn parhau i wneud cynnydd da ers iddi gael ei chymeradwyo ar 26 Mai 2015. Mae gwaith yn symud ymlaen ar yr ail ddiwygiad a fydd yn cael ei gyflwyno yn ddiweddarach eleni.

3. Yn seiliedig ar gyfradd cynllunio gyfnewid o £1:€1.18, sydd wedi newid ers y cyfarfod diwethaf, y lefel neilltuo bresennol ar lefel polisi ar gyfer y Rhaglen yw £832m (£556m o gyllid yr UE) sef ychydig dros 100% o'r Rhaglen. Ar lefel prosiectau, cyfanswm y cyllid sydd wedi ei ymrwymo yw £522.3m, sy'n cynrychioli 63% o gronfeydd y Rhaglen. Mae gwariant cyffredinol y Rhaglen hyd yn hyn wedi cynyddu dros £73m ers cyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni i £198m (£141m Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig), o hyn mae £81m yn ymwneud â thaliadau trosglwyddo Colofn 1. Mae'r Rhaglen wedi cyrraedd ei tharged N+3 sef €123.8m dros flwyddyn cyn y dyddiad cau Rhagfyr 2018.

4. O ran cynlluniau economaidd-gymdeithasol yn y rhaglen, gwahoddwyd cyfanswm o 598 o ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb (EOI) llwyddiannus a 109[1] o geisiadau uniongyrchol[2] (DA) i gyflwyno cais llawn. Hyd yma, mae 598 (EOI & DA) wedi dod i law. Mae cyfanswm o 349 o weithrediadau (EOI & DA) wedi'u

[1] Mae'r ffigur wedi gostwng ers yr adroddiad diwethaf oherwydd newidiadau yn ddosbarthiad EIP.
[2] Mae'r ceisiadau uniongyrchol hyn yn cwmpasu gweithgarwch wedi'i gaffael, fel Cyswllt Ffermio, prosiectau LEADER a gyflwynwyd gan Gyrff Gweinyddol Grwpiau Gweithredu Lleol yn dilyn y broses gystadleuol i ddewis Grwpiau Gweithredu Lleol, y datganiadau o ddiddordeb hynny a ailgyfeiriwyd at ran arall o'r Rhaglen ar ôl cael eglurhad technegol gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ynghylch gweithgarwch Mesur 16.4, y prosiectau hynny a ddaeth yn wreiddiol drwy gylch cystadleuol o ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb fel prosiectau cam 1, sef y cam prawf cysyniad, i symud ymlaen i gam 2, sef y cam cyflawni, petaent yn llwyddiannus ar gam 1, cyngor arbenigol heb ei gaffael Mesur 1 sy'n cyd-fynd â'r rhan-ddirymiad a ganiateir o fentrau caffael a mentrau strategol / gweithgarwch craidd fel Agri SI a Phrosiect Helix.

cymeradwyo gyda dyraniad cyffredinol, yn cynnwys ceisiadau LEADER a cheisiadau uniongyrchol gwerth £232m.

5. Mae'r cynnydd yn erbyn y Fframwaith Perfformiad ar gyfer WGRC-RDP2014-2020 i'w weld yn Atodiad 6.

Cynnydd yn erbyn Dangosyddion

6. Mewn rhai meysydd, mae proffiliau cyflenwi yn dal i gael eu datblygu ar gyfer rhai dangosyddion; mae hyn yn golygu nad yw data am rai Mesurau / Meysydd Ffocws wedi cael eu hadrodd. Fodd bynnag, nid yw hyn wedi effeithio ar adrodd y data a gyflawnwyd. Ar hyn o bryd mae WEFO yn gweithio gyda thimau polisi i wella ffigurau rhagolygon.

7. Mae'r dangosyddion a thargedau yn cael eu hadolygu fel rhan o'r cynigion addasiad sy'n cael eu trafod gyda'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd.

8. Gyda ffigurau rhagolwg cywir a thargedau rhaglen bydd adroddiadau yn y dyfodol yn gallu darparu esboniadau o amrywiad sylweddol yn erbyn targedau a rhagolygon. Bydd disgwyl i'r rhan fwyaf o'r amrywiadau presennol cael eu datrys fel rhan o'r addasiad ac fel bydd rhagolygon yn cael eu diweddaru.

Adran 2: Cynnydd yn ôl Echel Blaenoriaeth

Blaenoriaeth 1: Meithrin trosglwyddo gwybodaeth ac arloesi ym maes amaethyddiaeth, coedwigaeth ac ardaloedd gwledig

Tabl 2: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 1(a) Meithrin arloesi a'r sylfaen gwybodaeth mewn ardaloedd gwledig	1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m)	£66.0	£82.3m	£17.5m	27%
	2	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m)	£16.3	£11.5m	£2.0m	12%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m)	£91.5	£1.7m	£4.9m	5%
FA 1(b) Cryfhau'r cysylltiadau rhwng amaethyddiaeth a coedwigaeth ac ymchwil arloesi	16.1	Nifer y grwpiau gweithredol EIP I'w cefnogi (sefydliad a gweithrediad)	45	45	10	22%
	16.2 i 16.9	Nifer y gweithrediadau cydweithredu eraill (grwpiau, rhwydweithiau / clystyrau, prosiectau peilot….)	1,027	57	5	0%
FA 1(c) Meithrin dysgu gydol oes a hyfforddiant galwedigaethol yn y sectorau amaethyddol a choedwigaeth	1.1	Nifer o cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	13,500	13,000	6,400	47%

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Blaenoriaeth 1

Mesur 1 & 2

Cyswllt Ffermio

9. Rhaglen Trosglwyddo Gwybodaeth - Mae'r Rhwydwaith Arddangos yn cynnwys wyth Safle Arloesi, 12 o Ffermydd Arddangos a bob blwyddyn, caiff 36 o Safleoedd Ffocws eu recriwtio (cyfanswm o 85 hyd yn hyn). Mae'r safleoedd yn hyrwyddo arloesedd a thechnoleg newydd sydd ar gael i ffermwyr a choedwigwyr ac yn cynnig llwyfan ymarferol i arddangos sut y gellir gweithredu'r dechnoleg/techneg newydd hon ar lefel ffermydd/coedwigaeth. Hyd at 31 Rhagfyr 2017, roedd 305 o ddigwyddiadau wedi'u cynnal ar y rhwydwaith arddangos a daeth 6193 o unigolion i'r digwyddiadau hynny.

10. Grwpiau Trafod - Mae grwpiau trafod sy'n cynnwys tua wyth buddiolwr yn cyfarfod yn rheolaidd yn unol â rhaglen strwythuredig y nodwyd nodau a chanlyniadau clir ar ei chyfer o'r cychwyn cyntaf. Hyd yn hyn, recriwtiwyd 103 o grwpiau gyda chyfanswm o 979 o aelodau unigol yn cynrychioli 846 o fusnesau. Mae'r grwpiau yn casglu data sy'n berthnasol i'w hanghenion a gallant lunio cymariaethau er mwyn dysgu am fuddiannau cofnodi gwybodaeth a'i defnyddio i wneud penderfyniadau rheoli.

11. Agrisgôp - Sefydlwyd cyfanswm o 68 o grwpiau ledled Cymru wedi'u hwyluso gan arweinwyr Agrisgôp lleol. Maent yn cynnal cyfarfodydd rheolaidd; yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, cynhaliwyd 479 o gyfarfodydd.

12. Cymorthfeydd a Chlinigau Un-i-Un - Ers dechrau'r rhaglen, cynhaliwyd 179 o glinigau gyda 1554 o fuddiolwyr a chynhaliwyd 503 o gymorthfeydd gyda 2370 o fuddiolwyr, gan gynnwys 239 o gymorthfeydd gyda 922 o fuddiolwyr yn 2017 yn unig.

13. Seminarau Ymwybyddiaeth o Arallgyfeirio - Cynhaliwyd digwyddiadau rhanbarthol er mwyn amlinellu elfennau allweddol cynllunio prosiect arallgyfeirio lle y cyfeiriwyd y sawl a oedd yn bresennol at y cymorth a'r cyngor ychwanegol sydd ar gael drwy raglen Cyswllt Ffermio – cynhaliwyd chwe digwyddiad gyda 157 o fuddiolwyr.

14. Menter – Hyd yn hyn, mae 256 o aelodau gweithredol ac o'u plith, nodwyd 36 pâr posibl. Sefydlwyd saith cyd-fenter newydd yn ystod y cyfnod hwn. Mae'r unigolion sydd wedi dod o hyd i ddarpar bartneriaid busnes bellach yn gwneud cais am gyngor grŵp drwy'r gwasanaeth cynghori er mwyn cael arweiniad pellach.

15. Ymweliadau Byrdymor â Ffermydd a Choedwigoedd - Mae 14 o grwpiau wedi ymweld ag amrywiaeth o gyrchfannau gan gynnwys yr Alban, Gogledd Iwerddon a Dorset. Ymhlith y pynciau o ddiddordeb, roedd gwella ffrwythlondeb a pherfformiad buchesi llaeth, prosesau cynhyrchu llaeth effeithlon o laswellt a gwella'r gadwyn cyflenwi cig eidion.

16. Ymweliadau Cyfnewid â Ffermydd a Choedwigoedd - Dyfarnwyd cyllid i 19 o ymgeiswyr llwyddiannus hyd yn hyn ar amrywiaeth o bynciau. Mae wyth ohonynt wedi cwblhau eu hymweliadau cyfnewid a chyhoeddwyd adroddiadau ar wefan Cyswllt Ffermio.

17. Rhaglen Dysgu Gydol Oes a Datblygu - Hyd yma, mae 2,607 o fuddiolwyr wedi cwblhau hyfforddiant achrededig a hawlio amdano ers mis Hydref 2015. Mae 45 o fodiwlau e-ddysgu ar gael ac mae e-ddysgu wedi cael ei gwblhau 2,570 o weithiau. Mae'r pynciau e-ddysgu yn cynnwys iechyd a diogelwch, cyllid fferm a rheoli llyngyr yr afu ar fferm. Mae 3,541 o Gynlluniau Datblygu Personol unigol wedi cael eu cwblhau ers dechrau'r rhaglen.

18. Gwerthusiad Annibynnol - Mae Cangen Strategaeth WEFO yn rheoli'r gwerthusiad ar gyfer y cynllun Trosglwyddo Gwybodaeth ac Arloesi, ac wedi cynnal proses gaffael gystadleuol drwy Gwerthwch i Gymru er mwyn penodi gwerthuswyr allanol. Dyfarnwyd y gwaith i SQW. Bydd y gwerthusiad yn gwneud cyfres o argymhellion yn seiliedig ar dystiolaeth er mwyn llywio'r

broses o weithredu a chyflwyno'r cynllun yn ogystal â natur ymyriadau pellach yn y maes hwn ar ôl y newidiadau i'r UE. Disgwylir i'r adroddiad terfynol gael ei gyflwyno ym mis Hydref 2019, a disgwylir adroddiad interim yn ystod hydref 2018.

19. Gwasanaeth Cynghori - Cyflenwir y Gwasanaeth Cynghori gan wyth cwmni, wedi'u dethol a'u cymeradwyo gan Cyswllt Ffermio. Hyd yn hyn, roedd 819 achos o gyngor 1:1 a chyngor Grŵp wedi'u cwblhau a'u hawlio.

20. Meincnodi - Mae system Meincnodi Cyswllt Ffermio (Mesur 2) yn casglu data gan ffermwyr fel rhan o grwpiau trafod Cyswllt Ffermio. O fis Ionawr 2018, yn unol â phenderfyniadau a wnaed gan Grŵp Gweithredol Menter Strategol Amaethyddiaeth, mae meincnodi yn un o negeseuon allweddol rhaglen Cyswllt Ffermio, a chaiff ei integreiddio i nifer o ddigwyddiadau Trosglwyddo Gwybodaeth a drefnir gan Cyswllt Ffermio, gan gynnwys y digwyddiadau Ffermio ar gyfer y Dyfodol y daeth dros 5000 o ffermwyr iddynt.

21. Crynodeb Ariannol - Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi prosesu dau gais yn ystod y cyfnod hwn sy'n cyfateb i £761k gyda chyfanswm gwariant hyd yn hyn o £9.5m ar gyfer Mesur 1 a £202k gyda chyfanswm gwariant hyd yn hyn o £1.2m ar gyfer Mesur 2.

Mesur 16.1

Partneriaeth Arloesi Ewrob (EIP) Cymru

22. Ers dechrau'r rhaglen, cafwyd 67 o ymholiadau hyd yn hyn gan unigolion â diddordeb yn y Bartneriaeth. Mae'r Ganolfan Cyfnewid Gwybodaeth wedi cwblhau 51 o adolygiadau llenyddiaeth er mwyn ymateb i'r ymholiadau hyn. O'u plith, mae 22 wedi bwrw ati i ddatblygu amlinelliadau prosiect ac mae 11 wedi cyflwyno ceisiadau llawn i Menter a Busnes, y dyfarnwyd cyllid i 10 ohonynt;

    - Rheoli clwy tatws gan ddefnyddio cydrannau safleoedd derbyn gwastraff brodorol nad yw'n fwyd
    - Datblygu grŵp Cambrian Mountains Beef er mwyn rheoli ac ehangu ei gadwyn gyflenwi fer
    - Tir Pori i Bryfed Peillio
    - Lleihau'r defnydd o wrthfiotigau ar ffermydd defaid adeg ŵyna drwy arferion rheoli gorau, drwy wella maeth a hylendid
    - Cymharu buddiannau amgylcheddol cymharol peirianwaith effaith isel mewn coetiroedd fferm bach
    - Astudiaeth ddichonoldeb ar Gynhyrchu Llegestod yng Ngogledd Cymru

- Dadansoddiad o'r defnydd o chwynwr robotig cyfrifiadurol mewn gweithrediadau garddwriaethol bach mewn dau leoliad yn Ne Cymru
- Asesu potensial cynnal profion genomeg ar heffrod llaeth er mwyn cynyddu buddiannau genetig ac elw ariannol
- Systemau porthiant amgen ar gyfer tir ymylol
- Llaeth Nos – Asesu'r dibynadwyedd a'r budd economaidd

23. Wrth ddyfarnu cyllid i brosiectau, bydd Cyswllt Ffermio a'r Ganolfan Cyfnewid Gwybodaeth yn gweithio gyda'r grwpiau i ledaenu negeseuon allweddol a pharatoi astudiaethau achos er mwyn hyrwyddo'r cynllun i bartïon eraill â diddordeb. Bydd y Ganolfan Cyfnewid Gwybodaeth yn hwyluso cysylltiadau â Grwpiau eraill â diddordeb mewn pynciau tebyg ledled Cymru a'r UE, ac mae eisoes wedi cysylltu â'r rhwydwaith thematig, EuroDairy – rhoddwyd Grwpiau llaeth perthnasol mewn cysylltiad â'r rhwydwaith er mwyn gallu rhannu gwybodaeth, syniadau a chyfleoedd hyfforddi. Wrth i rwydweithiau thematig newydd gael eu datblygu sy'n berthnasol, bydd y Ganolfan Cyfnewid Gwybodaeth yn helpu i ddod â'r grwpiau a'r rhwydweithiau at ei gilydd.

Blaenoriaeth 2: Gwella hyfywedd a chystadleurwydd ffermydd ym mhob maes amaethyddol ac ym mhob rhanbarth gan hyrwyddo technolegau fferm arloesol a rheolaeth gynaliadwy ar gyfer coedwigoedd

Tabl 3: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 2(a) Hwyluso ailstrwythuro ffermydd s'yn wynebu problemau strwythurol mawr, yn enwedig ffermydd â gradd isel o gyfranogiad yn y farchnad, ffermydd sy'n canolbwyntio ar sectorau penodol yn y farchnad a ffermydd sydd angen arallgyfeirio amaethyddol	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Nifer y cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	10,010	10,010	4,928	49%
	1.1	Nifer o diwrnodau o hyfforddiant a roddwyd	16,160	8,008	4,589	28%
	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant/sgiliau	£2.5m	£3.2m	£1.3m	52%
	1.2	Nifer o gweithrediadau arddangos / camau gwybodaeth a gefnogwyd	1,395	1,395	1,297	93%
	1.3	Nifer gweithrediadau cyfnewid fferm a gefnogwyd	39	39	17	43%
	1.1 -1.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m) (hyfforddiant, cyfnewidiadau fferm, arddangos)	£34.1m	£42.7m	£13.1m	38%
	2.1	Nifer o fuddiolwyr a gynghorwyd	2,963	2,963	557	19%
	2.3	Nifer o cynghorwyr a hyfforddwyd	260	260	0	0%
	2.1 - 2.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m)	£6.8m	£6.7m	£1.2m	17%
	4.1	Nifer o daliadau a gefnogwyd ar gyfer buddsoddiad mewn daliadau amaethyddol	2,431	15	169	7%
	4.1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m)	£56.1m	£7.8m	£5.8m	10%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m) ar gyfer buddsoddiadau mewn seilwaith	£140.3m	£20.5m	£5.8m	4%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant (£'m) (cyhoeddus a preifat)	£56.1m	£7.8m	£5.8m	10%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m)	£0.4m	£0.3m	£0.0m	0%

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Maes Canolbwyntio 2A

Mesur 4.1

Cynllun Grant Busnes i Ffermydd (FBG)

24. Trosglwyddwyd gweinyddiaeth y Cynllun Grant Busnes Fferm i Daliadau Gwledig Cymru ym mis Ionawr 2018 ar gyfer agor trydedd rownd y cynllun a'r rowndiau sydd i ddod. Mae ffermwyr yn llenwi ffurflen Mynegiant o Ddiddordeb gan ddefnyddio platfform ar-lein presennol diogel Taliadau Gwledig Cymru sydd wedi'i ddatblygu ar gyfer y Cynllun Grant Busnes Fferm. Pan fydd ffenestr yn cau bydd y ffurflenni Mynegiant o Ddiddordeb yn cael eu sgorio a'u graddio'n awtomatig, gyda'r sgorwyr uchaf yn cael eu dewis. Bydd contract Cynllun Grant Busnes Fferm ar gael i ffermwyr llwyddiannus ac mae ganddynt 30 diwrnod i dderbyn y contract ar-lein ac yna 90 diwrnod pellach i gyflwyno cais.

25. Rhoddwyd hyblygrwydd i'r cynllun i ganiatáu i ffermwyr gyflwyno mwy nag un Mynegiant o Ddiddordeb mewn blwyddyn gynllun o fewn paramedrau isafswm ac uchafswm y symiau grant (isafswm trothwy o £3,000 fesul cais a'r trothwy cyffredinol uchaf fesul busnes yw £12,000).

26. Ers agor y Cynllun Grant Busnes Fferm, mae 831 o ffermwyr wedi'u cymeradwyo, gan ofyn am £5.7 miliwn mewn cymorth grant ac mae'r gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £4.8m. Bydd y bedwaredd ffenestr yn agor ar 30 Ebrill 2018 ac yn cau ar 29 Mehefin 2018.

Cynllun Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy (SPG)

27. Mae effeithiau llygredd ar y fferm sy'n effeithio ar ansawdd dŵr a bywyd gwyllt wedi cynyddu'n ddiweddar, yn aml oherwydd arferion storio slyri gwael a chyfleusterau trin dŵr budr. O ganlyniad, bydd rownd nesaf y Cynllun Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy yn canolbwyntio ar gefnogi ffermwyr i gyflawni ein hamcanion o ran rheoli maethynnau'n well, yn ogystal â diogelu a gwella ansawdd dŵr trwy leihau llygredd. Bydd hyn yn golygu canolbwyntio ar reoli slyri a storio gorchuddiedig, a gall y gwaith a gyflawnir ar hyn ddibynnu ar yr hyn y bydd y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd a'r Gyfarwyddeb Nitradau yn ei ganiatáu.

28. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu agor y rownd Mynegiant o Ddiddordeb nesaf ym mis Gorffennaf 2018 a bydd yn edrych ar ddarparu rhestr benodedig o eitemau ar gyfer y cynllun gyda grantiau'n amrywio o leiafswm o £12,000 i uchafswm o £50,000 (uchafswm cyfraniad o 40% i gyfanswm costau prosiect o £30,000 i £125,000+).

29. Bydd y broses ymgeisio yn un dau-gam, gyda phob ffenestr Mynegiant o Ddiddordeb ar agor am 8 wythnos ac yn rhedeg trwy Daliadau Gwledig Cymru ar-lein. Ni fydd busnesau sydd wedi bod yn llwyddiannus o dan y Cynllun Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy blaenorol yn gymwys o dan y bedwaredd rownd a rowndiau yn y dyfodol. Gall busnesau sydd wedi derbyn grant o dan y cynllun hwn wneud cais i'r Cynllun Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy. Cyn cyflwyno eu cais ar gyfer y Cynllun Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy, bydd angen i ffermwyr fynychu 'Digwyddiad Ffermio Cynaliadwy ' a drefnir gan Gyswllt Ffermio.

30. Datgan Diddordeb - Hyd yma, mae 3 o rowndiau o SPG wedi'u cynnal. Mae 82 o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws 2a sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £14.2m o grantiau yn ystod y cam Datgan Diddordeb. O'r rhain;

- Mae 81 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £14.2m o grantiau
- Mae 78 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 70 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £13.3m
- Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £4.1m
- Mae 8 o geisiadau wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £1.5m o grantiau

31. Ceisiadau Uniongyrchol - Yn ogystal, o dan Faes Ffocws 2a, mae 1 cais uniongyrchol wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn, gan ymrwymo gwerth £16k. Nid ydynt eto wedi cyflwyno eu cais llawn.

Blaenoriaeth 3: Hyrwyddo trefniadaeth y gadwyn fwyd a rheoli risg mewn amaethyddiaeth

Tabl 4: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 3(a) Integreiddio gwell o gynhyrchwyr cynradd yn y gadwyn fwyd drwy gynlluniau o ansawdd, hyrwyddo mewn marchnadoedd lleol a chylchoedd cyflenwi byr, grwpiau cynhyrchwyr a sefydliadau cydadrannol	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Nifer y cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	1,150	650	320	28%
	1.1	Nifer o ddiwrnodau hyfforddiant a roddwyd	6,345	520	298	5%
	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant/sgiliau	£21.8m	£0.2m	£0.1m	0%
	1.2	Nifer o weithrediadau arddangos / camau gwybodaeth a gefnogwyd	91	91	84	93%
	1.1 -1.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (hyfforddiant, cyfnewidiadau fferm, arddangos)	£23.9m	£2.8m	£1.5m	6%
	2.1	Nifer o buddiolwyr a gynghorwyd	303	303	57	19%
	2.3	Nifer o cynghorwyr a hyfforddwyd	27	27	0	0%
	2.1 - 2.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.7m	£0.9m	£0.1m	17%
	4.1 + 4.2	Nifer o weithrediadau a gefnogwyd ar gyfer fuddsoddiad (ee mewn taliadau amaethydool, mewn prosesu ac mewn marchnata cynnyrch amaethyddol) (4.1 and 4.2)	120	24	5	4%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat)	£93.6m	£73.7m	£16.8m	18%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£35.8m	£24.6m	£16.8m	47%
	16.4	Nifer o daliadau amaethyddol yn cymryd rhan mewn cydweithredu/hybu lleol ymhlith gweithredwyr yn y gadwyn gyflenwi (16.4)	165	414	60	36%
	16	Nifer y gweithrediadau cydweithredu a gefnogwyd (nid EIP)	165	0	1	1%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£26.5m	£1.6m	£0.9m	3%

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MAES CANOLBWYNTIO 3A

Mesur 1

Trosglwyddo Gwybodaeth, Arloesi a Gwasanaethau Cynghori (KT&I)

32. Ceisiadau Uniongyrchol – O dan Faes Ffocws 3a, mae naw o geisiadau uniongyrchol wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn, gan ymrwymo gwerth £46.9m o grantiau. O'r rhain;

- Mae 9 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £46.9m of grant
- Mae 7 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 6 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £27.7m
- Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £1.5m
- Mae 1 cais wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £2.3m o grantiau

Mesur 4.2

Cynllun Buddsoddi mewn Busnesau Bwyd (FBIS)

33. Disgwylir i'r ffenestr ar gyfer cyflwyno datganiadau o ddiddordeb ar gyfer y Cynllun Buddsoddi mewn Busnesau Bwyd nesaf agor ar 23 Ebrill 2018 a bydd yn cau ar 30 Mehefin 2018. Ni wnaed unrhyw newidiadau i'r meini prawf dethol. Mae gan y ffenestr hon werth dangosol o £4.3m.

34. Datgan o ddiddordeb - Hyd yma, mae pedwar o rowndiau o FBIS wedi'u cynnal. Mae 115 o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws 3a sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £37.0m o grantiau yn ystod y cam Datgan Diddordeb. O'r rhain;

    - Mae 94 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £35.3m o grantiau
    - Mae 65 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 40 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £33.8m
    - Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £16.8m
    - Mae 25 o geisiadau wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £1.6m o grantiau

Mesur 16.4

Cynllun Datblygu Cadwyni Cyflenwi a Chydweithio (C&SCDS)

35. Datgan o ddiddordeb - Hyd yma, mae pedwar o rowndiau o C&SCDS wedi'i chynnal/wedi'u cynnal. Mae 12 o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws 3a sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £3.6m o grantiau yn ystod y cam Datgan Diddordeb. O'r rhain;

    - Mae 12 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £3.7m o grantiau
    - Mae 12 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 7 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £3.0m
    - Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £0.9m
    - Mae 5 o geisiadau wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £1.1m o grantiau

Blaenoriaeth 4: Adfer, gwarchod a gwella ecosystemau sy'n dibynnu ar amaethyddiaeth a choedwigaeth

Tabl 5: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Blaenoriaeth	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
Blaenoriaeth 4: Adfer, gwarchod a gwella ecosystemau sy'n dibynnu ar amaethyddiaeth a choedwigaeth (**tir amaethyddol**)	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Nifer o cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	1,040	1,040	512	49%
	1.1	Nifer o ddiwrnodau hyfforddiant a roddwyd	832	832	477	57%
	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant/sgiliau	£0.3m	£0.3m	£0.1m	52%
	1.2	Nifer o weithrediadau arddangos / camau gwybodaeth a gefnogwyd	145	145	135	93%
	1.3	Nifer o weithrediadau cyfnewid fferm a gefnogwyd	4	4	2	44%
	1.1 -1.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (hyfforddiant, cyfnewidiadau fferm, arddangos)	£3.5m	£4.4m	£1.4m	38%
	2.1	Nifer o buddiolwyr a gynghorwyd	3,344	758	143	4%
	2.3	Nifer o cynghorwyr a hyfforddwyd	67	67	0	0%
	2.1 - 2.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£4.0m	£2.2m	£0.3m	7%
	4.4	Nifer o weithrediadau cymorth ar gyfer fuddsoddiadau anghynhyrchiol (4.4)	14,590	9,453	2,309	16%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat)	£86.0m	£107.0m	£24.0m	28%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£86.0m	£107.0m	£24.0m	28%
	8.1	Arwynebedd (ha) i gael ei coedwigo (sefydliad yn unig- 8.1)	2,498	2,000	886	35%
	8.1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£14.3m	£10.6m	£1.6m	11%
	8.2	Arwynebedd (ha) i'w sefydlu mewn systemau amaeth-coedwigaeth (8.2)	50	50	1	2%
	8.2	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (8.2)	£0.03m	£0.21m	£0.00m	5%
	10.1	Cyfanswm arwynebedd (ha) o dan hinsawdd amaeth-amgylcheddunder (10.1)	1,417,210	0	689,186	49%
	10.1	Arwynebedd Ffisegol (ha) o dan hinsawdd ameth-amgylchedd (10.1)	635,399	528,010	689,186	108%
	10.1	Nifer o contractau a gefnogwyd	7,338	7,338	7,117	97%
	10.1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£) (10.1+10.2)	£184.7m	£230.1m	£92.5m	50%
	11.1	Nifer o daliadau a gefnogwyd	201	201	147	73%
	11.1	Arwynebedd (ha) a trosglwywyd i ffermio organig	11,153	11,153	15,018	135%
	11.2	Nifer y daliadau a gefnogwyd	341	341	446	131%
	11.2	Arwynebedd (ha) cynnal ffermio organig	57,287	57,287	57,544	100%
	11	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£)	£21.2m	£21.2m	£11.6m	55%
	16	Nifer o weithrediadau cydweithredu a gefnogwyd (dim EIP)	25	0	1	4%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£)	£7.6m	£0.4m	£0.2m	3%

Ffynhonell: SCEC, 31-03-2018

Blaenoriaeth	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
Priority 4: Adfer, gwarchod a gwella ecosystemau sy'n dibynnu ar amaethyddiaeth a choedwigaeth (**ardal coedwigaeth**)	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Nifer o cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	130	130	64	49%
	1.1	Nifer o ddiwrnodau hyfforddiant a roddwyd	104	104	60	57%
	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant/sgiliau	£0.03m	£0.04m	£0.02m	52%
	1.2	Nifer o gweithrediadau arddangos / camau gwybodaeth a gefnogwyd	18	18	17	94%
	1.3	Nifer o weithrediadau cyfnewid fferm a gefnogwyd	1	1	0.2	22%
	1.1 -1.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (hyfforddiant, cyfnewidiadau fferm, arddangos)	£0.4m	£0.4m	£0.1m	20%
	2.1	Nifer o buddiolwyr a gynghorwyd	851	51	10	1%
	2.3	Nifer o cynghorwyr a hyfforddwyd	4	4	0	0%
	2.1 - 2.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£1.2m	£0.1m	£0.0m	3%
	8.3	Nifer o fuddiolwyr ar gyfer camau gweithredu ataliol (8.3)	1	0	0	0%
	8.3	Arwynebedd a gefnogwyd (ha)	76,000	0	0	0%
	8.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£)	£0.3m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	8.4	Nifer o fuddiolwyr a gefnogwyd	61	0	0	0%
	8.4	Arwynebedd a gefnogwyd (ha)	594	0	0	0%
	8.4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£1.3m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	8.5	Nifer o weithrediadau (fuddsoddiadau ar gyfer wella gwydnwch a werth ecosystemau coedwigaeth) (8.5)	403	501	172	43%
	8.5	Ardaloedd sy'n gysylltiedig a fuddsoddiadau gwella gwydnwch a gwerth amgylcheddol ecosystemau coedwigoedd (8.5)	9,445	7,000	386	4%
	8.5	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£4.1m	£5.6m	£3.0m	73%
	15.1	Nifer o contractau a gefnogwyd	70	0	0	0%
	15.1	Ardaloedd dan gontract amgylchedd coedwig	700	0	0	0%
	15.1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.3m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	16	Nifer o weithrediadau cydweithredu a gefnogwyd (dim EIP)	10	0	0	0%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£3.4m	£0.1m	£0.1m	2%

Ffynhonell: SCEC, 31-03-2018

MAES CANOLBWYNTIO 4A, 4B & 4C

Glastir

36. Agorodd cyfnod Datgan Diddordeb Glastir Uwch 2019 ar 18 Medi gan gau ganol nos 20 Hydref 2017. Cafodd 321 o Ddatganiadau eu cyflwyno. Mae'r broses ddewis bellach wedi'i chynnal a chafodd 121 eu dewis i gael eu gweld gan reolwyr contractau.

37. Agorodd cyfnod ymgeisio Creu Coetir Glastir (GWC) ar 26 Chwefror 2018 a bydd yn cau ar 6 Ebrill 2018 gyda chyllideb o £1.7m ar gyfer gwariant cyfalaf ac arian ychwanegol i dalu am incwm a gollwyd a thaliadau cynnal.

38. Mae'r 6ed ffenestr Datganiad o Ddiddordeb ar gyfer Glastir - Adfer Coetir wedi agor ar 9 Ebrill 2018 a bydd yn cau ar 4 Mai 2018. Mae cyllid o £1.0m wedi'i ddyrannu ar gyfer gwariant ar waith cyfalaf.

39. Agorwyd y rownd ddiweddaraf Cynllun Grantiau Bach Glastir (GSG) ar gyfer thema 'Carbon' (i fynd i'r afael â Maes Ffocws 5e) ar 1 Tachwedd 2017 a'i gau ar 13 Rhagfyr 2017 gyda chyllideb o £1.5m. Derbyniwyd 1,930 Datganiad o Ddiddordeb a chynigiwyd 1,239 o gontractau gwerth £1.7m. Bydd y rownd nesaf o Gynllun Grantiau Bach Glastir (GSG), ar gyfer thema 'Dŵr', gyda chyllideb o £1.5m, yn agor ym mis Gorffennaf ac yn cau ym mis Awst 2018.

Mesure 2.1

40. Cymorth Cynghori Glastir - Oherwydd ansicrwydd adeg dyfarnu'r contract hwn, cafodd y broses gaffael ei hatal. Rheolwyr Contractau sydd bellach yn cynnal ymweliadau cynghori/gwasanaethu. Cynhelir rhaglen dreigl o ymweliadau bob blwyddyn. Hefyd, mae Rheolwyr Contractau ar gael i ateb cwestiynau technegol a gweinyddol cwsmeriaid am eu contract. Mae Rheolwyr Contractau'n derbyn hyfforddiant ad-hoc a phenodol i'r swydd a bydd hynny'n parhau.

41. Cyngor gan Glastir ar yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol ac Ansawdd Dŵr - Mae'r contract cyntaf ar gyfer rhoi cyngor ar yr amgylchedd hanesyddol wedi'i roi i Ymddiriedolaethau Archeolegol Cymru. Mae ail ran y broses, ar gyfer gweddill y cyngor wrthi'n cael ei chaffael. Rydym wrthi'n adolygu'r drefn ar gyfer darparu'r cyngor ar ansawdd dŵr.

42. Coetiroedd Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru - Does neb wedi cael arian o dan raglen cefnogi coetiroedd CNC hyd yma. Daw'r gwaith hwn o dan P4 a 5e y rhaglen.

Mesur 4.4

43. Mae hyn yn cynnwys elfennau gwaith cyfalaf Glastir Uwch ynghyd â chynllun Grantiau Bach Glastir.

44. Grantiau Bach Glastir - Mae 4 o rowndiau o'r Grantiau Bach Glastir wedi bod hyd yma, 1 o dan y thema dŵr, i fynd i'r afael â Maes Ffocws 4b, 1 o dan y thema 'tirwedd a phryfed peillio' (Maes Ffocws 4a) a 2 o dan y thema 'carbon' (Maes Ffocws 5e). Hyd yma:

    - Mae 2,093 o weithgareddau wedi'u cefnogi o dan Faes Ffocws 4a gyda £1.6m wedi'i fuddsoddi a £94k o daliadau wedi'u gwneud.
    - Mae 804 o weithgareddau wedi'u cefnogi o dan Faes Ffocws 4b gyda £1.3m wedi'i fuddsoddi a £185k o daliadau wedi'u gwneud.

- Mae 1,872 o weithgareddau wedi'u cefnogi o dan Faes Ffocws 5e gyda £2.6m wedi'i fuddsoddi a £1.0m o daliadau wedi'u gwneud.

45. Glastir Uwch - Hyd yma, mae 2,607 o gontractau wedi'u llofnodi ar gyfer gwaith cyfalaf o dan Flaenoriaethau 4 a 5;

    - Mae 2,651 o gontractau wedi'u cefnogi o dan Faes Ffocws 4a
    - Mae 1,685 o gontractau wedi'u cefnogi o dan Faes Ffocws 4b
    - Mae 455 o gontractau wedi'u cefnogi o dan Faes Ffocws 5d
    - Cyfanswm y taliadau o dan flaenoriaeth 4 hyd yn hyn yw £23. 7m a chyfanswm taliadau o dan flaenoriaeth 5 hyd yn hyn yw £516k.
    - Ers yr Adroddiad PMC diwethaf, gwnaed £ 177k o daliadau

Mesur 8.1 & 8.2

46. Creu Coetir Glastir - Mae Cynllun Creu Coetir Glastir wedi creu 660ha o goetir newydd. Cafodd y rhan fwyaf eu sefydlu o dan Fesur 8.1 - Coedwigo a chreu coetir, a dim ond 1ha sydd wedi'i greu o dan Fesur 8.2 - Amaeth-goedwigaeth. O'r rhain:

    - Mae 209 o gontractau ar gyfer 886ha o dan Faes Ffocws 4a gyda £1.8m o daliadau
    - Mae 57 o gontractau ar gyfer 219ha o dan Faes Ffocws 5e gyda £770k o daliadau

Mesur 8.3

47. Monitro Coedwigoedd a Rheoli Risgiau - Bydd y cynllun Monitro Coedwigoedd a Rheoli Risgiau'n cael ei redeg gan Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC) o dan Flaenoriaeth 4 a 5. Ni fu unrhyw weithgarwch hyd yn hyn.

Mesur 8.4

48. Adfer Coetir Glastir - Mae 5 o gyfnodau Datgan Diddordeb y cynllun Adfer Coetir Glastir wedi'u cynnal, yn ailstocio arwynebedd o 640ha. Hyd yma:

    - Mae 144 wedi'u cefnogi ar gyfer 898ha o dan Faes Ffocws 5e a £1.4m o daliadau wedi'u gwneud.

Mesur 8.5

49. Hen Gynlluniau - Dyma'r contractau sy'n dal i redeg o dan gynlluniau sydd wedi cau o Raglenni'r gorffennol, gan gynnwys FWS/FWPS, ILP a GWCP. Ers adroddiad diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglen:

- Mae £190k o daliadau wedi'u gwneud o dan y RhDG hon o dan Faes Ffocws 5e
- Mae 778 o gontractau'n dal yn fyw

50. Rheoli Coetir Glastir - Mae hyn hefyd yn cynnwys contractau etifeddiaeth o'r Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig blaenorol ac fe'i telir trwy Fesur 8.5 ar gyfer taliadau cyfalaf a Mesur 10.1 ar gyfer taliadau aml-flynyddol, yn seiliedig ar ardaloedd. Mae yna;

    - 266 o gontractau, o'r rhain 17 wedi dod i ben ers hynny
    - Gwnaed cyfanswm o £2.8 miliwn o daliadau o dan y Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig hwn, gyda £416k o daliadau wedi eu gwneud ers y PMC diwethaf
    - Cefnogwyd 238 o gynlluniau gyda chyfanswm o £208k o daliadau, gyda £76k o daliadau wedi eu gwneud ers y PMC diwethaf

Mesur 10.1

51. Mae hyn yn cynnwys Glastir Sylfaenol, Uwch a Thir Comin. Mae'n cynnwys hefyd daliadau arwynebedd aml-flynyddol ar gyfer coetiroedd fferm sy'n rhan o gynllun Rheoli Coetir Glastir.

52. Mynediad - Mae'r cynllun hwn wedi cau, ac ni fydd rhagor o gyfnodau ymgeisio. Ceir 3,656 o gontractau Glastir Sylfaenol, yn cwmpasu 444,964ha gyda chyfanswm o £51. 9m taliadau hyd yn hyn.

53. Tiroedd Comin - Mae'r cynllun hwn wedi cau, ac ni fydd rhagor o gyfnodau ymgeisio. Ceir 196 o gontractau Glastir Tir Comin, yn cwmpasu 119,720ha gyda chyfanswm o £9. 3m taliadau hyd yn hyn.

54. Uwch - Hyd yma, mae 2,678 o gontractau wedi'u llofnodi o dan Flaenoriaeth 4 a 5, yn cwmpasu 244,692ha gyda £29.5m o daliadau wedi'u gwneud hyd yma. O'r rhain:

    - Mae 2,656 o gontractau ar gyfer 220,398ha o dan Faes Ffocws 4a
    - Mae 1,247 o gontractau ar gyfer 8,714ha o dan Faes Ffocws 4b
    - Mae 127 o gontractau ar gyfer 13,829ha o dan Faes Ffocws 5d
    - Mae 655 o gontractau ar gyfer 1,751 ha o dan Faes Ffocws 5e

55. O'r contractau o lofnodwyd:

    - Mae 1,119 yn gontractau Uwch yn unig

- Mae 1,559 yn gontractau â Glastir Sylfaenol yn sail iddynt, a 79 o gontractau eraill yn gontractau Glastir Tir Comin

56. Rheoli Coetir Glastir - Hyd yma, mae 266 o gontractau wedi'u llofnodi o dan Flaenoriaeth 4 a 5, yn cwmpasu 2,085ha gyda £269k o daliadau wedi'u gwneud hyd yma. Gwnaed taliadau o £62k ers Y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni diwethaf.

Mesur 11

57. Glastir Organig - Mae'r cynllun hwn wedi cau, ac ni fydd rhagor o gyfnodau ymgeisio. Mae yna 557 o gontractau Organig byw, yn cwmpasu 79ha. Ers adroddiad diwethaf Pwyllgor Monitro'r Rhaglen:

- Mae £3.3m o daliadau wedi'u gwneud

Mesur 15.1

58. Ein bwriad yw dileu'r mesur hwn o'r Rhaglen yn y diwygiad nesaf.

Mesur 1, 2 & 16.1

59. Ceir gwybodaeth am Gyswllt Ffermio a'r EIP o dan y bwletin am Flaenoriaeth 1.

Mesur 16.5

Cynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy (SMS)

60. Darparwyd ddiwygiad i'r meini prawf dethol mewn papur ar wahân i'w trafod.

61. Datgan o ddiddordeb - Hyd yma, mae tri o rowndiau o SMS wedi'i chynnal/wedi'u cynnal. Mae 37 o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws P4 sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £23.1m o grantiau yn ystod y cam Datgan Diddordeb. O'r rhain;

- Mae 25 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £12.6m o grantiau
- Mae 13 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 12 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £6.5m
- Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £0.3m
- Mae 1 cais wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £0.7m o grantiau

Blaenoriaeth 5: Hyrwyddo effeithlonrwydd o ran adnoddau a chynorthwyo'r gwaith o symud at economi carbon isel, sy'n gallu gwrthsefyll effeithiau'r hinsawdd, yn y sectorau amaethyddiaeth, bwyd a choedwigaeth

Tabl 6: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 5(b) Cynyddu effeithlonrwydd yn y defnydd o ynni mewn amaethyddiaeth a phrosesu bwyd	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Nifer o gyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	260	260	128	49%
	1.1	Nifer o ddiwrnodau hyfforddiant a roddwyd	208	208	119	57%
	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant/sgiliau	£0.07m	£0.08m	£0.03m	52%
	1.2	Nifer o weithrediadau arddangos / camau gwybodaeth a gefnogwyd	36	36	34	94%
	1.3	Nifer o weithrediadau cyfnewid fferm a gefnogwyd	1	1	0.4	44%
	1.1 -1.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (hyfforddiant, cyfnewidiadau fferm, arddangos)	£0.9m	£1.1m	£0.3m	38%
	2.1	Nifer o fuddiolwyr a gynghorwyd	83	83	16	19%
	2.3	Nifer o cynghorwyr a hyfforddwyd	1	7	0	0%
	2.1 - 2.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.2m	£0.2m	£0.0m	17%
	4.1, 4.2 & 4.3	Nifer o weithgariadau a gefnogwyd ar gyfer buddsoddiad mewn taliadau amaethyddol, mewn prosesu a marchnata cynnyrch amaethyddol) (4.1, 4.2 and 4.3)	286	0	203	71%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat)	£16.5m	£0.0m	£2.8m	17%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£6.6m	£0.0m	£2.8m	42%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.2m	£0.2m	£0.0m	6%

Ffynhonell: WEFO, 31-03-2018

Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 5(c) Hwyluso cyflenwad a defnydd adnoddau adnewyddadwy o ynni, o sgil-gynhyrchion, gwastraff, gweddillion a deunyddiau crai eraill nad ydynt yn fwyd at ddibenion y fio-economi.	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Nifer y cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	260	260	128	49%
	1.1	Nifer o ddiwrnodau hyfforddiant a roddwyd	208	208	119	57%
	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Cyfanswm wariant cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant/sgiliau	£0.07m	£0.08m	£0.03m	52%
	1.2	Nifer o weithrediadau arddangos / camau gwybodaeth a gefnogwyd	36	36	34	94%
	1.3	Nifer o weithrediadau cyfnewid fferm a gefnogwyd	1	1	0.4	44%
	1.1 -1.3	Cyfanswm wariant cyhoeddus £ (hyfforddiant, cyfnewidiadau fferm, arddangos)	£0.9m	£1.1m	£0.3m	38%
	2.1	Nifer o fuddiolwyr a gynghorwyd	66	66	12	19%
	2.3	Nifer gynghorwyr a hyfforddwyd	1	6	0	0%
	2.1 - 2.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.2m	£0.2m	£0.0m	17%
	4.1 + 4.3	Nifer o weithgareddiadau a gefnogwyd ar gyfer buddsoddiad (4.1, 4.3)	0	0	0	N/A
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat)	£0.0m	£0.0m	£0.0m	N/A
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.0m	£0.0m	£0.0m	N/A
	7.2	Nifer o weithgareddiadau a gefnogwyd ar gyfer buddsoddiad mewn seilwaith graddfa fechan yn cynnwys buddsoddiadau mewn ynni adnewyddiadwy ac arbed ynni (7.2)	197	0	0	0%
	7	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat)	£18.4m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	7	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£15.4m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	8.5	Nifer o weithgareddiadau (buddsoddiadau i wella cydnerthu a gwerth systemau eco coedwigaeth (8.5)	5	0	0	0%
	8.5	Ardaloedd sy'n gysylltiedig a fuddsoddiadau gwella gwydnwch a gwerth amgylcheddol ecosystemau coedwigoedd (8.5)	355	0	0	0%
	8.5	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.0m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	8.6	Nifer o weithgareddiadau ar gyfer fuddsoddiadau mewn technoleg coedwigaeth a prosesu cynradd/marchnata (8.6)	100	0	0	0%
	8.6	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat) (8.6)	£16.7m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	8.6	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£6.7m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	16	Nifer o weithrediadau cydweithredu a gefnogwyd (dim EIP)	105	0	0	0%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.9m	£0.1m	£0.0m	0%

Ffynhonell: SCEC, 31-03-2018

Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 5(d) Lleihau ocsid nitraidd a methan o amaethyddiaeth	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Nifer y cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	260	260	128	49%
	1.1	Nifer o ddiwrnodau hyfforddiant a roddwyd	208	208	119	57%
	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Cyfanswm wariant cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant/sgiliau	£0.07m	£0.08m	£0.03m	52%
	1.2	Nifer o weithrediadau arddangos / camau gwybodaeth a gefnogwyd	36	36	34	94%
	1.3	Nifer o weithrediadau cyfnewid fferm a gefnogwyd	1	1	0.4	44%
	1.1 -1.3	Cyfanswm wariant cyhoeddus £ (hyfforddiant, cyfnewidiadau fferm, arddangos)	£0.9m	£1.1m	£0.3m	38%
	2.1	Nifer o fuddiolwyr a gynghorwyd	988	588	111	11%
	2.3	Nifer o gynghorwyr a hyfforddwyd	7	52	0	0%
	2.1 - 2.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£1.8m	£1.7m	£0.2m	13%
	4.1, 4.3 & 4.4	Nifer o weithrediadau a gefnogwyd ar gyfer fuddsoddiad (ee storio tail, triniaeth tail) (4.1, 4,4 and 4.3)	4,893	150	483	10%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat)	£8.3m	£0.1m	£0.8m	9%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£3.4m	£0.1m	£0.8m	23%
	10.1	Arwynebedd (ha) (ee gorchudd gwyrdd, is-gnwd, ffrwythloni llai, dad-ddwysai…)	59,807	59,807	2,799	5%
	10.1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£9.4m	£11.7m	£3.5m	37%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.2m	£0.2m	£0.0m	0%

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Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 5(e) Meithrin dal a storio carbon ym maes amaethyddiaeth a choedwigaeth	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Nifer y cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	260	260	128	49%
	1.1	Nifer o ddiwrnodau hyfforddiant a rhoddwyd	208	208	119.1875	57%
	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant/sgiliau	£0.07m	£0.08m	£0.03m	52%
	1.2	Nifer o weithrediadau arddangos / camau gwybodaeth a gefnogwyd	36	36	33.68	94%
	1.3	Nifer o weithrediadau cyfnewid fferm a gefnogwyd	1	1	0.44	44%
	1.1 -1.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (hyfforddiant, cyfnewidiadau fferm, arddangos)	£0.9m	£1.1m	£0.3m	38%
	2.1	Nifer o fuddiolwyr a gynghorwyd	786	76	14.3601	2%
	2.3	Nifer y gynghorwyr a hyfforddwyd	1	7	0	0%
	2.1 - 2.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£1.1m	£0.2m	£0.0m	3%
	4.4	Nifer o weithrediadau a gefnogwyd mewn fuddsoddiad anghynhyrchiol (4.4)	4,900.00	151.00	2,923.00	60%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat)	£0.3m	£0.4m	£1.1m	363%
	4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.3m	£0.4m	£1.1m	363%
	8.1	Arwynebedd (ha) i gael ei goedwigo (sefydliad yn uig- 8.1)	832	832	219	26%
	8.1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£5.9m	£4.4m	£2.0m	34%
	8.2	Arwynebedd (ha) i'w sefydlu mewn systemau amaeth-coedwigaeth (8.2)	50	50	0	0%
	8.2	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.03m	£0.20m	£0.00m	0%
	8.3	Nifer o fuddiolwyr ar gyfer camau gweithredu ataliol	1	0	0	0%
	8.3	Arwynebedd a gefnogwyd (ha)	225,000	0	0	0%
	8.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (8.3)	£0.8m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	8.4	Nifer y fuddiolwyr a gefnogwyd	184	184	144	78%
	8.4	Arwynebedd a gefnogwyd (ha)	1,781	1,781	898	50%
	8.4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (8.4)	£4.0m	£4.0m	£1.4m	35%
	8.5	Nifer y weithrediadau (fuddsoddiadau ar gyfer gwella gwydnwch a gwerth ecosystemau coedwigaeth) (8.5)	393	393	30	8%
	8.5	Ardaloedd sy'n gysylltiedig a buddsoddiadau gwella gwydnwch a gwerth amgylcheddol ecosystemau coedwigoedd (8.5)	4,900	3,000	0	0%
	8.5	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (8.5)	£2.6m	£2.7m	£0.1m	3%
	10.1	Arwynebedd ffisegol (ha) o dan hinsawdd amaeth-amgylchedd ar gyfer dal a storio carbon	3,022	1,140	1,826	60%
	10.1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.8m	£1.1m	£0.4m	51%
	16	Nifer y gweithgariadau cydwethredu a gefnogwyd (dim EIP)	200	0	0	0%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.5m	£0.2m	£0.0m	0%

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MAES CANOLBWYNTIO 5B

62. Mae Cyswllt Ffermio (Mesurau 1 a 2), y Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy a'r Cynllun Grant Busnes i Ffermydd (Mesur 4.1) a Phartneriaeth Arloesi Ewrop (Mesur 16.1) i gyd wedi'u rhaglenni o dan Faes Canolbwyntio 5b.

63. Mae'r cynnydd o dan Cyswllt Ffermio a Phartneriaeth Arloesi Ewrop i'w weld yn yr adran ar Flaenoriaeth 1. Mae diweddariad ar y Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy a'r Cynllun Grant Busnes i Ffermydd i'w weld yn yr adran ar Flaenoriaeth 2.

MAES CANOLBWYNTIO 5C

Mesur 7

Cronfa Datblygu Cymunedau Gwledig (RCDF)

64. Disgwylir i'r ffenestr ar gyfer cyflwyno datganiadau o ddiddordeb ar gyfer y RCDF nesaf agor ar 5 Ebrill 2018 a bydd yn cau ar 7 Mehefin 2018. Ni wnaed unrhyw newidiadau i'r meini prawf dethol. Mae gan y ffenestr hon werth dangosol o £1.5m.

65. Datgan o ddiddordeb - Hyd yma, mae chwech o rowndiau o RCDF wedi'i chynnal/wedi'u cynnal. Mae chwech o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws 5c sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £0.6m o grantiau yn ystod y cam Datgan Diddordeb. O'r rhain;

    - Mae 6 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £0.5m o grantiau
    - Mae 4 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 1 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £33k
    - Nid oes unrhyw wariant hyd yn hyn
    - Mae 3 o geisiadau wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £0.3m o grantiau

Mesur 16.8

Cynllun Cydweithio i Gynllunio Coedwigaeth (CFPS)

66. Agorodd y ffenestr ar gyfer cyflwyno datganiadau o ddiddordeb ar gyfer yr ail Gynllun Cydweithio i Gynllunio Coedwigaeth ar 23 Hydref 2017 a bydd yn cau ar 30 Ebrill 2018. Gwnaed newid bach i'r meini prawf dethol er mwyn caniatáu prosiectau a fyddai'n darparu data a fydd yn ddefnyddiol i'r Rhaglen ar gyfer Monitro a Modelu'r Amgylchedd ac Adnoddau Naturiol (ERAMMP), sef olynydd GMEP. Mae gan y ffenestr hon werth dangosol o £300k.

67. Datgan o ddiddordeb - Hyd yma, mae un rownd CFPS wedi'i chynnal/wedi'u cynnal. Mae dau o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws 5c sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £0.2m. Mae'r ddau cais llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £0.3m o grantiau ond nid yw'r arfarniad wedi'u cwblhau eto.

MAES CANOLBWYNTIO 5D

68. Gellir gweld cynnydd ar gyfer cynlluniau Glastir, sy'n cael eu cyflawni o dan flaenoriaeth 5, o dan flaenoriaeth 4.

69. Mae Cyswllt Ffermio (Mesurau 1 a 2), y Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy a'r Cynllun Grant Busnes i Ffermydd (Mesur 4.1) a Phartneriaeth Arloesi Ewrop (Mesur 16.1) i gyd wedi'u rhaglenni o dan Faes Canolbwyntio 5e.

70. Mae'r cynnydd o dan Cyswllt Ffermio a Phartneriaeth Arloesi Ewrop i'w weld yn yr adran ar Flaenoriaeth 1. Mae diweddariad ar y Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy a'r Cynllun Grant Busnes i Ffermydd i'w weld yn yr adran ar Flaenoriaeth 2.

MAES CANOLBWYNTIO 5E

71. Gellir gweld cynnydd ar gyfer cynlluniau Glastir sy'n cael eu cyflawni o dan flaenoriaeth 5 o dan flaenoriaeth 4.

72. Mae Cyswllt Ffermio (Mesurau 1 a 2), y Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy a'r Cynllun Grant Busnes i Ffermydd (Mesur 4.1), Phartneriaeth Arloesi Ewrop (Mesur 16.1) a Cynllun Cydweithio i Gynllunio Coedwigaeth (Mesur 16.8) i gyd wedi'u rhaglenni o dan Faes Canolbwyntio 5e.

73. Mae'r cynnydd o dan Cyswllt Ffermio a Phartneriaeth Arloesi Ewrop i'w weld yn yr adran ar Flaenoriaeth 1. Mae diweddariad ar y Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy a'r Cynllun Grant Busnes i Ffermydd i'w weld yn yr adran ar Flaenoriaeth 2 a mae diweddariad ar y Cynllun Cydweithio i Gynllunio Coedwigaeth i'w weld yn yr adran ar Flaenoriaeth 5, Maes Canolbwyntio 5c.

Blaenoriaeth 6: Hyrwyddo cynhwysiant cymdeithasol, gwaith i leihau tlodi a datblygu'r economi mewn ardaloedd gwledig

Tabl 7: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 6(a) Hwyluso arallgyfeirio, creu mentrau bach newydd a chreu swyddi	2.1	Nifer o fuddiolwyr a gynghorwyd	168	168	32	19%
	2.3	Nifer o gynghorwyr a hyfforddwyd	15	15	0	0%
	2.1 - 2.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.4m	£0.5m	£0.1m	17%
	6.2 + 6.4	Nifer o fuddiolwyr (daliadau) yn derbyn cymorth cychwyn/cefnogaeth ar gyfer fuddsoddiad mewn wweithgareddau nad ydynt yn amaethyddol mewn ardaloedd gwledig (6.2 and 6.4)	420	140	0	0%
	6	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat)	£43.1m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	6	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£19.5m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	8.5	Nifer o weithgareddiadau (fuddsoddiadau i wella cydnerthu a werth systemau eco coedwigaeth (8.5)	76	0	0	0%
	8.5	Ardaloedd sy'n gysylltiedig a fuddsoddiadau gwella gwydnwch a gwerth amgylcheddol ecosystemau coedwigoedd (8.5)	760	0	0	0%
	8.5	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.1m	£0.0m	£0.0m	0%
	8.6	Nifer o weithrediadau ar gyfer fuddsoddiadau mewn technoleg coedwigaeth a prosesu cynradd/marchnata (8.6)	20	5	5	25%
	8.6	Cyfanswm gwariant £ (cyhoeddus a preifat) (8.6)	£3.3m	£1.6m	£0.4m	12%
	8.6	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (8.6)	£1.3m	£0.6m	£0.4m	29%
	16	Nifer y weithrediadau cydweithredu a gefnogwyd (dim EIP)	106	0	0	0%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£0.3m	£0.0m	£0.0m	5%
	6.2, 6.4, 8.6	Nifer o swyddi a grewyd	765	635	0	0%

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Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 6(b) Meithrin datblygiadau lleol mewn ardaloedd gwledig	7.1	Nifer o weithrediadau a gefnogodd cymorth ar gyfer llunio datblygiad pentref a chynlluniau rheoli ardal N2000/HNV	100	0	0	0%
	7.2	Nifer o weithrediadau a gefnogodd cymorth ar gyfer fuddsoddiadau mewn seilwaith ar raddfa fechan, yn cynnwys seilwaith ynni adnewyddadwy	56	1	0	0%
	7.4	Nifer o weithrediadau a gefnogodd cymorth ar gyfer fuddsoddiadau mewn gwasanaethau sylfaenol ar gyfer y boblogaeth wledig	168	21	2	1%
	7.5	Nifer o weithrediadau a gefnogodd cymorth ar gyfer fuddsoddiadau mewn seilwaith hamdden/twristiaeth	150	1556	0	0%
	7.6	Nifer o weithrediadau a gefnogodd cymorth ar gyfer astudiaethau/fuddsoddiadau mewn treftadaeth diwydiannol a naturiol, gan gynnwys safleoedd HNV	80	5	0	0%
	7.7	Nifer o weithrediadau a gefnogodd cymorth ar gyfer fuddsoddiadau mewn adleoli gweithgareddau ar gyfer rhesymau amgylcheddol/ansawdd bywyd	50	0	0	0%
	7.1, 7.2, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7	Poblogaeth yn elwa o gwasanaethau well/seilweithiau	1,381,745	266,672	16,720	1%
	7	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£41.2m	£7.9m	£1.0m	2%
	19	Nifer o Grwpiau Gweithredu Lleol a ddewiswyd	18	18	18	100%
	19	Nifer o prosiectau a gefnodwyd	54	54	0	0%
	19	Nifer oprosiectau cydweithredu a gefnogwyd	27	29	0	0%
	19	Poblogaeth a gynnwyswyd gan Grwpiau Gweithredu Lleol	1,381,745	1,381,745	1,381,745	100%
	19.1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ cymorth paratoadol	£0.04m	£0.05m	£0.05m	115%
	19.2	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ ar gyfer gweithredu gweithrediadau o dan strategaeth CLLD	£33.2m	£32.4m	£3.0m	9%
	19.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ paratoi a weithredu cynlluniau weithgareddau cydweithredu grwpiau gweithredu lleol	£3.3m	£3.4m	£0.1m	3%
	19.4	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ ar gyfer costau rhedeg ac animeiddio	£11.1m	£11.8m	£3.5m	32%
	16	Nifer o weithgariadau cydwethredu a gefnogwyd (dim EIP)	216	57	4	2%
	16	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£51.6m	£0.0m	£3.7m	7%
	7 + 19	Nifer o swyddi a grewyd	100	85	0	0%

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Maes Canolbwyntio	Mesur	Allbynnau	Targed	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd Hyd yn Hyn	
FA 6(c)Gwella hygyrchedd i ddefnydd ac ansawdd gwybodaeth a technolegau chyfathrebu (TGCh) mewn ardaloedd gwledig	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Nifer o cyfranogwyr mewn hyfforddiant	130	130	64	49%
	1.1	Nifer o ddiwrnodau hyfforddiant a roddwyd	104	104	59.59375	57%
	1.1	Caffaeliad hyfforddiant/sgiliau - Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus ar gyfer hyfforddiant/sgiliau	£0.03m	£0.04m	£0.02m	52%
	1.1 -1.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £ (hyfforddiant, cyfnewidiadau fferm, arddangos)	£0.4m	£0.6m	£0.2m	38%
	7.3	Nifer o weithrediadau ar gyfer fuddsoddiadau mewn seilwaith band eang, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau e-llywodraeth (7.3)	49	0	0	0%
	7.3	Poblogaeth yn elwa o seilwaith TG newydd neu gwell (ee rhyngrwyd band eang)	500,000	0	0	0%
	7.3	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus £	£2.5m	£0.06m	£0.00m	0%

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MAES CANOLBWYNTIO 6A

Mesur 6.2

74. Ein bwriad yw dileu'r mesur hwn o'r Rhaglen yn y diwygiad nesaf.

Mesur 6.4

Y Cynllun Buddsoddi mewn Busnesau Gwledig - Bwyd (RBIS)

75. Caewyd y ffenestr ar gyfer cyflwyno datganiadau o ddiddordeb ar gyfer y Cynllun Buddsoddi mewn Busnesau Gwledig – Bwyd cyntaf ar 1 Tachwedd 2017 a gwahoddwyd naw ymgeisydd i gyflwyno cais llawn gyda gwariant arfaethedig o £895k ar y prosiectau. Caewyd y ffenestr ar gyfer cyflwyno datganiadau o ddiddordeb ar gyfer yr ail Gynllun Buddsoddi mewn Busnesau Gwledig – Bwyd ar 24 Ionawr 2018 a gwahoddwyd naw ymgeisydd i gyflwyno cais llawn gyda gwariant arfaethedig o £503k ar y prosiectau. Agorodd y ffenestr ar gyfer cyflwyno datganiadau o ddiddordeb ar gyfer y trydydd Cynllun Buddsoddi mewn Busnesau Gwledig – Bwyd ar 6 Mawrth 2018 a chaeodd ar 10 Ebrill 2018. Ni wnaed unrhyw newidiadau i'r meini prawf dethol. Mae gan y ffenestr hon werth dangosol o £300k.

Cronfa Fusnes Micro Bychan (MSBF)

76. Agorodd y Gronfa Microfusnesau a Busnesau Bach ar 17 Mai 2017. Bydd y cynllun hwn yn targedu busnesau yn y sector preifat er mwyn cefnogi cynhyrchion twristiaeth â blaenoriaeth, gan gynnwys y canlynol: cynhyrchion llety â gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, hunanarlwyo, parciau gwersylla a charafanio, bwytai cyrchfan, atyniadau i ymwelwyr a chynhyrchion gweithgareddau. Bydd y cynllun yn targedu prosiectau cyfalaf twristiaeth hyfyw a chynaliadwy yn y sector preifat sy'n cefnogi ymdrechion i ddatblygu

cynhyrchion twristiaeth â blaenoriaeth ac yn creu ac yn diogelu swyddi mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

77. Gellir gwneud ymholiadau drwy gydol y cyfnod rhwng 2017 a 2020. Ceir proses gwneud cais dau gam sy'n cynnwys Holiadur Gwybodaeth wedi'i ddilyn gan gais prosiect (os bydd y prosiect yn gymwys). Caiff ceisiadau eu harfarnu'n fewnol gan un o swyddogion achos Croeso Cymru a'u hadolygu gan banel buddsoddi annibynnol yn unol â'r meini prawf arfarnu. Caiff prosiectau llwyddiannus eu hargymell i Weinidogion eu hystyried a phenderfynu arnynt. Hyd yma;

    - Cafwyd 229 o ymholiadau
    - Gwahoddwyd 37 o brosiectau i gyflwyno cais llawn
    - Cymeradwywyd 13 o brosiectau gwerth £978k
    - Rhagwelir y caiff 105.5 o swyddi eu creu ac y caiff 15.5 o swyddi eu diogelu

Mesur 8.6

Cynllun Buddsoddi mewn Busnesau Pren (TBIS)

78. Agorodd y ffenestr ar gyfer cyflwyno datganiadau o ddiddordeb ar gyfer y trydydd Cynllun Buddsoddi mewn Busnesau Pren ar 1 Chwefror 2018 a bydd yn cau ar 30 Ebrill 2018. Ni wnaed unrhyw newidiadau i'r meini prawf dethol. Mae gan y ffenestr hon werth dangosol o £1m.

79. Datgan o ddiddordeb - Hyd yma, mae dau o rowndiau o TBIS wedi'i chynnal/wedi'u cynnal. Mae 60 o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws 6a sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £3.8m o grantiau yn ystod y cam Datgan Diddordeb. O'r rhain;

    - Mae 37 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £2.4m o grantiau
    - Mae 24 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 14 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £1.2m
    - Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £0.4m
    - Mae 10 o geisiadau wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £0.7m o grantiau

MAES CANOLBWYNTIO 6B

Mesur 7

Cronfa Datblygu Cymunedau Gwledig (RCDF)

80. Gweler Maes Ffocws 5c ar gyfer diweddariad ffenestr EOI

81. Datgan o ddiddordeb - Hyd yma, mae chwech o rowndiau o RCDF wedi'i chynnal/wedi'u cynnal. Mae 233 o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws 6b sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £23.3m o grantiau yn ystod y cam Datgan Diddordeb. O'r rhain;

    - Mae 191 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £15.8m o grantiau
    - Mae 128 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 81 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £7.6m
    - Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £1.0m
    - Mae 47 o geisiadau wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £4.6m o grantiau

82. Gweler Maes Ffocws 6c ar gyfer diweddariad RCDF Mesur 7.3 (band eang)

Mesur 7.5

Cymorth Buddsoddi mewn Amwynderau Twristiaeth (TAIS)

83. Agorodd y Cynllun Cymorth Buddsoddi mewn Amwynderau Twristiaeth ar 17 Mai 2017. Bydd y cynllun yn cefnogi buddsoddiadau mewn seilwaith hamdden a thwristiaeth sy'n dangos cysylltiadau clir â rhagolygon iechyd, addysg neu gyflogaeth i bobl sy'n byw yn yr ardaloedd o Gymru lle ceir y boblogaeth fwyaf gwasgaredig. Yn benodol, bwriedir i'r gweithgaredd hwn gyfrannu at fynd i'r afael â thlodi gwledig a gwella ansawdd bywyd i deuluoedd ar incwm isel ac mae'n ategu gweithgarwch y Gronfa Microfusnesau a Busnesau Bach o dan Fesur 6.4.

84. Bydd y rhaglen hon yn gwneud galwad am geisiadau bob blwyddyn tan 2020. Ceir proses gwneud cais dau gam sy'n cynnwys Holiadur Gwybodaeth wedi'i ddilyn gan gais prosiect (os bydd y prosiect yn gymwys). Caiff ceisiadau eu harfarnu'n fewnol gan un o swyddogion achos Croeso Cymru a'u hadolygu gan banel buddsoddi annibynnol yn unol â'r meini prawf arfarnu. Caiff prosiectau llwyddiannus eu hargymell i Weinidogion eu hystyried a phenderfynu arnynt. O ganlyniad i alwad lwyddiannus yn y flwyddyn gyntaf;

    - Cafwyd 89 o ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb gwerth cyfanswm o £7.5m
    - Gwahoddwyd 38 o brosiectau i gyflwyno cais llawn
    - Cafwyd 31 o geisiadau llawn gwerth cyfanswm o £2.9m
    - Cymeradwywyd 26 o brosiectau gwerth £2.4m

Mesur 16.2

Cynllun Datblygu Cadwyni Cyflenwi a Chydweithio (C&SCDS)

85. Datgan o ddiddordeb - Hyd yma, mae pedwar o rowndiau o C&SCDS wedi'i chynnal/wedi'u cynnal. Mae 44 o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws 6b sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £20.3m o grantiau yn ystod y cam Datgan Diddordeb. O'r rhain;

    - Mae 38 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £18.2m o grantiau
    - Mae 31 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 24 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £11.0m
    - Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £2.0m
    - Mae 7 o geisiadau wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £3.2m o grantiau

86. Ceisiadau Uniongyrchol - Yn ogystal, o dan Faes Ffocws 6b, mae deg o geisiadau uniongyrchol wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn, gan ymrwymo gwerth £72.7m o grantiau. O'r rhain;

    - Mae 8 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £57.0m o grantiau
    - Mae 5 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 3 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £21.0m
    - Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £100k
    - Mae 2 o geisiadau wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £36.0m o grantiau

Mesur 16.3

Regional Tourism Network and Marketing Support

87. Mae Croeso Cymru wedi cyflwyno ei gais cyntaf am wariant hyd at 31 Mawrth 2017 gwerth £1.6m ar gyfer yr ymgyrch hysbysebion teledu 'Blwyddyn y Chwedlau'. Cyflwynir y cais nesaf gwerth £1.6m ym mis Ebrill 2018 ar gyfer gwariant hyd at 31 Mawrth 2018. Bydd y cais hwn yn ymwneud â'r ymgyrch hysbysebion teledu 'Blwyddyn y Môr'.

88. Mae elfen Cronfa Ymgysylltu Twristiaeth Ranbarthol / Cronfa Arloesi Cynnyrch Twristiaeth y cynllun hwn yn rhaglen sy'n gwneud galwad am geisiadau bob blwyddyn, a lansiwyd y cylch cyllid cyntaf ar 26 Hydref 2017. Gofynnwyd am ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb a nodwyd dyddiad cau o 24 Tachwedd 2017 (gyda cheisiadau gwariant llawn i'w cwblhau erbyn mis Mawrth 2019). Ceir proses gwneud cais dau gam sy'n cynnwys archwilio datganiadau o ddiddordeb er mwyn sicrhau cymhwysedd wedi'i ddilyn gan gais prosiect. Caiff ceisiadau eu hystyried gan banel buddsoddi annibynnol yn

unol â'r meini prawf arfarnu. Caiff prosiectau llwyddiannus eu hargymell i Weinidogion eu hystyried a phenderfynu arnynt. O ganlyniad i gylch cyntaf llwyddiannus;

- Cafwyd 89 o ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb gwerth cyfanswm o £6.1m
- Gwahoddwyd 48 o brosiectau i gyflwyno cais llawn
- Cafwyd 42 o geisiadau llawn gwerth cyfanswm o £2.4m

Mesur 19

LEADER

89. Hyd hyn mae 75 o geisiadau llawn wedi cael eu cyflwyno gan y 18 o Grwpiau Gweithredu Lleol ar gyfer LEADER o dan Fesurau 19.1, 19.2, 19.3 ac 19.4 gyda chyfanswm gwerth grant o £47.6m. Dewiswyd y Grwpiau Gweithredu Lleol yn y lle cyntaf drwy broses gystadleuol a oedd yn cynnwys datganiad o ddiddordeb a chais llawn. Mae gwariant hyd yn hyn yn £6.6m.

MAES CANOLBWYNTIO 6C

Mesur 7.3

Cronfa Datblygu Cymunedau Gwledig (RCDF)

90. Gweler Maes Ffocws 5c ar gyfer diweddariad ffenestr EOI.

91. Datgan o ddiddordeb - Hyd yma, mae chwech o rowndiau o RCDF wedi'i chynnal/wedi'u cynnal. Mae chwech o Ddatganiadau o Ddiddordeb wedi'u gwahodd i gyflwyno cais llawn o dan Faes Ffocws 6c sy'n golygu ymrwymiad o £0.5m o grantiau yn ystod y cam Datgan Diddordeb. O'r rhain;

    - Mae 6 o geisiadau llawn wedi cyrraedd, yn gofyn am £0.5m o grantiau
    - Mae 5 o arfarniadau wedi'u cynnal gan gymeradwyo 4 o geisiadau a grantiau gwerth £0.4m
    - Nid oes unrhyw wariant hyd yn hyn
    - Mae 1 o geisiadau wedi'u dynnu'n ôl/gwrthod, gwerth £16k o grantiau

Adran 3: Cymorth Technegol

Tabl 8: Cynnydd yn erbyn dangosyddion

Mesur	Allbynnau	Dyraniad	Rhagolwg	Cyflawnwyd	Hyd yn Hyn
20.1	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m)	£0.0m	£26.4m	£7.2m	0.25110606
20.2	Cyfanswm gwariant cyhoeddus (£'m)	£0.0m	£2.4m	£0.2m	9%
Mesur	**Allbynnau**	**Targed**	**Rhagolwg**	**Cyflawnwyd**	**Hyd yn Hyn**
20.2	Nifer y cyfnewidfeydd thematig a dadansoddol a sefydlwyd gyda chefnogaeth y NRN yn ôl y math	25	25	27	108%
20.2	Nifer o offer cyfathrebu NRN	230	230	593	258%
20.2	Nifer y gweithgareddau ENRD lle mae'r NRN wedi cymryd rhan ynddynt	10	10	15	150%

Ffynhonell: SCEC, 31-03-2018

92. Mae pob un o'r wyth prosiect bellach wedi'u cymeradwyo o dan Cymorth Technegol. Mae'r prosiectau yn cyflawni'n unol â'r disgwyl a hawliwyd cyfanswm gwariant o £7.4m erbyn diwedd mis Mawrth 2018. Nid yw dau brosiect wedi cyflwyno eu hawliadau cyntaf eto. Disgwylir iddynt eu cyflwyno ym mis Mai 2018.

93. Gwahoddwyd prosiectau Cymorth Technegol i ail-werthuso eu gweithgareddau a chwblheir yr ymarfer hwn yn ystod y misoedd nesaf. Bydd newidiadau yn cynnwys costau wedi'u diweddaru a'u symleiddio ac estyniadau i brosiectau presennol er mwyn cwmpasu cyfnod cyfan y rhaglen.

Rhaglen	**ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd**	Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Blaenoriaeth	Prif Fuddiolwr	Gweithrediad	Cyfanswm y fuddsoddiad (£m)	Ymrwymiad Grant UE (£m)
1	Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus Ltd	Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AIEC)	30.6	20.0
	Aberystwyth University	BEACON Plus	12.0	7.9
		Geographical Data and Earth Observation for Monitoring (GEOM)	3.7	2.3
	Bangor University	M-Sparc	20.2	10.2
		SEACAMS 2	17.1	12.0
		Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	7.6	5.0
		Shellfish Centre RDandI	4.0	2.8
	Cardiff University	FLEXIS West	14.6	9.6
		Supercomputing Wales WWV	8.0	5.3
	Swansea University	ASTUTE 2020	14.7	10.0
		Computational Foundry	25.9	17.1
		IMPACT	35.0	17.4
		AgorIP West Wales and the Valleys	13.5	4.7
		Solar Photovoltaic Academic Research Consortium (SPARC II)	7.2	4.8
		SMARTAQUA	2.0	1.4
		Reduced Industrial Carbon Emissions (RICE)	9.2	6.0
		SPECIFIC 2	26.3	15.0
	TWI Ltd	Advanced Engineering and Materials Research Institute	12.9	7.5
	University of South Wales	CEMET Centre of Excellence in Mobile and Emerging Technology WWV	6.5	4.3
		Smart Energy Storage Solutions Hub (SESS)	3.6	2.4
	University of Wales Trinity Saint David	Advanced Design Engineering (West Wales and the Valleys)	1.9	1.2
	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	Ser Cymru II (West Wales and the Valleys)	20.6	14.7
		SMART Expertise (West Wales and the Valleys)	33.8	21.2
		SMARTCymru (West Wales and the Valleys)	34.0	15.1
		SMARTInnovation (West Wales and the Valleys)	11.3	7.5
	Life Sciences Hub Wales Ltd	ACCELERATE - Welsh Health Innovation Tech Accelerator (WWandV)	13.4	7.0
1 Cyfanswm			**389.5**	**232.2**
2	Wales Co operative Centre	Social Business Wales West Wales and the Valleys	8.9	5.2
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	Social Business Growth Fund WWV	3.0	1.8
	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	Entrepreneurship Support - Business Wales (West Wales)	31.0	18.6
		SME Support - Business Wales (West Wales and The Valleys)	33.3	20.0
		Superfast Broadband Business Exploitation West Wales and Valleys	8.6	5.2
	Development Bank of Wales Plc	Wales Business Fund (Supported by ERDF) WWV 2.1 FI	149.6	74.8
		Wales Business Fund (Supported by ERDF) WWV 2.5 FI	41.4	20.7
2 Cyfanswm			**275.8**	**146.4**
3	Bridgend County Borough Council	Caerau Heat Scheme	9.4	6.5
	Marine Power Systems Limited	WaveSub	4.6	3.2
	Menter Mon	Morlais Consent and Development	5.6	4.2
	Minesto UK LTD	Deep Green	24.2	10.4
	Wave Hub Limited	South Pembrokeshire Wave Energy Demonstration Zone - Feasibility	0.4	0.3
	Wave-Tricity Limited	Ocean Wave Rower	5.9	4.1
	WAG The Economic Development Group within DEandT	Arbed 3 WWV	28.4	19.7
	Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum CiC	Marine Energy Test Area META	1.9	1.2
3 Cyfanswm			**80.4**	**49.6**

Rhaglen	**ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd**	Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Blaenoriaeth	Prif Fuddiolwr	Gweithrediad	Cyfanswm y fuddsoddiad (£m)	Ymrwymiad Grant UE (£m)
4	Aberystwyth University	Vet Hub 1	4.2	3.0
	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Lime Avenue Business Park	6.5	2.6
	Bridgend County Borough Council	Bridgend Enterprise Hub Development	3.9	2.6
	Caerphilly County Borough Council	The Lawns Rhymney	2.0	1.3
		Ty Du Strategic Development Site	2.0	1.3
	Conwy County Borough Council	Penmaen Road Employment Site Conwy Morfa	3.6	1.5
	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	Port Talbot Transport Hub	5.1	2.4
		Harbourside Strategic Employment Site	5.3	3.5
		Swansea Bay Technology Centre	8.5	3.0
	Pembrokeshire County Council	Withybush Food Park Infrastructure, Haverfordwest	2.0	1.0
	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	Property Infrastructure Fund	20.0	7.0
		Strategic Employment Sites	20.8	11.6
		Superfast Broadband Infill West Wales and Valleys	21.1	13.8
		Tourism Attractor Destinations	84.8	27.7
		Ultrafast Broadband West Wales and Valleys	9.2	6.0
		Wales Station Improvement Programme Phase 2	22.1	16.4
		A55 Abergwyngregyn to Tai'r Meibion	22.4	14.9
		A55 Junctions 15 and 16	40.0	26.3
		Property for Business Development Grant (PBDG)	20.0	7.0
		A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin	35.0	23.0
		A40 Improvement Programme	48.8	26.8
	WG - Department of Local Government and Communities	Building for the Future	112.6	38.0
	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Llangefni Strategic Employment Site	8.6	4.2
		Holyhead Strategic Employment Site	3.9	2.3
	City and County of Swansea	The Kingsway	12.7	4.5
	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	Robertstown Modern Industrial Units	3.9	2.6
		Coed Ely - Development	3.9	2.6
4 Cyfanswm			**532.8**	**256.9**
5	Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Regional Engagement Team ERDF WWV	0.4	0.3
	Carmarthenshire County Council	Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team ERDF	0.6	0.5
	Ceredigion County Council	Mid Wales Regional Engagement Team ERDF WWV	0.3	0.3
	Conwy County Borough Council	North Wales Regional Engagement Team ERDF WWV	0.5	0.3
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	IB and 3-SET ERDF WWV	2.4	1.3
	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	IB WG E and I TA Revenue WWV	3.4	3.0
	WAG DEandT WEFO	WEFO TA ERDF WWV	18.6	13.8
5 Cyfanswm			**26.4**	**19.5**
Cyfanswm Cymeradwywyd			**1,304.9**	**704.6**

Rhaglen	**ERDF Dwyrain Cymru**	Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Blaenoriaeth	Prif Fuddiolwr	Gweithrediad	Cyfanswm y fuddsoddiad (£m)	Ymrwymiad Grant UE (£m)
1	Cardiff University	Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre II (CUBRIC I	16.2	4.6
		FLEXIS East	9.8	5.6
		Institute for Compound Semiconductor	32.7	13.1
		Supercomputing Wales East Wales	6.7	3.7
		Data Innovation Accelerator (DIA)	3.5	1.9
	Swansea University	ASTUTE East	8.0	4.0
		Avenues of Commercialisation for Nano and Micro Technologie	3.3	1.8
	University of Wales Trinity Saint David	Advanced Design Engineering (East Wales)	0.9	0.4
	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	Ser Cymru II (East Wales)	18.5	8.0
		SMART Expertise (East Wales)	17.5	9.1
		SMARTCymru (East Wales)	29.4	12.3
		SMARTInnovation (East Wales)	7.6	3.8
	Life Sciences Hub Wales Ltd	ACCELERATE - Welsh Health Innovation Tech Accelerator (E	10.6	5.3
1 Cyfanswm			**164.6**	**73.6**
2	Wales Co operative Centre	Social Business Wales East Wales	2.2	1.1
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	Social Business Growth Fund EW	1.0	0.5
	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	Entrepreneurship Support - Business Wales (East Wales)	10.3	6.2
		SME Support - Business Wales (East Wales)	11.1	6.7
		Superfast Broadband Business Exploitation East Wales	3.5	1.7
	Development Bank of Wales Plc	Wales Business Fund (Supported by ERDF) EW 2.1 FI	22.3	9.9
		Wales Business Fund (Supported by ERDF) EW 2.5 FI	12.7	5.5
2 Cyfanswm			**63.2**	**31.6**
3	WAG The Economic Development Group within DEandT	Arbed 3 EW	7.1	3.6
3 Cyfanswm			**7.1**	**3.6**
4	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	Superfast Broadband Infill East Wales	14.2	7.1
		Ultrafast Broadband East Wales	4.4	2.2
		Metro Phase 1 Llandaf North and Radyr Station Improvements	3.0	1.5
4 Cyfanswm			**21.6**	**10.8**
5	Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Regional Engagement Team ERDF EW	0.1	0.0
	Ceredigion County Council	Mid Wales Regional Engagement Team ERDF EW	0.1	0.0
	Conwy County Borough Council	North Wales Regional Engagement Team ERDF EW	0.1	0.0
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	IB and 3-SET ERDF EW	0.6	0.3
	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	IB WG E and I TA Revenue EW	2.8	0.8
	WAG DEandT WEFO	WEFO TA ERDF EW	3.4	1.7
5 Cyfanswm			**7.0**	**2.8**
Cyfanswm Cymeradwywyd			**263.5**	**122.4**

Rhaglen	**ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd**	Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Blaenoriaeth	Prif Fuddiolwr	Gweithrediad	Cyfanswm y fuddsoddiad (£m)	Ymrwymiad Grant UE (£m)
1	Conwy County Borough Council	OPUS (WWV)	5.9	4.8
	Gower College Swansea	Better Jobs, Better Futures.... For the Over 25s	1.9	1.6
	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	Workways II	21.0	17.4
	SOVA	Sova - Achieving Change through Employment -ACE	1.5	1.1
	Torfaen County Borough Council	Bridges2Work	11.0	8.5
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	Active Inclusion Wales	15.1	11.6
	WG - Department for Education and Skills	ReACT III	45.7	33.9
	WG - Department for Health and Social Services	HWW - Out of Work Service WWV	8.9	6.7
		Together for a Healthy Working Wales (In-Work Service)	4.8	3.3
	WG - Department of Local Government and Communities	Communities4Work	38.4	24.6
		Parents, Childcare and Employment (PaCE)	6.8	4.8
1 Cyfanswm			**160.9**	**118.3**
2	Bangor University	KESS II	39.9	28.7
	Chwarae Teg	Agile Nation 2 WWV	7.3	5.6
	Coleg Cambria	Skills for Employers and Employees WWV SO1	6.3	4.6
		Skills for Employers and Employees WWV SO2	4.3	3.1
	Coleg Y Cymoedd	Upskilling At Work SO1 WWV	4.1	2.9
		Upskilling At Work SO2 WWV	5.2	3.3
	Gower College Swansea	Skills for Industry 2 SO 2	8.9	6.2
		Skills for Industry 2 SO1	8.0	5.6
		Better Jobs, Better Futures… for Women in Employment	1.1	0.8
	Grwp Llandrillo-Menai	North Wales Business Academy Project (NWBA) WWV	2.7	2.0
	Swansea University	Leading Business Growth West Wales	5.1	3.7
		Materials and Manufacturing Academy	20.7	13.8
		METAL 2	3.5	2.5
	Torfaen County Borough Council	Working Skills for Adults II	5.3	3.8
	University of Wales Trinity Saint David	Growing Workforces Through Learning and Development (GWLAD)	3.1	2.0
	WG - Department for Education and Skills	Apprenticeships	175.5	103.1
		Apprenticeships Skills Enhancement Programme I	128.6	71.6
2 Cyfanswm			**429.7**	**263.1**
3	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Inspire 2 Achieve WWV	18.9	14.0
		Inspire 2 Work WWV	7.3	5.4
	Denbighshire County Borough Council	TRAC 11-24 West	24.6	17.0
	Engineering Education Scheme Wales	STEM Cymru 2	4.0	3.2
	Grwp Llandrillo-Menai	ADTRAC	6.8	5.1
	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales	Achieve through Work Experience	5.2	3.6
	Pembrokeshire County Council	Cam Nesa	5.7	4.0
		Cynnydd	19.0	13.3
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	Active Inclusion Youth	8.3	5.8
	WG - Department for Education and Skills	Jobs Growth Wales II West Wales	32.0	18.0
		Progress for Success (PfS)	6.4	4.2
		Traineeships	90.9	58.1
	WG - Department for Health and Social Services	HWW - Out of Work Services WWV 16-24	2.7	2.0
	WG - Department of Local Government and Communities	Communities for Work (WWV P3)	14.6	9.4

Rhaglen	**ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd**	Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Blaenoriaeth	Prif Fuddiolwr	Gweithrediad	Cyfanswm y fuddsoddiad (£m)	Ymrwymiad Grant UE (£m)
		Parents, Childcare and Employment (PaCE) P3 WWV	1.8	1.3
3 Cyfanswm			**248.2**	**164.3**
4	Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Regional Engagement Team ESF WWV	0.3	0.2
	Carmarthenshire County Council	Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team ESF	0.5	0.3
	Ceredigion County Council	Mid Wales Regional Engagement Team ESF WWV	0.2	0.2
	Conwy County Borough Council	North Wales Regional Engagement Team ESF WWV	0.3	0.3
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	IB and 3-SET ESF WWV	7.0	5.1
	WAG DEandT WEFO	WEFO TA ESF WWV	16.3	7.8
4 Cyfanswm			**24.6**	**13.8**
Cyfanswm Cymeradwywyd			**863.4**	**559.5**

Rhaglen	**ESF Dwyrain Cymru**	Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

Blaenoriaeth	Prif Fuddiolwr	Gweithrediad	Cyfanswm y fuddsoddiad (£m)	Ymrwymiad Grant UE (£m)
1	Newport City Council	Journey 2 Work	2.5	1.2
	Powys County Council	Workways Plus Powys	0.7	0.3
	SOVA	Sova EW ACE-CNC	1.1	0.6
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	Active Inclusion Wales EW	6.1	3.0
	WG - Department for Health and Social Services	HWW - Out of Work Service - EW	4.3	2.2
	WG - Department of Local Government and Communities	Communities4Work (East Wales)	12.7	6.4
		Parents, Childcare and Employment (PaCE) (East Wales)	4.1	2.0
1 Cyfanswm			**31.6**	**15.8**
2	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Leading Business Growth East Wales	5.6	3.2
	Chwarae Teg	Agile Nation 2 EW	3.0	2.4
	Coleg Cambria	Skills for Employers and Employees EW SO1	3.4	1.7
		Skills for Employers and Employees EW SO2	2.2	1.0
	Coleg Gwent	Upskilling at Work SO1 EW	3.9	1.9
		Upskilling at Work SO2 EW	5.7	2.8
	Grwp Llandrillo-Menai	North Wales Business Academy (NWBA) EW	1.7	0.8
	Welsh Contact Centre Forum Ltd	Welsh Financial Services Graduate Programme	5.9	2.5
	WG - Department for Education and Skills	Apprenticeships East Wales	93.5	15.9
		Apprenticeships Skills Enhancement East Wales Programme	67.9	15.5
2 Cyfanswm			**192.8**	**47.7**
3	Denbighshire County Borough Council	TRAC 11-24 East Wales	8.0	4.0
	Grwp Llandrillo-Menai	ADTRAC East Wales	3.6	1.8
	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales	Achieve through Work Experience East Wales	2.1	1.1
	Newport City Council	Inspire2Achieve EW	9.2	4.2
		Inspire2Work EW	2.8	1.4
	Powys County Council	Cynnydd (EW)	2.0	1.0
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	Active Inclusion Youth East Wales	4.6	2.0
	WG - Department for Education and Skills	Jobs Growth Wales II East Wales	20.9	7.0
		Traineeships East Wales	65.1	17.5
	WG - Department for Health and Social Services	HWW - Out of Work Services EW 16 - 24	1.4	0.7
	WG - Department of Local Government and Communities	Communities for Work (EW P3)	4.8	2.4
		Parents, Childcare and Employment (PaCE) P3 EW	1.0	0.5
3 Cyfanswm			**125.7**	**43.5**
4	Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Regional Engagement Team ESF EW	0.1	0.0
	Ceredigion County Council	Mid Wales Regional Engagement Team ESF EW	0.1	0.0
	Conwy County Borough Council	North Wales Regional Engagement Team ESF EW	0.1	0.0
	Wales Council for Voluntary Action	IB and 3-SET ESF EW	1.7	0.7
	WAG DEandT WEFO	WEFO TA ESF EW	3.7	1.8
4 Cyfanswm			**5.6**	**2.7**
Cyfanswm Cymeradwywyd			**355.6**	**109.7**

Rhaglen	Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - RhDG 2014-2020 - Prosiectau Economaidd-Gymdeithasol y RhDG a Gymeradwyid			Ffynhonnell: SCEC 28/02/2018
Cynllun	**Ymgeisydd**	**Enw'r Prosiect**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (£)**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (€)**
C&SCDS	Four Cymru FBA Ltd	Wales Food Tourism Co-Operation and Supply Chain Development	£166,033.00	€201,130.22
C&SCDS	Menter a Busnes	The Welsh Pig Project	£282,192.00	€331,327.93
C&SCDS	Sustrans	Development of the Walking and Cycling Network in Rural Wales	£372,718.00	€432,698.69
C&SCDS	Menter a Busnes	Integrated YFC Beef Scheme	£393,658.00	€457,008.52
C&SCDS	Cadwyn Clwyd	Smarter Energy	£316,339.00	€351,859.18
C&SCDS	Focus on Forestry First Ltd	Focus on Forestry First – The Future	£113,495.00	€126,238.81
C&SCDS	Bridgend County Borough Council	Resilient Economy – Local Supply Chains	£613,161.00	€722,939.34
C&SCDS	Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens	Tyfu Fyny - Growing Up	£665,043.00	€784,110.12
C&SCDS	Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd	The Collation of Data on the Use of Medicines on Welsh Farms	£109,000.00	€127,784.29
C&SCDS	Lantra	Tyfu Cymru – a Horticultural Manifesto for Wales	£413,877.00	€485,201.64
C&SCDS	Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd	Interactive IT for Farm Assessment and Animal Disease Testing	£413,639.01	€484,922.64
C&SCDS	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	Regional Tourism Network and Marketing Support	£10,000,000.00	€11,723,329.43
C&SCDS	RCMA Market Garden Ltd	Riverside Market Garden - Dehydrated organic vegetable products	£127,300.00	€147,714.09
C&SCDS	Way Out Events Ltd	Discover delicious Wales	£572,447.00	€659,554.34
C&SCDS	Carmarthenshire County Council	West Wales LINC (Local Integrated Network Collaboration)	£1,796,777.00	€2,070,186.54
C&SCDS	Coleg Sir Gar	Development of slurry dewatering and nutrient enhancing system	£1,136,886.00	€1,309,882.13
C&SCDS	Glyndwr University	Horticulture Cluster	£615,601.00	€709,274.94
C&SCDS	Four Cymru FBA Ltd	Welsh Game Meat Supply Chain Development	£213,490.00	€242,629.84
C&SCDS	Coleg Sir Gar	AHW - eradicating BVD in Wales - phase 2	£9,945,807.00	€11,303,337.88
C&SCDS	Four Cymru FBA Ltd	Marchnad Lafur Cymraeg	£167,831.00	€190,738.72
C&SCDS	Sarpo Potatoes Ltd	Development of clusters of Sarpo potato growers in Wales	£136,950.00	€155,642.69
C&SCDS	Aberystwyth University	Torri Tir Newydd	£295,284.00	€329,675.78
C&SCDS	Community Transport Association	Connecting communities in Wales	£1,074,309.00	€1,199,433.95
C&SCDS	Community Energy Wales	Local Renewable Energy for Rural Wales	£270,150.00	€292,858.23
C&SCDS	Powys County Council	Home Grown Homes – Wales Timber Supply Chain Study	£1,511,544.00	€1,724,817.71
C&SCDS	Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales	Developing a Strategic Programme for the Red Meat Sector	£192,338.00	€232,995.76
C&SCDS	Menter a Busnes	Cywain - Supply Chain Integration	£1,619,916.00	€1,962,345.25
C&SCDS	Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board	Dairy Strategic Initiative	£357,505.00	€424,489.43
C&SCDS	Coleg Sir Gar	Animal Health Wales - Eradicating BVD in Wales	£270,002.00	€317,015.38
C&SCDS	Cotyledon Business and Managerment CIC	Taste Local - Blas Lleol	£309,436.00	€362,762.02
C&SCDS	Aberystwyth University	Organic Development Wales - Datblygu Organig Cymru	£15,950.00	€18,703.10
Cyfanswm		**31 Prosiectau**	**£34,488,678.01**	**€39,882,608.58**
EIP	Menter a Busnes	Delivery of the European Innovation Partnership in Wales	£2,475,000.00	€2,803,166.73
Cyfanswm		**1 Prosiect**	**£2,475,000.00**	**€2,803,166.73**
FBIS	Easibake Foods Ltd	Easibake Process Improvement Plan	£150,000.00	€178,104.96
FBIS	J W and L J Hembrow	Mead Farm Foods	£95,562.00	€113,467.11
FBIS	The Burger Manufacturing Company Ltd	New Build Extension Factory	£1,451,923.00	€1,723,964.62
FBIS	Roberts of Port Dinorwic	Roberts 2016 Expansion Project	£420,561.00	€499,360.01
FBIS	The Welsh Sausage Co Ltd	Production of Gluten Free Meat Products	£136,218.00	€161,740.68
FBIS	Hilltop Honey Limited	Hilltop Honey Expansion	£239,794.00	€284,723.34
FBIS	Wrexham Lager Beer Company	Wrexham Lager Brewery Expansion	£566,891.00	€658,119.53
FBIS	Baraka Foods Ltd	Baraka Foods Ltd, Growth and Expansion 2016-2019	£268,000.00	€298,092.43
FBIS	Dairy Partners (Cymru Wales) Limited	Dragon2	£761,866.00	€847,412.27
FBIS	Bridgehead Food Partners	Cheese Production, Cutting and Packing Facility	£392,600.00	€462,889.82
FBIS	Ellis Eggs Ltd	Packing Centre Expansion	£1,643,184.00	€1,937,374.29
FBIS	Puffin Produce Limited	Sustainability and Expansion Project	£4,800,000.00	€5,659,376.29
FBIS	Tomlinsons Dairies Ltd	Growth Project	£5,000,000.00	€5,861,664.71
FBIS	Tiny Rebel Brewing Company	Purchase of Specialist Brewing Equipment	£284,774.00	€333,849.94

Rhaglen	Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - RhDG 2014-2020 - Prosiectau Economaidd-Gymdeithasol y RhDG a Gymeradwyid			Ffynhonnell: SCEC 28/02/2018
Cynllun	**Ymgeisydd**	**Enw'r Prosiect**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (£)**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (€)**
FBIS	The Authentic Curry Company Ltd	Extension to ACC Manufacturing and Storage Facilities	£236,770.00	€277,573.27
FBIS	Harlech Food Service Limited	Bwydlyn Butchery Expansion	£345,432.00	€404,961.31
FBIS	Iman Casing and Foods UK Ltd	Relocation and Expansion of Iman Casing	£347,691.00	€409,361.28
FBIS	Cig Calon Cymru 2010 CYF	Cig Calon Cymru Development	£782,602.00	€921,412.85
FBIS	Beacon Foods Ltd	Beacon Foods Expansion Project	£2,128,076.00	€2,495,398.69
FBIS	Plas Farm Limited	Plas Farm - Increase in production capacity and range	£224,000.00	€262,664.17
FBIS	Dyfi Distillery Ltd	Dyfi Distillery Ltd. (Start Up)	£9,774.00	€11,461.07
FBIS	AJT Powell	Processing Wern eggs	£98,446.00	€115,438.56
FBIS	Maelor Foods Limited	Chicken Slaughtering and Processing Facility	£3,149,678.00	€3,654,766.77
FBIS	Franks Ice Cream Ltd	Expansion of Capel Hendre Production Facility	£435,200.00	€515,517.65
FBIS	Capestone Organic Poultry Limited	New Poultry and Red Meat Processing Factory	£1,635,880.00	€1,884,806.38
FBIS	DJW Beamond	Efficient Egg Processing Facility	£173,472.00	€197,149.68
FBIS	St Beunos Dairy Ltd	New product range	£2,039,817.00	€2,277,394.83
FBIS	Pant-Du Cyf	Sudd afal a seidr	£106,472.00	€118,872.81
FBIS	GRH Food Company Ltd	Relocation of Manufacturing Premises	£1,785,114.00	€1,935,166.84
FBIS	Alexander CG Ellis TA Border Honey	Border Honey Bulk Honey Processing Facility	£29,551.00	€33,720.55
FBIS	Tenby Brewing Company Ltd	Purchase of larger site and specialist equipment for expansion	£133,552.00	€152,395.73
FBIS	Meadowside Free Range Eggs Ltd	Efficient and Modern Egg processing	£75,000.00	€85,246.65
FBIS	S and DJ Williams	Sustainable Processing of Cefn Llech Welsh Eggs	£75,000.00	€85,246.65
Cyfanswm		**33 Prosiectau**	**£30,022,900.00**	**€34,858,695.70**
KT&I	Ceredigion County Council	Horeb - Project HELIX - Food Centre Wales	£3,789,218.00	€4,449,005.52
KT&I	Grwp Llandrillo-Menai	Grwp Llandrillo Menai - Project HELIX - Food Technology Centre	£6,200,000.00	€7,279,558.53
KT&I	Cardiff Metropolitan University	Cardiff Met - Project HELIX - Food Industry Centre	£11,875,586.00	€13,786,698.09
KT&I	Lantra	Wales - a Food Destination	£315,997.00	€370,540.57
KT&I	Menter a Busnes	Lot 1 Vocational Training - MAB	£883,817.00	€1,018,304.47
KT&I	Lantra	Lot 2 Vocational Training - Lantra	£2,845,076.00	€3,278,001.68
KT&I	Menter a Busnes	Lot 1 Supporting activities and information actions - MAB	£18,351,961.00	€21,144,517.41
KT&I	Menter a Busnes	Lot 1 Supporting farm, forestry management and exchanges - MAB	£305,300.00	€351,756.48
KT&I	National Botanic Garden of Wales	Tyfu'r Dyfodol - Growing the Future	£2,300,724.00	€2,625,348.32
KT&I	Focus on Forestry First Ltd	Focus on Forestry First – Phase 2	£3,223,337.00	€3,665,798.93
Cyfanswm		**10 Prosiectau**	**£50,091,016.00**	**€57,969,530.01**
LEADER	Powys County Council	LEADER Powys Implementation Costs	£3,430,470.00	€4,587,723.17
LEADER	Vale of Glamorgan Council	LEADER Vale of Glamorgan Implementation Costs	£1,296,748.00	€1,734,199.93
LEADER	Caerphilly County Borough Council	LEADER Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Implementation	£1,963,847.00	€2,626,341.69
LEADER	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	LEADER Neath Implementation Costs	£1,609,134.00	€2,151,967.90
LEADER	Caerphilly County Borough Council	LEADER Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Running Costs	£264,300.00	€353,460.38
LEADER	Vale of Glamorgan Council	LEADER Vale of Glamorgan Running Costs	£182,000.00	€243,396.86
LEADER	City and County of Swansea	LEADER Swansea Implementation	£1,055,500.00	€1,411,568.04
LEADER	Caerphilly County Borough Council	LEADER Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Animation Costs	£396,450.00	€530,190.57
LEADER	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	LEADER Merthyr Implementation	£817,408.00	€1,093,156.80
LEADER	Torfaen County Borough Council	LEADER Torfaen Implementation	£569,619.00	€761,777.33
LEADER	Carmarthenshire County Council	LEADER Carmarthenshire Implementation Costs	£2,796,896.00	€3,740,415.91
LEADER	Carmarthenshire County Council	LEADER Carmarthenshire Running Costs	£434,253.00	€580,746.24
LEADER	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	LEADER Merthyr Running Costs	£119,654.00	€160,018.72
LEADER	Carmarthenshire County Council	LEADER Carmarthenshire Animation Costs	£651,379.00	€871,118.69
LEADER	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	LEADER Merthyr Animation Costs	£179,482.00	€240,029.42
LEADER	Bridgend County Borough Council	LEADER Bridgend Implementation	£1,273,049.00	€1,702,506.19
LEADER	Ceredigion County Council	LEADER Ceredigion Implementation Costs	£2,121,978.00	€2,837,817.45
LEADER	City and County of Swansea	LEADER Swansea Running Costs	£145,400.00	€194,450.02

Rhaglen	Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - RhDG 2014-2020 - Prosiectau Economaidd-Gymdeithasol y RhDG a Gymeradwyid	Ffynhonnell: SCEC 28/02/2018

Cynllun	Ymgeisydd	Enw'r Prosiect	Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (£)	Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (€)
LEADER	City and County of Swansea	LEADER Swansea Animation	£218,100.00	€291,675.03
LEADER	Conwy County Borough Council	LEADER Conwy Running Costs	£174,700.00	€233,634.24
LEADER	Conwy County Borough Council	LEADER Conwy Implementation Costs	£992,513.00	€1,327,332.66
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Wrexham Implementation Costs	£1,521,081.00	€2,034,210.63
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Denbighshire Implementation Costs	£1,270,496.00	€1,699,091.94
LEADER	Conwy County Borough Council	LEADER Conwy Animation Costs	£262,050.00	€350,451.35
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Flintshire Implementation Costs	£1,724,816.00	€2,306,674.69
LEADER	Bridgend County Borough Council	LEADER Bridgend Cooperation	£141,449.00	€189,166.17
LEADER	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	LEADER Merthyr Cooperation	£80,000.00	€106,987.63
LEADER	Conwy County Borough Council	LEADER Conwy Cooperation	£317,732.00	€424,917.42
LEADER	Caerphilly County Borough Council	LEADER Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Cooperation	£18,397.00	€24,603.14
LEADER	Carmarthenshire County Council	LEADER Carmarthenshire Cooperation	£460,000.00	€615,178.87
LEADER	City and County of Swansea	LEADER Swansea Cooperation	£35,000.00	€46,807.09
LEADER	Vale of Glamorgan Council	LEADER Vale of Glamorgan Animation Costs	£273,000.00	€385,321.10
LEADER	Vale of Glamorgan Council	LEADER Vale of Glamorgan Cooperation	£68,249.00	€96,328.86
LEADER	Powys County Council	LEADER Powys Running Costs	£508,699.00	€725,676.18
LEADER	Powys County Council	LEADER Powys Animation Costs	£764,829.00	€1,091,054.21
LEADER	Bridgend County Borough Council	LEADER Bridgend Running Costs	£188,600.00	€269,044.22
LEADER	Bridgend County Borough Council	LEADER Bridgend Animation Costs	£282,900.00	€403,566.33
LEADER	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	LEADER Neath Animation Costs	£266,599.00	€380,312.41
LEADER	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	LEADER Neath Running Costs	£195,572.00	€278,990.01
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Denbighshire Running Costs	£188,100.00	€268,330.96
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Wrexham Running Costs	£225,200.00	€321,255.35
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Flintshire Running Costs	£246,300.00	€351,355.21
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Denbighshire Animation Costs	£282,150.00	€402,496.43
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Wrexham Animation Costs	£337,800.00	€481,883.02
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Flintshire Animation Costs	£369,450.00	€527,032.81
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Denbighshire Cooperation	£140,254.00	€200,077.03
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Flintshire Cooperation	£122,434.00	€174,656.21
LEADER	Cadwyn Clwyd	LEADER Wrexham Cooperation	£167,918.00	€239,540.66
LEADER	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	LEADER Neath Cooperation	£84,691.00	€120,814.55
LEADER	Powys County Council	LEADER Powys Cooperation	£400,000.00	€570,613.41
LEADER	Menter Mon	LEADER Gwynedd Implementation Costs	£2,931,249.00	€4,181,524.96
LEADER	Menter Mon	LEADER Gwynedd Running Cost	£433,500.00	€618,402.28
LEADER	Menter Mon	LEADER Gwynedd Animation Costs	£650,250.00	€927,603.42
LEADER	Menter Mon	LEADER Gwynedd Cooperation	£319,119.00	€455,233.95
LEADER	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	LEADER Merthyr Preparatory	£14,454.00	€20,619.12
LEADER	Ceredigion County Council	LEADER Ceredigion Running Costs	£332,860.00	€474,835.95
LEADER	Ceredigion County Council	LEADER Ceredigion Animation	£499,289.00	€712,252.50
LEADER	Menter Mon	LEADER Anglesey Running Costs	£278,100.00	€396,718.97
LEADER	Menter Mon	LEADER Anglesey Implementation Costs	£1,833,750.00	€2,615,905.85
LEADER	Menter Mon	LEADER Anglesey LAG Animation Costs	£417,150.00	€595,078.46
LEADER	Menter Mon	LEADER Anglesey Cooperation	£315,000.00	€449,358.06
LEADER	Ceredigion County Council	LEADER Ceredigion Cooperation	£374,467.00	€534,189.73
LEADER	Ceredigion County Council	LEADER Ceredigion Preparatory	£28,403.00	€40,517.83
LEADER	Monmouthshire County Council	LEADER Monmouth and Newport Running Costs	£279,000.00	€381,095.48
LEADER	Monmouthshire County Council	LEADER Monmouth and Newport Animation Costs	£418,500.00	€571,643.22
LEADER	Torfaen County Borough Council	LEADER Torfaen Running Costs	£99,500.00	€135,910.39
LEADER	Torfaen County Borough Council	LEADER Torfaen Animation	£149,250.00	€203,865.59

Rhaglen	Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - RhDG 2014-2020 - Prosiectau Economaidd-Gymdeithasol y RhDG a Gymeradwyid			Ffynhonnell: SCEC 28/02/2018
Cynllun	**Ymgeisydd**	**Enw'r Prosiect**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (£)**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (€)**
LEADER	Torfaen County Borough Council	LEADER Torfaen Cooperation	£150,738.00	€205,898.10
LEADER	Carmarthenshire County Council	LEADER Carmarthenshire Preparatory	£9,471.00	€12,936.76
LEADER	PLANED	LEADER Pembrokeshire Running Cost	£442,500.00	€518,878.99
LEADER	PLANED	LEADER Pembrokeshire Animation Costs	£663,750.00	€778,318.48
LEADER	PLANED	LEADER Pembrokeshire Cooperation	£134,893.00	€158,176.59
LEADER	Monmouthshire County Council	LEADER Monmouth and Newport Implementation Costs	£1,972,500.00	€2,288,814.11
LEADER	Monmouthshire County Council	LEADER Monmouth and Newport Cooperation	£120,000.00	€139,243.44
LEADER	PLANED	LEADER Pembrokeshire Implementation Costs	£3,183,855.00	€3,618,428.23
Cyfanswm		**75 Prosiectau**	**£47,688,194.00**	**€63,795,415.62**
RBAS	Menter a Busnes	Lot 3 Supporting the use of advisory services - MAB	£4,968,197.00	€5,724,190.89
RBAS	Menter a Busnes	Lot 3 Supporting the use of advisory services - Food	£3,303.00	€3,805.61
RBAS	Menter a Busnes	Lot 3 Support the setting up of Advisory Services - MAB	£333,263.00	€383,974.51
RBAS	Natural Resources Wales	Natural Resources Wales Forest Management Plan Verification	£1,430,487.00	€1,625,738.15
Cyfanswm		**4 Prosiectau**	**£6,735,250.00**	**€7,737,709.16**
RBIS	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	TISS – Tourism Investment Support Scheme – Rural	£10,000,000.00	€11,726,078.80
RBIS	WG - Rural Programmes Delivery	Rural Business Investment Scheme - Food	£3,508,765.00	€3,917,431.45
Cyfanswm		**2 Prosiectau**	**£13,508,765.00**	**€15,643,510.25**
RCDF	Cwmni Cymunedol Cletwr	Cletwr community hub, shop and cafe	£95,248.00	€112,300.89
RCDF	WG - Department for Economy, Science and Transport	TAIS – Tourism Amenity Investment Support Scheme – Rural	£4,000,000.00	€4,709,483.72
RCDF	Urdd Gobaith Cymru	Gwersyll Yr Urdd Llangrannog - Ardal Antur - Adventure Zone	£119,982.00	€141,263.32
RCDF	Amelia Methodist Trust Company Ltd	Recording and Multimedia Studio at Amelia Trust Farm	£100,000.00	€118,455.34
RCDF	SWIMNARBERTH CIO	Swimnarberth	£128,000.00	€151,622.84
RCDF	Llangollen Railway Trust Ltd.	Corwen Central Station Platform Project	£128,000.00	€151,622.84
RCDF	Neuadd Dyfi	Resource Effficiency Project	£125,600.00	€148,779.91
RCDF	Ferryside Social Enterprise Group	The rebirth of the Old Education Centre	£128,000.00	€151,622.84
RCDF	Pembrokeshire Association PACTO	Pembrokeshire Rural Community Transport Enhancement Project	£114,588.00	€135,735.61
RCDF	Preseli Rural Transport Association Ltd	Rural Community Transport Enhancement Project	£28,904.00	€33,302.22
RCDF	Breaking Barriers Community Arts	Broadcasting Blaenau Gwent	£4,260.00	€4,908.23
RCDF	Green links Community Interest Company	Glan y Mor Rural Initiative and Community Hub	£126,880.00	€146,186.90
RCDF	Ceredigion County Council	Lighting Up the Past	£102,255.00	€117,814.80
RCDF	DANSA Limited	Bws y Cwm	£128,000.00	€147,477.33
RCDF	Amman Valley Trotting Club LTD	A Community Events Barn for Tairgwaith	£59,489.00	€68,541.24
RCDF	Carmarthenshire County Council	Carmarthen Wetlands and Western Gateway	£128,000.00	€147,477.33
RCDF	Small World Theatre Ltd	Small World Theatre extension and facilities improvement	£126,534.00	€145,788.25
RCDF	Powys County Council	Llandrindod Wells Lake Park Regeneration Project	£126,400.00	€145,633.86
RCDF	Wild Elements CIC	Infrastructure Development for Outdoor Education in the NW	£56,340.00	€64,030.00
RCDF	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Grannys Wood Ebbw Fach Trail Completion	£58,751.00	€66,770.09
RCDF	Caerphilly County Borough Council	Storom Celf – The storm of the art	£84,316.00	€95,824.53
RCDF	Clarbeston Road Association Football Club	Infrastructure Provision for Sports Field	£117,054.00	€133,031.03
RCDF	Llandysul Paddlers Canoe Centre Ltd	Blue Shed Development Phase 2	£128,000.00	€145,471.08
RCDF	Siop Griffiths Cyf	Siop Griffiths	£122,945.00	€139,726.11
RCDF	Carmarthenshire County Council	Jackson's Lane Square Development (Phase 1)	£128,000.00	€145,471.08
RCDF	Monmouthshire County Council	Llanover Ward village hall training hubs	£55,680.00	€63,279.92
RCDF	National Trust	Freshwater West Activity Hub	£95,558.00	€108,600.98
RCDF	PLANED	Regional Hub for Tackling Poverty	£127,990.00	€145,459.71
RCDF	Ogmore by Sea Village Hall Association	New Village Hall for Ogmore by Sea	£128,000.00	€145,471.08
RCDF	Cyngor ar Bopeth Gwynedd and De Ynys Môn CAB	Re-development of Pwllheli Advice Centre - Ground Floor	£89,880.00	€102,147.97

Rhaglen	Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - RhDG 2014-2020 - Prosiectau Economaidd-Gymdeithasol y RhDG a Gymeradwyid			Ffynhonnell: SCEC 28/02/2018
Cynllun	**Ymgeisydd**	**Enw'r Prosiect**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (£)**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (€)**
RCDF	Cyngor ar Bopeth Gwynedd and De Ynys Môn CAB	Re-development of Pwllheli Advice Centre - First Floor	£84,998.00	€96,599.61
RCDF	Whitehead-Ross Education and Consulting Ltd	The Youth Hub	£20,200.00	€22,957.15
RCDF	Hay Castle Trust Ltd	Hay Castle Project	£92,000.00	€104,557.34
RCDF	DANSA Limited	Rural Links	£108,000.00	€122,741.22
RCDF	Anglesey Agricultural Society	Anglesey Showground Enhancement Programme	£80,000.00	€90,919.42
RCDF	Clwb Peldroed Penmachno Ltd	Penmachno Community Field	£49,840.00	€56,642.80
RCDF	The Cowbridge Exchange Limited	The Exchange, Cowbridge – Phase 1	£128,000.00	€145,471.08
RCDF	National Botanic Garden of Wales	Middleton Discovering a Sense of Place	£128,000.00	€142,908.18
RCDF	Trelogan Community Association Ltd	Trelogan Community Centre (HUB)	£124,542.00	€139,047.43
RCDF	Carmarthenshire County Council	Towy Valley Cycleway	£128,000.00	€142,908.18
RCDF	Llantwit Major Town Council	Improvement to footpath, Recreation Ground, Llantwit Major	£14,680.00	€16,389.78
RCDF	Cwm Harry Land Trust Limited	OURS - One-planet Upcycling and Repair-café Skillshop	£94,682.00	€105,709.63
RCDF	Tywi Gateway Trust	Tywi Gateway Project	£128,000.00	€142,908.18
RCDF	Eden Education Centre	Eden Education Centre - 3D Printer	£20,268.00	€22,628.62
RCDF	Llety Arall Cyf	Llety Arall	£128,000.00	€142,908.18
RCDF	University of Wales Trinity Saint David	Canolfan S4C - Yr Egin - Digital Performance Lab	£125,382.00	€139,985.26
RCDF	Cwmaman Town Council	Cwmaman Community Centre Development	£67,287.00	€75,123.93
RCDF	Cardigan Building Preservation Trust	Cardigan Markethall Restoration	£127,740.00	€138,477.55
RCDF	Torfaen County Borough Council	YETI	£17,665.00	€19,149.88
RCDF	Vale of Glamorgan Council	Digital Highway in Sheltered Accommodation	£25,203.00	€27,321.51
RCDF	Cyngor Gwynedd Council	Digital Gwynedd access for all	£88,800.00	€96,264.34
RCDF	Caerphilly County Borough Council	Navigation Colliery - Site Regeneration Study	£25,000.00	€28,527.41
RCDF	Canal And River Trust	Llangollen Information Hub	£29,606.00	€33,783.31
RCDF	Neuadd Goffa Llanfairtalhaiarn Memorial Hall	Neuadd Goffa - Energy Efficiency and Internet Video Project	£65,280.00	€74,490.79
RCDF	Neuadd Bentref Llanddona Village Hall	Yr Hen Ysgol Llanddona - Calon y Pentref	£128,000.00	€146,060.36
RCDF	Alltwen Primary School	Community Digital Leaders	£3,751.00	€4,263.47
RCDF	Conwy County Borough Council	Conwy Heritage Hub	£124,186.00	€141,152.53
RCDF	The Gellideg Foundation Group	Gellideg Wellbeing Centre	£127,998.00	€145,485.34
RCDF	4CG Cymru 2010 Ltd	Inspiring community shares and local assets partnership	£116,213.00	€132,090.25
RCDF	Carmarthenshire County Council	Towy Valley Path - phase W1	£128,000.00	€145,487.61
RCDF	Antur Nantlle Cyf	Hwb Gymunedol Dyffryn Nantlle	£91,584.00	€104,096.39
RCDF	Flintshire County Council	Flinshire Community Transport Project	£83,000.00	€94,005.19
RCDF	Brookfield Day Nursery	Brookfield Day Nursery Extension	£128,000.00	€144,971.86
RCDF	Pembrokeshire County Council	Play Scolton Manor	£128,000.00	€144,971.86
RCDF	RAY Ceredigion	Aberaeron Intergenerational Community Centre	£19,272.00	€21,710.53
RCDF	Menter Aberteifi Cyf	Digital Cardigan Town Centre	£27,340.00	€30,799.39
RCDF	Yr Hen Ysgol Dinas	Yr Hen Ysgol Dinas Strategic Refurbishment	£40,652.00	€45,795.78
RCDF	Peterston Super Ely Community Council	Peterston-Super-Ely-Community Sports Development	£128,000.00	€145,570.34
RCDF	Cyngor Gwynedd Council	Digital Gwynedd public access wi-fi	£128,000.00	€145,570.34
Cyfanswm		**69 Prosiectau**	**£10,265,823.00**	**€11,853,753.05**
SMS	Golygfa Gwydyr Ltd	Golygfa Gwydyr SMS	£232,478.00	€264,209.57
SMS	Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust	A Pumlumon PES	£267,087.00	€303,542.45
SMS	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	Managing Resources Sustainably in the Black Mountains	£1,004,155.00	€1,141,214.91
SMS	PLANED	Building Resilience In Catchments (BRICs)	£609,549.00	€692,748.04
SMS	Ireland Moor Conservation Limited	Powys Moorland Partnership	£600,000.00	€669,882.10
SMS	Snowdonia National Park Authority	Welsh Peatlands	£924,956.00	€1,032,685.78
SMS	Cadwyn Clwyd	Natural flood risk management on the River Clwyd	£330,000.00	€357,739.09
SMS	Snowdonia National Park Authority	SMS Eden	£815,444.00	€926,851.56
SMS	Coed Cymru Cyf	The Barrog NFRM Project	£299,717.00	€339,457.26

Rhaglen	Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - RhDG 2014-2020 - Prosiectau Economaidd-Gymdeithasol y RhDG a Gymeradwyid			Ffynhonnell: SCEC 28/02/2018
Cynllun	**Ymgeisydd**	**Enw'r Prosiect**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (£)**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (€)**
SMS	Coed Cymru Cyf	Integrated Welsh Woodlands - Nature Based Solutions	£413,194.00	€469,912.43
Cyfanswm		**10 Prosiectau**	**£5,496,580.00**	**€6,198,243.19**
SPG	HC, FM and IC Williams	Investment in a Broiler Unit and Alterations to Sheep Housing	£308,086.00	€373,211.39
SPG	Robert Pryce-Jones	Robert Pryce-Jones, Buttington Old Hall	£191,915.00	€213,464.21
SPG	Penllyn Estate Farm	New Grain Drying And Storage Facility	£237,531.00	€264,202.21
SPG	RT and M Roberts	Achieving Robustness Through Robotics	£200,000.00	€222,457.04
SPG	T.E. Lewis and Son	Cattle management and manure storage improvements at Abergwenlas	£66,207.00	€73,641.07
SPG	W L and A Windsor and Son	Fforest Farm Sustainable Dairy Development	£204,896.00	€241,579.91
SPG	D Roberts	Buildings facilities improvements and adoption of new technology	£185,519.00	€217,490.04
SPG	Mr DR Morris and Mrs SLE Jones-Morris	Glancarrog Dairy Development	£241,617.00	€283,322.00
SPG	LJ and AL Jones	Penlan Farm Development	£112,695.00	€132,147.05
SPG	AR and ER Jones	Aled Jones, Hendy	£400,000.00	€469,043.15
SPG	M and M G Parry	Improving the Welfare of Organic Cattle and Sheep	£30,096.00	€35,290.81
SPG	RO And R Parry	Investment in new poultry enterprise and improvements	£400,000.00	€469,043.15
SPG	M and R Pritchard and Sons	Improve Farm Buildings Complex	£103,351.00	€119,924.58
SPG	WO HM and EO Griffith	Improvement in cattle housing and slurry storage facilities	£99,400.00	€115,339.99
SPG	Tomos Evans	Converting Tyddyn Cae from Beef and Sheep Farm to Dairy	£260,340.00	€308,386.64
SPG	Rees and Jones	Updating Dairy Enterprise Facilities	£132,692.00	€157,180.76
SPG	Ieuan Williams ai Fab	Investment and improvements to existing farm facilities	£188,392.00	€223,160.39
SPG	W D Bowen	Great Cantal Farm Development - Version 2	£399,980.00	€460,843.62
SPG	R C JONES	Improvement in calf housing and feed storage	£50,784.00	€58,511.63
SPG	AV and OE Roberts	Improvements to Cattle Facilities and Grassland	£70,682.00	€81,437.44
SPG	Wallace Bebb Farms Ltd	Bebb Farms poultry farm redevelopment	£387,178.00	€440,025.00
SPG	RS Taylor and Son	Bryn Eithin Farm	£108,961.00	€123,833.39
SPG	RJ Scale and Co	Upper Haythog Farm Development	£158,047.00	€179,619.27
SPG	DJW Beamond	Gorn Farm Resilient Sustainable Future	£400,000.00	€454,597.11
SPG	D A Pugh and Son	Oakview - Development Project	£174,231.00	€198,012.27
SPG	JSL Jones Ltd	Stephen Jones, Moreton Farm	£80,654.00	€91,662.69
SPG	B.Williams and Company	Redevelopment of dairy infrastructure at Bayliau	£129,556.00	€147,239.46
SPG	E A Thomas	Creafol Beef and Sheep Production Unit	£193,640.00	€220,070.46
SPG	Messrs E Reader and Sons	Sustainable Development at Goldsland Farm	£207,804.00	€236,167.75
SPG	J and E Jones and Son	Facilities improvement at Lower Hall	£166,300.00	€188,998.75
SPG	D J Thomas and Co	Improving milk production efficiency at Neuaddlwyd	£269,116.00	€305,848.39
SPG	WEJ Watson	Cwmgilla Goat Dairy Development	£146,328.00	€166,300.72
SPG	Ellis Partnership	Farm Development Business Plan	£71,908.00	€81,722.92
SPG	D and H Thomas	Investment improvements to existing facilities and machinery	£68,446.00	€77,788.39
SPG	A and D Hughes	Hughes-Improvement in cattle housing and slurry storage	£118,471.00	€134,641.44
SPG	T Williams and Son	Robin Williams Fforest Farm	£105,870.00	€120,320.49
SPG	Coope and Richards	Invest in a 6,000 free range hen enterprise	£100,226.00	€113,906.13
SPG	RJ and CE Thomas	New milking parlour, handling system and collecting yard	£126,871.00	€144,187.98
SPG	WA and ME Davies Cyf	Parlwr Godro, Tanc Slyri, System Slyri Esgud Lusg	£170,612.00	€193,899.31
SPG	JM,LMJ,JBJ Wheeler	Clyngwyn Investment Proposal	£48,733.00	€55,384.70
SPG	G and M and R Davies	Hafodarthen Infrastructure Improvements	£37,368.00	€41,720.26
SPG	G R Isacc and Son	Improving Production Infrastructure and Sheep Handling	£68,000.00	€75,919.97
SPG	G B Jones Ltd	Fron Bella Investment Project	£400,000.00	€446,588.07
SPG	JD MEP Williams	Williams - cattle housing and slurry storage facilities	£59,694.00	€66,646.57
SPG	Beechwood Farms Limited	Moor Farm Development Plan	£181,260.00	€202,371.38
SPG	JM and M Pari	Improvement in cattle housing, silage and slurry	£93,440.00	€104,322.97

Rhaglen	Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - RhDG 2014-2020 - Prosiectau Economaidd-Gymdeithasol y RhDG a Gymeradwyid			Ffynhonnell: SCEC 28/02/2018
Cynllun	**Ymgeisydd**	**Enw'r Prosiect**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (£)**	**Swm RhDC wedi'i cymeradwyo (€)**
SPG	JR LLoyd and Son	Lower House Contract Broiler Breeder Egg production	£342,457.00	€382,343.02
SPG	TR and E Parry	Extending farm facilities	£137,754.00	€149,333.30
SPG	TV Hughes and Co	New 32,000 Poultry Layer unit	£389,218.00	€421,934.83
SPG	BLL and AM Jones	Improvement in cattle housing, handling and slurry storage	£48,130.00	€54,920.98
SPG	Rhual Dairy	Rhual Dairy Development	£53,649.00	€61,218.69
SPG	TCD, CB and DE Jones	Fulfilling the potential for milk production and animal welfare	£356,556.00	€406,864.84
SPG	SG and LMG Morgan	Sheepshed and water management improvements	£32,563.00	€37,011.82
SPG	Price and Co Farming Ltd	Gelliargwellt Rotary Dairy Development Project	£398,800.00	€453,284.84
SPG	Endaf Jenkins	New 32,000 Poultry Layer Unit at Pwllpridd	£400,000.00	€454,648.78
SPG	TD Ingram	Rhonllwyn Contract Pig Rearing Development Project	£99,120.00	€112,661.97
SPG	D T Miles and S Miles	D T Miles and S Miles	£145,860.00	€165,787.68
SPG	Drefach Farms Ltd	Drefach Dairy Development Project	£400,000.00	€453,037.05
SPG	Benton Farm Limited	Benton Potato Storage Development Project	£234,540.00	€265,638.27
SPG	AN SE and SR Evans	Sustainable Farm Modernisation Project	£400,000.00	€453,037.05
SPG	D and S Gethin	The Gaer	£400,000.00	€453,037.05
SPG	JG NW TS Hughes	Facilities to Increase Number of Dairy Cows	£211,014.00	€238,992.90
SPG	AW and JL Thomas	Penygraig Investment Proposal	£167,802.00	€189,034.34
SPG	E O Morris	Aled Morris, Marian Mawr - Dairy Development Project	£233,066.00	€262,556.33
SPG	PH and RM Holden	Bwlchwernen Investment	£75,943.00	€85,552.23
SPG	ER Jones and Partners	Huw Jones Pengwern Farm	£222,875.00	€251,075.84
SPG	Messrs Owen Cyf	Milking Parlour Handling Area and Tanker injector	£177,074.00	€201,380.64
Cyfanswm		**67 Prosiectau**	**£12,883,318.00**	**€14,684,825.33**
Technical Assistance	WG - Rural Programmes Delivery	TA - RDP Monitoring and Evaluation 2014-2020	£6,001,529.00	€7,076,023.11
Technical Assistance	WG - Rural Programmes Delivery	TA - Business Improvements	£3,557,023.00	€4,170,015.24
Technical Assistance	WG - Rural Programmes Delivery	TA - Technical Appraisal, Analysis and Inspection	£1,169,394.00	€1,376,810.50
Technical Assistance	WG - Rural Programmes Delivery	Glastir Implementation - 2014-2020	£3,394,860.00	€3,980,839.59
Technical Assistance	WG - Rural Programmes Delivery	TA - RDP On the Spot Checks	£697,103.00	€808,891.85
Technical Assistance	Natural Resources Wales	NRW - TA - Support Woodland Management Planning	£2,200,697.00	€2,501,076.26
Technical Assistance	WG - Rural Programmes Delivery	TA - Wales Rural Network Support Unit	£2,394,289.00	€2,721,401.45
Technical Assistance	WG - Rural Programmes Delivery	TA - Managing Authority and Delivery Costs	£9,613,221.00	€10,829,601.88
Cyfanswm		**8 Prosiectau**	**£29,028,116.00**	**€33,464,659.89**
TBIS	Powys Forest Horses	Coed Mitchen Thinning a small welsh woodland	£4,285.00	€4,766.14
TBIS	Mid Wales Harvesting Ltd	Specialist built timber extraction equipment	£143,500.00	€169,983.42
TBIS	E B Davies Timber Ltd	Skyline Timber Extraction	£74,990.00	€88,829.66
TBIS	Plas Tirion Timber	Plas Tirion Timber	£19,077.00	€21,979.88
TBIS	Steve Lloyd Timber	Nant Bele Timber Project	£363,261.60	€412,844.19
TBIS	Archenfield Tree Services	Regeneration of Unmanaged Woods and Woodfuel Business	£31,252.00	€34,891.93
TBIS	New Heights Firewood Ltd	New Heights Forest Business Expansion	£11,695.00	€13,057.12
TBIS	Waters Harvesting	Waters Harvesting - Low Impact Timber Harvesting	£316,000.00	€352,804.57
TBIS	Mr Jim Ralph and Mr Phil Morgan	Managing and monitoring irregular forestry	£15,508.00	€17,314.22
TBIS	Snowdonia Tree Services	Snowdonia Timber Winch Extraction	£2,434.00	€2,777.43
TBIS	D A Hughes Forestry	D. A. Hughes Forestry - Project to supply locally sourced timber	£153,986.00	€175,023.87
Cyfanswm		**11 Prosiectau**	**£1,135,988.60**	**€1,294,272.42**

Tabl 1: Rhaglen ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd: Dangosyddion Fframwaith Perfformiad

Blaenoriaeth	Dangosydd	Targed terfynol erbyn diwedd 2023	Rhagolygon erbyn diwedd 2023[3]	Rhagolygon cyfran o darged 2023	Targed carreg filltir erbyn diwedd 2018	Rhagolygon erbyn diwedd 2018[3]	Rhagolygon cyfran o darged 2018	Cyflawnwyd hyd yn hyn	Cyfran o darged 2023 a gyflawnwyd	Cyfran o darged 2018 a gyflawnwyd
1	Gwariant (€M)[1]	452	456	>100%	115	135	>100%	48	11%	41%
1	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth anariannol[2]	3,750	1,444	39%	1,163	427	37%	194	5%	17%
2	Gwariant (€M)[1]	333	323	97%	85	225	>100%	115	35%	>100
2	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth anariannol[2]	17,375	16,223	93%	7,645	10,201	>100%	1,823	10%	24%
3	Gwariant (€M)[1]	246	94	38%	63	25	40%	18	7%	28%
3	Cynlluniau paratoi safle cynorthwyo ynni	2	3	>100%	1	2	>100%	0	0%	0%
3	Nifer y prototeipiau ynni adnewyddadwy a brofwyd	8	3	38%	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	13%	n/a
3	Nifer y cartrefi â dosbarthiad defnydd o ynni gwell[2]	5,500	3,060	56%	2,750	0	0%	0	0%	0%
4	Gwariant (€M)[1]	764	623	82%	195	92	47%	50	7%	26%
4	Canran o'r dyraniad ariannol â blaenoriaeth y rhoddwyd cyfrif amdano gan gytundebau er mwyn cyflawni gwaith seilwaith	n/a	>100	n/a	35	52	>100	9	n/a	26%
4	Cilometrau teithwyr gros ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus[2]	400,000,000	1,790,041	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a
4	Nifer y prosiectau a gyflwynwyd i'r Awdurdod Rheoli ar ôl dilyn proses flaenoriaethu gytûn	5	55	>100%	3	35	>100%	25	>100%	>100%
4	Tir wedi'i ddatblygu (Ha)	50	111	>100%	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

[1] Mae'r rhagolygon Gwariant Cymwys yn geidwadol ac yn seiliedig ar y rhagolygon presennol a ragwelir i fis Mehefin 2018 ac wedi'u haddasu ar gyfer yr amrywiant cyfredol i broffil. Bydd hyn yn caniatáu digon o amser i geisiadau cyllid a gyflwynir gael eu gwirio. Bydd yr holl dargedau Gwariant yn cael eu newid yn yr addasiad i'r rhaglen.
[2] Bydd y dangosydd / targed yn cael ei newid yn yr addasiad i'r rhaglen sydd i ddod.
[3] Seilir rhagolygon ar ddata o brosiectau a gymeradwyir ar hyn o bryd ac maent yn rhagdybio y bydd gweithrediadau'n yn dilyn eu proffil.

Tabl 2: Rhaglen ERDF Dwyrain Cymru: Dangosyddion Fframwaith Perfformiad

Blaenoriaeth	Dangosydd	Targed terfynol erbyn diwedd 2023	Rhagolygon erbyn diwedd 2023[3]	Rhagolygon cyfran o darged 2023	Targed carreg filltir erbyn diwedd 2018	Rhagolygon erbyn diwedd 2018[3]	Rhagolygon cyfran o darged 2018	Cyflawnwyd hyd yn hyn	Cyfran o darged 2023 a gyflawnwyd	Cyfran o darged 2018 a gyflawnwyd
1	Gwariant (€M)[1]	178	193	>100%	46	38	84%	26	15%	57%
1	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth anariannol[2]	2,245	329	15%	629	103	16%	56	2%	9%
2	Gwariant (€M)[1]	80	74	93%	20	60	>100%	48	60%	>100%
2	Nifer y mentrau sy'n cael cymorth anariannol[2]	6,420	9,264	>100%	1,798	5,775	>100%	1,077	17%	60%
3	Gwariant (€M)[1]	45	8	19%	11	0	0%	0	0%	0%
3	Nifer y cartrefi â dosbarthiad defnydd o ynni gwell[2]	4,200	765	18%	2,100	0	0%	0	0%	0%
4	Gwariant (€M)[1]	96	25	26%	24	17	70%	14	15%	58%
4	Canran o'r dyraniad ariannol â blaenoriaeth y rhoddwyd cyfrif amdano gan gytundebau er mwyn cyflawni gwaith seilwaith	n/a	>100	n/a	75	95	>100	22	n/a	29%
4	Cilometrau teithwyr gros ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus[2]	67,200,000	0	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0%	n/a

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

[1] Mae'r rhagolygon Gwariant Cymwys yn geidwadol ac yn seiliedig ar y rhagolygon presennol a ragwelir i fis Mehefin 2018 ac wedi'u haddasu ar gyfer yr amrywiant cyfredol i broffil. Bydd hyn yn caniatáu digon o amser i geisiadau cyllid a gyflwynir gael eu gwirio. Bydd yr holl dargedau Gwariant yn cael eu newid yn yr addasiad i'r rhaglen.
[2] Bydd y dangosydd / targed yn cael ei newid yn yr addasiad i'r rhaglen sydd i ddod.
[3] Seilir rhagolygon ar ddata o brosiectau a gymeradwyir ar hyn o bryd ac maent yn rhagdybio y bydd gweithrediadau'n yn dilyn eu proffil.

Tabl 3: Rhaglen ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd: Dangosyddion Fframwaith Perfformiad

Blaenoriaeth	Dangosydd	Targed terfynol erbyn diwedd 2023	Rhagolygon erbyn diwedd 2023[3]	Rhagolygon cyfran o darged 2023	Targed carreg filltir erbyn diwedd 2018	Rhagolygon erbyn diwedd 2018[3]	Rhagolygon cyfran o darged 2018	Cyflawnwyd hyd yn hyn	Cyfran o darged 2023 a gyflawnwyd	Cyfran o darged 2018 a gyflawnwyd
1	Gwariant (€M)[1]	248	188	76%	63	65	>100%	37	15%	59%
1	Economaidd anweithgar (25 oed a hŷn) nad ydynt mewn addysg na hyfforddiant sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth	36,000	42,655	>100%	9,182	24,452	>100%	9,222	26%	>100%
1	Di-waith tymor hir (25 oed a hŷn) sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth	10,800	18,615	>100%	2,755	10,548	>100%	4,539	42%	>100%
2	Gwariant (€M)[1]	480	503	>100%	122	202	>100%	189	39%	>100%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig heb gymwysterau ffurfiol - Dynion[2]	14,029	5,280	38%	3,578	3,493	98%	674	5%	19%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig heb gymwysterau ffurfiol - Menywod[2]	12,771	5,599	44%	3,258	3,432	>100%	529	4%	16%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig sydd â chymwysterau hyd at a chan gynnwys addysg uwchradd is - Dynion	23,870	21,561	90%	6,088	12,584	>100%	8,374	35%	>100%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig sydd â chymwysterau hyd at a chan gynnwys addysg uwchradd is - Menywod	21,730	26,093	>100%	5,543	14,262	>100%	8,538	39%	>100%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig sydd ag addysg uwchradd is - Dynion	16,070	22,488	>100%	4,099	12,028	>100%	5,335	33%	>100%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig sydd ag addysg uwchradd is - Menywod	14,630	27,465	>100%	3,732	13,893	>100%	5,621	38%	>100%
3	Gwariant (€M)[1]	329	290	88%	84	129	>100%	80	24%	95%
3	Cyfranogwyr NEET (16-24 oed)	42,700	52,616	>100%	10,891	29,315	>100%	15,727	37%	>100%

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

[1] Mae'r rhagolygon Gwariant Cymwys yn geidwadol ac yn seiliedig ar y rhagolygon presennol a ragwelir i fis Mehefin 2018 ac wedi'u haddasu ar gyfer yr amrywiant cyfredol i broffil. Bydd hyn yn caniatáu digon o amser i geisiadau cyllid a gyflwynir gael eu gwirio. Bydd yr holl dargedau Gwariant yn cael eu newid yn yr addasiad i'r rhaglen.
[2] Bydd y dangosydd / targed yn cael ei newid yn yr addasiad i'r rhaglen sydd i ddod.
[3] Seilir rhagolygon ar ddata o brosiectau a gymeradwyir ar hyn o bryd ac maent yn rhagdybio y bydd gweithrediadau'n yn dilyn eu proffil.

Tabl 4: Rhaglen ESF Dwyrain Cymru: Dangosyddion Fframwaith Perfformiad

Blaenoriaeth	Dangosydd	Targed terfynol erbyn diwedd 2023	Rhagolygon erbyn diwedd 2023[3]	Rhagolygon cyfran o darged 2023	Targed carreg filltir erbyn diwedd 2018	Rhagolygon erbyn diwedd 2018[3]	Rhagolygon cyfran o darged 2018	Cyflawnwyd hyd yn hyn	Cyfran o darged 2023 a gyflawnwyd	Cyfran o darged 2018 a gyflawnwyd
1	Gwariant (€M)[1]	88	37	42%	22	11	50%	6	7%	27%
1	Economaidd anweithgar (25 oed a hŷn) nad ydynt mewn addysg na hyfforddiant sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth	12,700	14,611	>100%	3,239	8,628	>100%	2,223	18%	69%
1	Di-waith tymor hir (25 oed a hŷn) sydd â rhwystrau cymhleth i gyflogaeth	3,800	5,863	>100%	969	3,526	>100%	1,129	30%	>100%
2	Gwariant (€M)[1]	197	226	>100%	50	111	>100%	94	48%	>100%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig heb gymwysterau ffurfiol - Dynion[2]	7,799	1,950	25%	1,989	1,160	58%	120	2%	6%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig heb gymwysterau ffurfiol - Menywod[2]	7,101	2,025	29%	1,811	1,234	68%	130	2%	7%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig sydd â chymwysterau hyd at a chan gynnwys addysg uwchradd is - Dynion	13,296	8,938	67%	3,391	4,851	>100%	4,069	31%	>100%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig sydd â chymwysterau hyd at a chan gynnwys addysg uwchradd is - Menywod	12,104	10,625	88%	3,087	5,536	>100%	4,714	39%	>100%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig sydd ag addysg uwchradd is - Dynion	6,438	9,873	>100%	1,642	5,065	>100%	2,803	44%	>100%
2	Cyfranogwyr cyflogedig sydd ag addysg uwchradd is - Menywod	5,862	12,240	>100%	1,495	6,492	>100%	3,186	54%	>100%
3	Gwariant (€M)[1]	120	147	>100%	31	58	>100%	34	28%	>100%
3	Cyfranogwyr NEET (16-24 oed)	21,200	28,266	>100%	5,407	16,184	>100%	6,369	30%	>100%

Ffynhonnell: SCEC, 31/03/2018

[1] Mae'r rhagolygon Gwariant Cymwys yn geidwadol ac yn seiliedig ar y rhagolygon presennol a ragwelir i fis Mehefin 2018 ac wedi'u haddasu ar gyfer yr amrywiant cyfredol i broffil. Bydd hyn yn caniatáu digon o amser i geisiadau cyllid a gyflwynir gael eu gwirio. Bydd yr holl dargedau Gwariant yn cael eu newid yn yr addasiad i'r rhaglen.
[2] Bydd y dangosydd / targed yn cael ei newid yn yr addasiad i'r rhaglen sydd i ddod.
[3] Seilir rhagolygon ar ddata o brosiectau a gymeradwyir ar hyn o bryd ac maent yn rhagdybio y bydd gweithrediadau'n yn dilyn eu proffil.

Tabl 5: Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig: Dangosyddion fframwaith perfformiad

Blaenoriaeth	Dangosydd	Targed terfynol erbyn diwedd 2023	Cyflawnwyd hyd yn hyn	Targed carreg filltir erbyn diwedd 2018	Targed terfynol erbyn diwedd 2023	Cyfran o darged 2023 a gyflawnwyd
2	Cyfanswm Gwariant Cyhoeddus B2 (EWR)	€ 71,812,500	€ 25,061,030	24%	€ 121,683,038	21%
	Nifer y daliadau amaethyddol sy'n cael cefnogaeth drwy'r Rhaglen Datblygu Wledig i fuddsoddi mewn ad-drefnu neu foderneiddio (maes pwyslais 2A) + daliadau gyda chynllun datblygu busnes/buddsoddiad ar gyfer ffermwyr ifanc wedi ei gefnogi gan y Rhaglen Datblygu Wledig (maes pwyslais 2B)	15	169	10%	2,431	7%
3	Cyfanswm Gwariant Cyhoeddus B3 (EWR)	€ 37,275,000	€ 24,108,065	24%	€ 108,649,232	22%
	Nifer y daliadau amaethyddol a gefnogir sy'n derbyn cymorth am gyfrannu mewn cynlluniau ansawdd, marchnadoedd lleol/cylchedau cyflenwi byr, a grwpiau cynhyrchu (maes pwyslais 3A)	414	60	35%	165	36%
4	Cyfanswm Gwariant Cyhoeddus B4 (EWR)	€ 477,837,500	€ 168,469,928	24%	€ 415,473,779	41%
	Tir amaethyddol o dan gontractau rheoli sy'n cyfrannu at fioamrywiaeth (ha) (maes pwyslais 4A) + gwella rheoli dŵr (ha) (maes pwyslais 4B) + gwella rheoli pridd ac/atal erydu pridd (ha) (maes pwyslais 4C)	598,500	762,635	85%	706,387	108%
5	Cyfanswm Gwariant Cyhoeddus B5 (EWR)	€ 39,875,000	€ 17,208,379	24%	€ 80,454,040	21%
	Nifer y gweithrediadau buddsoddi mewn arbed ynni ac effeithlonrwydd (maes pwyslais 5B) + mewn cynhyrchu egni adnewyddadwy (maes pwyslais 5C)	0	203	32%	583	35%
	Tir amaethyddol a choedwig dan reolaeth i feithrin dal a storio carbon (ha) (maes pwyslais 5E) + Tir amaethyddol dan gontractau rheoli sy'n targedu lleihad yn nwyon tŷ gwydr ac/neu allyriadau amonia (ha) (maes pwyslais 5D) + Tir dyfredig yn newid i system ddyfrhau fwy effeithlon (maes pwyslais 5A)	61,829	4,844	81%	63,711	8%
6	Nifer y gweithrediadau a gefnogir er mwyn gwella gwasanaethau ac isadeileddau sylfaenol mewn ardaloedd gwledig (meysydd pwyslais 6B a 6C)	1,583	2	20%	653	0%
	Cyfanswm Gwariant Cyhoeddus B6 (EWR)	€ 71,550,000	€ 14,968,698	24%	€ 206,164,595	7%
	Y Boblogaeth wedi eu cynnwys gan y Grŵp Gweithredu Lleol (maes pwyslais 6B)	1,381,745	1,381,745	100%	1,381,745	100%

Ffynhonell: WEFO, 31-03-2018

Tabl 6: Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig: Dangosyddion fframwaith o ran perfformiad Arall

Blaenoriaeth	Dangosydd	Targed terfynol erbyn diwedd 2023	Cyflawnwyd hyd yn hyn	Targed carreg filltir erbyn diwedd 2018	Targed terfynol erbyn diwedd 2023	Cyfran o darged 2023 a gyflawnwyd
3	Nifer y gweithrediadau a gefnogir ar gyfer buddsoddiadau (e.e. mewn daliadau amaethyddol, prosesu a marchnata nwyddau amaethyddol) (maes pwyslais 3A)	24	5	35%	120	4%

Ffynhonell: WEFO, 31-03-2018

PWYLLGOR MONITRO RHAGLENNI CYMRU, CRONFEYDD STRWYTHUROL A BUDDSODDI EWROPEAIDD 2014 – 2020:

GWEITHREDU'R THEMA DRAWSBYNCIOL: CYFLEOEDD CYFARTAL A PHRIF FFRYDIO RHYW

Mater

1. Mae'r papur hwn yn rhoi'r adolygiad cynnydd blynyddol mewn perthynas â gweithredu thema drawsbynciol Cyfleoedd Cyfartal a Phrif Ffrydio Rhyw yng nghronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd (ESI) Cronfa Datblygu Rhanbarthol Ewrop (ERDF) a Chronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop (ESF) 2014 – 2020.

Argymhelliad

2. Gwahoddir aelodau i nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad a rhoi sylwadau yn unol â hynny.

Cefndir

3. Cyfleoedd Cyfartal a Phrif Ffrydio Rhyw yw un o'r tair thema drawsbynciol sydd wedi'u hintegreiddio yn Rhaglenni 2014-2020. Mae'r Rheoliadau Cyffredinol sy'n llywodraethu'r Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd yn nodi bod yn rhaid i'r holl weithrediadau a ariennir drwy'r Fframwaith Strategol Cyffredin integreiddio Erthygl 7 - Hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb rhwng dynion a menywod a pheidio â gwahaniaethu. Mae'r Rheoliad yn nodi y dylid ystyried a hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb rhwng dynion a menywod ac integreiddio safbwynt y rhywiau drwy baratoi a gweithredu rhaglenni, yn cynnwys mewn perthynas â monitro, adrodd a gwerthuso.

4. Mae'r Rheoliad hefyd yn galw am gymryd camau priodol er mwyn atal unrhyw wahaniaethu ar sail rhyw, tarddiad hiliol neu ethnig, crefydd neu gred, anabledd, oedran neu gyfeiriadedd rhywiol wrth baratoi rhaglenni a'u rhoi ar waith. Yn benodol, dylid ystyried hygyrchedd i bobl ag anableddau drwy gydol y broses o baratoi rhaglenni a'u rhoi ar waith.

   Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwneud ymrwymiad yn ‘Cymraeg 2050 - Miliwn o siaradwyr’, sef ei chynllun gweithredu cenedlaethol ar gyfer Cymru ddwyieithog a'i Chynllun Iaith Gymraeg i brif ffrydio'r Gymraeg ar draws meysydd polisi. Mae'r broses o weithredu'r Rhaglenni ESI yn adlewyrchu'r ymrwymiad hwn, yn cefnogi ymdrechion i sicrhau bod yr iaith Gymraeg yn tyfu o fewn cyd-destun twf economaidd a chreu swyddi.

Integreiddio Fertigol a Llorweddol

5. Mae'r model a ddefnyddir i greu cyfleoedd cyfartal a phrif ffrydio rhyw yn y rhaglenni yn croesawu mesurau fertigol a llorweddol. Mae mesurau fertigol yn rhoi cyfle i fynd i'r afael â materion penodol sy'n ymwneud â chyfleoedd cyfartal, er enghraifft; sicrhau y gall pobl â nodweddion gwarchodedig gael budd o'r rhaglenni; tra bod mesurau llorweddol yn codi'r proffil ac yn annog proses ddysgu mewn perthynas â chyfleoedd cyfartal mewn amrywiaeth eang o sefydliadau a gweithgareddau.

Cymorth i bobl â nodweddion gwarchodedig

6. Mae Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop (ESF) wedi cael effaith gadarnhaol sylweddol wrth gefnogi rhai grwpiau allweddol â nodweddion gwarchodedig yng Nghymru a nod rhaglenni ESF 2014-2020 yw adeiladu ar lwyddiant y cylch ariannu blaenorol. Un enghraifft o'r cyfraniad a wneir drwy gyllid ESF yw Rhaglen Gwasanaethau Ariannol i Raddedigion Cymru.

Rhaglen Gwasanaethau Ariannol i Raddedigion Cymru

7. Yn 2015 gwnaeth y rhaglen hon, a arweinir gan Fforwm Canolfannau Cyswllt Cymru, gais am gyllid Ewropeaidd ar ran consortiwm o gyflogwyr gwasanaethau ariannol blaenllaw. Roedd y cynnig yn cynnwys gweithrediad dwy flynedd i adeiladu canolfan ragoriaeth mewn sgiliau gwasanaethau ariannol, yng Nghymru, drwy ddenu, datblygu a chadw graddedigion. Ers hynny, mae'r gweithrediad wedi sicrhau dwy flynedd ychwanegol o gyllid ESF, o dan Raglen Dwyrain Cymru, Echel Blaenoriaeth 2 Sgiliau ar gyfer Twf.

8. Mae'r prosiect, sy'n cynnwys hyd at 10 o gwmnïau gwasanaethau ariannol, yn helpu 100 o raddedigion i ddatblygu yn eu gyrfaoedd o rolau ar lefel mynediad i rolau sy'n talu'n cyflogau uwch mewn diwydiant proffesiynol, drwy raglenni hyfforddi a datblygu mewnol a strwythuredig wedi'u cyfuno ag astudiaethau academaidd ôl-raddedig, sef MSc mewn Rheoli Gwasanaethau Ariannol.



9. Y nod yw cefnogi'r gwaith o ddatblygu cronfa dalent o weithwyr proffesiynol y dyfodol ar gyfer sector gwasanaethau ariannol Cymru. Gan ganolbwyntio ar y sgiliau lefel uwch sydd eu hangen ar gyflogwyr, gall graddedigion o Gymru sydd â'r cymwysterau gofynnol gystadlu am rolau sy'n talu cyflogau uwch a chyfleoedd am ddyrchafiad yn y diwydiant, sy'n cymell graddedigion i aros yng Nghymru.



Gan roi sylw arbennig i'r ffordd y gellir ymgorffori cydraddoldeb ac amrywiaeth yn ei gweithgarwch a'r ffaith bod y ddarpariaeth yn agored i bawb sy'n gymwys, mae'r rhaglen yn gweithio gydag ystod o sefydliadau arbenigol gan gynnwys Chwarae Teg, Autism Spectrum Cymru, GO Wales (myfyrwyr anabl) ac amrywiaeth o grwpiau sy'n cefnogi pobl dduon ac Asiaidd a lleiafrifoedd ethnig. Bydd o leiaf 45% o'r cyfranogwyr yn ferched a chaiff gweithio'n hyblyg ei hyrwyddo er mwyn diwallu anghenion domestig cyfranogwyr, yn enwedig y rhai sydd â chyfrifoldebau gofal plant.



10. Hefyd, mae pwyslais penodol wedi cael ei roi ar gefnogi cyfranogwyr o ardaloedd o amddifadedd yng Nghymru ac mae targed heriol o 40% wedi cael ei bennu. Mae amrywiaeth o fentrau wedi cael eu rhoi ar waith er mwyn helpu i gyrraedd y targed, gan gynnwys:

- Gweithio gyda sefydliadau cymunedol sydd eisoes yn bodoli, h.y. Shaw Trust, Working Links a'r Prince's Trust i hyrwyddo'r rhaglen i gyfranogwyr a all berthyn i'r categori hwn a hefyd gyda CCAUG i hyrwyddo'r rhaglen i'w myfyrwyr dan anfantais drwy fenter “Cyflawni drwy Brofiad Gwaith” a ariennir gan gronfeydd Ewropeaidd.
- Rhaglen mentora graddedigion sy'n cefnogi myfyrwyr israddedig dan anfantais, yn enwedig o ran magu hyder.
- Mae cyflog y rhaglen yn uwch na'r Isafswm Cyflog Cenedlaethol (£7.50 ym mis Mai 2017), bydd cyflogwyr yn talu cyflog o £16,000 (£8.21 yr awr) ac mae'r cymhwyster, sydd o fudd i gyfranogwyr y byddai angen iddynt gael benthyciad i fyfyrwyr er mwyn parhau â'u hastudiaethau ôl-raddedig fel arall, yn golygu na fyddant yn mynd i ragor o ddyled myfyrwyr.

Prosiectau sy'n cyfrannu at ddangosydd thema drawsbynciol ffurfiol Cyfleoedd Cyfartal

11. Mae'r prosiectau sy'n cyfrannu at y dangosydd ffurfiol ar gyfer y thema drawsbynciol hon: ‘**nifer y mentrau sy'n mabwysiadu neu'n gwella eu strategaethau cydraddoldeb yn cynnwys**

systemau monitro' i'w gweld yn Atodiad 1. Nododd adroddiad y llynedd i'r PMRh mai araf yw'r cynnydd ymhlith rhai gweithrediadau. Dywedwyd wrth yr aelodau y byddai angen i weithrediadau ganolbwyntio ar wella eu perfformiad yn erbyn y dangosydd hwn er mwyn cyrraedd y targedau terfynol ac y byddai tîm y thema drawsbynciol yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r rhai dan sylw i gefnogi gwelliannau yn y maes hwn.

12. Ers yr adroddiad hwnnw, mae nifer o gyfarfodydd cynghori wedi cael eu cynnal gyda Busnes Cymru ac mae dau weithdy diwrnod cyfan ar y thema drawsbynciol wedi cael eu cynnal gyda'r timau prosiect a'r rhai sy'n cynnal y gweithgarwch, er mwyn ystyried pa welliannau y gellid eu gwneud mewn perthynas â sicrhau cyflawniadau ond hefyd o ran adrodd arnynt. Fel y gwelir yn y ffigurau yn **Atodiad 1**, mae'r sefyllfa wedi gwella ers yr adroddiad blaenorol a bydd y ffigurau'n edrych yn well byth ar ôl cynnwys cyflawniadau sydd wedi digwydd ond nad ydynt wedi'u cynnwys mewn adroddiad eto oherwydd y cylch hawlio (nodir y rhain yn y golofn â'r pennawd 'hawliadau sy'n mynd rhagddynt'). Bydd cyflwyniad yn dilyn yr adroddiad hwn gan Huw Bryer, Pennaeth Busnes Cymru a Chynnal BBaChau yn Llywodraeth Cymru, yn tynnu sylw at y prif ffactorau a ysgogodd y gwelliant hwn.

13. Caiff gwybodaeth am statws y Gymraeg ei chasglu drwy'r gronfa ddata o gyfranogwyr ac mae'r manylion ar gyfer cyfranogwyr yn nwy raglen ESF fel a ganlyn:

Y Gymraeg	**Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd**	**Dwyrain Cymru**
Dewis Iaith ar gyfer Cyfathrebu – Cymraeg	7%	2%
Deall Cymraeg	15%	5%
Siarad Cymraeg	18%	8%
Darllen Cymraeg	13%	4%
Ysgrifennu Cymraeg	12%	4%
Wedi cael darpariaeth yn Gymraeg, naill ai'n 'rhannol' neu'n 'llwyr'	12%	4%

Dangosyddion Lefel Prosiect y Thema Drawsbynciol

14. Mae cynnwys targed ffurfiol ar gyfer cyfleoedd cyfartal yn ysgogydd pwysig i annog prosiectau er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r thema drawsbynciol hon. Mae hefyd yn golygu y gellir monitro bod cynnydd yn digwydd yn systemataidd dros oes y rhaglen.

15. Fodd bynnag, fel y pwysleisiwyd wrth yr aelodau o'r blaen, mae gan dargedau ffurfiol gyfyngiadau o ran dilysu'r ystod eang o weithgarwch cysylltiedig a gynhelir. At y diben hwnnw, mae'r wybodaeth a gynhwysir yn **Atodiad 2** yn rhoi awgrym o'r math o weithgarwch sy'n cefnogi thema drawsbynciol Cyfleoedd Cyfartal a Phrif Ffrydio Rhyw a hefyd y wybodaeth am Drechu Tlodi a gweithgarwch thema drawsbynciol cyffredinol lle ceir llawer o orgyffwrdd gyda gweithgarwch cysylltiedig. Mae'r data a ddarperir yn cynnwys cymhariaeth â'r data a ddarparwyd yn yr adroddiad blynyddol diwethaf ym mis Mehefin 2017 gan ddangos y cynnydd a wnaed dros y cyfnod.

16. Mae'r adborth cadarnhaol gan randdeiliaid ar gynnwys y system hon er mwyn eu galluogi i ddangos y cyfraniad y maent yn ei wneud, drwy eu gweithgarwch, at y themâu trawsbynciol, wedi parhau.

Cysylltiadau Cyhoeddus a'r Cyfryngau

17. Mae'r tîm Themâu Trawsbynciol yn parhau i ystyried ffyrdd o roi cyhoeddusrwydd i'r ffordd y mae gweithrediadau'n integreiddio'r themâu trawsbynciol yn y gwaith o'u dylunio a'u cyflawni. Gan weithio gyda Thîm Cyfathrebu WEFO, y nod yw codi proffil y themâu trawsbynciol a dangos y gwerth ychwanegol y gallant ei gyflwyno i weithrediadau.

18. Mae **Atodiad** 3 yn dangos rhai enghreifftiau o'r cydweithrediad hwn, gyda thrydariadau diweddar gan WEFO a ffeithluniau yn tynnu sylw at brosiectau amrywiol sy'n ymgorffori Cyfleoedd Cyfartal a Phrif Ffrydio Rhyw.

19. Yn Nigwyddiad Blynyddol WEFO a gynhaliwyd yn Stadiwm Liberty yn Abertawe ar 30 Tachwedd 2017, cyflwynwyd nifer o wobrau er mwyn cydnabod y gwaith rhagorol sy'n cael ei gyflawni drwy raglenni ariannu Ewropeaidd. Roedd un o'r gwobrau hyn am y cyfraniad a wnaed at y Themâu Trawsbynciol. Y tri phrosiect ar y rhestr fer oedd Busnes Cymdeithasol Cymru (ERDF) dan arweiniad Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru, CUBRIC (ERDF) dan arweiniad Prifysgol Caerdydd, a'r enillydd, Tyfu Gweithluoedd drwy Ddysgu a Datblygu GWLAD (ESF) dan arweiniad Prifysgol Cymru y Drindod Dewi Sant. Roedd y tri phrosiect wedi dangos ymrwymiad clir i weithgarwch a oedd yn cefnogi pob un o'r tair thema drawsbynciol, ac wedi cyflawni'r gweithgarwch hwnnw'n ymarferol.

Tyfu Gweithluoedd drwy Ddysgu a Datblygu GWLAD (ESF)



CUBRIC (ERDF)
dan arweiniad Prifysgol Caerdydd



Busnes Cymdeithasol Cymru (ERDF)
dan arweiniad Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru



Gweithio mewn partneriaeth

20. Mae gwaith gyda 3SET CGGC wedi parhau ac mae'r Tîm Themâu Trawsbynciol, mewn partneriaeth â'r Tîm Strategaeth, wedi cynnal cyfres o weithdai i ddarparwyr prosiectau yn y Trydydd Sector. Roedd y rhain yn canolbwyntio ar sut y gellir integreiddio'r themâu trawsbynciol, gan ddefnyddio Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol fel fframwaith ar gyfer cyflawni, pwysigrwydd monitro a chasglu data cywir a sut i werthuso'n effeithiol.

Y camau nesaf

21. Bydd adroddiadau yn y dyfodol yn dangos y cynnydd ar ddangosyddion themâu trawsbynciol ffurfiol a gweithgarwch lefel prosiect ychwanegol, ochr yn ochr â manylion prosiectau penodol sy'n cynnal gweithgarwch mewn perthynas â'r themâu trawsbynciol.

Drafftiwyd gan: Chriss O'Connell WEFO
Cymeradwywyd gan: Rob Halford WEFO
Dyddiad: 23 Mawrth 201

Atodiad 1:
Prosiectau sy'n cyfrannu at y dangosydd thema drawsbynciol Cyfleoedd Cyfartal ffurfiol 'nifer y mentrau sy'n mabwysiadu neu'n gwella eu strategaethau cydraddoldeb yn cynnwys systemau monitro'.

Teitl y Gweithrediad	Buddiolwr Arweiniol	Rhaglen	Blaenoriaeth	Rhagolwg	Mehefin 2017	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Hawliadau sy'n mynd Rhagddynt
Cymorth Entrepreneuriaeth - Busnes Cymru	Llywodraeth Cymru - Adran yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth	ERDF Dwyrain Cymru	2	1000	1	6	20
Cymorth BBaCh - Busnes Cymru	Llywodraeth Cymru - Adran yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth	ERDF Dwyrain Cymru	2	3250	0	38	100
Busnes Cymdeithasol Cymru	Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru	ERDF Dwyrain Cymru	2	50	5	30	
Cenedl Hyblyg 2	Chwarae Teg	ESF Dwyrain Cymru	2	122	14	75	
Cymorth Entrepreneuriaeth - Busnes Cymru	Llywodraeth Cymru - Adran yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth	ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd	2	1500	0	35	79
Cymorth BBaCh - Busnes Cymru	Llywodraeth Cymru - Adran yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth	ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd	2	4800	0	89	211
Busnes Cymdeithasol Cymru	Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru	ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd	2	200	25	56	
SEACAMS 2	Prifysgol Bangor	ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd	1	20	0	0	

Teitl y Gweithrediad	Buddiolwr Arweiniol	Rhaglen	Blaenoriaeth	Rhagolwg	Mehefin 2017	Cyflawnwyd hyd yma	Hawliadau sy'n mynd Rhagddynt
Law yn Llaw at Gymru Iach ar Waith (Gwasanaeth mewn Gwaith)	Llywodraeth Cymru - Yr Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol	ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd	1	525	0	0	
Cenedl Hyblyg 2	Chwarae Teg	ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd	2	278	55	187	
Gwell Swyddi, Gwell…..i Fenywod mewn Cyflogaeth	Coleg Gŵyr Abertawe	ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd	2	45	Dd/G	0	

Ffynhonnell WEFO 30 Mawrth 2018

Atodiad 2

Gweithgarwch Dangosydd Lefel Prosiect y Thema Drawsbynciol

Cyfleoedd Cyfartal a Phrif Ffrydio Rhyw - Rhaglenni ERDF

ERDF	Cyfleoedd Cyfartal a Phrif Ffrydio Rhyw	Cyfanswm Mai 2017	Mawrth 2018 Cyfanswm
1	Mesurau camau cadarnhaol - menywod	16	28
2	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - pobl dduon a lleiafrifoedd ethnig	5	8
3	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - pobl ifanc	4	7
4	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - pobl hŷn	4	8
5	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - pobl anabl	4	9
6	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - eraill	2	7
7	Gweithgarwch Gwahanu Galwedigaethol	0	1
8	Gweithgarwch Cyflog Cyfartal	4	4
9	Cyfranogiad menywod mewn STEM	7	21
10	Gweithgarwch yn hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg	4	19
11	Gweithgarwch yn annog pobl i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg	6	30
12	Ymgysylltu â Grŵp Mynediad i Bobl Anabl	10	26
13	Rhaglenni iechyd yn y gweithle	0	2
14	Darpariaeth gofal plant	0	1
15	Darpariaeth gofal arall	0	1
	Cyfanswm	66	172

Cyfleoedd Cyfartal a Phrif Ffrydio Rhyw – Rhaglenni ESF

ESF	Cyfleoedd Cyfartal a Phrif Ffrydio Rhyw	Cyfanswm Mai 2017	Cyfanswm Mawrth 2018
1	Mesurau camau cadarnhaol - menywod	19	26
2	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - pobl dduon a lleiafrifoedd ethnig	12	15
3	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - pobl ifanc	14	17
4	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - pobl hŷn	6	8
5	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - pobl anabl	21	28
6	Mesur cam cadarnhaol - eraill	12	14
7	Gweithgarwch Gwahanu Galwedigaethol	36	39
8	Gweithgarwch Cyflog Cyfartal	3	3
9	Cyfranogiad menywod mewn STEM	17	20
10	Gweithgarwch yn hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg	19	21
11	Gweithgarwch yn annog pobl i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg	18	22
12	Ymgysylltu â Grŵp Mynediad i Bobl Anabl	7	7
13	Rhaglenni iechyd yn y gweithle	5	6
14	Darpariaeth gofal plant	18	18
15	Darpariaeth gofal arall	10	10
	Cyfanswm	217	254

Trechu Tlodi ac Allgáu Cymdeithasol - Rhaglenni ERDF

ERDF	Trechu Tlodi ac Allgáu Cymdeithasol	Cyfanswm Mai 2017	Cyfanswm Mawrth 2018
1	Gweithgarwch adeiladu sgiliau cymunedol	16	28
2	Gweithgarwch mentora / eirioli	15	18
3	Gweithgarwch cymorth cymheiriaid	0	0
4	Cynlluniau gwirfoddoli	14	20
5	Sefydliadau sy'n talu'r cyflog byw	8	11
	Cyfanswm	53	77

Trechu Tlodi ac Allgáu Cymdeithasol - Rhaglenni ESF

ESF	Trechu Tlodi ac Allgáu Cymdeithasol	Cyfanswm Mai 2017	Cyfanswm Mawrth 2018
1	Gweithgarwch adeiladu sgiliau cymunedol	11	12
2	Gweithgarwch mentora / eirioli	46	52
3	Gweithgarwch cymorth cymheiriaid	13	14
4	Cynlluniau gwirfoddoli	24	24
5	Sefydliadau sy'n talu'r cyflog byw	4	4
	Cyfanswm	98	106

Themâu Trawsbynciol yn Gyffredinol - Rhaglenni ERDF

ERDF	Themâu Trawsbynciol yn Gyffredinol	Cyfanswm Mai 2017	Cyfanswm Mawrth 2018
1	Gweithgarwch arfer da o ran ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid	10	27
2	Datblygu / ymgysylltu â Hyrwyddwyr Thema Drawsbynciol	45	89
3	Integreiddio cymalau cymdeithasol	19	46
4	Pecyn offer thema drawsbynciol, dull gwaelodlin, datblygu Ap	7	7
5	Datblygwyd pecyn hyfforddiant thema drawsbynciol	0	0
6	Cyflwynwyd rhaglen hyfforddi staff thema drawsbynciol	12	14
7	Gweithgarwch yn cefnogi dangosyddion thema drawsbynciol (mewn Blaenoriaethau / Amcanion lle nad yw'r dangosyddion yn bresennol)	6	10
	Cyfanswm	99	193

Themâu Trawsbynciol yn Gyffredinol - Rhaglenni ESF

ESF	Themâu Trawsbynciol yn Gyffredinol	Cyfanswm Mai 2017	Cyfanswm Mawrth 2018
1	Gweithgarwch arfer da o ran ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid	8	9
2	Datblygu / ymgysylltu â Hyrwyddwyr Thema Drawsbynciol	61	69
3	Integreiddio cymalau cymdeithasol	13	14
4	Pecyn offer thema drawsbynciol, dull gwaelodlin, datblygu Ap	3	4
5	Datblygwyd pecyn hyfforddiant thema drawsbynciol	0	0
6	Cyflwynwyd rhaglen hyfforddi staff thema drawsbynciol	6	7
7	Gweithgarwch yn cefnogi dangosyddion thema drawsbynciol (mewn Blaenoriaethau / Amcanion lle nad yw'r dangosyddion yn bresennol)	11	13
	Cyfanswm	102	116

Atodiad 3 Ffeithluniau Cyhoeddusrwydd Themâu Trawsbynciol

Agile Nation 2

The European Social Fund in partnership with Chwarae Teg is promoting gender equality, supporting career advancement and improving the position of women in the workforce

Challenging sex role stereotypes



Removing the barriers to recruitment, retention and progression of women in the workplace



Changing workplace culture

Mentoring and support scheme

Career Development Programme for women



Focus on Leadership and Management

Partnership working and sharing best practice transnationally



Working with Employers to improve employment practices

"Exemplar Employer Awards Scheme"

Employers championing gender diversity



Chwarae Teg

www.agilenation2.org.uk

Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop
European Social Fund

STEM CYMRU 2

Working in partnership with Schools and Industry to deliver STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects across West Wales and the Valleys



Skills for the future





Click on text below for Team Tachyon Twitter feed:

Female mentors and role models (Tachyon F1 Team)





Challenging non-traditional roles



Click on logo to visit our website:

EESW STEM Cymru

UNDEB EWROPEAIDD EUROPEAN UNION

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop European Social Fund

TRAC 11-24

The European Social Fund (in partnership with Careers Wales, North Wales Local Authorities and Further Education establishments) is supporting young people to stay engaged with education



Bilingual Mentoring and Advocacy services

Advocating the Welsh Language for future employment

Provide bespoke work experience opportunities

Offer assistance with travel costs

Support young people with disabilities, those experiencing depression and/or substance misuse to overcome barriers





Use the natural environment, for activities which promote healthier lifestyles

Develop organisational Eco-codes and travel plans

Provides English for speakers of another language (ESOL)

Challenge employment stereotypes



Press / Click DCC Icon below to view Trac 11-24 website

TRAC 11-24

Cyngor sir ddinbych denbighshire County Council

Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop European Social Fund

WEFO @wefowales Follow

Thanks to @WorkwaysPlus, backed by £7.5m EU funds, caring mum returns to work after 14 years: workways.wales/default.aspx?p... #CarersWeek

WEFO @wefowales Follow

Great work being done to improve STEM subject attainment levels in Wales by the EU funded Stem Cymru 2 Project @EESWSTEMCymru #INWED17

WEFO @wefowales Follow

Funded by @WCVA_AIF Active Inclusion @InnovateTrust supports people with learning disabilities in Wales innovate-trust.org.uk #LDWeek2017

WEFO @wefowales Follow

#CarersWeek The EU-funded PaCE project is helping parents experiencing childcare as a barrier to work in Wales: gov.wales/topics/people-...

WEFO @wefowales Follow

#EUFundsCymru competition Category 3: the cross-cutting themes: sustainable development, equality & tackling poverty gov.wales/funding/eu-fun...



WEFO @wefowales Follow

How EU funds can help young people with ALN. @TRAC1124 supports 11-24 yr olds at risk of disengaging with education in N Wales #LDWeek2017

WEFO @wefowales Follow

How @Educ8_Wales an EU funded Active Inclusion project, helped turn Alice's life around: wcva.org.uk/about-us/news/... #DisabilityAwarenessDay

WEFO @wefowales Follow

EU-funded projects in Wales helping to support & value older people in the workplace: @upskillatwork Workways+ Powys, OPUS, #OlderPeoplesDay

WEFO @wefowales Follow

Backed by EU-funds @Healthywork_HWW project offers those with #mentalhealth conditions support to get back into work #WorldMentalHealthDay

WEFO @wefowales Follow

#RefugeeWeek EU-funded @SovaACE project helps black, minority ethnic & migrant people into work sova.org.uk/project/ACE #oursharedfuture

WEFO @wefowales Follow

Today is International Day of Persons with Disabilities #UnitedNations un.org/en/events/disa... EU funds in Wales are supporting people with disabilities through a number of projects including @WCVA_AIF @WorkwaysPlus #Communities4Work

WEFO @wefowales Follow

EU-funded project @WCVA_AIF supporting people with health conditions which may be a barrier to work #WorldMentalHealthDay

WEFO @wefowales Follow

How EU funds in Wales are making a real difference to women's lives in the workplace #IWD2018 ♀ The Agile Nation 2 project is enabling women to overcome barriers to their career development agilenation2.org.uk @ChwaraeTeg #pressforprogress ♀

PWYLLGOR MONITRO RHAGLENNI CYMRU, CRONFEYDD STRWYTHUROL A BUDDSODDI EWROPEAIDD 2014-2020:

Diwygiad i Raglenni ERDF 2014-2020

Mater

1. Yn unol ag Erthygl 110 o Reoliad UE 1303/2013, mae'n ofynnol i'r Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni archwilio a chymeradwyo unrhyw gynnig i ddiwygio'r Rhaglenni Gweithredol a gynigir gan yr Awdurdod Rheoli.

Argymhelliad

2. Gofynnir i'r Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni cymeradwyo'r fersiwn ffurfiol o'r Rhaglenni Gweithredol diwygiedig fel y gellir eu cyflwyno i'r CE i'w cymeradwyo. Y rhaglenni hyn yw:

   2014UK16RFOP005 – Y Deyrnas Unedig - ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd
   2014UK16RFOP006 – Y Deyrnas Unedig - ERDF Dwyrain Cymru

Cefndir

3. Mae Papur WPMC (17) 120 yn nodi'r newidiadau arfaethedig i'r Rhaglenni Gweithredol a gytunodd y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni yng nghyfarfod 01 Rhagfyr. Ers hynny, cwrddodd WEFO â'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ar ddiwedd mis Chwefror 2018 i drafod y cynigion yn fanwl.

4. Yn unol â *Chyfarwyddeb 2001/42 / EC yr Undeb Ewropeaidd a Rheoliadau Asesiad Amgylcheddol o Gynlluniau a Rhaglenni (Cymru) 2004* mae WEFO wedi bod yn ymgynghori â chyrff amgylcheddol (NRW a CADW) ar ymarfer sgrinio ar gyfer yr Asesiad Amgylcheddol Strategol.

5. Yn unol â chyngor gan y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd, cyflwynir fersiwn derfynol ddilysedig o bob rhaglen, a gymerwyd yn uniongyrchol o system ar-lein yr UE a'i gymharu â'r fersiwn flaenorol, ar gyfer cytundeb terfynol y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni. Mae hyn yn adlewyrchu'r newidiadau a gytunwyd yn flaenorol gyda'r Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni.

Camau Nesaf

6. Bydd cytundeb Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni yn caniatáu i'r rhaglenni diwygiedig gael eu hanfon trwy system ar-lein yr UE a rhoi cyfnod o ymgynghori ffurfiol ar draws gwasanaethau'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd.

7. Mae'r disgwyliad yn dal i fod bydd y newidiadau wedi'u cytuno erbyn yr haf.

8. Bydd fersiynau Gymraeg o'r dogfennau Rhaglen Weithredol yn cael eu diweddaru unwaith y deuir i gytundeb gyda'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME UNDER THE 'INVESTMENT FOR GROWTH AND JOBS' GOAL

CCI	2014UK16RFOP006
Title	United Kingdom - ERDF East Wales
Version	~~1~~2.~~3~~0
First year	2014
Last year	2020
Eligible from	01-Jan-2014
Eligible until	31-Dec-2023
Making use of Art. 96(8) CPR	
Major amendment (requiring EC approval - cf. Art. 96 CPR)	
Approved by monitoring committee	
Justification for amendment	
EC decision number	~~C(2014)8777~~
EC decision date	~~18-Nov-2014~~
MS amending decision number	
MS amending decision date	
MS amending decision entry into force date	
NUTS regions covered by the operational programme	UKL2 - East Wales

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1. STRATEGY FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

1. **Introduction**
    1. The section sets out the justification for the content of the Priority Axes and the specific objectives, actions and anticipated results described in Section 2. It builds on the analysis of disparities, needs and growth potentials and the rationale for the selection of Thematic Objectives included in the UK Partnership Agreement; in particular the Wales-specific analysis and rationale set out in the Welsh Chapter.
    2. The Partnership Agreement has already considered links to the UK Country Specific Recommendations and the Commission Position Paper on the UK in coming to a justification for the selection of the main Thematic Objectives.
    3. Each Priority and Specific Objective within this programme will contribute in some way to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and to economic, social and territorial cohesion. The programme aims to help to address long-standing weaknesses in the economy of the region, whilst building on territorial strengths. Economic, social and territorial cohesion (done in a smart, sustainable and inclusive way) are not mutually exclusive and should be supported by all Priorities, Specific Objectives and supported operations. For example:
        - Economic cohesion: target disparities in productivity and innovation, building research capacity in areas of territorial strength, and improving the competitiveness and attractiveness of territories through improved connectivity, thus retaining growth businesses and skilled labour.
        - Social cohesion: improving connections between local labour markets with low mobility to employment and urban centres, linking targeted business support to skills investments, and improving the attractiveness of areas for inward investment supporting local employment (e.g. RD&I, Low Carbon).
        - Territorial cohesion: targeting areas of strength or emerging capability, including through improving the accessibility of more peripheral areas and developing genuine potential in those areas. Ensuring local employment and mobility considered in all operations.

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4. The ERDF programme will be driven by an unequivocal focus on investments that can contribute to the creation of sustainable jobs and economic growth, with a concentration of resources in those areas where the greatest impact can be made. A focus on sustainable jobs and growth does not mean economic growth to the detriment of the environment or of the poorest and most vulnerable; it is economic growth that properly considers and incorporates social and environmental opportunities, fully reflecting the Welsh Government's central organising principle of Sustainable Development[1].
5. Our investment approach aims to take account of the wider investment context, setting out the specific role that the programme can play in unlocking opportunities for economic growth alongside the (potentially much larger) investments of the private, public and third sectors. This programme therefore does not aim to solve the problems identified in isolation, but seeks to improve the conditions for that wider investment to take place by other actors, in particular the private sector. It aims to do this through addressing some of the bottlenecks and barriers to growth and helping de-risk investment opportunities.
6. As part of considering the wider investment context investments made under this programme should take into account potential links to other EU funding programmes as set out in Section 8. This should include consideration of links to European Territorial Cooperation programmes and strategies such as the Atlantic Area Maritime Strategy covered by the programme area[1.1].

7. The programme is designed to deliver growth and support jobs in East Wales while supporting the key objectives of EU Cohesion policy by adding value and not detrimentally affecting other regional economies. More specifically, where the Fund legislation enables large enterprises to receive a contribution from the Funds, this flexibility will not be used to support investments that result in relocating a substantial number of jobs to East Wales from existing locations in the Union.

8. When spending ESI funds by means of public contracts / concessions, the Managing Authority – and any Intermediate Body, where applicable – will require beneficiaries to fully respect EU public procurement rules and in particular: (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC; (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into United Kingdom legislation; (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC; and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Applicants and beneficiaries will be informed of this fundamental requirement via grant award agreements and national eligibility rules and guidance documents, supplemented by training and support where needed.

2. **Priority Axis 1: Research and Innovation**
    1. A high level analysis and summary of key needs and opportunities leading to the selection of this Priority Axis is set out in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.
    2. Both *Science for Wales*[2] and *Innovation Wales*[3] (which together form the Welsh **Smart Specialisation** Strategy) provide a clear policy focus for this priority. They stress the need to promote innovation across Wales and in all sectors of the economy, to build capacity and promote excellence in research and innovation, and to seek new global and digital opportunities.

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The strategy also sets out areas of specialisation which can provide a focus for investments and the development of excellence and clusters. These are broadly organised under the headings of 'Grand Challenge' areas, which align with UK and EU policy priorities:

- **Life Sciences and Health** (for example Patient data records, Wound healing, e-health or stem cell research)
- **Advanced Engineering and Materials** (e.g. Photonics, or Maintenance Repair and Overhaul in aerospace)
- **Low Carbon, Energy and Environment** (e.g. Smart living, eco innovation, or Low-carbon energy)

3. The importance of **ICT and the Digital Economy** is also recognised as a key enabling area (e.g. trust and security and through developing world class enabling infrastructure)
4. These areas also include identification of a number of areas of existing and emerging expertise in Key Enabling Technologies such as nanotechnology, semiconductors, advanced materials, and photonics. To support research excellence in these areas and other areas of expertise new 'Sêr Cymru' teams and National Research Networks aim to strengthen Wales' research performance by targeting investment, supporting infrastructure and attracting world-class research talent. Innovation Wales also aims to focus significant investment in areas of Smart Specialisation.
5. The Grand Challenges recognise the importance of **addressing societal challenges for balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth**. Territorial cohesion is also sought through supporting areas of existing and emerging expertise, such as clusters. The contribution investment in RD&I can make to genuine sustainable development is illustrated in the opportunities for **green growth** and the transition to a low Carbon economy. Green growth has been identified as presenting significant opportunities for future growth and jobs.
6. **Investment in R&D in Wales** was 1.32%[4] GVA in 2011. Lower levels reflect fewer world-class institutions and clusters, fewer R&D intensive businesses, but also the potential for more RD&I to be carried out in Wales by those multi-national R&D intensive businesses with a Welsh presence. The situation in East Wales is better than WW&V, but it continues to lag the UK and EU averages and is heavily dependent on Cardiff University and a handful of businesses (e.g. Airbus).
7. In general the demonstration of research excellence and securing of **competitive research funds** attracts businesses, in turn helping to create clusters. *Science for Wales* highlights a need to increase our share of UK Research Council funding from 3.3 per cent in 2009/10 to 5 per cent (reflecting Wales' population share in the UK). Wales attracted just over 2% of the Framework Programme 7 (FP7) funding to the UK in 2011[5], a large proportion by institutions in East Wales, such as Cardiff University; a strength than will need to be built upon for the benefit of the whole of Wales. *Innovation Wales* also recognises that Wales needs to play a bigger role in the wider UK and European innovation system; Wales is identified an Innovation Follower[6] which is a strength in the EU context, but a challenge in relation to the best performers in the UK and across Europe.
8. **Barriers to accessing competitive funding** relate to capacity and capability of existing institutions within Wales in terms of facilities, equipment, excellence of research and researchers, and lack of previous

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success. Other barriers include a lack of: finance and technical expertise to prepare bids; horizon scanning; and international partners / networks.

9. As competitive funds are secured and partnerships develop a key aim should be the **creation of clusters**, building on existing strengths, which bring together researcher institutions with both large and small businesses[7]. The demonstration of research excellence can attract business investments, which is where the transformational change in this area can be delivered. This is not a rapid process, but it is clear progress is being made in Wales with increased industrial collaborations and increasing private investment in RD&I in Wales.
10. **Private sector investment in research** in Wales fluctuates subject to investment programmes of a small number of businesses. Overall, private sector investment in research in Wales has been increasing (both cash value and as a percentage of Welsh GVA). Wales does not have many research intensive companies with research centres in Wales and successful clusters across the EU often have large research intensive companies helping to support diverse supply chains[8]. There are signs of this changing as clusters in key sectors are being developed and will be strengthened through the National Research Networks.
11. A small number of significant investments in **R&D infrastructure** were made under the 2007-2013 ERDF programme[9] in West Wales and the Valleys (though some were collaborations across Wales, like the Low Carbon Research Institute which involved Cardiff University in East Wales), increasing the availability of facilities suitable for highly specialised research as well as business incubation by 10,000 square meters. This priority will seek to complement that investment in East Wales through an increase in the specialised research infrastructure only where this can clearly demonstrate that it will increase the capacity and capability to undertake world class research, encourage inward investment and develop existing and emerging capability[10]. Investments in R&D infrastructure are supported by the ERDF on condition that they are in line with the smart specialisation strategy and that the research results be applied for the economic development of the region.
12. Welsh businesses report a relatively high involvement in **innovative activities** compared to other parts of the UK[11]., but it is recognised that there is a need to develop a better understanding of our strengths in innovation to achieve genuine Smart Specialisation[12].
13. The UK Innovation Survey[13] reported that the overall proportion of **innovation-active businesses cooperating with universities** in the UK is only 15%, although HEBCIS data[14] indicates a well developed and effective knowledge transfer system between HE and business. This suggests room for further improvements in cooperation, in particular with a view to commercialisation. This is particularly true given *Innovation Wales* recognises that pockets of world class expertise exist in academia in areas with commercial potential, although lacking in global scale and an opportunity to build on existing best practise in the commercialisation of R&D.
14. Significant barriers to the **commercialisation of R&D** remain. Science for Wales recognises the world-class science undertaken in Wales, particularly in the Grand Challenge areas, but also found
    - "*frequently SMEs and individuals have considerable difficulty being able to demonstrate to potential funders the proof of concept*

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for the idea, technique or [product] that they want to develop [and] It is often necessary to demonstrate experience and competence by a proof of concept study for… competitive calls. "

15. The ERDF regulations require a focus on the **transition to a low Carbon economy** and as one of the three Grand Challenge areas identified in the Welsh Smart Specialisation strategy, it offers a particular opportunity in Wales, particularly given emerging expertise in specialisation key areas. The Welsh Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector was estimated to be worth over £5.5bn in sales in 2010/10, employing well over 40,000 people. The sector is expected to continue growing[15], and there is some existing expertise in a range of related areas highlighted in the Welsh Smart Specialisation approach[16]. Wales benefits from significant academic expertise in developing and integrating low-Carbon technologies, for example in the Sustainable Buildings Envelope Centre (in Flintshire and linked to Cardiff University).
16. **Renewable energy technologies** (e.g. on and off shore wind, photovoltaic, biomass, etc) are already more mature and are key growth sectors (for example there are now a number of off-shore wind arrays across the Welsh coast). To realise benefits of these and other major investments in the programme area consideration needs to be given as to whether investment can be made in helping to capture new manufacturing, operation and maintenance opportunities in the programme area, for example through research and innovation to lower costs in deployment and maintenance and to demonstrate newer and more innovative technologies.
17. This priority is expected to work in close cooperation with the delivery of *Science for Wales* and *Innovation Wales*, which are seeking to address **a number of additional challenges in the Welsh economy**. For example, to address challenges related to capacity in fundamental research and attracting world class research teams, the *Ser Cymru* programme (a key part of *Science for Wales*) is developing that world class research excellence by bringing world-class research teams to Wales. Innovation in the public sector, in particular innovation in the use of significant public sector budgets, is being addressed through the delivery of *Innovation Wales* which has a particular emphasis on innovation through public sector procurement. There are also initiatives planned to use the Welsh public sector as a test-bed for innovation, in particular social innovation. More efforts are also being made to attract additional funding sources to Wales to support research and innovation goals (e.g. Horizon 2020, UK Research Councils, Technology and Strategy Board), including by encouraging and supporting Welsh stakeholders to access those funding sources.

3. **Priority Axis 2: SME Competitiveness**
    1. A high level analysis and summary of key needs and opportunities leading to the selection of this Priority Axis is set out in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.
    2. This Priority will promote entrepreneurship and business **start-ups** and help SMEs to improve their competitiveness through **growth in the size of businesses** and support an **increase in productivity** through a range of measures, with specific actions to support the take-up and exploitation of Next Generation Broadband in Wales. Employment growth and productivity growth are complementary but sometimes contradictory

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elements of SME competitiveness. Productivity growth is essential for competitiveness but can lead to reductions in the number of employees within a business as processes improve. Growth in the size of businesses supports long-term employment, but only where the growing business is doing so sustainably and is genuinely competitive.

3. **Barriers and tipping points** to business growth include concerns over regulation and legislation and negotiating transactions such as breaking through a tax threshold, needed to become an incorporated business, employing staff, and entering a new market[17]. This suggests that tailored support is needed to address these barriers, for example access to finance and business support targeted at the key stages of business growth (e.g. creation, export and expansion), with particular emphasis on the role of broadband and associated ICT exploitation in helping promote productivity growth.
4. The Partnership Agreement set out the issues relating to **access to finance for both starting and expanding businesses**, and data from the 2012 Small Business Survey[18] also suggests that SMEs in Wales are more likely to experience difficulties in gaining finance than SMEs across the UK as a whole[19]. Furthermore, micro enterprises are more likely to report difficulties in gaining finance than small and medium-sized ones.[20] The **Ex Ante Assessment for the use of Financial Instruments** has found evidence of market gaps in the provision of microloans, SME debt finance, finance for social enterprises, and risk capital and a Financial Instrument will be developed to address these gaps[21]. The Welsh Government is also reviewing available financial support for SMEs and the ex-ante assessment informing ERDF funding will need to take account of and be coordinated with any changes resulting from that process, including the potential for closer links between finance and wider business support[22].
5. *Innovation Wales* recognises that **innovative activity** in Wales is constrained by a lack of private development finance. A culture of innovation is one of the features of high growth firms[23], indicating that targeting of innovative firms and supporting innovation through risk capital might be a useful mechanism to specifically support those SMEs.
6. The market failure and potential role for EU funding for a range of financial products (including loans, micro-finance, risk capital, etc) is being assessed through a dedicated **ex-ante assessment** and this will inform the baseline and allocations to be directed towards this provision.
7. The **business birth rate** in Wales in 2012 was 2.0 percentage points below that for the UK as a whole[24] and one of the main barriers to the creation of new SMEs is access to business advice and guidance[25]. In addition levels of entrepreneurship in Wales on average underperform those in the UK[26]. In 2012 East Wales had a higher birth rate (50 per 10,000 of population aged 16-64) than West Wales and the Valleys (WW&V – 39), but also had a higher death rate (50 vs. 44 for WW&V). Despite this EW has more active businesses per 10,000 population that WW&V (493 vs. 433), but both lag the UK average (580)[27]. Although early stage entrepreneurial activity in Wales rose through the recession, tracking the UK average as with the other home nations, 2013 saw a decline in levels of entrepreneurial activity and start-up intention in Wales with a significant decrease in activity rates amongst 18-29 year olds, possibly as a result of improving economic conditions contributing to less

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reliance on self-employment as a source of employment[28]. Women remain under-represented in early-stage entrepreneurial activity in Wales and across the UK as a whole[29]. Start-up support schemes in Wales have demonstrated some success in removing barriers to entrepreneurship[30].

8. Low SME productivity, highlighted as an issue in Wales, will not be addressed solely through encouraging start-ups. Research recognises productivity is a key driver of economic growth[31], but that rapid and significant growth is achieved by relatively few businesses[32]. For example, Global Entrepreneurship Monitor data suggests that 10% of emerging entrepreneurs expect to create 70% of all job creation forecast by their cohort[33]. It is very difficult to identify those **growth businesses**, especially when they are first formed; however there is evidence[34] that the growth intentions of businesses have a large effect on whether they will indeed grow. Generally, Wales has a lack of growing companies, including large companies[35]. High growth businesses, while small in number and notoriously difficult to identify, remain key to driving productivity across the board and in increasing jobs. The UK compares well internationally in its percentage of high growth businesses, 5.8% against US (c. 5%) and Italy (3%) and there are therefore clearly significant potential benefits in **targeting growth businesses.** Wales has some previous success with high growth firms, having the highest proportion of high growth firms of any region in the UK between 2002 and 2005 (though this position has subsequently fallen)[36].
9. Research[37] confirms that SMEs have a number of concerns relating to the seeking of **advice and information** which point towards some of the market failures in this area. The concerns particularly relate to the expense and time involved with taking up formal business assistance, not being able to trust external advisors, or concerns about whether they would understand the business, and confidence in being able to access appropriate assistance emerged.
10. **New market entry** is one of the key points and barriers to business growth[38] . Export figures in Wales below UK average and dominated by a small number of large companies[39]. The Welsh Government has recognised that significant opportunities also lie within supply chains, from procurement opportunities and in links with anchor companies[40]. This in turn can help build capacity for access to national and international supply chains and procurement opportunities. Since 1999 there has been a 105% increase in Welsh exports (UK average 79%)[41]. The majority of growth is demonstrated in markets outside of the EU reflecting both the weakness of the EU economy and the potential for growth in emerging markets. This suggests the internationalisation of Welsh SMEs can be encouraged through both domestic and international supply chain development, including seeking new markets.
11. Domestic markets are also important sources of growth opportunities for SMEs, in particular through **procurement opportunities**. For example the public sector across the UK spends £150 billion a year and the Welsh public sector £4.3 billion a year. Businesses successful in domestic procurement should find fewer capacity barriers to export markets and international procurement opportunities (e.g. through OJEU).
12. The importance of **ICT and the digital economy** to productivity growth set out in the Partnership Agreement needs to be reflected in the support

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offered to SMEs. There is a need to ensure that SMEs take advantage of significant ICT infrastructure and capacity investments[42] Evidence exists of positive economic impact of broadband but with benefits dependent on managerial culture and skills[43]. Furthermore, research suggests that the impact of broadband does not happen in isolation and that complementary technologies, products, services and skills are also important[44]. Although the UK performs well against many indicators of ICT exploitation, one study has indicated that UK SMEs lag behind their international peers in the digitisation of some back office functions, suggesting that there may be a need for support in this area[45].

13. Wales performs similarly to the rest of the UK on indicators of business exploitation of ICT, with figures from the 2012 Small Business Survey showing that 69% of SME Employers in Wales (i.e. all SMEs excluding those with no employees) had a business website, compared with 71% across the UK as a whole[46]. Of those SME Employers in Wales with internet access, 43% sell goods and services through a website (compared with 41% in the UK as a whole) and 67% promote their goods and services through a website (compared with 70% in the UK as a whole). However, in a survey of SMEs undertaken by Ofcom, 36% of SMEs in Wales reported that they did not have confidence in their ability to identify which new communications products or services would be valuable for their organisation, suggesting a need for interventions targeted at businesses and individuals[47].
14. In terms of the economic impact of *faster* broadband, research has identified 'cloud computing' as one of the primary routes through which faster broadband is predicted to have an economic impact[48]. In the Ofcom SME survey, 23% of SMEs in Wales reported the use of cloud services[49]. In a survey of businesses across the EU 81% of businesses that were already using cloud services reported lower IT costs as a result of adoption of cloud computing[50]. However, barriers to more extensive cloud adoption amongst businesses include concerns over legal jurisdiction and data location issues and security and data protection regulations, uncertain trust in suppliers and lack of guaranteed data access and portability between cloud systems[51]. Some of these concerns link to wider concerns over e-crime so interventions to promote SME exploitation of ICT should be sensitive to the fact that e-crime and the fear of e-crime represents a significant barrier to business adoption of ICT. In the Ofcom SME survey, 35% of SMEs in Wales indicated that they have security concerns related to communications services[52]. Estimates for the cost of e-crime suggest it could cost the UK economy around £27 billion every year[53].
15. There are around 3,000 organisations carrying out **social enterprise** activity in Wales with a combined turnover of £2.2 billion (07/08 estimate) [54]. Welsh social enterprises operate in most industries across Wales, though the majority are involved in training and education, arts and Welsh language, business support, health and social care, and sports; the same research noted social enterprises in Wales seek specialist advice and support to become better businesses[55].
16. **Energy consumption** in Wales is nearly 30% higher than the average across Great Britain[56], largely accounted for by industry and reflecting a larger proportion of more energy intensive businesses such as manufacturing in Wales. Challenges and opportunities related to increased

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energy efficiency of businesses are relevant to all sectors, however, given the need to address targets for the reductions of emissions and the increasing costs associated with energy. In addition to being able to contribute to energy efficiency targets (complementing initiatives under Priority Axis 3) there are significant benefits related to improved energy efficiency for individual businesses. The increasing energy costs in the UK are a barrier to the competitiveness of Welsh businesses, and in particular for those that are more energy intensive. While the most energy intensive of businesses have strong incentives to pursue energy efficiency goals, supported through capital investment, medium and lower energy intensive businesses do not and need support to do so.

17. There are also significant opportunities to improve the competitiveness of SMEs through greater **resource efficiency** beyond solely energy consumption, which can also have positive environmental impacts. The Waste & Recycling Action Plan estimates that UK businesses could save £23 billion per year by improving the way they use resources, and suggests waste and poor resource efficiency could cost businesses as much as 4% of turnover[57] Improved resource efficiency can therefore help boost productivity, in turn helping to support growth and jobs.
18. A range of barriers affect the uptake of **energy and resource efficiency** measures in businesses, particularly SMEs, including it being a low priority, lacking expertise, lacking capital, and no compelling case given perceived long payback periods[58]. Given that around 55% of delivered energy use in the public and commercial sector is SMEs[59] there is potentially a significant opportunity being lost because of a lack of incentive for those less energy intensive businesses, and this is not being addressed through loan schemes with lengthy payback periods.

4. **Priority Axis 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**

1. A high level analysis and summary of key needs and opportunities leading to the selection of this Priority Axis is set out in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.
2. Green Growth and the transition to a low-Carbon economy represents a key opportunity to support both jobs and business across Wales; particularly given an abundance of natural resources and assets, a good research base, strong endogenous technical expertise and key energy infrastructure (including substantial National Grid transmission capacity[60]) in place. *Energy Wales* sets out the Welsh strategy for coordinating action and existing capability will be strengthened through clusters within three Enterprise Zones (albeit in West Wales). Areas of East Wales are also important for renewable energy, in terms of the opportunities for small scale and community schemes across large parts of Powys, North Wales and in the urban areas of South Wales. The Research and Innovation Priority Axis sets out how related support will be available for research and innovation in the low carbon field, building on expertise such as East Wales research institutions involvement in initiatives such as the Low Carbon Research Institute, or the Sustainable Buildings Envelope Centre. .
3. Wales' significant natural resources[61] and assets indicate major **growth potential in renewable energy generation** in the long term. The opportunities for the more developed sectors are mostly around Research and Innovation to further develop technologies (e.g. wind and solar),

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perhaps seeking to attract finance from some of the already well established market leaders outside of the programme area.

4. As at 31 December 2011 the installed capacity of sites generating electricity from renewable sources in Wales was 929.4 MW[62]. **Small scale energy schemes** can make a contribution to reducing carbon emissions and local economic growth (for example a cooperative community model will allow money to be reinvested in other community schemes[63]). Access to finance is good (albeit fragmented) for viable small-scale schemes, but there is a need to de-risk the early stage development of proposals before they can attract finance. The ex-ante assessment to inform potential Financial Instruments in Wales for 2014-2020 and findings to date from Ynni'r Fro (community energy scheme funded through ERDF) suggest that large capital finance is not the main barrier to local and community schemes; indeed there is a relatively crowded market for finance for this activity. There remains a need, however, for advice and guidance for groups to address those barriers prior to reaching consent (and therefore having a financially viable proposition).
5. A number of mature technologies are available to support small scale and community scale low Carbon initiatives (e.g. wind, solar PV, hydro) but the adoption of such technology is expensive and not as widespread as it could be due to uncertainty caused by early stage and planning activity raising questions over commercial viability and benefits. There is a need to demonstrate viability on small scale / community scale and to support measures to speed up the process to help lever additional private resource into these models.
6. There is a need to address the poor **energy efficiency of much of the housing** stock in Wales. Wales' housing stock has poor energy efficiency in comparison with the rest of Europe[64], households account for 29% of final energy use in the UK[65], and many households in Wales face issues of fuel poverty[66]. The heating of rooms is by far the highest source of energy consumption in the household sector[67]. The sheer scale of the challenge dwarfs the available funding and there will be a need to target resources while not missing opportunities for economies of scale or flexible support. There is a need for intervention for those households with lower incomes or facing issues of deprivation, in particular where the incentive to invest in energy efficiency measures (for example through the Green Deal) is less clear as they don't benefit from reduced energy bills directly, have poor credit history, or lack finance for associated upfront costs. Investing in energy efficiency will not only enable cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but will create business and employment opportunities for local labour.
7. Economies of scale will be sought at the same time as targeting based on those in most need and consistent with the Welsh Government central organising principle of sustainable development (an integrated approach seeking economic, social and environmental outcomes). Promoting and supporting behaviour change should be integral to all investments, given the key role behaviour plays in the sustainable use of energy. The areas most affected by fuel poverty in Wales tend to be areas identified as suffering from multiple issues of deprivation, as well as the more rural and peripheral areas (where there is a greater dependence on other sources of fuel such as oil)[68]. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation therefore

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offers a potential method for helping to target energy efficiency in housing measures to specific communities where the greatest impact can be achieved.

8. Careful attention will need to be given to any ERDF support for energy efficiency in housing aimed at addressing issues of fuel poverty to avoid duplication with existing schemes and initiatives, in particular any legislative changes introduced during the programme period. Targeting based on fuel poverty and areas of deprivation should help mitigate this as those involve households not able or willing to participate in the available loan schemes.
9. Wales has developed a comprehensive **energy efficiency supply chain** to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the promotion of energy efficiency in housing (for example over 80% of the businesses that delivered phase 1 of Arbed operated primarily, or solely, in Wales). These businesses should be in a position to help deliver wider schemes, such as the Green Deal across the UK and significant opportunities to access Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding. There are therefore significant opportunities for the Welsh supply chain that could be maximised through complementary investment (for example by addressing barriers to accessing new markets – such as accreditation or collaboration to build consortia to access procurement opportunities – through the SME Competitiveness priority) in the supply side to take advantage of the opportunities in the design, manufacture, distribution, installation and maintenance of domestic energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies.

5. **Priority Axis 4: Connectivity**
    1. The UK Partnership Agreements sets out the importance of investment in connectivity and urban development. The Welsh chapter highlights how the lack of agglomeration effects from large urban centres is a key component of the productivity gap in Wales. The UK Chapter also emphasises the importance attached to this type of investment across the world and how the UK is lagging in a number of areas. The **UK Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs)** are also highlighted in the UK Partnership Agreement, with a focus on addressing key infrastructure bottlenecks one of the key recommendations for action, and ESI funds are recognised in the ESI fund regulations as important tools to help deliver against the CSRs. While the UK is taking action, those prioritised investments are in the more central areas with the majority of UK Government funding directed in and around London, where there greatest economic gains can be made.
    2. The OECD has recognised in a recent report the importance of investing in infrastructure[69], and the World Economic Forum has also noted the importance and benefits of infrastructure investment[70]. The evidence in favour of investment is significant and there are clear indications that regions such as Wales, with structural and geographical challenges but many of the other preconditions for growth, is a region that can gain real benefits from such infrastructure investment.
    3. In its Programme for Government the Welsh Government acknowledges that its interventions can only impact significantly on the Welsh economy in the longer-term. Evidence shows that **investment in connectivity and enabling infrastructure** is one of the two most important 'levers' (in addition to investment in skills development) through which the Welsh

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Government can help to achieve transformational economic change[71]. A 'Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan' (WIIP) has been created to prioritise, scope, and coordinate delivery of major infrastructure investments over a 10 year period and will help identify areas in which there are investment opportunities.

4. Investment to improve connectivity is an **essential pre-requisite for the long-term success of all other ESI funds and all other ERDF Priority Axes**. A well functioning transport system helps people to access work, increases the forces of competition, promotes greater efficiency, and increases the likelihood of colocation and clustering[72].
5. A key benefit of improved connectivity is allowing more people to access a wider range of jobs and for a wider labour market available to businesses. **Travel to work areas in Wales** have been growing in size (and reducing in number) as people travelling further and further for work with less short journeys and more longer ones[73]. **Commuting patterns** in Wales indicate significant flows across Local Authority boundaries and there are multiple employment centres across Wales[74].
6. Despite the polycentricity noted in the two Welsh City Regions, with commuting across the whole region, those areas demonstrate much higher uses of low carbon transport (e.g. 22% of commuters in Cardiff City Region use rail, bus, walking, cycling or other means of transport) than other parts of Wales. Compared to other City regions with well connected public transport there is the potential to increase this for those City regions (given expected growth and limited capacity)[75].
7. Commuting flows are particularly pronounced around the two **City regions** in Wales (Cardiff / Newport and Swansea) with significant flows between Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys regions[76]. Significant improvements in sustainable transport and better connectivity would enable the regions to properly exploit the potential for agglomeration effects noted in other city regions across the UK and Europe. Expected continuing increases in commuting can only be achieved sustainably through investing in the effectiveness, viability and affordability of genuine alternatives to private travel.
8. **Transport barriers to accessing employment** are still a big problem across Wales, with respondents to the 2011 Wales ESF Leavers Survey[77] who were out of work prior to their participation cited a perceived lack of appropriate jobs in the area where they lived (65%), and transport difficulties / barriers associated with accessing appropriate work (23%) amongst the key barriers to accessing work.
9. In particular lower skilled workers have lower levels of access to private transport[78], less spatial mobility, and therefore fewer opportunities to access jobs in locations less accessible by public transport[79] (and lower skilled jobs are increasingly dispersing out of urban centres[80]). Lower skilled workers therefore need **well functioning public transport** to access employment opportunities.
10. **Use of public transport has increased** in Wales, particularly in larger urban areas where it offers a viable alternative to private travel. The use of the rail system in particular has increased sharply, both in terms of numbers of scheduled services that are run, and in terms of passenger numbers. There were approximately 28 million rail passenger journeys which either started or ended in Wales in 2011-12; an increase of 3 per cent compared to the previous year. Cardiff was the destination of almost

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two-fifths (39 per cent) of rail passenger journeys within Wales[81]. There are still particular barriers associated with public transport in those urban areas with capacity constraints emerging[82] and a lack of service or regularity of service preventing modal shift for those travelling into congested urban areas by private vehicle. For example, while 91% of people over 16 are within 15 minutes drive time to a key centre, only 26% have the same level of accessibility by public transport, rising to just 68% in 30 minutes – the same as by cycling[83].

11. Particular issues that could be priority investments for public transport through the ERDF might therefore be in **addressing capacity constraints to key urban centres, in particular where modal shift can be supported**. Particular emphasis could be placed on increasing services (either new services or more regular easier to access services) to increase the attractiveness of public transport and support a modal shift, thereby reducing congestion associated with road transport in those areas. This would need to be complemented through activity to stimulate demand, de-incentivise road travel and remove barriers (e.g. smart ticketing). Innovative solutions to address particular geographical handicaps in the region (e.g. difficulty travelling within parts of the Cardiff City Region because of historical development) should also be considered (e.g. multimodal solutions). The EU's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans[84] set out good practice in addressing these challenges and Intelligent Transport Systems[85] also have a key role to play, applying information and communication technologies to transport to make it more efficient, clean, safe and seamless.
12. To maximise the impact of other ERDF investments and other investments using ESI funds, **any ERDF transport investment will need to be part of an integrated package of investments**. In this way a critical mass of investment can be achieved creating a greater cumulative impact. For example an investment in the South Wales Metro Area should add value to ERDF and ESF investments being made in the Valleys areas as well as taking advantage of major UK investment in electrification of the main railway line to Swansea.
13. Annual reporting on the National Transport Plan shows that transport in Wales accounts for an increasing proportion of **GHG emissions** (increase from 12.2% to 16.3% between 1990 and 2011). Cars represented 9 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions for Wales in 2011. Road transport produces the vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. In 1990, 91 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector were from road transport; by 2011 this had marginally increased to 92 per cent. All this suggests more investment is needed to both promote greener alternatives to car travel, but also to improve the efficiency and emissions relating to private travel, for example through addressing bottlenecks in the network, improving the reliability of travel and reducing congestion.
14. Research has found evidence of a positive economic impact of **broadband,** including that generated through the construction process, but also through productivity growth via enhanced business innovation, increased international trade and more opportunities for teleworking, enabling more productive use of some workers' time [86]. There are fewer studies currently available on *faster* broadband but those available mostly point to a positive incremental effect, with cloud computing identified as

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one of the primary routes through which faster broadband is predicted to have an economic impact[87]. However, a study undertaken for the European Commission found that slow connectivity was a constraint to cloud adoption amongst SMEs[88].

15. In June 2014, 78% of UK premises were able to receive fixed broadband services over NGA networks (speed of up to 30Mbit/s or higher)[89]. **Wales had the lowest availability of NGA broadband services among the UK nations**, with 58% of premises being able to receive such services, although this was an increase of more than ten percentage points compared to June 2013. Across the other UK nations this proportion ranged from 64% in Scotland to 95% to in Northern Ireland, with 80% of premises in England being within NGA network footprints[90]. The market failure in Wales, which includes a wide range of urban areas, is a combination of the geography and a larger number of less affluent areas; areas traditionally less likely to take up higher speeds connections and therefore less likely to feature in private sector ICT infrastructure investment plans. This means those areas lose out on the significant benefits arising from this investment (for example the Digital Agenda for Europe suggests that a 10% increase in broadband penetration can raise GDP by 1%-1.5%[91]).
16. The importance of ensuring the benefits of ICT infrastructure are not just localised in already economically strong areas highlights the vital role of a direct link to exploitation measures to ensure take-up and exploitation by indigenous SMEs, as noted earlier in this strategy. It can be seen across Europe that **take-up of NGA services generally follows availability**; this trend is also clear in the UK with Northern Ireland having excellent coverage of NGA networks and also having the highest take up rates of that technology (and rising fast). There is a need to ensure exploitation measures are incorporated in digital planning, but there still remains significant investment needs to address market failure in supply to meet the Digital Agenda for Europe targets.
17. The changes to the commercial footprint and market in Wales led to an **Open Market Review being carried out in February 2014**[92]. This sought to identify areas where the existing and planned coverage of next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) would not be met through either the Superfast Cymru programme (which runs until 2016 and includes ERDF, private and public investment) or other planned commercial rollout. This is expected to include around 45,000 premises (approximately 4% of Welsh premises in total); however, excluding the most difficult to reach and most rural premises would lead to a focus for investment addressing the white areas covering around 39,000 premises. Part of this investment cost can be met through UK Government funding allocated for this purpose, but there will remain a funding gap. This will be known as Superfast Cymru Infill Phase 1.
18. Following the completion of the Superfast Cymru NGA Broadband project and the Superfast Cymru Infill Phase 1 project in 2016 there is expected to be a further 30,000 to 45,000 premises not passed (approximately 3-4% of total premises). It is not possible to pre-empt the Open Market Review that will need to be undertaken to identify any remaining white areas in the second half of 2016, though it is anticipated they will include a mix of different territories (urban, peri-urban and rural). Given significant previous commitments, it is hoped that further

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UK and Welsh Government funding will be made available to help address these remaining market failures, but – in order to extend this as far as possible to help **meet the Digital Agenda for Europe target of full coverage by 2020**[93] – the use of a combination of ERDF and EAFRD will be required. Costs are expected to be higher per premises, though remaining urban and peri-urban areas will be prioritised for ERDF support. The combination of investment, alongside continued private investment, should help to achieve near-full coverage of NGB in Wales by 2020.

19. Investment in ICT infrastructure has the potential to improve the connectivity of the programme area and to underpin innovation, and the wide-scale application, commercialisation and exploitation of digital technologies by Welsh businesses, and particularly the ICT and Creative Industries sectors. This is particularly true for **ultrafast broadband (100Mbps and above)** and it is anticipated that specific provision targeted at SMEs (e.g. voucher scheme) can seek to extend the uptake towards the target in the Digital Agenda for Europe of 50% of the EU to be subscribed to broadband above 100 Mbps by 2020.
20. As well seeking to prevent disparities there are significant opportunities to take a lead in seeking to attract and retain key businesses requiring ultrafast connectivity solutions(100Mbps and above). Larger businesses, businesses requiring upload speeds which match their download speeds (so called Symmetric services), and enterprises who need to connect securely from one site to another will need more tailored ICT connectivity and there is an opportunity to capture and retain these businesses in **strategic sites**.

[1] To see: *One Wales: One Planet*, the Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/); and White Paper setting out proposals for a Sustainable Development bill (http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/sustainabledevelopment/sdwhitepaper/)

[1.1] COM(2013)279Final of 13 May 2013: "Action plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area"

[2] *Science for Wales*:
http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/csaw/publications/130319sfw/?lang=en

[3] *Innovation Wales*:
http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en

[4] Gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) ONS

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[5] Welsh participation in EU research, innovation and lifelong learning programmes, National Assembly for Wales, European and External Affairs Committee (February 2011)

[6] *Innovation Union Scoreboard* (2013), Hugo Hollanders and Nordine Es-Sadki, (UNU-MERIT), for the European Commission

[7] This is a key feature of the smart specialisation approach. For example: *Policy Instruments for RIS3 Clusters* (2012)*, J*aime del Castillo, Belen Barroeta and Jonatan Paton. Available at: http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/links

[8] A number of case studies are highlighted in *An analysis of the effects of Structural Funds support for Research, Technological Development and Innovation 2000-2010* (2011)

[9] For example Institute for Life Sciences 2, Centre for Nanohealth, Arts and Innovation Centre

[10] For example those identified in *Science for Wales* and *Innovation Wales* (collectively the Welsh Smart Specialisation Strategy) as areas with existing and emerging strengths (e.g. stem cell research around Cardiff or agricultural research in Aberystwyth).

[11] *UK Innovation Survey 2011* (2012),UK Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills.

[12] *Innovation Wales* (2013, Welsh Government)

[13] *UK Innovation Survey 2011* (2012, BIS

[14] *Higher education-business and community interaction survey* (2013), HEFCE

[15] UK Department for Business Innovation and Skills, 2010

[16] For example smart living, energy resource-efficiency, sustainable buildings, crop management, etc

[17] *Business Growth Ambitions Amongst SMEs* (2012), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

[18] *2012 Small Business Survey* (2013), BMG Research for the Welsh Government

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[19] *2012 Small Business Survey* (2013), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Data available from Data Tables at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-business-survey-2012-sme-employers

[20] *2012 Small Business Survey: SME Employers in Wales* (2013), BMG Research for the Welsh Government

[21] *Ex Ante Assessment for the use of Financial Instruments*, Regeneris Consulting, not yet published.

[22] http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/decisions/dl2014/janmar/business/eh0608/?lang=en

[23] *The vital 6 per cent,: How high-growth innovative businesses generate prosperity and jobs* (2009), NESTA

[24] *Statistical bulletin "Business Demography: Enterprise Births and Deaths 2011"* (29 Jan 2013), Welsh Government

[25] For example: *Barriers encountered during micro and small business start-up in North-West England* (2000), S L Davidson Fielden, M J, P J Makin

[26] *Statistical bulletin "Business Demography: enterprise births and deaths, 2010"* (19 Jan 2012), Welsh Government

[27] Data retrieved on 01 November 2013 from StatsWales (*Business births by area and year*).

[28] *Ibid*.

[29] *Ibid.*

[30] *Mid Programme Evaluation of the Start Up Service for the Welsh Assembly Government* (Undated), ERS, Beaufort Research and Hywel Evans Associates.

[31] For example: *The ONS Productivity Handbook, Chapter 3: Productivity Theory and Drivers*

[32] For example around 2-4% of high-growth businesses are estimated to be responsible for the majority of employment growth in the UK private sector. *BERR economic paper No. 3 "High growth firms in the UK: Lessons from an analysis of comparative UK*

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performance" (November 2008), UK Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (now BIS)

[33]*Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2007 Global Report on High-Growth Entrepreneurship* (2007), E. Autio, Global Entrepreneurship Research Association.

[34] *ERC White paper: Growth and growth intentions* (2013), Levie and Autio, ERC

[35] *Size Analysis of Welsh Businesses, 2012*: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/economy2012/121025/?lang=en

[36] *The vital 6 per cent,: How high-growth innovative businesses generate prosperity and jobs* (2009), NESTA

[37] *Research to understand the barriers to take up and use of business support* (2011), Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research for BIS

[38] *A review of the literature addressing the role of external knowledge and expertise at key stages of business growth and development* (2005), J. Bessant, B Phelps, R. Adams, Cranfield School of Management

[39] *Regional Trade statistics* (8 June 2012), Welsh Government

[40] *Economic Renewal: a new direction* (July 2010), Welsh Government

[41] *Regional Trade statistics* (8 June 2012), Welsh Government

[42] For example: Next Generation Broadband (www.superfast-cymru.com) or Super Connected Cities (http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=2%2C2867%2C6556%2C6557)

[43] *UK Broadband Impact Study: Literature Review* (2012), SQW for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

[44] *Ibid.*

[45] *"This is for Everyone": The Case for Universal Digitization* (2012), Booz & Co. Booz & Co analysed the levels of digitization in the back office of more than 500 SMEs in the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Brazil. The concept of digitization (Booz & Co) is described in a World Economic Forum report as "the mass adoption of connected digital technologies and applications by consumers, enterprises, and governments." The UK is ranked as a leading nation on the Digitization Index "Maximising the Impact of Digitization", Booz and Katz (2012). In *The Global*

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Information Technology Report 2012: Living in a Hyperconnected World. World Economic Forum. Eurostat figures, quoted in *E-Commerce and ICT Activity, 2012* (2013), Office for National Statistics (ONS), rank the UK as fifth out of all EU-28 nations in terms of Proportion of total turnover from e-commerce.

[46] *Small Business Survey 2012* (2013) BIS

[47] *Communications Market Report: Wales* (2014), Ofcom

[48] *UK Broadband Impact Study: Literature Review* (2012), SQW for DCMS

[49] *Communications Market Report: Wales* (2014), Ofcom

[50] *Quantitative Estimates of the Demand for Cloud Computing in Europe and the Likely Barriers to Uptake* (2012), IDC for the European Commission

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[52] *Communications Market Report: Wales* (2014), Ofcom

[53]*The Cost of Cyber Crime* (14 February 2011), Detica and Cabinet Office

[54] Tailored research informing Social Enterprise Action Plan (2009), Welsh Government. No regular or reliable data at Wales level given different legal structures, different definitions and lack of visibility.

[55] *Mapping social enterprise activity in Wales* (October 2009), Welsh Governement. Available at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/publications/110803socialmapping/?lang=en

[56] *Average final energy consumption per thousand population in Great Britain by region and consuming sector - Sub-national total final energy consumption statistics* (2011 data), DECC

[57] *Finding Cost Savings: Resource Efficiency for SMEs*, Waste & Recycling Action Plan,

[58] *Exploring the design of policies to increase efficiency of electricity use within the industrial*

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and commercial sectors (November 2012), Carbon Trust & SPA Future Thinking for DECC

[59] *Engaging SMEs to improve their Energy Efficiency, A Market Appraisal* (2009), DECC

[60] *Marine Energy Infrastructure Study : Stage A - Industry Consultation and Concept Design* (July 2012), Halcrow

[61] Significant wind resources (on- and off-shore); significant wave and tidal energy potential (Marine Renewable Energy Strategic Framework, 2011); one of the best solar resources in the UK; and scope for more biomass and hydro

[62] *Renewable electricity in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England in 2012* (September 2013), DECC

[63] For example some case studies are set out in: *Co-operative renewable energy in the UK: a guide to this growing sector* (2012), Rebecca Willis and Jenny Willis for The Cooperative Group

69 *Ex Ante Assessment for the use of Financial Instruments*, Regeneris Consulting, not yet published

[64] The average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating of energy efficiency for Welsh homes is 50 (2008 to be updated in August 2013).

[65] DECC Energy Consumption in the UK (2013)

[66] Welsh Government ambition to eradicate fuel poverty by 2018, but in 2010 over 23% (332,000) of households in Wales face issues of fuel poverty: *Fuel Poverty Evidence Plan* (March 2012), Welsh Government

[67] Energy Efficiency Policies and Measures in UK (2012), ODYSSEE MURE Intelligent Energy Europe project

[68] *A Small Area Fuel Poverty Indicator for Wales* (September 2008), David Gordon and Eldin Fahmy, University of Bristol. Available at: http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/policy/090129fuelpovertyreporten.pdf

[69] Strategic Transport Infrastructure Needs to 2030, OECD International Futures Programme (2011). For example it describes the major challenges of funding such schemes, and the long-term economic benefits. The report calls for comprehensive measures to support the infrastructure development required, noting that "*Quality*

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infrastructure is a key pillar of international competitiveness. It is trade-enhancing – especially for exports – and has positive impacts on economic growth".

[70] Global Agenda Council on Infrastructure 2012-2014. For example it notes "*The costs of building infrastructure are vast, but the costs of failing to make such investments are incalculable. Improved infrastructure produces abundant benefits for the economy, environment and social progress. However, many countries, developing and developed, are facing significant infrastructure deficits, owing to growing populations, urbanization, changing demands and ageing assets*."

[71] *Economic Renewal: a new direction* (2010), Welsh Government. Other levers include targeted business support, encouraging innovation, and making Wales a more attractive place to do business

[72] *Going for Growth*, OECD, and *Understanding productivity variations between Wales and the rest of the UK*, Welsh Assembly Government

[73] Data from 2011 census not available until 2015, but trend noted since 1981. See http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/other/travel-towork-

areas/index.html

[74] For example an analysis of commuting in South Wales (diagram included in Welsh chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement) showed that only 59-75% of the working population originated from the same Local Authority as the place of employment, meaning 25-41% of the entire working population are commuting across Local Authority boundaries. It also illustrates commuting in South Wales is not just into the City areas of Cardiff and Newport.

[75] A range of analysis into the South Wales / Cardiff City Region area has been carried out as part of the development of a Metro concept. Further information is available at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/integrated/metro/?lang=en

[76] *Statistical Bulletin: Commuting in Wales* (2011), Welsh Government

[77] *ESF Leavers Survey 2011* (2013), WISERD (Cardiff University) et al

[78] National Travel Survey (2011), DfT. 2009 data.

[79] *Transport and Social Inclusion. Have we made the connections in our cities?* (2010) PTEG

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[80] *Moving on up, moving on out? Overcoming the jobs-skills mismatch* (July 2011), Lena Tochtermann & Naomi Clayton, Centre for Cities

[81] *Annual Report: Rail transport, 2012* (November 2013), Welsh Government

[82] For example to see the analysis informing proposals for South Wales Metro:

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/integrated/metro/?lang=en

[83] *Monitoring the National Transport Plan, Update 2012* (24 September 2013), StatsWales

[84] http://www.mobilityplans.eu/11

[85] http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/index_en.htm

[86] *UK Broadband Impact Study: Literature Review* (2012), SQW for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) (page 1)

[87] *Ibid.*

[88] *Quantitative Estimates of the Demand for Cloud Computing in Europe and the Likely Barriers to Uptake* (2012), IDC for the European Commission

[89] *Communications Market Report Wales* (August 2014), Ofcom

[90] *Communications Market Report: Wales* (August 2014), Ofcom

[91] Reference from Czernich et al (2009): "The socioeconomic impact of bandwith" Final report

[92] Consultation closed on 03 July 2014. Documents and consultation maps available at: http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/businessandeconomy/superfast-infill/?skip=1&lang=en

[93] Digital Agenda for Europe

1.1.2 A justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities having regard to the partnership agreement, based on an identification of regional and, where appropriate, national needs including the need to address the challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and the relevant Council recommendations

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adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) TFEU, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest	• Commission position paper (CPP) highlights stagnation in UK RD&I investment undermining competitiveness. • Long way off EU2020 target and slow progress highlighted in NRP • Priority areas identified in Smart Specialisation Strategy as areas of opportunity • Areas of existing and emerging international excellence to build on including in low Carbon fields , in particular utilising the expertise within Cardiff University and businesses accessing research funding
01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	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	• CPP highlights potential to create an innovation-friendly business environment, matching RD&I business demand with supply • No target for EU2020 but Innovation Union sets out wider ranging objectives which remain issues in Wales • Wales is innovation follower and lack of innovation culture - need for greater levels of innovation across the economy • Need for greater levels of commercialisation of research through supporting emerging clusters and Smart Specialisations • Key to increasing private investment in low-Carbon

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		technologies (only way to address huge gaps in related targets) will be proof-of-concept and demonstration • Proof-of-concept and demonstrating capacity in programme area for design and manufacture essential to capture benefits in programme area
02 - Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy	• Existing investments expected to achieve around 92% coverage of NGA networks (30Mbps). • Challenges identified in Open Market Review to address remaining market failures in order to deliver on the Digital Agenda for Europe target of 100% coverage. • Providing super-fast connectivity (100Mbps) solutions to key businesses across Wales can improve competitiveness and deliver against the Digital Agenda for Europe target of 50% take-up
03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators	• CPP highlights importance of increasing SME competitiveness in the UK (e.g. promoting entrepreneurship, particularly in export-related sectors, and funding financial instruments and business advisory services) • UK CSRs highlight a need to improve the availability of bank and non-bank financing to SMEs • UK NRP highlights work already underway and

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		recognises same issues and opportunities • Lower levels of births, survivals, growth SMEs and access to finance in programme area compared to UK
03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes	• CPP highlights importance of increasing SME competitiveness in the UK (particularly support in export-related sectors) • UK NRP highlights work already underway and recognises same issues and opportunities • Lower productivity and growth SMEs in programme area compared to UK; opportunities for greater ICT exploitation to help drive productivity • Improvements in exports but still significant barriers at key stages of business growth
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources	• EU2020 target and NRP indicate long way away from targets for renewable energy generation at EU, UK and Wales levels • CPP suggests funds should support an increase in the use of all types of renewable energy looking especially at the potential of innovative technologies • Significant resources and assets in Wales to take advantage of • Size of investment needed suggests focus on encouraging private

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		investment
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	• EU2020 target and NRP indicate more progress needed to reverse recent decline in energy efficiency targets. • CPP suggests funds should support an increase in the use of all types of renewable energy looking especially at the potential of innovative technologies, and should promote energy efficiency, particularly in buildings • NRP identifies specific issues with energy efficiency of Welsh housing stock • Fuel poverty also major issue across programme area
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures	• UK CSRs suggest that the UK invest to address infrastructure bottlenecks (with transport highlighted as a concern in terms of delivery and financing). • Opportunities to improve connectivity to urban centres (e.g. City Regions) and between sustainable transport networks (e.g. rail / bus networks) • ESF leavers survey identifies transport barriers as major barrier to accessing employment

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1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Background

1. As set out in Section 2 (Priority Axes) priorities will be constructed in some cases bringing together Investment Priorities from more than one Thematic Objective. The justification for financial allocations set out in this section reflects both the construction of the Priority Axes set out in Section 2, as well as the Thematic Objectives as set out in the regulations.

Priority Axis 1: Research and Innovation

2. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to ~~44%~~49% of all ERDF. All funding relates to a single Thematic Objective :

- **Thematic Objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.**

3. The cash value of both thematic objectives has increased significantly compared to the 2007-2013 programme due to the overall increase in programme value and a greater focus on supporting. climate change objectives (as indicated in the indicative allocations by Category of Intervention table) Justification for this allocation is based on:

- Distance from EU2020 RD&I target suggests continuing capacity and capability issues, highlighted by analysis of lower access to competitive funds by Welsh organisations and a lack of large research intensive organisations
- Need to build on a number of successes in 2007-2013, particularly around focusing on areas of excellence and specialisation for research capacity and taking advantage of a renewed emphasis in Wales (e.g. Science for Wales, *Innovation Wales*, £50m (around €60m) investment in National Research Networks and Sêr Cymru Teams, and new post of Chief Scientific Officer).
- Additional available funding will allow capital investments of sufficient scale to support Smart Specialisation.
- *Innovation Wales* highlights significant challenges around supporting a culture of innovation, requiring a mixed investment approach
- Ensuring minimum earmarking requirements for low carbon activity are met and send a clear message to the sector that there will be strong support for the transition to a low Carbon economy

Priority Axis 2: SME Competitiveness

4. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to ~~20%~~23% of all ERDF. Separated by Thematic Objective this equates to:

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- **Thematic Objective 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs**. Approximately 92% of the Priority Axis.
- **Thematic Objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.** Approximately 8% of the Priority Axis.

5. The allocation to this Priority Axis represents a broadly similar allocation proportion to the 2007-2013 programme (but significant cash value increase) and is based on:

- SMEs representing a key segment of the Welsh economy, but their lack of competitiveness (particularly lower levels of productivity) means not as many are being created, growing, operating internationally or taking part in the digital economy as across the UK
- Access to finance has not improved significantly and there remain market failures which can be addressed directly. This includes provision of finance for RD&I related activity

Priority Axis 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

6. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to approximately ~~11%~~2% of all ERDF. The Priority Axis will be delivered by a single Thematic Objective:

- **Thematic Objective 4: Supporting the shift to a low-Carbon economy in all sectors.**

7. This ~~represents a significant increase in comparison to allocations for similar activity under the 2007-2013 programme and~~ together with the additional allocation for Thematic Objective 4 under Priority Axis 4 for sustainable urban transport, alongside the allocation ring-fenced under Priority Axis 1 (under the same Thematic Objective) meets the thematic concentration requirements of 20% total ERDF. The rationale is based on:

- Distances from EU2020 targets on renewable energy and energy efficiency mean significant private sector investment is required to make any genuine impact
- Ensuring the programme meets minimum earmarking requirements for low carbon activity and send a clear message to the sector that there will be strong support for the transition to a low Carbon economy and a focus for support on de-risking investments rather than seeking to directly address targets alone
- Demand and need for energy efficiency measures outstrips available resource, though a firm commitment from the Welsh Government to continue supporting investment in this area

Priority Axis 4: Connectivity

8. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to 24% of all ERDF. Separated by Thematic Objective this equates to:

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- **Thematic Objective 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors.** Approximately ~~76%~~75% of the Priority Axis.
- **Thematic Objective 2: Enhancing access to and ~~use and quality~~ exploitation of ICT.** Approximately ~~24%~~25% of the Priority Axis.

9. Investments under TO2 will contribute to thematic concentration targets, so the total allocations will be well within legislative requirements (of at least 80% on earmarked TOs). The relative size of allocation is justified by the relative cost of investment in these areas over others (fewer projects for more money) and the benefits for strategic policy integration and coordination. Support under TO4 is only expected to support a single scheme or set of integrated projects supporting sustainable multimodal urban connectivity within the Cardiff City Region. Rationale for allocation is based on:

- These investments, alongside skills investments, have been identified as Welsh Government economic development policy priorities for public investment in terms of supporting jobs and growth; in particular in helping lever subsequent private sector investments and improving urban mobility.
- Investments are essential for all other ESI investments to ensure retention of businesses and skills in the programme area and to attract new businesses and skilled workers to the area. The major investments needed identified in the UK CSRs, UK NRP and domestic policy such as the *Programme for Government* and *Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan* need as much support as possible, though careful targeting will be required to ensure structural funds add the most value possible.
- Real opportunity to link more effectively the more prosperous East Wales with the less developed West Wales and the Valleys through complementary investments across Operational Programmes. Improvements for mobility within the City Region will benefit the competitiveness of both regions with East Wales investments to improve mobility within the capital City and West Wales and the Valleys supporting mobility to / from the City.

Priority Axis 5: Technical Assistance

10. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to 2% of all ERDF. This represents an increase of the financial allocation by proportion of the 2007-2013 programmes and is justified based on:

- Strengthening the Managing, Certifying and Audit authority in response to reviews of capacity and capability including findings of audits

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Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the operational programme

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
1	ERDF	~~89,101~~100,801,566.00	~~43.82%~~49.58 %	▾ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation ▾ 1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest ▾ 1.1 - To increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding. ▾ 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 ▾ 1.2 - To increase the successful translation of research and innovation processes into new and improved commercial products, processes and services, in particular through improved technology transfer from HEIs.	[1.1, 1.3]
2	ERDF	~~39,870~~45,720,471.00	~~19.61%~~22.49 %	▾ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation ▾ 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 ▾ 2.5 - To address market failures in the availability of finance, in particular risk capital, for Welsh SMEs to undertake innovation and commercialise R&D.	[2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5]

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Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
				▾ 03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF) ▾ 3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators ▾ 2.1 - To increase the amount of finance available to SMEs for both business start-up and for business expansion. ▾ 2.2 - To increase the number of SME start-ups through the provision of information, advice and guidance and support for entrepreneurship. ▾ 3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes ▾ 2.3 - To increase the take-up and exploitation of NGA networks and ICT infrastructure by SMEs ▾ 2.4 - To increase the growth of those SMEs with growth potential, in particular through accessing new markets (both domestic and international)	
3	ERDF	~~22,400~~4,850,391.00	~~11.02%~~2.39 %	▾ 04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors ▾ 4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources ▾ 3.1 - To increase the number of small scale renewable energy schemes established. ▾ 4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector ▾ 3.2 - To increase the energy efficiency of the existing Welsh housing stock, particularly in areas of fuel poverty	[3.1, 3.2]
4	ERDF	47,873,581.00	23.55%	▾ 02 - Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	[4.1, 4.2]

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Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
				▾ 2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy ▾ 4.2 - To contribute to Digital Agenda for Europe targets in Wales for 100% access to next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) and 50% access to 100Mbps ▾ 04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors ▾ 4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures ▾ 4.1 - To increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres	
5	ERDF	4,066,245.00	2.00%	5.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes. 5.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations 5.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.	[TAR1, TAR2, TAR3]

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2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	1
Title of the priority axis	Research and Innovation

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1.This Priority Axis is focused on the development of research, technological development and innovation. While all activity is to be funded under Thematic Objective 1 the Priority Axis will make a specific contribution to climate change objectives, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. This is reflected in the Categories of Intervention and consideration will be given to capturing outputs related directly to low carbon transition activity.

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1a
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. It is proposed to monitor two aspects of the desired results in order to reflect both the long-term structural change being sought and the shorter to medium term impact being sought. 2.As set out in the strategy and the Partnership Agreement the key structural issue is a relative lack of Business Expenditure on R&D (BERD). This is therefore set as a context indicator to retain a focus on the long-term aim and to provide a context for investments. This should ensure all projects are able to demonstrate they are looking at how activity

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	can lever private investment in R&D within the programme area. 3.BERD in Wales in 2012 was £272 million, representing 1.6% of the UK total. The BERD figures fluctuate in Wales subject to the investment programmes of a small number of businesses, but long terms trends are positive with increases in both cash and proportional terms. In 2011 BERD represented nearly 46% of all research expenditure in Wales, though it lags the Lisbon target of two thirds of research to be carried out by the private sector. 4.In order to be able to set a target for a shorter term impact the selected indicator seeks to provide a measure of the research funding coming to Wales (albeit limited to HEI institutions, given limited data availability). A key factor for the location of research-intensive businesses and the development of smart specialisation is the endogenous research capacity in the programme area. This should help demonstrate an improving capacity and capability in key research priority areas, but it should not limit support to HEIs or prohibit support to build capacity of SMEs to access competitive research funding. 5.Data show that research income in East Wales is very strongly concentrated in Cardiff, which accounts for over 90% of research income in the programme area. Other HEIs in East Wales do perform slightly better when only the more competitive funding is considered (e.g. UK Central Government, UK Industry and EU sources). As a whole the programme area accounts for 57% of the total income across Wales (and Wales accounts for 3.8% of the total UK research income).

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1.1 - To increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding.						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
1.1	Research income for Higher Education Institutions	GBP	More developed	92800000	2012	6% increase	Higher Education Statistics Agency	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

1.The scope of this Investment Priority provides for specific challenges of innovative and research intensive businesses to be addressed and for specific research infrastructure investments outside of the SME Competitiveness and Infrastructure priorities.

2.The ERDF programme will seek to build the capacity and address other barriers to Welsh research institutions (not just Higher Education Institutions) successfully accessing competitive research funds. A key outcome will be for supported institutions to have the capacity to carry out internationally recognised collaborative research and to be bidding collaboratively for competitive research funding from the UK and the EU, such as Horizon 2020. This will help support the continued development of the Welsh research base, which in turn will help encourage inward investment, business expenditure on research, and the development of research-intensive and innovative clusters. A contribution to the long term goal of an increase in Business Expenditure on Research and Development should be demonstrated for each investment.

3. Research infrastructure has the potential to catalyse the knowledge creation process and facilitate the networking of researchers and stimulate knowledge flows generally. It can act as the catalyst for inward investment, co-location of research-intensive industry, development of supply chains and the exchange and transfer of innovation and knowledge[1]. There are already emerging clusters and existing infrastructure in Wales (including major investments in Grand Challenge areas) that provide a basis on which to build.

4. A small number of significant investments in R&D infrastructure were made in West Wales and the Valleys under the 2007-2013 ERDF programme[2], increasing the availability of facilities suitable for highly specialised research. While a number of those investments involved partnerships with institutions in East Wales, this Priority will also seek to increase the specialised research infrastructure in East Wales where this can clearly demonstrate that it will

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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

increase the capacity and capability to undertake world class research, encourage inward investment and develop existing and emerging capability. Investments in R&D infrastructure are supported by the ERDF on condition that they be in line with the smart specialisation strategy and that the research results be applied for the economic development of the region.

5. In order to support the transition to a low-carbon economy through Research and Innovation a range of competitive funds have been put in place to support the development of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and innovations. Welsh research institutions face the same barriers to accessing these sources of competitive funding as they do other Research and Innovation funding so support will be required to address these barriers.

6.Types of action to be supported to address key barriers:

- Building research capacity and capability. For example through:
  - centres of excellence
  - supporting cluster development, through infrastructure and supply chain development
  - applied research, development of prototypes
  - collaboration and networks, in particular industrial and international links
  - investment in technology and technology transfer
  - building partnerships, including through increasing interaction and influence with external bodies

- Capacity building to address barriers to accessing competitive research funding. For example to develop more competitive bids, building networks, finding international partners, new ways of working

- All investments should have a focus on areas with potential for developing or strengthening world-class excellence (e.g. through Smart Specialisation and identified in *Science for Wales*) and should identify links to Sêr Cymru and National Research Networks

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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

[1] For example a series of case studies of exemplar regions demonstrating smart specialisation, all of which involve the development of clusters around key research infrastructure: *An analysis of the effects of Structural Funds support for Research, Technological Development and Innovation 2000-2010* (2011) available at: http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/pdf/download_en/rkf5th_brochure.pdf Other evidence of the clustering effects of research infrastructure available from *My Precious! The Location and Diffusion of Scientific Research: Evidence from the Synchrotron Diamond Light Source* (2013), Spatial Economics Research Centre

[2] Institute for Life Sciences 2, Centre for Nanohealth, Arts and Innovation Centre

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

1.Actions supported under this Investment Priority will support the *Innovation Wales* key theme of prioritising and creating critical mass and support the continued development of the Welsh research base, which in turn will help encourage inward investment (both in terms of general private sector investments and significant additional Business Expenditure on Research and Development) and the development of research-intensive and innovative clusters.

2.*Science for Wales* will be the key guiding policy for this objective and investments will need to demonstrate they are consistent with the emerging focus on excellence advocated and are complementing activity taking place in the Grand Challenge areas of: Life Sciences and Health; Low carbon, Energy and

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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

Environment; Advanced Engineering and Materials; all underpinned by ICT and the Digital Economy. These broadly align with other efforts to prioritise societal challenges, such as those identified for Horizon 2020.

3.Targeting will be expected on each of the grand challenge areas with investments in the Low Carbon Energy and Environment sector in particular expected to contribute to Climate Change targets (with indicative financial allocations set out in the Categories of Intervention table).

4.Projects will be tested on their contribution to the Smart Specialisation strategy (also incorporating *Innovation Wales*) and subject to technical assessment by experts in respective research fields. Projects will be expected to be able to demonstrate a clear route along the 'stairway of excellence' and expected to be applying for competitive funds. As part of this projects will be expected to collaborate with international partners, thereby addressing one of the key barriers which impede organisations accessing international research funding. Alignment with the Smart Specialisation strategy is essential for all investments across this Priority Axis.

5. In demonstrating alignment to the Smart Specialisation strategy for Wales operations will need to illustrate how they are contributing directly to the indicators and objectives identified in the latest associated Delivery Plans[1.1], including any additional or innovative measures introduced during the ongoing evolution of the Smart Specialisation strategy. These Strategies are being delivered in close cooperation and measures are already in place to ensure cooperation and coordination in delivery (e.g. use of specialist Advisory Councils with cross-membership between them to develop priorities, monitor delivery plans and indicators, and coordinating activity where there are overlaps)

6.Industrial engagement is essential for the development of internationally successful clusters and an essential component in increasing levels of business expenditure on R&D. Industrial engagement is also increasingly important for attracting competitive research funding Projects should demonstrate industrial engagement where possible, and proposals involving industrial partners and private investment will be particularly encouraged; especially where they can involve Welsh SMEs or attract SMEs to Wales. All projects should be able to demonstrate how they will support a medium to long-term increase in the levels of Business Expenditure on Research and Development.

7.Research and Innovation are two elements of the "knowledge triangle", with education as a third element. All three will need to work in concert to

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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

maximise impact. Research activity could have commercial application for SMEs for instance, and there may be a need to underpin the investment with the skills development of both the researchers and individuals in SMEs. Projects that consider and combine elements of all three pillars will be encouraged. As a minimum projects will need to be coordinated with one another across this Priority and with the rest of the ERDF and ESF programmes (in particular skills elements of the ESF). The possibility of joint investments should be explored. Links to wider investment programmes will also be sought where possible and appropriate (see Section 8).

8.The programme will support the European Research Area key priorities[2] of enabling: more effective national research systems; optimal transnational co-operation and competition; an open market for researchers; gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research; and optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge including via digital ERA.

9.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] Science for Wales Delivery Plan is published: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/csaw/publications/deliveryplan/?lang=en and the Innovation Wales Delivery Plan will be published: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/?lang=en

[2] Defined in the Communication “A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth” (COM(2012)392 final)

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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
1. There are no plans to deliver action under this Investment Priority through financial instruments.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
No major project is anticipated for this investment priority.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest**					
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of**

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				relevant)	M	W	T		reporting
CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			290.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			110.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			~~90~~45.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J2	Number of improved research infrastructure facilities	Number	ERDF	More developed			2.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J3	Amount of research funding secured	GBP	ERDF	More developed			65,000,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J32	Number of partners cooperating in research projects	Number	ERDF	More developed			90.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1b
Title of the investment priority	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

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the successful translation of research and innovation processes into new and improved commercial products, processes and services, in particular through improved technology transfer from HEIs.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1.HEBCIS data[1] indicates a well developed and effective knowledge transfer system between HE and business in Wales although the UK Innovation Survey[2] reported that only 15% of innovation-active businesses cooperate with universities in the UK. This suggests significant scope for greater interaction While this is a key component in many innovation chains, the key change (the result) being sought it to see more commercialisation benefits within the programme area. Clearly HEI and SME interactions are a core part of this but is it the growth supported in SMEs that lead to growth and jobs; hence the desire for an indicator that tries to capture this more directly.. 2.Broader Innovators[3] in Wales demonstrate above average scores for a range of innovation factors, including introduction of new and improved goods and services, entering new markets and increasing market share. Wales has the highest proportion of Broader Innovators in the UK (43.3% for 2008-2010); a key advantage for increasing the benefits of commercialisation. However, enterprises in Wales self-identify a greater number of barriers to innovation than other regions, with the availability and cost of finance a key barrier to innovation (addressed specifically in the SME Competitiveness Priority Axis).

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	3.These high levels of innovation activity across Welsh enterprises are not resulting in the same levels of successful new products or even improved products that can be seen in other regions. Welsh enterprises report only 22.4% of turnover from innovation is related to new or significantly improved products, processes or services (against a UK average of 29.7%). This is the lowest of all UK regions. Targeting on smart specialisation areas will mean less focus on volume and more on capturing benefits in the programme area. The target therefore seeks to reflect this with more intense targeted investment expected to generate greater results in those SMEs supported to at least the UK average. 4.The indicator selected is the same as for West Wales and the Valleys to encourage cross-programme approaches and reflects the fact the lowest level of reporting is at an all Wales level. The quantum of funding for East Wales will mean a lower impact on the target value, but collectively the Welsh ERDF programmes aim to have a significant impact [1] *Higher Education – Business and Community Interaction Survey* (2013), HEFCE. [2] *UK Innovation Survey 2011* (2012), BIS [3] Distinguished in the UK Innovation Survey from Innovation Active enterprises in that they will have carried out "*activities in areas such as internal research and development, training, acquisition of external knowledge or machinery and equipment linked to innovation activities*".

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**1.2 - To increase the successful translation of research and innovation processes into new and improved commercial products, processes and services, in particular through improved technology transfer from HEIs.**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
1.3	Average share of total turnover from product innovation, and novel innovation: new to market, new to business and significantly improved	%	More developed	22.40	2010	23.00	UK Innovation Survey (BIS)	Every two years.

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

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

1. This Priority will include support set out below and, in doing so, will contribute primarily to two of *Innovation Wales'* five key themes - providing flexible support for innovation; and improving collaboration.

2. Innovation Wales recognises that pockets of world class expertise exist in academia in areas with commercial potential. It also recognises emerging clusters of Smart Specialisation (although these may currently be lacking in global scale) as well as opportunities to build on existing best practise in the commercialisation of R&D. The Welsh National Research Networks will cover the Grand Challenge areas and will provide leadership for knowledge transfer and commercialisation activity. Targeting on the Low Carbon Energy and Environment sector will be expected to contribute to Climate Change targets and categorised separately (indicative allocations have been included in the Categories of Expenditure table).

3. The Priority will support the provision of flexible support for innovation which can address specific barriers for SMEs to carry out innovative or research focused activities, as well as for businesses seeking to increase innovation or use of research. The actions will be complemented by the repayable financial support for innovation available from Priority 2 of this Programme: SME Competitiveness.

4. We recognise that innovation can be carried out by any organisation (e.g. private, third and public), and is not only linked to science and technological research by academia and business. We want to be able to encourage a greater number of SMEs to carry out innovation activities in Wales, in particular where they can help address the grand societal challenges (for example eco-innovation). All such investments under this priority must still align with the

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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

smart specialisation strategy. All other SMEs are eligible for support through the SME Competitiveness Priority Axis.

5. Success cannot be guaranteed and failure is an essential part of innovation; the Priority will therefore seek to support a balanced portfolio of investments using the Smart Specialisation approach to encourage pilot activities, applied research and innovation with a high risk of failure alongside those with clear market exploitation potential.

6. The Commission's *Digital Agenda for Europe*[1] sets out the important role of ICT in research and innovation. ICT as a sector represents 5% of the total GDP and 20% of overall productivity growth in Europe. *Digital Wales*[2] and *Delivering a Digital Wales*[3] (as well as *Innovation Wales*) describe the current strengths and weaknesses of the sector in Wales.

7. The Priority will also support initiatives to promote knowledge transfer, the dissemination of new technologies, and the commercialisation of research based on market pull - the need and ability of businesses to exploit knowledge and a business culture which encourages problem solving in the workplace[4].

8. The European Commission[5] defines Research and Innovation as inter-related but independent concepts (essentially research to improve our knowledge base and innovation as new ways of doing things that may include use of research).

9. The ERDF programme will seek to increase investment in applied research or experimental development with a clear link to economic outcomes, where it can contribute to growth and productivity in the programme area. ERDF will not simply substitute domestic funds for competitive funds. Opportunities to co-invest with other organisations, such as the Technology Strategy Board or Nesta[6] , should be explored where possible.

10. In terms of meeting Climate Change targets there are already a number of Smart Specialisation areas in Wales (for example Smart living, technology

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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

demonstration, applied advanced powertrain and battery research for electric and hydrogen vehicles, or smart grid / distribution). There is also some existing expertise in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies (e.g. photovoltaic, energy generating building envelopes, hydrogen energy systems) and alternative fuels (to exploit the opportunities of the Low Carbon Vehicles sector[7]). Wales also benefits from significant academic expertise in developing and integrating low-Carbon technologies, for example through the Low Carbon Research Institute which is a partnership of a number of Universities across Wales, and has established a significant economy in the renewable and low carbon sectors. Support will need to ensure that these existing strengths are fully exploited.

11. Examples of the type of actions to be supported are:

- Support businesses to undertake innovation (e.g. demand-led or eco-innovation) and improve innovation supply chains[8] between businesses and with academia
- Support to address the barriers to innovation for businesses
- Piloting of initiatives to test innovative products, processes or services in areas with commercial potential
- Support the development of prototypes, pilot schemes, demonstrations and working models
- Development of low-cost hubs or clusters for innovative businesses and sectors (e.g. virtual hubs for ICT, Creative or Tourism sector)

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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

- Development and launch of innovative new uses and adaptations for existing technology, processes or services into new markets
- Commercialisation, protection and exploitation of research (including applied research to improve market readiness)
- Improved industrial and SME collaboration with Universities and other research intensive institutions. Wherever possible, the collaboration should seek to build the confidence and capacity of SMEs to exploit the benefits of reseach to become more productive or to grow their business.
- Support for the development of Smart Specialisation clusters with a focus on commercial application of research and innovation.
- Investments in advanced manufacturing and production capabilities (e.g. first production of Key Enabling Technologies)
- The use of ICT innovation vouchers (as described in the Digital Agenda Toolbox[9]), regarded as an efficient mechanism to reach out to SMEs, may be considered

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/

[2] http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en

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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

[3]http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/publications/framework/?lang=en

[4] Also a key feature of *Innovation Union* Flagship Initiative under Europe 2020

[5] Innovation Union - A rationale for action http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/rationale_en.pdf describes research and innovation as: Research: investment of resources in attempts to expand scientific and technological knowledge base, often in order to solve particular problems that confront different sectors of society; Innovation: creation of value via the introduction of new products, processes, services and ways of doing things; requires knowledge inputs not only from scientific and technological research, but also from other sources such as non-technological, user-driven and social innovation.

[6] Formerly NESTA, (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts)

[7] Further details of market and Welsh Government ambitions in statement at:
http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2013/lowcarbonvehicles/?lang=en

[8] The innovation supply chain (as opposed to innovation in the supply chain) is the process by which companies obtain and/or develop future products, processes and services and improve on their current products, processes and services.

[9] http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/10157/130815/Digital%20Agenda%20Tool%20Box%20v.13_CONSULTATION.pdf

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2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

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

1.Support from this Priority will be consistent with the overriding principle of *Innovation Wales* in that innovation will be promoted across the whole economy but that significant levels of dedicated support to clusters, institutions, businesses or for specific technologies or innovations should be made on the basis of building on Wales' strengths. This focus on activities that are already strong or are showing promise follows the Smart Specialisation[1] concept and the Welsh Government's Grand Challenge areas. Expert advice will be sought to assist with the prioritisation of investments in line with the governance arrangements for the Smart Specialisation Strategy. Alignment with the Smart Specialisation strategy is a pre-condition for all support under this Priority Axis.

2.Investments will be prioritised using the Smart Specialisation approach where expertise and genuine specialisation is being demonstrated. It is expected that this will primarily be around the Grand Challenge areas, though other specialisms may emerge through entrepreneurial discovery. The Managing Authority will make use of technical and expert advice to ensure support is targeted appropriately, ideas are credible, realistic and do not duplicate existing research or innovation.

3. In demonstrating alignment to the Smart Specialisation strategy for Wales operations will need to illustrate how they are contributing directly to the indicators and objectives identified in the latest associated Delivery Plans[2], including any additional or innovative measures introduced during the ongoing evolution of the Smart Specialisation strategy. These Strategies are being delivered in close cooperation and measures are already in place to ensure cooperation and coordination in delivery (e.g. use of specialist Advisory Councils with cross-membership between them to develop priorities, monitor delivery plans and indicators, and coordinating activity where there are overlaps).

4.There will need to be an element of specific targeting focussed on encouraging innovation in those enterprises either not currently innovating, or those that do not consider themselves as innovative. This should include specific targeting approaches for sectors outside of the science and technological

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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

sectors, and should complement activity encouraging deeper innovation processes in those enterprises already innovating.

5.Efforts will be needed to identify those businesses in Wales with the potential to commercialise and use research and innovation, where linked to a smart specialisation. Targeted and tailored support to help those enterprises realise the benefit in the programme area will be key to delivering the desired results.

[1] *Smart Specialisation – The Concept, Knowledge Economists Policy Brief n° 9* (2009), Dominique Foray, Paul A. David and Bronwyn Hall

[2] The Science for Wales Delivery Plan is published at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/csaw/publications/deliveryplan/?lang=en and the Innovation Wales Delivery Plan will be published at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/?lang=en

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

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

1. No use of financial instruments is envisaged for this Investment Priority, but there may be scope to utilise the financial instruments under the SME Competitiveness Priority to complement actions under this Investment Priority.

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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

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

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
No major projects are anticipated under this Investment Priority	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

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**					
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**

compare report

					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			~~2,585~~990.00	Monitring data	Quarterly
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			320.00	Monitoring data	Quaterly
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			~~2,245~~650.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			20.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			670.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			~~715~~225.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	ERDF	More developed			26,160,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			300.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			~~440~~250.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J4	Number of patents registered for products	Number	ERDF	More developed			315.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	ERDF	More developed			0.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	More developed			~~50~~200.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	More developed			200.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~J7~~J32	~~Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems~~Number of partners cooperating in research projects	Number	ERDF	More developed			~~50~~450.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	**1 - Research and Innovation**

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis	**1 - Research and Innovation**

compare report

ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
~~CO04~~	~~O~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~n/a~~			~~2,245.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~The output is the main measure of activity in Investment priority 1b which covers 62% of the Priority Axis~~
~~I2~~J32	~~I~~O	~~%~~Number of ~~final target for 'number of enterprises receiving non-financial support' which has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~partners cooperating in research projects	~~%~~Number	ERDF	~~More~~Less developed			~~28~~32			~~100~~540.00	Monitoring data	~~Required as an milestone for the output target~~The output is the main measure of activity under Investment Priority 1b which covers 5062% of the Priority axis.
I2	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed			~~45500000~~36,000,000			~~178,200,000~~201,603,132.00	Monitoring Data	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

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Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	002. Research and innovation processes in large enterprises	2,257,959.00
ERDF	More developed	056. Investment in infrastructure, capacities and equipment in SMEs directly linked to research and innovation activities	3,915,919.00
ERDF	More developed	057. Investment in infrastructure, capacities and equipment in large companies directly linked to research and innovation activities	1,305,306.00
ERDF	More developed	058. Research and innovation infrastructure (public)	~~15,163~~21,013,677.00
ERDF	More developed	059. Research and innovation infrastructure (private, including science parks)	5,221,225.00
ERDF	More developed	060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	4,515,919.00
ERDF	More developed	061. Research and innovation activities in private research centres including networking	2,257,959.00
ERDF	More developed	062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	13,547,757.00
ERDF	More developed	063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	6,773,878.00
ERDF	More developed	064. Research and innovation processes in SMEs (including voucher schemes, process, design, service and social innovation)	~~15,305~~21,155,716.00
ERDF	More developed	065. Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy and on resilience to climate change	18,336,251.00
ERDF	More developed	101. Cross financing under the ERDF (support to ESF type actions necessary for the satisfactory implementation of the ERDF part of the operation and directly linked to it)	500,000.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

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Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	~~89,001~~100,701,566.00
ERDF	More developed	07. Prize	100,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	24,035,513.00
ERDF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	2,670,613.00
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	~~62,395~~74,095,440.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	~~89,101~~100,801, 566.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation

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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	1 - Research and Innovation

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2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	SME Competitiveness

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1.The primary objective of this Priority Axis is to improve the competitiveness of SMEs in the programme area aligned to Thematic Objective 3 by promoting entrepreneurship and increasing the capacity of SMEs. An Investment Priority from another Thematic Objectives has been included given the relevance to increasing SME competitiveness and the alignment of the ex-ante assessment based on identified market failures with activity under this Priority Axis. This is (1b) promoting business investment in innovation and research etc.

2.A proportion of the finance for innovation will be delivered through a Financial Instrument, and will therefore be supported through this Priority Axis to allow a single operation helping address market failure in access to finance for SMEs.

3.There are very close links between this Priority Axis and the Research and Innovation Priority Axis with both being vital to improve productivity and support business growth (traditionally spearheaded by innovative SMEs). The assessment informing the Financial Instrument in this area was done on the basis of market failure in the provision of finance, rather than based on the potential leverage effects on Business Expenditure on R&D (BERD). It is

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therefore included in this Priority Axis to reflect that distinction, though it is expected to be a complementary activity to support increased BERD (along with dedicated activity under the Research and Innovation Priority Axis).

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1b
Title of the investment priority	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

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.5
Title of the specific objective	To address market failures in the availability of finance, in particular risk capital, for Welsh SMEs to undertake innovation and commercialise R&D.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union	**Description of baseline and results**

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support	1. The UK innovation survey 2011 published by BIS in June 2013 found that 44.3% of innovative firms who try to obtain finance find it difficult to do so, compared to 32.6% of other firms, and 37.8% of innovative firms who tried to access finance were unable to obtain any (doubled from 14% in 2007/8)[1]. A culture of innovation is one of the features of high growth firms[2] indicating that targeting of innovative firms and supporting innovation through risk capital might be useful. 2. The result indicator used is the amount of early stage equity investment, as measured by annual reports from the British Venture Capital Association. The levels identified by this report support the market failure argument in Wales and the low levels of investment mean figures will be particularly sensitive to ERDF investment. Despite this other measures have too much noise associated with them (e.g. the size of the market gap identified as part of the ex-ante assessment would not be useful as a result indicator). Similarly the UK Innovation Survey did not provide the level of specificity required. 3. Required evaluations of Financial Instruments should seek to identify more direct impact of major EU funded schemes against the market analysis within the ex-ante assessment. [1] *Credit and the crisis: Access to finance for innovative small firms since the recession* (June 2013), Neil Lee, Hiba Sameen and Lloyd Martin, Big Innovation Centre [2] *Policies in support of high-growth innovative SMEs* (2011), European Commission

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**2.5 - To address market failures in the availability of finance, in particular risk capital, for Welsh SMEs to undertake innovation and commercialise R&D.**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.5	Early stage equity investment	GBP	More developed	9000000	2012	£9.5m -£10m	Investment Stage Analysis by Region – Amount invested (UK), (BVCA Private Equity and Venture Capital Report on Investment Activity 2012)	Annually

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

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

1. The ex-ante assessment of opportunities for Financial Instruments[1] identified an important role for finance to support the set-up, early growth and expansion of high-tech firms:

- *"There is clearly a strong case for publicly backed finance in Wales to support the commercialisation of R&D. The actions of Welsh Government and Finance Wales have played an important role in addressing the issue of market failure in the provision of finance, but also helping to stimulate R&D activity and the demand for finance to commercialise this. Given the experience of JEREMIE, we would expect there to be capacity for in the order of a total fund of £20-£40 million over a five year period (of which ERDF would be roughly 50%)."*

2. The market assessment resulted in initial recommendations for proof of concept funding to remain grant-funded but for early stage seed (between £20,000 and £50,000) and follow on investments (up to £100,000) as financial instruments. Early stage investments should reach between £50,000 and £1 million overall (including follow-on).

3. Actions to be supported are expected to consist of provisions for access to risk-capital finance and support for the creation and growth of research-intensive and innovative businesses, such as spin-outs. This should be complementary to any investments under Specific Objective 1. Examples include:

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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

- Access to debt, equity and mezzanine finance
- Tailored business finance schemes (e.g. for key sectors or specific geographic areas)

[1] *Ex Ante Assessment for the use of Financial Instruments*, Regeneris Consulting, not yet published

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

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

1. The priority's support will take account of the Welsh Government's key sectors approach, which targets some tailored support on economically important and potential growth sectors (including those which have exhibited high growth in the past).

2. Financial support will primarily be focussed on providing debt, equity and mezzanine finance. Given the recognition of the need to be able to tailor support, provision will need to be retained to support other repayable or grant packages where economic conditions dictate. The stage of business development will also be an important consideration in deciding the efficiency of allocating a grant or loan.

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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

3. Tailored support and investment will be targeted and dependent on: the growth potential of the business; the lifecycle of the business recognising the "critical events" of business growth[1]; and gaps in provision by the private sector.

4. Targeting should also ensure that all investments under Specific Objective 2.5 are aligned with the Welsh Smart Specialisation Strategy as described under Priority Axis 1 (Research and Innovation). The Smart Specialisation approach[2] advocates a concentration of resources on a few key priorities where a region has an existing or emerging specific strength, rather than spreading investment thinly across a broad number of areas or trying to develop capacity without some endogenous capability.

5. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] A review of the literature addressing the role of external knowledge and expertise at key stages of business growth and development. Cranfield School of Management. Bessant, J., Phelps, B., & Adams, R. (2005).

[2] http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home

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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

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
1.To date, an initial high level assessment of the suitability of Financial Instruments for the different programme components has been undertaken, and for those parts deemed suitableand of high priority (i.e. SME finance), a market assessment has been undertaken. On the basis of this, detailed proposals for the Financial Instruments are currently being prepared and these will be reviewed as part of the final stages of the ex ante assessment. 2.The ex ante assessment to date has indicated that there is a strong case for the ERDF programme to provide an integrated and coordinated approach to the provision of finance for SMEs. Initial recommendations are for proof of concept funding to remain grant-funded but for early stage seed (between £20,000 and £50,000) and follow on investments (up to £100,000) to be delivered through a Financial Instrument. Early stage investments should reach between £50,000 and £1 million overall (including follow-on).	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

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
No major project is anticipated	

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

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**								
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			25.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			25.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			~~14,100~~7,200,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO08	Productive investment:	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			145.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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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							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	Employment increase in supported enterprises								
CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			5.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J14	Invetsment in enterprises	GBP	ERDF	More developed			~~7,819,774~~12,700,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	More developed			13.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	More developed			~~5~~13.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	3a
Title of the investment priority	Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the amount of finance available to SMEs for both business start-up and for business expansion.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. Survey evidence suggests that only 66% of Welsh SMEs were successful in accessing some of the finance they needed[1] which compares with around 74% across the UK[2]. Data from the Welsh Small Business Survey[3] suggests that it is micro enterprises in Wales that face the biggest difficulties in gaining finance. The BIS Small Business Survey indicates that Welsh SMEs are generally finding it harder to access finance than their English counterparts (e.g. for result indicator it is 26% failing to access any finance in Wales, compared to only 21% across the UK and 20% in England). Banks are unlikely to return to their lending levels pre credit crisis and a gap in equity finance has been evidenced[4]. 2. The ex-ante assessment of opportunities for Financial Instruments[5] identifies a strong case for investment of a capital value of between £120-160 million (including seed and early stage growth) across the whole of Wales (covering both Welsh ERDF programmes). 3. A market assessment has initially identified potential to support micro-loans, loans and risk capital (for business expansion).

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	Further assessment identifies opportunities to combine this with additional seed, early stage and follow-on investments for R&D related activity; this element is addressed under Specific Objective 5, but activity would be expected to be closely coordinated, if not delivered together. 4. The result indicator used is the Amount invested in Venture Capital and Expansion Capital, as measured by annual reports from the British Venture Capital Association. The levels identified by this report support the market failure argument in Wales and the low levels of investment mean figures will be particularly sensitive to ERDF investment. Despite this other measures have too much noise associated with them (e.g. the market gap assessment as part of the ex-ante assessment would not be useful as a result indicator). [1] *2012 Small Business Survey* (2013), BMG Research, Welsh Government [2] *BIS Economics Paper No. 16: SME Access to External Finance* (January 2012), BIS [3] *2012 Small Business Survey* (2013), BMG Research, Welsh Government [4] Gap for Wales' regions being identified as part of ex-ante assessment for Financial Instruments [5] *Wales Ex-ante Evaluation of European Programmes 2014-20 - Financial Instruments: Stage 2* (June 2013), Regeneris and Oldbell 3,

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ID of the specific objective	2.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number of SME start-ups through the provision of information, advice and guidance and support for entrepreneurship.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. The situation and rationale for investment regarding entrepreneurship, birth rates and business creation has been set out in the strategy of this programme. Across Wales 8,270 new enterprises were counted in 2012 (provisional data); this compares to around 8,225 new enterprises in 2011. Within East Wales this figure was 3,595 in 2012 (provisional), compared with 3,375 in 2011. 2. Since 2009 the number of business deaths in Wales has outstripped the number of births, leading to a net reduction in the active businesses in Wales of 3,140. In East Wales the net reduction in active businesses over the same period was 850, representing 27% of the net Welsh reduction. 3. Supported actions should not only increase the numbers of new businesses in Wales but should also be seeking to increase the survival rates and achieve higher growth rates of those supported businesses compared to average survival and growth rates. This should be possible given that the support should include more tailored, targeted, and therefore relevant advice. Impact on survival and growth rates will be considered in the evaluations of this element of the programmes, in particular through the regular business survey of supported SMEs.

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		2.1 - To increase the amount of finance available to SMEs for both business start-up and for business expansion.						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.1	Amount invested in Venture Capital and Expansion Capital	GBP	More developed	18m	2012	19m-20m	Investment Stage Analysis by Region – Amount invested (UK), (BVCA Private Equity and Venture Capital Report on Investment Activity 2012)	Annual

Specific objective		2.2 - To increase the number of SME start-ups through the provision of information, advice and guidance and support for entrepreneurship.						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.2	Count of birth of new enterprises	Number	More developed	3595	2012	5% increase in annual rate	ONS (Business Demography)	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

1.Particular consideration should be given to the need to provide Social Enterprises with specialist advice and guidance to enable start-ups and promote growth where gaps evidenced in mainstream support for SMEs.

2.Types of action to be supported across Investment Priority (covering both Specific Objective 1 and Specific Objective 2):

- Access to debt, equity and mezzanine finance
- Micro-finance investment vehicle
- Tailored business finance schemes (e.g. for key sectors, specific geographic areas or growth businesses)
- Advice and mentoring for start-ups, with a focus on high growth-potential start-ups
- Pre-start entrepreneurship activity (e.g. ability to test business ideas or support for graduate and high potential starts)

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Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

- Customised delivery of support for social enterprise creation (including the promotion of innovative business models) where there are evidenced gaps in mainstream provision

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

1.The Priority's support will take account of the Welsh Government's key sectors approach, which targets some tailored support on economically important and potential growth sectors (including those which have exhibited high growth in the past) as well as offering advice and information to all businesses where private sector provision is lacking.

2.Financial support will primarily be focussed on providing debt, equity and mezzanine finance. Given the recognition of the need to be able to tailor support, provision will need to be retained to support other repayable or grant packages in exceptional circumstances and where economic conditions dictate. Evidence from counterfactual impact evaluations of support given to firms across the EU[1] indicates that often loans are as effective as a grant. The stage of business development will also be an important consideration in deciding the efficiency of allocating a grant or loan.

3.Advice and information may be offered universally at a relatively low cost through websites and dedicated help-lines. The more in-depth, tailored support and investment will be targeted and dependent on: the growth potential of the business; the lifecycle of the business recognising the "critical events" of business growth[2]; and gaps in the provision by the private sector.

4. Given limited available funding there is a case to target specialist support at potential high-growth start-ups; though this should take account of the fact

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Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

that the majority of jobs created in the UK economy are through business expansion rather than business creation so there will need to be an element of realism about the short-term growth potential of start-ups[3]. This suggests the main contribution to the programme of these investments will be towards the creation of new enterprises, but future jobs growth will also be monitored through the Business Survey and evaluation

5. A targeted approach is expected to generate the greatest return on the investments. The approach will also complement the Smart Specialisation approach[4] which advocates a concentration of resources on a few key priorities where a region has an existing or emerging specific strength, rather than spreading investment thinly across a broad number of areas or trying to develop capacity without some endogenous capability.

6.It is recognised[5] that there is an opportunity to encourage greater involvement from the private sector in delivering information and advisory services, but there is arguably a key role for the public sector in the interim. It is also recognised that social enterprises may encounter difficulties with accessing 'mainstream support' and require different or tailored approaches to the delivery of support.

7.Complementarity, particularly around the early stages of entrepreneurship, will be sought with investments likely to be made under the ESF. For example ESF support should help to remove barriers to entrepreneurship, such as skills, while ERDF will be used to provide finance and support to turn ideas into businesses.

8.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] . *What are counterfactual impact evaluations teaching us about enterprise and innovation support?* (2012), Daniel Mouqué, DG Regio.

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Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

[2] *A review of the literature addressing the role of external knowledge and expertise at key stages of business growth and development* (2005), J. Bessant, B. Phelps and R. Adams, Cranfield School of Management

[3] *Job creation and destruction in the UK: 1998 to 2010* (2011), Department for Business Innovation and Skills

[4] http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home

[5] *Mid term evaluation of the Customer Engagement WG/EU project* (2012), Old Bell 3 and Cardiff University

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

1.To date, an initial high level assessment of the suitability of Financial Instruments for the different programme components has been undertaken, and for those parts deemed suitableand of high priority (i.e. SME finance), a market assessment has been undertaken. On the basis of this, detailed proposals for the Financial Instruments are currently being prepared and these will be reviewed as part of the final stages of the ex ante assessment.

2. The assessment to date has identified a strong case for the ERDF programme to provide an integrated and coordinated approach to the provision of finance for SMEs. This should cover micro-loans, loans, and risk capital. It is envisaged that the majority of Specific Objective 2 will be delivered through such a Financial Instrument.

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Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
1. No major projects are anticipated, given Financial Instruments will be used instead.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			2,~~430~~385.00	Monitorting data	Quarterly

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Investment priority		3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	receiving support								
~~CO02~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~45.00~~	~~Monitroing data~~	~~Quarterly~~
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			65.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			120.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			2,200.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			~~37,320~~18,700,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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Investment priority		3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			4,450.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~J10~~	~~Individuals receiving support - Female individuals~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~3,100.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~J11~~	~~Individuals receiving support - BME individuals~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~445.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~J12~~	~~Individuals receiving support - Disbaled individuals~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~1,350.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly data~~
J14	Invetsment in enterprises	GBP	ERDF	More developed			~~25,863,898~~33,700,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	More developed			1,~~225~~200.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~J7~~	~~Enterprises adopting or~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~490.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~

compare report

Investment priority		3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	~~improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems~~								
~~J9~~J7	~~Individuals recieving support~~Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	More developed			~~6~~1,200.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	3d
Title of the investment priority	Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.3
Title of the specific objective	To increase the take-up and exploitation of NGA networks and ICT infrastructure by SMEs

compare report

Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1.As this specific objective is focussed on SME take-up and *exploitation* of ICT, in theory it would be desirable to develop a result indicator describing the effective use of ICT by SMEs. However, although the BIS Small Business Survey provides a regular source of data on SMEs' use of ICT for a range of purposes, given the unpredictability of developments in ICT, it would not be sensible to set a target for very specific uses of ICT when other uses may become more important as the technology develops further. 2.As *take-up* is also an integral component of this Specific Objective, an alternative to setting a target on *how* SMEs use ICT is to set a target on SMEs' take-up of faster broadband, especially the faster broadband that will be delivered through the infrastructure investment in Priority Axis 4. Ideally, the result indicator would refer to SME take-up of broadband of a particular speed, for example, 30Mbps, which will be available to the majority of business and residential premises following completion of the Superfast Cymru Next Generation Broadband programme, or 100Mbps, which will be available to businesses that wish to upgrade even further. 3.However, given the lack of available data on SME take-up of broadband of particular speeds, a result indicator has been developed on SME use of fibre and cable broadband, the types of broadband offering the highest speed. In a survey of SMEs undertaken by Ofcom in 2014, 8% of SMEs reported the use of fibre broadband and 14% cable broadband. Although trend data are unavailable it is reasonable to assume that take-up would increase even in the absence of any demand stimulation activity funded under this Specific Objective. The target for this Specific Objective is to bring take-up levels to over half of SMEs by 2023. 4.The expected increase due solely to ERDF support is an additional 5 percentage points. It should be noted that growth would be expected without intervention (and some will be as indirect result of stimulation activity) so the total coverage by 2023 would be closer to 55% when ERDF and anticipated normal growth is combined.

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ID of the specific objective	2.4
Title of the specific objective	To increase the growth of those SMEs with growth potential, in particular through accessing new markets (both domestic and international)
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1.The Strategy section identifies tipping points that SMEs reach where a critical mass of knowledge and support needs to be in place to enter the next phase of growth. The result being sought for the programme area is a growth in the number of employees as SMEs grow. Employment as an indicator for businesses located within the programme area reflects the benefit within the programme area better than other measures of growth such as numbers of businesses or turnover. Other data is not available at this level of detail. 2.There are large numbers of micro-enterprises in the programme area but these often represent lone traders, not necessarily with ambitions to grow. Micro enterprises in East Wales for 2013 accounted for 95% of SMEs by number, but only 53% of employment within SMEs and 38% of turnover[1]. Additionally, whilst employment in micro-enterprises increased between 2003 and 2013, the actual number of micro-enterprises increased by a similar degree, suggesting that the bulk of the increase in employment came through micro-enterprise creation rather than growth . This suggests that, while a vital part of the Welsh economy, including employment within micro-enterprises in the result indicator is likely to skew results given the increases in employment is associated with new businesses, not with business growth. The new businesses element will be captured in the results indicator for SO2.2 3.Small and Medium enterprises, however, have seen an increase in employment of 7,100 in East Wales since 2011 (from 110,000 to 117,100), alongside a net increase of 260 small and medium businesses. These are the SMEs in which the growth companies either already exist or to which an innovative micro-enterprise will be looking to transition towards. This subset of the data is therefore taken to form the result indicator, allowing for a target to be estimated. This will not

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	capture any SMEs that grow to large businesses (over 250 employees), but should these transitions take place, they will be captured by evaluation. Targeting based on growth potential and tailoring support should support greater employment growth than other approaches. [1] *Size analysis of Welsh businesses 2013* (2013), Welsh Government

compare report

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		2.3 - To increase the take-up and exploitation of NGA networks and ICT infrastructure by SMEs						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.3	SME use of fibre and cable broadband	% of SMEs	More developed	22%	2013	27%	Communications Market Report: Wales (Ofcomt)	Annual

Specific objective		2.4 - To increase the growth of those SMEs with growth potential, in particular through accessing new markets (both domestic and international)						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.4	Employment within small (10-49 employees) and medium (50-249) SMEs	Percent	More developed	117100	2013	6% increase	Size Analysis of Welsh Businesses (Welsh Government)	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

1.The result indicator for SO2.3 provides a clear focus on assisting SMEs to take up faster broadband opportunities. However, to successfully encourage SMEs to make this investment, activity will need to be very clear on the business benefits of faster broadband. As noted in the Strategy section, some SMEs in Wales lack confidence in their ability to identify which communications products or services would be valuable for their organisation, highlighting a need for well-tailored advice and guidance[1] Furthermore, evidence from the 2007-2013 Programmes suggests that awareness-raising can be effective in encouraging businesses to introduce new ICT.[2] This provides some success that can be built on for the 2014-2020 period.

2.Research has identified routes through which exploitation of ICT can provide economic impact. This includes productivity growth through enhanced business innovation, increased international trade and through teleworking enabling more productive use of some workers' time[3]. Furthermore, 'cloud computing' has been highlighted as a particular potential source of positive impact of faster broadband[4]. Research has also suggested that UK SMEs may lag behind their international peers in the digitisation of some back office functions[5] All this evidence provides pointers to inform activity to encourage SMEs to maximise ICT exploitation. However, perhaps most importantly, activity will need to take account of SMEs' particular circumstances, as well as emerging technologies and trends. As well as focussing on the benefits of faster broadband, interventions will also need to address any barriers to take-up, including, for example, any security fears

3.Whilst support under SO2.3 should be universally available given the potential for broadband to generate positive effects for all businesses, for SO2.4, targeting is essential to ensure those SMEs with genuine growth potential are identified so that employment growth is sustainable, and not just contributing to lower productivity. In this respect, interventions funded under the two Specific Objectives ought to complement each other. Where businesses are identified to have genuine growth potential but with some ICT-related barriers to growth, it is envisaged that these barriers will be addressed as part of the support funded under SO2.4. If this support is unable to fully address the issues for some businesses then such businesses ought to be referred to support

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

funded under SO2.3. High growth businesses[6], while small in number, remain key to driving productivity and increasing jobs - the UK compares well internationally with 5.8% of businesses "high growth" against US (c. 5%) and Italy (3%). It is very difficult to identify those businesses, especially when they are first formed, and a flexible approach is required to identifying, targeting and supporting such businesses.

4.The Mid Term Evaluation of the Welsh Government's Customer Engagement project highlighted opportunities to further stimulate private sector involvement in business advice and guidance but also recognised the signs of ongoing market failure in the provision of advice and guidance to businesses in Wales.

5.Research suggests that programmes which use a hands-on, 'managed brokerage' approach may perform better than those using a 'light touch' approach, though these type of programmes will inevitably be more expensive, and to date there has been no comparison of the cost-effectiveness of hands-on versus light touch[7]. Where interventions do involve in depth support, evidence strongly suggests that this should be tailored, mixing appropriate financial and non-financial elements[8]. Evidence also points to the importance of business planning as a factor associated with growth so, where applicable, this should be incorporated in any support[9]. SMEs have a number of concerns relating to the seeking of advice and information which point towards some of the market failures in this area[10]. The concerns particularly relate to the expense and time involved with taking up formal business assistance, not being able to trust external advisors, or concerns about whether they would understand the business, and confidence in being able to access appropriate assistance.

6.Types of action to be supported to promote both productivity and growth objectives might therefore include a combination of the following areas of support:

<u>For SO2.3 (take-up and exploitation of ICT infrastructure)</u>

- The delivery of workshops, clinics and one-to-one business diagnostics focussed on take-up and exploitation of NGA broadband, emphasising the benefits to SMEs but also addressing any barriers to effective take-up and exploitation.

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

- The use of ICT innovation vouchers (as described in the Digital Agenda Toolbox[11]), regarded as an efficient mechanism to reach out to micro-enterprises and SMEs, may be considered.

For SO2.4 (supporting employment growth in SMEs):

- Information and advice for business, such as universally available support to all SMEs e.g. through websites and help-lines.
- Tailored support for economically important and growth businesses, including Social Enterprises, to address barriers to improving productivity, for example: sales, marketing, product development, pricing and risk management
- Tailored advice and business support to address barriers to growth, for example: HR issues, strategy, marketing, business models, systems, risk management, resource efficiency, operational improvement, product development, supply chains and distribution.
- Customised delivery of support for social enterprise development and growth (including the promotion of innovative business models) where there are evidenced gaps in mainstream provision
- Capacity building, advice, guidance and support to address barriers for Welsh businesses to access procurement opportunities (including internationally)
- Support for the internationalisation of businesses and increasing exports, such as brokerage and partner events, trade fairs, training, counselling/advice/ mentoring, mission-related costs or other financial support, market research or other information services.

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

- Support for resource efficiency and energy efficiency measures within SMEs, including addressing barriers to related investment, supporting behavioural change, and supporting the diffusion of technology and innovation and encouraging SMEs to undertake energy audits

[1] *Communications Market Report: Wales* (2014), Ofcom

[2] *ERDF Business Survey* (2012), Old Bell 3 for WEFO: 49% of surveyed businesses that reported that ERDF had helped them adopt ICT said that this was through the ERDF support making them aware of what was available.

[3] *UK Broadband Impact Study: Literature Review* (2012), SQW for DCMS

[4] *Ibid.*

[5] *"This is for Everyone": The Case for Universal Digitization* (2012), Booz & Co. Booz & Co analysed the levels of digitization in the back office of more than 500 SMEs in the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Brazil. UK SMEs were found to lag behind their peers in the digitization of three key business functions: *commercial processes*, such as sales management and customer relationship management, *financial processes*, including budgeting, planning, accounting and reporting, and *people processes*, including payroll, benefits management and flexible working arrangements.

[6] A number of different definitions, including the OECD as those with at least 10 employees and who have experienced growth at an annual average of

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

20% over a three year period

[7] *Evidence Review: Business Advice* (2014) What Works Centre for local Economic Growth

[8] *Ibid. What are counterfactual impact evaluations teaching us about enterprise and innovation support?* (December 2012), Daniel Mouque, DG for Regional and Urban Policy Evaluation and European Semester Unit, European Commission. *Mid Programme Evaluation of the Start Up Service*, ERS, Beaufort Research and Hywel Evans for the Welsh Assembly Government .

[9] *2012 Small Business Survey: Growth Special Report* (2013), Department for Business Innovation and Skills

[10] *Research to understand the barriers to take up and use of business support* (2011), Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research for BIS

[11] http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/10157/130815/Digital%20Agenda%20Tool%20Box%20v.13_CONSULTATION.pdf

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2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

1.The Welsh Government has recognised that businesses are best placed to advise other businesses and that support should be procured rather than delivered directly by government[1].

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

2.Research suggests[2] that identifying and targeting "high growth" firms is difficult although the growth intentions of businesses have a large effect on whether they will indeed grow[3]. This suggests that flexibility will be required in terms of identifying growth potential and the intensive support for businesses identified as having growth potential must be equally flexible and tailored to individual company needs. In recognition of the difficulties of identifying high-growth businesses some research has suggested the use of universal provision of 'marketing' messages and case studies but with content designed to influence 'receptive' SMEs[4].

3.The ERDF Business Survey for the 2007-2013 programming period suggested that, in view of potential displacement effects of assistance to businesses operating largely within local markets and evidence from the survey that job creation is not strongly associated with the smallest businesses, there may be a case for focussing support on businesses employing five or more staff.[5] This is not to say that businesses employing fewer than five staff will be ineligible for growth support but a convincing case will need to be made in such circumstances.

4.Social enterprises are also more likely to seek specialist and tailored business support[6], even though the support needs for social enterprises are broadly similar to other SMEs. Operations providing support for SMEs should fully consider the range of different challenges and barriers facing different businesses with different objectives and legal constitutions and consider tailoring delivery approaches and support. Despite this, social enterprises may encounter difficulties with accessing 'mainstream support' and require different or tailored approaches to the delivery of support.

5.Universally available information and advice should be available to all SMEs (though the design of the intervention will need to consider the specific requirements of key sectors or types of SMEs, such as social enterprises).

6.A range of barriers affect the uptake of resource efficiency and energy efficiency measures in businesses, particularly small and medium businesses, including it being a low priority, lacking expertise, lacking capital, and no compelling case given perceived long payback periods[7]. Support will need to demonstrate market failure and take account of the other initiatives in the market such as the UK Government's Green Deal[8] or any other energy efficiency schemes. Requirements for company energy audits set out in the Energy Efficiency Directive do not apply to SMEs, but such a process could be of benefit to them. Promotion and support for this process may also encourage the behaviour change sought.

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

7.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted. The sensitive nature of aid measures aimed at promoting export and internationalisation should be paid particular attention, specifically as export subsidies are "prohibited subsidies" under WTO rules and are excluded from the scope of the *de minimis* Regulation.

[1] *Programme for Government*, Welsh Government

[2] *Final Evaluation of Business Growth Programme* (2012), BMG, Wavehill Ltd and Hywel Evans & Associates for the Welsh Government

[3] *ERC White paper: Growth and growth intentions* (2013), Levie and Autio, ERC

[4] *Business Growth Ambitions Amongst SMEs* (2012), Department for Business Innovation and Skills. Examples of such businesses given in the report include SMEs which have downsized due to the recession but have survived, SMEs concerned about difficulties in breaking through a threshold, the "ambitious but unprepared", younger owner / managers, owner / managers willing to take risks and SMEs that export, plan to export.

[5] *ERDF Business Survey* (2012), Old Bell 3 for WEFO

[6] *Mapping social enterprise activity in Wales* (October 2009), Welsh Government. Available at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/publications/110803socialmapping/?lang=en

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

[7] *Exploring the design of policies to increase efficiency of electricity use within the industrial and commercial sectors* (November 2012), Carbon Trust & SPA Future Thinking for DECC

[8] https://www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measure s

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

No financial instruments are anticipated in the delivery of this Investment Priority.

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

1. There are no current plans for a major project under this Investment Priority.

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			6,425.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			10.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			115.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			6,300.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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Investment priority		3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	ERDF	More developed			2,220,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~CO07~~	~~Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)~~	~~EUR~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~3,360,000.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	More developed			2,550.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed			400.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J15	Increase in level of export	GBP	ERDF	More developed			65,900,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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Investment priority		3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	More developed			3,200.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	More developed			~~1,300~~3,200.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness

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2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis		2 - SME Competitiveness											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
~~CO04~~I14	O	~~Productive investment: Number of~~Invetsment in enterprises ~~receiving non-financial support~~	~~Enterprises~~GBP	ERDF	~~More~~Less developed			~~n/a~~72,000,000			~~6,420~~72,000,000.00	Monitoring data	The output is the main measure of activity under two out of three Investment Priorities of the Priority ~~axes under both Programmes. This equates~~ axis – equating to 92% of the Priority ~~Axis.~~
~~I3~~	~~I~~	~~% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~	~~%~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~28~~			~~100.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Necessary as output unable to report reasonable milestone in 2018~~
I2	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed			~~203000000~~51,000,000			~~79,700,000~~91,440,942.00	Monitoring data	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

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Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	001. Generic productive investment in small and medium –sized enterprises ('SMEs')	~~14,034,863~~25,389,895.00
ERDF	More developed	066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	~~18,015,664~~7,605,569.00
ERDF	More developed	067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	~~4,118,553~~8,657,848.00
ERDF	More developed	068. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures	388,909.00
ERDF	More developed	069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	583,363.00
ERDF	More developed	071. Development and promotion of enterprises specialised in providing services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change (including support to such services)	100,000.00
ERDF	More developed	073. Support to social enterprises (SMEs)	1,000,000.00
ERDF	More developed	082. ICT Services and applications for SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business, networked business processes), living labs, web entrepreneurs, ICT start-ups, etc.)	1,~~629,119~~994,887.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	~~25,835,608~~20,330,576.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	~~3,258~~12,108,239.00

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Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	04. Support through financial instruments: loan or equivalent	~~10,776,624~~13,281,656.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	~~39,870~~45,720,471.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	~~39,870~~45,720,471.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

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2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	**2 - SME Competitiveness**

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2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. This Priority Axis covers a single thematic objective for ERDF in East Wales and therefore does not involve the combining of any Investment Priorities from different Thematic Objectives.

2. Research and Development and Innovation related to the transition to a low carbon economy – including that related to renewable energy and energy efficiency – is supported under Priority Axis 1. A focus for this Priority Axis is to support a suite of dedicated investments outside of the Smart Specialisation approach (which provides the focus for Priority Axis 1) in specific areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency

3. It is important to recognise that research, technological development and innovation supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency can still be supported through the Research and Innovation Priority Axis, as long as it supports, and can demonstrate, smart specialisation.

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4a
Title of the investment priority	Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	3.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number of small scale renewable energy schemes established.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. As at 31 December 2012 the installed capacity of sites generating electricity from renewable sources in Wales was 929.4 MW . The bulk of this capacity is through technology associated with a mix between small and larger scale schemes (e.g. wind and wave, solar and hydro account for over 90% of capacity). While data at the level of scale per scheme is not readily available an analysis of the regional capacity and generation noted above shows that Wales has 6% of the generating capacity, generates 5.5% of UK electricity from renewable sources, and yet has 6.8% of the total number of sites generating electricity. While generation is around the population share it potentially indicates a lack of major schemes; however the number of sites

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	generating renewable energy suggests a demand for smaller scale renewable schemes. 2. The lack of regular and reliable data relative to the size of renewable energy schemes has led to the selection of a broader result indicator, which small schemes will influence. The key indicator selected is the number of sites generating electricity (excluding Photovoltaic) as this is most likely to be influenced by small scale schemes as capacity and amount of energy will be driven primarily by a few large schemes. The exclusion of Photovoltaic is necessary because of the large numbers of individual premises fitted with panels, skewing the figures (e.g. there were 27,173 sites generating from PV in 2012). This is considered a reasonable result indicator as the ERDF support is only intended to address market failure in the early stages of developing small scale or community energy schemes, not to establish schemes in their entirety. ERDF will fund capacity building and early stage development work to make commercially viable schemes in which the market will invest. 3. Project selection, monitoring and evaluation will need to ensure that the sites ERDF contributes to developing are of a reasonable scale (e.g. more than micro-generation and of benefit to at least a community, potentially a larger region, business community or urban area).

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**3.1 - To increase the number of small scale renewable energy schemes established.**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
3.1	Number of sites generating electricity from renewable sources (excluding PV)	Number	More developed	493	2012	3-6 Aditional sites	DUKES (DECC) : Report on Renewable electricity in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

1. This Investment Priority is limited to supporting small scale and community renewable energy schemes.

2. Research and development and innovation investments related to Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and other areas of Low-Carbon, Energy and Environment Welsh Government Grand Challenge area can be funded through the Research and Innovation Priority Axis, though they will be expected to consider their links to the Smart Specialisation approach. The Research and Innovation Priority Axis will enable support to develop and improve a wide range of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies where there is an expertise or opportunity to capture benefits within the programme area (e.g. photovoltaic, offshore wind, fuel cells, sustainable buildings etc).

3. SMEs in the Energy and Environment sector will be eligible for all business support and finance under the SME Competitiveness priority. Only specific investments directly linked to energy efficiency projects are envisaged in terms of sector and supply chain development through this priority.

4. The ex-ante assessment to inform potential Financial Instruments in Wales for 2014-2020[1] and findings to date from Ynni'r Fro (community energy scheme funded through ERDF) suggest that there is already a good supply of capital finance, but there remains a need for advice and guidance for groups to address those barriers prior to reaching consent (and therefore having a financially viable proposition).

5. A number of mature technologies are available to support small scale and community scale low Carbon initiatives (e.g. wind, solar PV) but the adoption of such technology is expensive and not as widespread as it could be due to uncertainty caused by early stage project development and planning activity raising questions over commercial viability and benefits. There is a need to demonstrate viability on small scale / community scale and to support

compare report

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

measures to speed up the process to help lever additional private resource into these models.

6. Support will be particularly focused on social enterprises and community groups where additional support would be required in the early stages of project development to get to a stage where other investors will be willing to invest. Schemes will be particularly encouraged where they form part of low-Carbon strategies for a specific area, and additional support will be necessary to achieve this given the relatively novel approach and as an additional exercise.

7. Types of actions anticipated include:

- Capacity development for local groups,
- Advice and guidance on setting up small scale renewable energy generation schemes
- Support for collaborative working with developers on community supported schemes
- Investments tailored to address barriers to accessing finance for small and community schemes supporting a low Carbon transition.
- Development and implementation of low Carbon strategies supporting the demonstration of benefits for a specific geographical area

[1] *Ex Ane Assessment for the use of Financial Instruments,*Regeneris Consulting, not yet published

compare report

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

1. Schemes will be expected to complement the activity of the Energy Wales Programme.

2. Business cases will need to clearly demonstrate market failure and that opportunities for co-investment and synergies with other funding programmes have been fully explored (for example UK, Welsh and Local Government schemes or specialist lenders, such as Triodos).

3. Schemes are anticipated to be able to demonstrate a degree of scale (e.g. greater than micro-generation and of benefit to entire communities, regions, or urban areas). Small scale and community energy schemes should ensure consistency and coordination with any proposals in the Welsh Rural Development Programme, in particular which fund will support which elements (in terms of demarcation).

4. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

No Financial Instruments are therefore currently planned for this Investment Priority

compare report

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

1. No major project is currently anticipated under this Investment Priority.

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
~~CO01~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~70.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~CO04~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~70.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~CO29~~	~~Research, Innovation:~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~35.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~

compare report

Investment priority		4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	~~Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products~~								
~~CO30~~	~~Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production~~	~~MW~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~8.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
J16	Community Energy Schemes	Number	ERDF	More developed			3.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~J17~~	~~Energy support site preparation schemes~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~1.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~J18~~	~~Number of renewable energy prototypes tested~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~3.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	ERDF	More developed			3.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4c
Title of the investment priority	Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

compare report

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	3.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the energy efficiency of the existing Welsh housing stock, particularly in areas of fuel poverty
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. The selection of results indicators is difficult as there are difficulties in the collection and analysis of relevant data. For example energy consumption by household can be used to track global changes, but the number of households is too large to be able to impact significantly. Energy consumption also only captures gas and electricity usage, whereas many parts of rural Wales rely on other sources of fuel. 2. The use the Welsh Government's indicators for fuel poverty are therefore selected to identify a specific target group where the greatest need exists and who are less likely to access other forms of support. This also includes the use of other fuels. In order to set reasonable baseline a specific subset of severe fuel poverty has been selected. This equates to households that are spending 20% or more of their income on fuel. 3. As fuel poverty in itself can be influenced by too large a range of other factors (e.g. energy prices, inflation, wages, employment levels, etc.), the associated target is to increase the energy efficiency ratings of a significant proportion of those households, recognising evidence that these households are recognised as having the lowest levels of energy efficiency. 4. The target should be considered alongside the complementary action under the West Wales and the Valleys programme, given the indicator is only available at an all Wales level. A significant proportion of those households supported should be those in severe fuel poverty, but opportunities for economies of scale should not be lost where streets or communities could benefit from an integrated action. It is also recognised that targeting on severe fuel poverty may be difficult but reasonable

compare report

	proxies should be used (e.g. Index of Multiple Deprivation).

compare report

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**3.2 - To increase the energy efficiency of the existing Welsh housing stock, particularly in areas of fuel poverty**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
3.2	Energy efficincy rating of households facing severe fuel poverty	EPC rating	More developed	61,000	2010	Increase energy performance by 2 ratings for 10% of baseline	Welsh Givernment's Fuel Poverty Annual Report	TBC

compare report

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

1. The SME Competitiveness Priority encourages support for sector and supply chain development and support for the energy efficiency supply chain should be funded through that Priority where there are realistic growth opportunities.

2. Existing schemes (such as Green Deal) will not address the causes of fuel poverty in the short term as savings will be used to repay the loan (and interest) over long pay-back periods and there is therefore little incentive for the fuel-poor to take part. The scale of the challenge dwarfs the available funding and the results to be sought for this Investment Priority needs to balance a need for targeting with a desire not to miss opportunities for economies of scale or flexible support.

3. Investing in energy efficiency will not only enable cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but will create business and employment opportunities for local labour. Wales has developed a comprehensive energy efficiency supply chain to take advantage of the opportunities to date offered by the promotion of energy efficiency (for example over 80% of the businesses that delivered phase 1 of Arbed operated primarily, or solely, in Wales). It is expected that this progress will be built upon and where necessary, complementary action targeted under Priority 2 (SME Competitiveness).

4. Community participation and involvement will be encouraged as an important element in the effective delivery of measures to improve the energy efficiency of housing.

5. Types of action to be supported:

compare report

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

- Energy conservation and efficiency measures in existing housing. Consideration should be given to achieving multiple benefits, appropriate targeting to achieve that, and opportunities to utilise repayable finance

- Energy efficiency advice and measures to encourage behavioural change

- The provision of green infrastructure such as the construction of "green" roofs and "green" walls and other appropriate actions to reduce energy use and for smarter energy management

- Opportunities to support the development and use of ICT-based solutions to address energy efficiency in housing challenges

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

1. Support for energy efficiency measures will need to take account of other initiatives in the market such as the UK Government's Green Deal , Energy Company Obligation , as well as the scope to utilise repayable forms of finance where appropriate.

2. The scale of the problem suggests a need to focus on those areas with the greatest market failure (for example those affected most by fuel poverty and least likely to engage in loan schemes such as Green Deal) and at the same time to consider economies of scale (e.g. where entire streets or communities can be covered).

compare report

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

3. Structural funds investments should be seeking to achieve multiple benefits at the same time as addressing an identified market failure. Investing in energy efficiency will not only enable cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but will create business and employment opportunities for local labour. These businesses should be encouraged to develop further to be in a position to help deliver wider schemes, such as the Green Deal across the UK.

4. Energy saving measures should consider the scope to utilise ecologically sound practices and the scope to use green infrastructure.

5. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

There is no planned use of Financial Instruments for this Investment Priority ~~given the current existence of loan schemes such as Green Deal. The option to contribute resources to a financial instrument will be considered if the~~ . An ex-ante assessment on financial instruments ~~identifies~~ did not identifty an opportunity to use repayable finance ~~(e.g. an Urban Development Fund supporting energy efficiency as an element)~~.

compare report

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
1. No major projects envisaged for this Investment Priority.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed			~~4,200~~765.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	ERDF	More developed			~~5~~1.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

compare report

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis				3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency										
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
~~CO31~~	~~O~~	~~Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification~~	~~Households~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~n/a~~			~~4,200.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Will capture activity for energy efficiency in housing element. This activity represents 80% of the Priority.~~
I6	I	Contractors procured to deliver final target of households with improved energy consumption classification	Data	ERDF	Less developed			Yes			0.00	Data	
~~I4~~CO31	~~I~~O	~~% of final target for householder~~Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification~~ has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~	~~%~~Households	ERDF	More developed			~~50~~n/a			~~100~~765.00	Monitoring data	~~Needed to capture milestone in the deliver of related output final target~~Will capture activity for energy efficiency in housing element. This activity represents 80% of the Priority.
I2	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed			~~11400000~~58,500			~~44,800,000~~9,700,782.00	Monitoring data	

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Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	**3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~009. Renewable energy: wind~~	~~1,120,020.00~~
~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~010. Renewable energy: solar~~	~~620,018.00~~
~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~011. Renewable energy: biomass~~	~~620,020.00~~
~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~012. Other renewable energy (including hydroelectric, geothermal and marine energy) and renewable energy integration (Including storage, power to gas and renewable hydrogen infrastructure)~~	~~1,120,020.00~~
~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~014. Energy efficiency renovation of existing housing stock, demonstration projects and supporting measures~~	~~17,870,313.00~~
~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~015. Intelligent Energy Distribution Systems at medium and low voltage levels (including smart grids and ICT systems)~~	~~500,000.00~~
~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~016. High efficiency co-generation and district heating~~	~~500,000.00~~
ERDF	More developed	~~101. Cross financing under the ERDF (support to ESF type actions necessary for the satisfactory implementation of the ERDF part of the operation and directly linked to it)~~014. Energy efficiency renovation of existing housing stock, demonstration projects and supporting	~~50,000~~4,850,391.00

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Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
		measures	

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	~~22,400~~4,850,391.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)~~	~~17,920,313.00~~
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	4,~~480,078~~850,391.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	~~22,400~~4,850,391.00

compare report

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	**3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	**3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**

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2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	4
Title of the priority axis	Connectivity

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. This Priority Axis brings together Investment Priorities from two different Thematic Objectives in order to maximise the efficiency and impact of investments by aligning them with the priorities of the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for Growth and Jobs (WIIP).

2. The Welsh Government has published the WIIP to ensure that its future capital investment is used to deliver the maximum benefits to Wales. Given that its capital spending power has been reduced (40% lower in 2014-15 than 2010-11) the Government's focus is on not only seeking innovative ways of financing infrastructure investments but on being very clear about priorities and driving greater economy and efficiency.

3. The primary thematic objective will be "Supporting the shift to a low Carbon economy in all sectors" which will address issues of constraints on sustainable urban and labour mobility, seeking to better support sustainable urban growth and complementing investment with that planned in the West Wales and the Valleys region, and at the same time seeking to improve the agglomeration benefits of a urban economies.

compare report

4. In terms of providing the right environment in which businesses can flourish and grow, and in turn create employment directly and through supporting supply chains, ICT connectivity is as important as transport connectivity. Indeed the two are mutually reinforcing with better ICT connectivity reducing the need to travel.

5. Actions supported under this Priority will be enablers for all other Priorities, will directly support investments made in the West Wales and the Valleys programme, and will also be key to the success of the ESF programmes (e.g. to ensure skills investments do not simply result in movement of skilled labour out of the programme areas); as such they will need to demonstrate how they will interact with other investments in a territorial area for greater collective impact.

compare report

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	2a
Title of the investment priority	Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	4.2
Title of the specific objective	To contribute to Digital Agenda for Europe targets in Wales for 100% access to next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) and 50% access to 100Mbps
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1.There is a broad consensus that a significant increase in bandwidth gives rise to a range of new applications which generate business benefits such as improved productivity and access to new markets, as evidenced from the step up to ADSL from dial up services[1]. 2.Direct ERDF investments for 2014-2020 are anticipated to contribute around a 7 percentage point increase in coverage of 30Mbps NGA networks. This includes around 3-4 percentage points related to addressing white areas in the recently completed Open Market Review (OMR) and an additional 3 percentage points for white areas expected in an OMR to be carried out in 2016. The current OMR estimates coverage of around 92% without further investment. ERDF can help raise this by 2020 to up to 99%, with EAFRD supporting investment in the remaining 1-2% of most difficult areas. All together these investments should help deliver the Digital Agenda for Europe target for NGA. [1] For example: *Proven economic benefits of superfast broadband'*(2011), Arthur D Little; and *The Impact of Broadband on the Economy: Research to Date and Policy Issues* (2010) Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR).

compare report

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**4.2 - To contribute to Digital Agenda for Europe targets in Wales for 100% access to next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) and 50% access to 100Mbps**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
4.2	Proportion of premises that are in postcodes served by NGA networks	percentage	More developed	58%	2013	65%	The Communications Market Survey: Wales, Ofcom	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

1.Next generation broadband (30Mbps) will be the priority for the Welsh ERDF programme and within that priority will be given to urban areas where the greatest added value can be delivered. Without further ERDF investment it is estimated around 92% of coverage will be achieved. ERDF investment is expected to support additional investment leading to up to 99% coverage, with the hardest to reach and more rural areas targeted through the RDP

2.Investment will be targeted on white areas identified through Open Market Reviews and will be expected to contribute to targets for Next Generation Access networks set out in a Digital Agenda for Europe

3.The Next Generation Broadband investments will deliver superfast broadband services (up to 30Mbps and above) which will be ideal for domestic premises and many small businesses. As well as catching up to avoid widening disparities there are significant opportunities to attract and retain key businesses requiring ultrafast connectivity solutions (100Mbs and above). Larger businesses, businesses, requiring upload speeds which match their download speeds (Symmetric services), and enterprises who need to connect securely from one site to another will need more tailored ICT connectivity and at higher speeds. There are opportunities to capture and retain these businesses in strategic sites across Wales (e.g. relevant Enterprise Zones or areas of City Regions) and investments should be considered on a case by case basis, particularly where it can be linked to research and innovation and can deliver the target in a Digital Agenda for Europe for increasing the use of 100Mbs networks.

4.The Commission *Communication on Smart Cities*[1] also recognises the potential to deploy " city solutions" particularly in the areas of energy, transport and mobility and ICT.

compare report

Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

5.Types of action to supported:

- Infrastructure improvements to improve connectivity of superfast broadband of 30Mbps and above (completing networks where market failure)
- Targeted infrastructure investments (e.g. voucher scheme) to improve connectivity of ultrafast broadband of 100Mbps and above (targeted at business take-up and exploitation). .

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/doc/2012_4701_smart_cities_en.pdf

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

1. Actions to stimulate the demand for, and uptake of ICT networks should be considered in the development of proposals and direct links made where appropriate (including any supported under the SME Competitiveness Priority Axis). There is a poor understanding amongst some businesses of the productivity benefits of telecoms networks which result in lower levels of take up. The full benefits of broadband will only be maximised if demand stimulation is pursued in parallel to supply side interventions.

2. Potential State Aid and competition rules should be considered at the earliest opportunity in any proposal, particularly where looking to support strategic sites.

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Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
3. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
1. The use of financial instruments to deliver this Investment Priority is not foreseen at the beginning of the programming period; however, the potential for their use will be assessed and informed as relevant by an ex-ante assessment (as required by CPR 37(2))..	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
1. No major projects expected at this time.	

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
~~J28~~CO10	~~Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbps or higher networks~~ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	~~Number~~Households	ERDF	~~Less~~More developed			~~25~~35,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~CO10~~J28	~~ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps~~Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbps or higher networks	~~Households~~Number	ERDF	More developed			~~28,000~~25.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J29	Additional population	Number	ERDF	More developed			0.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

compare report

Investment priority		2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband								

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4e
Title of the investment priority	Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	4.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. Improvements in urban and labour mobility through investments in sustainable transport will benefit job seekers, the employed and employers. Urban and labour mobility, and good links between places of work and living, is central to an effectively functioning urban centre and to spreading the benefits of growth more widely in the region.

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	2.ESF Leavers Surveys in Wales regularly show transport difficulties / barriers as one of main barriers identified by unemployed ESF Leavers for finding work (23% in the 2011 Leavers Survey), with a lack of job opportunities locally (which arguably could also reflect issues of access to employment) the most frequently cited (65% in the 2011 Survey)[1]. In general, lower skilled workers have lower levels of access to private transport[2], and therefore fewer opportunities if access to jobs by public transport is difficult[3]. 3.Improving access to sustainable forms of transport is one key barrier, but that must also be complemented by considering the regularity and capacity of services. Services to employment centres need to operate at regular intervals, with sufficient capacity and over more extended periods to support access to employment opportunities, reflecting increasing demands for shift working or more flexible working patterns. Of particular importance in ensuring public and sustainable transport modes become a realistic and viable alternative to travel by car. 4.The selected result ~~indicator~~indicators therefore ~~seeks~~seek to measure an indicator of modal shift for commuting, seeking to increase the use of public transport between identified points in the Cardiff City Region. A baseline has been set based on improving the use of rail at ~~a~~ particular pinch ~~point~~points in Cardiff that will be targeted. [1] http://wales.gov.uk/docs/wefo/report/1306072011esfsurveyreportmainen.pdf [2] *National Travel Survey* (2011), Dft. Uses 2009 data. [3] *Transport and Social Inclusion. Have we made the connections in our cities?* (2010), PTEG

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**4.1 - To increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
4.1	Total passengers using public transport between key urban links	Number	More developed	~~869,000~~Cardiff Bay 1,190,780; Stations Coryton-Heath Low Level 639,138	~~2013~~2017	10% increase in passengers for selected baseline	Estimates of station usage (Steer Davies Gleave on behalf of ORR)	~~As required~~Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

1.Consideration of City Regions in Wales has illustrated a mono-centric City Region in the South West of Wales and a polycentric City Region in the South East, as well as the importance of connectivity to England in North Wales. As the major growth centres a focus will be expected in improving connectivity to and between these urban areas. A particular emphasis might therefore be expected in delivering an element of the Cardiff Capital City Region Metro given it covers the key population centres in the East Wales programme area.

2.Significant improvements in sustainable transport and better connectivity would improve access to employment for people locally (and there are pockets of deprivation in the City), for those in more peripheral areas where unemployment rates are high (improving access to jobs across the entire City Region), and can provide a viable alternative to commuting by car given congestion in the City Centre. Furthermore it would enable the regions to properly exploit the potential for agglomeration effects noted in other city regions across the UK and Europe.

3.The National Transport Plan sets out that Wales should aim to reduce carbon emissions from transport and to get more out of transport infrastructure by integrating all modes to make the system work better, and increase the use of more healthy and sustainable travel options. Actions under this Investment Priority need to consider how they can help ensure the benefits of major investments in the TEN-T and other transport networks, such as electrification, are felt by those in more peripheral regions; supporting employment growth within those regions and improving access to urban centres

4.The advice and recommendations from the City Regions Task and Finish group[1], commissioned by the Welsh Government, identified opportunities for integrated transport solutions to improve connectivity of those regions with their hinterlands, and with each other; in particular in relation to the Cardiff Capital Region and the potential to support a Metro system. Actions under this Investment Priority should seek to complement and add value to those

compare report

findings, particularly where they can support jobs and growth in Wales.

5.Enterprise Zones have been identified as particular clusters of economically important and growth sectors, and the Central Business District within Cardiff is a major centre for employment. To further support those growth opportunities, accessibility options should be pursued that open up the areas to a wider labour market and improve the attractiveness to new businesses.

6.Connectivity within the Cardiff City Region, for example through the emerging Cardiff Capital Region Metro proposals, will the main priority for investment across the ERDF programmes given the potential impact and population concentrations in Wales. This will mean close coordination with ERDF investments planned for the West Wales and the Valleys areas to ensure urban mobility benefits and agglomeration effects are felt across the whole Cardiff City Region area, including the Valleys areas.

7.Types of action to be supported could include:

- Intermodal and sustainable transport facilities that improve access to employment, better integrating public transport and increasing its accessibility and likely use as a viable alternative for commuting (e.g. park and ride facilities, transport hubs, connecting bus and rail, cycle links, etc.)
- Improvements to rail network where it can support additional services and increased capacity (i.e. deliver against the result indicator), specifically where it can connect growth areas to areas of unemployment (e.g. station improvements, signalling, new lines, electrification, etc.)
- Alleviation of urban congestion (e.g. traffic management, developing low-carbon transport systems and strategies, promoting urban mobility)
- Piloting or roll-out of Smart ticketing and Intelligent Transport Systems solutions that provide a more seamless integrated transport system,

compare report

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

encouraging more regular use of public transport as preferred transport mode

[1] http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/publications/120711cityregions/?lang=en

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

1.A clear emphasis for this Investment Priority will be on sustainable and low carbon transport. All funding under this Specific Objective will be expected to be spent on schemes that will improve the use of sustainable transport modes, such as rail, and support a modal shift in congested urban areas. This should lead to the reduction of emissions from the air and support compliance with the Air Quality Plans under Directive 2008/50/EC; this should be a consideration in project development and project evaluation to demonstrate a contribution to the respective Welsh Air Quality Plans. This will also be measured through a dedicated output indicator which sustainable urban transport schemes will be expected to contribute to.

2.Studies assessing particular pinch-points and bottlenecks have informed the National Transport Plan and prioritisation in the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan. Consistency will be sought with these planning documents, as well as Regional Transport Plans and regional economic strategies. The National Transport Plan also includes a commitment to reduce carbon emissions equivalents from transport, including a move towards sustainable transport solutions. In demonstrating consistency with the National Transport Plan all operations will also need to demonstrate how they are contributing to this objective, including how they will measure their contribution through the related output indicator for this Specific Objective.

compare report

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

3. The objectives in the National Transport Plan (NTP) are also consistent with priorities identified by the Welsh Government in its Climate Change Strategy for Wales[1]. This sets out ambitions (mirrored in the NTP) to reduce emissions in the transport sector through (amongst other things) the increased usage of public transport, fewer passenger kilometres by vehicles and greater role for sustainable travel options in the development of places. All of these features have informed the development of this Specific Objective and will be expected to also be reflected in the design of operations funded through this Specific Objective.

4.Investments should incorporate the good practices promoted through the EU's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans[2]. Relevant investments should align with mobility and transport plans that can demonstrate they have been developed in line with the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan concept.

5.Investments under this Investment Priority will be expected, where appropriate, to be complementary with TEN-T investments and also feed into complementary investments in specific geographical areas to improve employment growth.

6.Opportunities for complementary investments as part of an integrated package will be particularly important to ensure that the full economic benefit of investing in infrastructure is realised.

7.In line with the result indicator investments should not only consider improvements to the accessibility by distance of public and sustainable transport modes, they should also consider linking that to the regularity of services to ensure it is fit for purpose to support access to employment.

8.Schemes should consider the role of Intelligent Transport Systems[3], utilising information and communication technologies to transport to make it more efficient, clean, safe and seamless.

9.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public

compare report

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

support is granted.

[1] http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/101006ccstratfinalen.pdf (chapter 8)

[2] http://www.mobilityplans.eu/11

[3] http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/index_en.htm

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

1. No financial instrument has been identified though further work is being undertaken to consider approaches to supporting vital infrastructure investments, including the potential for EIB funding.

compare report

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

1. No major projects are currently envisaged for East Wales.

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	ERDF	More developed			~~3~~5.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly
~~CO15~~	~~Urban transport: Total length of new or improved tram and metro~~	~~km~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~5.00~~	~~Monitoring Data~~	~~Quarterly~~

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Investment priority		4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	~~lines~~								
~~J19~~CO2	~~Public transport services created or improved~~Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	~~Vehicle Km~~tCO2e	ERDF	More developed			~~420,000~~1,800.00	Monitoring ~~Dara~~data	Quarterly
J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	Number	ERDF	More developed			5.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly
~~J22~~	~~Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport~~	~~passenger km~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~67,200,000.00~~	~~Monitoring Data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~CO2~~	~~Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions~~	~~tCO2e~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~1,800.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity

compare report

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity												
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
~~I5~~	~~I~~	~~X% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractural agreements to deliver infrastructure works~~	~~%~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~			~~75%~~				~~Monitoring data~~	~~Agreements with contractors to deliver infrastructure works. For the rail industry these could be Implementation Agreements or Basic Implementation Agreements. Required to report a milestone for the output target for passenger km on public transport.~~
~~I22~~CO12	O	~~Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport~~Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	~~passenger~~ km	ERDF	~~More~~Less developed			n/a			~~67,200,000~~5.00	Monitoring data	The output measures activity under one of two Investment Priorities under the ~~East Wales~~ Priority axis (around 75% all activity).
I2	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed			~~24450000~~15.000,000			95,~~700,000~~747.162.00	Monitoring data	
I5	I	X% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractural agreements to deliver infrastructure works	%	ERDF	More developed			75%				Monitoring data	Agreements with contractors to deliver infrastructure works.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

compare report

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	**4 - Connectivity**		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	043. Clean urban transport infrastructure and promotion (including equipment and rolling stock)	32,388,978.00
ERDF	More developed	044. Intelligent transport systems (including the introduction of demand management, tolling systems, IT monitoring control and information systems)	3,709,887.00
ERDF	More developed	046. ICT: High-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 30 Mbps)	10,887,358.00
ERDF	More developed	047. ICT: Very high-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 100 Mbps)	887,358.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	**4 - Connectivity**		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	43,811,446.00
ERDF	More developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	4,062,135.00

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Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	36,098,865.00
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	11,774,716.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	47,873,581.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	4 - Connectivity

compare report

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	5
Title of the priority axis	Technical Assistance

2.B.2 Justification for establishing a priority axis covering more than one category of region (where applicable)

1.Technical Assistance (TA) funded actions, as with the 2007-2013 programmes, will be developed as part of mono fund priorities but will be delivered by the Managing Authority (MA) and relevant stakeholders as part of collaborative and integrated approaches across the ERDF and ESF programmes for the West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales programme areas. The approach outlined in the priority axis below will be mirrored across these programme areas and reflected in the result and output indicators selected.

2.The approach builds on the successful implementation of TA activity in the 2007-2013 programmes which utilised TA to enhance implementation arrangements, providing additional capacity for programme support and development, research and monitoring activity and programme promotion. TA was also utilised in the direct support of salary costs by the MA and relevant stakeholders.

3.Supporting direct salary costs within the 2014-2020 programmes of the MA, Certifying Authority (CA), Audit Authority (AA) and partners is considered an important element of the delivery of the programmes. It is proposed for the 2014-2020 programmes to utilise TA to continue to support those posts identified within the 2007-2013 programme as increasing the capacity of the administrative functions of the relevant partners. In line with this approach any new additional posts required for the 2014-2020 programmes to further develop the audit and administrative function of the MA, CA and AA, will also be supported by TA. The resources of the Welsh Government and its partners will be used alongside the TA resource.

compare report

4.A number of programme level evaluation and external reviews have been undertaken during the 2007-2013 programmes[1] which have covered a number of areas supported through TA funded activity including;

- The enhanced programme management and monitoring arrangements, to include the Project Development Officer (PDO) function;
- specialist and technical guidance and support, including the Specialist European Teams (SET) and Cross Cutting teams;
- research and evaluation;
- information and publicity, including operating a customer helpline; and
- strengthened audit arrangements and irregularities' management

5.The findings of the evaluations showed that there is widespread support for the PDO role and support services for beneficiaries, delivered through the MA and SET bringing genuine programme benefits and ensuring that the appraisal and management processes are well understood and effectively implemented. The successful management of the 2007-2013 Welsh programmes has also been recognised through a number of awards to Wales including the 'Region of Excellence' Awards and three project based RegioStars awards.

6.It is important that TA funds are used during the 2014-2020 programmes to maintain this strong position and deliver further improvements.

[1] The Guilford Review of Implementation Arrangements (2012): WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009: The Effectiveness of Implementation in the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programming Period Final Report. (January 2011); Thematic Evaluations of 2007-2013 EU Structural Funds Programmes; and Spatial European Teams Evaluation (November 2010)

compare report

2.B.3 Fund and category of region

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	More developed	Total

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
5.1	To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes.	**Results expected.** 1. Specific Objective 1 aims to ensure that the programmes are delivered efficiently and effectively in Wales. The key measure which will underpin this objective and forms part of the compliance report for the programme will be the irregularity rate. This measure displays the total value of Irregularities reported to OLAF as a percentage of total certified eligible expenditure claimed by projects. 2. In 2013 the irregularity rate for the programme area was 0.53%, well below the 2% threshold used by the EC to implement corrective action. 3. In addition, the WEFO error rate, published by the Audit Authority in the Annual Control Report will also be used as a measure to support and measure the achievement of the Specific Objective. The December 2012 WEFO error rate for the programme areas was 0.67%.

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2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		5.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
TAR1	Irregularity rate	percentage			0.53	2013			Below 2%	WEFO Compliance Report	Annual
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate	percentage			0.67	2012			Below 2%	Audit Authority Annual Control Report	Annual

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
5.2	To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations	**Results expected** 1. Specific Objective 2 aims to improve customer satisfaction levels through providing high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations. Measured across TA funded activity for all Structural funds in Wales this reflects the satisfaction of beneficiaries with the service received from WEFO for all approved operations. 2. The baseline overall customer satisfaction rating, dating from 2009, is 45%.[1]

compare report

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
		3. Specific Objective 2 aims to ensure that the programmes complement and are integrated with all ESI funds in Wales and wider Commission, Welsh Government and Sector Led programmes. Measurement of this activity will primarily be in the form of the outputs such as the number of collaborative projects delivered. [1] WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009 - This is the percentage of interactions, where the operation was approved, with which the beneficiary was satisfied or very satisfied with the service received

compare report

2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		5.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
TAR3	Customer satisfaction	percentage			45	2009			50	Customer Insight Survey	One off

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
5.3	To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.	**Results expected** 1. Specific Objective 3 aims to ensure that the programmes complement and are integrated with all ESI funds in Wales and wider Commission, Welsh Government and Sector Led programmes. Measurement of this activity will primarily be in the form of the outputs such as the number of collaborative projects delivered.

compare report

2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		5.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
TAR3	Customer satisfaction	percentage			45	2009			50	Customer Satisfaction Survey	Ad hoc

2.B.6 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.6.1 A description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

1.Technical Assistance is an essential resource for supporting the effective delivery of the Programme. The delivery of the 2014-2020 programmes requires a continued emphasis on strategic delivery with greater alignment and harmonisation of ESI Fund investments through the concentration of resources to achieve sustainable outcomes for jobs and growth.

2.In Wales there are a number of key areas which will be developed and undertaken by partner organisations and the Managing Authority itself in order to deliver to the objectives and to ensure the new programmes achieve the integration, concentration and focus required. Actions are not mutually exclusive to either of the objectives and have therefore been grouped around 6 key investment areas which collectively will ensure the objectives and associated results are achieved.

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

3.Salary costs, as with the 2007-13 programmes, will form an important part in the delivery of TA funded activity for the MA, AA, CA and wider delivery partners. These salary costs will be incurred within all activities below, enhancing the capacity to achieve the overall objectives of the TA priority.

4.The MA and its partners have substantial experience in the implementation of TA in this way. All posts funded via TA will be subject to the Human Resources and remuneration policies of the employing organisation.

Management

5.Integration of funds will bring new administrative challenges for the Managing Authority, for example in the implementation of an enhanced role for Financial Instruments. The following indicative activities will enhance and strengthen strategic and integrated programme support and development.

6.Actions in support of the Specific Objectives will include;

- To continue to enhance the internal programme management function in the development and delivery of integrated and sustainable programmes;
- To continue to develop the specialist knowledge within the MA and stakeholders through regular training and networking activities;
- To advise and support the development of projects, encouraging innovation, transnational cooperation, sharing of good practice and mainstreaming;
- Actions, in line with those outlined in Section 10, seeking to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries;
- To provide high quality technical advice and expert functions, in areas relating to, for example; procurement, financial (to include Financial Instruments) and scientific expertise, project development, complaint resolution, innovation and compliance;
- To develop and enhance bespoke and integrated IT systems for the delivery of ESI Funds and to aid e-Cohesion; and,
- To provide specialist advice and support to projects on the integration, implementation and monitoring of the Cross cutting themes.

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

Partnership and Networking

7.Strong partnerships and networks lie at the heart of the successful implementation of the programmes and the integration of the ESI funds at a national, regional and local level. The Managing Authority will continue to engage partners, including social partners, and key stakeholders in programme implementation and delivery.

8.Actions in support of the Specific Objectives will include;

- Encouraging and facilitating collaborative projects and approaches;
- Alignment with European Commission led, ESI fund and Sector based programmes;
- Enhancing capacity for cross programme coordination and the integration of ESI funds with national expenditure and programmes; and,
- Strengthening coordination and liaison mechanisms with partnerships and promoting partnership working.

Monitoring

9.A single Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) will be established to oversee the effectiveness, quality and integration of the Fund programmes. Technical assistance will be used, where eligibility allows, to ensure the efficient and effective management of the programme through supporting the duties of the PMC.

10.The Managing Authority will establish a Secretariat team to manage PMC arrangements for all ESI Fund programmes. The Secretariat will approve, manage and monitor all Technical Assistance expenditure declared in respect of PMC meetings and functions, ensuring that expenditure is not declared more than once against different ESI Fund. PMC costs will be apportioned across the ESI fund programmes, based on the relative size (value of EU contribution) of each programme

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

11.Actions will include:

- Enhanced management support to the PMC and improved reporting to the European Commission; and;
- Expenditure on PMC including expenses and fees for appointed experts (experts appointed to the PMC based on merit will be remunerated in line with the Welsh Governments normal practice).

Research and Evaluation

12.Research and Evaluation continues to play a central role in helping the MA to manage programmes effectively. The specialist Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team within the MA will continue to design, carry out and manage programme level evaluations and provide or source expert advice and guidance to project level evaluations.

13.Actions in support of the Specific Objectives will include;

- Programme level research and evaluation, including research into the Cross Cutting themes;
- Provision of evaluation advice and guidance to sponsor organisations;
- Research and evaluation dissemination and workshops events; and,
- Management of research and evaluation exercises, for example through the Evaluation Advisory Group.

Information and Publicity

14.The success of a strategic integrated approach to the ESI funded programmes will depend to a large degree on a wide understanding among the sponsors, partners and stakeholders of its contents, governing regulations, aims and objectives. It is also essential that the benefits and achievements of the

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

programmes are widely publicised to highlight the value added by the EU working in partnership with the Welsh Government and its partners.

15.Actions in support of the Specific Objectives will include;

- Dissemination of information, publicity and communication including guidance for partners and sponsors, seminars and workshops and networking events;
- Disseminating and promoting of the impacts of enhanced integration with ESI funds and wider sector programmes e.g. Horizon 2020;
- WEFO website development and maintenance;
- Diversity and accessibility initiatives; and
- The operation of a Helpline.

Audit and Control

16.WEFO have developed significant strengths in audit and control within the 2007-2013 programmes. Further enhancing the audit and control functions alongside a dedicated compliance unit will ensure that WEFO continue to build on developed strengths and maximise the opportunity structural funds investments can bring.

17.Actions in support of the Specific Objectives will include;

- Enhanced audit arrangements to ensure that these work effectively, improving quality and timelines;
- Improving irregularity monitoring and reporting;
- Enhanced support to combat fraud and corruption; and,
- Provision of consistent advice and guidance to sponsors and partners through the WEFO compliance unit.

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

2.B.6.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results

Table 13: Output indicators (by priority axis) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance					
ID	**Indicator (name of indicator)**	**Measurement unit**	**Target value (2023) (optional)**			**Source of data**
			M	**W**	**T**	
TA13	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number				Monitoring data
TAO1	Number of training events held	Number			10213.00	Monitoring data
TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	Number			72439.00	Monitoring data
TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	Percentage			75.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO12~~	~~Number of audit visits~~	~~Number~~			~~50.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~
TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	Number			1.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO3~~TAO4	Number of ~~projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration~~research reports published	Number			9093.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO4~~TAO6	Number of ~~research reports published~~dissemination events	Number			3440.00	Monitoring data

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~~TAO5~~TAO7	Number of ~~projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice~~events organised by WEFO	Number			~~100~~10.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO6~~TAO8	Number of ~~dissemination events~~press releases issued	Number			~~6~~400.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO7~~TA14	~~Number of events organised by WEFO~~Percentage of Operations with all claims submitted verified	~~Number~~Percentage			~~10~~100.00	Monitoring ~~data~~Data
~~TAO8~~TAO3A	~~Number of press releases issued~~Percentage of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration (at Wales-level)	~~Number~~Percentage			~~400~~90.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO9~~TAO5A	~~Number of high profile project launches~~Percentage of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice (at Wales-level)	~~Number~~Percentage			~~50~~90.00	Monitoring data
~~TA13~~TAO9A	~~Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA~~Percentage of high profile project launches (at Wales-level)	~~Number~~Percentage			90.00	~~Monitoring data~~

2.B.7 Categories of intervention (by priority axis)

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of the Union support

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	**5 - Technical Assistance**		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ERDF	More developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	1,423,186.00
ERDF	More developed	122. Evaluation and studies	1,423,186.00
ERDF	More developed	123. Information and communication	1,219,873.00

Table 15: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ERDF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	4,066,245.00

Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory type

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ERDF	More developed	07. Not applicable	4,066,245.00

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3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

Table 17

Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
		Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve
ERDF	More developed	25,705,825.00	1,640,798.00	26,220,462.00	1,673,646.00	26,745,327.00	1,707,148.00	27,280,587.00	1,741,314.00	27,826,544.00	1,776,162.00	28,383,408.00	1,811,707.00	28,951,366.00	1,847,960.00	191,113,519.00	12,198,735.00
Total		**25,705,825.00**	**1,640,798.00**	**26,220,462.00**	**1,673,646.00**	**26,745,327.00**	**1,707,148.00**	**27,280,587.00**	**1,741,314.00**	**27,826,544.00**	**1,776,162.00**	**28,383,408.00**	**1,811,707.00**	**28,951,366.00**	**1,847,960.00**	**191,113,519.00**	**12,198,735.00**

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3.2 Total financial appropriation by fund and national co-financing (€)

Table 18a: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)				Union support (h) = (a) - (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) – (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a)	(l) = (j) / (a) * 100
1	ERDF	More developed	Total	~~89,101~~100,801,566.00	~~89,101~~100,801,566.00	~~52,168,967~~59,019,317.00	~~36,932,599~~41,782,249.00	~~178,203~~201,603,132.00	50.0000000000%	0.00	~~83,646,368~~94,630,042.00	~~83,646,368~~94,630,042.00	~~5,455,198~~6,171,524.00	~~5,455,198~~6,171,524.00	6.12%
2	ERDF	More developed	Total	~~39,870~~45,720,471.00	~~39,870~~45,720,471.00	~~24,839,304~~31,851,699.00	~~15,031,167~~13,868,772.00	~~79,740~~91,440,942.00	50.0000000000%		~~37,429,422~~42,921,259.00	~~37,429,422~~42,921,259.00	2,~~441,049~~799,212.00	2,~~441,049~~799,212.00	6.12%
3	ERDF	More developed	Total	~~22,400~~4,850,391.00	~~22,400~~4,850,391.00	~~17,694,069~~3,831,324.00	~~4,706,322~~1,019,067.00	~~44,800~~9,700,782.00	50.0000000000%		~~21,028,939~~4,553,428.00	~~21,028,939~~4,553,428.00	~~1,371,452~~296,963.00	~~1,371,452~~296,963.00	6.12%
4	ERDF	More developed	Total	47,873,581.00	47,873,581.00	36,281,386.00	11,592,195.00	95,747,162.00	50.0000000000%		44,942,545.00	44,942,545.00	2,931,036.00	2,931,036.00	6.12%
5	ERDF	More developed	Total	4,066,245.00	4,066,245.00	4,066,245.00	0.00	8,132,490.00	50.0000000000%		4,066,245.00	4,066,245.00			
Total	**ERDF**	**More developed**		**203,312,254.00**	**203,312,254.00**	**135,049,971.00**	**68,262,283.00**	**406,624,508.00**	**50.0000000000%**		**191,113,519.00**	**191,113,519.00**	**12,198,735.00**	**12,198,735.00**	**6.00%**
Grand total				**203,312,254.00**	**203,312,254.00**	**135,049,971.00**	**68,262,283.00**	**406,624,508.00**	**50.0000000000%**	**0.00**	**191,113,519.00**	**191,113,519.00**	**12,198,735.00**	**12,198,735.00**	

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

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Table 18c: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, fund, category of region and thematic objective

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Research and Innovation	ERDF	More developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	~~89,101~~100,801,566.00	~~89,101~~100,801,566.00	~~178,203~~201,603,132.00
SME Competitiveness	ERDF	More developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	~~3,258,239~~10,302,566.00	~~3,258,239~~10,302,566.00	~~6,516,478~~20,605,132.00
SME Competitiveness	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	~~36,612,232~~35,417,905.00	~~36,612,232~~35,417,905.00	~~73,224,464~~70,835,810.00
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	More developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	~~22,400~~4,850,391.00	~~22,400~~4,850,391.00	~~44,800~~9,700,782.00
Connectivity	ERDF	More developed	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	11,774,716.00	11,774,716.00	23,549,432.00
Connectivity	ERDF	More developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	36,098,865.00	36,098,865.00	72,197,730.00
Total				**199,246,009.00**	**199,246,009.00**	**398,492,018.00**

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Table 19: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)
1	18,336,251.00	9.02%
2	722,254.20	0.36%
3	~~22,370~~4,850,391.00	~~11.00%~~2.39%
4	14,439,546.00	7.10%
Total	**~~55,868~~38,348,442.20**	**~~27.48%~~18.86%**

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4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development taking into account the content and objectives of the operational programme having regard to the Partnership Agreement and showing how it the operational programme contributes to the accomplishment of the objectives of the operational programme and expected results

1. The ESI programmes have all been developed taking a view across the whole of Wales, looking to address structural issues in a coordinated way. A key element to deliver this in an integrated, concentrated and simplified way will be effective spatial targeting of all funds based on specific and ongoing territorial needs and opportunities. This enables differing territorial development needs to be reflected in the most appropriate way (national, regional, sub-regional or local). The NUTS2 regions do not take into account sub-regional functional economic areas in Wales, such as the Cardiff City Region in South East Wales or the Swansea Bay City Region in South West Wales[1]. Integrated approaches to territorial development based on strategic planning will therefore be actively encouraged. The Welsh Economic Prioritisation Framework[2] acts as a complement to the various Operational Programmes, helping to identify key spatial targeting approaches already underway and key opportunities for future investment.

2. Key spatial strategies are emerging supporting both the development of key urban areas (City Region strategies), rural areas (the Growth Zone initiatives[3]), and strategic sites (Enterprise Zones[4]). Each initiative has its own strategic planning and governance arrangements, complemented through local government and regional planning (e.g. Regional Learning Partnerships).

3. There are clear common needs identified across each spatial analysis, with the need for better connectivity through investment in transport infrastructure the top priority.

4. The Managing Authority will work with beneficiaries to identify the most appropriate funding package across the ESI funds. This will be of particular importance for investments with a clear territorial dimension. Due consideration will need to be given to areas of particular disadvantage, in particular those places set out in Section 5 as suffering from deprivation. The priority for this programme will be for investments to target growth opportunities that can help improve employment prospects not only in the area being supported, but also in nearby areas.

5. Coordinated investments in key growth centres must be supported through a range of different funding sources to have a genuine impact, therefore funding from this programme will be expected to contribute to holistic integrated territorial strategies (e.g. regional economic strategy or city region strategy). Dedicated support will be expected, in line with the principles for Sustainable Urban Development, under Priority Axis 4 for targeted strategic site development.

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[1] To see report on City Regions: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/publications/120711cityregions/?lang=en

[2] Early drafts are being published on the WEFO website, with a revised draft incorporating spatial elements due to be published in March 2014. See: http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/applyingforfunding/funding2014-2020/epf/?lang=en

[3] For example in Powys (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/policy/plgzones/?lang=en) and the Teifi Valley (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/policy/teifi/?lang=en)

[4] Seven Enterprise Zones have been identified across Wales, each focussing on specific sectors. More information available at: www.enterprisezones.wales.gov.uk

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and the principles for identifying the areas in where they will be implemented

1. The general approach is set out in the Partnership Agreement. No support for Community Led Local Development (CLLD) as set out in Article 32 of the Common Provisions Regulation is envisaged for this Operational Programme.

2. In order to ensure an integrated approach to territorial development direct links will be encouraged between CLLD supported through the EAFRD (under LEADER) and investments made under the ERDF. This should help enable the scaling-up of any particularly successful LEADER initiatives with the potential to deliver ERDF results.

3. The regional coordination described in the Partnership Agreement will be a key link between the CLLD investments made under the RDP and the opportunities for larger scale investments under the ERDF.

4. It is anticipated that part of the strengthened regional coordination to be put in place for 2014-2020 (and as recommended by the Guilford Report) will be identification of links between different ESI funds. Successful CLLD initiatives funded through the RDP should then have the potential to be scaled-up using ERDF or other funds. For example an innovative pilot community energy approach through LEADER could be scaled-up to a regional or national scheme through the ERDF (Specific Objective aiming to increase the number of community energy schemes).

5. It was not felt appropriate to use ERDF alongside EAFRD for CLLD for two key reasons: firstly the strategies for the two funds are different, with EAFRD operating on a local basis and ERDF seeking regionally and nationally significant investment; and secondly because the types of activity supported are very similar across the two funds.

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The planned coordination between the funds is set out in more detail in Section 2 of the Partnership Agreement and Section 8 of this Operational Programme.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Where appropriate the indicative amount of ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development to be implemented in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated action.

1.No ERDF will be used to support sustainable urban development in line with Article 7(2) of the ERDF regulation. The Partnership Agreement sets out how the UK will meet requirements for 5% of ERDF to be spent in this area.

2.Integrated actions supporting sustainable urban development will, however, be supported in the programme area meeting the spirit of the regulations (including the use of strategies, involvement of partners in decisions, and coordinated action). These will not fully comply as it will not be delivered through the use of an entirely separate Operational Programme, Priority Axis, or ITI; nor through the full delegation of tasks for selection.

3.We are keen to ensure integrated territorial strategies are not only about securing and spending of EU funds and are therefore encouraging the use of existing economic strategies rather than creating new ones. This should help ensure genuine integration of any supported actions cross-economy rather than just with other ESI funds. For example investment in housing, healthcare, education and inward investment can all be key territorial drivers and would not feature in an approach that focussed solely on spending ESI funds.

4.A clear role for appropriate regional and urban authorities in helping plan and deliver the programmes will be encouraged, building on the collaboration developed during 2007-2013. A role for regional and urban authorities in developing and prioritising key opportunities will help in demonstrating a clear strategic fit to the Managing Authority and can be supported through the use of Technical Assistance.

5.Common features of integrated strategies for sustainable urban development is improvements in connectivity. The aim for investments in the connectivity to and from key urban centres is to support new territorial opportunities, including inward investment. The challenge is to ensure that investment does not happen in isolation but opens up opportunities for regeneration and encourages greater private sector investment).

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Table 20: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF and ESF support

Fund	ERDF and ESF support (indicative) (€)	Proportion of fund's total allocation to programme
Total ERDF	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL ERDF+ESF	**0.00**	**0.00%**

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis.

1. There is no immediate intention to use Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) vehicles. This approach and a period of review is set out in the Welsh chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.

2. At this time it is felt that the same benefits can be achieved through Welsh-designed implementation arrangements that would not require pre-selection of funding allocations or new reporting and monitoring requirements. The Welsh Managing Authorities are seeking to ensure greater integration and coordination between all ESI funds in Wales, and as a small country are able to work closely with partners across Wales in delivering integrated territorial investments without needing to put in place new administrative architecture.

3. Regional and urban authorities will be encouraged to use existing planning and coordination mechanisms (for the delivery of existing territorial strategies) to prioritise investments for their territorial areas. The Managing Authority will work with those authorities to help identify the most appropriate ESI funding package, if relevant. For example an integrated package of support might be developed across the ESI funds to support the development of a City Region or Enterprise Zone, but this does not need to be done through an ITI, merely through effective planning and coordination.

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Table 21: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Fund	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Total		**0.00**

4.4 The arrangements for interregional and transnational actions, within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State (where appropriate)

1. A key challenge for the programme will be to more effectively mainstream cooperation actions and achieve better international coordination. This is particularly important for all investments in Research and Innovation. A lack of international partners and networks is a key barrier to Welsh research institutions accessing competitive research funding and needs to be directly addressed in any support provided through this programme. It is expected that the majority of projects supported in these areas through this programme will incorporate some form of transnational activity.

2. There are potentially also opportunities for cooperation activities in the SME Competitiveness and Connectivity priorities, though less direct action to encourage these will be made. SMEs support, SME finance initiatives and sustainable transport and networks should seek to build on international best practice both in terms of spatial planning and technical expertise.

3. Direct links are also being made between this programme and the European Territorial Cooperation programmes in which the programme area participates. There are a number of common objectives, for which complementary funding packages will be sought: in particular objectives for Research and Innovation, Renewable Energy, Low Carbon transition and infrastructure investments of common interest. Wales participates in the Ireland / Wales cross-border programme, the Atlantic Area programme and the North West Europe programme.

4.5 Contribution of the planned actions under the programme to macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State (where appropriate)

(Where the Member State and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea basin strategies).

1. The UK is incorporated in the Atlantic Strategy and this is described in the Partnership Agreement. Links will be encouraged where opportunities arise in areas of blue growth, and cooperation on research and innovation (particularly that supporting marine energy and the environment and energy Grand Challenge area).

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5. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

5.1 Geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

1. In Wales poverty is defined as '*A long-term state of not having sufficient resources to afford food, reasonable living conditions or amenities, or to participate in* activities *(such as access to attractive neighbourhoods and open spaces) that are taken for granted by others in society*'. Social Exclusion or the ability to participate is strongly linked therefore to issues of Poverty.

2. The Socio Economic Analysis which accompanies this Operational Programme concludes that interventions designed to improve employment and income outcomes are more likely to succeed when focussed on individuals but that carefully targeted initiatives focussed on 'place' can also be effective. It suggests that a mix of interventions may be appropriate in East Wales where there are weaknesses in the skills profile of the workforce and areas of physical deprivation which may act to reinforce poor labour market outcomes.

3. The Welsh approach to the development of integrated activity as outlined in Section 4 will be of particular importance for investments which seek to target those at risk of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion and linking these target groups with economic opportunity and growth at local, regional and national level and placed based investments made across the ESI funds. All operations will be expected to incorporate such linkages and integrated approaches at an early stage in the development process.

4. Relative income poverty in Wales (defined as households living on 60% or less of the UK median income across different population groups) is broadly similar to that of UK averages, although the percentage of children living in poverty in Wales is currently 31% (2 percentage points above that of the UK average)[1].

5. The percentage of the population living in persistent poverty after housing costs (defined as being in relative income poverty for at least three of the last four years) is 11%, slightly higher than in England and Scotland[2].

6. Wales also has a higher percentage of workless households and children living in workless households than UK averages. HMRC data on children living in low income families highlights an acute issue in the South Wales Valleys[3] (relevant as seeking to improve connectivity to East Wales).

7. In addition to poverty, the Welsh Government also monitors levels of deprivation in Wales. Deprivation is a wider concept than poverty. Poverty means not having enough money (or other essentials) to get by. Deprivation refers to problems caused by a general lack of resources and opportunities (not just money). The Welsh Index of Multiple

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Deprivation 2011 (WIMD) is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales which are called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Although the geographical size of these LSOAs varies quite widely, and depends on the local population density, the populations are intended to be roughly the same in each, with an average population of 1,500.

8. In WIMD 2011, the most deprived local authority is defined as the authority with the greatest fraction of its LSOAs in the most deprived 10% of all LSOAs in Wales. This method can be seen as identifying the concentration of the most deprived areas in a Local authority, rather than an average level of deprivation.

9. Integrated investments based on functional economic areas will consider links between programme areas (e.g. in the case of City Regions); the summary of most deprived wards below does not, therefore, make a distinction between programme areas. Coordinated and integrated investments should consider the whole picture, not just within statistical boundaries.

10. Areas of the upper valleys have the highest relative concentrations of deprivation across Wales as a whole. This is highlighted in Figure 29 of the Socio economic analysis. Some inner-city wards of Cardiff, Newport and Swansea also suffer from high relative deprivation. This broad picture holds true across 5 of the 8 WIMD deprivation measures, namely income; employment; education; health and community safety.

11. The most deprived local authority is Merthyr Tydfil with 25.0% of its LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales, followed by Blaenau Gwent (23.4%) and Rhondda Cynon Taff (17.8%). Blaenau Gwent has 87.2%, Merthyr Tydfil 77.8% and Rhondda Cynon Taff 73.7% of their LSOAs in the most deprived 50% in Wales.

12. The most deprived local authorities in the income domain are Blaenau Gwent, with 21.3% of its LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales, Cardiff with 21.2% and Merthyr Tydfil with 19.4%.

13. The Equality Impact Assessment, which accompanies this programme, provides a robust assessment of the needs of those who may be at risk of exclusion, disadvantage or discrimination as a result of one or more characteristics protected under the Equality Act (2010) and their specific needs in terms of supporting access to employment and skills. These ‘protected characteristics’ include age (covering all age groups), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership pregnancy and maternity, race and ethnicity, religion or belief, sex / gender and sexual orientation.

14. The EIA highlights that groups with characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010 can face specific issues that impact upon their ability to access and progress within the labour market, and which place them at greater risk of poverty and exclusion. The EIA: also shows that BME groups are disproportionately affected by unemployment[4], with ethnicity closely linked to income poverty.

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[1] *Family Resource Survey* (2010/11), DWP. Data from 2008/9 to 2010/11.

[2] Longitudinal data from the British Household Panel Survey and Understanding Society Survey

[3]Children *in Low-Income Families Local Measure* (2011), HMRC

[4] See Institute for Race Relations: http://www.irr.org.uk/research/statistics/poverty/.

5.2 Strategy to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, and where relevant, the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Agreement

1. The focus of the Welsh ERDF Programmes is to promote economic growth and the creation of sustainable jobs across the programme area. Many of the jobs created will be of relevance to new entrants and returners to the labour market. It will be a key part of the integrated approach to territorial development set out in Section 4 for regional and urban authorities to look at how integration of the ESI funds can add value in their areas, in particular where ESF activities targeting specific groups can complement ERDF investments in places. The Managing Authority will also be testing beneficiaries to ensure that all proposals for operations fully consider opportunities to integrate activity across funds.

2. This is consistent with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan which focuses on three areas: Preventing poverty; Helping people into work; and Mitigating the impact of poverty.

3. The approach is complemented by the ESF Programme's emphasis on providing good quality, affordable childcare and targeted action to help people improve their skills and qualifications, recognising that the best route out of poverty is through employment. The ESF programme will seek to support target groups most affected by poverty and discrimination.

Key Tackling Poverty Objectives for the Welsh Programmes

- Focus on the creation of jobs and growth providing employment opportunities for those who are out of work. For example through increasing the competitiveness of SMEs;
- Tackling barriers to employment. For example addressing poor skills and lack of childcare through the ESF, complemented by addressing transport barriers to accessing employment through the ERDF;
- Focusing on growth. For example through support for key knowledge-based sectors through the ERDF, aligned with skills development interventions, enabling those experiencing in-work poverty to access more highly-skilled, better paid jobs through the ESF.

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4. The UK Partnership Agreement includes details of the approach to tacking poverty across the ESI funds in Wales. The Welsh Government is clear in its expectation that integrated action is needed to promote social inclusion and combat poverty, contributing simultaneously to the 2020 initiative and the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

5. Support under the connectivity Priority Axis will be targeted on increasing employment opportunities, helping create jobs and improving connectivity in specific geographic areas where deficiencies are often cited as being a barrier to accessing employment. Where possible, projects will be encouraged to link areas of growth opportunity to areas with high incidence of poverty and deprivation.

6. Action to address the energy efficiency of housing will be targeted specifically at those suffering from fuel poverty and the use of WIMD data is anticipated in the design of appropriate targeting mechanisms.

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Table 22: Actions to address specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
Communities suffering from fuel poverty	Energy efficiency measures which will cut fuel costs for those will low incomes	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	More developed	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
Geographical area to be decided	Connectivity improvements to promote local economic growth and jobs	4 - Connectivity	ERDF	More developed	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

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6. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

Not applicable for this Programme area

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7. AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS

7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Welsh European Funding Office	Chief Executive, WEFO
Certifying authority	Welsh European Funding Office	Head of Cert authority
Audit authority	Welsh Government	Deputy Director Corporate Governance & Assurance Division
~~Body to which Commission will make payments~~	~~Welsh Government~~	~~Director General Finance & Corporate Services~~

7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

7.2.1 Actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of those partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

1. The Operational Programme has been developed in partnership with key stakeholders. WEFO, as Managing Authority, has taken the lead and been responsible for compiling the Programme but there has been extensive engagement with partners over the development and content.

2. This has involved a number of specifically appointed Advisory Groups and expert workstreams/working groups together with extensive public engagement over the development period. Membership of each group reflected a full range of stakeholder interests (and those specified in Article 5) from the public, private and third sectors, together with appropriate gender and geographical balance and with equality and environmental interests represented. The various groups are described below with membership details.

3. Before embarking upon drafting the Operational Programme the then Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes initiated a "**Reflections Exercise**[1]" which provided stakeholders with an early opportunity to comment on the strategic direction and future investment priorities based on the draft legislative

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proposals. Partners and stakeholders were generally supportive of the principles underpinning the legislative proposals and the need to align the new programmes with Welsh Government policy objectives to maximise impact. This enabled the Deputy Minister to outline the strategy direction and a number of guiding principles under which the 2014-2020 programmes would be developed in a statement to the National Assembly for Wales on 8 May 2012[2]. These included the need to focus and concentrate resources on areas most likely to have a transformational impact on the Welsh economy and contribute significantly to job creation.

4. Initial work was assisted through the Ministerial **Advisory Group on European Programmes**, a small task-and-finish group, established to generate ideas and advise Ministers directly on a number of key strategic issues. The members were carefully selected as experts in their field, with the ability and insight to offer the necessary strategic thinking across all programme and policy areas. The group consists of external experts with significant experience and strategic expertise, senior Officials from the main Welsh Government spending departments and advisors offering specialist advice, including senior officials responsible for the development and delivery of European programmes.

5. **The European Programmes Partnership Forum** was established as the main vehicle for external stakeholder engagement on European funding developments post 2013. The Forum was established in 2011 and remained in operation during the entire programme development period; providing direct input into the formation of both the Operational Programme and Partnership Agreement. The membership was drawn partially from the All-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), supplemented with additional partners to ensure that the Forum reflected the interests of all relevant stakeholder groups in Wales (including the interests of stakeholder across East Wales). The formation of the group provided a balance of interests and reflected an appropriate level of private sector representation, gender balance, spread across funds, and geographical representation.

6. Four **technical workstream groups** were established in mid 2012 to consider the technical and operational detail of the 2014 to 2020 programmes and to advise on the content, processes and procedures reflecting Ministerial strategic direction. These covered:

- Operational Programmes
- Delivery and Compliance
- Monitoring and Evaluation; and
- Territorial Cooperation

7. Members of the Operational Programmes workstream were directly involved in defining the content of the programmes including the direction of the strategy and cross cutting themes (horizontal principles) while members of the Delivery and Compliance and Monitoring and Evaluation workstreams were specifically involved in the consideration and preparation of guidance, indicators and delivery and control arrangements. Members were appointed via invitations for nominations and were selected based on experience of EU funded programmes and relevant EU, UK and Welsh policy, together with relevant subject experience appropriate to each Workstream. A full stakeholder interest, geographical and gender balance was maintained.

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8. Finally, to ensure proposals were aligned to Welsh Government policies and strategies a **Welsh Government European Programmes Policy Group** was established. Policy Group meetings followed those of the Operational Programmes workstream and both groups informed the draft proposals presented for public consultation in early 2013. Members comprised senior level policy representatives nominated by Directors General from all relevant Welsh Government Departments.

9. A full **public consultation**, 'Wales and the EU: Partnership for Jobs and Growth' was launched on 14 January 2013 to seek views from partners on the Welsh Government's proposals for the Structural and Rural Development Funds. The consultation ended on the 23 April 2013, and generated 126 responses for the Structural Fund proposals[3] (including 29 specifically on East Wales and 18 specifically covering both East Wales and West Wales and the Valleys).

10. The consultation was supported by four Welsh Government regional stakeholder events, with over 300 stakeholders attending to discuss the key opportunities and challenges in a series of workshops. A number of external stakeholder groups also organised sectoral events during the consultation period which were attended by WEFO officials.

11. Consultants were appointed to analyse the results of the consultation and their Structural Funds report was published on the WEFO[4] and Welsh Government websites and announced by the Minister of Finance in a statement to the National Assembly for Wales on 9 July 2013. The consultants appointed to analyse the consultation were from the same organisation responsible for the Ex Ante Evaluation and therefore had a detailed understanding of the issues raised.

12. The consultation generated overwhelming support for the Structural Fund proposals both in terms of the investment priorities selected and the importance of concentrating resources in order to achieve a transformational impact. A number of respondents raised concerns about the absence of a discrete Priority relating to tackling poverty and social exclusion. The ESF programme has been developed in line with the Welsh Government policy, as articulated within its Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which states that the best route out of poverty is through employment.

13. Actions to address poverty and social exclusion therefore focus on removing barriers to employment and helping people to move onto the employment ladder. With this as the underlying principle, WEFO re-framed actions to support those living in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion to sit within a 'Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment' Priority Axis supporting these participants to access and retain secure and sustainable employment. This Priority Axis complements the cross-cutting theme on Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion.

14. A single Wales Programme Monitoring Committee for the 2014-2020 European and Structural Investment (ESI) programmes has been established in shadow form and will be formally be adopted following approval of the programmes by the European Commission.

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15. The PMC will cover all three ESI funds managed by the Welsh Government (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD) and will be responsible for approving Structural Funds project selection criteria, examining the progress made in delivering agreed programme objectives, and any modifications to the programmes and agreeing the Evaluation Plan and any modifications to the programmes.

16. The membership of 27 (plus Chair), based on the principles of partnership and many of the best practices set out in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, consists of 6 expert members appointed via a public appointments process and 21 members nominated on a sectoral basis. Members were drawn from across the private, public and third sectors (including economic and social partners, national, regional and local authorities; and representatives of civil society including environmental and equality bodies). The membership composition was also designed to deliver a broad gender balance and distribution across the two Welsh regions and the urban/rural dimension. Draft terms of reference will be prepared and agreed at the inaugural meeting. This will include detailed guidance on how potential conflicts of interests are addressed.

17. The establishment of a single PMC was supported by our partners on the basis of the feedback received during the public consultation and will facilitate a more holistic assessment of the impact and effectiveness of the funds in delivering the Europe 2020 agenda, set against the Economic Prioritisation Framework and supported by enhanced management and monitoring information.

18. The existing Delivery and Compliance and Evaluation Advisory Groups will remain in operation for the duration of the 2014-2020 to continue to advise on delivery and implementation (including the content of guidance) and monitoring and evaluation arrangements. These groups have been in existence throughout the 2007-13 programming period and comprise wide internal Welsh Government and external stakeholder interests.

19. The Delivery and Compliance Group (D&CG) is a technical expert group established by the Managing Authority (WEFO) as a forum for partners to feedback implementation and compliance operational issues.

20. The Group's work informs the work of PMC, and has a specific remit to review WEFO's regular 'Compliance Report' before presentation at the PMC. This includes audit results and common errors found in management verification work. The group supports the PMC to satisfy itself of the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the Welsh Structural Funds Programmes in the areas of delivery and compliance.

21. The role of the Evaluation Advisory Group is to advise and assist in designing evaluation studies, quality controlling the research final reports and ensuring that findings are disseminated widely. The group will also monitor the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for the Structural Funds programmes in Wales for the period 2014 – 2020.

22. In the 2007-2013 programme period Technical Assistance has been used to support the engagement of, and developing the capacity of, NGOs and voluntary organisations in

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the delivery of programmes. This has included the provision of support, information, advice and networking opportunities specifically tailored to the needs of social partners. It is proposed that similar activities will be possible through Technical Assistance activities within the ERDF programme as described in Section 2.B., these will include;

- Management – further developing the functions and systems of the Managing Authority to deliver integrated sustainable programmes and to provide expert advice and guidance to beneficiaries
- Partnership and Networking – facilitating effective engagement and partnership working with stakeholders in support of programme implementation
- Monitoring – establishing and supporting the single ESI Funds Programme Monitoring Committee
- Research and Evaluation – continuing to deliver quality evidence based information to support programme delivery
- Information and Publicity – highlighting the value added by the EU working in partnership with the Welsh Government and its partners.
- Audit and Control – delivering effective and compliant programmes in Wales

23. There are no plans to entrust part of the management of the Operational Programme to Intermediate Bodies, for example by using Global Grants or Integrated Territorial Investments and using the provisions set out in article 123(7) of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) EU 1303/2013. Intermediate Bodies, using the provisions set out in article 123(6) of the CPR, will be designated to perform certain delegated tasks in relation to the management of certain aid schemes. Delegated tasks will include, at least, the selection of projects (beneficiaries), the issue of documents to beneficiaries that set out the conditions of support and state aid administration for the scheme. The Intermediate Bodies designated to manage the aid schemes are likely to be Welsh Government departments.

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[1] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/post2013/milestones/120515reflectionsexercise/?lang=en

[2] http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber-fourth-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=233432&ds=5%2F2012#dat4

[3]http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/businessandeconomy/130114walesandtheeu/?lang=en&utm_source=130114&utm_medium=wefowebsite&utm_campaign=consultation_en

[4] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/130115consultation/?lang=en

7.2.2 Global grants (for the ESF, where appropriate)

7.2.3 Allocation of an amount for capacity building (for the ESF, where appropriate)

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8. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB

The mechanisms to ensure coordination between the Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and other Union and national funding instruments, and with the European Investment Bank (EIB), taking into account the relevant provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework.

1.All ESI programmes in Wales have been designed to be complementary. The two Welsh ERDF programmes share a common analysis and structure, recognising the common challenges across the whole of Wales.

2.The project selection and prioritisation criteria will test how each project has considered other available funding sources and the links they have made to them. Projects will be particularly encouraged where they can contribute simultaneously to both ERDF and wider EU funding instrument priorities (e.g. Horizon 2020 or LIFE).

3.This section sets out the links to ESI funds and the other EU funds across the EU and UK by Priority Axis, not seeking to repeat the coordination mechanisms or links to macro-regional strategies set out in the Partnership Agreement.

Research and Innovation

4.Research and Innovation are two elements of the "knowledge triangle", with education as a third element. ESF investments under the Skills for Growth Priority Axis have the scope to increase the supply of individuals with the specialised skills required to support capacity building in research institutions, increasing the levels of innovation in Welsh business. Very close coordination of these activities will be sought, with the potential for complementary funding actively explored; in particular where Research, Innovation and Skills can be combined.

5.There is scope for complementarity with the EAFRD programme to promote innovation and the knowledge base in rural areas, and especially through investments under the Grand Challenge area of

6.A major link is expected with the Horizon 2020 programme and other competitive research funding, such as UK Research Councils, UK Technology and Strategy Board and UK NESTA funding. For example the UK is involved in the Eureka network through the TSB, offering a route to develop international clusters and partnerships. The ERDF expects to invest in upstream research and innovation with an explicit aim of building capacity in order to increase access to those funds. The clear international dimension being sought through capacity building will require a greater consideration of EU-wide initiatives such as the European Research Area and work of the European Research Council. ERDF will also be used downstream to ensure the outcomes of that research are

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being exploited and the benefits captured in the programme area, including the potential to commercialise European research (e.g. from Horizon 2020) in Wales.

7.Synergies with Horizon 2020 should also consider links with public-public partnerships (Joint Programming Initiatives, ERA-NET, Article 185 initiatives), public-private partnerships (Article 187 initiatives) and actions under Part IV of Horizon 2020 relating to Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation, where West Wales and the Valleys could provide potential advanced partners in all Widening actions.

8.There are a plethora of EU and UK funding instruments seeking to address challenges relating to the transition to a low-Carbon economy. Horizon 2020 will be a key link, and the New Entrants Reserve (NER) 300 demonstration funding should also be considered. There may also be opportunities to support the roll-out of methods and approaches validated under the LIFE programme, where they meet the ERDF programme objectives, for example in demonstrating eco-innovation or adopting innovative technologies. ERDF can support a range of actions complementary to these other EU programmes (e.g. LIFE) where they also meet the objectives of this Operational Programme.

9.While this implies a demarcation between the funds, the possibility for joint funding will be examined on a case by case basis (a project should meet both the ERDF objectives and the requirements of the other competitive fund). ERDF projects will not substitute for other competitive research funds. Projects will be challenged to ensure they participate in other competitive bidding (e.g. Horizon 2020 or domestic research funds) where that is the most appropriate funding source. The co-location of a Horizon 2020 unit with the Managing Authority for ERDF, coupled with use of expert advice (internal and external) to inform project selection, will help ensure close coordination between these funds.

10.Complementarity also exists with the Marie Curie Actions and linked ERDF proposals will be considered on a case by case basis. Many of the links to ERASMUS and other people-related initiatives will be more directly linked to ESF interventions; nevertheless these will be coordinated with ERDF RD&I investments. This opens up the potential to combine ERDF, ESF and EU finance (H2020, ERASMUS, Marie Curie) on common goals. No specific action by the Managing Authority is planned to stimulate or target these links, but where links are identified coordination and expert advice will be sought from the Department coordinating information on Marie Curie and ERASMUS actions in Wales.

11.All European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes that Wales participates in are expected to feature RD&I investment. ERDF projects seeking upstream support should have a clear international dimension to them, as an essential way to achieve genuine mainstreaming of transnational activity and address one of the main barriers for Welsh research institutions accessing competitive research funding (namely a lack of international networks and partners). This is an opportunity to consider potential links to relevant ETC programmes; where it is hoped that links between research institutions, researchers, networks and successful clusters can be supported.

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12.EIB funding as part of ERDF funded projects might be possible should significant investment proposals emerge for research infrastructure. The provision of risk capital for innovative SMEs is likely to be part of a Financial Instrument to which EIB funding may also be sought. The use of ESI funds for ESFRI research infrastructures should also be considered where appropriate.

SME Competitiveness

13.ESF investments to up-skill the workforce, address skills gaps, and support individuals to become work-ready (including, addressing barriers to work) will support the competitiveness and productivity of SMEs. Support for entrepreneurship skills will also complement the ERDF objective of increasing the number of start-ups. Complementarity will be sought with business advisory services and start-up activity under the EAFRD and EMFF programmes to ensure that services are delivered efficiently and businesses in the farming and fisheries sectors have access to the support services funded through ERDF.

14.Start-up support targeting key growth sectors should also consider the potential to align with Start-Up Europe for ICT SMEs, delivered as part of Europe 2020's Digital Agenda for Europe..

15.The main link with other funding sources will be in the provision of access to finance, where a number of schemes seeking to ease pressures for SMEs are emerging; for example COSME at an EU level, or a number of specific loan and venture capital funds supported by the EIF.

16.The UK Government has sought to encourage financial institutions to invest in SMEs, for example through the Funding for Lending scheme and the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. The UK Government also invests alongside the private sector in commercial funds and is also developing proposals for a Business Bank, to provide finance for SMEs. Venture capitalists and business angels also remain key sources of finance, but tend to be focussed in the South East of England.

17.Coordination of access to finance will be sought through existing arrangements for SME support (e.g. the One-Stop-Shop for Business Advice) . Provision through the ERDF will be subject to assessment of market failure, including consideration of other funding sources.

18.There are also links with the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation with measures aimed at entrepreneurship, business creation and tailored delivery of provision for social enterprises; for example the ERDF, alongside ESF, might support the scaling-up of successful innovations aligned to ERDF or ESF objectives.

19.The ETC programmes in which Wales participates are also likely to have strands dedicated to SME Competitiveness. Links will be encouraged between the programmes, particularly where ERDF might support the roll-out or trial of innovative support identified through ETC. Mainstream transnational activity is expected to be lower in this

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Priority Axis, though there are opportunities in the promotion of growth opportunities (for example in seeking to enter new markets).

20.EIB funding may be sought to support a Financial Instrument providing access to finance for SMEs.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

21.Opportunities to link with the EAFRD and EFF will be actively sought under this Priority Axis; for example by setting out opportunities for complementary support for small scale renewable energy between the EAFRD and ERDF (e.g. EAFRD for community engagement, micro-generation and piloting; then ERDF for scaling-up schemes to a community-wide level).

22.Support for skills development and identifying any gaps that could be funded by ESF projects will also be an important link; either through ensuring flexibility in mainstream ESF provision to support the energy sector, or through dedicated demand-led skills support.

23.At a UK level funds available include the Green Investment Bank, a range of funds from the Department for Energy and Climate Change, and dedicated funds through the Technology and Strategy Board. A range of legislation and incentives add further complexity to the funding landscape, including the Green Deal and Feed in Tariffs.

24.An assessment of how any project proposal fits within the context of other sources of finance will be essential to demonstrate added value and will feature as part of the project selection and prioritisation process. Expert advice will be sought where market failure or specific opportunity is not clear. This may take the form of internal advice (on alignment with Government policy and instruments) and external advice (technical assessment).

25.EIB funding may be sought if the ex-ante assessment on Financial Instruments identifies an opportunity to use repayable finance (e.g. an Urban Development Fund supporting energy efficiency as an element).

Connectivity

26.Investments in transport and connectivity have a key enabling role in the economy and therefore it is important that other investments are co-ordinated to seek maximum impact. There is considerable scope to co-ordinate with the skills and employment measures under the ESF programme in this respect, ensuring that residents are able to take advantage of new opportunities which come as a result of the infrastructure investment (including any inward investment).

27.The key related instrument at an EU level is the Connecting Europe facility. This will be considered as the first port of call for major infrastructure investments of European

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importance. The issues to be addressed by the ERDF focus on more local capacity and service constraints; in particular sustainable transport connectivity between labour markets and key urban and employment centres. Both areas of investment (Connecting Europe and ERDF) should be mutually reinforcing.

28.There are some significant investments in transport infrastructure in Wales planned during the programme period, for example electrification of the rail line between London and Swansea. ERDF will seek to add value to those planned investments by seeking to ensure the greatest impact can be achieved through complementary investments e.g. ensuring that local connectivity is improved to be able to capture the potential benefits from the major (non-ERDF) investments.

29.The local and regional impact sought from investments in this Priority Axis limits the international cooperation opportunities, though any areas of best practice or innovation should be considered in scheme design.

30.The importance of infrastructure investments to the Welsh economy, coupled with the lack of resource to support them, has led to the Welsh Government exploring a range of innovative finance mechanism to support those essential investments. Where there are opportunities EIB funding will be sought to co-invest in infrastructure improvements in the programme area.

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9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

Information on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (optional).

Table 24: Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	1 - Research and Innovation	Yes
T.01.2 - Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multi annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.	1 - Research and Innovation	Yes
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	2 - SME Competitiveness	Yes
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	4 - Connectivity	Yes
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	2 - SME Competitiveness	Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Yes
T.04.3 - Actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources.	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Yes
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity	Yes
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity	Yes
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity	Yes
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity	Yes
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity	Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
G.6 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity	Yes
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity	Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	1 - A national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that:	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	Additional information has been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the submission of the Operational Programme to provide further supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	2 - is based on a SWOT or similar analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities;	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	3 - outlines measures to stimulate private RTD investment;	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	4 - contains a monitoring mechanism.	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	The monitoring system for Science for Wales is well established and consists of an expert Advisory Council and regular reporting against a Delivery Plan. This covers specific commitments, monitoring against key metrics and statistical indicators, and ongoing evaluations and assessments of existing and emerging specialisms (entrepreneurial discovery). This includes innovation in businesses. The complementary monitoring system for Innovation Wales also has an expert Advisory Council. Monitoring of this strategy is being done in close cooperation with Science for Wales, given the strategies are designed to work together. The Innovation Advisory Council includes cross-membership with the Science Council and are also monitoring and reporting against their own Delivery Plan Additional measures to further improve the complementarity of this monitoring system for monitoring the delivery of Wales' smart specialisation strategy are currently being developed and will be made available in 2015.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	5 - A framework outlining available budgetary resources for research and innovation has been adopted.	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	Additional information has been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the submission of the Operational Programme to provide further supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.
T.01.2 - Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multi annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.	1 - An indicative multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments linked to Union priorities, and, where appropriate, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) has been adopted.	Yes	UK Research Council: Investing for growth: Capital Infrastructure for the 21st Century: http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/infrastructure/lfr/ The UK National Infrastructure Plan: (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-plan-2013)	The Welsh Government allocates finance on an annual basis as well as indicatively allocating budgets for the following financial year. Additional information has been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the submission of the Operational Programme to provide further supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	1 - A strategic policy framework for digital growth, for instance, within the national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that contains:	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery	Additional information has been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the submission of the Operational Programme to provide further supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	2 - budgeting and prioritisation of actions through a SWOT or similar analysis consistent with the Scoreboard of the Digital Agenda for Europe;	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	Additional information has been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the submission of the Operational Programme to provide further supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	3 - an analysis of balancing support for demand and supply of ICT should have been conducted;	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	4 - indicators to measure progress of interventions in areas such as digital literacy, e-inclusion, e-accessibility, and progress of e-health within the limits of Article 168 TFEU which are aligned, where appropriate, with existing relevant sectoral Union, national or regional strategies;	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	5 - assessment of needs to reinforce ICT capacity-building.	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in	1 - A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains:	Yes	Digital Wales : http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lan	Section 7 of the Delivering a Digital Wales outlines plans to ensure the improve digital infrastructure in Wales.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.			g=en	The deployment of networks delivering against Digital Wales targets (30 Mbps and 100 Mbps or above) are being, and will continue to be, monitored as part of the implementation of the Digital Wales strategy.
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	2 - a plan of infrastructure investments based on an economic analysis taking account of existing private and public infrastructures and planned investments;	Yes	Digital Wales : http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP). http://wales.gov.uk/funding/wiipindex/?lang=en	
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to	3 - sustainable investment models that enhance competition and provide access to open, affordable, quality and future-proof infrastructure and services;	Yes	Digital Wales : http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP). http://wales.gov.uk/funding/wiipindex/?lang=en	

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
vulnerable groups.				
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	4 - measures to stimulate private investment.	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP). http://wales.gov.uk/funding/wiipindex/wiipfull2012/?lang=en	
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	1 - The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time and cost involved in setting-up a business taking account of the targets of the SBA;	Yes	The Plan for Growth UK Government (2011): https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/.../2011budget_growth.pdf Reducing Regulation made simple UK Government (2010)	Both publications set out how the UK Government is implementing the Coalition Agreement commitments relating to reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses.
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	2 - The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time needed to get licenses and permits to take up and perform the specific activity of an enterprise taking account of the targets of the SBA;	Yes	The Plan for Growth UK Government (2011): https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/.../2011budget_growth.pdf Reducing Regulation made simple UK Government (2010)	Both publications set out how the UK Government is implementing the Coalition Agreement commitments relating to reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	3 - The specific actions are: mechanism is in place to monitor the implementation of the measures of the SBA which have been put in place and assess the impact on SMEs.	Yes	The Plan for Growth UK Government (2011): https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/.../2011budget_growth.pdf Reducing Regulation made simple UK Government (2010)	Both publications set out how the UK Government is implementing the Coalition Agreement commitments relating to reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses.
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	1 - The actions are: measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	Yes	Energy Performance Certificates EPC for commercial property Climate Change Strategy for Wales The National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan	Energy Performance Certificates are a requirement in Wales when a building is rented out, sold or renovated.
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	2 - The actions are: measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU;	Yes	Energy Performance Certificates EPC for commercial property Climate Change Strategy for Wales The National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan	Energy Performance Certificates are a requirement in Wales when a building is rented out, sold or renovated.
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	3 - The actions are: measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	Yes	Energy Performance Certificates EPC for commercial property Climate Change Strategy for Wales The National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan	Performance Certificates are a requirement in Wales when a building is rented out, sold or renovated.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	4 - The actions are: measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy end-use efficiency and energy services to ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.	Yes	Energy Performance Certificates EPC for commercial property Climate Change Strategy for Wales The National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan	Energy Performance Certificates are a requirement in Wales when a building is rented out, sold or renovated.
T.04.3 - Actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources.	1 - Transparent support schemes, priority in grid access or guaranteed access and priority in dispatching, as well as standard rules relating to the bearing and sharing of costs of technical adaptations which have been made public are in place consistent with Article 14(1), Article 16(2) and 16(3) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.	Yes	Energy Wales: a low carbon revolution (2012) Energy Wales Strategic Delivery Group,. http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/difference/energy-wales-delivery-group/?lang=en Bioenergy Action Plan for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/renewable/bioenergy/bioenergyaction/?lang=en	"A low carbon revolution" – the Welsh Governments energy policy statement sets out the Welsh Governments agenda around energy efficiency, moving to renewable generation and the creation of low carbon jobs.
T.04.3 - Actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources.	2 - A Member State has adopted a national renewable energy action plan consistent with Article 4 of Directive 2009/28/EC.	Yes	Energy Wales: a low carbon revolution (2012) Energy Wales Strategic Delivery Group,. http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/differe	"A low carbon revolution" – the Welsh Governments energy policy statement sets out the Welsh Governments agenda around energy efficiency, moving to renewable generation and the creation of low carbon jobs.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			nce/energy-wales-delivery-group/?lang=en Bioenergy Action Plan for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/renewable/bioenergy/bioenergyaction/?lang=en	
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund related activities.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made The Welsh Language Act (1993): http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1993/38/contents Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics.
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti discrimination law and policy.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made The Welsh Language Act (1993): http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk	The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			pga/1993/38/contents Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice.
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.	Yes	UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= The Welsh Government are responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders charged with the protection of rights for disabled people

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			Covenants' Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made	The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled people into the programmes.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with	3 - Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	Yes	UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= The Welsh Government are responsible for	The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics and monitor the implementation on the UNCRPD.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
Council Decision 2010/48/EC.			collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants'	
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	Yes	The EU Directives were transposed by the United Kingdom in 2006 (Public Contracts Regulations 2006) and the UK Government has committed to early transposition of the new public procurement rules agreed by the European Parliament in January 2014	Support and guidance relating to the interpretation and application of procurement legislation and policy is available for public sector beneficiaries (contracting authorities/ contracting entities) via direct access to Value Wales. The Managing Authority is also able to call on the expertise of Value Wales to help interpret legislation and understanding the requirements of the EC directives. This advice extends to general procurement advice as well as public contracts.
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	Yes	The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal	In accordance with the commitments laid out in the Welsh Government's 'Opening Doors: The Charter for SME Friendly Procurement', all requirements over £25,000 (but below the applicable OJEU threshold), as well as those requirements which are not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, should be on a website

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			departments such as WEFO.	(www.sell2wales.gov.uk) accessible across the EU.
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal departments such as WEFO.	The Welsh Government has launched a web-based procurement toolkit for support compliant procurement (Procurement Route Planner http://prp.wales.gov.uk/).
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	4 - Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Yes	The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal departments such as WEFO.	The Managing Authority is also able to call on the expertise of Value Wales to help interpret legislation and understanding the requirements of the EC directives. This advice extends to general procurement advice as well as public contracts.
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en	State Aid is largely handled at UK level (see UK PA). Work to ensure

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				adherence in Wales is as follows: All operations are subject to State Aid analysis as part of the assessment process and where necessary advice and further scrutiny is sought from the Welsh Government's State Aid Unit (SAU) or Legal Services. This ensures that funding award decisions are compliant with State Aid rules and the necessary Commission notifications/approvals are in place. Assessments are undertaken and guidance provided to beneficiaries on the rules surrounding cumulation. Operations running de minimis schemes are notified in the grant funding agreement of their responsibilities and their systems checked for compliance. In addition the SAU co-ordinates the annual reporting process for block exempted and notified schemes. Compliance and recovery measures relating to breach of State Aid rules are

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				contained in funding agreements and compliance checks are undertaken by the Management Verification team.
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en	The State Aid Unit (SAU) works closely with WEFO's training team to identify necessary training requirements for all staff. It has recently run awareness sessions about the Modernisation programme and State Aid training will be embedded into the induction process for all new staff. A training strategy has been updated so that all Managing Authority and Certifying Authority staff will receive foundation/awareness training by end October 2014. This is being supplemented by more detailed "Roles and Responsibilities" training to be rolled out to all key staff by the end of 2014 and to all staff by mid 2015. The SAU regularly attend UK wide network meetings and disseminate information/guidance through the Welsh Government website and to WEFO accordingly. WEFO disseminates information widely to external stakeholders and beneficiaries, including through the WEFO website. Further staff guidance is made

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				available through Welsh Government and WEFO intranet sites.
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 - Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en	Managing authority staff have a good working knowledge of the State aid rules. They are supported by the Welsh Government's SAU and lawyers who provide training and advice on specific cases as necessary. The Welsh Government believes that it has sufficient administrative capacity to carry out its State Aid responsibilities. The SAU is made up of 3 members of staff with over 15 years experience who are supported by a team of 3 lawyers. There are a number of practical tools available to WEFO staff including a bespoke State aid assessment sheet, State aid toolkit and detailed guidance on the rules. These are generated by the SAU and LS and are made available through the Welsh Government's intranet site. In addition guidance is made available to beneficiaries through the Welsh Government's web site.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.6 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (SEA).	Yes	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Chapter 1 General provisions on the Funds Section 3 (i) Government of Wales Act 2006 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/32/contents One Wales: One Planet Sustainable Development Plan for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en Future Generations Bill 2014 http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/future-generations-bill/?lang=en	WEFO has a dedicated Cross Cutting Themes (CCT) team providing guidance and training on Sustainable Development and the implementation of the SEA. The CCT guidance produced by the team is version controlled and updated annually including a formal assessment of the themes for individual operations at business plan stage. Recommendations made by the SEA are built into the guidance and shared with all relevant stakeholders. The guidance is currently in draft form and will be available to view online on the dedicated WEFO 2014-2020 programme guidance webpage.
G.6 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	2 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives.	Yes	Guidance http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance20142020/?lang=en	A full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Management Authority and Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014. This

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				compliments mandatory Sustainable Development training which is provided to all Welsh Government staff.
G.6 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	3 - Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	Guidance http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance20142020/?lang=en	There is a dedicated specialist team within the Managing Authority, delivering on the CCT commitments and the programmes compliance with the EIA/ SEA Directives. In addition the specialist CCT team will draw advice from a range of experts both in the Environmental and Equality fields to ensure maximum dissemination and networking opportunities are taken up.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	1 - Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, monitoring and evaluation (RME) team. The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries. All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	2 - Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the website on a regular basis.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	3 - An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to	4 - An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	Targets are set for indicators in the Operational Programmes and are shown in the appropriate tables within the OPs.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.				
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	5 - An effective system of result indicators including: the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	6 - Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (including factual analysis) can be found in the Monitoring & Evaluation plan.

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9.2 Description of actions to fulfil ex-ante conditionalities, responsible bodies and timetable

Table 25: Actions to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible

Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible

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10. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce administrative burden.

1. Significant progress was made in reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries under the 2007-2013 programmes. This has involved the introduction of new working procedures around the introduction of the PPIMS IT system which led to the harmonisation of processes across structural funds and enables beneficiaries to input project data directly via a web based portal. This has resulted in common processes, the improved exchange of documentation together with efficiency gains and quicker processes and payments to beneficiaries. The 2007-2013 programmes have also seen the establishment of the Project Development Officer model. This has involved a single officer as a primary point of contact for beneficiaries throughout the application, development and post approval stages.

2. A customer insight survey was undertaken by WEFO in 2009[1] which sought the views of project sponsors on administrative procedures and processes involved in applying for and managing EU projects. There was general support for efficiencies resulting from many of the web based improvements introduced for the 2017-13 funding round together with support for the concept of the Project Development Officer. Some concerns were raised over the bureaucracy involved in applying for funding (decisions could be made earlier involving less form filling) and over the accessibility and technical language in some of the guidance.

3. The Welsh Government is building upon previous developments and addressing feedback from project sponsors for the 2014-2020 programmes by maximising integration and harmonisation opportunities wherever possible in order to assist delivery and further reduce the burden for beneficiaries.

4. This will include a streamlined application and assessment process involving a series of gateways and decision points over the eligibility of projects, together with further enhancements to PPIMS. This will include a single online gateway for potential projects to access all ESI funds, which will direct potential projects to a specific team, and facilitate the selection of the optimal funding instrument(s) and delivery mechanism (whilst respecting the differences between funds).

5. Harmonised ESI national eligibility rules and common supporting guidance will be in place for all organisations in Wales receiving funds from ERDF, ESF and the EAFRD, other than where eligibility rules have been determined by fund-specific EC legislation. This will represent a significant simplification for beneficiaries in Wales and builds on the European Commission's common eligibility provisions in the Common Provisions Regulation for matters such as durability, revenue generation, and simplified cost options. The harmonised eligibility rules will be agreed and published and easily accessible via the WEFO website.

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6. In addition, Wales intends to encourage the take-up of simplified cost re-imbursement options (lump sums, flat-rates, unit costs) by making all legislative options available to potential applicants, issuing detailed guidance, and running training workshops with representatives from key sectors to understand and address the barriers to take-up. It is expected that flat-rate costs in relation to reimbursement of indirect costs will be of particularly interest to Welsh beneficiaries. The extent of the shift towards a more results-based reimbursement system (lump sums, unit costs) will also depend on the provisions of the cohesion policy legislative package, the suitability of the EC standard rates, and the implementation guidance from the Commission. This is however, unlikely to include the use of Joint Action Plans which are not considered suitable in Wales.

7. Welsh projects will also benefit from a reduction in administration by Welsh Government implementing in full the EC simplification measures, such as shorter document retention periods, flat-rate revenue generation calculations, and protecting projects against duplication of audit activity from both the Audit Authority and European Commission in the same year

[1] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/publications/monitoringevaluation/programmeevaluations/customerinsightsurvey2009/?lang=en

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11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

11.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

1. The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement provides an overview of the approach to promoting the horizontal principles across the ESI funds in Wales which includes the Sustainable Development Cross Cutting Theme (CCT). It also outlines the main Welsh Government organising principles and objectives for sustainability which provide the basis for the implementation of the CCT within the ESF Programmes in Wales. The Partnership Agreement also describes the progress towards related environmental sustainability targets and other parts of this programme describe some of the vertical actions contributing to them (e.g. support for renewable energy and energy efficiency).

2. In terms of environmental sustainability, *Sustaining a Living Wales* is the Welsh Government's new approach to natural resource management in Wales and is based on the ecosystem approach. An ecosystem being defined as all the living things, in an environment, including their interactions, with each other and their environment.

3. This ERDF Programme will contribute to the achievement to environmental sustainability goals as follows:

- Promoting research and innovation in the Grand Challenge area of low carbon, energy and environment, building on the significant investments made in this area under the 2007-2013 programmes
- Developing the low carbon, energy and environment sector through business advice and support and business finance under the SME Competitiveness Priority
- Promoting resource efficiency, including energy efficiency, through interventions under the SME Competitiveness Priority
- Increasing the potential to generate renewable energy through support for R&I, and enabling infrastructure investments in the Marine Energy industry in Wales
- Increasing the number of small scale and community renewable energy projects
- Improving the energy efficiency of Welsh Homes, in particular in areas of particular fuel poverty and deprivation (as measured by WIMD)
- Promoting low carbon energy schemes for urban and rural areas
- Supporting low carbon and sustainable transport solutions, including through linking unemployed and economically inactive individuals with work and training

4. In addition, the following actions will be taken in the selection and development of operations under this Programme to ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaption, disaster resilience and management:

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- Targets will be set at Priority Axis level providing an important driver to ensure that projects address the programmes cross cutting theme objectives
- Cross cutting theme assessment at all stages of project development, including assessment against contribution towards sustainable development objectives for environmental protection, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management
- Ongoing specialist advice will be made available to projects from WEFO and through arrangements being developed for the implementation of projects, including the consideration of green procurement and the potential to incorporate green infrastructure solutions. A key objective will be to provide the specialist input at an early stage in the process to maximise take-up of the opportunities to promote the cross cutting themes
- A programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to WEFO staff and project sponsors on the benefits of, and best practice in, integrating the cross cutting themes
- Activity level guidance will be prepared together with best practice case study examples that will provide specific information on how sponsors can address the cross cutting themes within their project plans
- Regular monitoring of progress, through 'forecast' data (the targets set by projects at the outset) and 'actual' achievement (what projects actually achieve monitored through the quarterly return system), allowing for early intervention if necessary
- Update reports to PMC and other stakeholdersWEFO will encourage key equality, social inclusion and sustainable development organisations to be involved in an attempt to establish an effective network of specialist support

5. Through indirect measures, at an individual or organisational level, and through ensuring projects adopt appropriate Sustainable Development practices and principles in the delivery of ERDF activity, investments will be able to support the overall Welsh Government Sustainable Development principles and objectives.

6. Dedicated actions are not envisaged related to Natura 2000 for the ERDF, though the approach set out above will ensure opportunities are not lost to contribute to the objectives of the related Prioritisation Action Framework for Wales through embedding sustainability principles in the design and delivery of operations. It is anticipated other national and European resources (including the EAFRD) will be available to contribute more directly to the Prioritisation Action Framework to achieve the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest.

compare report

11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the operational programme and in particular in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements for ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

1. The integration of equal opportunities, gender mainstreaming and the Welsh language is important not only for legal reasons, but also because different social and demographic sections of society in the labour market contribute to the overall effectiveness of the activity delivered by the programmes.

2. The Welsh Government's Strategic Equality Plan (2012-16) and equality objectives highlight how the Welsh Government is fulfilling its legal obligations as well as its strong commitment to equality and inclusion. The Plan was developed in-line with the general duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of the Equality Act 2010

3. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to assess potential impacts of the ERDF programmes on people with different socio-demographic characteristics. The EIA supports the compliance of the Welsh Government with the PSED by providing evidence on the potential effects of the programme on people with the nine protected characteristics: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race and Ethnicity; Religion and Belief; Sex / Gender; and Sexual Orientation.

4. The report concludes that the process for the development of the 2014-2020 ERDF programmes for Wales has included extensive consideration of equality and because of this it is highly unlikely that there will be any disproportionate negative impacts on any of the characteristics protected under the Equality Act and will support the Welsh language as required by the 2006 Government of Wales Act.

5. Key equality objectives for the ERDF programme in Wales are to:

- Encourage entrepreneurship and business start-up initiatives to encourage more take up from young people, women, Black and minority ethnic people , disabled people and LGBT people
- Support the creation of an environment which supports inclusive work places and promotes equality of opportunity for staff, including reconciliation of work and private life
- Ensure access to technology is available and accessible to all, , particularly for people in rural areas, older people and others affected by the 'digital divide'
- Support RD&I which seeks to address societal challenges, such as supporting active ageing, opening up employment and training opportunities for individuals and supporting independent living
- Support access for disabled people and those from BME backgrounds to training and employment opportunities, including through sustainable transport solutions

compare report

- Identify and support opportunities to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language

6. The UK Partnership Agreement includes details of the approach to promoting the horizontal principles across the ESI funds in Wales.

7. Specific to this Programme, the following actions will be taken in the selection and development of operations to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on the nine protected characteristics outlined above:

- On-going specialist advice will be made available to projects by the Welsh Government and through arrangements being developed for the implementation of projects. A key objective will be to provide the specialist input at an early stage in the process to maximise take-up of the opportunities to promote gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities
- A programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to Welsh Government staff and project sponsors on how to integrate equal opportunities objectives
- Activity level guidance will be prepared together with best practice case study examples that will provide specific information on how sponsors can address gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities within their project plans
- Regular monitoring of progress, through 'forecast' data (the targets set by projects at the outset) and 'actual' achievement (what projects actually achieve monitored through the quarterly return system), allowing for early intervention if necessary
- Update reports to PMC and other stakeholders
- Welsh Government will encourage key gender mainstreaming, equality and social inclusion organisations to be involved in an attempt to establish an effective network of specialist support
- The international move towards a rights based approach to disability is based on the notion of right rather than charity. The limitations faced by disabled people should no longer be linked to their disability, but to society's inability to provide equality of opportunity to all. The link between skills, qualifications, life chances and disability are well established, resulting in people acquiring fewer qualifications, often through early educational disadvantage, resulting in a dependency on disability-related benefits later in life.
- The Welsh programmes will aim to ensure early intervention to help disabled people become employable and not to define themselves as unable to work before they have accessed such suport. Mechanisms need to be integrated into a wide range of employment programmes to ensure that disabled people are able to remain in employment. Solutions should not be based on traditional assumptions or stereotypes, but on the particular need of the individual.
- Without an accessible environment the support mechanism and employment programmes are of little use. Designing and providing the environment in which disabled people can travel to, enter and make use of independently or with support where appropriate, will be a key consideration for any activity funded.

compare report

11.3 Equality between men and women

Description of contribution of the operational programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational programme and operation level.

1. The Welsh Government's Gender Equality Scheme sets out it plans to promote equality of opportunity for women and men in Wales.

2. Although the Welsh Government has no specific duty to produce a Gender Equality Scheme it wants to be recognised for providing an exemplary service to women and men in Wales by developing strategies and policies that are effective and outcome focused.

3. Key gender equality objectives will primarily be addressed through the ESF programmes. The ERDF programmes will be able to complement this activity through:

- Supporting the competitiveness of the childcare sector where it meets the objectives of the related Priority Axis
- Support the creation of an environment which supports inclusive work places, which promotes equality of opportunity for staff, including the reconciliation of work and private life.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and business start-up initiatives to encourage more take up from women.

4. The UK Partnership Agreement includes details of the approach to promoting the horizontal principles across the ESI funds in Wales.

5. Specific to this Programme, the following actions will be taken in the selection and development of operations to promote equality between men and women are as set out in section 11.2

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12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period

Table 27: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification/submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axes / Investment Priorities

12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

Table 28: Performance framework by fund and category of region (summary table)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
~~1 - Research and Innovation~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support~~	~~Enterprises~~			~~n/a~~			~~2,245.00~~
1 - Research and Innovation	ERDF	~~More~~Less developed	~~%~~Number of ~~final target for 'number of enterprises receiving non-financial support' which has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed~~	~~%~~Number			~~28~~32			~~100~~540.00

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
			~~operations~~partners cooperating in research projects							
1 - Research and Innovation	ERDF	More developed	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€			~~455000000~~36,000,000			~~178,200,000~~201,603,132.00
~~2 - SME Competitiveness~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support~~	~~Enterprises~~			~~n/a~~			~~6,420.00~~
2 - SME Competitiveness	ERDF	~~More~~Less developed	~~% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~Invetsment in enterprises	~~%~~GBP			~~28~~72,000,000			~~100~~72,000,000.00
2 - SME Competitiveness	ERDF	More developed	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€			~~203000000~~51,000,000			~~79,700,0000~~91,440,942.00
3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	~~More~~Less developed	~~Energy efficiency: Number~~Contractors procured to deliver final target of households with improved energy consumption classification	~~Households~~Data			~~n/a~~Yes			~~4,200~~0.00
3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	More developed	~~% of final target for householder~~Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification~~ has been achieved by partially completed and fully~~	~~%~~Households			~~50~~n/a			~~100~~765.00

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
			~~completed operations~~							
3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	More developed	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€			~~114000000~~58,500			~~44,800,000~~9,700,782.00
~~4 - Connectivity~~	~~ERDF~~	~~More developed~~	~~X% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractural agreements to deliver infrastructure works~~	~~%~~			~~75%~~			
4 - Connectivity	ERDF	~~More~~Less developed	~~Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport~~Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	~~passenger~~ km			n/a			~~67,200,000~~5.00
4 - Connectivity	ERDF	More developed	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€			~~244500000~~15,000,000			95,~~700,000~~747,162.00
4 - Connectivity	ERDF	More developed	X% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractural agreements to deliver infrastructure works	%			75%			

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12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP ON EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES 2014-20

Partners:

- British Telecom (private sector)
- Cogitamus (private sector)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (equalities)
- Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (third sector)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Torfaen County Borough Council (local government)
- Plus representatives from key Welsh Government spending departments

EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES PARTNERSHIP FORUM (2014-20)

Partners:

- Bangor Mussel Producers Ltd (fisheries / private sector)
- Barsby Associates (Institute of Directors)
- British Telecom (private sector)
- CBI Wales (employers organisation)
- Cardiff University (higher education)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (equalities)
- Forestry Commissioner for Wales (environment / rural)
- Grahame Guilford & Co Ltd (private sector)
- Gower College (further education)
- Job Centre Plus (employment)
- National Institute for Continuing Adult Education (education)
- National Trust (environment/rural)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Torfaen County Borough Council (local government)

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- Wales Commissioner for Sustainable Futures (environment)
- Wales Co-operative Centre (third sector)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)
- Wales TUC (workers organisation)
- Welsh farmers (agricultural)
- Welsh Local Government association (local government)
- Working Links (employment)
- Plus representatives from key Welsh Government spending departments

POST 2013 WORKSTREAMS

Operational Programmes Workstream

Partners:

- Anglesey County Council CBI Wales (employers organisation)
- Cardiff County Council (higher education)
- Chwarae Teg (third sector)
- Countryside Council for Wales (environment/rural)
- Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales (environmental / sustainability)
- EEF Cymru (manufacturers' organisation)
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (higher education)
- Job Centre Plus (employment)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- RSPB Cymru (environment and countryside)
- Wales Co-operative Centre (third sector)

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- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

Delivery and Compliance Workstream

Partners:

- Arts Council of Wales (arts)
- Bridgend County Borough Council (local government)
- Countryside Council for Wales (rural)
- Gower College (further education)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

Monitoring and Evaluation Workstream

Partners:

- Bridgend County Borough Council (local government)
- Countryside Council for Wales (environment/rural)
- London Economics (private sector consultancy)
- Monmouthshire County Council (local government)
- National Trust (environment/rural)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

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- Welsh Local Government association (local government)

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Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
~~ANNEX A - Socio Economic Analysis~~	~~Supplementary information~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX A - Socio Economic Analysis~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX E1 - Strategic Environmental Assessment - East Wales~~	~~Supplementary information~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX E1 - Strategic Environmental Assessment - East Wales~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX E2 - SEA - Non-Technical Summary - East Wales~~	~~Supplementary information~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX E2 - SEA - Non-Technical Summary - East Wales~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX F1 - Equality Imact Assessment - ERDF~~	~~Supplementary information~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX F1 - Equality Imact Assessment - ERDF~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX H1 - Performance Framework Methodology~~	~~Supplementary information~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX H1 - Performance Framework Methodology~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX H2 - Outputs Target Setting Methodology~~	~~Supplementary information~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX H2 - Outputs Target Setting Methodology~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX B - Strategy Chapter Summary Tables~~	~~Supplementary information~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX B - Strategy Chapter Summary Tables~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX C - Intervention Logic Summary Tables - East Wales~~	~~Supplementary information~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX C - Intervention Logic Summary Tables - East Wales~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX D - Ex-Ante Evaluation - ERDF East Wales~~	~~Report of the ex-ante evaluation~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX D - Ex-Ante Evaluation - ERDF East Wales~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~

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Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
~~ANNEX E3 - SEA - Habitats - East Wales~~	~~Supplementary information~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX E3 - SEA - Habitats - East Wales~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX F2 - Opinion of Equality Body~~	~~Opinion of national equality bodies on sections 12.2 and 12.3~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX F2 - Opinion of Equality Body~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX G - Ex-Ante Conditionalitities - Assessment Grid - East Wales~~	~~Documentation on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	~~ANNEX G - Ex-Ante Conditionalitities - Assessment Grid - East Wales~~	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~
~~ANNEX I - Short summary of the OP for the Communication Unit - EW~~Anexes	~~Citizens' summary~~Supplementary information	~~07-Nov-2014~~16-Feb-2018		~~Ares(2014)3711916~~	ERDF OPs ANNEX ~~I - Short summary of the OP for the Communication Unit - EW~~H1 Performance Framework Methodology ERDF OPs ANNEX H2 Outputs Target Setting Methodology	~~07-Nov-2014~~	~~nsmiths~~

Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
ANNEX I - Short summary of the OP for the Communication Unit - EW	Citizens' summary	1.3	07-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3711916	ANNEX I - Short summary of the OP for the Communication Unit - EW	07-Nov-2014	nsmiths
ANNEX D - Ex-Ante Evaluation - ERDF East Wales	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.3	07-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3711916	ANNEX D - Ex-Ante Evaluation - ERDF East Wales	07-Nov-2014	nsmiths
Programme Snapshot 2014UK16RFOP006 1.3	Snapshot of data before send	1.3	07-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3711916	Programme Snapshot 2014UK16RFOP006 1.3 en	07-Nov-2014	nsmiths

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Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
ANNEX G - Ex-Ante Conditionalitities - Assessment Grid - East Wales	Documentation on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities	1.3	07-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3711916	ANNEX G - Ex-Ante Conditionalitities - Assessment Grid - East Wales	07-Nov-2014	nsmithts

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Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Programme version ~~has been~~could not be validated. Please correct errors.
~~Warning~~	~~2.19.3~~	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2014", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "354,383,342.00", "320,548,422.00".~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.19.3~~	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2015", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "361,478,158.00", "326,965,858.00".~~
Error	2.72	There should be one and only one "Body to whom payments will be made by the Commission" specified.
Error	2.74	The MS amending decision information (Number, Date and Entry into force date) should not be null when Major Amendment is not set.
~~Warning~~Error	2.~~19.3~~75	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2016", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "368,713,962.00", "333,510,861.00"~~In accordance with Article 210(2)(e) CPR, any amendment of the programme needs the approval by the monitoring committee.
Warning	2.19.3	The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "~~Less developed~~Transition" and per year "~~2017~~2018", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "~~376,093,227~~384,784,017.00", "~~340,185,493~~382,461,753.00".
Warning	2.19.3	The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "~~Less developed~~Transition" and per year "~~2018~~2019", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives:

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Severity	Code	Message
		"~~383,619,809~~390,130,783.00", "~~346,993,502~~390,115,477.00".
Warning	2.19.3	The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "~~Less~~More developed" and per year "~~2019~~2018", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "~~391,296,824~~826,641,881.00", "~~353,937,533~~814,578,755.00".
Warning	2.19.3	The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "~~Less~~More developed" and per year "~~2020~~2019", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "~~399,126,740~~836,028,360.00", "~~361,019,901~~830,880,021.00".
Warning	2.52	Indicator "~~"~~I5~~"~~" has ~~both a total target value and a gender breakdown or~~ no target value at all in Table 6 for priority axis "~~"~~4~~"~~".
Warning	2.65	The total ESF allocation (Main + Performance Reserve from Table 17) over all IGJ Programmes of country "UK" is not equal to the total ESF allocation in Table 1.4.1 of the Partnership Agreement with CCI "2014UK16M8PA001": "4,~~992,098,318~~969,651,712.00", "4,~~942,593,693~~969,651,713.00".

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OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME UNDER THE 'INVESTMENT FOR GROWTH AND JOBS' GOAL

CCI	2014UK16RFOP005
Title	United Kingdom - ERDF West Wales and The Valleys
Version	~~2~~3.~~1~~0
First year	2014
Last year	2020
Eligible from	01-Jan-2014
Eligible until	31-Dec-2023
Making use of Art. 96(8) CPR	
Major amendment (requiring EC approval - cf. Art. 96 CPR)	✓
Approved by monitoring committee	✓
Justification for amendment	~~Additional allocations~~Request for a revision to the ~~ERDF~~ West Wales ~~&~~and the Valleys ~~programmes, and the inclusion of an additional 'Categorisation Code' under Priority 3 of the ERDF programme.~~ ~~Both amendmnets have been agreed by the Programme Monitoring Committee~~ERDF Operational Programme in line with Article 30 of Regulation 1303/2013. The proposed revisions reflect a changing socio-economic situation, rectifying incorrect assumptions made in the original document, in particular for some indicators, and clarifications to text.
EC decision number	~~C(2017)7602~~
EC decision date	~~16-Nov-2017~~

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MS amending decision number	null
MS amending decision date	
MS amending decision entry into force date	
NUTS regions covered by the operational programme	UKL1 - West Wales and The Valleys UKZZ - Extra-Regio NUTS 2

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1. STRATEGY FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

1. **Introduction**
    1. This section sets out the justification for the content of the Priority Axes and the specific objectives, actions and anticipated results described in Section 2. It builds on the analysis of disparities, needs and growth potentials and the rationale for the selection of Thematic Objectives included in the UK Partnership Agreement; in particular the Wales-specific analysis and rationale set out in the Welsh Chapter.
    2. The Partnership Agreement has already considered links to the UK Country Specific Recommendations and the Commission Position Paper on the UK in coming to a justification for the selection of the main Thematic Objectives.
    3. Each Priority and Specific Objective within this programme will contribute in some way to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and to economic, social and territorial cohesion. The programme aims to help to address long-standing weaknesses in the economy of the region, whilst building on territorial strengths. Economic, social and territorial cohesion (done in a smart, sustainable and inclusive way) are not mutually exclusive and should be supported by all Priorities, Specific Objectives and supported operations. For example:
        - Economic cohesion: target disparities in productivity and innovation, building research capacity in areas of territorial strength, and improving the competitiveness and attractiveness of territories through improved connectivity, thus retaining growth businesses and skilled labour
        - Social cohesion: improving connections between local labour markets with low mobility to employment and urban centres, linking targeted business support to skills investments, and improving the attractiveness of areas for inward investment supporting local employment (e.g. RD&I, Low Carbon)
        - Territorial cohesion: targeting areas of strength or emerging capability, including through improving the accessibility of more peripheral areas and developing genuine potential in those areas (e.g. marine energy). Ensuring local employment and mobility considered in all operations.

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4. The ERDF programme will be driven by an unequivocal focus on investments that can contribute to the creation of sustainable jobs and economic growth, with a concentration of resources in those areas where the greatest impact can be made. A focus on sustainable jobs and growth does not mean economic growth to the detriment of the environment or of the poorest and most vulnerable; it is economic growth that properly considers and incorporates social and environmental opportunities, fully reflecting the Welsh Government's central organising principle of Sustainable Development[1].
5. Our investment approach aims to take account of the wider investment context, setting out the specific role that the programme can play in unlocking opportunities for economic growth alongside the (potentially much larger) investments of the private, public and third sectors. This programme therefore does not aim to solve the problems identified in isolation, but seeks to improve the conditions for that wider investment to take place by other actors, in particular the private sector. It aims to do this through addressing some of the bottlenecks and barriers to growth and helping de-risk investment opportunities.
6. The programme is designed to deliver growth and support jobs in West Wales and the Valleys while supporting the key objectives of EU Cohesion policy by adding value and not detrimentally affecting other regional economies. More specifically, where the Fund legislation enables large enterprises to receive a contribution from the Funds, this flexibility will not be used to support investments that result in relocating a substantial number of jobs to West Wales and the Valleys from existing locations in the Union
7. When spending ESI funds by means of public contracts / concessions, the Managing Authority – and any Intermediate Body, where applicable – will require beneficiaries to fully respect EU public procurement rules and in particular: (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC; (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into United Kingdom legislation; (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC; and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Applicants and beneficiaries will be informed of this fundamental requirement via grant award agreements and national eligibility rules and guidance documents, supplemented by training and support where needed.

2. **Priority Axis 1: Research and Innovation**
    1. A high level analysis and summary of key needs and opportunities leading to the selection of this Priority Axis is set out in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.
    2. Both *Science for Wales*[2] and *Innovation Wales*[3] (which together form the Welsh **Smart Specialisation** Strategy) provide a clear policy focus for this priority. They stress the need to promote innovation across Wales and in all sectors of the economy, to build capacity and promote excellence in research and innovation, and to seek new global and digital opportunities. The strategy also sets out areas of specialisation which can provide a focus for investments and the development of excellence and clusters. These are broadly organised under the headings of 'Grand Challenge' areas, which align with UK and EU policy priorities:
        - **Life Sciences and Health** (for example Patient data records, Wound healing, e-health, or stem cell research)**;**

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- **Advanced Engineering and Materials** (e.g. Photonics, or Maintenance Repair and Overhaul in aerospace)**;** and
- **Low Carbon, Energy and Environment** (e.g. Smart living, eco innovation, or Low-carbon energy).
- The importance of **ICT and the Digital Economy** is also recognised as a key enabling area (e.g. trust and security and through developing world class enabling infrastructure).

3. These areas also include identification of a number of areas of existing and emerging expertise in Key Enabling Technologies such as nanotechnology, semiconductors, advanced materials, and photonics. Further illustrative examples of smart specialisation are given in the Welsh chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement. To support research excellence in these areas new 'Sêr Cymru' teams and National Research Networks aim to strengthen Wales' research performance by targeting investment, supporting infrastructure and attracting world-class research talent. *Innovation Wales* also aims to focus significant investment in areas of Smart Specialisation.
4. The Grand Challenges recognise the importance of **addressing societal challenges for balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth**. Territorial cohesion is also sought through supporting areas of existing and emerging expertise, such as clusters. The contribution investment in R&I can make to genuine sustainable development is illustrated in the opportunities for **green growth** and the transition to a low Carbon economy. Green growth has been identified as presenting significant opportunities for future growth and jobs.
5. **Investment in R&D in West Wales and the Valleys** (WW&V) is much lower than the UK as a whole (0.96% of GVA in 2011 compared to 1.79%)[4], and even further behind the best performing regions across the EU. Lower levels across Wales in comparison to these regions reflect fewer world-class institutions and specialisation clusters, fewer R&D intensive businesses, but also the potential for more RD&I to be carried out in Wales by those multi-national R&D intensive businesses with a Welsh presence.
6. Demonstration of research excellence and the securing of **competitive research funds** attracts businesses, which in turn can support the creation of specialised clusters. *Science for Wales* highlights a need to increase our share of UK Research Council funding from 3.3 per cent in 2009/10 to 5 per cent (reflecting Wales' population share in the UK). Wales attracted just over 2% of the Framework Programme 7 (FP7) funding to the UK in 2011[5], though it should be noted that a significant proportion of this was secured by institutions in East Wales, such as Cardiff University; a strength that could be more fully exploited. *Innovation Wales* also recognises that Wales needs to play a bigger role in the wider UK and European innovation system; Wales is identified an Innovation Follower[6] which is a strength in the EU context, but a challenge in relation to the best performers in the UK and across Europe.
7. **Barriers to accessing competitive funding** relate to capacity and capability of existing institutions within Wales in terms of facilities, equipment, excellence of research and researchers, and lack of previous success. Other barriers include a lack of: finance and technical expertise to prepare bids; horizon scanning; and international partners / networks.

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8. As competitive funds are secured and partnerships develop a key aim should be the **creation of clusters**, building on existing strengths, which bring together researcher institutions with both large and small businesses[7]. The demonstration of research excellence can attract business investments, which is where the transformational change in this area can be delivered. This is not a rapid process, but it is clear progress is being made in Wales with increased industrial collaborations and increasing private investment in RD&I in Wales.
9. **Private sector investment in research** in Wales fluctuates subject to investment programmes of a small number of businesses. Overall, private sector investment in research in Wales has been increasing (both cash value and as a percentage of Welsh GVA). Wales does not have many research intensive companies with research centres in Wales and successful clusters across the EU often have large research intensive companies, helping to support diverse supply chains[8]. There are signs of this changing as clusters in key sectors are being developed and will be strengthened through the National Research Networks.
10. A small number of significant investments in **R&D infrastructure** were made under the 2007-2013 ERDF programme[9], increasing the availability of facilities suitable for highly specialised research as well as business incubation by 10,000 square meters. This Priority will seek to increase the specialised research infrastructure only where this can clearly demonstrate that it will increase the capacity and capability to undertake world class research, encourage inward investment and develop existing and emerging capability[10]. Investments in R&D infrastructure are supported by the ERDF on condition that they are in line with the smart specialisation strategy and that the research results be applied for the economic development of the region.
11. Welsh businesses report a relatively high involvement in **innovative activities** compared to other parts of the UK[11], but it is recognised that there is a need to develop a better understanding of our strengths in innovation to achieve genuine Smart Specialisation[12].
12. The UK Innovation Survey[13] reported that the overall proportion of **innovation-active businesses cooperating with universities** in the UK is only 15%, although HEBCIS data[14] indicates a well developed and effective knowledge transfer system between HE and business. This suggests room for further improvements in cooperation, in particular with a view to commercialisation. This is particularly true given *Innovation Wales* recognises that pockets of world class expertise exist in academia in areas with commercial potential, although lacking in global scale and an opportunity to build on existing best practise in the commercialisation of R&D.
13. Significant barriers to the **commercialisation of R&D** remain. Science for Wales recognises the world-class science undertaken in Wales, particularly in the Grand Challenge areas, but also found
    - "*frequently SMEs and individuals have considerable difficulty being able to demonstrate to potential funders the proof of concept for the idea, technique or [product] that they want to develop [and] It is often necessary to demonstrate experience and competence by a proof of concept study for… competitive calls.* "

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14. The ERDF regulations require a focus on the **transition to a low Carbon economy** and, as one of the three Grand Challenge areas identified in the Welsh Smart Specialisation strategy, it offers a particular opportunity in Wales, particularly given emerging expertise in key specialisation areas. The Welsh Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector was estimated to be worth over £5.5bn in sales in 2010/11, employing well over 40,000 people. The sector is expected to continue growing[15], and there is some existing expertise in a range of related areas highlighted in the Welsh Smart Specialisation approach[16]. Wales benefits from significant academic expertise in developing and integrating low-Carbon technologies, for example in the Sustainable Buildings Envelope Centre in Flintshire (East Wales).
15. **Renewable energy technologies** (e.g. on and off shore wind, photovoltaic, biomass, etc) are already more mature and are key growth sectors (for example there are now a number of off-shore wind arrays across the Welsh coast). To realise benefits of these and other major investments in the programme area consideration needs to be given as to whether investment can be made in helping to capture new manufacturing, operation and maintenance opportunities in the programme area, for example through research and innovation to lower costs in deployment and maintenance and to demonstrate newer and more innovative technologies.
16. This priority is expected to work in close cooperation with the delivery of *Science for Wales* and *Innovation Wales*, which are seeking to address **a number of additional challenges in the Welsh economy**. For example, to address challenges related to capacity in fundamental research and attracting world class research teams, the *Ser Cymru* programme (a key part of *Science for Wales*) is developing that world class research excellence by bringing world-class research teams to Wales. Innovation in the public sector, in particular innovation in the use of significant public sector budgets, is being addressed through the delivery of *Innovation Wales* which has a particular emphasis on innovation through public sector procurement. There are also initiatives planned to use the Welsh public sector as a test-bed for innovation, in particular social innovation. More efforts are also being made to attract additional funding sources to Wales to support research and innovation goals (e.g. Horizon 2020, UK Research Councils, Technology and Strategy Board), including by encouraging and supporting Welsh stakeholders to access those funding sources.

3. **Priority Axis 2: SME Competitiveness**
    1. A high level analysis and summary of key needs and opportunities leading to the selection of this Priority Axis is set out in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.
    2. This Priority will promote entrepreneurship and business **start-ups** and help SMEs to improve their competitiveness through **growth in the size of businesses** and support an **increase in productivity** through a range of measures, with specific actions to support the take-up and exploitation of Next Generation Broadband in Wales. Employment growth and productivity growth are complementary but sometimes contradictory elements of SME competitiveness. Productivity growth is essential for competitiveness, but can lead to reductions in the number of employees within a business as processes improve. Growth in the size of businesses

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supports long-term employment, but only where the growing business is doing so sustainably and is genuinely competitive.

3. **Barriers and tipping points** to business growth include concerns over regulation and legislation and negotiating transactions such as breaking through a tax threshold, needed to become an incorporated business, employing staff, and entering a new market[17]. This suggests that tailored support is needed to address these barriers, for example access to finance and business support targeted at the key stages of business growth (e.g. creation, export and expansion), with particular emphasis on the role of broadband and associated ICT exploitation in helping promote productivity growth.
4. The Partnership Agreement set out the issues relating to **access to finance for both starting and expanding businesses**, and data from the 2012 Small Business Survey[18] also suggests that SMEs in Wales are more likely to experience difficulties in gaining finance than SMEs across the UK as a whole[19]. Furthermore, micro enterprises are more likely to report difficulties in gaining finance than small and medium-sized ones.[20] The **Ex Ante Assessment for the use of Financial Instruments** has found evidence of market gaps in the provision of microloans, SME debt finance, finance for social enterprises, and risk capital and a Financial Instrument will be developed to address these gaps[21]. The Welsh Government is also reviewing available financial support for SMEs and the ex-ante assessment informing ERDF funding will need to take account of and be coordinated with any changes resulting from that process, including the potential for closer links between finance and wider business support[22].
5. *Innovation Wales* recognises that **innovative activity** in Wales is constrained by a lack of private development finance. A culture of innovation is one of the features of high growth firms[23], indicating that targeting of innovative firms and supporting innovation through risk capital might be a useful mechanism to specifically support those SMEs.

6. The **business birth rate** in Wales in 2012 was 2.0 percentage points below that for the UK as a whole[24] and one of the main barriers to the creation of new SMEs is access to business advice and guidance[25]. In addition levels of entrepreneurship in Wales on average underperform those in the UK[26]. Although early stage entrepreneurial activity in Wales rose through the recession, tracking the UK average, as with the other home nations, 2013 saw a decline in levels of entrepreneurial activity and start-up intention in Wales with a significant decrease in activity rates amongst 18-29 year olds, possibly as a result of improving economic conditions contributing to less reliance on self-employment as a source of employment[27]. Women remain under-represented in early-stage entrepreneurial activity in Wales and across the UK as a whole[28]. Start-up support schemes in Wales have demonstrated some success in removing barriers to entrepreneurship[29].
7. Research recognises productivity is a key driver of economic growth[30], but that rapid and significant growth is achieved by relatively few businesses[31]. For example, Global Entrepreneurship Monitor data suggest that 10% of emerging entrepreneurs expect to create 70% of all job creation forecast by their cohort[32]. It is very difficult to identify those **growth businesses**, especially when they are first formed; however

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there is evidence[33] that the growth intentions of businesses have a large effect on whether they will indeed grow. High growth businesses, while small in number and notoriously difficult to identify, remain key to driving productivity across the board and in increasing jobs. The UK compares well internationally in its percentage of high growth businesses, 5.8% against US (c. 5%) and Italy (3%) and there are therefore clearly significant potential benefits in **targeting growth businesses**. Wales has some previous success with high growth firms, having the highest proportion of high growth firms of any region in the UK between 2002 and 2005 (though this position has subsequently fallen)[34].

8. Research[35] confirms that SMEs have a number of concerns relating to the seeking of **advice and information** which point towards some of the market failures in this area. The concerns particularly relate to the expense and time involved with taking up formal business assistance, not being able to trust external advisors, or concerns about whether they would understand the business, and confidence in being able to access appropriate assistance.
9. **New market entry** is one of the key points and barriers to business growth[36] . Export figures in Wales are below the UK average and dominated by a small number of large companies[37]. The Welsh Government has recognised that significant opportunities also lie within supply chains, from procurement opportunities and in links with anchor companies[38]. This in turn can help build capacity for access to national and international supply chains and procurement opportunities. Since 1999 there has been a 105% increase in Welsh exports (UK average 79%)[39]. The majority of growth is demonstrated in markets outside of the EU reflecting both the weakness of the EU economy and the potential for growth in emerging markets. This suggests the internationalisation of Welsh SMEs can be encouraged through both domestic and international supply chain development, including seeking new markets.
10. Domestic markets are also important sources of growth opportunities for SMEs, in particular through **procurement opportunities**. For example the public sector across the UK spends £150 billion a year and the Welsh public sector £4.3 billion a year. Businesses successful in domestic procurement should find fewer capacity barriers to export markets and international procurement opportunities (e.g. through OJEU).
11. The importance of **ICT and the digital economy** to productivity growth set out in the Partnership Agreement needs to be reflected in the support offered to SMEs. There is a need to ensure that SMEs take advantage of significant ICT infrastructure and capacity investments[40]. Evidence exists of positive economic impact of broadband but with benefits dependent on managerial culture and skills[41]. Furthermore, research suggests that the impact of broadband does not happen in isolation and that complementary technologies, products, services and skills are also important[42]. Although the UK performs well against many indicators of ICT exploitation, one study has indicated that UK SMEs lag behind their international peers in the digitisation of some back office functions, suggesting that there may be a need for support in this area[43].
12. Wales performs similarly to the rest of the UK on indicators of business exploitation of ICT, with figures from the 2012 Small Business Survey showing that 69% of SME Employers in Wales (i.e. all SMEs excluding those with no employees) had a business website, compared with 71%

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across the UK as a whole[44]. Of those SME Employers in Wales with internet access, 43% sell goods and services through a website (compared with 41% in the UK as a whole) and 67% promote their goods and services through a website (compared with 70% in the UK as a whole). However, in a survey of SMEs undertaken by Ofcom, 36% of SMEs in Wales reported that they did not have confidence in their ability to identify which new communications products or services would be valuable for their organisation, suggesting a need for interventions targeted at businesses and individuals[45].

13. In terms of the economic impact of *faster* broadband, research has identified 'cloud computing' as one of the primary routes through which faster broadband is predicted to have an economic impact[46]. In the Ofcom SME survey, 23% of SMEs in Wales reported the use of cloud services[47]. In a survey of businesses across the EU 81% of businesses that were already using cloud services reported lower IT costs as a result of adoption of cloud computing[48]. However, barriers to more extensive cloud adoption amongst businesses include concerns over legal jurisdiction and data location issues and security and data protection regulations, uncertain trust in suppliers and lack of guaranteed data access and portability between cloud systems[49]. Some of these concerns link to wider concerns over e-crime so interventions to promote SME exploitation of ICT should be sensitive to the fact that e-crime and the fear of e-crime represent a significant barrier to business adoption of ICT. In the Ofcom SME survey, 35% of SMEs in Wales indicated that they have security concerns related to communications services[50]. Estimates for the cost of e-crime suggest it could cost the UK economy around £27 billion every year[51].
14. There are around 3,000 organisations carrying out **social enterprise** activity in Wales with a combined turnover of £2.2 billion (07/08 estimate)[52]. Welsh social enterprises operate in most industries across Wales, though the majority are involved in training and education, arts and Welsh language, business support, health and social care, and sports; the same research noted social enterprises in Wales seek specialist advice and support to become better businesses[53].
15. **Energy consumption** in Wales is nearly 30% higher than the average across Great Britain[54], largely accounted for by industry and reflecting a larger proportion of more energy intensive businesses such as manufacturing in Wales. Challenges and opportunities related to increased energy efficiency of businesses are relevant to all sectors, however, given the need to address targets for the reductions of emissions and the increasing costs associated with energy. In addition to being able to contribute to energy efficiency targets (complementing initiatives under Priority Axis 3) there are significant benefits related to improved energy efficiency for individual businesses. The increasing energy costs in the UK are a barrier to the competitiveness of Welsh businesses, and in particular for those that are more energy intensive. While those most energy intensive of businesses have strong incentives to pursue energy efficiency goals, supported through capital investment, medium and lower energy intensive businesses do not and need support to do so.
16. There are also significant opportunities to improve the competitiveness of SMEs through greater **resource efficiency** beyond solely energy consumption, which can also have positive environmental impacts. The

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Waste & Recycling Action Plan estimates that UK businesses could save £23 billion per year by improving the way they use resources, and suggests waste and poor resource efficiency could cost businesses as much as 4% of turnover[55] Improved resource efficiency can therefore help boost productivity, in turn helping to support growth and jobs

17. A range of barriers affect the uptake of **energy and resource efficiency** measures in businesses, particularly SMEs, including it being a low priority, lacking expertise, lacking capital, and no compelling case given perceived long payback periods[56]. Given that around 55% of delivered energy use in the public and commercial sector is in SMEs[57] there is potentially a significant opportunity being lost because of a lack of incentive for less energy intensive businesses, and this not being addressed through loan schemes with lengthy payback periods.

4. **Priority Axis 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**
    1. A high level analysis and summary of key needs and opportunities leading to the selection of this Priority Axis is set out in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.
    2. Green Growth and the transition to a low-Carbon economy represents a key opportunity to support both jobs and business across Wales; particularly given an abundance of natural resources and assets, a good research base, strong endogenous technical expertise and key energy infrastructure (including substantial National Grid transmission capacity[58]) in place. *Energy Wales* sets out the Welsh strategy for coordinating action, and existing capability will be strengthened through clusters within three Enterprise Zones. The Research and Innovation Priority Axis sets out how related support will be available for research and innovation in the low carbon field.
    3. Wales' significant natural resources[59] and assets indicate major **growth potential in renewable energy generation** in the long term. The opportunities for the more developed sectors are mostly around Research and Innovation to further develop technologies (e.g. wind and solar), perhaps seeking to attract finance from some of the already well established market leaders outside of the programme area.
    4. Wales has key assets important to the emerging **marine energy sector** where there is still an opportunity to capture greater market share and realise more benefits within the programme area, attracting investment into the programme area. Wales also has key infrastructure assets providing advantages over other territories investing in this area such as: deep ports; well connected transmission and distribution grids; research expertise in businesses and universities; and employers with skilled workforces that can take advantage of supply chain opportunities.
    5. The UK Energy and Climate Change Select Committee[60] reported that the **marine renewables industry** (tidal and wave) could be worth £3.7billion to the UK by 2020 and RenewableUK suggests the marine energy industry (tidal and wave) is forecast to be worth £6.1 billion to the UK economy by 2035, creating nearly 20,000 jobs (not including export opportunities)[61]. Given Wales' comparative advantages there is the potential to become a significant market player in this area[62], albeit in a nascent market. Some private investment in **marine energy** in Wales is emerging[63], but much more investment is needed to demonstrate commercial viability of emerging technology solutions, in particular

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through larger scale tests if we are to see benefits realisation in the programme area (e.g. R&D, manufacture, operation and maintenance).

6. The marine energy sector was highlighted in the European Commission's **Blue Growth** Strategy as one of five developing areas in the 'blue economy' that could help drive job creation in coastal areas. Other Commission initiatives, such as the Communication on Energy Technologies and Innovation and the Atlantic Action Plan[62a], have recognised the importance of ocean energy and aim to encourage collaborative research and development and cross-border cooperation to boost its development. Furthermore, the Commission's Communication on Blue Energy considers the potential of the ocean energy sector to contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.
7. **Tidal and wave** technology is only just reaching testing phases, but getting closer to commercialisation, indicating a wider potential need for investment (e.g. infrastructure, R&D&I, demonstration of working models to make schemes more attractive to potential investors[64]). Emerging clusters in North Wales and South West Wales offer specific opportunities to develop the marine energy sector in a targeted way. To retain and develop existing businesses, as well as attract new businesses, we need to ensure these clusters are not hampered through a lack of viable and consented test sites, connectivity and capacity to demonstrate technology.

8. As at 31 December 2011 the installed capacity of sites generating electricity from renewable sources in Wales was 929.4 MW[65]. **Small scale energy schemes** can make a contribution to reducing carbon emissions and stimulating local economic growth (for example a cooperative community model will allow money to be reinvested in other community schemes[66]). Access to finance is good (albeit fragmented) for viable small-scale schemes, but there is a need to de-risk the early stage development of proposals before they can attract finance. The ex-ante assessment to inform potential Financial Instruments in Wales for 2014-2020[67] and findings to date from Ynni'r Fro (community energy scheme funded through ERDF) suggest that large capital finance is not the main barrier to local and community schemes; indeed there is a relatively crowded market for finance for this activity. There remains a need, however, for advice and guidance for groups to address those barriers prior to reaching consent (and therefore having a financially viable proposition).
9. A number of mature technologies are available to support small scale and community scale low Carbon initiatives (e.g. wind, solar PV, hydro) but the adoption of such technology is expensive and not as widespread as it could be due to uncertainty caused by early stage and planning activity raising questions over commercial viability and benefits. There is a need to demonstrate viability on small scale / community scale and to support measures to speed up the process to help lever additional private resource into these models.
10. There is a need to address the poor **energy efficiency of much of the housing** stock in Wales. Wales' housing stock has poor energy efficiency in comparison with the rest of Europe[68], households account for 29% of final energy use in the UK[69], and many households in Wales face issues of fuel poverty[70]. The heating of rooms is by far the highest source of energy consumption in the household sector[71]. The sheer scale of the

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challenge dwarfs the available funding and there will be a need to target resources while not missing opportunities for economies of scale or flexible support. There is a need for intervention for those households with lower incomes or facing issues of deprivation, in particular where the incentive to invest in energy efficiency measures (for example through the Green Deal) is less clear as they don't benefit from reduced energy bills directly, have poor credit history, or lack finance for associated upfront costs. Investing in energy efficiency will not only enable cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but will create business and employment opportunities for local labour.

11. Economies of scale will be sought at the same time as targeting based on those in most need and consistent with the Welsh Government central organising principle of sustainable development (an integrated approach seeking economic, social and environmental outcomes). Promoting and supporting behaviour change should be integral to all investments, given the key role behaviour plays in the sustainable use of energy. The areas most affected by fuel poverty in Wales tend to be areas identified as suffering from multiple issues of deprivation, as well as the more rural and peripheral areas (where there is a greater dependence on other sources of fuel such as oil)[72]. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation therefore offers a potential method for helping to target energy efficiency in housing measures to specific communities where the greatest impact can be achieved.
12. Careful attention will need to be given to any ERDF support for energy efficiency in housing aimed at addressing issues of fuel poverty to avoid duplication with existing schemes and initiatives, in particular any legislative changes introduced during the programme period. Targeting based on fuel poverty and areas of deprivation should help mitigate this as those involve households not able or willing to participate in the available loan schemes.
13. Wales has developed a comprehensive **energy efficiency supply chain** to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the promotion of energy efficiency in housing (for example over 80% of the businesses that delivered phase 1 of Arbed operated primarily, or solely, in Wales). These businesses should be in a position to help deliver wider schemes, such as the Green Deal across the UK and significant opportunities to access Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding. There are therefore significant opportunities for the Welsh supply chain that could be maximised through complementary investment (for example by addressing barriers to accessing new markets – such as accreditation or collaboration to build consortia to access procurement opportunities – through the SME Competitiveness priority) in the supply side to take advantage of the opportunities in the design, manufacture, distribution, installation and maintenance of domestic energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies.

5. **Priority Axis 4: Connectivity and Urban Development**
    1. The UK Partnership Agreements sets out the importance of investment in connectivity and urban development, in particular for the lagging and more peripheral parts of the UK. The Welsh chapter highlights how peripherality and the lack of agglomeration effects from large urban centres is a key component of the productivity gap in Wales. The UK Chapter also emphasises the importance attached to this type of

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investment across the world and how the UK is lagging in a number of areas. The **UK Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs)** are also highlighted in the UK Partnership Agreement, with a focus on addressing key infrastructure bottlenecks one of the key recommendations for action, and ESI funds are recognised in the ESI fund regulations as important tools to help deliver against the CSRs. While the UK is taking action, those prioritised investments are in the more central areas with the majority of UK Government funding directed in and around London, where there greatest economic gains can be made.

2. The OECD has recognised in a recent report the importance of investing in infrastructure[73], and the World Economic Forum has also noted the importance and benefits of infrastructure investment[74]. The evidence in favour of investment is significant and there are clear indications that regions such as Wales, with structural and geographical challenges but many of the other preconditions for growth, is a region that can gain real benefits from such infrastructure investment.
3. In its Programme for Government the Welsh Government acknowledges that its interventions can only impact significantly on the Welsh economy in the longer-term. Evidence shows that **investment in connectivity and enabling infrastructure** is one of the two most important 'levers' (in addition to investment in skills development) through which the Welsh Government can help to achieve transformational economic change[75]. A '*Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan*' (WIIP) has therefore been created to prioritise, scope, and coordinate delivery of major infrastructure investments over a 10 year period and will help identify areas in which there are investment opportunities.
4. Investment to improve connectivity is an **essential pre-requisite for the long-term success of all other ESI funds and all other ERDF Priority Axes**. A well functioning transport system helps people to access work, increases the forces of competition, promotes greater efficiency, and increases the likelihood of co-location and clustering[76]. Without improvements to connectivity, all other ESI investments helping businesses to grow or improving the skills and employability of the workforce in West Wales and the Valleys may simply result in that that added value migrating out of the programme area and closer to the key urban centres of Cardiff or in England. For example investments in Marine energy will be in peripheral areas; if connectivity to those areas are not improved opportunities for co-located R&D, prototyping, construction and manufacture may be lost to more accessible areas. We want to see the benefits of ESI investments made in people and businesses in West Wales and the Valleys stay in West Wales and the Valleys – but to achieve this we need to urgently improve the connectivity of the region. The Welsh Government is prioritising this investment, but as much finance as possible needs to be mobilised to these objectives and the ERDF can still make a valuable contribution.
5. Improving **transport infrastructure can lead to greater competition** for local businesses and while this may adversely affect local uncompetitive businesses in the short-term, in the long term it will improve the competitiveness, productivity and wages in SMEs in the region. Protection of uncompetitive businesses should not be a reason to avoid improving connectivity if we are serious about supporting the development of a competitive and outward looking economy which trades internationally.

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Effective investment in connectivity should help to both retain existing competitive businesses and specialist skills and attract new businesses and skilled workers to the region. Measures tackling poverty through improving employability under the ESF need to be supported through sustainable employment growth in those areas, and that is only possible if the right physical environment exists to sustain businesses and supply labour.

6. A key benefit of improved connectivity is allowing more people to access a wider range of jobs and for a wider labour market available to businesses. **Travel to work areas in Wales** have been growing in size (and reducing in number) as people travelling further and further for work with less short journeys and more longer ones[77]. **Commuting patterns** in Wales indicate significant flows across Local Authority boundaries and there are multiple employment centres across Wales[78]. Despite the peripheral nature of the West of Wales, those most westerly Local Authorities (e.g. Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire) are the only territories except Swansea and Cardiff to demonstrate a net inflow of commuters[79]. This suggests a potential focus for investment within the two City Regions and in the Westerly parts of the TEN-T networks in Wales.
7. Despite the polycentricity noted in the two Welsh City Regions, with commuting across the whole region, those areas demonstrate much higher uses of low carbon transport (e.g. 22% of commuters in Cardiff City Region use rail, bus, walking, cycling or other means of transport) than other parts of Wales. Compared to other City regions with well connected public transport there is the potential to increase this for those City regions (given expected growth and limited capacity)[80].
8. Commuting flows are particularly pronounced around the two **City regions** in Wales (Cardiff / Newport and Swansea) with significant flows between Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys regions[81]. Significant improvements in sustainable transport and better connectivity would enable the regions to properly exploit the potential for agglomeration effects noted in other city regions across the UK and Europe. Expected continuing increases in commuting can only be achieved sustainably through investing in the effectiveness, viability and affordability of genuine alternatives to private travel. There are also opportunities to increase the volume of freight travelling by more sustainable means (e.g. rail) at the same time as improving labour market mobility.
9. **Transport barriers to accessing employment** are still a big problem across Wales, with respondents to the 2011 Wales ESF Leavers Survey[82] who were out of work prior to their participation cited a perceived lack of appropriate jobs in the area where they lived (65%), and transport difficulties / barriers associated with accessing appropriate work (23%) amongst the key barriers to accessing work.
10. In particular lower skilled workers have lower levels of access to private transport[83], less spatial mobility, and therefore fewer opportunities to access jobs in locations less accessible by public transport[84] (and lower skilled jobs are increasingly dispersing out of urban centres[85]). Lower skilled workers therefore need **well functioning public transport** to access employment opportunities.
11. **Use of public transport has increased** in Wales, particularly in larger urban areas where it offers a viable alternative to private travel. The use of

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the rail system in particular has increased sharply, both in terms of numbers of scheduled services that are run, and in terms of passenger numbers. There were approximately 28 million rail passenger journeys which either started or ended in Wales in 2011-12; an increase of 3 per cent compared to the previous year. Cardiff was the destination of almost two-fifths (39 per cent) of rail passenger journeys within Wales[86]. There are still particular barriers associated with public transport in those urban areas with capacity constraints emerging[87] and a lack of service or regularity of service preventing modal shift for those travelling into congested urban areas by private vehicle. For example, while 91% of people over 16 are within 15 minutes drive time to a key centre, only 26% have the same level of accessibility by public transport, rising to just 68% in 30 minutes – the same as by cycling[88].

12. Particular issues that could be priority investments for public transport through the ERDF might therefore be in **addressing capacity constraints to key urban centres, in particular where modal shift can be supported**. Particular emphasis could be placed on increasing services (either new services or more regular easier to access services) to increase the attractiveness of public transport and support a modal shift, thereby reducing congestion associated with road transport in those areas. This would need to be complemented through activity to stimulate demand, de-incentivise road travel and remove barriers (e.g. smart ticketing). Innovative solutions to address particular geographical handicaps in the region (e.g. difficulty travelling between the Valleys areas in South Wales) should also be considered (e.g. multimodal solutions). The EU's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans[89] set out good practice in addressing these challenges and Intelligent Transport Systems[90] also have a key role to play, applying information and communication technologies to transport to make it more efficient, clean, safe and seamless.
13. Use of **private vehicles, however, remains the main commuting method** in Wales with 8 out of 10 journeys to work made by car (the highest proportion of people travelling to work by car of any region or country within Great Britain)[91]. Car use is particularly important in the more peripheral and sparsely populated areas of Wales, where there is less availability of public transport (placing a greater reliance on bus routes). Road travel is therefore essential in these areas where commuting often takes place over even larger distances than are seen around large urban centres. In terms of access to employment and travel for business, the reliability of travel time is of a particular concern[92]. Poor quality roads coupled with an increase in private travel is leading to congestion pinch points on the TEN-T network in particular the Western sections of the A40 and A55 (which also provide important connections to ports on the TEN-T network and key Enterprise Zone employment sites in Anglesey and the Haven Waterway) where the main TEN-T routes contain constrains in having single carriageway, lack of overtaking places, and still contain multiple roundabouts. These all lead to congestion and bottlenecks in normal rush-hour traffic, and are particularly sensitive to any incidents which can create significant problems.
14. Any investment using ERDF to address pinch points on TEN-T routes, particularly roads, should not be done in isolation. To maximise the impact of other ERDF investments and other investments using ESI funds, **any ERDF transport investment will need to be part of an integrated**

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package of investments. In this way a critical mass of investment can be achieved creating a greater cumulative impact. For example an investment to improve the lowest quality section of the A55 should complement planned investments in the nearby Anglesey Enterprise Zone; or an investment in the South Wales Metro Area should add value to ERDF and ESF investments being made in the Valleys areas as well as taking advantage of major UK investment in electrification of the main railway line to Swansea.

15. Annual reporting on the National Transport Plan shows that transport in Wales accounts for an increasing proportion of **GHG emissions** (increase from 12.2% to 16.3% between 1990 and 2011). Cars represented 9 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions for Wales in 2011. Road transport produces the vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. In 1990, 91 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector were from road transport; by 2011 this had marginally increased to 92 per cent. All this suggests more investment is needed to both promote greener alternatives to car travel, but also to improve the efficiency and emissions relating to private travel, for example through addressing bottlenecks in the network, improving the reliability of travel and reducing congestion.
16. Research has found evidence of a positive economic impact of **broadband,** including that generated through the construction process, but also through productivity growth via enhanced business innovation, increased international trade and more opportunities for teleworking, enabling more productive use of some workers' time [93]. There are fewer studies currently available on *faster* broadband but those available mostly point to a positive incremental effect, with cloud computing identified as one of the primary routes through which faster broadband is predicted to have an economic impact[94]. However, a study undertaken for the European Commission found that slow connectivity was a constraint to cloud adoption amongst SMEs[95].
17. In June 2014, 78% of UK premises were able to receive fixed broadband services over NGA networks (speed of up to 30Mbit/s or higher)[96]. **Wales had the lowest availability of NGA broadband services among the UK nations**, with 58% of premises being able to receive such services, although this was an increase of more than ten percentage points compared to June 2013. Across the other UK nations this proportion ranged from 64% in Scotland to 95% to in Northern Ireland, with 80% of premises in England being within NGA network footprints[97]. The market failure in Wales, which includes a wide range of urban areas, is a combination of the geography and a larger number of less affluent areas; areas traditionally less likely to take up higher speeds connections and therefore less likely to feature in private sector ICT infrastructure investment plans. This means those areas lose out on the significant benefits arising from this investment (for example the Digital Agenda for Europe suggests that a 10% increase in broadband penetration can raise GDP by 1%-1.5%[98]).
18. The importance of ensuring the benefits of ICT infrastructure are not just localised in already economically strong areas highlights the vital role of a direct link to exploitation measures to ensure take-up and exploitation by indigenous SMEs, as noted earlier in this strategy. It can be seen across Europe that **take-up of NGA services generally follows availability**; this

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trend is also clear in the UK with Northern Ireland having excellent coverage of NGA networks and also having the highest take up rates of that technology (and rising fast). There is a need to ensure exploitation measures are incorporated in digital planning, but there still remains significant investment needs to address market failure to meet the Digital Agenda for Europe targets.

19. The changes to the commercial footprint and market in Wales led to an **Open Market Review being carried out in February 2014**[99]. This sought to identify areas where the existing and planned coverage of next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) would not be met through either the Superfast Cymru programme (which runs until 2016 and includes ERDF, private and public investment) or other planned commercial rollout. This is expected to include around 45,000 premises (approximately 4% of Welsh premises in total); however, excluding the most difficult to reach and most rural premises would lead to a focus for investment addressing the white areas covering around 39,000 premises. Part of this investment cost can be met through UK Government funding allocated for this purpose, but there will remain a funding gap. This will be known as Superfast Cymru Infill Phase 1.
20. Following the completion of the Superfast Cymru NGA Broadband project and the Superfast Cymru Infill Phase 1 project in 2016 there is expected to be a further 30,000 to 45,000 premises not passed (approximately 3-4% of total premises). It is not possible to pre-empt the Open Market Review that will need to be undertaken to identify any remaining white areas in the second half of 2016, though it is anticipated they will include a mix of different territories (urban, peri-urban and rural). Given significant previous commitments, it is hoped that further UK and Welsh Government funding will be made available to help address these remaining market failures, but – in order to extend this as far as possible to help **meet the Digital Agenda for Europe target of full coverage by 2020**[100] – the use of a combination of ERDF and EAFRD will be required. Costs are expected to be higher per premises, though remaining urban and peri-urban areas will be prioritised for ERDF support. The combination of investment, alongside continued private investment, should help to achieve near-full coverage of NGB in Wales by 2020.
21. Investment in ICT infrastructure has the potential to improve the connectivity of the programme area and to underpin innovation, and the wide-scale application, commercialisation and exploitation of digital technologies by Welsh businesses, and particularly the ICT and Creative Industries sectors. This is particularly true for **ultrafast broadband (100Mbps and above)** and it is anticipated that specific provision targeted at SMEs (e.g. voucher scheme) can seek to extend the uptake towards the target in the Digital Agenda for Europe of 50% of the EU to be subscribed to broadband above 100 Mbps by 2020.
22. As well seeking to prevent disparities there are significant opportunities to take a lead in seeking to attract and retain key businesses requiring ultrafast connectivity solutions (100Mbps and above). Larger businesses, businesses requiring upload speeds which match their download speeds (so called Symmetric services), and enterprises who need to connect securely from one site to another will need more tailored ICT connectivity

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and there is an opportunity to capture and retain these businesses in **strategic sites**.

23. Welsh labour market statistics are examined in detail in the socioeconomic analysis and as part of the ESF programmes more generally, with Wales lagging the UK, and WW&V lagging Wales. There are significant variances in employment rates and the reasons for those variances in rates differ across Local Authorities in Wales. In order to support **employment friendly growth** across Wales a range of different factors need to come together. Some of these are addressed in complementary parts of the ESI programmes for Wales (e.g. transport connectivity, skills, employability, etc.) and others more generally by Government (e.g. education, public services, etc.).
24. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation[101] highlights those local authorities performing worst in the employment domain are Merthyr Tydfil (33.3% of its Low Super-Output Areas in the most deprived 10% in Wales) and Blaenau Gwent (31.9%), though again pockets of deprivation exist in the wealthiest of Local Authority areas. More generally lower skilled jobs are moving out of cities and higher skilled jobs are becoming more concentrated in urban areas. These patterns need to be better captured and exploited in the design of **integrated support for specific geographical regions**. A study that assessed the impact of area-based regeneration policies found that accessible and meaningful levels of funding are an essential component of regeneration. The level of funding must enable physical renewal as well as community engagement[102], and experience has shown the driver for these regeneration outcomes is key investments in infrastructure in places (e.g. sites and premises, developing a tourism asset, improving access, a centre of excellence).
25. A review of economic evidence has indicated that "*physical regeneration that is intended to address market failure is most likely to be successful when the other elements necessary for economic success are present, and that success should become self-sustaining (and for this reason the intervention should be time-limited)*"[103]. The Centre for Regeneration Excellence Wales[104] also recognises that, generally, public sector financial resources have been allocated as a response to need (as distinct from a market response to demand and to 'opportunity'); arguing that regeneration should encapsulate both a response to need and to opportunity.
26. A key lesson learned from the New Deal for Communities ('NDC') Programme, an area-based initiative in England is that **regeneration agencies need flexibility** to set targets which meet local needs and circumstances[105]. This is reflected in Vibrant and Viable Places, the Welsh Government regeneration framework which seeks to encourage a greater prioritisation on a limited number of growth opportunities driven by analysis rather than central targets. This prioritisation is also a central theme for these programmes and infrastructure-led schemes will be sought from partners that offer the greatest opportunity for employment growth across an entire region whilst incorporating all elements of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social outcomes).

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1.1.2 A justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities having regard to the partnership agreement, based on an identification of regional and, where appropriate, national needs including the need to address the challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and the relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) TFEU, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest	• Commission position paper (CPP) highlights stagnation in UK R&I investment undermining competitiveness. • Long way off EU2020 target and slow progress highlighted in NRP • Priority areas identified in Smart Specialisation Strategy as areas of opportunity • Areas of existing and emerging international excellence to build on, including in low carbon fields

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	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	• CPP highlights potential to create an innovation-friendly business environment, matching R&I business demand with supply • No target for EU2020 but Innovation Union sets out wider ranging objectives which remain issues in Wales • Wales is innovation follower and lack of innovation culture - need for greater levels of innovation across the economy • Need for greater levels of commercialisation of research through supporting emerging clusters and Smart Specialisations • Key to increasing private investment in low-Carbon technologies (only way to address huge gaps in related targets) will be proof-of-concept and demonstration • Proof-of-concept and demonstrating capacity in programme area for design and manufacture essential to capture benefits in programme area
02 - Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy	• Existing investments expected to achieve around 92% coverage of NGA networks (30Mbps). • Challenges identified in Open Market Review to address remaining market failures in order to deliver on the Digital Agenda for Europe target of 100% coverage. • Providing super-fast connectivity (100Mbps)

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		solutions to key businesses across Wales can improve competitiveness and deliver against the Digital Agenda for Europe target of 50% take-up
03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators	• CPP highlights importance of increasing SME competitiveness in the UK (e.g. promoting entrepreneurship, particularly in export-related sectors, and funding financial instruments and business advisory services) • UK CSRs highlight a need to improve the availability of bank and non-bank financing to SMEs • UK NRP highlights work already underway and recognises same issues and opportunities • Lower levels of births, survivals, growth SMEs and access to finance in programme area compared to UK
03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes	• CPP highlights importance of increasing SME competitiveness in the UK (particularly support in export-related sectors) • UK NRP highlights work already underway and recognises same issues and opportunities • Lower levels of births, survivals, growth SMEs and access to finance in programme area compared to UK • Improvements in exports but still significant barriers to

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		growth
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources	• EU2020 target and NRP indicate long way away from targets for renewable energy generation at EU, UK and Wales levels • CPP suggests funds should support an increase in the use of all types of renewable energy looking especially at the potential of innovative technologies • Significant resources and assets in Wales to take advantage of • Size of investment needed suggests focus on encouraging private investment
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector	• EU2020 target and NRP indicate more progress needed to reverse recent decline in energy efficiency targets. • CPP suggests funds should support an increase in the use of all types of renewable energy looking especially at the potential of innovative technologies, and should promote energy efficiency, particularly in buildings • NRP identifies specific issues with energy efficiency of Welsh housing stock • Fuel poverty also major issue across programme area
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban	• UK CSRs suggest that the UK invest to address infrastructure bottlenecks (with transport highlighted as a concern in terms of

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
	mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures	delivery and financing). • Opportunities to improve connectivity to urban centres (e.g. City Regions) and between sustainable transport networks (e.g. rail / bus networks) • ESF leavers survey identifies transport barriers as major barrier to accessing employment
07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T	• UK CSRs suggest that the UK invest to address infrastructure bottlenecks (with transport highlighted as a concern in terms of delivery and financing). • Issues of peripherality and historic lack of investment • Specific bottlenecks in East West corridors in North Wales and South Wales and particularly poor quality TEN-T network in West Wales • Opportunities to increase accessibility and agglomeration effects through investments linking City Regions to each other and centres in England • Opportunities to add value to major planned investments in TEN-T routes in South Wales
08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources	• CSR suggests a need to step up measures to facilitate labour market integration - territorial development of places key to this • Some of the largest regional disparities (differences between economic and labour market indicators) in

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		the EU evident between parts of Wales and London • Regional strategies in development to identify territorial priorities • Welsh Government investing £30 million a year on targeted territorial development

1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Background

1. As set out in Section 2 (Priority Axes) priorities will be constructed in some cases bringing together Investment Priorities from more than one Thematic Objective. The justification for financial allocations set out in this section therefore seek to reflect both the construction of the Priority Axes set out in Section 2, as well as the Thematic Objectives as set out in the regulations.

Priority Axis 1: Research and Innovation

2. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to approximately 24% of all ERDF. All funding relates to a single Thematic Objective:

- **Thematic Objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.**

3. Overall this represents a proportional increase from the 2007-2013 programme, and a significant increase for related activity supporting climate change objectives (as indicated in the indicative allocations by Category of Intervention table). Justification for this allocation is based on:

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- Distance from R&D EU2020 target suggests continuing capacity and capability issues, lower access to competitive funds by Welsh organisations and a lack of large research intensive organisations.

- Need to build on a number of successes in 2007-2013, particularly around focusing on areas of excellence and specialisation for research capacity and taking advantage of a renewed emphasis in Wales (e.g. Science for Wales, *Innovation Wales*, £50m (around €60m) investment in National Research Networks and Sêr Cymru Teams, and new post of Chief Scientific Officer).

- *Innovation Wales* highlights significant challenges around supporting a culture of innovation, requiring a mixed investment approach.

Priority Axis 2: SME Competitiveness

4. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to approximately 18% of all ERDF. Separated by Thematic Objective this equates to:

- **Thematic Objective 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs**. Approximately 90% of the Priority Axis.

- **Thematic Objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.** Approximately 10% of the Priority Axis.

5. The allocation to this Priority Axis represents a broadly similar allocation proportion to the 2007-2013 programme and is based on:

- SMEs representing a key segment of the Welsh economy, but a need to address a lack of competitiveness (particularly lower levels of productivity).

- Access to finance has not improved significantly.

Priority Axis 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

6. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to approximately 15% of all ERDF. The Priority Axis will be delivered by a single Thematic Objective:

- **Thematic Objective 4: Supporting the shift to a low-Carbon economy in all sectors.**

7. This represents a significant increase in comparison to allocations for similar activity under the 2007-2013 programme and, together with the additional allocation for

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Thematic Objective 4 under Priority Axis 4 for sustainable urban transport, exceeds the thematic concentration requirements of 12% total ERDF. The rationale is based on:

- Distances from EU2020 targets on renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Seeking to exceed minimum earmarking requirements for low carbon activity.
- Demand and need for energy efficiency measures outstrips available resource, though a firm commitment from the Welsh Government to continue supporting investment in this area (available match funding).

Priority Axis 4: Connectivity and Urban Development

8. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to approximately 42% of all ERDF. Separated by Thematic Objective this equates to:

- **Thematic Objective 7: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures.** Approximately 21% of the Priority Axis.
- **Thematic Objective 4: Supporting the shift to a low-Carbon economy in all sectors.** Approximately 35% of the Priority Axis.
- **Thematic Objective 2: Enhancing access to and use and quality of ICT.** Approximately 11% of the Priority Axis.
- **Thematic Objective 8: promoting employment and supporting labour mobility.** Approximately 33% of the Priority Axis.

9. This allocation represents a significant fall in comparison to allocations under the 2007-2013 programme[1]. Investments under TO2 and TO4 will contribute to thematic concentration targets, so the total allocations across the programme contributing to thematic concentration will be well within legislative requirements (75% of activity will contribute to thematic concentration, compared to minimum of 50%).

10.The relative size of allocation within a single Priority Axis is justified by the relative cost of investment in these areas over others (fewer projects for more money) and the benefits for strategic policy integration and coordination. Rationale for allocation is based on:

- These investments, alongside skills investments, have been identified as Welsh Government economic development policy priority for public investment in terms

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of supporting jobs and growth; in particular in helping lever subsequent private sector investments.

- Investments are essential for all other ESI investments to ensure retention of businesses and skills in the programme area and to attract new businesses and skilled workers to the area.

- The major investments needed have been identified variously as high priority in the UK CSRs, UK NRP and domestic policy such as the *Programme for Government* and *Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan* and need as much support as possible, though careful targeting will be required to ensure structural funds add the most value possible.

- Transport investments essential to enable the rest of the ESI programmes and to try and capture and retain the benefit of those investments in the programme area, thus reducing increasing economic disparities.

- TO8 to support integrated territorial investments supporting sustainable development and regeneration of places brings together a number of disparate place-based interventions previously spread across the Operational Programme and is justified in seeking genuine integration in planning development of places to improve the attractiveness for businesses. Significant falls in available funding reflects a tighter focus expected on prioritisation within regional or urban economic strategies, aligning with the Sustainable Urban Development approach set out in the regulations and committing more that the 5% suggested ERDF to these activities.

Priority Axis 5: Technical Assistance

11. Allocations for this Priority Axis equate to 2% of all ERDF. This represents an increase of the financial allocation by proportion of the 2007-2013 programmes and is justified based on:

- Strengthening the Managing, Certifying and Audit authority in response to reviews of capacity and capability including findings of audits.

[1] A comparison in June 2013 indicated equivalent projects constituted around 54% of equivalent Priority Axis programme commitment.

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Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the operational programme

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
1	ERDF	301,917,197.00	25.03%	▾ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation ▾ 1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest ▾ 1.1 - To increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding. ▾ 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 ▾ 1.2 - To increase the successful translation of research and innovation processes into new and improved commercial products, processes and services, in particular through improved technology transfer from HEIs.	[1.1, 1.3]
2	ERDF	207,993,404.00	17.24%	▾ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation ▾ 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 ▾ 2.5 - To address market failures in the availability of finance, in particular risk capital, for Welsh SMEs to undertake innovation and commercialise R&D.	[2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5]

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Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
				▾ 03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF) ▾ 3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators ▾ 2.1 - To increase the amount of finance available to SMEs for both business start-up and for business expansion. ▾ 2.2 - To increase the number of SME start-ups through the provision of information, advice and guidance and support for entrepreneurship. ▾ 3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes ▾ 2.3 - To increase the take-up and exploitation of NGA networks and ICT infrastructure by SMEs ▾ 2.4 - To increase the growth of those SMEs with growth potential, in particular through accessing new markets (both domestic and international)	
3	ERDF	170,823,488.00	14.16%	▾ 04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors ▾ 4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources ▾ 3.1 - To increase the number of wave and tidal energy devices being tested in Welsh waters and off the Welsh coast, including multi-device array deployments, thereby establishing Wales as a centre for marine energy production ▾ 3.2 - To increase the number of small scale renewable energy schemes established ▾ 4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector ▾ 3.3 - To increase the energy efficiency of the existing Welsh housing stock, particularly in areas of fuel	[3.1, 3.2, 3.3]

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Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
				poverty	
4	ERDF	501,305,767.00	41.56%	▾ 02 - Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies ▾ 2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy ▾ 4.3 - To contribute to Digital Agenda for Europe targets in Wales for 100% access to next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) and 50% access to 100Mbps ▾ 04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors ▾ 4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures ▾ 4.2 - To increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres. ▾ 07 - Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures ▾ 7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T ▾ 4.1 - To address issues of peripherality and improve private investment in local areas through improvements to the functioning of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). ▾ 08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility ▾ 8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources ▾ 4.4 - To increase employment through investments in prioritised local or regional infrastructure supporting a regional or urban economic strategy	[4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4]

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Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
5	ERDF	24,070,209.00	2.00%	5.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes 5.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations. 5.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.	[TAR1, TAR2, TAR3]

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2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	1
Title of the priority axis	Research and Innovation

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1.This Priority Axis is focused on the development of research, technological development and innovation. While all activity is to be funded under Thematic Objective 1, the Priority Axis will make a specific contribution to climate change objectives, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. This is reflected in the Categories of Intervention and consideration will be given to capturing outputs related directly to low carbon transition activity. 1.This Priority Axis is focused on the development of research, technological development and innovation. While all activity is to be funded under Thematic Objective 1, the Priority Axis will make a specific contribution to climate change objectives, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. This is reflected in the Categories of Intervention and consideration will be given to capturing outputs related directly to low carbon transition activity.

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	Less developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1a
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1.It is proposed to monitor two aspects of the desired results in order to reflect both the long-term structural change being sought and the shorter to medium term impact being sought. 2.As set out in the strategy and the Partnership Agreement the key structural issue is a relative lack of Business Expenditure on R&D (BERD). This is therefore set as a context indicator to retain a focus on the long-term aim and to provide a context for investments. This should ensure all projects are able to demonstrate they are looking at how activity

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	can lever private investment in R&D within the programme area. 3.BERD in Wales in 2012 was £272 million, representing 1.6% of the UK total. The BERD figures fluctuate in Wales subject to the investment programmes of a small number of businesses, but long terms trends are positive with increases in both cash and proportional terms. In 2011 BERD represented nearly 46% of all research expenditure in Wales, though it lags the Lisbon target of two thirds of research to be carried out by the private sector. 4.In order to be able to set a target for a shorter term impact the selected indicator seeks to provide a measure of the research funding coming to Wales (albeit limited to HEI institutions, given limited data availability). A key factor for the location of research-intensive businesses and the development of smart specialisation is the endogenous research capacity in the programme area. This should help demonstrate an improving capacity and capability in key research priority areas, but it should not limit support to HEIs or prohibit support to build capacity of SMEs to access competitive research funding. 5.Data show that research income in West Wales and the Valleys is concentrated on Swansea, Aberystwyth and Bangor; together accounting for 98% of research income in the programme area. This figure is even higher for the more competitive funding (e.g. EU, Central Government or Research Council funds). As a whole the programme area accounts for 43% of the total income across Wales (and Wales accounts for 3.8% of the total UK research income).

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		1.1 - To increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding.						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
1.1	Research income for Higher Education Institutions	£	Less developed	£82.4 Million	2011	10-15%	Higher Education Statistics Agency	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

1.The scope of this Investment Priority provides for specific challenges of innovative and research intensive businesses to be addressed and for specific research infrastructure investments outside of the SME Competitiveness and Infrastructure priorities.

2.The ERDF programme will seek to build the capacity and address other barriers to Welsh research institutions (not just Higher Education Institutions) successfully accessing competitive research funds. A key outcome will be for supported institutions to have the capacity to carry out internationally recognised collaborative research and to be bidding collaboratively for competitive research funding from the UK[1] and the EU, such as Horizon 2020. This will help support the continued development of the Welsh research base, which in turn will help encourage inward investment, business expenditure on research, and the development of research-intensive and innovative clusters. A contribution to the long term goal of an increase in Business Expenditure on Research and Development should be demonstrated for each investment.

3.Research infrastructure has the potential to catalyse the knowledge creation process and facilitate the networking of researchers and stimulate knowledge flows generally. It can act as the catalyst for inward investment, co-location of research-intensive industry, development of supply chains and the exchange and transfer of innovation and knowledge[2]. There are already emerging clusters and existing infrastructure in Wales (including major investments in Grand Challenge areas) that provide a basis on which to build.

4.A small number of significant investments in R&D infrastructure were made under the 2007-2013 ERDF programme[3], increasing the availability of facilities suitable for highly specialised research. This Priority will seek to increase the specialised research infrastructure where this can clearly demonstrate that it will increase the capacity and capability to undertake world class research, encourage inward investment and develop existing and

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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

emerging capability. Investments in R&D infrastructure are supported by the ERDF on condition that they be in line with the smart specialisation strategy and that the research results be applied for the economic development of the region.

5.In order to support the transition to a low-carbon economy through Research and Innovation a range of competitive funds have been put in place to support the development of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and innovations. Welsh research institutions face the same barriers to accessing these sources of competitive funding as they do other Research and Innovation funding so support will be required to address these barriers

6.Types of action to be supported to address key barriers:

- Building research capacity and capability. For example through:
  - centres of excellence
  - supporting cluster development, through infrastructure and supply chain development
  - applied research, development of prototypes
  - collaboration and networks, in particular industrial and international links
  - investment in technology and technology transfer
  - building partnerships
  - increasing interaction and influence with external bodies

- Capacity building to address barriers to accessing competitive research funding. For example to develop more competitive bids, building networks, finding international partners, new ways of working.

- All investments should have a focus on areas with potential for developing or strengthening world-class excellence (e.g. through Smart Specialisation and identified in *Science for Wales*) and should identify links to Sêr Cymru and National Research Networks.

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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

[1] Includes TSB and Research Councils for which budgetary frameworks are available. For example the TSB 2013/14 delivery plan is available at https://www.innovateuk.org/documents/1524978/2138994/Delivery+Plan+-+Financial+year+2013-14/c435471d-222c-4e63-8269-d0f4b2b61c2f

[2] For example a series of case studies of exemplar regions demonstrating smart specialisation, all of which involve the development of clusters around key research infrastructure: *An analysis of the effects of Structural Funds support for Research, Technological Development and Innovation 2000-2010* (2011) available at: http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/pdf/download_en/rkf5th_brochure.pdf. Other evidence of the clustering effects of research infrastructure available from *My Precious! The Location and Diffusion of Scientific Research: Evidence from the Synchrotron Diamond Light Source* (2013), Spatial Economics Research Centre

[3] Institute for Life Sciences 2, Centre for Nanohealth, Arts and Innovation Centre

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

1.Actions supported under this Investment Priority will support the *Innovation Wales*[1] key theme of prioritising and creating critical mass and support the continued development of the Welsh research base, which in turn will help encourage inward investment (both general private sector investments and significant additional Business Expenditure on Research and Development) and the development of research-intensive and innovative clusters.

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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

2.*Science for Wales*[2] will be the key guiding policy for this objective and investments will need to demonstrate they are consistent with the emerging focus on excellence advocated and are complementing activity taking place in the Grand Challenge areas of: Life Sciences and Health; Low carbon, Energy and Environment; Advanced Engineering and Materials; all underpinned by ICT and the Digital Economy. These broadly align with other efforts to prioritise societal challenges, such as those identified as funding priorities for Horizon 2020.

3.Targeting will be expected on each of the grand challenge areas with investments in the Low Carbon Energy and Environment sector expected to contribute to Climate Change targets (with indicative financial allocations set out in the Categories of Intervention table).

4.Projects will be tested on their contribution to the Smart Specialisation strategy (also incorporating *Innovation Wales*) and subject to technical assessment by experts in respective research fields. Projects will be expected to be able to demonstrate a clear route along the 'stairway of excellence' whereby they will be expected to be applying for competitive funds. As part of this projects will be expected to collaborate with international partners, thereby addressing one of the key barriers which impede organisations accessing international research funding. Alignment with the Smart Specialisation strategy is essential for all investments across this Priority Axis.

5. In demonstrating alignment to the Smart Specialisation strategy operations will need to illustrate how they are contributing directly to the indicators and objectives identified in the latest associated Delivery Plans[3]. These Strategies are being delivered in close cooperation and measures are in place to ensure cooperation and coordination in delivery (e.g. use of specialist Advisory Councils with cross-membership to develop priorities, monitor delivery plans and indicators, and coordinate activity).

6.Industrial engagement is essential for the development of internationally successful clusters and an essential component in increasing levels of business expenditure on R&D. Industrial engagement is also increasingly important for attracting competitive research funding. Projects should demonstrate industrial engagement where possible, and proposals involving industrial partners and private investment will be particularly encouraged; especially where they can involve Welsh SMEs or attract SMEs to Wales. All projects should be able to demonstrate how they will support a medium to long-term increase in the levels of Business Expenditure on Research and Development.

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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

7.Research and Innovation are two elements of the "knowledge triangle", with education as a third element. All three will need to work in concert to maximise impact. Research activity could have commercial application for SMEs for instance, and there may be a need to underpin the investment with the skills development of both the researchers and individuals in SMEs. Projects that consider and combine elements of all three pillars will be encouraged. As a minimum projects will need to be coordinated with one another across this Priority and with the rest of the ERDF and ESF programmes (in particular skills elements of the ESF). The possibility of joint investments should be explored. Links to wider investment programmes will also be sought where possible and appropriate (see Section 8).

8.The programme will support the European Research Area key priorities[4] of enabling: more effective national research systems; optimal transnational co-operation and competition; an open labour market for researchers; gender equality and gender mainstreaming in research; and optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge including via digital ERA

9.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] Available at: *http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/policy/innovationwales/?lang=en*

[2] Available at: *http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/publications/130319sfw/?lang=en*

[3] Science for Wales Delivery Plan: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/csaw/publications/deliveryplan/?lang=en; Innovation Wales Delivery Plan will be published in 2015: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/?lang=en

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Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
[4] Defined in "A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth" (COM(2012)392 final)	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
1.There are no plans to deliver action under this Investment Priority through financial instruments.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
~~1.Where a strong case for significant investment in R&D facilities can be made a major infrastructure project might be feasible during the programme period (e.g. centre of excellence in one Smart Specialisation priority area); however, no major project is currently~~ No major project is planned.	

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	Less developed			470.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	Full time equivalents	ERDF	Less developed			200.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			~~160~~150.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J2	Number of improved research infrastructure	Number	ERDF	Less developed			6.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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Investment priority		1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	facilites								
J3	Amount of research funding secured	GBP	ERDF	Less developed			165,000,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J33	Number of partners collaborating in research projects	Number	ERDF	Less developed			300.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1b
Title of the investment priority	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

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the successful translation of research and innovation processes into new and improved commercial products, processes and services, in particular through improved technology transfer from HEIs.
Results that the Member States	1. HEBCIS data[1] indicates a well developed and effective knowledge transfer system between HE and business in Wales

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seek to achieve with Union support	although the UK Innovation Survey[2] reported that only 15% of innovation-active businesses cooperate with universities in the UK. This suggests significant scope for greater interaction. While these interactions are a key component in many innovation chains, the key change (result) being sought is for more commercialisation benefits within the programme area. Clearly HEI-SME interactions are a core part of this but is it the growth supported in SMEs that leads to growth and jobs; hence the desire for an indicator that tries to capture this more directly. 2. Broader Innovators[3] demonstrate above average scores for a range of innovation factors, including introduction of new and improved goods and services, entering new markets and increasing market share. Wales has the highest proportion of Broader Innovators in the UK (43.3% for 2008-2010); a key advantage for increasing the benefits of commercialisation. However, enterprises in Wales self-identify a greater number of barriers to innovation than other regions, with the availability and cost of finance a key barrier to innovation (addressed specifically in the SME Competitiveness Priority Axis). 3. These high levels of innovation activity across Welsh enterprises are not resulting in the same levels of successful new products or even improved products that can be seen in other regions. Welsh enterprises introducing new or significantly improved services and products report only 22.4% of turnover from innovation is related to those products or services (against a UK average of 29.7%); the lowest of all UK regions. Targeting on smart specialisation areas will mean less focus on volume and more on capturing benefits in the programme area. The target therefore seeks to reflect this with more intense targeted investment expected to generate greater results in those SMEs supported to at least the UK average. [1] *Higher Education – Business and Community Interaction Survey* (2013), HEFCE. [2] *UK Innovation Survey 2011* (2012), BIS

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	[3] Distinguished in the UK Innovation Survey from Innovation Active enterprises in that they will have carried out "*activities in areas such as internal research and development, training, acquisition of external knowledge or machinery and equipment linked to innovation activities*".

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**1.2 - To increase the successful translation of research and innovation processes into new and improved commercial products, processes and services, in particular through improved technology transfer from HEIs.**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
1.3	Average share of total turnover from product innovation, and novel innovation: new to market, new to business and significantly improved	Percent	Less developed	22.4%	2010	24-27%	UK Innovation Survey (BIS)	Every two years

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

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

1.This Priority will include support set out below and, in doing so, will contribute primarily to two of *Innovation Wales*' five key themes - providing flexible support for innovation and improving collaboration.

2.*Innovation Wales* recognises that pockets of world class expertise exist in academia in areas with commercial potential. It also recognises emerging clusters of Smart Specialisation (although these may currently be lacking in global scale) as well as opportunities to build on existing best practise in the commercialisation of R&D. The Welsh National Research Networks will cover the Grand Challenge areas and will provide leadership for knowledge transfer and commercialisation activity. Targeting on the Low Carbon Energy and Environment sector will be expected to contribute to Climate Change targets and categorised separately (indicative allocations have been included in the Categories of Expenditure table).

3.The Priority will support the provision of flexible support for innovation which can address specific barriers for SMEs to carry out innovative or research focused activities, as well as for businesses seeking to increase innovation or use of research. The actions will be complemented by the repayable financial support for innovation available from Priority 2 of this Programme: SME Competitiveness.

4.We recognise that innovation can be carried out by any organisation (e.g. private, third and public), and is not only linked to science and technological research by academia and business. We want to be able to encourage a greater number of SMEs to carry out innovation activities in Wales, in particular where they can help address the grand societal challenges (for example eco-innovation). All such investments under this priority must still align with the

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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

smart specialisation strategy. All other SMEs are eligible for support through the SME Competitiveness Priority Axis.

5.Success cannot be guaranteed and failure is an essential part of innovation; the Priority will therefore seek to support a balanced portfolio of investments using the Smart Specialisation approach to encourage pilot activities, applied research and innovation with a high risk of failure alongside those with clear market exploitation potential.

6.The Commission's *Digital Agenda for Europe*[1] sets out the important role of ICT in research and innovation. ICT as a sector represents 5% of the total GDP and 20% of overall productivity growth in Europe. *Digital Wales*[2] and *Delivering a Digital Wales*[3] (as well as *Innovation Wales*) describe the current strengths and weaknesses of the sector in Wales.

7.The Priority will also support initiatives to promote knowledge transfer, the dissemination of new technologies, and the commercialisation of research based on market pull - the need and ability of businesses to exploit knowledge and a business culture which encourages problem solving in the workplace[4].

8.The European Commission[5] defines Research and Innovation as inter-related but independent concepts (essentially research to improve our knowledge base and innovation as new ways of doing things that may include use of research).

9.The ERDF programme will seek to increase investment in applied research or experimental development with a clear link to economic outcomes, where it can contribute to growth and productivity in the programme area. ERDF will not simply substitute domestic funds for competitive funds. Opportunities to co-invest with other organisations, such as the Technology Strategy Board or Nesta[6] , should be explored where possible.

10.In terms of meeting Climate Change targets there are already a number of Smart Specialisation areas in Wales (for example Smart living, technology

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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

demonstration, applied advanced powertrain and battery research for electric and hydrogen vehicles, or smart grid / distribution). There is also some existing expertise in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies (e.g. photovoltaic, energy generating building envelopes, hydrogen energy systems) and alternative fuels (to exploit the opportunities of the Low Carbon Vehicles sector[7]). Wales also benefits from significant academic expertise in developing and integrating low-Carbon technologies, for example through the Low Carbon Research Institute which is a partnership of a number of Universities across Wales, and has established a significant economy in the renewable and low carbon sectors. Support will need to ensure that these existing strengths are fully exploited

11.Examples of the type of actions to be supported are:

- Support businesses to undertake innovation (e.g. demand-led or eco-innovation) and improve innovation supply chains[9] between businesses and with academia
- Support to address the barriers to innovation for businesses
- Piloting of initiatives to test innovative products, processes or services in areas with commercial potential
- Support the development of prototypes, pilot schemes, demonstrations and working models
- Development of low-cost hubs or clusters for innovative businesses and sectors (e.g. virtual hubs for ICT, Creative or Tourism sector)
- Development and launch of innovative new uses and adaptations for existing technology, processes or services into new markets
- Commercialisation, protection and exploitation of research (including applied research to improve market readiness)
- Improved industrial and SME collaboration with Universities and other research intensive institutions. Wherever possible, the collaboration should seek to build the confidence and capacity of SMEs to exploit the benefits of research to become more productive or to grow their business.
- Support for the development of Smart Specialisation clusters with a focus on commercial application of research and innovation.
- Investments in advanced manufacturing and production capabilities (e.g. first production of Key Enabling Technologies)
- The use of ICT innovation vouchers (as described in the Digital Agenda Toolbox[10]), regarded as an efficient mechanism to reach out to SMEs, may be considered

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[1] http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/

[2] http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en

[3]http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/publications/framework/?lang=en

[4] Also a key feature of *Innovation Union* Flagship Initiative under *Europe 2020*

[5] *Innovation Union - A rationale for action* (2010), European Commissino. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/rationale_en.pdf. This describes research and innovation as: Research: investment of resources in attempts to expand scientific and technological knowledge base, often in order to solve particular problems that confront different sectors of society; Innovation: creation of value via the introduction of new products, processes, services and ways of doing things; requires knowledge inputs not only from scientific and technological research, but also from other sources such as non-technological, user-driven and social innovation.

[6] Formerly NESTA, (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts)

[7] Further details of market and Welsh Government ambitions in statement at: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2013/lowcarbonvehicles/?lang=en

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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

[9] The innovation supply chain (as opposed to innovation in the supply chain) is the process by which companies obtain and/or develop future products, processes and services and improve on their current products, processes and services.

[10] http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/10157/130815/Digital%20Agenda%20Tool%20Box%20v.13_CONSULTATION.pdf

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

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

1.Support from this Priority will be consistent with the overriding principle of *Innovation Wales* in that innovation will be promoted across the whole economy but that significant levels of dedicated support to clusters, institutions, businesses or for specific technologies or innovations should be made on the basis of building on Wales' strengths. This focus on activities that are already strong or are showing promise follows the Smart Specialisation[1] concept and the Welsh Government's Grand Challenge areas. Expert advice will be sought to assist with the prioritisation of investments in line with the governance arrangements for the Smart Specialisation Strategy. Alignment with the Smart Specialisation strategy is a pre-condition for all support under this Priority Axis.

2.Investments will be prioritised using the Smart Specialisation approach whereby expertise and genuine specialisation is being demonstrated. It is expected that this will primarily be around the Grand Challenge areas though other specialisms may emerge through entrepreneurial discovery. The Managing Authority will make use of technical and expert advice to ensure support is targeted appropriately, ideas are credible, realistic and do not

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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

duplicate existing research or innovation.

3. In demonstrating alignment to the Smart Specialisation strategy for Wales operations will need to illustrate how they are contributing directly to the indicators and objectives identified in the latest associated Delivery Plans[2], including any additional or innovative measures introduced during the ongoing evolution of the Smart Specialisation strategy. These Strategies are being delivered in close cooperation and measures are already in place to ensure cooperation and coordination in delivery (e.g. use of specialist Advisory Councils with cross-membership between them to develop priorities, monitor delivery plans and indicators, and coordinating activity where there are overlaps)

4.There will need to be an element of specific targeting focussed on encouraging innovation in those enterprises either not currently innovating, or those that do not consider themselves as innovative. This should include specific targeting approaches for sectors outside of the science and technological sectors, and should complement activity encouraging deeper innovation processes in those enterprises already innovating.

5.Efforts will also be needed to identify those businesses in Wales with the potential to commercialise and use research and innovation, where linked to a smart specialisation. Targeted and tailored support to help those enterprises realise the benefit in the programme area will be key to delivering the desired results.

6.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

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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

[1] *Smart Specialisation – The Concept, Knowledge Economists Policy Brief n° 9* (2009), Dominique Foray, Paul A. David and Bronwyn Hall

[2] The Science for Wales Delivery Plan is published at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/csaw/publications/deliveryplan/?lang=en and the Innovation Wales Delivery Plan will be published at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/?lang=en

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

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

1. No use of financial instruments is envisaged for this Investment Priority, but there may be scope to utilise the financial instruments under the SME Competitiveness Priority to complement actions under this Investment Priority.

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2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

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

1. No major projects are anticipated under this Investment Priority

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

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**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			~~4,300~~2,380.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO02	Productive investment: Number of	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			~~520~~350.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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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							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	enterprises receiving grants								
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			~~3,750~~2,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			30.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	Less developed			1,125.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			~~1,212~~750.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO27	Research, Innovation: Private	EUR	ERDF	Less developed			42,840,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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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							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects								
CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			490.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			725.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	Less developed			~~956~~470.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly
J29	Enterprises adopting or improving	Number	ERDF	Less developed			~~956~~470.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly

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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							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems								
J4	Number of patents registered for products	Number	ERDF	Less developed			519.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	ERDF	Less developed			0.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J33	Number of partners collaborating in research projects	Number	ERDF	Less developed			1,500.00		

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation

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2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation												
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
~~CO04~~	~~O~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~N/A~~			~~3,750.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~The output is the main measure of activity under Investment Priorities (1b) which is covers 60% of the Priority axis~~
F2	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed			~~115300000~~119,000,000.00			454,809,287.00	Monitoring data	
~~11~~J33	~~I~~O	%Number of ~~final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~partners collaborating in research projects	~~Percent~~Number	ERDF	Less developed			~~31~~345			~~100~~1,800.00	Monitoring ~~data~~	~~Required to set a milestone related to the output target~~

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

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Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	002. Research and innovation processes in large enterprises	6,943,622.00
ERDF	Less developed	056. Investment in infrastructure, capacities and equipment in SMEs directly linked to research and innovation activities	13,887,244.00
ERDF	Less developed	057. Investment in infrastructure, capacities and equipment in large companies directly linked to research and innovation activities	4,629,082.00
ERDF	Less developed	058. Research and innovation infrastructure (public)	54,548,975.00
ERDF	Less developed	059. Research and innovation infrastructure (private, including science parks)	18,516,325.00
ERDF	Less developed	060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	13,887,244.00
ERDF	Less developed	061. Research and innovation activities in private research centres including networking	6,943,622.00
ERDF	Less developed	062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	44,261,348.00
ERDF	Less developed	063. Cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	20,830,866.00
ERDF	Less developed	064. Research and innovation processes in SMEs (including voucher schemes, process, design, service and social innovation)	48,605,353.00
ERDF	Less developed	065. Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy and on resilience to climate change	67,863,516.00
ERDF	Less developed	101. Cross financing under the ERDF (support to ESF type actions necessary for the satisfactory implementation of the ERDF part of the operation and directly linked to it)	1,000,000.00

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Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	300,917,197.00
ERDF	Less developed	07. Prize	1,000,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	46,290,813.00
ERDF		02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	46,290,813.00
ERDF		07. Not applicable	209,335,571.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	301,917,197.00

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Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	**1 - Research and Innovation**		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	**1 - Research and Innovation**

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2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	SME Competitiveness

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. The primary objective of this Priority Axis is to improve the competitiveness of SMEs in the programme area aligned to Thematic Objective 3 by promoting entrepreneurship and increasing the capacity of SMEs. An Investment Priority from another Thematic Objective has been included given the relevance to increasing SME competitiveness and the alignment of the ex-ante assessment based on identified market failures with activity under this Priority Axis. This is (1b) promoting business investment in innovation and research etc.

2. A proportion of the finance for innovation will be delivered through a Financial Instrument, and will therefore be supported through this Priority Axis to allow a single operation helping address market failures in the access for finance for SMEs.

3. There are very close links between this Priority Axis and the Research and Innovation Priority Axis with both being vital to improve productivity and support business growth (traditionally spearheaded by innovative SMEs). The assessment informing the Financial Instrument in this area was done on the basis of market failure in the provision of finance, rather than based on the potential leverage effects on Business Expenditure on R&D (BERD). It is

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therefore included in this Priority Axis to reflect that distinction, though it is expected to be a complementary activity to support increased BERD (along with dedicated activity under the Research and Innovation Priority Axis).

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	Less developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	1b
Title of the investment priority	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

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.5
Title of the specific objective	To address market failures in the availability of finance, in particular risk capital, for Welsh SMEs to undertake innovation and commercialise R&D.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1.The UK innovation survey 2011 published by BIS in June 2013 found that 44.3% of innovative firms who try to obtain finance find it difficult to do so, compared to 32.6% of other firms, and 37.8% of innovative firms who tried to access finance were unable to obtain any (doubled from 14% in 2007/8)[1]. A culture of innovation is one of the features of high growth firms[2] indicating that targeting of innovative firms and supporting innovation through risk capital might be useful. 2.The result indicator used is the amount of early stage equity investment, as measured by annual reports from the British Venture Capital Association. The levels identified by this report support the market failure argument in Wales and the low levels of investment mean figures will be particularly sensitive to ERDF investment. Despite this other measures have too much noise associated with them (e.g. the size of the market gap identified as part of the ex-ante assessment would not be useful as a result indicator). Similarly the UK Innovation Survey did not provide the level of specificity required. 3.Required evaluations of Financial Instruments should seek to identify more direct impact of major EU funded schemes against the market analysis within the ex-ante assessment. [1] *Credit and the crisis: Access to finance for innovative small firms since the recession* (June 2013), Neil Lee, Hiba Sameen and Lloyd Martin, Big Innovation Centre

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	[2] *Policies in support of high-growth innovative SMEs* (2011), European Commission

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**2.5 - To address market failures in the availability of finance, in particular risk capital, for Welsh SMEs to undertake innovation and commercialise R&D.**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.5	Early stage equity investment	£	Less developed	£9m	2012	£12.5m-£16m	Investment Stage Analysis by Region – Amount invested (UK), (BVCA Private Equity and Venture Capital Report on Investment Activity 2012)	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

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

1. The ex-ante assessment of opportunities for Financial Instruments[1] identified an important role for finance to support the set-up, early growth and expansion of high-tech firms:

"There is clearly a strong case for publicly backed finance in Wales to support the commercialisation of R&D. The actions of Welsh Government and Finance Wales have played an important role in addressing the issue of market failure in the provision of finance, but also helping to stimulate R&D activity and the demand for finance to commercialise this.

Given the experience of JEREMIE, we would expect there to be capacity for in the order of a total fund of £20-£40 million over a five year period (of which ERDF would be roughly 50%)."

2. The market assessment resulted in initial recommendations for proof of concept funding to remain grant-funded but for early stage seed (between £20,000 and £50,000) and follow on investments (up to £100,000) as financial instruments. Early stage investments should reach between £50,000 and £1 million overall (including follow-on). .

3. Actions to be supported are expected to consist of provisions for access to risk-capital finance and support for the creation and growth of research-

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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

intensive and innovative businesses, such as spin-outs. This should be complementary to any investments under Specific Objective 1. Examples include:

- Access to debt, equity and mezzanine finance
- Tailored business finance schemes (e.g. for key sectors or specific geographic areas)

[1] *Wales Ex-ante Evaluation of European Programmes 2014-20 - Financial Instruments: Stage 2* (June 2013), Regeneris and Oldbell 3

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2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

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

1. The priority's support will take account of the Welsh Government's key sectors approach, which targets some tailored support on economically important and potential growth sectors (including those which have exhibited high growth in the past).

2. Financial support will primarily be focussed on providing debt, equity and mezzanine finance. Given the recognition of the need to be able to tailor support, provision will need to be retained to support other repayable or grant packages where economic conditions dictate. The stage of business

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

development will also be an important consideration in deciding the efficiency of allocating a grant or loan.

3. Tailored support and investment will be targeted and dependent on: the growth potential of the business; the lifecycle of the business recognising the "critical events" of business growth[1]; and gaps in provision by the private sector.

4. Targeting should also ensure that all investments under Specific Objective 2.5 are aligned with the Welsh Smart Specialisation Strategy as described under Priority Axis 1 (Research and Innovation). The Smart Specialisation approach[2] advocates a concentration of resources on a few key priorities where a region has an existing or emerging specific strength, rather than spreading investment thinly across a broad number of areas or trying to develop capacity without some endogenous capability.

5. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] *A review of the literature addressing the role of external knowledge and expertise at key stages of business growth and development* (2005), J. Bessant, B. Phelps and R. Adams, Cranfield School of Management

[2] http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home

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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

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

1.To date, an initial high level assessment of the suitability of Financial Instruments for the different programme components has been undertaken, and for those parts deemed suitableand of high priority (i.e. SME finance), a market assessment has been undertaken. On the basis of this, detailed proposals for the Financial Instruments are currently being prepared and these will be reviewed as part of the final stages of the ex ante assessment.

2.The ex ante assessment to date has indicated that there is a strong case for the ERDF programme to provide an integrated and coordinated approach to the provision of finance for SMEs. Initial recommendations are for proof of concept funding to remain grant-funded but for early stage seed (between £20,000 and £50,000) and follow on investments (up to £100,000) to be delivered through a Financial Instrument. Early stage investments should reach between £50,000 and £1 million overall (including follow-on).

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

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

1. No major project is anticipated.

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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

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

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**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			90.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			90.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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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							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	ERDF	Less developed			~~23,760~~20,700,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	Less developed			490.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			20.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	Less developed			45.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly

compare report

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							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	Less developed			45.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly
J8	Investment in enterprises	GBP	ERDF	Less developed			~~26,536,773~~41,400,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	3a
Title of the investment priority	Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the amount of finance available to SMEs for both business start-up and for business expansion.

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Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. Survey evidence suggests that only 66% of Welsh SMEs were successful in accessing some of the finance they needed[1] which compares with around 74% across the UK[2]. Data from the Welsh Small Business Survey[3] suggests that it is micro enterprises in Wales that face the biggest difficulties in gaining finance. The BIS Small Business Survey indicates that Welsh SMEs are generally finding it harder to access finance than their English counterparts (e.g. for result indicator it is 26% failing to access any finance in Wales, compared to only 21% across the UK and 20% in England). Banks are unlikely to return to their lending levels pre credit crisis and a gap in equity finance has been evidenced[4]. 2. The ex-ante assessment of opportunities for Financial Instruments[5] identifies a strong case for investment of a capital value of between £120-160 million (including seed and early stage growth). 3. A market assessment has initially identified potential to support micro-loans, loans and risk capital (for business expansion). Further assessment identifies opportunities to combine this with additional seed, early stage and follow-on investments for R&D related activity; this element is addressed under Specific Objective 5, but activity would be expected to be closely coordinated, if not delivered together. 4. The result indicator used is the Amount invested in Venture Capital and Expansion Capital, as measured by annual reports from the British Venture Capital Association. The levels identified by this report support the market failure argument in Wales and the low levels of investment mean figures will be particularly sensitive to ERDF investment. Despite this other measures have too much noise associated with them (e.g. the market gap assessment as part of the ex-ante assessment would not be useful as a result indicator).

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	[1] *2012 Small Business Survey* (2013), BMG Research for Welsh Government [2] *BIS Economics Paper No. 16: SME Access to External Finance* (January 2012), BIS [3] *2012 Small Business Survey* (2013), BMG Research for Welsh Government [4] Gap for Wales' regions being identified as part of ex-ante assessment for Financial Instruments [5] *Wales Ex-ante Evaluation of European Programmes 2014-20 - Financial Instruments: Stage 2* (June 2013), Regeneris and Oldbell 3
ID of the specific objective	2.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number of SME start-ups through the provision of information, advice and guidance and support for entrepreneurship.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. The situation and rationale for investment regarding entrepreneurship, birth rates and business creation has been set out in the strategy of this programme. Across Wales 8,270 new enterprises were counted in 2012 (provisional data); this compares to around 8,225 new enterprises in 2011. Within West Wales and the Valleys this figure was 4,675 in 2012 (provisional), compared with 4,850 in 2011. 2. Since 2009 the number of business deaths in Wales has outstripped the number of births, leading to a net reduction in the active businesses in Wales of 3,140. In West Wales and the Valleys the net reduction in active businesses over the same period

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	was 2,290, representing 73% of the net Welsh reduction. 3. Supported actions should not only increase the numbers of new businesses in Wales but should also be seeking to increase the survival rates and achieve higher growth rates of those supported businesses compared to average survival and growth rates. This should be possible given that the support should include more tailored, targeted, and therefore relevant advice. Impact on survival and growth rates will be considered in the evaluations of this element of the programmes, in particular through the regular business survey of supported SMEs.

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		2.1 - To increase the amount of finance available to SMEs for both business start-up and for business expansion.						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.1	Amount invested in Venture Capital and Expansion Capital	£	Less developed	£18m	2012	£26m-£27m	Investment Stage Analysis by Region – Amount invested (UK), (BVCA Private Equity and Venture Capital Report on Investment Activity 2012)	Annual

Specific objective		2.2 - To increase the number of SME start-ups through the provision of information, advice and guidance and support for entrepreneurship.						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.2	Count of birth of new enterprises	Number	Less developed	4,675	2012	8% increase in annual birth-rate	ONS (Business Demography)	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

1.Particular consideration should be given to the need to provide Social Enterprises with specialist advice and guidance to enable start-ups and promote growth where gaps evidenced in mainstream support for SMEs.

2.Types of action to be supported across Investment Priority (covering both Specific Objective 1 and Specific Objective 2):

- Access to debt, equity and mezzanine finance
- Micro-finance investment vehicle
- Tailored business finance schemes (e.g. for key sectors, specific geographic areas or growth businesses)
- Advice and mentoring for start-ups, with a focus on high growth-potential start-ups
- Pre-start entrepreneurship activity (e.g. ability to test business ideas or support for graduate and high potential starts).
- Customised delivery of support for social enterprise creation (including the promotion of innovative business models) where there are evidenced gaps in mainstream provision

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2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

1.The Priority's support will take account of the Welsh Government's key sectors approach, which targets some tailored support on economically important and potential growth sectors (including those which have exhibited high growth in the past) as well as offering advice and information to all businesses where private sector provision is lacking.

2.Financial support will primarily be focussed on providing debt, equity and mezzanine finance. Given the recognition of the need to be able to tailor support, provision will need to be retained to support other repayable or grant packages in exceptional circumstances and where economic conditions dictate. Evidence from counterfactual impact evaluations of support given to firms across the EU[1] indicates that often loans are at least as effective as a grant. The stage of business development will also be an important consideration in deciding the efficiency of allocating a grant or loan.

3.Advice and information may be offered universally at a relatively low cost through websites and dedicated help-lines. The more in-depth, tailored support and investment will be targeted and dependent on: the growth potential of the business; the lifecycle of the business recognising the "critical events" of business growth[2]; and gaps in the provision by the private sector.

4.Given limited available funding there is a case to target specialist support at potential high-growth start-ups; though this should take account of the fact that the majority of jobs created in the UK economy are through business expansion rather than business creation so there will need to be an element of realism about the short-term growth potential of start-ups[3]. This suggests the main contribution to the programme of these investments will be towards the creation of new enterprises, but future jobs growth will also be monitored through the Business Survey and evaluation.

5.A targeted approach is expected to generate the greatest return on the investments. The approach will also complement the Smart Specialisation approach[4] which advocates a concentration of resources on a few key priorities where a region has an existing or emerging specific strength, rather than spreading investment thinly across a broad number of areas or trying to develop capacity without some endogenous capability.

6.It is recognised[5] that there is an opportunity to encourage greater involvement from the private sector in delivering information and advisory services,

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Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

but there is arguably a key role for the public sector in the interim. It is also recognised that social enterprises may encounter difficulties with accessing 'mainstream support' and require different or tailored approaches to the delivery of support.

7.Complementarity, particularly around the early stages of entrepreneurship, will be sought with investments likely to be made under the ESF. For example ESF support should help to remove barriers to entrepreneurship, such as skills, while ERDF will be used to provide finance and support to turn ideas into businesses.

8.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] *What are counterfactual impact evaluations teaching us about enterprise and innovation support?* (2012), Daniel Mouqué, DG Regio, European Commission

[2] *A review of the literature addressing the role of external knowledge and expertise at key stages of business growth and development* (2005), J. Bessant, B. Phelps and R. Adams, Cranfield School of Management.

[3] *Job creation and destruction in the UK: 1998 to 2010* (2011), Department for Business Innovation and Skills

[4] http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home

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Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

[5] *Mid term evaluation of the Customer Engagement WG/EU project* (2012), Old Bell 3 and Cardiff University

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

1.To date, an initial high level assessment of the suitability of Financial Instruments for the different programme components has been undertaken, and for those parts deemed suitableand of high priority (i.e. SME finance), a market assessment has been undertaken. On the basis of this, detailed proposals for the Financial Instruments are currently being prepared and these will be reviewed as part of the final stages of the ex ante assessment.

2.The assessment to date has identified a strong case for the ERDF programme to provide an integrated and coordinated approach to the provision of finance for SMEs. This should cover micro-loans, loans, and risk capital. It is envisaged that the majority of SO2.1 will be delivered through such a Financial Instrument.

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

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Investment priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

No major projects are anticipated, given Financial Instruments will be used instead

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
~~CO01~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~5,820.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~CO02~~CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving ~~grants~~support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			~~160~~5,660.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO03	Productive investment: Number of	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			235.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

compare report

Investment priority		3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	enterprises receiving financial support other than grants								
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			275.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			5,150.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	ERDF	Less developed			~~132,000~~74,800,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	Less developed			11,100.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~J10~~	~~Individuals receiving support – Female~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~7,300.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~

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Investment priority		3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	~~individuals~~								
~~J11~~	~~Individuals receiving support - BME individuals~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~375.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~J12~~	~~Individuals receiving support - Disabled individuals~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~3,650.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quaterly~~
J14	Investment in enterprises	GBP	ERDF	Less developed			~~91,556,196~~149,600,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	Less developed			2,900.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly
J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	Less developed			2,900.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly
~~J9~~	~~Individuals receiving support~~	~~Number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~14,350.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~

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2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	3d
Title of the investment priority	Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.3
Title of the specific objective	To increase the take-up and exploitation of NGA networks and ICT infrastructure by SMEs
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. As this specific objective is focussed on SME take-up and *exploitation* of ICT, in theory it would be desirable to develop a result indicator describing the effective use of ICT by SMEs. However, although the BIS Small Business Survey provides a regular source of data on SMEs' use of ICT for a range of purposes, given the unpredictability of developments in ICT, it would not be sensible to set a target for very specific uses of ICT when other uses may become more important as the technology develops further. 2. As take-up is also an integral component of this Specific Objective, an alternative to setting a target on how SMEs use ICT is to set a target on SMEs' take-up of faster broadband, especially the faster broadband that will be delivered through the infrastructure investment in Priority Axis 4. Ideally, the result indicator would refer to SME take-up of broadband of a particular speed, for example, 30Mbps, which will be available to the majority of business and residential premises following completion of the Superfast Cymru Next Generation Broadband programme, or 100Mbps, which will be available to businesses that wish to upgrade even further.

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	3. However, given the lack of available data on SME take-up of broadband of particular speeds, a result indicator has been developed on SME use of fibre and cable broadband, the types of broadband offering the highest speed. In a survey of SMEs undertaken by Ofcom in 2014, 8% of SMEs reported the use of fibre broadband and 14% cable broadband. Although trend data are unavailable it is reasonable to assume that take-up would increase even in the absence of any demand stimulation activity funded under this Specific Objective. The target for this Specific Objective is to bring take-up levels to over half of SMEs by 2022. 4. The expected increase due solely to ERDF support is an additional 5 percentage points. It should be noted that growth would be expected without intervention (and some will be as indirect result of stimulation activity) so the total coverage by 2023 would be closer to 55% when ERDF and anticipated normal growth is combined.
ID of the specific objective	2.4
Title of the specific objective	To increase the growth of those SMEs with growth potential, in particular through accessing new markets (both domestic and international)
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. The Strategy section identifies tipping points that SMEs reach where a critical mass of knowledge and support needs to be in place to enter the next phase of growth. The result being sought for the programnme area is a growth in the number of employees as SMEs grow. Employment as an indicator for businesses located within the programme area reflects the benefit within the programme area better than other measures of growth such as numbers of businesess or turnover. Other data are not available at this level of detail. 2. There are large numbers of micro-enterprises in the programme area but these often represent lone traders, not

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	necessarily with ambitions to grow. Micro enterprises in West Wales and the Valleys for 2013 accounted for 95% of SMEs by number, but only 55% of employment within SMEs and 40% of turnover[1]. Additionally, whilst employment in micro-enterprises increased by 57,600 between 2003 and 2013, the actual number of micro-enterprises increased by 48,500, suggesting that the bulk of the increase in employment came through micro-enterprise creation rather than growth. This suggests that, while a vital part of the Welsh economy, including employment within micro-enterprises in the result indicator is likely to skew results, given the increases in employment is associated with new businesses, not with business growth. The new businesses element will be captured in the results indicator for SO2.2. 3. Small and Medium enterprises, however, have seen an increase in employment of 34,700 in West Wales and the Valleys since 2003 alongside a net increase of 10,300 small and medium businesses. These are the SMEs in which the growth companies either already exist or to which an innovative micro-enterprise will be looking to transition towards. This subset of the data is therefore taken to form the result indicator, allowing for a target to be estimated. This will not capture any SMEs that grow to large businesses (over 250 employees), but, should these transitions take place, they will be captured by evaluation. Targeting based on growth potential and tailoring support should support greater employment growth than other approaches. [1] *Size analysis of Welsh businesses 2013* (2013), Welsh Government

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		2.3 - To increase the take-up and exploitation of NGA networks and ICT infrastructure by SMEs						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.3	SME use of fibre and cable broadband	% of SME's	Less developed	22%	2014	27%	Communications Market Report: Wales	Annual

Specific objective		2.4 - To increase the growth of those SMEs with growth potential, in particular through accessing new markets (both domestic and international)						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
2.4	Employment within small (10-49 employees) and medium (50-249) SMEs	Percent	Less developed	169,100	2013	10% increase	Size Analysis of Welsh Businesses (Welsh Government)	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

1.The result indicator for SO2.3 provides a clear focus on assisting SMEs to take up faster broadband opportunities. However, to successfully encourage SMEs to make this investment, activity will need to be very clear on the business benefits of faster broadband. As noted in the Strategy section, some SMEs in Wales lack confidence in their ability to identify which communications products or services would be valuable for their organisation, highlighting a need for well-tailored advice and guidance[1] Furthermore, evidence from the 2007-2013 Programmes suggests that awareness-raising can be effective in encouraging businesses to introduce new ICT.[2] This provides some success that can be built on for the 2014-2020 period.

2.Research has identified routes through which exploitation of ICT can provide economic impact. This includes productivity growth through enhanced business innovation, increased international trade and through teleworking enabling more productive use of some workers' time[3]. Furthermore, 'cloud computing' has been highlighted as a particular potential source of positive impact of faster broadband[4]. Research has also suggested that UK SMEs may lag behind their international peers in the digitisation of some back office functions[5] All this evidence provides pointers to inform activity to encourage SMEs to maximise ICT exploitation. However, perhaps most importantly, activity will need to take account of SMEs' particular circumstances, as well as emerging technologies and trends. As well as focussing on the benefits of faster broadband, interventions will also need to address any barriers to take-up, including, for example, any security fears

3.Whilst support under SO2.3 should be universally available given the potential for broadband to generate positive effects for all businesses, for SO2.4, targeting is essential to ensure those SMEs with genuine growth potential are identified so that employment growth is sustainable, and not just contributing to lower productivity. In this respect, interventions funded under the two Specific Objectives ought to complement each other. Where businesses are identified to have genuine growth potential but with some ICT-related barriers to growth, it is envisaged that these barriers will be addressed as part of the support funded under SO2.4. If this support is unable to fully address the issues for some businesses then such businesses ought to be referred to support

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

funded under SO2.3. High growth businesses[6], while small in number, remain key to driving productivity and increasing jobs - the UK compares well internationally with 5.8% of businesses "high growth" against US (c. 5%) and Italy (3%). It is very difficult to identify those businesses, especially when they are first formed, and a flexible approach is required to identifying, targeting and supporting such businesses.

4.The Mid Term Evaluation of the Welsh Government's Customer Engagement project highlighted opportunities to further stimulate private sector involvement in business advice and guidance but also recognised the signs of ongoing market failure in the provision of advice and guidance to businesses in Wales.

5.Research suggests that programmes which use a hands-on, 'managed brokerage' approach may perform better than those using a 'light touch' approach, though these type of programmes will inevitably be more expensive, and to date there has been no comparison of the cost-effectiveness of hands-on versus light touch[7]. Where interventions do involve in depth support, evidence strongly suggests that this should be tailored, mixing appropriate financial and non-financial elements[8]. Evidence also points to the importance of business planning as a factor associated with growth so, where applicable, this should be incorporated in any support[9]. SMEs have a number of concerns relating to the seeking of advice and information which point towards some of the market failures in this area[10]. The concerns particularly relate to the expense and time involved with taking up formal business assistance, not being able to trust external advisors, or concerns about whether they would understand the business, and confidence in being able to access appropriate assistance.

6.Types of action to be supported might therefore include a combination of the following areas of support:

<u>For SO2.3 (take-up and exploitation of ICT infrastructure)</u>

- The delivery of workshops, clinics and one-to-one business diagnostics focussed on take-up and exploitation of NGA broadband, emphasising the benefits to SMEs but also addressing any barriers to effective take-up and exploitation.

- The use of ICT innovation vouchers (as described in the Digital Agenda Toolbox[11]), regarded as an efficient mechanism to reach out to micro-

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

enterprises and SMEs, may be considered.

For SO2.4 (supporting employment growth in SMEs):

- Information and advice for business, such as universally available support to all SMEs e.g. through websites and help-lines.
- Tailored support for economically important and growth businesses, including Social Enterprises, to address barriers to improving productivity, for example: sales, marketing, product development, pricing and risk management
- Tailored advice and business support to address barriers to growth, for example: HR issues, strategy, marketing, business models, systems, risk management, resource efficiency, operational improvement, product development, supply chains and distribution.
- Customised delivery of support for social enterprise development and growth (including the promotion of innovative business models) where there are evidenced gaps in mainstream provision
- Capacity building, advice, guidance and support to address barriers for Welsh businesses to access procurement opportunities (including internationally)
- Support for the internationalisation of businesses and increasing exports, such as brokerage and partner events, trade fairs, training, counselling/advice/ mentoring, mission-related costs or other financial support, market research or other information services.
- Support for resource efficiency and energy efficiency measures within SMEs, including addressing barriers to related investment, supporting

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

behavioural change, supporting the diffusion of technology and innovation and encouraging SMEs to undertake energy audits

[1] *Communications Market Report: Wales* (2014), Ofcom

[2] *ERDF Business Survey* (2012), Old Bell 3 for WEFO: 49% of surveyed businesses that reported that ERDF had helped them adopt ICT said that this was through the ERDF support making them aware of what was available.

[3] *UK Broadband Impact Study: Literature Review* (2012), SQW for DCMS

[4] *Ibid.*

[5] *"This is for Everyone": The Case for Universal Digitization* (2012), Booz & Co. Booz & Co analysed the levels of digitization in the back office of more than 500 SMEs in the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Brazil. UK SMEs were found to lag behind their peers in the digitization of three key business functions: *commercial processes*, such as sales management and customer relationship management, *financial processes*, including budgeting, planning, accounting and reporting, and *people processes*, including payroll, benefits management and flexible working arrangements.

[6] A number of different definitions, including the OECD as those with at least 10 employees and who have experienced growth at an annual average of 20% over a three year period

[7] *Evidence Review: Business Advice* (2014) What Works Centre for local Economic Growth

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

[8] *Ibid. What are counterfactual impact evaluations teaching us about enterprise and innovation support?* (December 2012), Daniel Mouque, DG for Regional and Urban Policy Evaluation and European Semester Unit, European Commission. *Mid Programme Evaluation of the Start Up Service*, ERS, Beaufort Research and Hywel Evans for the Welsh Assembly Government .

[9] *2012 Small Business Survey: Growth Special Report* (2013), Department for Business Innovation and Skills

[10] *Research to understand the barriers to take up and use of business support* (2011), Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research for BIS

[11] http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/10157/130815/Digital%20Agenda%20Tool%20Box%20v.13_CONSULTATION.pdf

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

1.The Welsh Government has recognised that businesses are best placed to advise other businesses and that support should be procured rather than delivered directly by government[1].

2.Research suggests[2] that identifying and targeting “high growth” firms is difficult although the growth intentions of businesses have a large effect on whether they will indeed grow[3]. This suggests that flexibility will be required in terms of identifying growth potential and the intensive support for businesses identified as having growth potential must be equally flexible and tailored to individual company needs. In recognition of the difficulties of identifying high-growth businesses some research has suggested the use of universal provision of ‘marketing’ messages and case studies but with content

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Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

designed to influence 'receptive' SMEs[4].

3.The ERDF Business Survey for the 2007-2013 programming period suggested that, in view of potential displacement effects of assistance to businesses operating largely within local markets and evidence from the survey that job creation is not strongly associated with the smallest businesses, there may be a case for focussing support on businesses employing five or more staff.[5] This is not to say that businesses employing fewer than five staff will be ineligible for growth support but a convincing case will need to be made in such circumstances.

4.Social enterprises are also more likely to seek specialist and tailored business support[6], even though the support needs for social enterprises are broadly similar to other SMEs. Operations providing support for SMEs should fully consider the range of different challenges and barriers facing different businesses with different objectives and legal constitutions and consider tailoring delivery approaches and support. Despite this, social enterprises may encounter difficulties with accessing 'mainstream support' and require different or tailored approaches to the delivery of support.

5.Universally available information and advice should be available to all SMEs (though the design of the intervention will need to consider the specific requirements of key sectors or types of SMEs, such as social enterprises).

6.A range of barriers affect the uptake of resource efficiency and energy efficiency measures in businesses, particularly small and medium businesses, including it being a low priority, lacking expertise, lacking capital, and no compelling case given perceived long payback periods[7]. Support will need to demonstrate market failure and take account of the other initiatives in the market such as the UK Government's Green Deal[8] or any other energy efficiency schemes. Requirements for company energy audits set out in the Energy Efficiency Directive do not apply to SMEs, but such a process could be of benefit to them. Promotion and support for this process may also encourage the behaviour change sought.

7.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted. The sensitive nature of aid measures aimed at promoting export and internationalisation should be paid particular attention, specifically as export subsidies are "prohibited subsidies" under WTO rules and are excluded from the scope of the *de minimis* Regulation.

compare report

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

[1] *Programme for Government*, Welsh Government

[2] *Final Evaluation of Business Growth Programme* (2012), BMG, Wavehill Ltd and Hywel Evans & Associates for the Welsh Government

[3] *ERC White paper: Growth and growth intentions* (2013), Levie and Autio

[4] *Business Growth Ambitions Amongst SMEs* (2012), Department for Business Innovation and Skills. Examples of such businesses given in the report include SMEs which have downsized due to the recession but have survived, SMEs concerned about difficulties in breaking through a threshold, the "ambitious but unprepared", younger owner / managers, owner / managers willing to take risks and SMEs that export, plan to export.

[5] *ERDF Business Survey* (2012), Old Bell 3 for WEFO

[6] *Mapping social enterprise activity in Wales* (October 2009), Welsh Government. Available at: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/regeneration/publications/110803socialmapping/?lang=en

[7] *Exploring the design of policies to increase efficiency of electricity use within the industrial*

and commercial sectors (November 2012), Carbon Trust & SPA Future Thinking for DECC

compare report

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
[8] https://www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
No financial instruments are anticipated in the delivery of this Investment Priority	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
1. There are no current plans for a major project under this Investment Priority.	

compare report

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			~~17,470~~11,820.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			40.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			330.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			~~17,100~~11,450.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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Investment priority		3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	ERDF	Less developed			4,320,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~CO07~~	~~Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)~~	~~EUR~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~6,600,000.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	ERDF	Less developed			6,450.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed			1,480.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J15	Increase in level of export	GBP	ERDF	Less developed			167,100,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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Investment priority		3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	Less developed			~~8,700~~5,910.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly
J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	ERDF	Less developed			~~8,700~~5,910.00	Monitoring Data	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness

compare report

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness												
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
~~CO04~~	~~O~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~N/A~~			~~17,375.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~The output is the main measure of activity under 2 out of 3 Investment Priorities of the Priority axis. This equates to 90% of the priority~~
F2	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed			~~85100000~~212,940,000			333,~~200,000~~269,355.00	Monitoring data	
~~11~~J14	~~I~~O	~~% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~Investment in enterprises	~~Percent~~GBP	ERDF	Less developed			~~44~~78,000,000			~~100~~191,000,000.00	Monitoring data	~~Necessary to provide milestone for final output target~~

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

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Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	001. Generic productive investment in small and medium –sized enterprises ('SMEs')	88,442,186.00
ERDF	Less developed	066. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	73,424,816.00
ERDF	Less developed	067. SME business development, support to entrepreneurship and incubation (including support to spin offs and spin outs)	17,142,067.00
ERDF	Less developed	068. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures	1,714,207.00
ERDF	Less developed	069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	2,571,310.00
ERDF	Less developed	071. Development and promotion of enterprises specialised in providing services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change (including support to such services)	3,000,000.00
ERDF	Less developed	073. Support to social enterprises (SMEs)	10,849,409.00
ERDF	Less developed	082. ICT Services and applications for SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business, networked business processes), living labs, web entrepreneurs, ICT start-ups, etc.)	10,849,409.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	119,551,218.00
ERDF	Less developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	19,873,920.00

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Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	04. Support through financial instruments: loan or equivalent	68,568,266.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	207,993,404.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	207,993,404.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

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2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	**2 - SME Competitiveness**

compare report

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. This Priority Axis covers a single thematic objective for ERDF in West Wales and the Valleys and therefore does not involve the combining of any Investment Priorities from different Thematic Objectives.

2. This Operational Programme includes the Extraregio territory (UKZZ) for the purposes of including activity with the UK territorial waters and the continental shelf lying in international waters over which the country enjoys exclusive rights as eligible for support through this Operational Programme. This is to support ambitions for development of a marine energy sector in Wales, some of which will involve investment in infrastructure and studies of the marine environment. The economic benefit of that investment is expected to be accrued to the programme area and connections supported through this programme should be to the programme area of West Wales and the Valleys.

3. Research and Development and Innovation related to the transition to a low carbon economy – including that related to renewable energy and energy efficiency – is supported under Priority Axis 1. A focus for this Priority Axis is to support a suite of dedicated investments outside of the Smart Specialisation approach (which provides the focus for Priority Axis 1) in specific areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

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4. It is important to recognise that research, technological development and innovation supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency can still be supported through the Research and Innovation Priority Axis, as long as it can demonstrate smart specialisation.

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	Less developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4a
Title of the investment priority	Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	3.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number of wave and tidal energy devices being tested in Welsh waters and off the Welsh coast, including multi-device array deployments, thereby establishing Wales as a centre for marine energy production
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1.Given the focus intended for this Specific Objective is on wave and tidal energy, it is difficult to find an indicator that

	offers that specificity (even at a UK-wide level). Of the data regularly collected in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES), the majority of related indicators also include renewable energy from wind (already an established market). 2.Of those indicators that do have a breakdown, data is only available at a UK-wide level and relate to either installed capacity in wave and tidal or electricity generated from wave and tidal. Given the emphasis of this investment priority is not in direct generation of electricity but in preparing the ground for significant long-term private investment in the sector installed capacity has been selected as it seeks to focus on getting the capacity (and associated requirements to do so). 3.A target has been set against this indicator as it reflects an end result of an expected accumulation of investments to improve the attractiveness of investment in Welsh marine and tidal energy. ERDF will make an area more attractive to private investors, but will not directly install capacity (therefore it is a relevant result indicator). The majority of impact on this indicator that would be expected may well not materialise until after the programme investment; that will need to form part of the assessment of impact as part of the evaluation plan. The performance framework therefore seeks to capture this approach in terms of key implementation steps rather than attaching quantitative targets to a range of different activities.
ID of the specific objective	3.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number of small scale renewable energy schemes established
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. As at 31 December 2012 the installed capacity of sites generating electricity from renewable sources in Wales was 929.4 MW[1]. The bulk of this capacity is through technology associated with a mix between small and larger scale schemes (e.g. wind and wave, solar and hydro account for over 90% of capacity). While data at the level of scale per scheme is not readily available an analysis of the regional capacity and generation noted above shows that Wales has 6% of the generating capacity, generates 5.5% of UK electricity from renewable sources, and yet has 6.8% of the total number of sites generating electricity. While generation is around the population share it potentially indicates a lack of major schemes; however the number of sites generating renewable

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	schemes. 2. The lack of regular and reliable data relative to the size of renewable energy schemes has led to the selection of a broader result indicator, which small schemes will influence. The key indicator selected is the number of sites generating electricity (excluding Photovoltaic) as this is most likely to be influenced by small scale schemes as capacity and amount of energy will be driven primarily by a few large schemes. The exclusion of Photovoltaic is necessary because of the large numbers of individual premises fitted with panels for micro-generation, skewing the figures (e.g. there were 27,173 sites generating from PV in 2012). This is considered a reasonable result indicator as the ERDF support is only intended to address market failure in the early stages of developing small scale or community energy schemes, not to establish schemes in their entirety. ERDF will fund capacity building and early stage development work to make commercially viable schemes in which the market will invest. 3. Project selection, monitoring and evaluation will need to ensure that the sites ERDF contributes to developing are of a reasonable scale (e.g. more than micro-generation and of benefit to at least a community, potentially a larger region, business community or urban area). [1] *Renewable electricity in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England in 2012* (September 2013), DECC

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		3.1 - To increase the number of wave and tidal energy devices being tested in Welsh waters and off the Welsh coast, including multi-device array deployments, thereby establishing Wales as a centre for marine energy production						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
3.1	Installed capacity in wave and tidal.	MW	Less developed	7.00	2013	27.00	Digest of UK Energy Statistics (table 6.4)	Annual

Specific objective		3.2 - To increase the number of small scale renewable energy schemes established						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
3.2	Number of sites generating electricity from renewable sources (excluding PV)	Number	Less developed	493.00	2012	530.00	DUKES (DECC): Report on Renewable electricity in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

1. This Priority is limited to supporting renewable energy and, while the Welsh Government recognises nuclear energy as a source of low carbon energy, the regulations specifically disallow direct investment in nuclear energy.

2. Research and development and innovation investments related to Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and other areas of Low-Carbon, Energy and Environment Welsh Government Grand Challenge area can be funded through the Research and Innovation Priority Axis, though they will be expected to consider their links to the Smart Specialisation approach. The Research and Innovation Priority Axis will enable support to develop and improve a wide range of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies where there is an expertise or opportunity to capture benefits within the programme area (e.g. photovoltaic, offshore wind, fuel cells, sustainable buildings etc). Limited support for enabling infrastructure for offshore wind might incidentally be supported through this Priority where it shares requirements with the marine energy sector (e.g. shore based facilities, access, operation and maintenance).

3. SMEs in the Energy and Environment sector will be eligible for all business support and finance under the SME Competitiveness priority. Only specific investments directly linked to energy efficiency projects are envisaged in terms of sector and supply chain development through this priority.

4. Investments under this Investment Priority will be focused on developing the emerging marine energy sector in Wales and on enabling the development of small scale or community scale renewable energy schemes. All of these investments should be aimed at attracting additional investment into the programme area: major private investment in the case of marine energy; and finance from mainstream / private providers for small scale schemes.

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Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

Marine Energy (SO1)

5. Support contributing to this Specific Objective may be directed at a number of target groups in the marine energy innovation supply chain, from research institutions to SMEs to Local Government or any other organisation. Territorially, investments would be expected along the Welsh coast in identified areas with links to the specific resources and opportunities identified in the Welsh Government's Marine Renewable Energy Strategic Framework.

6. Given Wales' comparative advantages there is the potential to become a significant market player in this area[1], albeit in a nascent market; an opportunity not afforded in other renewable energy sectors in Wales, given the maturity of those sectors and market share already established for manufacture, operation and maintenance outside of the programme area.

7. Some private investment in marine energy in Wales is emerging[2], but much more investment is needed to demonstrate commercial viability of emerging technology solutions, in particular through larger scale tests. Demonstrating these successfully in the programme area will help to ensure that economic benefits are realised in the programme area (for example research and development, manufacture, operation and maintenance).

8. Tidal and wave technology is only just reaching commercialisation, indicating a wider potential need for investment (e.g. infrastructure, R&D&I, demonstration of working models to make schemes more attractive to potential investors[3]).

9. Emerging clusters in North Wales and South West Wales offer specific opportunities to develop the marine energy sector in a targeted way. To retain and develop existing businesses, as well as attract new businesses, these clusters will need access to viable test sites, improved connectivity and be able to successfully demonstrate technology

10. Types of action to support the deployment of marine energy technology (tidal, wave and wind) as part of developing the Welsh sector (SO1):

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Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

- Marine energy innovation and R&D with commercial potential including prototypes, demonstrators and pre-commercial devices and arrays. May include a range of activity leading to this, including:
    - applied research,
    - design,
    - manufacture,
- Increase the capability to test marine energy devices off the Welsh coast by targeted infrastructure investments and preparatory work to remove barriers, reduce risks and maximise investor confidence. These investments should be aimed at encouraging deployment of pre commercial marine devices for testing and demonstration. For example:
    - site preparation
    - shore-based facilities[4]
    - connections
    - access
    - surveys
- Support to remove barriers and help part-finance test and demonstration devices and arrays.

Small scale / community scale energy schemes (SO2)

11. The ex-ante assessment to inform potential Financial Instruments in Wales for 2014-2020[5] and findings to date from Ynni'r Fro (community energy scheme funded through ERDF) suggest that there is already a good supply of capital finance, but there remains a need for advice and guidance for groups to address those barriers prior to reaching consent (and therefore having a financially viable proposition).

12. A number of mature technologies are available to support small scale and community scale low Carbon initiatives (e.g. wind, solar PV) but the adoption of such technology is expensive and not as widespread as it could be due to uncertainty caused by early stage project development and planning activity raising questions over commercial viability and benefits. There is a need to demonstrate viability on small scale / community scale and to support measures to speed up the process to help lever additional private resource into these models.

compare report

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

13. Support will be particularly focused on social enterprises and community groups where additional support would be required in the early stages of project development to get to a stage where other investors will be willing to invest. Schemes will be particularly encouraged where they form part of low-Carbon strategies for a specific area, and additional support will be necessary to achieve this given the relatively novel approach and as an additional exercise.

14. Types of actions anticipated include:

- Capacity development for local groups,
- Advice and guidance on setting up small scale renewable energy generation schemes
- Support for collaborative working with developers on community supported schemes
- Investments tailored to address barriers to accessing finance for small and community schemes supporting a low Carbon transition.
- Development and implementation of low Carbon strategies supporting the demonstration of benefits for a specific geographical area

[1] Small clusters are developing in the South West and in North Wales, but creating new and attracting other businesses to Wales will be necessary to capture market share.

[2] For example Marine Current Turbines off the coast of Anglesey and Tidal Energy Ltd off the coast of Pembrokeshire.

[3] *Marine Energy Technology Innovation Needs Assessment (TINA)* (August 2012), Low Carbon Innovation Co-ordination Group (LCICG). Available at:

compare report

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

http://www.lowcarboninnovation.co.uk/working_together/technology_focus_areas/marine/

[4] For example the Marine Energy Infrastructure Study for Wales (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/renewable/marine/infrastructure-study/?lang=en). This indicated differing needs dependant on the area, but a general need for de-risking of private investment through infrastructure including: specialist machinery; large laydown and storage areas for assembly and rapid deployment; dry and wet commissioning of electrical parts; sufficient quay length / wide slipway; transport access; etc.

[5] *Ex Ante Assessment for the use of Financial Instruments*, Regeneris Consulting, not yet published

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

1.Schemes will be expected to complement the activity of the Energy Wales Programme.

2.Business cases will need to clearly demonstrate market failure and that opportunities for co-investment and synergies with other funding programmes have been fully explored (for example UK, Welsh and Local Government schemes or specialist lenders, such as Triodos)

3.Proposals for investments in wave and tidal energy should demonstrate clearly how they fit with and take account of developments and technological advances in the field elsewhere in the UK and Europe, and the operations should generally add value to these. Proposals should also identify how Wales can maximise economic benefits in the long term from investments, including manufacturing, operation and maintenance, and continued research and

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Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

innovation.

4.Marine energy proposals should also consider and ensure consistency with the Marine Policy Statement[1] and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive[2]. Links should also be considered across the ESI funds, including investment in the marine environment through EMFF and the ETC programmes (particularly the Ireland / Wales programme), and links to the Low Carbon Energy and Environment sector (e.g. Research and Innovation, SME Competitiveness or Skills support).

5.Schemes are anticipated to be able to demonstrate a degree of scale (e.g. greater than micro-generation and of benefit to entire communities, regions, or urban areas). Small scale and community energy schemes should ensure consistency and coordination with any proposals in the Welsh Rural Development Programme, in particular which fund will support which elements (in terms of demarcation).

6.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69322/pb3654-marine-policy-statement-110316.pdf

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm

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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources
No Financial Instruments are planned for this Investment Priority	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources
1. No major project is ~~currently anticipated under this Investment Priority.~~ ~~2. If a single integrated package of support for marine energy deployment is developed (e.g. to develop sites, help deploy technology, or a combination of both) it might constitute a major project. This is far from certain and it more likely that separate proposals would be developed to address specific barriers or to develop specific clusters~~anticipated under this Investment Priority.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources**					
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of**

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				relevant)	M	W	T		reporting
~~CO01~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~150.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~CO04~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~150.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~CO29~~	~~Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products~~	~~Enterprises~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~75.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~CO30~~	~~Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production~~	~~MW~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~20.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
J16	Community energy schemes	Number	ERDF	Less developed			3.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	Number	ERDF	Less developed			2.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	Number	ERDF	Less developed			8.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J5	Number of pilot projects	Number	ERDF	Less developed			4.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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	completed								

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4c
Title of the investment priority	Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	3.3
Title of the specific objective	To increase the energy efficiency of the existing Welsh housing stock, particularly in areas of fuel poverty
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. The selection of results indicators is difficult as there are difficulties in the collection and analysis of relevant data. For example energy consumption by household can be used to track global changes, but the number of households is too large to be able to impact significantly. Energy consumption also only captures gas and electricity usage, whereas many parts of rural Wales rely on other sources of fuel. 2. The use the Welsh Government's indicators for fuel poverty are used to determine a more limited and specific target group where the greatest need exists and who are less likely to access other forms of support. This also includes the use of other fuels. In order to set a reasonable baseline a specific subset of severe fuel poverty has been selected. This equates to households that are spending 20% or more of their income on fuel. 3. As fuel poverty itself can be influenced by too large a range of other factors (e.g. energy prices, inflation, wages,

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	employment levels, etc), the associated target is to increase the energy efficiency ratings of a significant proportion of those households, recognising evidence that these households are recognised as having the lowest levels of energy efficiency. 4. The target should be considered alongside the complementary action under the East Wales programme, given the indicator is only available at an all Wales level. A significant proportion of those households supported should be those in severe fuel poverty, but opportunities for economies of scale should not be lost where streets or communities could benefit from an integrated action. It is also recognised that targeting on severe fuel poverty may be difficult but reasonable proxies should be used (e.g. Index of Multiple Deprivation).

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		3.3 - To increase the energy efficiency of the existing Welsh housing stock, particularly in areas of fuel poverty						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
3.3	Energy efficiency rating of households facing severe fuel poverty	EPC ratings	Less developed	61,000	2010	Increase by 2 ratings for 10% baseline	Welsh Givernment's Fuel Poverty Annual Report	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

1.The SME Competitiveness Priority encourages support for sector and supply chain development and support for the energy efficiency supply chain should be funded through that Priority where there are realistic growth opportunities.

2.Existing schemes (such as Green Deal) will not address the causes of fuel poverty in the short term as savings will be used to repay the loan (and interest) over long pay-back periods and there is therefore little incentive for the fuel-poor to take part. The scale of the challenge dwarfs the available funding and the results to be sought for this Investment Priority needs to balance a need for targeting with a desire not to miss opportunities for economies of scale or flexible support.

3.Investing in energy efficiency will not only enable cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but will create business and employment opportunities for local labour. Wales has developed a comprehensive energy efficiency supply chain to take advantage of the opportunities to date offered by the promotion of energy efficiency (for example over 80% of the businesses that delivered phase 1 of Arbed operated primarily, or solely, in Wales). It is expected that this progress will be built upon and where necessary, complementary action targeted under Priority 2 (SME Competitiveness).

4.Community participation and involvement will be encouraged as an important element in the effective delivery of measures to improve the energy efficiency of housing.

5.Types of action to be supported:

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Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

- Energy conservation and efficiency measures in existing housing. Consideration should be given to achieving multiple benefits, appropriate targeting to achieve that, and opportunities to utilise repayable finance.
- Energy efficiency advice and measures to encourage behavioural change
- The provision of green infrastructure such as the construction of "green" roofs and "green" walls and other appropriate actions to reduce energy use and for smarter energy management
- Opportunities to support the development and use of ICT-based solutions to address energy efficiency in housing challenges

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69322/pb3654-marine-policy-statement-110316.pdf

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/eu-coast-and-marine-policy/marine-strategy-framework-directive/index_en.htm

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2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

1.Support for energy efficiency measures will need to take account of other initiatives in the market such as the UK Government's Green Deal[1], Energy Company Obligation[2], as well as the scope to utilise repayable forms of finance where appropriate.

2.The scale of the problem suggests a need to focus on those areas with the greatest market failure (for example those affected most by fuel poverty and least likely to engage in loan schemes such as Green Deal) and at the same time to consider economies of scale (e.g. where entire streets or communities can be covered).

3.Structural funds investments should be seeking to achieve multiple benefits at the same time as addressing an identified market failure. Investing in energy efficiency will not only enable cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but will create business and employment opportunities for local labour. These businesses should be encouraged to develop further to be in a position to help deliver wider schemes, such as the Green Deal across the UK.

4. Energy saving measures should consider the scope to utilise ecologically sound practices and the scope to use green infrastructure.

5.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] https://www.gov.uk/green-deal-energy-saving-measures

[2] https://www.gov.uk/energy-company-obligation

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Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
There is no planned use of Financial Instruments for this Investment Priority given the current existence of loan schemes such as Green Deal. The option to contribute resources to a financial instrument will be considered if the ex-ante assessment on financial instruments identifies an opportunity to use repayable finance (e.g. an Urban Development Fund supporting energy efficiency as an element).	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
~~Potential for this Investment Priority to be delivered as a~~ No major project~~. This would build on the experiences of delivering the Arbed programme during 2007-2013 and reflect the findings of the independent evaluation of that project. A market assessment will need to be carried out and clear targeting criteria identified~~ anticipated.	

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	Less developed			~~5,500~~3,060.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	ERDF	Less developed			~~105~~.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	**3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**

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2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency												
ID	**Indicator type**	**Indicator or key implementation step**	**Measurement unit, where appropriate**	**Fund**	**Category of region**	**Milestone for 2018**			**Final target (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate**
						M	**W**	**T**	**M**	**W**	**T**		
CO31	O	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	Less developed			N/A			~~5,500~~3,060.00	Monitoring data	Will capture activity for energy efficiency in housing element
~~F2~~	~~F~~	~~Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority~~	~~€~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~62800000~~			~~246,000,000.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	
~~I2~~	~~I~~	~~% of final target for households with improved energy efficiency consumption classification has been achieved by partailly implemented/ implemented projects~~	~~percentage~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~50~~			~~100.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	
~~I5~~	~~I~~	~~X number of Energy support site preparation schemes that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~	~~number~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~1~~			~~2.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	
~~I6~~F2	~~I~~F	~~X number of renewable energy prototypes tested that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	~~number~~€	ERDF	Less developed			~~3~~26,000,000			~~8~~246,036,999.00	Monitoring data	~~Needed to capture milestone in the deliver of related output final target~~
J17	O	Energy support site preparation schemes	Number	ERDF	Less developed			~~N/A~~1			2.00	Monitoring data	Will capture a key element of the support to enable the development of a marine energy sector in WWV. This combined with the output, Number of renewable energy prototypes tested, captures the majority of activity

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Priority axis		3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator,
													under SO3.1, which is 59% of the priority
J18	O	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	Number	ERDF	Less developed			~~N/A~~3			8.00	Monitoring data	Will capture a key element of the support to enable the development of a marine energy sector in WWV. See explanation for Energy support site preparation schemes above.
I33	I	Contractors procured to deliver final target of households with improved energy consumption classification	Yes / No	ERDF	Less developed			Yes				Monitoring data	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	005. Electricity (storage and transmission)	3,000,000.00

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Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	009. Renewable energy: wind	5,352,375.00
ERDF	Less developed	010. Renewable energy: solar	4,014,281.00
ERDF	Less developed	011. Renewable energy: biomass	4,014,281.00
ERDF	Less developed	012. Other renewable energy (including hydroelectric, geothermal and marine energy) and renewable energy integration (Including storage, power to gas and renewable hydrogen infrastructure)	97,228,444.00
ERDF	Less developed	014. Energy efficiency renovation of existing housing stock, demonstration projects and supporting measures	47,014,107.00
ERDF	Less developed	015. Intelligent Energy Distribution Systems at medium and low voltage levels (including smart grids and ICT systems)	5,000,000.00
ERDF	Less developed	016. High efficiency co-generation and district heating	5,000,000.00
ERDF	Less developed	101. Cross financing under the ERDF (support to ESF type actions necessary for the satisfactory implementation of the ERDF part of the operation and directly linked to it)	200,000.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	170,823,488.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	Less developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	47,014,107.00
ERDF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	123,809,381.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	170,823,488.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

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2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	4
Title of the priority axis	Connectivity and Urban Development

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. This Priority Axis brings together Investment Priorities from four different Thematic Objectives in order to maximise the efficiency and impact of investments by aligning them with the priorities of the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan for Growth and Jobs (WIIP). The Welsh Government has published the WIIP to ensure that its future capital investment is used to deliver the maximum benefits to Wales. Given that its capital spending power has been reduced (40% lower in 2014-15 than 2010-11) the Government's focus is on not only seeking innovative ways of financing infrastructure investments but on being very clear about priorities and driving greater economy and efficiency.

2. This Priority Axis aims to support the improvement of the attractiveness of places in the programme area; and by doing so attract further private investment to help drive employment growth. Actions supported under this Priority will be enablers for all other Priorities and also key to the success of the ESF programmes (e.g. to ensure skills investments do not simply result in movement of skilled labour out of the programme area); as such they will need to demonstrate how they will interact with other investments in a territorial area for greater collective impact.

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3. Transport investments will constitute the majority of funding (primarily through the "Transition to a Low Carbon Economy" thematic objective, but also the "Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures" one) which will address issues of peripherality and lack of urban mobility, seeking to better link urban growth centres in the programme area to markets and improve access to employment opportunities across the region.

4. Digital connectivity is also of increasing importance for businesses and for business growth in urban centres; in particular those areas where there are issues of peripherality and lack of labour mobility, opening up greater opportunities for remote working. In terms of providing the right environment in which businesses can flourish and grow, and in turn create employment directly and through supporting supply chains, ICT connectivity is as important as transport connectivity. Indeed the two are mutually reinforcing with better ICT connectivity reducing the need to travel.

5. Investments in physical infrastructure are the key drivers of regeneration and employment growth within places. They can stimulate further investments in an area or region, in particular through inward investment or greater involvement of the private sector. As part of this, projects supported under this third Thematic Objective should complement and add value to accessibility and connectivity investments. The intention is that the appropriate mix of activity to develop strategic sites should be determined by the relevant regional or urban authority (as a key part of sustainable urban development), as long as it supports employment growth in a key centre and as part of a prioritised integrated territorial strategy. It is considered important to keep these activities together as they are mutually reinforcing and to contribute to a coherent spatial investment strategy.

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ERDF	Less developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	2a
Title of the investment priority	Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	4.3
Title of the specific objective	To contribute to Digital Agenda for Europe targets in Wales for 100% access to next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) and 50% access to 100Mbps
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. There is a broad consensus that a significant increase in bandwidth gives rise to a range of new applications which generate business benefits such as improved productivity and access to new markets, as evidenced from the step up to ADSL from dial up services[1]. 2. Direct ERDF investments for 2014-2020 are anticipated to contribute around a 7 percentage point increase in coverage of 30Mbps NGA networks. This includes around 3-4 percentage points related to addressing white areas in the recently completed Open Market Review (OMR) and an additional 3 percentage points for white areas expected in an OMR to be carried out in 2016. The current OMR estimates coverage of around 92% without further investment. ERDF can help raise this by 2020 to up to 99%, with EAFRD supporting investment in the remaining 1-2% of most difficult areas. All together these investments should help deliver the Digital Agenda for Europe target for NGA. [1] For example: *Proven economic benefits of superfast broadband* (2011), Arthur D Little; and *The Impact of Broadband on*

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	the Economy: Research to Date and Policy Issues' (2010), Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR)

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**4.3 - To contribute to Digital Agenda for Europe targets in Wales for 100% access to next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) and 50% access to 100Mbps**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
4.3	Proportion of premises that are in postcodes served by NGA networks	%	Less developed	58%	2014	65%	The Communications Market survey: Wales, Ofcom	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

1.Next generation broadband (30Mbps) will be the priority for the Welsh ERDF programme, and within that priority will be given to urban areas where the greatest added value can be delivered. Without further ERDF investment it is estimated around 92% of coverage will be achieved. ERDF investment is expected to support additional investment leading to up to 99% coverage, with the hardest to reach and more rural areas targeted through the RDP.

2.Investment will be targeted on white areas identified through Open Market Reviews and will be expected to contribute to targets for Next Generation Access networks set out in a Digital Agenda for Europe

3.The Next Generation Broadband investments will deliver superfast broadband services (up to 30Mbps and above) which will be ideal for domestic premises and many small businesses. As well as catching up to avoid widening disparities there are significant opportunities to attract and retain key businesses requiring ultrafast connectivity solutions (100Mbs and above). Larger businesses, businesses requiring upload speeds which match their download speeds (Symmetric services), and enterprises who need to connect securely from one site to another will need more tailored ICT connectivity and at higher speeds. There are opportunities to capture and retain these businesses in strategic sites across Wales (e.g. relevant Enterprise Zones or areas of City Regions) and investments should be considered on a case by case basis, particularly where it can be linked to research and innovation and can deliver the target in a Digital Agenda for Europe for increasing the use of 100Mbs networks.

4.The Commission *Communication on Smart Cities*[1] also recognises the potential to deploy “smart city solutions” particularly in the areas of energy, transport and mobility and ICT.

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Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

5.Types of action to be supported:

- Infrastructure improvements to improve connectivity of superfast broadband of 30Mbps and above (completing networks where market failure).
- Targeted infrastructure investments (e.g. voucher scheme) to improve connectivity of ultrafast broadband of 100Mbps and above (targeted at business take-up and exploitation).

[1] http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/doc/2012_4701_smart_cities_en.pdf

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

1. Actions to stimulate the demand for, and uptake of ICT networks should be considered in the development of any proposals and direct links made where appropriate (including any ICT demand stimulation supported under the SME Competitiveness Priority Axis). There is a poor understanding amongst some businesses of the productivity benefits of telecoms networks which result in lower levels of take up. The full benefits of broadband will only be maximised if demand stimulation is pursued in parallel to supply side interventions.

2. Potential State Aid and competition rules should be considered at the earliest opportunity in any proposal, particularly where looking to support strategic

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Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
sites. 3. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
The use of financial instruments to deliver this Investment Priority is not foreseen at the beginning of the programming period; however, the potential for their use will be assessed and informed as relevant by an ex-ante assessment (as required by CPR 37(2)).	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
No major projects expected	

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	ERDF	Less developed			~~28~~60,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J27	Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbpsof higher networks	Number	ERDF	Less developed			250.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J31	Additional population covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband	Number	ERDF	Less developed			0.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	4e
Title of the investment priority	Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	4.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. Urban mobility, and good links between places of work and living, is central to an effectively functioning urban centre and to spreading the benefits of growth in urban centres more widely in the region. 2. Improving access to sustainable forms of transport is a barrier to employment to be addressed, but that must also be complemented by considering the regularity of services. Services to employment centres need to operate at regular intervals and over more extended periods to support access to employment opportunities over longer distances and reflecting increasing demands for shift working or more flexible working patterns. The only option in some areas of Wales is taxi services which can negate the benefits of employment given the cost. 3. The selected result indicator therefore seeks to incorporate not only accessibility of public transport (e.g. number of stations or stops within walking distance) but also the frequency of services (e.g. to enable travel to work). The baseline is set using a number of key employment centres to assess their accessibility via public transport. Careful targeting will be required to address particular constraints / issues where the greatest gains can be achieved in order to reach the target

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	value. 4. The result indicator for this programme is restricted to the South Wales area in which intervention will be targeted. Figures will therefore be averaged across six key centres along the Core Valley Lines network – Aberdare, Caerphilly, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff city centre, Merthyr Tydfil, Pontypridd. This will allow for a reduction in the 'noise' associated with wider investments in the public transport networks and improve the ability to assess impact of interventions.

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**4.2 - To increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres.**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
4.2	Number of people within 15, 30, 45 minute travel time threshold of a key urban employment centre between 7am and 9am on a Tuesday by public transport	Number	Less developed	0-15 Mins ~~636,562~~ 041,823; 15-30 ~~mins 1,664,666~~Mins 88,785; 30-45 Mins 118,977	~~2012~~2017	5-10% increase in each ~~time band~~timeband, calculated as an average across the 6 key centres (2015 population)	~~GIS data, National Transport Plan monitoring~~TRACC accessibility software	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

1.Consideration of City Regions in Wales has illustrated a mono-centric City Region in the South West of Wales and a polycentric City Region in the South East, as well as the importance of connectivity to England in North Wales. As the major growth centres a focus will be expected in improving connectivity to and between these urban areas. Some emphasis might therefore be expected in delivering an element of the Cardiff Capital City Region Metro given it covers the key population centres in the West Wales and the Valleys programme area.

2.Significant improvements in sustainable transport and better connectivity would improve access to employment for people in more peripheral areas where unemployment rates are high. Furthermore it would enable the regions to properly exploit the potential for agglomeration effects noted in other city regions across the UK and Europe. There are also opportunities to increase the volume of freight travelling by more sustainable means (e.g. rail) at the same time as improving labour market mobility.

3. The National Transport Plan sets out that Wales should aim to reduce carbon emissions from transport and to get more out of transport infrastructure by integrating all modes to make the system work better, and increase the use of more sustainable and healthy travel options. Actions under this Investment Priority need to consider how they can help ensure the benefits of major investments in the TEN-T and other transport networks, such as electrification, are felt by those in more peripheral regions; supporting employment growth within those regions and improving access to urban centres

4.The advice and recommendations of the City Regions Task and Finish Group[1], commissioned by the Welsh Government, identified opportunities for identified opportunities for integrated transport solutions to improve connectivity of those regions with their hinterlands, and with each other; in particular in relation to the Cardiff Capital Region and the potential to support a Metro system. Actions under this Investment Priority should seek to complement

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Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

and add value to those findings, particularly where they can support jobs and growth in Wales.

5.Enterprise Zones have been identified as particular clusters of economically important and growth sectors. To further support those growth opportunities, accessibility options should be pursued that open up the areas to a wider labour market and improve the attractiveness to new businesses (e.g. Deeside Enterprise Zone has vacancies, but suffers from a lack of accessibility to concentrations of economic inactivity along the North Wales coast such as Rhyl to fill those jobs[2]).

6. Connectivity to and between the City Regions, for example through the emerging Cardiff Capital Region Metro proposals, will the main priority for investment across the programmes given the potential impact and population concentrations in Wales. This will mean building on improvements in TEN-T networks to ensure urban mobility benefits and agglomeration effects are felt across the West Wales and the Valleys regions.

7.Types of action to be supported could include:

- Intermodal and sustainable transport facilities that improve access to employment and education better integrating public transport and increasing its accessibility and likely use as a viable alternative for commuting (e.g. park and ride facilities, transport hubs, connecting bus and rail, cycle links, etc.)
- Improvements to rail network where it can deliver against the result indicator, specifically where it can connect growth areas to areas of unemployment (e.g. station improvements, signalling, new lines, electrification, etc.).
- Alleviation of urban congestion (e.g. traffic management, developing low-carbon transport systems and strategies, promoting urban mobility)
- Piloting or roll-out of Smart ticketing and Intelligent Transport Systems solutions that provide a more seamless integrated transport system,

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Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

encouraging more regular use of public transport as preferred transport mode.

[1] http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/publications/120711cityregions/?lang=en

[2] *North East Wales Integrated Transport Task Force: Report to Minister for Economy, Science and Transport* (2013), North East Wales Integrated Transport Task Force.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

1.A clear emphasis for this Investment Priority will be on sustainable transport. Funding under this Investment Priority will be expected to be spent on schemes that will improve the use of sustainable transport modes, such as rail. This should lead to the reduction of emissions from the air and support compliance with the Air Quality Plans under Directive 2008/50/EC; this should be a consideration in project development and project evaluation to demonstrate a contribution to the respective Welsh Air Quality Plans. This will also be measured through a dedicated output indicator which sustainable urban transport schemes will be expected to contribute to.

2.The result indicator and target will require a careful prioritisation based on improving accessibility within 30 minutes of key centres. In order to have an impact on the target there will need to be targeting on key urban centres where enough of a population exists to influence the indicator (e.g Cardiff and the Valleys, Swansea, Bangor). There will also need to be some targeting based around those areas within 45 minutes which can be improved to 30 or less.

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Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

Studies assessing these kind of pinch-points and bottlenecks have informed the National Transport Plan and prioritisation in the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan. Consistency will be sought with these planning documents, as well as Regional Transport Plans and regional economic strategies.

3.The National Transport Plan also includes a commitment to reduce carbon emissions equivalents from transport, including a move towards sustainable transport solutions. In demonstrating consistency with the National Transport Plan all operations will also need to demonstrate how they are contributing to this objective, including how they will measure their contribution through the related output indicator for this Specific Objective.

4. The objectives in the National Transport Plan (NTP) are also consistent with priorities identified by the Welsh Government in its Climate Change Strategy for Wales[1]. This sets out ambitions (mirrored in the NTP) to reduce emissions in the transport sector through (amongst other things) the increased usage of public transport, fewer passenger kilometres by vehicles and greater role for sustainable travel options in the development of places. All of these features have informed the development of this Specific Objective and will be expected to also be reflected in the design of operations funded through this Specific Objective

5.Investments should seek to incorporate the good practices promoted through the EU's Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans[2]. Relevant investments should align with mobility and transport plans that can demonstrate they have been developed in line with the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan concept.

6.Investments under this Investment Priority will be expected, where appropriate, to be complementary with TEN-T investments and also feed into complementary investments in specific geographical areas to improve employment growth (Specific Objecitve 4.4).

7.Opportunities for complementary investments as part of an integrated package will be particularly important to ensure that the full economic benefit of investing in infrastructure is realised.

8.Investments should not only consider improvements to the accessibility by distance of public and sustainable transport modes, they should also consider linking that to the regularity of services to ensure it is fit for purpose to support access to employment. Similarly, investments should also be able to

compare report

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

demonstrate how links are improved between less well connected areas (e.g. areas of deprivation or low employment) and employment centres (e.g. so the routes are high value ones).

9.Schemes should consider the role of Intelligent Transport Systems[3], utilising information and communication technologies to transport to make it more efficient, clean, safe and seamless

10.Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/publications/101006ccstratfinalen.pdf (chapter 8)

[2] http://www.mobilityplans.eu/11

[3] http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/index_en.htm

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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

1. No financial instrument is planned for this Investment Priority.

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

~~1. The scope to support a major project supporting a key element of emerging proposals for a South Wales Metro will be considered.~~

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
~~CO11~~	~~Railway: Total length of new railway line~~	~~km~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~15.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~CO12~~	~~Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line~~	~~km~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~15.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
~~CO14~~CO12	~~Roads~~Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded ~~roads~~railway line	km	ERDF	Less developed			~~5~~24.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~J19~~	~~Public transport services created or improved~~	~~Vehicle km~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~			~~2,500,000.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~
J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	Number	ERDF	Less developed			25.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
~~J22~~J23	~~Gross passenger kilometers on~~	~~Passnger km~~Hectares	ERDF	Less developed			~~400,000,000~~3.00	~~Monitoring data~~	~~Quarterly~~

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Investment priority		4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	~~public transport~~Land developed								
J30	Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	tCO2e	ERDF	Less developed			10,700.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	7a
Title of the investment priority	Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	4.1
Title of the specific objective	To address issues of peripherality and improve private investment in local areas through improvements to the functioning of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. Evidence suggests that the impact of investment in roads is strongest for local economies; bringing improvements in employment, productivity, numbers of businesses and wages[1]. Funding available would mean that only 2-4 significant

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	schemes would be likely to receive support from this Investment Priority; those schemes must therefore both address the issue of peripherality and also maximise the local economic impact in order to help address widening regional disparities and underpin the range of other investments being made across the ESI programmes. 2. Employment, productivity, business creation and growth, and wages are all key elements being targeted by different parts of the ESI programmes; demonstrating how this Investment Priority can help to underpin all those other ESI investments to retain benefits within the programme area. Connectivity investment will have a direct short-term (and longer term) influence over the location of firms (new to the area) and the investment they bring. 3. Investments are expected to improve reliability (e.g. through addressing congestion bottlenecks) in specific and low quality sections of the TEN-T network. Modelling on possible sections of the TEN-T suggests that a minimum increase of 10% is a reasonable result to be sought from any significant investment. 4. A separate baseline has been set for each of the A40 and A55 roads, focussing on average speeds during peak times. 5. It is clear that reduction of accidents is also an issue in these parts of the TEN-T network, so a secondary objective would be to reduce the number and severity of accidents to the national average (both sections are currently seeing higher than average levels). This will be addressed at a project level looking to set baselines and associated targets on a project-by-project basis. [1] *New Road Infrastructure: the Effects on Firms* (2012), S. Gibbons, T. Lyytikainen, H. Overman and R. Sanchis-Guarner, SERC Discussion Paper 117, 2012

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**4.1 - To address issues of peripherality and improve private investment in local areas through improvements to the functioning of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
4.1	Average speed on TEN-T road	Kmph	Less developed	A40:58 A55:86	2013	5-10% increase	Traffic Master data	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

1.The National Transport Plan sets out that Wales should aim to get more out of its transport infrastructure by integrating all modes to make the system work better, and increase the use of more healthy and sustainable travel options. Actions should seek to add value to existing and planned investments, address specific bottlenecks and address the issues of peripherality faced by the programme area. This will mean more of a focus on the peripheral areas and local economic benefit (which will not penalise the scheme for being in peripheral areas). Further investments may be required in order to extract the maximum economic benefit for the programme area from this investment and to encourage modal shifts (e.g. in complementary sites and premises or local skills support to attract inward investment).

2.Expenditure envisaged under this Specific Objective will be on the TEN-T network, and are strictly limited to investments that can demonstrate an impact on the result indicator in relation to the A55 and the A40 only (i.e. improve speeds and travel times at bottlenecks on the A55 an A40). The analysis informing this programme has identified those sections of the TEN-T network in Wales as major bottlenecks and areas of growth opportunity, in particular where there are commuting inflows or specific growth opportunities associated with key sites (e.g. Enterprise Zones). Investments must therefore aim to address a significant and evidenced bottleneck (e.g. for commuter or holiday traffic).

3.A focus on sustainability will also be essential for all schemes with specific measures to be identified to support the use of public transport and clean transport.

4.Types of actions anticipated to support:

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Investment priority	7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

- Targeted investment in the TEN-T road network along the A40 and A55 to alleviate congestion at identified bottlenecks
- Complementary measures to improve accessibility along the TEN-T routes by public transport (e.g. bus access, cycle / walking routes, multimodal links, etc).

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

1. Investment in TEN-T routes will have to be identified as nationally significant infrastructure schemes prioritised in the National Transport Plan and Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan, utilising the improved business assurance process to maximise value for money.

2. Transport schemes can play an important role in promoting economic development but to be successful the other elements necessary for growth need to be present[1] and are accompanied by complementary interventions. The specific investments in transport from this programme will need to demonstrate that they are addressing genuine bottlenecks, in terms of access to employment or that they are unlocking opportunities for economic growth at a regional level rather than just affecting sub regional or local choices for business locations.

3. The local impact should be a major feature of any successful investment, particularly where it contributes to an integrated approach to development within a local, urban or regional area (e.g. to a regional strategy). There should be an expectation that investment will leverage additional private sector investments (e.g. through inward investment).

4. Proposals should also consider and demonstrate how they are supporting sustainable urban development and improving access to and use of sustainable

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Investment priority	7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

forms of transport, in particular given the emphasis expected on linking people to jobs. They should also consider the potential effects of transport interventions on carbon emissions in their local using the UK Department for Transport basic carbon tool[2]. Sustainable development concerns and potential negative impacts on health and the environment should be assessed when considering all investments under this Specific Objective.

5. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] *Promoting Growth in All Regions: Lessons from across the OECD* (2011), OECD.

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-basic-carbon-tool

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

There are no plans to use Financial Instruments for this Specific Objective

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2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T
No major project planned	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	ERDF	Less developed			15.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J21	Footpath or cycleway created or reconstructed	km	ERDF	Less developed			~~105~~.00	Monitoring data	

compare report

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	8b
Title of the investment priority	Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	4.4
Title of the specific objective	To increase employment through investments in prioritised local or regional infrastructure supporting a regional or urban economic strategy
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	**Description of baseline and results** 1. Welsh labour market statistics are examined in detail in the socioeconomic analysis and as part of the ESF programmes. There are significant variances in employment rates and the reasons for those rates across and even within the different Local Authorities in Wales. Pockets of low employment and deprivation exist across Wales, not just in the poorest regions or Local Authorities. 2. Many of these areas suffer from poor physical infrastructure, under-developed tourism or natural assets and a lack of suitable or attractive premises for businesses as well as wider issues of low skills and economic inactivity. An integrated approach is therefore desirable that considers all elements together, but at the same time does not duplicate provision. A key element of this will need to be a prioritisation process which identifies growth opportunities for specific sites, rather than seeking employment growth everywhere. The indicator selected is complementary to that selected for the *Vibrant and Viable Places* targeted regeneration funding provided by the Welsh Government to also seek an alignment and integration in planning. 3. Given the sub-regional areas to be targeted have not yet been identified or prioritised by the relevant regional or urban

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	authorities relevant baselines cannot be set for the result indicator, given the opportunities will be different in each region. Targets will also vary dependant on the scheme but in taking an average of Claimant Count rates in travel to work areas and an average expected number of new jobs to be created and filled by jobseekers it is possible to set an average target value. Clearly each operation needs to be considered on its merits and opportunities sought to exceed the average overall. 4. The use of Travel to Work Areas and focus on new jobs created for the benefit of jobseekers in those areas is important to try and ensure that the creation of jobs is of benefit to the surrounding areas rather than solely to commuters from outside of the programme area. Specific targeted action, including the potential for integration with ESF activity, should be incorporated to ensure appropriate focus on the result.

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Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators, by specific objective (for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund)

Specific objective		**4.4 - To increase employment through investments in prioritised local or regional infrastructure supporting a regional or urban economic strategy**						
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Baseline value**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
4.4	Claimant count rate in travel to work Areas	Number	Less developed	11,442	2013	8% decrease on average (value dependant on scheme)	Employment rate by Welsh local area and year (stats Wales)	Annual

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

1. A limited number of spatially prioritised schemes will be supported that identify key regional or urban growth opportunities. These schemes will be driven by small number of key infrastructure investments that will encourage business investment and employment growth in the region. A number of spatial targeting mechanisms already exist across Wales and should be considered in the development of any schemes as they may help provide critical mass or specific opportunities. For example the Welsh Government's Enterprise Zones and the developing "City Regions" approach encourage investments based on the potential of clusters or growth poles (often characterized by key industries around which linked industries develop, mainly through direct and indirect effects) to promote economic development. Local Authorities also have their own economic strategies on a local and regional basis. All of these will identify key infrastructure requirements and these offer opportunities for strategic targeting (e.g. in helping identify key strategic business sites and premises).

2. It will be essential that a consideration of how the employment opportunities being created through the operations funded under this Specific Objective can be taken up by the local labour market, and particularly the unemployed and those at a disadvantage. While the focus for the location of investment is clearly on growth opportunities, it will be essential that those operations demonstrate they have identified nearby areas of low employment or deprivation and can demonstrate how new employment opportunities will be made accessible for those areas (e.g. public transport links, employment support, engagement activities, etc). Links to ESF and other schemes (e.g. Communities First or targeted regeneration investments) will be vital and the opportunity for joint funding should be explored.

3. The Welsh Government's regeneration framework, Vibrant and Viable Places, also seeks to target fewer investments in fewer places for greater strategic impact. The policy also places an emphasis on evidence, strategic planning and seeking holistic approaches that do not just focus on one aspect of

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Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

regeneration (e.g. social cohesion through targeting the most deprived areas).

4. In seeking consistency with these approaches, actions under this Investment Priority should seek to respond to the central organising principle of sustainable development (i.e. demonstrate how investments will support economic, social and environmental outcomes) and as such should be focused on opportunities for growth (rather than solely seeking to mitigate the effects of decline).

5. Investments under this Investment Priority will be expected to demonstrate how they complement wider investment programmes and other strategic investments across the suite of ESI programmes. For example investments in TEN-T routes and accessibility might be complemented by regeneration of key strategic sites connecting to those routes to take full advantage of the TEN-T and accessibility investment (e.g. developing tourism opportunities opened up through better accessibility to the Heads of the Valleys or supporting new strategic sites for business clusters and manufacturing emerging as a result of complementary investments in connectivity and low Carbon energy in Anglesey and North Wales' ports).

6. In order to meet the change being sought by the Specific Objective (and measured in the result indicator) actions will be expected to create a number of new jobs. In addition it would be expected that a proportion of those new jobs should be filled by jobseekers in nearby areas and appropriate measures should be incorporated into plans to ensure that happens (e.g. outreach, recruitment policy, links to ESF programmes, etc). in order to be able to have an impact on claimant count data. An integrated approach is therefore desirable to consider all elements together, but prioritising opportunities for specific sites, rather than seeking employment growth everywhere.

7. Types of action to be supported:

- Business sites and premises in strategic sites, including property development and land remediation.
- Economically significant investments in Wales' physical infrastructure (built and natural/green). In particular where a key component of

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Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

integrated regeneration and economic development schemes (such as tourism, culture or heritage assets)

- Enabling infrastructure (e.g. local road investment improving access to a site) where an essential part of an integrated scheme delivering against the Specific Objective and result indicator.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

1.Further to the principles set out in the section above (e.g. links to nearby areas of deprivation, ESF and other schemes) all investments under this Investment Priority will either be supported through a Financial Instrument (see below) or through an integrated set of actions in a specific geographical area. Where a Financial Instrument is being utilised, the targeting approach will be identified as part of the dedicated ex-ante assessment informing the size, scope and delivery model for that fund.

2. These integrated actions might incorporate different actions as set out above, but should have a clear evidence-based focus on a specific growth area (e.g. tourism, strategic business sites, employment centre, etc.). These should be identified in existing territorial strategies (e.g. regional economic strategy or City Region strategy).

3. For all support outside of any Financial Instrument, partnership working and collaboration will be essential. The relatively small level of funds available and the high level of interest envisaged under this Specific Objective means that only a limited number of spatially prioritised schemes can be supported. Therefore, it is essential that the Welsh Government, Local Government, Community actors, and local / regional private sector organisations work together to identify and prioritise investments. This should ensure any scheme is truly integrated and focused on the most appropriate growth area

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Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

thereby providing best value for money.

4. The Managing Authority will expect all applications to provide clear evidence of comprehensive partnership working and to demonstrate a degree of prioritisation. The Managing Authority will also solicit a range of advice to ensure those proposals finally awarded funding are those with the greatest potential to deliver against the Specific Objective and result and can demonstrate they meet the requirements set out in this Operational Programme. In order to deliver on the results targets it is anticipated that the majority of funding will be allocated to a relatively small number of schemes where the potential for new jobs is greatest.

5. Selected areas are expected to be areas with employment growth potential rather than simply targeting areas in most deprivation. ERDF support should aim to provide the right environment for private investment and private sector involvement in a scheme, particularly through financial contributions, can represent one indication that a scheme is likely to be self-sustaining over the longer term. Approved schemes will be able to demonstrate how they will ensure that employment opportunities created are accessible to those in more deprived areas (e.g. links to transport, skills, possible use of ESF, etc).

6. All proposals will be expected to demonstrate due consideration of existing and emerging key spatial initiatives, including the role of Enterprise Zones, Local Growth Zones, Business Improvement Districts, Communities First Clusters, and others. Enterprise Zones would be expected to feature in proposals for business sites and premises in particular.

7. Proposals should also demonstrate economic market failure that once corrected will support an increase in employment and growth through the more effective optimisation of economic output by the market.

8. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

compare report

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources
The potential for an Urban Development Fund Financial Instrument ~~is being~~ was investigated, ~~subject to lessons from JESSICA approaches across the EU in 2007-2013. Initial findings from the ex-ante assessment of Financial Instruments (in compliance with the regulations) suggest enough market failure and demand to support a fund utilising around £20-25m ERDF~~but was not found to be viable in the West Wales and the Valleys programme area.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources
No major projects anticipated under this Investment Priority	

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
J23	Land developed	Hectares	ERDF	Less developed			~~50~~100.00	Monitoring data	Quartely
J24	Premises created or refurbished	Metres squared	ERDF	Less developed			~~56,430~~150,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J25	Jobs accommodated	Number	ERDF	Less developed			~~1,770~~3,000.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
J26	SMEs accommodated	Number	ERDF	Less developed			235.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	**4 - Connectivity and Urban Development**

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2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development												
ID	**Indicator type**	**Indicator or key implementation step**	**Measurement unit, where appropriate**	**Fund**	**Category of region**	**Milestone for 2018**			**Final target (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate**
						M	**W**	**T**	**M**	**W**	**T**		
CO12	O	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	ERDF	Less developed			0			24.00	Output	The output measures activity under one of four Investment Priorities under the Priority axis (around 34% of all activity)
F2	F	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed			194700000100,000,000			763,500,000487,309.00	Monitoring data	
I7	I	x% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractual agreements to deliver infrastructure works	Number	ERDF	Less developed			35%			0.00	Monitoring data	Agreements with contractors to deliver infrastructure works. For the rail industry these could be Implementation Agreements or Basic Implementation Agreements. This is required to report a milestone against the gross passenger km output, which has a time lag associated with it.
I8	I	X number of projects submitted to the Managing authority having undergone agreed prioritisation process	Number	ERDF	Less developed			3 and approval of at least 3 regionally significant schemes			50.00	Monitoring data	Will capture the Urban Development elements and is necessary to capture milestone for land developed output.
J22	O	Gross passenger kilometers on public transport	Passnger km	ERDF	Less developed			N/A			400,000,000.00	Monitoring data	The output measures activity under one of four Investment Priorities under the Priority axis (around 34% of all activity).
J23	O	Land developed	Hectares	ERDF	Less developed			N/A			50100.00	Monitoring data	The output measures activity under one of four Investment

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Priority axis		4 - Connectivity and Urban Development												
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator,
													Priorities (urban develoment) covering around 33% of all activity for the Priority Axis.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	025. Railways (TEN-T comprehensive)	8,607,198.00
ERDF	Less developed	026. Other Railways	25,821,594.00
ERDF	Less developed	027. Mobile rail assets	8,607,198.00
ERDF	Less developed	033. TEN-T reconstructed or improved road	84,109,814.00
ERDF	Less developed	034. Other reconstructed or improved road (motorway, national, regional or local)	8,607,198.00

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Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	035. Multimodal transport (TEN-T)	22,277,454.00
ERDF	Less developed	036. Multimodal transport	25,821,594.00
ERDF	Less developed	043. Clean urban transport infrastructure and promotion (including equipment and rolling stock)	86,071,982.00
ERDF	Less developed	044. Intelligent transport systems (including the introduction of demand management, tolling systems, IT monitoring control and information systems)	8,607,198.00
ERDF	Less developed	046. ICT: High-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 30 Mbps)	52,277,453.00
ERDF	Less developed	047. ICT: Very high-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 100 Mbps)	3,416,181.00
ERDF	Less developed	050. Education infrastructure for vocational education and training and adult learning	8,354,045.00
ERDF	Less developed	072. Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites)	91,894,498.00
ERDF	Less developed	074. Development and promotion of tourism assets in SMEs	10,024,854.00
ERDF	Less developed	076. Development and promotion of cultural and creative assets in SMEs	10,024,854.00
ERDF	Less developed	089. Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land	16,708,090.00
ERDF	Less developed	091. Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas	10,024,854.00
ERDF	Less developed	092. Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets	10,024,854.00
ERDF	Less developed	094. Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets	10,024,854.00

compare report

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development

Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ERDF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	476,243,632.00
ERDF	Less developed	03. Support through financial instruments: venture and equity capital or equivalent	4,062,135.00
ERDF	Less developed	04. Support through financial instruments: loan or equivalent	20,000,000.00
ERDF	Less developed	06. Support through financial instruments: interest rate subsidy, guarantee fee subsidy, technical support or equivalent	1,000,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	137,715,170.00
ERDF	Less developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	167,080,903.00
ERDF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	196,509,694.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ERDF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	501,305,767.00

compare report

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development

compare report

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	5
Title of the priority axis	Technical Assistance

2.B.2 Justification for establishing a priority axis covering more than one category of region (where applicable)

1.Technical Assistance (TA) funded actions, as with the 2007-2013 programmes, will be developed as part of mono fund priorities but will be delivered by the Managing Authority (MA) and relevant stakeholders as part of collaborative and integrated approaches across the ERDF and ESF programmes for the West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales programme areas. The approach outlined in the priority axis below will be mirrored across these programme areas and reflected in the result and output indicators selected.

2.The approach builds on the successful implementation of TA activity in the 2007-2013 programmes which utilised TA to enhance implementation arrangements, providing additional capacity for programme support and development, research and monitoring activity and programme promotion. TA was also utilised in the direct support of salary costs by the MA and relevant stakeholders.

3.Supporting direct salary costs within the 2014-2020 programmes of the MA, Certifying Authority (CA), Audit Authority (AA) and partners is considered an important element of the delivery of the programmes. It is proposed for the 2014-2020 programmes to utilise TA to continue to support those posts identified within the 2007-2013 programme as increasing the capacity of the administrative functions of the relevant authorities and partners. In line with this approach any new additional posts required for the 2014-2020 programmes to further develop the audit and administrative function of the MA, CA and AA will also be supported by TA. The resources of the Welsh Government and its partners will be used alongside the TA resource.

compare report

4.A number of programme level evaluation and external reviews have been undertaken during the 2007-2013 programmes[1] which have covered a number of areas supported through TA funded activity including;

- The enhanced programme management and monitoring arrangements, to include the Project Development Officer (PDO) function;
- specialist and technical guidance and support, including the Specialist European Teams (SET) and Cross Cutting teams;
- research and evaluation;
- information and publicity, including operating a customer helpline; and
- strengthened audit arrangements and irregularities' management

5.The findings of the evaluations showed that there is widespread support for the PDO role and support services for beneficiaries, delivered through the MA and SET bringing genuine programme benefits and ensuring that the appraisal and management processes are well understood and effectively implemented. The successful management of the 2007-2013 Welsh programmes has also been recognised through a number of awards to Wales including the 'Region of Excellence' Awards and three project based RegioStars awards.

6.It is important that TA funds are used during the 2014-2020 programmes to maintain this strong position and deliver further improvements

[1] The Guilford Review of Implementation Arrangements (2012): WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009: The Effectiveness of Implementation in the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programming Period Final Report. (January 2011); Thematic Evaluations of 2007-2013 EU Structural Funds Programmes; and Spatial European Teams Evaluation (November 2010)

compare report

2.B.3 Fund and category of region

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Less developed	Total

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
5.1	To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes	**Results expected.** 1. Specific Objective 1 aims to ensure that the programmes are delivered efficiently and effectively in Wales. The key measure underpinning this objective and forming part of the compliance report for the programme is the irregularity rate. This measure displays the total value of irregularities for the programme reported to OLAF as a percentage of total certified eligible expenditure claimed by projects. 2. In 2013 the irregularity rate for the programme area was 0.53%, well below the 2% threshold used by the EC to implement corrective action. 3. In addition, the WEFO error rate, published by the Audit Authority in the Annual Control Report will also be used as a measure to support and measure the achievement of the Specific Objective. The December 2012 WEFO error rate for the programme areas was 0.81%.

compare report

2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		5.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
TAR1	Irregularity rate	Percentage			0.53%	2013			Below 2%	WEFO compliance report	Annual
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate	percent			0.81%	2012			Below 2%	Audit Authority Annual Control Report	Annual

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
5.2	To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations.	**Results expected.** 1. Specific Objective 2 aims to improve customer satisfaction levels through providing high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations. Measured across TA funded activity for all Structural funds in Wales this reflects the satisfaction of beneficiaries with the service received from WEFO for all approved operations. 2. The baseline overall customer satisfaction rating, dating from 2009, is 45%.[1]

compare report

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
		3. Specific Objective 2 aims to ensure that the programmes compliment and are integrated with all ESI funds in Wales and wider Commission, Welsh Government and Sector Led programmes. Measurement of this activity will primarily be in the form of the outputs such as the number of collaborative projects delivered. [1] WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009 - This is the percentage of interactions, where the operation was approved, with which the beneficiary was satisfied or very satisfied with the service received

compare report

2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		5.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
TAR3	Custome satisfaction	percent			45.00	2009			50.00	Customer insight survey	Annual

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
5.3	To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.	**Results expected.** 1. Specific Objective 3 aims to ensure that the programmes complement and are integrated with all ESI funds in Wales and wider Commission, Welsh Government and Sector Led programmes. Measurement of this activity will primarily be in the form of the outputs such as the number of collaborative projects delivered.

compare report

2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		5.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
TAR3	Custome satisfaction	percent			45.00	2009			50.00	Customer Insight Survey	Ad hoc

2.B.6 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.6.1 A description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
1.Technical Assistance is an essential resource for supporting the effective delivery of the Programme. The delivery of the 2014-2020 programmes requires a continued emphasis on strategic delivery with greater alignment and harmonisation of ESI Fund investments through the concentration of resources to achieve sustainable outcomes for jobs and growth. 2.In Wales there are a number of key areas which will be developed and undertaken by partner organisations and the MA itself in order to deliver the objectives and ensure programmes achieve the integration, concentration and focus required. Actions are not mutually exclusive to any of the objectives and have therefore been grouped around 6 key investment areas which collectively will ensure the objectives and associated results are achieved.	

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

3.Salary costs, as with the 2007-13 programmes, will form an important part in the delivery of TA funded activity for the MA, AA, CA and wider delivery partners. These salary costs will be incurred within all activities below so as to enhance the capacity to achieve the overall objectives of the TA priority.

4.The MA and its partners have substantial experience in the implementation of TA in this way. All posts funded via TA will be subject to the Human Resources and remuneration policies of the employing organisation.

Management

5.Integration of funds will bring new administrative challenges for the MA, for example in the implementation of an enhanced role for Financial Instruments and the integration of specialist functions such as Cross Cutting Themes[1]. Actions will enhance and strengthen strategic and integrated programme support and development.

6.Actions will include:

- To continue to enhance the internal programme management function in the development and delivery of integrated and sustainable programmes;
- To continue to develop the specialist knowledge within the MA and stakeholders through regular training and networking activities;
- To advise and support the development of projects, encouraging innovation, transnational cooperation, sharing of good practice and mainstreaming;
- Actions, in line with those outlined in Section 10, seeking to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries;
- To provide high quality technical advice and expert functions, in areas relating to, for example; procurement, financial (to include Financial Instruments) and scientific expertise, project development, complaint resolution, innovation and compliance;
- To develop and enhance bespoke and integrated IT systems for the delivery of ESI Funds and to aid e-Cohesion; and,
- To provide specialist advice and support to projects on the integration, implementation and monitoring of the Cross cutting themes.

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

Partnership and Networking

7.Strong partnerships and networks lie at the heart of the successful implementation of the programmes and the integration of the ESI funds at all levels. The Managing Authority will continue to engage partners, including social partners, and key stakeholders in programme implementation and delivery.

8.Actions will include:

- Encouraging and facilitating collaborative projects and approaches;
- Alignment with European Commission led, ESI fund and Sector based programmes;
- Enhancing capacity for cross programme coordination and the integration of ESI funds with national expenditure and programmes; and,
- Strengthening coordination and liaison mechanisms with partnerships and promoting partnership working.

Monitoring

9.A single Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) will be established to oversee the effectiveness, quality and integration of the ESI Fund programmes[2]. TA will be used, where eligibility allows, to ensure the efficient and effective management of the programme through supporting the duties of the PMC.

10.The Managing Authority will establish a Secretariat team to manage PMC arrangements for all ESI Fund programmes. The Secretariat will approve, manage and monitor all Technical Assistance expenditure declared in respect of PMC meetings and functions, ensuring that expenditure is not declared more than once against different ESI Fund. PMC costs will be apportioned across the ESI fund programmes, based on the relative size (value of EU contribution) of each programme.

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

11.Actions will include:

- Enhanced management support to the PMC and improved reporting to the European Commission; and;
- Expenditure on PMC including expenses and fees for appointed experts (experts appointed to the PMC based on merit will be remunerated in line with the Welsh Governments normal practice).

Research and Evaluation

12.Research and Evaluation continues to play a central role in helping the MA to manage programmes effectively. The specialist Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team within the MA will continue to design, carry out and manage programme level evaluations and provide or source expert advice and guidance to project level evaluations.

13.Actions will include:

- Programme level research and evaluation, including research into the Cross Cutting themes;
- Provision of evaluation advice and guidance to sponsor organisations;
- Research and evaluation dissemination and workshops events; and
- Management of research and evaluation exercises, for example through the Evaluation Advisory Group.

Information and Publicity

14.The successful integration of ESI funded programmes will depend to a large degree on a wide understanding among the sponsors, partners and stakeholders of its contents, governing regulations, aims and objectives. It is also essential that the benefits and achievements of the programmes are widely

compare report

publicised to highlight the value added by the EU working in partnership with the Welsh Government and its partners.

15.Actions will include:

- Dissemination of information, publicity and communication including guidance for partners and sponsors, seminars and workshops and networking events;
- Disseminating and promoting of the impacts of enhanced integration with ESI funds and wider sector programmes e.g. Horizon 2020;
- WEFO website development and maintenance;
- Diversity and accessibility initiatives; and
- The operation of a Helpline.

Audit and Control

16.WEFO and the Audit Authority has developed significant strengths in audit and control within the 2007-2013 programmes. Further enhancing the audit and control functions alongside a dedicated compliance unit will ensure that WEFO continue to build on developed strengths and maximise the opportunity structural funds investments can bring.

17.Actions will include:

- Enhanced audit arrangements to ensure that these work effectively, improving quality and timelines;
- Improving irregularity monitoring and reporting;
- Enhanced support to combat fraud and corruption; and
- Provision of consistent advice and guidance to sponsors and partners through the WEFO compliance unit.

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Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

[1] WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009 and The Effectiveness of Implementation in the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programming Period

[2] ERDF and ESF (Less Developed and More Developed Regions) and EAFRD

2.B.6.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results

Table 13: Output indicators (by priority axis) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance					
ID	**Indicator (name of indicator)**	**Measurement unit**	**Target value (2023) (optional)**			**Source of data**
			M	**W**	**T**	
TA10	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number			0.00	Monitoring data
TAO1	Number of training events held	Number			~~10~~213.00	Monitoring data
TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	Number			~~72~~439.00	Monitoring data
TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	Percentage			75.00	Monitoring data

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~~TAO12~~	~~Number of audit visits~~	~~Number~~			~~50.00~~	~~Monitoring data~~
TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	Number			1.00	Monitoring data
TAO4	Number of research reports published	Number			93.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO3~~TAO6	Number of ~~projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration~~dissemination events	Number			~~90~~40.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO4~~TAO7	Number of ~~research reports published~~events organised by WEFO	Number			~~11~~410.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO5~~TAO8	Number of ~~projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice~~press releases issued	Number			~~100~~401.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO6~~TAO13	~~Number of dissemination events~~Percentage of Operations with all claims submitted verified (at Wales-level)	~~Number~~Percentage			~~6~~100.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO7~~TA03A	~~Number of events organised by WEFO~~Percentage of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration (at Wales-level)	~~Number~~Percentage			~~10~~90.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO8~~TAO5A	~~Number of press releases issued~~Percentage of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice (at Wales-level)	~~Number~~Percentage			~~150~~90.00	Monitoring data
~~TAO9~~TAO9A	~~Number~~Percentage of high profile project launches (at Wales-level)	~~Number~~Percentage			~~50~~90.00	Monitoring data

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2.B.7 Categories of intervention (by priority axis)

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of the Union support

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ERDF	Less developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	8,424,573.00
ERDF	Less developed	122. Evaluation and studies	8,424,573.00
ERDF	Less developed	123. Information and communication	7,221,063.00

Table 15: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ERDF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	24,070,209.00

Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory type

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ERDF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	24,070,209.00

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3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

Table 17

Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
		Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve
ERDF	Less developed	152,166,088.00	9,712,729.00	155,212,479.00	9,907,180.00	158,319,429.00	10,105,495.00	162,080,798.00	10,345,583.00	165,324,454.00	10,552,625.00	168,632,919.00	10,763,803.00	172,007,294.00	10,979,189.00	1,133,743,461.00	72,366,604.00
Total		**152,166,088.00**	**9,712,729.00**	**155,212,479.00**	**9,907,180.00**	**158,319,429.00**	**10,105,495.00**	**162,080,798.00**	**10,345,583.00**	**165,324,454.00**	**10,552,625.00**	**168,632,919.00**	**10,763,803.00**	**172,007,294.00**	**10,979,189.00**	**1,133,743,461.00**	**72,366,604.00**

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3.2 Total financial appropriation by fund and national co-financing (€)

Table 18a: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)				Union support (h) = (a) - (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) – (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a)	(l) = (j) / (a) * 100
1	ERDF	Less developed	Total	301,917,197.00	152,892,090.00	116,553,442.00	36,338,648.00	454,809,287.00	66.3832524159%	0.00	283,433,283.00	143,531,761.00	18,483,914.00	9,360,329.00	6.12%
2	ERDF	Less developed	Total	207,993,404.00	125,275,951.00	58,517,425.00	66,758,526.00	333,269,355.00	62.4099998633%	~~80,000,000.00~~	195,259,674.00	117,606,332.00	12,733,730.00	7,669,619.00	6.12%
3	ERDF	Less developed	Total	170,823,488.00	75,213,511.00	56,055,766.00	19,157,745.00	246,036,999.00	69.4299998351%		160,365,367.00	70,608,805.00	10,458,121.00	4,604,706.00	6.12%
4	ERDF	Less developed	Total	501,305,767.00	262,181,542.00	198,696,431.00	63,485,111.00	763,487,309.00	65.6599999883%		470,614,928.00	246,130,317.00	30,690,839.00	16,051,225.00	6.12%
5	ERDF	Less developed	Total	24,070,209.00	8,186,839.00	8,186,839.00	0.00	32,257,048.00	74.6199993254%		24,070,209.00	8,186,839.00			
Total	**ERDF**	**Less developed**		**1,206,110,065.00**	**623,749,933.00**	**438,009,903.00**	**185,740,030.00**	**1,829,859,998.00**	**65.9126963985%**		**1,133,743,461.00**	**586,064,054.00**	**72,366,604.00**	**37,685,879.00**	**6.00%**
Grand total				**1,206,110,065.00**	**623,749,933.00**	**438,009,903.00**	**185,740,030.00**	**1,829,859,998.00**	**65.9126963985%**	~~80,000,000~~**.00**	**1,133,743,461.00**	**586,064,054.00**	**72,366,604.00**	**37,685,879.00**	

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

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Table 18c: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, fund, category of region and thematic objective

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Research and Innovation	ERDF	Less developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	301,917,197.00	152,892,090.00	454,809,287.00
SME Competitiveness	ERDF	Less developed	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	~~19~~39,873,920.00	~~11,970,208~~24,016,355.00	~~31,844,128~~63,890,275.00
SME Competitiveness	ERDF	Less developed	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	~~188~~168,119,484.00	~~113,305,743~~101,259,596.00	~~301,425,227~~269,379,080.00
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	Less developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	170,823,488.00	75,213,511.00	246,036,999.00
Connectivity and Urban Development	ERDF	Less developed	Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	55,693,634.00	29,127,618.00	84,821,252.00
Connectivity and Urban Development	ERDF	Less developed	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	172,143,962.00	90,030,820.00	262,174,782.00
Connectiv	ERDF	Less developed	Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	106,387,268.00	55,640,250.00	162,027,518.00

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
ity and Urban Development						
Connectivity and Urban Development	ERDF	Less developed	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	167,080,903.00	87,382,854.00	254,463,757.00
Total				**1,182,039,856.00**	**615,563,094.00**	**1,797,602,950.00**

Table 19: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)
1	67,863,516.00	5.63%
2	5,742,731.00	0.48%
3	168,903,488.00	14.00%
4	74,325,687.20	6.16%
Total	**316,835,422.20**	**26.27%**

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4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development taking into account the content and objectives of the operational programme having regard to the Partnership Agreement and showing how it the operational programme contributes to the accomplishment of the objectives of the operational programme and expected results

1. The Welsh ESI programmes have all been developed together, taking a holistic view across the whole of Wales. Effective spatial targeting will be a key mechanism to support integration and concentration of funds based on specific territorial needs and opportunities in the most appropriate way (national, regional, sub-regional or local). The NUTS2 regions do not take into account sub-regional functional economic areas in Wales, such as the Cardiff City Region in South East Wales or the Swansea Bay City Region in South West Wales[1]. Integrated approaches to territorial development based on strategic planning will therefore be actively encouraged. The Welsh Economic Prioritisation Framework[2] acts as a complement to the various Operational Programmes, helping to identify key spatial targeting approaches already underway and key opportunities for future investment.

2. Spatial strategies are emerging to support the development of urban areas (City Region strategies), rural areas (the Growth Zone initiatives[3]), and strategic sites (Enterprise Zones[4]). Each initiative has its own strategic planning and governance arrangements, complemented through local government and regional planning (e.g. Regional Learning Partnerships).

3. There are clear common needs identified across each spatial analysis, with the need for better connectivity through investment in transport infrastructure the top priority (albeit the challenges are different). Other priority areas depend more on the area but generally include strategic infrastructure (business sites, tourism or accessibility), skills (to address deficits) and attracting private investment (e.g. through business support); closely reflecting the priorities identified for the Welsh ESI funds.

4. The Managing Authority will work with beneficiaries to identify the most appropriate funding package across the ESI funds. This will be of particular importance for investments with a clear territorial dimension. Due consideration will need to be given to areas of particular disadvantage, in particular those places set out in Section 5 facing issues of deprivation. The priority for this programme will be for investments to target growth opportunities that can help improve employment prospects not only in the area being supported, but also in nearby areas.

5. Coordinated investments in key growth centres must be supported through a range of different funding sources to have a genuine impact, therefore funding from this programme will be expected to contribute to holistic integrated territorial strategies (e.g. regional economic strategy or city region strategy). Dedicated support will be expected, in line with the principles for Sustainable Urban Development, under Priority Axis 4 for targeted strategic site development.

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[1] To see report on City Regions: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/publications/120711cityregions/?lang=en

[2] Early drafts are being published on the WEFO website, with a revised draft incorporating spatial elements due to be published in March 2014. See: http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/applyingforfunding/funding2014-2020/epf/?lang=en

[3] For example in Powys (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/policy/plgzones/?lang=en) and the Teifi Valley (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/policy/teifi/?lang=en)

[4] Seven Enterprise Zones have been identified across Wales, each focussing on specific sectors. More information available at: www.enterprisezones.wales.gov.uk

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and the principles for identifying the areas in where they will be implemented

1. The general approach is set out in the Partnership Agreement. No support for Community Led Local Development (CLLD) as set out in Article 32 of the Common Provisions Regulation is envisaged for this Operational Programme.

2. In order to ensure an integrated approach to territorial development direct links will be encouraged between CLLD supported through the EAFRD (under LEADER) and investments made under the ERDF. This should help enable the scaling-up of any particularly successful LEADER initiatives with the potential to deliver ERDF results.

3. The regional coordination described in the Partnership Agreement will be a key link between the CLLD investments made under the RDP and the opportunities for larger scale investments under the ERDF.

4. It is anticipated that part of the strengthened regional coordination to be put in place for 2014-2020 (and as recommended by the Guilford Report) will be identification of links between different ESI funds. Successful CLLD initiatives funded through the RDP should then have the potential to be scaled-up using ERDF or other funds. For example an innovative pilot community energy approach through LEADER could be scaled-up to a regional or national scheme through the ERDF (Specific Objective aiming to increase the number of community energy schemes).

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5. It was not felt appropriate to use ERDF alongside EAFRD for CLLD for two key reasons: firstly the strategies for the two funds are different, with EAFRD operating on a local basis and ERDF seeking regionally and nationally significant investment; and secondly because the types of activity supported are very similar across the two funds. The planned coordination between the funds is set out in more detail in Section 2 of the Partnership Agreement and Section 8 of this Operational Programme.

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Where appropriate the indicative amount of ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development to be implemented in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated action.

1. No ERDF will be used to support sustainable urban development in line with Article 7(2) of the ERDF regulation. The Partnership Agreement sets out how the UK will meet requirements for 5% of ERDF in this area.

2. Integrated actions supporting sustainable urban development will, however, be supported in the programme area meeting the spirit of the regulations (including the use of strategies, involvement of partners in decisions, and coordinated action). These will not fully comply as it will not be delivered through the use of an entirely separate Operational Programme, Priority Axis, or ITI; nor through the full delegation of tasks for selection.

3. We are keen to ensure integrated territorial strategies are not only about securing and spending of EU funds and are therefore encouraging the use of existing economic strategies rather than creating new ones. This should help ensure genuine integration of any supported actions cross-economy rather than just with other ESI funds. For example investment in housing, healthcare, education and inward investment can all be key territorial drivers and would not feature in an approach that focussed solely on spending ESI funds.

4. A clear role for appropriate regional and urban authorities in helping plan and deliver the programmes will be encouraged, building on the collaboration developed during 2007-2013. A role for regional and urban authorities in developing and prioritising key opportunities will help in demonstrating a clear strategic fit to the Managing Authority and can be supported through the use of Technical Assistance.

5. We envisage all parts of the ERDF programme being able to support integrated strategies for sustainable urban development. The strategic physical infrastructure investments (excluding any allocation to a dedicated Financial Instrument) under Priority 4 will be wholly delivered in accordance with the principles for Sustainable Urban Development as they are key drivers for integrated territorial strategies. There will be significant reductions in the proportion of funding available to invest in this area (relative

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to 2007-2013) to meet regulatory requirements, but we still aim to make available around 10% of the ERDF programme to help drive this type of regional growth.

6. Common features of integrated strategies for sustainable urban development are improvements in connectivity and investing in business, tourism and heritage infrastructure. The aim for investments in the connectivity to and from key urban centres, and in the physical infrastructure offer (for businesses and visitors) within those centres, is to create new territorial opportunities, including inward investment. The challenge is to ensure that investment does not happen in isolation but opens up opportunities for regeneration and encourages greater private sector investment).

7. If coordinated with other activities, an integrated package of support for the regeneration of a place can be underpinned through a single (or small number of) investment(s) in physical infrastructure or improved connectivity. These elements will be supported under Priority Axis 4, and where such investments are supported they will be expected to be a prioritised part of an integrated territorial strategy in line with the principles for Sustainable Urban Development. Furthermore, they should demonstrate how that investment will complement other initiatives (e.g. skills investments, local labour markets, business investment, etc).

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Table 20: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF and ESF support

Fund	ERDF and ESF support (indicative) (€)	Proportion of fund's total allocation to programme
Total ERDF	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL ERDF+ESF	**0.00**	**0.00%**

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis.

1. There is no immediate intention to use Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) vehicles. This approach and a period of review is set out in the Welsh chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.

2. At this time it is felt that the same benefits can be achieved through Welsh-designed implementation arrangements that would not require pre-selection of funding allocations or new reporting and monitoring requirements. The Welsh Managing Authorities are seeking to ensure greater integration and coordination between all ESI funds in Wales, and as a small country are able to work closely with partners across Wales in delivering integrated territorial investments without needing to put in place new administrative architecture.

3. Regional and urban authorities will be encouraged to use existing planning and coordination mechanisms (for the delivery of existing territorial strategies) to prioritise investments for their territorial areas. The Managing Authority will work with those authorities to help identify the most appropriate ESI funding package, if relevant. For example an integrated package of support might be developed across the ESI funds to support the development of a City Region or Enterprise Zone, but this does not need to be done through an ITI, merely through effective planning and coordination.

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Table 21: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Fund	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Total		**0.00**

4.4 The arrangements for interregional and transnational actions, within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State (where appropriate)

1. A key challenge for the programme will be to more effectively mainstream cooperation actions and achieve better international coordination. This is particularly important for all investments in Research and Innovation. A lack of international partners and networks is a key barrier to Welsh research institutions accessing competitive research funding and needs to be directly addressed in any support provided through this programme. It is expected that the majority of projects supported in these areas through this programme will incorporate some form of transnational activity.

2. The marine energy sector was highlighted in the European Commission's Blue Growth Strategy as one of five developing areas in the 'blue economy' that could help drive job creation in coastal areas. Other Commission initiatives, such as the Communication on Energy Technologies and Innovation and the Atlantic Action Plan, have recognised the importance of ocean energy and aim to encourage collaborative research and development and cross-border cooperation to boost its development. Furthermore, the Commission's Communication on Blue Energy considers the potential of the ocean energy sector to contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

3. There are potentially also opportunities for cooperation activities in the SME Competitiveness and Connectivity and Urban Development priorities, though less direct action to encourage these will be made. SMEs support, SME finance initiatives and integrated actions for regeneration, sustainable transport and networks should seek to build on international best practice both in terms of spatial planning and technical expertise.

4. Direct links are also being made between this programme and the European Territorial Cooperation programmes in which the programme area participates. There are a number of common objectives, for which complementary funding packages will be sought: in particular objectives for Research and Innovation, Renewable Energy, Low Carbon transition and infrastructure investments of common interest (e.g. actions to protect the marine environment and exchange best practice at an European level could be co-ordinated with R&I actions to develop marine energy resources). Wales participates in the Ireland / Wales cross-border programme, the Atlantic Area programme and the North West Europe programme.

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4.5 Contribution of the planned actions under the programme to macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State (where appropriate)

(Where the Member State and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea basin strategies).

1. The UK is incorporated in the Atlantic Strategy and this is described in the Partnership Agreement. Links will be encouraged where opportunities arise in areas of blue growth, and cooperation on research and innovation (particularly that supporting marine energy and the environment and energy Grand Challenge area).

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5. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

5.1 Geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

1. In Wales poverty is defined as '*A long-term state of not having sufficient resources to afford food, reasonable living conditions or amenities, or to participate in* activities *(such as access to attractive neighbourhoods and open spaces) that are taken for granted by others in society*'. Social Exclusion or the ability to participate is strongly linked therefore to issues of Poverty.

2. The Socio Economic Analysis which accompanies this Operational Programme concludes that interventions designed to improve employment and income outcomes are more likely to succeed when focussed on individuals but that carefully targeted initiatives focussed on 'place' can also be effective. It suggests that a mix of interventions may be appropriate in West Wales and the Valleys where there are weaknesses in the skills profile of the workforce and areas of physical deprivation which may act to reinforce poor labour market outcomes.

3. The Welsh approach to the development of integrated activity as outlined in Section 4 will be of particular importance for investments which seek to target those at risk of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion and linking these target groups with economic opportunity and growth at local, regional and national level and placed based investments made across the ESI funds. All operations will be expected to incorporate such linkages and integrated approaches at an early stage in the development process.

4. Relative income poverty in Wales (defined as households living on 60% or less of the UK median income across different population groups) is broadly similar to that of UK averages, although the percentage of children living in poverty in Wales is currently 31% (2 percentage points above that of the UK average)[1].

5. The percentage of the population living in persistent poverty after housing costs (defined as being in relative income poverty for at least three of the last four years) is 11%, slightly higher than in England and Scotland[2].

6. Wales also has a higher percentage of workless households and children living in workless households than UK averages. HMRC data on children living in low income families highlights an acute issue in the South Wales Valleys[3].

7. In addition to poverty, the Welsh Government also monitors levels of deprivation in Wales. Deprivation is a wider concept than poverty. Poverty means not having enough money (or other essentials) to get by. Deprivation refers to problems caused by a general lack of resources and opportunities (not just money). The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011 (WIMD) is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales

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which are called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Although the geographical size of these LSOAs varies quite widely, and depends on the local population density, the populations are intended to be roughly the same in each, with an average population of 1,500.

8. In WIMD 2011, the most deprived local authority is defined as the authority with the greatest fraction of its LSOAs in the most deprived 10% of all LSOAs in Wales. This method can be seen as identifying the concentration of the most deprived areas in a Local authority, rather than an average level of deprivation.

9. Integrated investments based on functional economic areas will consider links between programme areas (e.g. in the case of City Regions); the summary of most deprived wards below does not, therefore, make a distinction between programme areas. Coordinated and integrated investments should consider the whole picture, not just within statistical boundaries.

10. Areas of the upper valleys have the highest relative concentrations of deprivation across Wales as a whole. This is highlighted in Figure 29 of the Socio economic analysis. Some inner-city wards of Cardiff, Newport and Swansea also suffer from high relative deprivation. This broad picture holds true across 5 of the 8 WIMD deprivation measures, namely income; employment; education; health and community safety.

11. The most deprived local authority is Merthyr Tydfil with 25.0% of its LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales, followed by Blaenau Gwent (23.4%) and Rhondda Cynon Taff (17.8%). Blaenau Gwent has 87.2%, Merthyr Tydfil 77.8% and Rhondda Cynon Taff 73.7% of their LSOAs in the most deprived 50% in Wales.

12. The most deprived local authorities in the income domain are Blaenau Gwent, with 21.3% of its LSOAs in the most deprived 10% in Wales, Cardiff with 21.2% and Merthyr Tydfil with 19.4%.

13. The Equality Impact Assessment, which accompanies this programme, provides a robust assessment of the needs of those who may be at risk of exclusion, disadvantage or discrimination as a result of one or more characteristics protected under the Equality Act (2010) and their specific needs in terms of supporting access to employment and skills. These ‘protected characteristics’ include age (covering all age groups), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race and ethnicity, religion or belief, sex / gender and sexual orientation.

14. The EIA highlights that groups with characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010 can face specific issues that impact upon their ability to access and progress within the labour market, and which place them at greater risk of poverty and exclusion. The EIA: also shows that BME groups are disproportionately affected by unemployment[4], with ethnicity closely linked to income poverty.

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[1] *Family Resource Survey* (2010/11), DWP. Data from 2008/9 to 2010/11

[2] Longitudinal data from the British Household Panel Survey and Understanding Society Survey

[3] *Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure* (2011), HMRC

[4] See Institute for Race Relations: http://www.irr.org.uk/research/statistics/poverty/.

5.2 Strategy to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, and where relevant, the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Agreement

1. The focus of the Welsh ERDF Programmes is to promote economic growth and the creation of sustainable jobs across the programme area. Many of the jobs created will be of relevance to new entrants and returners to the labour market. It will be a key part of the integrated approach to territorial development set out in Section 4 for regional and urban authorities to look at how integration of the ESI funds can add value in their areas, in particular where ESF activities targeting specific groups can complement ERDF investments in places. The Managing Authority will also be testing beneficiaries to ensure that all proposals for operations fully consider opportunities to integrate activity across funds.

2. This is consistent with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan which focuses on three areas: Preventing poverty; Helping people into work; and Mitigating the impact of poverty.

3. The approach is complemented by the ESF Programme's emphasis on providing good quality, affordable childcare and targeted action to help people improve their skills and qualifications, recognising that the best route out of poverty is through employment. The ESF programme will seek to support target groups most affected by poverty and discrimination.

4. Targeting using WIMD data will not be extensively used in the ERDF programme, though it will be expected in relation to activities seeking to help address issues of fuel poverty through improving the energy efficiency of housing. A consideration of deprivation would also be expected in any urban or regional strategy being supported in terms of sustainable urban development under Priority 4.

Key Tackling Poverty Objectives for the Welsh Programmes:

- Focus on the creation of jobs and growth providing employment opportunities for those who are out of work. For example through increasing the competitiveness of SMEs

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- Tackling barriers to employment. For example addressing poor skills and lack of childcare through the ESF, complemented by addressing transport barriers to accessing employment through the ERDF
- Focusing on growth. For example through support for key knowledge-based sectors through the ERDF, aligned with skills development interventions enabling those experiencing in-work poverty to access more highly-skilled, better paid jobs through the ESF.

5. The UK Partnership Agreement includes details of the approach to tacking poverty across the ESI funds in Wales. The Welsh Government is clear in its expectation that integrated action is needed to promote social inclusion and combat poverty, contributing simultaneously to the 2020 initiative and the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan.

6. Support under the infrastructure Priority Axis will be targeted at regeneration, creating jobs and improving connectivity in specific geographic areas where deficiencies are often cited as being a barrier to accessing employment. Where possible, projects will be encouraged to link areas of growth opportunity to areas with high incidence of poverty and deprivation.

7. Action to address the energy efficiency of housing will be targeted specifically at those suffering from fuel poverty and the use of WIMD data is anticipated in the design of appropriate targeting mechanisms.

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Table 22: Actions to address specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
Communities suffering from fuel poverty	Energy efficiency measures which will cut fuel costs for those will low incomes	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	Less developed	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
Geographical area to be decided through consultation	Physical infrastructure improvements to promote local economic growth and jobs.	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development	ERDF	Less developed	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

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6. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

Not applicable for this Programme area

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7. AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS

7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Welsh European Funding Office	CEO WEFO
Certifying authority	Welsh European Funding Office	Head of Cert authority
Audit authority	Welsh Government	Deputy Director, Corpate Governance and Assurance
Body to which Commission will make payments	Welsh Government	Director General, Finance & Corporate Services

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7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

7.2.1 Actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of those partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

1. The Operational Programme has been developed in partnership with key stakeholders. WEFO, as Managing Authority, has taken the lead and been responsible for compiling the Programme but there has been extensive engagement with partners over the development and content.

2. This has involved a number of specifically appointed Advisory Groups and expert workstreams/working groups together with extensive public engagement over the development period. Membership of each group reflected a full range of stakeholder interests (and those specified in Article 5) from the public, private and third sectors, together with appropriate gender and geographical balance and with equality and environmental interests represented. The various groups are described below with membership details at 12.3.

3. Before embarking upon drafting the Operational Programme the then Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes initiated a "**Reflections Exercise**[1]" which provided stakeholders with an early opportunity to comment on the strategic direction and future investment priorities based on the draft legislative

proposals. Partners and stakeholders were generally supportive of the principles underpinning the legislative proposals and the need to align the new programmes with Welsh Government policy objectives to maximise impact. This enabled the Deputy Minister to outline the strategy direction and a number of guiding principles under which the 2014-2020 programmes would be developed in a statement to the National Assembly for Wales on 8 May 2012[2]. These included the need to focus and concentrate resources on areas most likely to have a transformational impact on the Welsh economy and contribute significantly to job creation.

4. Initial work was assisted through the Ministerial **Advisory Group on European Programmes**, a small task-and-finish group, established to generate ideas and advise Ministers directly on a number of key strategic issues. The members were carefully selected as experts in their field, with the ability and insight to offer the necessary strategic thinking across all programme and policy areas. The group consists of external experts with significant experience and strategic expertise, senior Officials from the main Welsh Government spending departments and advisors offering specialist advice, including senior officials responsible for the development and delivery of European programmes.

5. The European Programmes Partnership Forum was established as the main vehicle for external stakeholder engagement on European funding developments post 2013. The Forum was established in 2011 and remained in operation during the entire programme development period; providing direct input into the formation of both the Operational Programme and Partnership Agreement. The membership was drawn partially from the All-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), supplemented with additional partners to ensure that the Forum reflected the interests of all relevant stakeholder groups in Wales. The formation of the group provided a balance of interests and reflected an appropriate level of private sector representation, gender balance, spread across funds, and geographical representation.

6. Four **technical workstream groups** were established in mid 2012 to consider the technical and operational detail of the 2014 to 2020 programmes and to advise on the content, processes and procedures reflecting Ministerial strategic direction. These covered:

- Operational Programmes
- Delivery and Compliance
- Monitoring and Evaluation; and
- Territorial Cooperation

7. Members of the Operational Programmes workstream were directly involved in defining the content of the programmes including the direction of the strategy and cross cutting themes (horizontal principles) while members of the Delivery and Compliance and Monitoring and Evaluation workstreams were specifically involved in the consideration and preparation of guidance, indicators and delivery and control arrangements. Members were appointed via invitations for nominations and were selected based on experience of EU funded programmes and relevant EU, UK and Welsh policy, together with relevant subject experience appropriate to each Workstream. A full stakeholder interest, geographical and gender balance was maintained.

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8. Finally, to ensure proposals were aligned to Welsh Government policies and strategies a **Welsh Government European Programmes Policy Group** was established. Policy Group meetings followed those of the Operational Programmes workstream and both groups informed the draft proposals presented for public consultation in early 2013. Members comprised senior level policy representatives nominated by Directors General from all relevant Welsh Government Departments.

9. A full **public consultation**, 'Wales and the EU: Partnership for Jobs and Growth' was launched on 14 January 2013 to seek views from partners on the Welsh Government's proposals for the Structural and Rural Development Funds. The consultation ended on the 23 April 2013, and generated 126 responses for the Structural Fund proposals[3].

10. The consultation was supported by four Welsh Government regional stakeholder events, with over 300 stakeholders attending to discuss the key opportunities and challenges in a series of workshops. A number of external stakeholder groups also organised sectoral events during the consultation period which were attended by WEFO officials.

11. Consultants were appointed to analyse the results of the consultation and their Structural Funds report was published on the WEFO[4] and Welsh Government websites and announced by the Minister of Finance in a statement to the National Assembly for Wales on 9 July 2013. The consultants appointed to analyse the consultation were from the same organisation responsible for the Ex Ante Evaluation and therefore had a detailed understanding of the issues raised.

12. The consultation generated overwhelming support for the Structural Fund proposals both in terms of the investment priorities selected and the importance of concentrating resources in order to achieve a transformational impact. A number of respondents raised concerns about the absence of a discrete Priority relating to tackling poverty and social exclusion. The ESF programme has been developed in line with the Welsh Government policy, as articulated within its Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which states that the best route out of poverty is through employment.

13. Actions to address poverty and social exclusion therefore focus on removing barriers to employment and helping people to move onto the employment ladder. With this as the underlying principle, WEFO re-framed actions to support those living in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion to sit within a 'Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment' Priority Axis supporting these participants to access and retain secure and sustainable employment. This Priority Axis complements the cross-cutting theme on Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion.

14. A single Wales Programme Monitoring Committee for the 2014-2020 European and Structural Investment (ESI) programmes has been established in shadow form and will be formally be adopted following approval of the programmes by the European Commission.

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15. The PMC will cover all three ESI funds managed by the Welsh Government (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD) and will be responsible for approving Structural Funds project selection criteria, examining the progress made in delivering agreed programme objectives, and any modifications to the programmes and agreeing the Evaluation Plan and any modifications to the programmes.

16. The membership of 27 (plus Chair), based on the principles of partnership and many of the best practices set out in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, consists of 6 expert members appointed via a public appointments process and 21 members nominated on a sectoral basis. Members were drawn from across the private, public and third sectors (including economic and social partners, national, regional and local authorities; and representatives of civil society including environmental and equality bodies). The membership composition was also designed to deliver a broad gender balance and distribution across the two Welsh regions and the urban/rural dimension. Draft terms of reference will be prepared and agreed at the inaugural meeting. This will include detailed guidance on how potential conflicts of interests are addressed.

17. The establishment of a single PMC was supported by our partners on the basis of the feedback received during the public consultation and will facilitate a more holistic assessment of the impact and effectiveness of the funds in delivering the Europe 2020 agenda, set against the Economic Prioritisation Framework and supported by enhanced management and monitoring information.

18. The existing Delivery and Compliance and Evaluation Advisory Groups will remain in operation for the duration of the 2014-2020 to continue to advise on delivery and implementation (including the content of guidance) and monitoring and evaluation arrangements. These groups have been in existence throughout the 2007-13 programming period and comprise wide internal Welsh Government and external stakeholder interests.

19. The Delivery and Compliance Group (D&CG) is a technical expert group established by the Managing Authority (WEFO) as a forum for partners to feedback implementation and compliance operational issues.

20. The Group's work informs the work of PMC, and has a specific remit to review WEFO's regular 'Compliance Report' before presentation at the PMC. This includes audit results and common errors found in management verification work. The group supports the PMC to satisfy itself of the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the Welsh Structural Funds Programmes in the areas of delivery and compliance.

21. The role of the Evaluation Advisory Group is to advise and assist in designing evaluation studies, quality controlling the research final reports and ensuring that findings are disseminated widely. The group will also monitor the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for the Structural Funds programmes in Wales for the period 2014 – 2020.

22. In the 2007-2013 programme period Technical Assistance has been used to support the engagement of, and developing the capacity of, NGOs and voluntary organisations in

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the delivery of programmes. This has included the provision of support, information, advice and networking opportunities. It is proposed that similar activities will be possible through Technical Assistance activities within the ERDF programme as described in Section 2.B., these will include;

- Management – further developing the functions and systems of the Managing Authority to deliver integrated sustainable programmes and to provide expert advice and guidance to beneficiaries
- Partnership and Networking – facilitating effective engagement and partnership working with stakeholders in support of programme implementation
- Monitoring – establishing and supporting the single ESI Funds Programme Monitoring Committee
- Research and Evaluation – continuing to deliver quality evidence based information to support programme delivery
- Information and Publicity – highlighting the value added by the EU working in partnership with the Welsh Government and its partners.
- Audit and Control – delivering effective and compliant programmes in Wales

23. There are no plans to entrust part of the management of the Operational Programme to Intermediate Bodies, for example by using Global Grants or Integrated Territorial Investments and using the provisions set out in article 123(7) of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) EU 1303/2013. Intermediate Bodies, using the provisions set out in article 123(6) of the CPR, will be designated to perform certain delegated tasks in relation to the management of certain aid schemes. Delegated tasks will include, at least, the selection of projects (beneficiaries), the issue of documents to beneficiaries that set out the conditions of support and state aid administration for the scheme. The Intermediate Bodies designated to manage the aid schemes are likely to be Welsh Government departments.

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[1] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/post2013/milestones/120515reflectionsexercise/?lang=en

[2] http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber-fourth-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=233432&ds=5%2F2012#dat4

[3]http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/businessandeconomy/130114walesandtheeu/?lang=en&utm_source=130114&utm_medium=wefowebsite&utm_campaign=consultation_en

[4] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/130115consultation/?lang=en

7.2.2 Global grants (for the ESF, where appropriate)

7.2.3 Allocation of an amount for capacity building (for the ESF, where appropriate)

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8. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB

The mechanisms to ensure coordination between the Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and other Union and national funding instruments, and with the European Investment Bank (EIB), taking into account the relevant provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework.

1.ESI programmes in Wales have been designed to be complementary and the ERDF programmes share an analysis and structure, reflecting common challenges across the whole of Wales. The project selection and prioritisation criteria will test how each project has considered other available funding sources and the links they have made to them.

2. Projects will be particularly encouraged where they can contribute simultaneously to both ERDF and wider EU funding instrument priorities (e.g. Horizon 2020 or LIFE).

3.This section sets out links to ESI, other EU and UK funds by Priority Axis, not duplicating coordination mechanisms or links to macro-regional strategies set out in the Partnership Agreement.

Research and Innovation

4.Research and Innovation are two elements of the "knowledge triangle", alongside education. ESF investments can help increase the supply of individuals with the specialised skills to support capacity building in research institutions, and increase innovation in Welsh business. Very close coordination of these activities will be sought, with the potential for complementary funding actively explored; in particular where Research, Innovation and Skills can be combined.

5.There is scope for complementarity with the EAFRD programme to promote innovation and the knowledge base in rural areas, and especially through investments under the Grand Challenge area of Low carbon, energy and environment. ERDF investments supporting the transition to a low carbon economy may complement activity funded under the EMFF, depending on the specialisims supported.

6.A major link is expected with the Horizon 2020 programme and other competitive research funding, such as UK Research Councils, UK Technology and Strategy Board and UK NESTA funding. For example the UK is involved in the Eureka network through the TSB, offering a route to develop international clusters and partnerships. The ERDF expects to invest in upstream research and innovation with an explicit aim of building capacity in order to increase access to those funds. The clear international dimension being sought through capacity building will require a greater consideration of EU-wide initiatives such as the European Research Area and work of the European Research Council. ERDF will also be used downstream to ensure the outcomes of that research are

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being exploited and the benefits captured in the programme area, including the potential to commercialise European research (e.g. from Horizon 2020) in Wales.

7.Synergies with Horizon 2020 should also consider links with public-public partnerships (Joint Programming Initiatives, ERA-NET, Article 185 initiatives), public-private partnerships (Article 187 initiatives) and actions under Part IV of Horizon 2020 relating to Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation, where West Wales and the Valleys could provide potential advanced partners in all Widening actions.

8.There are a plethora of EU and UK funding instruments seeking to address challenges relating to the transition to a low-Carbon economy. Horizon 2020 will be a key link, and the New Entrants Reserve (NER) 300 demonstration funding should also be considered. There may also be opportunities to support the roll-out of approaches validated under the LIFE programme, where they meet the ERDF programme objectives, for example in demonstrating eco-innovation or adopting innovative technologies. ERDF can support a range of actions complementary to these other EU programmes (e.g. LIFE) where they also meet the objectives of this Operational Programme.

9.While this implies a demarcation between the funds, the possibility for joint funding will be examined on a case by case basis (a project should meet both the ERDF objectives and the requirements of the other competitive fund). ERDF projects will not substitute for other competitive research funds. Projects will be challenged to ensure they participate in other competitive bidding (e.g. Horizon 2020 or domestic research funds) where that is the most appropriate funding source. The co-location of a Horizon 2020 unit with the Managing Authority for ERDF, coupled with use of expert advice (internal and external) to inform project selection, will help ensure close coordination between these funds.

10.Complementarity also exists with the Marie Curie Actions and linked ERDF proposals will be considered on a case by case basis. Many of the links to ERASMUS and other people-related initiatives will be more directly linked to ESF interventions; nevertheless these will be coordinated with ERDF RD&I investments. This opens up the potential to combine ERDF, ESF and EU finance (H2020, ERASMUS, Marie Curie) on common goals. No specific action by the Managing Authority is planned to stimulate or target these links, but where links are identified coordination and expert advice will be sought from the Department coordinating information on Marie Curie and ERASMUS actions in Wales.

11.All European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes that Wales participates in are expected to feature RD&I investments. ERDF projects seeking upstream support should have a clear international dimension to them, as an essential way to achieve genuine mainstreaming of transnational activity and address one of the main barriers for Welsh research institutions accessing competitive research funding (namely a lack of international networks and partners). This is an opportunity to consider potential links to relevant ETC programmes; where it is hoped that links between research institutions, researchers, networks and successful clusters can be supported.

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12.EIB funding as part of ERDF funded projects might be possible should significant investment proposals emerge for research infrastructure. The provision of risk capital for innovative SMEs is likely to be part of a Financial Instrument to which EIB funding may also be sought. The use of ESI funds for ESFRI research infrastructures should also be considered where appropriate.

SME Competitiveness

13.ESF investments to up-skill the workforce, address skills gaps, and support individuals to become work-ready (including addressing barriers to work) will support the competitiveness and productivity of SMEs. Support for entrepreneurship skills will also complement the ERDF objective of increasing the number of start-ups. Complementarity will be sought with business advisory services and start-up activity under the EAFRD and EMFF programmes to ensure that services are delivered efficiently and businesses in the farming and fisheries sectors have access to the support services funded through ERDF.

14.Start-up support targeting key growth sectors should also consider the potential to align with Start-Up Europe for ICT SMEs, delivered as part of Europe 2020's Digital Agenda for Europe.

15.The main link with other funding sources will be in the provision of access to finance, where a number of schemes seeking to ease pressures for SMEs are emerging; for example COSME at an EU level or a number of specific loan and venture capital funds supported by the EIF.

16.The UK Government has sought to encourage financial institutions to invest in SMEs, for example through the Funding for Lending scheme and the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. The UK Government also invests alongside the private sector in commercial funds and is also developing proposals for a Business Bank, to provide finance for SMEs. Venture capitalists and business angels also remain key sources of finance, but tend to be focussed in the South East of England.

17.Coordination of access to finance will be sought through existing arrangements for SME support (e.g. the One-Stop-Shop for Business Advice). Provision through the ERDF will be subject to assessment of market failure, including consideration other funding sources.

18.There are also links with the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation with measures aimed at entrepreneurship, business creation and tailored delivery of provision for social enterprises; for example the ERDF, alongside ESF, might support the scaling-up of successful innovations aligned to ERDF or ESF objectives.

19.The ETC programmes in which Wales participates are also likely to have strands dedicated to SME Competitiveness. Links will be encouraged between the programmes, particularly where ERDF might support the roll-out or trial of innovative support identified through ETC. Mainstream transnational activity is expected to be lower in this

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Priority Axis, though there are opportunities in the promotion of growth opportunities (for example in seeking to enter new markets).

20.EIB funding may be sought to support a Financial Instrument providing access to finance for SMEs.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

21.Opportunities to link with the EAFRD and EFF will be actively sought under this Priority Axis; for example by setting out opportunities for complementary support for small scale renewable energy between the EAFRD and ERDF (e.g. EAFRD for community engagement, micro-generation and piloting; then ERDF for scaling-up schemes to a community-wide level). The links with EMFF are expected to revolve around the potential for marine energy, with EMFF measures for marine spatial planning and management complementing ERDF ambitions to support the testing and demonstration of marine energy technology within that marine environment.

22.Support for skills development and identifying any gaps that could be funded by ESF projects will also be an important link; either through ensuring flexibility in mainstream ESF provision to support the energy sector, or through dedicated demand-led skills support.

23.At a UK level funds available include the Green Investment Bank, a range of funds from the Department for Energy and Climate Change, and dedicated funds through the Technology and Strategy Board. A range of legislation and incentives add further complexity to the funding landscape, including the Green Deal and Feed in Tariffs.

24.An assessment of how any project proposal fits within the context of other sources of finance will be essential to demonstrate added value and will feature as part of the project selection and prioritisation process. Expert advice will be sought where market failure or specific opportunity is not clear. This may take the form of internal advice (on alignment with Government policy and instruments) and external advice (technical assessment).

25.In terms of international cooperation there are considerable opportunities in the development of a marine energy sector in West Wales, seeking to add value to similar activity taking place in other areas such as Scotland and Cornwall. The marine environment and marine energy is also expected to feature in the various ETC programmes Wales participates in, and complementarity will be sought with those programmes (recognising that the ERDF will be the driver of this activity in the main). Actions should seek to complement the objectives of the LIFE programme, specifically the CLIMA element of LIFE (or LIFE ENV projects). Projects that can demonstrate that they contribute simultaneously to both LIFE and ERDF priorities and avoid negative impacts on LIFE projects will be encouraged.

Connectivity and Urban Development

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27.Investments in transport, connectivity and physical infrastructure have a key enabling role in the economy and therefore it is important that other investments are co-ordinated to seek maximum impact. There is considerable scope to co-ordinate with the skills and employment measures under the ESF programme in this respect, ensuring that residents are able to take advantage of new opportunities which come as a result of the infrastructure investment (including any inward investment).

28.The key related instrument at an EU level is the Connecting Europe facility. This will be considered as the first port of call for major infrastructure investments of European importance. The issues to be addressed by the ERDF focus on more regional and local barriers contributing to increasing regional disparities; in particular issues of peripherality and lack of connectivity between labour markets and key urban and employment centres. Both areas of investment (Connecting Europe and ERDF) should be mutually reinforcing.

29.There are some significant investments in transport infrastructure in Wales planned during the programme period, for example electrification of the rail line between London and Swansea and electrification of the South Wales Valleys lines. ERDF will seek to add value to those planned investments by seeking to ensure the greatest impact can be achieved through complementary investments e.g. support for regeneration activity where the connectivity of an area has been improved, or ensuring that local connectivity is improved to be able to capture the benefits of the major (non-ERDF) investments more widely.

30.The local and regional impact sought from investments in this Priority Axis limited the international cooperation opportunities, though any areas of best practice or innovation should be considered in scheme design.

31.The importance of infrastructure investments to the Welsh economy, coupled with the lack of resource to support them, has led to the Welsh Government exploring a range of innovative finance mechanism to support those essential investments. Where there are opportunities EIB funding will be sought to co-invest in infrastructure improvements in the programme area.

32.Proposals for urban development should link in with related funds and networks, dependant on the region or urban authority involved. This might include URBACT, European Territorial Cooperation, LIFE, CIVITAS, Urban Mobility Portal, CONCERTO, Smart Cities and Communities European Innovation Partnership, and links to rural areas through the RDP.

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9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

Information on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (optional).

Table 24: Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	1 - Research and Innovation	Yes
T.01.2 - Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multi annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.	1 - Research and Innovation	Yes
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	2 - SME Competitiveness	Yes
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development	Yes
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	2 - SME Competitiveness	Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Yes
T.04.3 - Actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources.	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Yes
T.07.1 - Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks.	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development	~~Partially~~Yes
T.07.2 - Railway: The existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on railway development in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including concerning public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks. The investments cover mobile assets, interoperability and capacity building.	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development	~~Partially~~Yes
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity and Urban Development 5 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development 5 - Technical Assistance	
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity and Urban Development 5 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity and Urban Development 5 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity and Urban Development 5 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.6 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity and Urban Development 5 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake	1 - Research and Innovation 2 - SME Competitiveness 3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 4 - Connectivity and Urban Development	Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
impact evaluation.	5 - Technical Assistance	

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	1 - A national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that:	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	The monitoring system for Science for Wales is well established and consists of an expert Advisory Council and regular reporting against a Delivery Plan. This covers specific commitments, monitoring against key metrics and statistical indicators, and ongoing evaluations and assessments of existing and emerging specialisms (entrepreneurial discovery). This includes innovation in businesses. The complementary monitoring system for Innovation Wales also has an expert Advisory Council. Monitoring of this strategy is being done in close cooperation with Science for Wales, given the strategies are designed to work together. The Innovation Advisory Council includes cross-membership with the Science Council and are also monitoring and reporting against their own Delivery Plan Additional measures to further improve the complementarity of this monitoring system for monitoring the delivery of Wales' smart specialisation strategy are currently being developed and will be made available in 2015.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	2 - is based on a SWOT or similar analysis to concentrate resources on a limited set of research and innovation priorities;	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	pg. 9-11 section 3.2, innovation Wales; pg. 32-34 Appendix one, Innovation Wales; pg.41-20, Appendix 3, Science for Wales.
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	3 - outlines measures to stimulate private RTD investment;	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	pg. 21-24, Section 4.3, Innovation Wales; pg. 10-14, Section 2.2-2.5, Science for Wales.
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	4 - contains a monitoring mechanism.	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	pg. 30, Section 5, Innovation Wales; pg. 34, Section 6.2 Science for Wales. See also explanation under Criterion 1, Additional information has also been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				submission of the Operational Programme to provide further supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.
T.01.1 - Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Program, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well performing national or regional R&I systems.	5 - A framework outlining available budgetary resources for research and innovation has been adopted.	Yes	Innovation Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/innovation/innovation-strategy-wales/?lang=en and Science for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/120306scienceen.pdf	pg. 30, Section 5, Innovation Wales; pg. 34, Section 6.2 Science for Wales. Additional information has been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the submission of the Operational Programme to provide further supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.
T.01.2 - Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multi annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.	1 - An indicative multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments linked to Union priorities, and, where appropriate, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) has been adopted.	Yes	UK Research Council: Investing for growth: Capital Infrastructure for the 21st Century http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/infrastructure/lfr/ The UK National Infrastructure Plan (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-plan-2013	The Welsh Government allocates finance on an annual basis as well as indicatively allocating budgets for the following financial year. Additional information has been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the submission of the Operational Programme to provide further supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by	1 - A strategic policy framework for digital growth, for instance, within the national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place that contains:	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital	Additional information has been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the submission of the Operational Programme to provide further

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.			Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	2 - budgeting and prioritisation of actions through a SWOT or similar analysis consistent with the Scoreboard of the Digital Agenda for Europe;	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	Additional information has been provided as part of the suite of "Member State documents" in the submission of the Operational Programme to provide further supporting evidence as requested by the Commission services.
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	3 - an analysis of balancing support for demand and supply of ICT should have been conducted;	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/pub	

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			lications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	4 - indicators to measure progress of interventions in areas such as digital literacy, e-inclusion, e-accessibility, and progress of e-health within the limits of Article 168 TFEU which are aligned, where appropriate, with existing relevant sectoral Union, national or regional strategies;	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	
T.02.1 - Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.	5 - assessment of needs to reinforce ICT capacity-building.	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Delivering a Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/101208digitalwalesen.pdf Digital Wales: Delivery Plan http://wales.gov.uk/docs/det/publications/110427deliveryplan.pdf	
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which	1 - A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains:	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/busine	The deployment of networks delivering against Digital Wales targets (30 Mbps and 100 Mbps or above) are being, and

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.			ssandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP). http://wales.gov.uk/funding/wiipindex/?lang=en	will continue to be, monitored as part of the implementation of the Digital Wales strategy
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	2 - a plan of infrastructure investments based on an economic analysis taking account of existing private and public infrastructures and planned investments;	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP). http://wales.gov.uk/funding/wiipindex/?lang=en	
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules,	3 - sustainable investment models that enhance competition and provide access to open, affordable, quality and future-proof infrastructure and services;	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP). http://wales.gov.uk/funding/wiipindex/?lang=en	

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.				
T.02.2 - Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.	4 - measures to stimulate private investment.	Yes	Digital Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/?lang=en Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP). http://wales.gov.uk/funding/wiipindex/?lang=en	
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	1 - The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time and cost involved in setting-up a business taking account of the targets of the SBA;	Yes	The Plan for Growth UK Government (2011) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/.../2011budget_growth.pdf Reducing Regulation made simple UK Government (2010)	pg. 23-26, The Plan for Growth UK Government (2011) Both publications set out how the UK Government is implementing the Coalition Agreement commitments relating to reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses.
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act	2 - The specific actions are: measures have been put in place with the objective of reducing the time needed to get licenses and permits to take up and perform the specific activity of an	Yes	The Plan for Growth UK Government (2011) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/.../2011budget_growth.p	; pg. 23-26, The Plan for Growth UK Government (2011); Section 1, Reducing regulation made simple UK Gov. (2010)

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
(SBA).	enterprise taking account of the targets of the SBA;		df Reducing Regulation made simple UK Government (2010)	Both publications set out how the UK Government is implementing the Coalition Agreement commitments relating to reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses.
T.03.1 - Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).	3 - The specific actions are: mechanism is in place to monitor the implementation of the measures of the SBA which have been put in place and assess the impact on SMEs.	Yes	The Plan for Growth UK Government (2011) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/.../2011budget_growth.pdf Reducing Regulation made simple UK Government (2010)	Both publications set out how the UK Government is implementing the Coalition Agreement commitments relating to reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses.
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	1 - The actions are: measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	Yes	Energy Performance Certificates EPC for commercial property Climate Change Strategy for Wales The National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan	Energy Performance Certificates are a requirement in Wales when a building is rented out, sold or renovated.
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	2 - The actions are: measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU;	Yes	Energy Performance Certificates EPC for commercial property Climate Change Strategy for Wales The National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan	Energy Performance Certificates are a requirement in Wales when a building is rented out, sold or renovated.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	3 - The actions are: measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;	Yes	Energy Performance Certificates EPC for commercial property Climate Change Strategy for Wales The National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan	Energy Performance Certificates are a requirement in Wales when a building is rented out, sold or renovated.
T.04.1 - Actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	4 - The actions are: measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy end-use efficiency and energy services to ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.	Yes	Energy Performance Certificates EPC for commercial property Climate Change Strategy for Wales The National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan	Energy Performance Certificates are a requirement in Wales when a building is rented out, sold or renovated.
T.04.3 - Actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources.	1 - Transparent support schemes, priority in grid access or guaranteed access and priority in dispatching, as well as standard rules relating to the bearing and sharing of costs of technical adaptations which have been made public are in place consistent with Article 14(1), Article 16(2) and 16(3) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.	Yes	Energy Wales: a low carbon revolution (2012) Energy Wales Strategic Delivery Group,. http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/difference/energy-wales-delivery-group/?lang=en Bioenergy Action Plan for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/renewable/bioenergy/bioenergyaction/?lang=en	"A low carbon revolution" – the Welsh Governments energy policy statement sets out the Welsh Governments agenda around energy efficiency, moving to renewable generation and the creation of low carbon jobs.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.04.3 - Actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources.	2 - A Member State has adopted a national renewable energy action plan consistent with Article 4 of Directive 2009/28/EC.	Yes	Energy Wales: a low carbon revolution (2012) Energy Wales Strategic Delivery Group,. http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/difference/energy-wales-delivery-group/?lang=en Bioenergy Action Plan for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/energy/renewable/bioenergy/bioenergyaction/?lang=en	"A low carbon revolution" – the Welsh Governments energy policy statement sets out the Welsh Governments agenda around energy efficiency, moving to renewable generation and the creation of low carbon jobs.
T.07.1 - Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks.	1 - The existence of a comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment which complies with legal requirements for strategic environmental assessment and sets out:	Yes	The Wales Transport Strategy And The National Transport Plan	The Wales Transport Strategy is an overarching document supported by the National Transport Plan which lays out detailed plans up until 2015. This in turn is supported by regional plans.
T.07.1 - Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at	2 - the contribution to the single European Transport Area consistent with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) No …/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, including priorities for investments in:	Yes	The Wales Transport Strategy And The National Transport Plan	The Wales Transport Strategy is an overarching document supported by the National Transport Plan which lays out detailed plans up until 2015. This in turn is supported by regional plans.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks.				
T.07.1 - Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks.	3 - the core TEN-T network and the comprehensive network where investment from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is envisaged; and	Yes	The Wales Transport Strategy and The National Transport Plan	The Wales Transport Strategy is an overarching document supported by the National Transport Plan which lays out detailed plans up until 2015. This in turn is supported by regional plans.
T.07.1 - Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks.	4 - secondary connectivity;	Yes	The Wales Transport Strategy and The National Transport Plan	The Wales Transport Strategy is an overarching document supported by the National Transport Plan which lays out detailed plans up until 2015. This in turn is supported by regional plans.
T.07.1 - Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at	5 - a realistic and mature pipeline for projects for which support from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is envisaged;	~~No~~Yes	Commission Reference: Ares(2015)2744929	Ex-Ante Conditionality fulfilment report under CPR Article 19 completed on 30 June 2015. Relevant evidence and documents uploaded to SFC2014

compare report

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks.				
T.07.1 - Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks.	6 - Measures to ensure the capacity of intermediary bodies and beneficiaries to deliver the project pipeline.	Yes	The Wales Transport Strategy and The National Transport Plan	The Wales Transport Strategy is an overarching document supported by the National Transport Plan which lays out detailed plans up until 2015. This in turn is supported by regional plans.
T.07.2 - Railway: The existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on railway development in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including concerning public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks. The investments cover mobile assets, interoperability and capacity building.	1 - The existence of a section on railway development within the transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks as set out above which complies with legal requirements for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and sets out a realistic and mature project pipeline (including a timetable and budgetary framework);	~~No~~Yes	Commission Reference: Ares(2015) 2744929 The Wales Transport Strategy and The National Transport Plan	Ex-Ante Conditionality fulfilment report under CPR Article 19 completed on 30 June 2015. Relevant evidence and documents uploaded to SFC2014 The Wales Transport Strategy is an overarching document supported by the National Transport Plan which lays out detailed plans up until 2015. This in turn is supported by regional plans. ~~All elements are met with the exception of the pipline, given the~~

compare report

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				~~transport plan is due for renewal in 2015. This has therefore been addressed in the Action Plan in Table 26~~
T.07.2 - Railway: The existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on railway development in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including concerning public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks. The investments cover mobile assets, interoperability and capacity building.	2 - Measures to ensure the capacity of intermediary bodies and beneficiaries to deliver the project pipeline.	Yes	The Wales Transport Strategy and The National Transport Plan	The Wales Transport Strategy is an overarching document supported by the National Transport Plan which lays out detailed plans up until 2015. This in turn is supported by regional plans.
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund related activities.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011)- http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made The Welsh Language Act (1993) -	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including

compare report

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1993/38/contents Written Statement - http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainabl
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): The	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	Funds in the fields of Union anti discrimination law and policy.		Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice.

compare report

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.	Yes	UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= The Welsh Government provide contributions within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants' Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 -	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders charged with the protection of rights for disabled people The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled people into the programmes.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.	Yes	UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= The Welsh Government are responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants'	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	3 - Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	Yes	UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= The Welsh Government are responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations'	The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics and monitor the implementation on the UNCRPD.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			(UN) Conventions and Covenants'	
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	Yes	The EU Directives were transposed by the United Kingdom in 2006 (Public Contracts Regulations 2006) and the UK Government has committed to early transposition of the new public procurement rules agreed by the European Parliament in January 2014. The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations.	Support and guidance relating to the interpretation and application of procurement legislation and policy is available for public sector beneficiaries (contracting authorities/ contracting entities) via direct access to Value Wales. The Managing Authority is also able to call on the expertise of Value Wales to help interpret legislation and understanding the requirements of the EC directives. This advice extends to general procurement advice as well as public contracts.
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	Yes	The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal	In accordance with the commitments laid out in the Welsh Government's 'Opening Doors: The Charter for SME Friendly Procurement', all requirements over £25,000 (but below the applicable OJEU threshold), as well as those requirements which are not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, should be on a website

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			departments such as WEFO.	(www.sell2wales.gov.uk) accessible across the EU.
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal departments such as WEFO.	The Welsh Government has launched a web-based procurement toolkit for support compliant procurement (Procurement Route Planner http://prp.wales.gov.uk/).
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	4 - Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Yes	The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal departments such as WEFO.	The Welsh Government has launched a web-based procurement toolkit for support compliant procurement (Procurement Route Planner http://prp.wales.gov.uk/).
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en	State Aid is largely handled at UK level (see UK PA). Work to ensure adherence in Wales is as follows:

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				All operations are subject to State Aid analysis as part of the assessment process and where necessary advice and further scrutiny is sought from the Welsh Government's State Aid Unit (SAU) or Legal Services. This ensures that funding award decisions are compliant with State Aid rules and the necessary Commission notifications/approvals are in place. Assessments are undertaken and guidance provided to beneficiaries on the rules surrounding cumulation. Operations running de minimis schemes are notified in the grant funding agreement of their responsibilities and their systems checked for compliance. In addition the SAU co-ordinates the annual reporting process for block exempted and notified schemes. Compliance and recovery measures relating to breach of State Aid rules are contained in funding agreements and compliance checks are undertaken by the Management Verification team.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en	The SAU works closely with WEFO's training team to identify necessary training requirements for all staff. It has recently run awareness sessions about the Modernisation programme and State Aid training will be embedded into the induction process for all new staff. A training strategy has been updated so that all Managing Authority and Certifying Authority staff will receive foundation/awareness training by end October 2014. This is being supplemented by more detailed "Roles and Responsibilities" training to be rolled out to all key staff by the end of 2014 and to all staff by mid 2015. The SAU regularly attend UK wide network meetings and disseminate information/guidance through the Welsh Government website and to WEFO accordingly. WEFO disseminates information widely to external stakeholders and beneficiaries, including through the WEFO website. Further staff guidance is made

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				available through Welsh Government and WEFO intranet sites.
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 - Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en	Managing authority staff have a good working knowledge of the State aid rules. They are supported by the Welsh Government's SAU and lawyers who provide training and advice on specific cases as necessary. The Welsh Government believes that it has sufficient administrative capacity to carry out its State Aid responsibilities. The SAU is made up of 3 members of staff with over 15 years experience who are supported by a team of 3 lawyers. There are a number of practical tools available to WEFO staff including a bespoke State aid assessment sheet, State aid toolkit and detailed guidance on the rules. These are generated by the SAU and LS and are made available through the Welsh Government's intranet site. In addition guidance is made available to beneficiaries through the Welsh Government's web site.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.6 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (SEA).	Yes	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Chapter 1 General provisions on the Funds Section 3 (i) Government of Wales Act 2006 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/32/contents Sustainable Development Plan for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en Future Generations Bill 2014 http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/future-generations-bill/?lang=en Guidance http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance20142020/?lang=en	WEFO has a dedicated Cross Cutting Themes (CCT) team providing guidance and training on Sustainable Development and the implementation of the SEA. The CCT guidance produced by the team is version controlled and updated annually including a formal assessment of the themes for individual operations at business plan stage. Recommendations made by the SEA are built into the guidance and shared with all relevant stakeholders. The guidance is currently in draft form and will be available to view online on the dedicated WEFO 2014-2020 programme guidance webpage.
G.6 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to	2 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the	Yes	Guidance http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance20142020/?lang=e	A full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Management Authority and Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
EIA and SEA.	EIA and SEA Directives.		n	groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014. This compliments mandatory Sustainable Development training which is provided to all Welsh Government staff.
G.6 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	3 - Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	Guidance http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance20142020/?lang=en	There is a dedicated specialist team within the Managing Authority, delivering on the CCT commitments and the programmes compliance with the EIA/SEA Directives. In addition the specialist CCT team will draw on advice from a range of experts both in the Environmental and Equality fields to ensure maximum dissemination and networking opportunities are taken up.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	1 - Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, monitoring and evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	2 - Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries. Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to	3 - An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.				The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	4 - An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The	5 - An effective system of result indicators including: the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data.			website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk) The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	6 - Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk) The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries. Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes.

9.2 Description of actions to fulfil ex-ante conditionalities, responsible bodies and timetable

Table 25: Actions to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible

Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
~~T.07.1 - Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure~~	~~5 - a realistic and mature pipeline for projects for which support from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund is envisaged;~~	~~This criteria will be addressed in the development of the new National Transport Plan, which will be developed in April 2015. An annex including a list of prioritised projects for ERDF support will be added.~~	~~30-Jun-2015~~	~~Welsh Government~~

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Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks.				
T.07.2 - Railway: The existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on railway development in accordance with the Member States' institutional set up (including concerning public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN T comprehensive and core networks. The investments cover mobile assets, interoperability and capacity building.	1 - The existence of a section on railway development within the transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks as set out above which complies with legal requirements for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and sets out a realistic and mature project pipeline (including a timetable and budgetary framework);	The issue of non-compliance relates to the pipeline given the limited coverage of the existing plan. This criterion will be addressed in the development of the new National Transport Plan, which is intended to be developed in April 2015.	30-Jun-2015	Welsh Government

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10. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce administrative burden.

1. Significant progress was made in reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries under the 2007-2013 programmes. This has involved the introduction of new working procedures around the introduction of the PPIMS IT system which led to the harmonisation of processes across structural funds and enables beneficiaries to input project data directly via a web based portal. This has resulted in common processes, the improved exchange of documentation together with efficiency gains and quicker processes and payments to beneficiaries. The 2007-2013 programmes have also seen the establishment of the Project Development Officer model. This has involved a single officer as a primary point of contact for beneficiaries throughout the application, development and post approval stages.

2. A customer insight survey was undertaken by WEFO in 2009[1] which sought the views of project sponsors on administrative procedures and processes involved in applying for and managing EU projects. There was general support for efficiencies resulting from many of the web based improvements introduced for the 2017-13 funding round together with support for the concept of the Project Development Officer. Some concerns were raised over the bureaucracy involved in applying for funding (decisions could be made earlier involving less form filling) and over the accessibility and technical language in some of the guidance.

3. The Welsh Government is building upon previous developments and addressing feedback from project sponsors for the 2014-2020 programmes by maximising integration and harmonisation opportunities wherever possible in order to assist delivery and further reduce the burden for beneficiaries.

4. This will include a streamlined application and assessment process involving a series of gateways and decision points over the eligibility of projects, together with further enhancements to PPIMS. This will include a single online gateway for potential projects to access all ESI funds, which will direct potential projects to a specific team, and facilitate the selection of the optimal funding instrument(s) and delivery mechanism (whilst respecting the differences between funds).

5. Harmonised ESI national eligibility rules and common supporting guidance will be in place for all organisations in Wales receiving funds from ERDF, ESF and the EAFRD, other than where eligibility rules have been determined by fund-specific EC legislation. This will represent a significant simplification for beneficiaries in Wales and builds on the European Commission's common eligibility provisions in the Common Provisions Regulation for matters such as durability, revenue generation, and simplified cost options. The harmonised eligibility rules will be published and easily accessible via the WEFO website.

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6. In addition, Wales intends to encourage the take-up of simplified cost re-imbursement options (lump sums, flat-rates, unit costs) by making all legislative options available to potential applicants, issuing detailed guidance, and running training workshops with representatives from key sectors to understand and address the barriers to take-up. It is expected that flat-rate costs in relation to reimbursement of indirect costs will be of particularly interest to Welsh beneficiaries. The extent of the shift towards a more results-based reimbursement system (lump sums, unit costs) will also depend on the provisions of the cohesion policy legislative package, the suitability of the EC standard rates, and the implementation guidance from the Commission. This is however, unlikely to include the use of Joint Action Plans which are not considered suitable in Wales.

7. Welsh projects will also benefit from a reduction in administration by Welsh Government implementing in full the EC simplification measures, such as shorter document retention periods, flat-rate revenue generation calculations, and protecting projects against duplication of audit activity from both the Audit Authority and European Commission in the same year.

[1]http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/publications/monitoringevaluation/programmeevaluations/customerinsightsurvey2009/?lang=en

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11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

11.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

1. The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement provides an overview of the approach to promoting the horizontal principles across the ESI funds in Wales which includes the Sustainable Development Cross Cutting Theme (CCT). It also outlines the main Welsh Government organising principles and objectives for sustainability which provide the basis for the implementation of the CCT within the ESF Programmes in Wales. The Partnership Agreement also describes the progress towards related environmental sustainability targets and other parts of this programme describe some of the vertical actions contributing to them (e.g. support for renewable energy and energy efficiency).

2. In terms of environmental sustainability, *Sustaining a Living Wales* is the Welsh Government's new approach to natural resource management in Wales and is based on the ecosystem approach. An ecosystem being defined as all the living things, in an environment, including their interactions, with each other and their environment.

3. This ERDF Programme will contribute to the achievement to environmental sustainability goals as follows:

- Promoting research and innovation in the Grand Challenge area of low carbon, energy and environment, building on the significant investments made in this area under the 2007-2013 programmes
- Developing the low carbon, energy and environment sector through business advice and support and business finance under the SME Competitiveness Priority
- Promoting resource efficiency, including energy efficiency, through interventions under the SME Competitiveness Priority
- Increasing the potential to generate renewable energy through support for R&I, and enabling infrastructure investments in the Marine Energy industry in Wales
- Increasing the number of small scale and community renewable energy projects
- Improving the energy efficiency of Welsh Homes, in particular in areas of particular fuel poverty and deprivation (as measured by WIMD)
- Promoting low carbon energy schemes for urban and rural areas
- Supporting low carbon and sustainable transport solutions, including through linking unemployed and economically inactive individuals with work and training

4. In addition, the following actions will be taken in the selection and development of operations under this Programme to ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaption, disaster resilience and management:

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- Targets will be set at Priority Axis level providing an important driver to ensure that projects address the programmes cross cutting theme objectives
- Cross cutting theme assessment at all stages of project development, including assessment against contribution towards sustainable development objectives for environmental protection, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management
- Ongoing specialist advice will be made available to projects from WEFO and through arrangements being developed for the implementation of projects, including the consideration of green procurement and the potential to incorporate green infrastructure solutions. A key objective will be to provide the specialist input at an early stage in the process to maximise take-up of the opportunities to promote the cross cutting themes
- A programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to WEFO staff and project sponsors on the benefits of, and best practice in, integrating the cross cutting themes
- Activity level guidance will be prepared together with best practice case study examples that will provide specific information on how sponsors can address the cross cutting themes within their project plans
- Regular monitoring of progress, through 'forecast' data (the targets set by projects at the outset) and 'actual' achievement (what projects actually achieve monitored through the quarterly return system), allowing for early intervention if necessary
- Update reports to PMC and other stakeholders
- WEFO will encourage key equality, social inclusion and sustainable development organisations to be involved in an attempt to establish an effective network of specialist support

5. Through indirect measures, at an individual or organisational level, and through ensuring projects adopt appropriate Sustainable Development practices and principles in the delivery of ERDF activity, investments will be able to support the overall Welsh Government Sustainable Development principles and objectives.

6. Dedicated actions are not envisaged related to Natura 2000 for the ERDF, though the approach set out above will ensure opportunities are not lost to contribute to the objectives of the related Prioritisation Action Framework for Wales through embedding sustainability principles in the design and delivery of operations. It is anticipated other national and European resources (including the EAFRD) will be available to contribute more directly to the Prioritisation Action Framework to achieve the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest.

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11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the operational programme and in particular in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements for ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

1. The integration of equal opportunities, gender mainstreaming and the Welsh language is important not only for legal reasons, but also because different social and demographic sections of society in the labour market contribute to the overall effectiveness of the activity delivered by the programmes.

2. The Welsh Government's Strategic Equality Plan (2012-16) and equality objectives highlight how the Welsh Government is fulfilling its legal obligations as well as its strong commitment to equality and inclusion. The Plan was developed in-line with the general duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of the Equality Act 2010

3. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to assess potential impacts of the ERDF programmes on people with different socio-demographic characteristics. The EIA supports the compliance of the Welsh Government with the PSED by providing evidence on the potential effects of the programme on people with the nine protected characteristics: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race and Ethnicity; Religion and Belief; Sex / Gender; and Sexual Orientation.

4. The report concludes that the process for the development of the 2014-2020 ERDF programmes for Wales has included extensive consideration of equality and because of this it is highly unlikely that there will be any disproportionate negative impacts on any of the characteristics protected under the Equality Act and will support the Welsh language as required by the 2006 Government of Wales Act.

5. Key equality objectives for the ERDF programme in Wales are to:

- Encourage entrepreneurship and business start-up initiatives to encourage more take up from young people, women, Black and minority ethnic people , disabled people and LGBT people
- Support the creation of an environment which supports inclusive work places and promotes equality of opportunity for staff, including reconciliation of work and private life
- Ensure access to technology is available and accessible to all, particularly for people in rural areas, older people and others affected by the 'digital divide'
- Support RD&I which seeks to address societal challenges, such as supporting active ageing, opening up employment and training opportunities for individuals and supporting independent living
- Support access for disabled people and those from BME backgrounds to training and employment opportunities, including through sustainable transport solutions

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- Identify and support opportunities to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language

6. The UK Partnership Agreement includes details of the approach to promoting the horizontal principles across the ESI funds in Wales.

7. Specific to this Programme, the following actions will be taken in the selection and development of operations to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on the nine protected characteristics outlined above:

- On-going specialist advice will be made available to projects by the Welsh Government and through arrangements being developed for the implementation of projects. A key objective will be to provide the specialist input at an early stage in the process to maximise take-up of the opportunities to promote gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities
- A programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to Welsh Government staff and project sponsors on how to integrate equal opportunities objectives
- Activity level guidance will be prepared together with best practice case study examples that will provide specific information on how sponsors can address gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities within their project plans
- Regular monitoring of progress, through 'forecast' data (the targets set by projects at the outset) and 'actual' achievement (what projects actually achieve monitored through the quarterly return system), allowing for early intervention if necessary
- Update reports to PMC and other stakeholders
- Welsh Government will encourage key gender mainstreaming, equality and social inclusion organisations to be involved in an attempt to establish an effective network of specialist support
- The international move towards a rights based approach to disability is based on the notion of right rather than charity. The limitations faced by disabled people should no longer be linked to their disability, but to society's inability to provide equality of opportunity to all. The link between skills, qualifications, life chances and disability are well established, resulting in people acquiring fewer qualifications, often through early educational disadvantage, resulting in a dependency on disability-related benefits later in life.
- The Welsh programmes will aim to ensure early intervention to help disabled people become employable and not to define themselves as unable to work before they have accessed such suport. Mechanisms need to be integrated into a wide range of employment programmes to ensure that disabled people are able to remain in employment. Solutions should not be based on traditional assumptions or stereotypes, but on the particular need of the individual.
- Without an accessible environment the support mechanism and employment programmes are of little use. Designing and providing the environment in which disabled people can travel to, enter and make use of independently or with support where appropriate, will be a key consideration for any activity funded.

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11.3 Equality between men and women

Description of contribution of the operational programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational programme and operation level.

1. The Welsh Government's Gender Equality Scheme sets out it plans to promote equality of opportunity for women and men in Wales.

2. Although the Welsh Government has no specific duty to produce a Gender Equality Scheme it wants to be recognised for providing an exemplary service to women and men in Wales by developing strategies and policies that are effective and outcome focused.

3. Key gender equality objectives will primarily be addressed through the ESF programmes. The ERDF programmes will be able to complement this activity through:

- Supporting the competitiveness of the childcare sector where it meets the objectives of the related Priority Axis
- Support the creation of an environment which supports inclusive work places, which promotes equality of opportunity for staff, including the reconciliation of work and private life
- Encourage entrepreneurship and business start-up initiatives to encourage more take up from women

4. The UK Partnership Agreement includes details of the approach to promoting the horizontal principles across the ESI funds in Wales.

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12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period

Table 27: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification/submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axes / Investment Priorities
~~Cardiff Capital Region Metro~~	~~2016, Q2~~	~~2017, Q2~~	~~2020, Q4~~	~~4 - Connectivity and Urban Development / 4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures~~

12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

Table 28: Performance framework by fund and category of region (summary table)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
~~1 - Researeh and Innovation~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~	~~Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support~~	~~Enterprises~~			~~N/A~~			~~3,750.00~~

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
1 - Research and Innovation	ERDF	Less developed	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€			~~115300000~~119,000,000.00			454,809,287.00
~~1 - Research and Innovation~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~	~~% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~	~~Percent~~			~~31~~			~~100.00~~
~~2~~1 ~~- SME Competitiveness~~ Research and Innovation	ERDF	Less developed	~~Productive investment:~~ Number of ~~enterprises receiving non-financial support~~partners collaborating in research projects	~~Enterprises~~Number			~~N/A~~345			~~17,375~~1,800.00
2 - SME Competitiveness	ERDF	Less developed	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€			~~85100000~~212,940,000			333,~~200,000~~269,355.00
2 - SME Competitiveness	ERDF	Less developed	~~% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~Investment in enterprises	~~Percent~~GBP			~~44~~78,000,000			~~100~~191,000,000.00
3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	Less developed	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households			N/A			~~5,500~~3,060.00
3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	Less developed	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority	€			~~628000000~~26,000,000			246,~~000,000~~036,999.00

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
			and certified by the authority							
3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	Less developed	~~% of final target for households with improved energy efficiency consumption clasification has been achieved by partailly implemented/ implemented projects~~Energy support site preparation schemes	~~percentage~~Number			~~50~~1			~~100~~2.00
3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	Less developed	~~X number of Energy support site preparation schemes that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	~~number~~Number			~~1~~3			~~2~~8.00
~~3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~	~~X number of renewable energy prototypes tested that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations~~	~~number~~			~~3~~			~~8.00~~
3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	ERDF	Less developed	~~Energy support site preparation schemes~~Contractors procured to deliver final target of households with improved energy consumption classification	~~Number~~Yes / No			~~N/A~~Yes			~~2.00~~
~~3~~4 - ~~Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency~~Connectivity and Urban Development	ERDF	Less developed	~~Number of renewable energy prototypes tested~~Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	~~Number~~km			~~N/A~~0			~~8~~24.00
4 - Connectivity and Urban Development	ERDF	Less developed	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority	€			~~194700000~~100,000,000			763,~~500,000~~487,309.00

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
			and certified by the authority							
4 - Connectivity and Urban Development	ERDF	Less developed	x% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractual agreements to deliver infrastructure works	Number			35%			0.00
~~4 - Connectivity and Urban Development~~	~~ERDF~~	~~Less developed~~	~~X number of projects submitted to the Managing authority having undergone agreed prioritisation process~~	~~Number~~			~~3 and approval of at least 3 regionally significant schemes~~			~~5.00~~
4 - Connectivity and Urban Development	ERDF	Less developed	~~Gross passenger kilometers on public transport~~X number of projects submitted to the Managing authority having undergone agreed prioritisation process	~~Passnger km~~Number			~~N/A~~3			~~400,000,0000~~.00
4 - Connectivity and Urban Development	ERDF	Less developed	Land developed	Hectares			N/A			~~50~~100.00

12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP ON EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES 2014-20

Partners:

- British Telecom (private sector)
- Cogitamus (private sector)

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- Equality and Human Rights Commission (equalities)
- Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (third sector)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Torfaen County Borough Council (local government)
- Plus representatives from key Welsh Government spending departments

EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES PARTNERSHIP FORUM (2014-20)

Partners:

- Bangor Mussel Producers Ltd (fisheries / private sector)
- Barsby Associates (Institute of Directors)
- British Telecom (private sector)
- CBI Wales (employers organisation)
- Cardiff University (higher education)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (equalities)
- Forestry Commissioner for Wales (environment / rural)
- Grahame Guilford & Co Ltd (private sector)
- Gower College (further education)
- Job Centre Plus (employment)
- National Institute for Continuing Adult Education (education)
- National Trust (environment/rural)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Torfaen County Borough Council (local government)

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- Wales Commissioner for Sustainable Futures (environment)
- Wales Co-operative Centre (third sector)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)
- Wales TUC (workers organisation)
- Welsh farmers (agricultural)
- Welsh Local Government association (local government)
- Working Links (employment)
- Plus representatives from key Welsh Government spending departments

POST 2013 WORKSTREAMS

Operational Programmes Workstream

Partners:

- Anglesey County Council CBI Wales (employers organisation)
- Cardiff County Council (higher education)
- Chwarae Teg (third sector)
- Countryside Council for Wales (environment/rural)
- Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales (environmental / sustainability)
- EEF Cymru (manufacturers' organisation)

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- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (higher education)
- Job Centre Plus (employment)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- RSPB Cymru (environment and countryside)
- Wales Co-operative Centre (third sector)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

Delivery and Compliance Workstream

Partners:

- Arts Council of Wales (arts)
- Bridgend County Borough Council (local government)
- Countryside Council for Wales (rural)
- Gower College (further education)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

Monitoring and Evaluation Workstream

Partners:

- Bridgend County Borough Council (local government)

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- Countryside Council for Wales (environment/rural)
- London Economics (private sector consultancy)
- Monmouthshire County Council (local government)
- National Trust (environment/rural)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)
- Welsh Local Government association (local government)

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Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Revised annexes	Supplementary information	16-Feb-2018			ERDF OPs ANNEX H1 Performance Framework Methodology ERDF OPs ANNEX H2 Outputs Target Setting Methodology		

Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
ANNEX I - Short summary of the OP for the Communication Unit - WW&V	Citizens' summary	1.3	07-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3711706	ANNEX I - Short summary of the OP for the Communication Unit - WW&V	07-Nov-2014	nsmithts
ANNEX D - Ex-Ante Evaluation - ERDF West Wales and the Valleys	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.3	07-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3711706	ANNEX D - Ex-Ante Evaluation - ERDF West Wales and the Valleys	07-Nov-2014	nsmithts
Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014UK16RFOP005 2.1	Snapshot of data before send	2.1	22-Sep-2017		Ares(2017)4633061	Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014UK16RFOP005 2.1 en	22-Sep-2017	nsmithts
ANNEX G - Ex-Ante Conditionality Assessment Grid - WW&V	Documentation on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities	1.3	07-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3711706	ANNEX G - Ex-Ante Conditionality Assessment Grid - WW&V	07-Nov-2014	nsmithts

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Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Programme version has been validated.
Warning	2.~~13~~19.~~1~~3	The ~~total Union support (main+performance) per Fund/year (ERDF/2017) in Table 17 should be equal to the total Union support for the programme/Fund/year in the last partnership agreement sent to the Commission (2014UK16M8PA001 3.2) : 172,426,381.00 - 171,795,652.00~~sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Transition" and per year "2018", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "384,784,017.00", "382,461,753.00".
Warning	2.~~13~~19.~~1~~3	The ~~total Union support (main+performance) per Fund/year (ERDF/2018) in Table 17 should be equal to the total Union support for the programme/Fund/year in the last partnership agreement sent to the Commission (2014UK16M8PA001 3.2) : 175,877,079.00 - 175,233,736.00~~sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Transition" and per year "2019", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "390,130,783.00", "390,115,477.00".
Warning	2.~~13~~19.~~1~~3	The ~~total Union support (main+performance) per Fund/year (ERDF/2019) in Table 17 should be equal to the total Union support for the programme/Fund/year in the last partnership agreement sent to the Commission (2014UK16M8PA001 3.2) : 179,396,722.00 - 178,740,512.00~~sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "More developed" and per year "2018", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "826,641,881.00", "814,578,755.00".
Warning	2.19.3	The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "More developed" and per year "2019", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "836,028,360.00", "830,880,021.00".
Warning	2.~~13.1~~52	~~The total Union support (main+performance) per Fund/year (ERDF/2020) in Table 17 should be equal to the total Union support for the programme/Fund/year in the last partnership agreement sent to the Commission~~

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Severity	Code	Message
		~~(2014UK16M8PA001 3.2) : 182,986,483.00 - 182,317,149.00~~Indicator I33 has no target value at all in Table 6 for priority axis 3.
Warning	2.65	The total ESF allocation (Main + Performance Reserve from Table 17) over all IGJ Programmes of country "UK" is not equal to the total ESF allocation in Table 1.4.1 of the Partnership Agreement with CCI "2014UK16M8PA001": "4,~~946,611,748~~969,651,712.00", "4,~~942,593,693~~969,651,713.00".

compare report

WALES PROGRAMME MONITORING COMMITTEE, EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS 2014 – 2020:

Amendment to the 2014-2020 ESF Programmes

Issue

1. In line with Article 110 of Regulation EU 1303/2013, there is a requirement for the PMC to examine and approve any proposal to amend the Operational Programmes proposed by the Managing Authority.

Recommendation

2. The PMC is asked to approve the formal version of the amended Operational Programmes so they can be submitted to the EC for Approval. These programmes are:

    - 2014UK05SFOP001 – United Kingdom - ESF West Wales and The Valleys
    - 2014UK05SFOP002 – United Kingdom - ESF East Wales

Background

3. Paper WPMC(17)120 set out the proposed changes to the Operational Programmes which the PMC agreed at the 01 December meeting. Since then WEFO met with the European Commission in March 2018 to discuss the proposals.

4. In line with advice from the European Commission, a final validated version of each programme, taken directly from the EU online system and compared with the previous version, is submitted for final PMC agreement. This reflects the changes previously agreed with the PMC and some adjustments to the proposed new Priority Axis to reflect feedback received.

Next steps

5. PMC members are asked to provide any further feedback at the meeting on 04 May and provide email confirmation of agreement by 11 May, which will allow for two weeks from the issue of these papers.

6. PMC agreement will allow for the revised programmes to be sent via the EU online system immediately afterwards and enter a period of formal consultation across the European Commission services.

7. We still hope that modifications will be agreed over the summer.

8. Welsh Language versions of the Operational Programme documents will be updated once agreement is reached with the European Commission.

ESF East Wales Operational Programme Modification and Methodology Paper

Summary of changes proposed

1. The proposed amendments relate to:

    - The introduction of a new Priority Axis for 'Public services reform and regional working' in both programmes. This utilises funding reallocated from Priority 1 (Tackling poverty through sustainable employment) and Priority 2 (Skills for growth). Revised financial tables reflecting this are included at Annex A.

    - This reallocation of ESF seeks to take advantage of the increased Sterling value of the programmes as a result of exchange rate movements (additional £40-60 million ESF across both programmes, dependent on exchange rates). This does not reduce overall outputs or results agreed in 2014, which remain at the same levels.

    - The addition of a new Specific Objective for higher level skills (mirroring the West Wales and the Valleys programme) under Priority 2 (Skills for Growth).

    - Additional ESF directed to Priority 3 (Youth employment) in response to unanticipated high demand and strong performance to date for interventions to boost STEM engagement and attainment, and investment in action to reduce the risk of NEET. As a new area of programming it was not possible to accurately forecast demand, with assumptions in 2014 proving to be underestimates.

    - Minor adjustments to indicators and targets to reflect incorrect assumptions at the point of original programme approval. These do not reduce overall targets. The focus on results is maintained, as are the original intervention logics. The rational for the proposed changes is included in Annex B.

Other changes

2. WEFO are also proposing adjustments to the text of Priority 1 (Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment) to clarify that support provided to participants to obtain sustainable and stable work can include ongoing assistance during the critical first six months of employment. Participants with complex barriers to work may need an extended period of mentoring support as they adjust to the challenges of working life, including financial assistance for specific barriers such as care costs, travel costs or essential equipment or clothing. .

3. The modifications also make minor adjustments or clarifications to reflect errors in the original documents, some of which have already been

highlighted by the previous EC desk officer, but which were not substantive enough to warrant an earlier modification. This includes amendments to the Technical Assistance indicators to make them consistent across programmes.

Performance Framework Financial Targets

4. The approach adopted for the setting of the financial targets within the performance framework for each priority axis was flawed. Targets were based on a simple pro rata allocation across all priorities, even though the reality would always be that different types of interventions would have different spending profiles.

5. The proposals seek to reflect this reality by increasing financial targets for skills interventions, and reducing financial targets for employment interventions. Employment interventions are often more complex as they involve addressing multiple barriers to work and requiring a longer lead-in time as support typically comprises a number of engagement activities over many months rather than a single event. This was an error in calculating targets, which should have better reflected evidence on relative anticipated speed of implementation for different activities.

6. The proposed new Priority Axis will not be in a position to report meaningful financial expenditure targets by the end of 2018.

European Pillar of Social Rights

7. Since the programmes were agreed in 2014 a key priority policy area across the EU has been to promote the European Pillar of Social Rights. Launched in November 2017 it seeks to deliver new and more effective rights for citizens, focussing on three main categories:

    - Equal opportunities and access to the labour market
    - Fair working conditions
    - Social protection and inclusion

8. The proposals are underpinned by 20 key principles under each of the main categories. The proposals for modification have been considered against these principles and we consider there to be close alignment.

9. In particular there is no weakening in the commitments made in 2014 to deliver outputs and results. The existing intervention logic for the programmes remains in tact and is already closely aligned to the objectives and principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

10. The proposal for a new priority axis represents entirely new activity that will be delivered without effect on the outputs and results already set out. The cross-cutting themes will apply to the new priority, which directly address a number of the principles in the pillar. Importantly, the new Priority is intended to improve the delivery and effectiveness of all ESI

interventions and wider investment. It will help underpin the support the rest of the ESI funds will be providing directly linked to the pillar.

11. The new priority will also more directly address principles including:

- *Education, training and life-long learning:* Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market

- *Social dialogue and involvement of workers:* The social partners shall be consulted on the design and implementation of economic, employment and social policies according to national practices... Support for increased capacity of social partners to promote social dialogue shall be encouraged

- *Access to essential services:* Everyone has the right to access essential services of good quality, including water, sanitation, energy, transport, financial services and digital communications. Support for access to such services shall be available for those in need

12. Finally, as an enabler of Prosperity for All, the Economic Action Plan, the Employability Plan and local government reform, the new priority will support the wider contributions those policies can make to the pillar, such as the fair work agenda.

Thematic Concentration and Earmarking targets

13. The proposals set out within this document ensure that all earmarking and thematic concentration targets are still met. WEFO has liaised with the UK Government to ensure overall UK targets remain within requirements.

Strategic Environmental and Equality Impact Assessment

14. The original Operational Programme documents were subject to Strategic Environmental screening and Equality Impact assessment. Our initial screening suggests the SEA and EIA will not need to be revisited and this will be confirmed with the relevant agencies.

Annex A: proposed revisions to the ESF East Wales Operational Programme financial tables

Table 1: Priority 1 Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment (ESF Grant / EU Contribution only)

Thematic Objective	Current ESF (€)	Proposed ESF (€)	Change in allocations	% Change
Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	43,784,989	32,084,989	-11,700,000	– 26.7%

Table 2: Priority 2 Skills for Growth (ESF Grant / EU Contribution only)

Thematic Objective	Current ESF (€)	Proposed ESF (€)	Change in allocations	% Change
Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning	90,553,583	81,193,583	-9,360,000	– 10.3%

Table 3: Priority 3 Youth Employment and Attainment (ESF Grant / EU Contribution only)

Thematic Objective	Current ESF (€)	Proposed ESF (€)	Change in allocations	% Change
Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning	14,994,279	20,844,279	+5,850,000	+ 39.0%

Table 4: Priority 5 Public services reform and regional working (ESF Grant / EU Contribution only)

Thematic Objective	Current ESF (€)	Proposed ESF (€)	Change in allocations
Improving the efficiency of public administration	0	15,210,000	+15,210,000

Table 5: - ESF East Wales Revised financial table

Priority Axis	Thematic Objective	Union support €	National counterpart €	Total funding €
Priority Axis 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	**32,084,989**	**32,084,989**	**64,169,978**
Priority Axis 2: Skills for Growth		**86,123,905**	**91,723,464**	**177,847,369**
	8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	4,930,322	4,930,322	9,860,644
	10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	81,193,583	86,793,142	167,986,725
Priority Axis 3: Youth Employment		**65,827,115**	**65,827,115**	**131,654,230**
	8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	50,832,836	50,832,836	101,665,672
	10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	14,994,279	14,994,279	29,988,558
Priority Axis 4: Technical Assistance	N/A	**4,066,245**	**4,066,245**	**8,132,490**
Priority Axis 5: Regional working and public service reform	11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	**15,210,000**	**15,855,517**	**31,065,517**
Total Programme		**203,312,254**	**209,557,330**	**412,869,584**

Annex B: Rationale and methodology for the proposed changes

Priority 1 (Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

1. Modifications for this Priority are limited to the reallocation of funding as a result of the exchange rate dividend. Additional activity has been explored to utilise these funds, but is not feasible given the existing operations, significantly strengthened current labour market conditions and the changing investment context.

2. The labour market in the UK and within Wales continues to perform well, with the Welsh labour market figures improving significantly relative to the situation at the time of the socio-economic analysis (mainly using figures from 2012). Comparing December 2017 figures with those from December 2012[1] we can see:

    - employment rate is at 72.7% at the end of December 2017, compared to 68.7% in December 2012
    - ILO unemployment rate is 5%, compared to 8.5%
    - economic inactivity rate at 23.4%, compared to 25.1%

3. These improved labour market conditions are positive news, and progress in part will relate to successful ESF investment. It does, however, mean the assumptions about the labour market have changed and there is less need for ESF intervention to support employment interventions, and a smaller cohort of unemployed people to target via ESF programmes than initially forecast when designing the programmes. These issues are even greater in East Wales, which has an even stronger labour market than the Welsh average. Existing operations continue to address key target groups, but there is no further demand or capacity to utilise the additional funding now available.

4. Identifying match funding is also an issue given continued public sector austerity, lower levels of private investment, and lower intervention rates in East Wales (requiring, on average, a 50% match-funding contribution). This is particularly acute for the ESF given the reliance on public sector match funding. For example the original Operational Programme envisaged 78% of match funding for this Priority coming from the public sector'; for committed operations to date public match represents 82%.

5. In view of this, WEFO are proposing to reallocate €11,700,000 of ESF from this Priority into the proposed new Priority Axis for Regional working and public service reform.

[1] All figures taken from StatsWales: https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/People-and-Work (accessed 14 March 2018)

6. Despite the planned reduction to the Euro allocation, all output and result indicators will remain unchanged. These are expected to be delivered as planned and remain unaffected by the movement of funding out of the Priority Axis.

7. The expenditure indicator has been reduced proportionality in line with proposed reduction to the overall Priority allocation. This affects the performance framework targets as a technical change.

Priority 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO1.1 To increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment	12,700	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment	3,800	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	20%	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment engaged in job search upon leaving	25%	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	50%	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	54%	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	25%	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	50%	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	54%	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

SO1.2 To increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment	36,000	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment	10,800	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	20%	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment engaged in job search upon leaving	25%	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	50%	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	54%	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	25%	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	50%	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	54%	No change

SO1.3 To reduce under-employment or absence rates for employed individuals with work limiting health conditions and / or other barriers to sustainable engagement with the labour market	Participants Employed including self-employed with work-limiting health condition or disability	4,000	No change
	Underemployed participants with barriers to full employment	4,000	No change
	Number of micro small and medium-sized enterprises supported	2,000	No change
	Workplace health programmes	300	No change
	Supported enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	50%	No change
	Employed including self employed participants with work limiting health condition or disability returning to work after a period of absence	50%	No change
	Employed including self Employed Participants with Work limiting health condition or disability with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	50%	No change
	Underemployed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving such as increased hours permanent contract	40%	No change

Table 6: Priority 1 – Performance Framework

Priority	Indicator	Current		Revised	
		Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023	Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023
1	Eligible Expenditure (€M)	22	88	13	64
1	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment	3,239	12,700	No change	No change
1	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment	969	3,800	No change	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

Priority 2: Skills for Growth

8. Activities under Priority 2 (Skills for Growth are demand-led, with employed participants being engaged mostly in their workplaces and training interventions provided in response to market needs. Experience of implementation to date shows that there is generally lower demand than anticipated to train participants to CQFW level 2 (and conversely higher demand to train participants to levels 3 and above). This is borne out in the statistics on qualifications of working age adults. Comparing figures at the end of 2012 (when data from the socio-economic analysis was generally compiled) with the end of 2016 (latest data)[2] we can see:

    - 11.4% had no qualifications[3] in 2012, but only 9.5% at the end of 2016 (East Wales fell from 9.2% to 8.1%)

    - 74.1% had at least Level 2 qualifications in 2012, rising to 77.7% by the end of 2016 (East Wales rose from 77.1% to 80.3%).

9. The programme's Socio-Economic Analysis foresaw that over the programme period there would be an ongoing fall in the proportion of jobs requiring qualifications at level 2 and below, and this seems to be borne out in the pattern of demand for training which is emerging in practice: albeit at a quicker pace than anticipated. This is being seen even where the same beneficiary is delivering operations under both SO1 and SO2 (illustrating that the trend relates to skills needs in the workplace and not to the pattern of approvals). The calculation of targets for participants with lower than level 2 qualifications were therefore based on incorrect assumptions.

10. It is also proposed to merge the indicators relating to participants with no formal qualifications with those with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education. This is due to incorrect assumptions about the definition of participant with no qualifications. In Wales there are very few participants with no qualifications as defined by the EU (CQFW); reporting of 'no qualifications' is generally reported domestically as those with lower than SCQF Level 2 (self-reported). Merging these indicators would therefore better represent the target group intended in the intervention logic of the programmes. These indicators are part of the performance framework, so the adjustments have knock-on implications for the performance framework selected indicator and target (but we are very confident of meeting the milestone for the merged indicator).

[2] All figures taken from StatsWales: https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Education-and-Skills/Post-16-Education-and-Training/Lifelong-Learning/Qualification-Levels/highestqualificationlevelsofworkingageadults-by-nuts2-qualification-year (accessed 14 March 2018)

[3] This relates to persons self-reporting as having no qualifications. Our experience is that this will include a large proportion of people that would not meet the EU indicator definition for 'no qualifications'. .

11. As a consequence of the above WEFO proposes amendments to targets, noting overall numbers of participants and outcomes remain unchanged. Table 7 provides the specific changes:

    - Removal of indicators under SO2.1 (increase skills for those with low/no skills) for “Employed including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications”. The targets for these will be distributed in the changes to indicators below, maintaining the overall number of participants.

    - Increase the targets under SO2.1 for “Employed including self-employed participants with qualifications up to an including a lower secondary education”

    - Increase the targets under SO2.2 (increase technical and job specific skills at intermediate and higher level) for “Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2)”

12. The revised targets set out in Table 7 in relation to the above shifts the emphasis towards participants with lower secondary education as described, as well as taking the opportunity to place more emphasis on increasing the proportion of female participants than earlier targets.

13. The accelerated shift to higher-level skills has also highlighted the disparity between the West Wales and the Valleys ESF programme and this East Wales one in the support available for graduate-level support. This modification seeks to correct this disparity and include a new Specific Objective in this Priority for higher level skills to mirror support available in West Wales and the Valleys. The new specific objective would be ‘To increase the number of people with graduate degrees or equivalent undertaking research and innovation activities with enterprise’ for higher level skills supporting smart specialisation. It will also aid simplification and visibility of ESF, allowing for support to be offered on a pan-Wales basis.

14. The targets for the indicators under this new Specific Objective are based *pro rata* on those for the existing West Wales and the Valleys specific objective, which in turn were primarily based on the UK Research Councils’ guidelines on costs of provision at ISCED Level 7 (Masters) ad Level 8 (Doctorate), together with data on broadly comparable activity in the ‘Steel Training Research and Innovation Partnership (STRIP)’ and ‘Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships’ projects.

15. Taking into account the additional funding available because of exchange rate movements, we propose to move €9,360,000 into other priorities. This will consist of €3,510,000 being transferred to the new Public services reform and regional working priority and €5,850,000 to Priority 3 (Youth Employment).

Table 7: Priority 2: Skills for Growth

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO2.1 To increase the skills levels, including work relevant skills, of those in the workforce with no or low skills	Employed including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male	7,799	-
	Employed including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female	7,101	-
	Employed including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education - Male	13,296	**10,888**
	Employed including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education - Female	12,104	**12,650**
	Employed including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	72%	No change
	Employed including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Female	72%	No change
	Employed including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary level upon leaving - Male	72%	No change
	Employed including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary level upon leaving - Female	72%	No change

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO2.2 To increase the number of people in the workforce with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level.	Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2) - Male	6,438	**9,372**
	Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2) - Female	5,862	**11,309**
	Employed including self employed participants with upper secondary (CQFW 3) education or above - Male	4,292	**7,796**
	Employed including self employed participants with upper secondary (CQFW 3) education or above - Female	3,908	**8,785**
	Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (CQFW 3) level or above - Male	60%	No change
	Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (CQFW 3) level or above - Female	60%	No change
	Employed including self employed participants with upper secondary (CQFW 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (CQFW 3) level upon leaving - Male	60%	No change
	Employed including self employed participants with upper secondary (CQFW 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (CQFW 3) level upon leaving - Female	60%	No change

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
NEW SO To increase the number of people with graduate degrees or equivalent undertaking research and innovation activities with enterprise	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent - Male	n/a	**125**
	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent - Female	n/a	**125**
	Number of enterprises collaborating with learning providers	n/a	n/a
	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (CQFW 7) or Doctoral (CQFW 8) level - Male	n/a	**63%**
	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (CQFW 7) or Doctoral (CQFW 8) level - Female	n/a	**63%**
	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - male	n/a	**52%**
	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - female	n/a	**52%**
SO2.3 To improve the position of women in the workforce	Number of supported micro small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	300	No change
	Employed including self-employed	1,500	No change
	Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	75%	No change
	Supported Enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	50%	No change
	Participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	40%	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

Table 8: Priority 2 – Performance Framework

Priority	Indicator	Current		Revised	
		Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023	Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023
2	Eligible Expenditure (€M)	50	197	**60**	**178**
2	Employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male[2]	1,989	7,799	**-**	**-**
2	Employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female[2]	1,811	7,101	**-**	**-**
2	Employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education - Male	3,391	13,296	**5,380**	**10,888**
2	Employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education - Female	3,087	12,104	**4,898**	**12,650**
2	Employed participants with lower secondary education - Male	1,642	6,438	No change	**9,372**
2	Employed participants with lower secondary education - Female	1,495	5,862	No change	**11,309**

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

Priority 3: Youth Employment

1. Priority 3 (Youth Employment) is performing particularly well in terms of funding commitment with a strong pipeline of projects. This was an innovative area of activity for 2014-2020 the position on performance for this priority remains very encouraging.

2. As an innovative area the forecasting approach and allocation was uncertain at the time of approval, but there is now more data available on which to base realistic assumptions.

3. Achievement against most indicators is running close to or ahead of profile. This encouraging picture is now reflected in qualifications data as well as participant numbers, as participants are starting to complete courses and gain their awards.

4. The changes to the socio-economic situation as evidenced by the improved overall labour market statistics are not reflected to the same degree when youth employment data is considered. While there have been significant improvements, there are still significant challenges that could be tackled by provision of additional funding. For example[4]:

    - As at end 2016 (provisional), 10.4 per cent of 16-18 year olds were NEET (11,000)
    - As at end 2016 (provisional), 18.5 per cent of 19-24 year olds were NEET (46,400)

5. Given there was limited intelligence against which to base the financial allocation and resultant targets at the point of programme approval, this amendment is proposed to reflect more accurate information.

6. The Indicators and Performance Framework targets have been increased in line with the increase to the overall Priority allocation.

[4] Statistical first release (SFR) 'Participation of young people in education and the labour market' using education data sources and the Annual Population Survey.

Table 9: Priority 3: Youth Employment and Attainment

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO3.1 To reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET)	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	21,200	No change
	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving - with primary or lower secondary education	4,240	No change
	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) in education/training upon leaving	3,604	No change
	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	5,936	No change
SO3.2 To reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET, amongst 11-24 year olds	Participants at Risk of becoming NEET (11-24)	13,000	**18,072**
	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving - with primary (CQFW 1) or lower secondary education (CQFW 2)	3,510	**4,900**
	Participants at risk of becoming NEET(11-24) into education/training upon leaving	2,340	**3,300**
	Participants at Risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	-	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

Table 10: Priority 3 - Performance Framework

Priority	Indicator	Current		Revised	
		Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023	Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023
3	Eligible Expenditure (€M)	31	120	No change	**132**
3	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	5,407	21,200	No change	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

New ESF Priority Axis for Public services reform and regional working

7. The PMC agreed in December 2017 to the utilisation of additional ESF for the development of a new priority axis linked to regional working and public service reform.

8. Further discussions have taken place with potential operations, allowing this latest version of the proposed priority (Doc 1) to provide more of the focus requested by PMC members in December, whilst retaining sufficiently flexibility going forward.

9. The intention is for the Priority will focus on addressing capacity constraints and barriers to working collaboratively across the public sector, with a particular emphasis on regional working. This is expected to build on the experiences during 2007-2013, moving successful arrangements to a new footing, aligned with the Welsh Government's regionalisation agenda. For example the 2007-2013 programmes helped establish regional skills partnerships, which could be supported to evolve into a more regionally integrated model.

10. A key objective will be to focus on cohering a fragmented policy and planning landscape across the Welsh regions, assessing and addressing capacity constraints that have emerged as a result. The priority also offers the opportunity to promote social innovation in the integration and delivery of public services, exploring and testing new approaches. Proposals for local government reform will also support regional working in the simplification and integration of service delivery at a sub-regional level.

11. All proposals will be expected to align with the regionalisation agenda set out by the Welsh Government, in particular the commitments set out in the Economic Action Plan, which seeks a more integrated approach. The Priority will also take into account the European Pillar of Social Rights and the need for access to quality public services.

12. A literature review has been carried out, and draft intervention logic prepared. These have been previously been discussed with members and underpin the proposals.

13. Early discussions have taken place with key stakeholders to discuss options for future operations. WEFO will seek to progress those discussions in tandem with the negotiation of the modifications. This would enable early approvals and implementation within the programme life.

ESF West Wales & the Valleys Operational Programme Modification and Methodology Paper

Summary of changes proposed

1. The proposed amendments relate to:

    - The introduction of a new Priority Axis for 'Regional working and public service reform' in both programmes. This utilises funding reallocated from Priority 1 (Tackling poverty through sustainable employment) and Priority 2 (Skills for growth). Revised financial tables reflecting this are included at Annex A.

    - This reallocation of ESF seeks to take advantage of the increased Sterling value of the programmes as a result of exchange rate movements (additional £40-60 million ESF across both programmes, dependent on exchange rates). This does not reduce overall outputs or results agreed in 2014, which remain at the same levels.

    - Minor adjustments to indicators and targets to reflect incorrect assumptions at the point of original programme approval. These do not reduce overall targets. The focus on results is maintained, as is the original intervention logic. The rationale for the proposed changes is included at Annex B.

Other changes

2. WEFO are also proposing adjustments to the text of Priority 1 (Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment) to clarify that support provided to participants to obtain sustainable and stable work can include ongoing assistance during the critical first six months of employment. Participants with complex barriers to work may need an extended period of mentoring support as they adjust to the challenges of working life, including financial assistance for specific barriers such as care costs, travel costs or essential equipment or clothing.

3. The modifications also make minor adjustments or clarifications to reflect errors in the original documents, some of which had been highlighted by the previous EC desk officer, but were not substantive enough to warrant an earlier modification. This includes amendments to the Technical Assistance indicators to make them consistent across programmes.

Performance Framework Financial Targets

4. The approach adopted for the setting of the financial targets within the performance framework for each priority axis was flawed. Targets were based on a simple pro rata allocation across all priorities, even though the reality would always be that different types of interventions would have different spending profiles.

5. The proposals seek to reflect this reality by increasing financial targets for skills interventions, and reducing financial targets for employment interventions. Employment interventions are often more complex as they involve addressing multiple barriers to work and requiring a longer lead-in time as support typically comprises a number of engagement activities over many months rather than a single event. This was an error in calculating targets, which should have better reflected evidence on relative anticipated speed of implementation for different activities.

6. The proposed new Priority Axis will not be in a position to report meaningful financial expenditure targets by the end of 2018.

European Pillar of Social Rights

7. Since the programmes were agreed in 2014 a key priority policy area across the EU has been to promote the European Pillar of Social Rights. Launched in November 2017 it seeks to deliver new and more effective rights for citizens, focussing on three main categories:

    - Equal opportunities and access to the labour market
    - Fair working conditions
    - Social protection and inclusion

8. The proposals are underpinned by 20 key principles under each of the main categories. The proposals for modification have been considered against these principles and we consider there to be close alignment.

9. In particular there is no weakening in the commitments made in 2014 to deliver outputs and results. The existing intervention logic for the programmes remains in tact and is already closely aligned to the objectives and principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

10. The proposal for a new priority axis represents entirely new activity that will be delivered without effect on the outputs and results already set out. The cross-cutting themes will apply to the new priority, which directly address a number of the principles in the pillar. Importantly, the new Priority is intended to improve the delivery and effectiveness of all ESI interventions and wider investment. It will help underpin the support the rest of the ESI funds will be providing directly linked to the pillar.

11. The new priority will also more directly address principles including:

    - *Education, training and life-long learning:* Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market

    - *Social dialogue and involvement of workers:* The social partners shall be consulted on the design and implementation of economic,

employment and social policies according to national practices... Support for increased capacity of social partners to promote social dialogue shall be encouraged

- *Access to essential services:* Everyone has the right to access essential services of good quality, including water, sanitation, energy, transport, financial services and digital communications. Support for access to such services shall be available for those in need

12. Finally, as an enabler of Prosperity for All, the Economic Action Plan, the Employability Plan and local government reform, the new priority will support the wider contributions those policies can make to the pillar, such as the fair work agenda.

Thematic Concentration and Earmarking targets

13. The proposals set out within this document ensure that all earmarking and thematic concentration targets are still met. WEFO has liaised with the UK Government to ensure overall UK targets remain within requirements.

Strategic Environmental and Equality Impact Assessment

14. The original Operational Programme documents were subject to Strategic Environmental screening and Equality Impact Assessment. Our initial screening suggests the SEA and EIA will not need to be revisited and this will be confirmed with the relevant agencies.

Annex A: proposed revisions to the ESF West Wales and the Valleys Operational Programme financial tables Proposed reallocation

Table 1: Priority 1 Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment (ESF Grant / EU Contribution only)

Thematic Objective	Current ESF (€)	Proposed ESF (€)	Change in allocations	% Change
Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	195,964,437	187,774,437	-8,190,000	– 4.2%

Table 2: Priority 2 Skills for Growth (ESF Grant / EU Contribution only)

Thematic Objective	Current ESF (€)	Proposed ESF (€)	Change in allocations	% Change
Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning	326,407,266	318,217,266	-8,190,000	– 2.5%

Table 3: Priority 5 Public services reform and regional working (ESF Grant / EU Contribution only)

Thematic Objective	Current ESF (€)	Proposed ESF (€)	Change in allocations	% Change
Improving the efficiency of public administration	0	16,380,000	+16,380,000	New

Table 4 - ESF West Wales and the Valleys Revised financial table

Priority Axis	**Thematic Objective**	**Union support €**	**National counterpart €**	**Total funding €**
Priority Axis 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	**187,774,437**	**50,022,762**	**237,797,199**
Priority Axis 2: Skills for Growth		**339,639,752**	**131,347,341**	**470,987,093**
	8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	21,422,486	7,386,514	28,809,000
	10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	318,217,266	123,960,827	442,178,093
Priority Axis 3: Youth Employment		**244,713,791**	**84,379,527**	**329,093,318**
	8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	134,592,585	46,408,740	181,001,325
	10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	110,121,206	37,970,787	148,091,993
Priority Axis 4: Technical Assistance	N/A	**16,046,806**	**5,533,084**	**21,579,890**
Priority Axis 5: Regional working and public service reform	11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration	**16,380,000**	**5,372,197**	**21,752,197**
Total Programme		**804,554,786**	**276,654,911**	**1,081,209,697**

Annex B: Rationale and methodology for the proposed changes

Priority 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

1. Modifications for this Priority are limited to the reallocation of funding as a result of the exchange rate dividend. Additional activity has been explored to utilise these funds, but is not feasible given the existing operations, significantly strengthened current labour market conditions and the changing investment context.

2. The labour market in the UK and within Wales continues to perform well, with the Welsh labour market figures improving significantly relative to the situation at the time of the socio-economic analysis (mainly using figures from 2012). Comparing December 2017 figures with those from December 2012[1] we can see:

    - employment rate is at 72.7% at the end of December 2017, compared to 68.7% in December 2012

    - ILO unemployment rate is 5%, compared to 8.5%

    - economic inactivity rate at 23.4%, compared to 25.1%

3. These improved labour market conditions are positive news, and progress in part will relate to successful ESF investment. It does, however, mean the assumptions about the labour market have changed and there is less need for ESF intervention to support employment interventions, and a smaller cohort of unemployed people to target via ESF programmes than initially forecast when designing the programmes. Existing operations continue to address key target groups, but there is no further demand or capacity to utilise the additional funding now available.

4. In view of this, WEFO are proposing to reallocate €8,190,000 of unallocated EU funds from Priority 1 of the West Wales & the Valleys programme into a new Priority Axis for Regional working and public service reform. This represents just over 4% of the original allocation.

5. Despite the planned reduction to the Euro allocation, all output and result indicators will remain unchanged. These are expected to be delivered as planned and remain unaffected by the movement of funding out of the Priority Axis.

6. The expenditure indicator has been reduced proportionality in line with proposed reduction to the overall Priority allocation. This affects the performance framework targets as a technical change.

[1] All figures taken from StatsWales: https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/People-and-Work (accessed 14 March 2018)

Table 5: Priority 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO1.1 To increase the employability of those closest to the labour market at most risk of poverty	Short term unemployed with no / low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability	5,999	No change
	Individuals impacted by redundancy	12,001	No change
	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability in employment upon leaving	33%	No change
	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability gaining a qualification upon leaving	50%	No change
	Individuals impacted by redundancy in employment upon leaving	55%	No change
	Individuals impacted by redundancy gaining a qualification upon leaving	70%	No change

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO1.2 To increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment	36,000	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment	10,800	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	20%	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment engaged in job search upon leaving	25%	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	50%	No change
	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over) not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	54%	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	25%	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	50%	No change
	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	54%	No change

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO1.3 To reduce under-employment or absence rates for employed individuals with work limiting health conditions and / or other barriers to sustainable engagement with the labour market	Participants Employed including self-employed with work-limiting health condition or disability	4,000	No change
	Underemployed participants with barriers to full employment	4,000	No change
	Number of micro small and medium-sized enterprises supported	2,000	No change
	Workplace health programmes	300	No change
	Supported enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	50%	No change
	Employed including self employed participants with work limiting health condition or disability returning to work after a period of absence	50%	No change
	Employed including self Employed Participants with Work limiting health condition or disability with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	50%	No change
	Underemployed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving such as increased hours permanent contract	40%	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

Table 6: Priority 1 – Performance Framework

Priority	Indicator	Current		Revised	
		Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023	Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023
1	Eligible Expenditure (€M)	63	248	**53**	**238**
1	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment	9,182	36,000	No change	No change
1	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment	2,755	10,800	No change	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

Priority 2: Skills for Growth

7. Activities under Priority 2 (Skills for Growth) are demand-led, with employed participants being engaged mostly in their workplaces and training interventions provided in response to market needs. Experience of implementation to date shows that there is generally lower demand than anticipated to train participants to CQFW level 2 (and conversely higher demand to train participants to levels 3 and above). This is borne out in the statistics on qualifications of working age adults. Comparing figures at the end of 2012 (when data from the socio-economic analysis was generally compiled) with the end of 2016 (latest data)[2] we can see:

    - 11.4% had no qualifications[3] in 2012, but only 9.5% at the end of 2016 (West Wales and the Valleys fell from 12.7% to 10.4%)

    - 74.1% had at least Level 2 qualifications in 2012, rising to 77.7% by the end of 2016 (WW&V rose from 72.2% to 76.1%).

8. The programme's Socio-Economic Analysis foresaw that over the programme period there would be an ongoing fall in the proportion of jobs requiring qualifications at level 2 and below, and this seems to be borne out in the pattern of demand for training which is emerging in practice; albeit at a quicker pace than anticipated. This is being seen even where the same beneficiary is running operations in both SO1 and SO2 (illustrating that this trend relates to skills needs in the workplace and not to the pattern of approvals). The calculation of targets for participants with lower than level 2 qualifications were therefore based on incorrect assumptions.

9. It is also proposed to merge the indicators relating to participants with no formal qualifications with those with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education. This is due to incorrect assumptions about the definition of participant with no qualifications. In Wales there are very few participants with no qualifications as defined by the EU (CQFW); reporting of 'no qualifications' is generally reported domestically as those with lower than SCQF Level 2 (self-reported). Merging these indicators would therefore better represent the target group intended in the intervention logic of the programmes. These indicators are part of the performance framework, so the adjustments have knock-on implications for the performance framework selected indicator and target (but we are very confident of meeting the milestone for the merged indicator).

[2] All figures taken from StatsWales: https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Education-and-Skills/Post-16-Education-and-Training/Lifelong-Learning/Qualification-Levels/highestqualificationlevelsofworkingageadults-by-nuts2-qualification-year (accessed 14 March 2018)

[3] This relates to persons self-reporting as having no qualifications. Our experience is that this will include a large proportion of people that would not meet the EU indicator definition for 'no qualifications'. .

10. As a consequence of the above WEFO proposes some amendments to targets, noting overall numbers of participants and outcomes remain unchanged. Table 7 provides the specific changes:

    - Removal of indicators under SO2.1 (increase skills for those with low/no skills) for “Employed including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications”. The targets for these will be distributed in the changes to indicators below, maintaining the overall number of participants.

    - Increase the targets under SO2.1 for “Employed including self-employed participants with qualifications up to an including a lower secondary education”

    - Increase the targets under SO2.2 (increase technical and job specific skills at intermediate and higher level) for “Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2)”

11. The revised targets set out in Table 7 in relation to the above shifts the emphasis towards participants with lower secondary education as described, as well as taking the opportunity to place more emphasis on increasing the proportion of female participants than earlier targets.

12. The original number of participants across the above targets remains at 103,100. As overall targets remain the same and taking into account the additional funding available because of exchange rate movements, we propose to move €8,190,000 of funding out of Priority 2 into the new Priority on Public services reform and regional working. This represents a reduction of 2.5% of the allocation for this priority axis. Existing and pipeline operations are expected to meet demand and deliver all the results and outputs set out in the programme and agreed in 2014.

Table 7: Priority 2: Skills for Growth

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO2.1 To increase the skills levels, including work relevant skills, of those in the workforce with no or low skills	Employed including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male	14,029	-
	Employed including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female	12,771	-
	Employed including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education - Male	23,870	**26,841**
	Employed including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education - Female	21,730	**31,692**
	Employed including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	72%	No change
	Employed including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Female	72%	No change
	Employed including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary level upon leaving - Male	72%	No change
	Employed including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary level upon leaving - Female	72%	No change

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO2.2 To increase the number of people in the workforce with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level.	Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2) - Male	16,070	**20,693**
	Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2) - Female	14,630	**23,874**
	Employed including self employed participants with upper secondary (CQFW 3) education or above - Male	10,731	No change
	Employed including self employed participants with upper secondary (CQFW 3) education or above - Female	9,769	No change
	Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (CQFW 3) level or above - Male	60%	No change
	Employed including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (CQFW 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (CQFW 3) level or above - Female	60%	No change
	Employed including self employed participants with upper secondary (CQFW 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (CQFW 3) level upon leaving - Male	60%	No change
	Employed including self employed participants with upper secondary (CQFW 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (CQFW 3) level upon leaving - Female	60%	No change

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO2.3 To increase the number of people with graduate degrees or equivalent undertaking research and innovation activities with enterprise	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent - Male	780	No change
	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent - Female	720	No change
	Number of enterprises collaborating with learning providers	750	No change
	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (CQFW 7) or Doctoral (CQFW 8) level - Male	63%	No change
	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (CQFW 7) or Doctoral (CQFW 8) level - Female	63%	No change
	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - male	52%	No change
	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - female	52%	No change
SO2.4 To improve the position of women in the workforce	Number of supported micro small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	800	No change
	Employed including self-employed	4,400	No change
	Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	75%	No change
	Supported Enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	50%	No change
	Participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	40%	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

Table 8: Priority 2 – Performance Framework

Priority	Indicator	Current		Revised	
		Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023	Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023
2	Eligible Expenditure (€M)	122	480	**133**	**471**
2	Employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male[2]	3,578	14,029	**-**	**-**
2	Employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female[2]	3,258	12,771	**-**	**-**
2	Employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education - Male	6,088	23,870	**9,666**	**26,841**
2	Employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education - Female	5,543	21,730	**8,801**	**31,692**
2	Employed participants with lower secondary education - Male	4,099	16,070	No change	**20,693**
2	Employed participants with lower secondary education - Female	3,732	14,630	No change	**23,874**

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

Priority 3: Youth Employment

13. Priority 3 (Youth Employment) is performing particularly well in terms of funding commitment with a strong pipeline of projects. This was an innovative area of activity for 2014-2020 the position on performance for this priority remains very encouraging.

14. Where there are gaps in the outputs committed to beneficiaries there is remaining funding available to address them. Achievement against most indicators is running close to or ahead of profile, and this encouraging picture is now reflected in qualifications data as well as participant numbers, as participants are starting to complete courses and gain their awards.

15. In view of the above, there are no changes planned to the Indicators/ Performance Framework.

Table 9: Priority 3: Youth Employment and Attainment

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO3.1 To reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET)	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	42,700	No change
	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving - with primary or lower secondary education	8,540	No change
	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) in education/training upon leaving	7,259	No change
	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	11,956	No change
SO3.2 To reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET, amongst 11-24 year olds	Participants at Risk of becoming NEET (11-24)	49,700	No change
	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving - with primary (CQFW 1) or lower secondary education (CQFW 2)	3,479	No change
	Participants at risk of becoming NEET(11-24) into education/training upon leaving	9,443	No change
	Participants at Risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	-	No change

Specific Objective	Outputs	Target	Revised Target
SO3.3 To increase the take up of and attainment levels in STEM subjects amongst 11-19 year olds	Young People 11 -19 years of age - Male	8,400	No change
	Young People 11 -19 years of age - Female	15,000	No change
	Young People 11-19 years of age completing training in maths Science Engineering and Technology - Male	4,620	No change
	Young People 11-19 years of age completing training in maths Science Engineering and Technology - Female	8,250	No change
	11-19 years of age participants who continue to study a Maths Science Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - Male	3,780	No change
	11-19 years of age participants who continue to study a Maths Science Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - Female	6,750	No change
SO3.4 To increase the skills of the Early Years and Childcare workforce	Employed including self-employed Participants from early years and childcare sector - male	300	No change
	Employed including self-employed Participants from early years and childcare sector - female	2,700	No change
	Employed including self employed Participants from early years and childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - Male	231	No change
	Employed including self employed Participants from early years and childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - Female	2,079	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

Table 10: Priority 3 - Performance Framework

Priority	Indicator	Current		Revised	
		Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023	Milestone target to end 2018	Final target to end 2023
3	Eligible Expenditure (€M)	84	329	No change	No change
3	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	10,891	42,700	No change	No change

Source: WEFO, 28/02/2018

New ESF Priority Axis for Regional working and public service reform

16. The PMC agreed in December 2017 to the utilisation of additional ESF for the development of a new priority axis linked to regional working and public service reform.

17. Further discussions have taken place with potential operations, allowing this latest version of the proposed priority (Doc 1) to provide more of the focus requested by PMC members in December, whilst retaining sufficiently flexibility going forward.

18. The intention is for the Priority will focus on addressing capacity constraints and barriers to working collaboratively across the public sector, with a particular emphasis on regional working. This is expected to build on the experiences during 2007-2013, moving successful arrangements to a new footing, aligned with the Welsh Government's regionalisation agenda. For example the 2007-2013 programmes helped establish regional skills partnerships, which could be supported to evolve into a more regionally integrated model.

19. A key objective will be to focus on cohering a fragmented policy and planning landscape across the Welsh regions, assessing and addressing capacity constraints that have emerged as a result. The priority also offers the opportunity to promote social innovation in the integration and delivery of public services, exploring and testing new approaches. Proposals for local government reform will also support regional working in the simplification and integration of service delivery at a sub-regional level.

20. All proposals will be expected to align with the regionalisation agenda set out by the Welsh Government, in particular the commitments set out in the Economic Action Plan, which seeks a more integrated approach. The Priority will also take into account the European Pillar of Social Rights, and the need for access to quality public services.

21. A literature review has been carried out, and draft intervention logic prepared. These have been previously been discussed with members and underpin the proposals.

22. Early discussions have taken place with key stakeholders to discuss options for future operations. WEFO will seek to progress those discussions in tandem with the negotiation of the modifications. This would enable early approvals and implementation within the programme life.

Doc 1

A description of the priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority Axis 5: Public services reform and regional working

Investment Priority: Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administration and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance (article 3 (d) (i) ESF Regulation)

ID of the priority axis	<2A.1 type="N" input="G"“SME» >
Title of the priority axis	*Public services reform and regional working*

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments	n/a
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level	n/a
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development	n/a
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both	n/a

2.1.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or Fund (where applicable)

[DN: This section has been used in other Priority Axes to elaborate on the evidence base]

This priority axis covers one category of region, but will be closely coordinated with an identical priority under the other Wales ESF programme (different category of region). It only covers one thematic objective and a single fund.

There is an increasing evidence base pointing to the importance of institutional capacity as a factor affecting the relative success of regional investments (OECD). Having the right capacity in place can therefore magnify the effect and impact of regional investments; with ineffective arrangements having a negative effect. As such, a lack of capacity in Welsh regions risks undermining investments made across the entire suite of European Structural and Investment (ESI) programmes in Wales and beyond. Effectively operating

regional arrangements can better integrate investments in places and improve the effectiveness and impact of those investments both collectively and individually.

The 2007-2013 ESF programmes kick-started a process of regionalisation in Wales, supporting the creation of regional skills partnerships and building capacity for improved collaborative working. Since the 2014-2020 programmes were negotiated in 2014 the Welsh Government has further developed a coherent policy framework that commits to regionalisation in those areas where it provides added value; providing a sound basis on which to create the state changes needed for the next phase. This includes:

- **Prosperity for All (September 2017).** This indicates "*It is only through closer working, on a consistent regional basis, that the resilience and responsiveness of services can be maintained in the future*". Commitments are made to respond to the diverse needs of different regions, working with partners in those regions in areas such as skills and economic development.

- **Economic Action Plan (December 2017).** This describes the need to ensure "*the different players in our economy - from the emerging City Deals and local government reform structures, to the new Development Bank of Wales and Regional Skills Partnerships – work together on a clear footprint with businesses and other partners in a new, strategic and more collaborative partnership to support distinctive regional strengths*"

- **Employability Plan (March 2018).** This identified a range of relevant actions, such as the need to "*prioritise the co-location of local services to simplify employability support for the individual*", "*to provide a holistic view of local and regional employability support*" and to "*strengthen the governance and expertise of the Regional Skills Partnerships to ensure that they provide regional leadership and robust labour market intelligence*". Working in tandem with the Economic Action Plan this will "*encourage local and regional growth and innovation in relation to skills*".

Difficulties instituting public sector reform in Wales over the last 20 years suggests some resistance to new ways of working; but collaborations levered by ESI funds are providing evidence of the effectiveness of partnership working. Plans for regionalisation across Wales have been developed over time, initially stimulated by investments made by ESF during 2007-2013. Further, proposals for local government reform reflect the reality facing public service delivery with falling budgets, increased demands on services, and an ageing population. Dedicated additional investment could lever quicker, wider and more systematic reform and could demonstrate significant added value in driving structural reform in public service delivery and collaboration.

Since devolution, Wales has a tradition of promoting partnership working across the public, private and third sectors, favouring collaboration over

competition. This has generated mixed outcomes; Wales has higher rates of public satisfaction but some local authorities' performance worse than England and Scotland (Carter-Davies and Martin, 2016).

Pressures on public services in Wales have been increasing as we face demographic shifts of an increasing yet ageing population (Future Trends, 2017), extended public sector austerity, and rising expectations for public services; with citizen expectations of personalised and simplified services (EC, 2016). For the non-profit sector, scarcer funding and increased demand for services diminished their ability to deliver consistently high quality services (Scragg, 2009), and to work collaboratively with other sector organisations (Williams, 2017). Given the move towards collaborative working across traditional boundaries involving non-government organisations, the capacity of the non-profit sector must be maximised where possible. Some areas may face difficulty attracting and retaining suitably qualified staff to deliver high quality services, with the need for more varied career paths (Resilient and Renewed, 2017)

Building institutional capacity of the public sector can ensure that public administrations are equipped to deal with challenges in the long term (European Commission, 2014). In Wales reform is urgently required to improve the resilience of services, improve outcomes, seek economies of scale for some services and specialist advice, reduce costs where possible, and promote collaboration (Resilient and Renewed, 2017).

Evidence also exists to point to the areas in which to target investment and mechanisms by which to do so. For planning to be as flexible as possible as there is a need for changes to be made (Blum, Manning and Srivastasa, 2012). Lessons from a previous attempt to support reform via ESF in 2007-2013 highlight the need for a clearer intervention logic and more targeted outcomes (Ex Post Evaluation), leading to the identification of the following priority areas, which are reflected in this priority:

- governance arrangements that do not overcomplicate structures (Cole and Stafford, 2014), but also do not undermine democratic legitimacy (Rees, Mullins and Bovaird, 2012);

- skills and training to ensure staff have the knowledge and skills required for effective reform (EUPAN, 2014), in particular leadership (European Commission, 2014) and project management (Downe and Hayden, 2016);

- putting in place durable systems to secure institutional memory, in particular via innovation to improve existing procedures (OECD, 2013; Rodriguez-Pose and Di Cataldo, 2015; Huggins, 2016) and investment in IT systems and exploitation including provision of online services (EUPAN, 2014); and

- maximising existing networks as a springboard for collaboration (Ex Post Evaluation), but networks need to be actively managed (Entwistle, 2014).

The need to build on the early capacity building carried out during 2007-2013 is still there, and now we have a clear policy framework for integrated regional working the imperative for reform is much stronger, particularly as public services face unprecedented challenges. This priority learns the lessons from 2007-2013 and is directly aligned to the Welsh Government's regionalisation agenda, ongoing discussions on public sector reform in Wales, as well as building on existing networks for regional working. The evaluation of the 2007-2013 activity found that the Priority lacked a thorough analysis of the existing landscape in Wales. This is now much better understood and described in Welsh Government policy, such as the Economic Action Plan[1], but capacity assessments and options for ongoing reform are expected to feature as part of this priority. This will ensure the best evidence possible supports the evolution of existing arrangements to put them on a more sustainable footing.

This Priority Axis will be delivered through a single Thematic Objective (11) – Institutional Capacity Building). The Priority Axis will align with, complement, and add value to domestic programmes through supporting a single coordinated approach to building institutional capacity in Welsh regions.

[1] http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf

2.1.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	ESF	ESF
Category of region	Less developed	More developed
Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Total eligible expenditure €21,752,197 (ESF = €16,380,000)	Total eligible expenditure €31,065,517 (ESF = €15,210,000)
Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)	n/a	n/a

The results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union Support

To support collaboration and innovation in public service delivery

The result indicator selected takes into account Commission guidance (*Guidance Document on Indicators of Public Administration Capacity Building*, 2014) which makes clear indicators need to the related to the capacity/state change of the public body (e.g. new integrated structures or delivery models), not the performance change (i.e. effects on services), which is an impact measure.

The indicator is directly linked to the European Commission core indicator, which offers a broad result indicator that can capture the result of a range of activity. Supported units in this case will primarily be entities involved in public service delivery (primarily national, regional, local government, and third sector bodies), but beneficiaries (delivering projects) may provide expertise to those supported units (e.g. HE/FE, research institutions).

A central outcome of investment will be the development and dissemination of improved working methods, procedures, and tools. This will be captured by a single result indicator for the development of new methods, procedures and tools; with them considered developed once disseminated.

Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region): Specific Objective 1, 2 and 3 of the European Commission Investment Priority; Active Inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability.

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Baseline value	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data**	Frequency of reporting
	Number of new methods, procedures, and tools developed and disseminated	Less Developed	Number	0	Number	2018	8	Monitoring data	Quarterly
		More Developed	Number	0	Number	2018	8	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.3.A.6(i) Actions to be supported under the investment priority
Investment Priority: *Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance*

Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

In delivering the results sought there will be a series of complementary investment needed in people, organisations and systems. All investments are expected to align directly to the regionalisation agenda of the Welsh Government, as described in Prosperity for All[2], the Economic Action Plan[3], and the Employability Plan[4]. These, alongside emerging proposals for local government reform, provide the policy framework for activity under this Priority.

Our approach will need to be flexible and responsive. It will change over time, as the tasks being undertaken change. There will be some core, common elements and some bespoke provision, recognising that capacity and specific capability will vary between regions and entities.

While the emphasis is likely to be on the role of local government and the specific opportunities for integration and transformation stemming from those organisations coming together, the Specific Objective will also need to ensure other stakeholders, in particular the third sector and other delivery bodies are a central part of proposals, dependent on the service / activity being examined.

Governance is particularly important to the public sector because of the accountability held by stakeholders. Good governance can increase trust, citizen engagement and social capital. Any reform of governance structures should not lead to overcomplicated structures: given the small size of Wales this could negatively affect service delivery

The approach to this Priority seeks to learn lessons from previous experience and from others' experiences, by taking a more incremental approach that focusses on the state changes, rather than the long-term impact desired (which is dependent on factors outside of the control of an ESF investment programme). In particular we will seek to build on the solid progress made to date on improving regionalisation and cooperation between public service providers, such as the development of regional skills partnerships and improving integrated planning and delivery of economic development and skills activities in places. The nature of emerging Local Government reform proposals will bring challenges to the implementation of this priority, requiring a staged and flexible approach to implementation, but all options being considered will strengthen collaboration and regional working by simplifying

[2] http://gov.wales/docs/strategies/170919-prosperity-for-all-en.pdf
[3] http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf
[4] http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/180319-employability-plan-en.pdf

arrangements and promoting collaboration. Added value, particularly in terms of making long-needed reforms take place, is clear.

Regional working and planning is expected to focus on cohering a fragmented policy and planning landscape across the Welsh regions, in particular for economic development, skills, strategic land use, and transport planning. Various initiatives operate on regional footprints, with related capacity issues created, potential inefficiencies, and risks to strategic and integrated planning approaches. For example there are different arrangements for City Deals, Growth Deals, prioritising ESI funding, skills, planning regional regeneration investments, and a range of other spatial initiatives that could be more effectively coordinated and integrated if long-standing structural weaknesses can be addressed.

Social innovation and innovation in service delivery is also expected to feature prominently in this priority. ESF offers an opportunity to develop, pilot, evaluate and disseminate new ways of working across public services, for example in applying new technology such as the use of big data.

Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of this Specific Objective may include (but are not limited to):

- Assessments of capacity and capability for collaborative working, including development / application of toolkits and the transfer of new / improved methods and procedures. This could include transnational activity and international benchmarking.

- Building capacity and capability within existing or emerging partnerships, moving them to a more sustainable footing and supporting development of centres of excellence. For example addressing specific gaps in provision, investing in skills and training provision, governance, integrating different policy areas, or using new tools, methods and procedures.

- Targeted investments for specific regional or collaborative partnerships where a capacity and capability assessment has been completed and a clear plan to sustainably address constraints and weaknesses is in place.

- Innovative activities that promote social innovation, the use of new technology / techniques, delivery of new services, and integration of services. Support might be expected to cover idea development, piloting, evaluation and dissemination of results.

- Development and implementation of new approaches to integrated service delivery, linked to local government reform, including skills and shared services (e.g. via digital solutions, online provision, aggregated administration, one-stop-shops, joint / shared services, pooled specialist services, etc.)

- Training to provide staff with skills, models and tools to deliver organisational change and service improvement, particularly leadership.

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All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.

Beneficiaries of funding under each of the Specific Objectives above are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations including the Third Sector); Research Organisations and higher/further education bodies; and the private sector. The end beneficiary is expected to be involved in public service design and delivery and regional planning.

Operations will not support ongoing running costs and are not intended to simply address funding gaps in normal service delivery. Operations must demonstrate that investment will lead to a state change for the related partnership or service and be sustainable in the long-term once the operation is complete.

The guiding principles for the selection of operations

The following common principles will guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities:

- An focus on supporting sustainable jobs, productivity, employment and growth and operations which facilitate the role of the third sector and private sector in the delivery of public services;

- Interventions should seek to integrate economic, social and environmental outcomes, consistent with the central organising principle of sustainable development and contributing to the outcomes of the cross cutting themes;

- Opportunities to achieve greater leverage from the deployment of EU funds, particularly with the private and third sector; and also more collaborative investments where these can add value and achieve outcomes;

- Clear added value, when compared with other ways of supporting and delivering policy, based on sound evidence;

- Evidence of opportunity will form the foundation of the design and delivery of operations with investments building on existing and emerging expertise, with human capital delivering to future needs;

- Prioritisation of key strategic operations that underpin the Specific Objectives and which deliver significant outcomes, will be a core part of a portfolio management approach to programme delivery; and

- Clear exit strategies need to be in place at the outset which fully consider the role of the third sector and private sector, build social resilience and tackle poverty within communities, promote equality, and achieve legacy effects.

Operations will need to consider a range of targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment. The degree of targeting will vary according to the intervention and, where appropriate, should reflect:

- Clear identification of the specific target groups, their needs and how actions will address these needs at a national, regional or local level as appropriate;

- Growth sectors (e.g. specifically the Welsh Government identified National Thematic and Foundation sectors, Grand Challenge areas in Science for Wales and the areas of specialisation in Innovation Wales); and

- Areas of specific geographical opportunity (e.g. City region or other regional opportunity, regional skills needs, Rural or Regeneration Area).

Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority

- All interventions will be expected to demonstrate alignment with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the related five ways of working.

- Interventions will need to be aligned with the policy framework for regionalisation, including Prosperity for All, the Economic Action Plan, the Employability Plan and emerging proposals for local government reform

- Wherever possible options for accredited training should be considered, whilst recognising this will not always be possible

- With the exception of innovative actions, interventions are expected to target reform that builds sustainable capacity in the long-term, with a focus on integration and transformation of public service delivery (e.g. structural, systemic, horizontal change)

While the beneficiary (i.e. delivering operations) may be broader (e.g. also including Higher Education/Further Education), the target groups of this priority will be:

- Public administration on national, regional and local level

- Stakeholders, such as social partners, NGOs/CSOs,

- Individuals working within and with the entities noted above

The planned use of financial instruments

It is not proposed to utilise Financial Instruments in the delivery of the proposed actions.

The planned use of major projects

This is not applicable for ESF.

- **Table 5: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ESF by European Commission Investment Priority: Active Inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability.**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of Region	Target Value (2023)	Source of data**	Frequency of reporting
	Number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level (common output indicator)	Number	ESF	Less Developed More Developed	4 4	Monitoring data Monitoring data	Quarterly Quarterly
	Number of methods, processes and tools being developed with support	Number	ESF	Less Developed More Developed	10 10	Monitoring data Monitoring data	Quarterly Quarterly
	Number of entities* participating in projects target public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Number	ESF	Less Developed More Developed	15 15	Monitoring data Monitoring data	Quarterly Quarterly

*Entities would be an aggregate of national authorities, regional authorities, local authorities, third sector organisations or other service providers. A breakdown by entity will be collected, but targets proposed at aggregate level. It is not possible to forecast targets for each type of entity as that will depend on the relevant mix agreed as part of the development of operations.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME UNDER THE 'INVESTMENT FOR GROWTH AND JOBS' GOAL

CCI	2014UK05SFOP002
Title	United Kingdom - ESF East Wales
Version	~~1~~2.~~2~~0
First year	2014
Last year	2020
Eligible from	01-Jan-2014
Eligible until	31-Dec-2023
Making use of Art. 96(8) CPR	
Major amendment (requiring EC approval - cf. Art. 96 CPR)	✓
Approved by monitoring committee	✓
Justification for amendment	Modification in line with Article 30 of Regulation (EC) 1303/2013 (CPR) to reflect changing socio-economic conditions, incorrect assumptions at point of original approval, and clarifications.
EC decision number	~~C(2014)9438~~
EC decision date	~~04-Dec-2014~~
MS amending decision number	
MS amending decision date	
MS amending decision entry into force date	
NUTS regions covered by	UKL2 - East Wales

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the operational programme	

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1. STRATEGY FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Introduction

1. The European Social Fund (ESF) programme strategy for East Wales (EW) sets out how the 2014-2020 ESF programmes will focus on supporting high quality, strategically aligned operations which operate in a cohesive and coordinated manner with wider domestic programmes.
2. A full Socio Economic Analysis has been undertaken to identify needs, challenges and opportunities across EW. This has been subject to ex-ante evaluation and represents a robust evidence base upon which this strategy is developed (as part of a suite of European Structural and Investment (ESI) fund programmes in Wales). This establishes the rationale for the investments across all the ESI fund programmes and will be published with the programme documents.
3. The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement sets out a strategy for the use of the ESI funds together to deliver a coordinated suite of investment programmes providing a summary of the analysis of disparities, needs and growth potentials across the Welsh economy and labour market. The UK Partnership Agreement specifically considers links to the UK Country Specific Recommendations and the Commission Position Paper on the UK for each of the main Thematic Objectives.
4. In relation to both the Treaty goals and the Europe 2020 (EU2020) goals it should be noted that the Welsh Government has placed sustainable development and equality as its central organising principles and they are also at the core of these programmes. This means all development needs to achieve an appropriate balance between economic, social and environmental outcomes, recognising that each is mutually reinforcing
5. **Needs and Opportunities in the EW Programme Area**
6. The Socio Economic and SWOT analyses that underpin this strategy identify a range of opportunities that can be exploited and challenges to be overcome if EW and Wales are to see economic growth and, through that, the creation of sustainable job opportunities for their people.
7. Prior to the 2007 economic downturn and subsequent recession, Wales and EW had begun to make clear progress in tackling some of their long-standing structural, economic challenges. Previous rounds of EU Structural Funds

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investments developed at a time of growth in the Welsh economy and labour market, made an important contribution to this enhanced position.

8. Whilst the economic downturn has impacted severely upon EW both in terms of output and unemployment, progress made in reducing gaps with the wider UK economy has not been lost entirely. Nonetheless, in preparing for a further round of Structural Fund programmes in 2014-2020, the current economic and labour market conditions in EW are very different from those existing at the same stage of preparations for previous programmes.
9. At the start of the new programme round in 2014, it is anticipated that the EW economy will not have recovered to its pre-recession state and that several labour market problems, such as high youth unemployment, a low skills mix and high numbers of workless households will remain.
10. EW covers an area of 7.650 km2, comprising 7 Local Authority areas. The 2011 census shows that the area has a population of some 1.1 million people, 51% of whom are female, 11% are disabled and 6% are ethnic minorities. In 2011, 31% of the population were under 25, 52% were 25-64 and 17% were 65 and over.
11. Population projections in Wales suggest the population will increase to 3.17 million in 2020 and to 3.31 million in 2035. Statistics do not exist at the EW programme level however trends are likely to be broadly similar to Wales level data. The main driver of population growth is considered to be net migration. Overall the number of children under 16 is projected to increase by 3% between 2012 and 2035. The 16-64 age group is likely to decrease by 3% with the over 65 age group projected to increase by 47% over the same period.
12. Gross Value Added (GVA) per head in EW between 2009 and 2011 was approximately £1,600 lower than GVA per head in the UK. This gap to the UK is largely down to lower value added per job (broadly speaking productivity), especially in Flintshire, Wrexham and Powys. The productivity gap is influenced by: an adverse industrial structure / mix; poor skills mix; a lack of agglomeration effects (where firms gain benefits from proximity to other firms or a large urban economy); and lower levels of capital.
13. Poverty and the consequences of poverty remain a challenge for Wales, particularly in the current economic environment and when set in the context of an EU2020 target of 20 million fewer people at risk of poverty across the EU. The 2014 UK Country Specific Recommendations (CSR) also identifies the importance of continuing efforts to reduce child poverty in low-income households. Latest figures (for the three years ending 2011/12) show that relative income poverty for working age adults (where a household is living on 60% or less of the UK median income, after housing costs) was slightly higher than ten years previously (23% and 22% respectively). In-work poverty also constitutes a greater proportion of those in relative income poverty than 10 years ago[1].
14. As recognised by the 2014 CSRs the UK Governments Welfare Reform Agenda and The Welfare Reform Act 2012, introduces the greatest changes to welfare benefits in 60 years. Although reform of welfare benefits is a non-devolved matter, the reforms are expected to have far reaching consequences with significant implications for devolved services, individuals and communities in Wales. A report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and research from the Welsh Government suggest that the reforms will be largely regressive in Wales. The report suggests that impacts on people across the country will be negative, with a potential to increase poverty for those on low incomes and furthest from the labour market and groups with protected characteristics such as women, disabled people and black and ethnic minority groups (BME).[2]

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15. The employment rate in EW for the 20-64 population was 74.2% in 2012, higher than the Wales average and equal to the UK average[3] and slightly below the Europe 2020 target of 75%. The higher employment rate in EW partly accounted for the region's higher GVA per head relative to Wales. However there are a number of key demographic groups whose employment rates are significantly below the regional average, including female workers (64.8%), disabled (49.3%) and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups (53.2%).
16. These disparities can also be seen in the unemployment data. Unemployment generally in EW in 2012 was 8% slightly lower than across Wales as a whole[4], with long term unemployment[5] for the same period at approximately 31.1% slightly below the Welsh average of 34.1%[6] but remaining a significant proportion of the unemployed in EW.. Youth unemployment (16-24) rose sharply following the economic downturn to 24.6% in 2012 and is higher than both the Wales and UK average[7]. Unemployment rates for disabled individuals were higher at 10.3% and higher still for BME groups at 13.7%. Interestingly for the female cohort unemployment at 7.2% was lower than the regional average however this could be explained by the higher than average economic inactivity rates amongst females in EW.
17. Inactivity rates (excluding students) have been declining in EW over the last decade, dropping to 19.4% in 2012. In 2012 inactivity rates in EW were highest amongst the disabled population (44%), BME groups (27.4%) and amongst females (25.5%). Long term illness at 32% (excluding students) is the single largest underlying factor of inactivity, looking after family / home accounted for 31%. Evidence also suggests that a significant proportion of those who are economically inactive have low or no skills (level 2 or below)[8].
18. The Socio Economic Analysis shows that the strength of the labour market varies significantly across EW depending on location and qualification level. Compared with 2001, the employment rate in 2012 was lower in four of EW's seven local authority areas. Relatively large declines were recorded in Powys, the Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Newport. In EW employment rates for those with NQF level 4 and above remained constant at around 87%. In contrast, employment rates for those with low or no qualifications have declined to as low as 40.7%. This decline reflects an overall decline in the traditional low-skilled industries in Wales.
19. In 2012 18.5% of households in EW were workless compared to 18.1% in the UK. The UK itself has a higher proportion of children living in workless households than almost any other EU country. In the UK, of those households in poverty, 72% were classed as workless with one or more unemployed. Whilst figures do not exist for Wales or EW, it is reasonable to assume that a similar pattern holds true. In EW in 2012, 18.6% of unemployed individuals and 47% of economically inactive individuals were from a workless household[9] . Evidence shows that there is a close correlation between worklessness and poverty. The 2014 UK CSRs recognise the importance of reducing child poverty in low-income households. Poverty has a negative correlation with educational attainment and skills. Children from poorer or disadvantaged backgrounds and whose mothers have no qualifications have lower educational and occupational outcomes than other children.
20. Pockets of severe deprivation also exist in EW. For example the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD, 2011) shows that there are 62 areas in East Wales which fall within the top 10% most deprived areas of Wales, 37% of the 'top 10 most deprived' group. Particular concentrations of deprivation exist within city wards in Cardiff and Newport;[10] a statistic which is significant as

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approximately 60% of the population of EW is located within these two cities[11].

21. Employment policy in Wales is a non devolved competence and is the responsibility of the UK Government. The Welsh Government provides a supportive policy context to target areas where it can complement and add value to mainstream provision. Supporting people into work is seen as a critical solution to reducing poverty in Wales. The Tackling Poverty Action plan and the Child Poverty Strategy in Wales are two key documents which outline the Welsh Governments approach to support individuals to access sustainable employment with simplification and integration of programmes the main underlying principles.
22. The impact of the recession coupled with persistent pockets of severe deprivation, along with the potential impact of UK welfare reforms, act to reinforce poor labour market outcomes within specific areas of EW.
23. The 2014 UK CSRs make reference to the importance of addressing skills mismatches and increasing provision of more advanced and higher level skills. However, of those working age adults in employment in Wales, the most recent figures show that 6.9% of working age adults in employment have no qualifications at all, 14.1% have below NQF level 2 qualifications, 21.7% have qualifications at NQF level 2, while 57.3% are qualified to NQF level 3 or above and 37.2% are qualified to NQF level 4 and above.
24. The qualifications profile of the workforce in EW has improved in recent years, and is on average slightly stronger than the UK. In comparison to UK figures, the proportion of working age adults qualified to NQF level 4 and above in EW is slightly higher at 37.1% reflecting the area's relative competitiveness when compared to Wales as a whole. While the proportion of working age adults with no qualifications is slightly lower in EW than the UK, at 8.5%, there remain a notable number of people in the programme area with no qualifications or with qualifications below NQF level 2 (22%).
25. It is important to note that measurable gains have been made in these areas since 2001, with an increase of 11.9% in the proportion qualified to NQF4 and above and a reduction of 10.6% in the proportion of those with no qualifications. Gains have also been made at the intermediate level. Opportunities now exist to further invest in skills to consolidate progress made and to maintain and enhance the competitiveness of the area; the Socio Economic Analysis highlights the importance of both maintaining and improving the skills profile of the workforce in EW due to the relationship between skills and productivity and the continued GVA gap with the UK.
26. EW performs well against the EU2020 target for at least 40% of 30-34 year olds to have completed a tertiary or equivalent education. In EW in 2012 49.4% 30-34 year olds had completed a tertiary or equivalent education, significantly above the EU average of 33%. However, opportunities exist in EW to further invest in skills to support Wales and the European Union to exceed this target and drive the competitiveness of the region.
27. Although current demand for skilled individuals is relatively weak across the UK, the labour market demand for employees with higher skills is projected to grow as more high skilled jobs are created within the economy, as recognised by the 2014 UK CSRs. The fastest declining occupational groups are clustered around NQF Level 2 and below; in 2000, around one third of jobs were held by people with no or low level qualifications but by 2020 this figure is projected to fall to just over one fifth.[12] Meanwhile, intermediate and higher level occupations account for the largest share of employment in the Welsh economy and are expected to be the

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main source of future jobs growth, with the fastest growing occupational groups requiring skills at NQF Levels 3, 4 and above

28. By 2020, more than two-fifths of jobs are expected to be held by people with higher level qualifications (level 4 and above).[13] Wales also has a large concentration of employment at an intermediate level and intermediate occupations are projected to contribute more than one third of future job openings.[14] Increasing the labour market relevance of education and training will be a key challenge for all the ESI funds as will be the use of labour market intelligence (LMI) to inform investments.
29. Supporting the development of our young people will impact on a number of the key EU2020 targets centred on increasing employment, tackling poverty and social exclusion and reducing early school leaving, as well as directly contributing to the 2014 UK CSRs to improve skills to meet employer needs and to reduce the number of young people with low basic skills. With early school leaving in Wales at 16.9 % in 2012, and with EW at 16.0%, a focus on youth which supports attainment and transition through education and into employment will be vital in achieving the EU2020 target of less than 10%.
30. Previous data above shows the high levels of youth unemployment in EW compared to unemployment generally above. Young people are finding it harder to access work and move from education into employment in a highly competitive labour market which is becoming more congested as people work later in life. These same pressures also impact on those furthest from the labour market and the economically inactive who are trying to get back to sustainable employment.
31. Competition in the labour market puts a sharper focus on the need to address the issues of those who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training), or at risk of becoming NEET, to increase attainment levels, reduce early school leaving and prevent further disadvantage. The most recent estimates for EW puts the NEET rate (16-24) at 15.5%[15]. This competition also compounds the issues for those who are disabled or disadvantaged in seeking to return to or retain employment.
32. Early School Leaving (ESL) rates in both Wales at 16.9% and EW at 16.0% are above the EU average and significantly higher than the EU2020 target. Education attainment levels of 15 year olds as measured by PISA are also lower in Wales than the rest of the UK and significantly below the OECD average[16]. Level 2 examination results[17] at age 16 in EW (50.4%) were on average higher than Wales (48.7%), however this was not consistent across all Local Authorities with areas in the South East below the Welsh average.
33. In Wales the number of 19-24 year olds who are NEET in 2012 markedly increased to 23% following the 2008 recession[18]. However, the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET has remained fairly constant at a rate of between 10-13% over the years 1996 to 2012. This would indicate that non-engagement for the 16-18 cohort is a structural and persistent issue which is present through all economic conditions. This illustrates a need to target specific tailored early interventions at addressing the requirements of this cohort particularly at those pre 16 who are at greatest risk of becoming NEET
34. For those who are NEET particular attention should be given, in line with the 2014 UK CSR's, to providing NEETs with higher and more relevant skills and key competences to improve employability and tackle barriers to employment. In Wales 21% of 16-18 year old NEETs have no qualifications and 26% of 19-24 year old NEETs are without qualifications[19]. The proportion of young people who are NEET is higher amongst those with a disability with 60% of 16-18 year

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old NEETs classed as unemployed and 20% as inactive due to sickness or disability, family or caring responsibilities[20]. Among 19-24 year old NEETs nearly 60% were considered to be economically inactive, mainly due to sickness, disability and family or caring responsibilities[21]. Other barriers to employment cited by young people who are NEET are a lack of work experience and a lack of self confidence.

35. Supporting the development of our young people to shape their futures through better use of LMI offers an opportunity, not only to support future growth and prosperity but to positively reinforce choices based on areas of employment growth and employer demand. There are also opportunities to positively reinforce choices and actions which help to break down traditional gender stereotypes in employment and learning and broaden horizons for non traditional job roles or employment sectors.
36. The Programme for Government[22] identifies the big long term challenges for tackling youth unemployment and attainment. There are a number of key relevant Welsh Government policy documents which sit under this and include; the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework[23], which has been developed around the needs of young people, strengthening the accountability of different agencies in the system for delivering better outcomes for young people; and, the Building a Brighter Future: An Early Years and Childcare Plan[24] which sets out the Welsh Government commitment to improve the life chances and outcomes of all children in Wales over the next 10 years.
37. The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework also includes a Welsh Government commitment to introduce a guarantee to a place in education or training for young people leaving compulsory education for the first time. The Welsh Government Youth Guarantee[25] is the "offer, acceptance and commencement of a suitable place in education or training for a young person making the first time transition from compulsory education at age 16" and contributes directly to the 2014 UK CSRs to improve the skills of young people to meet employer needs and to reduce the number of young people with low basic skills. The Welsh Government Youth Guarantee is along lines that are the same as, or very similar to, the kind of measures suggested in the Council Recommendation on Establishing a Youth Guarantee.
38. Within the labour market, women continue to be underrepresented in senior positions and in growth sectors, particularly where STEM subjects are required. Only 23.3% of employed women are employed in "Managers and senior officials" occupations, while only 35.4% of those who are classified as "Managers and senior officials" are women.
39. There are several issues influencing the position of women in the workforce in EW.[26] For example, women have a higher propensity to be in part-time employment than men even though women on average are better qualified than men. In addition, despite a stronger qualifications profile, women are under-represented in higher paying jobs and over-represented in the public sector, where employment opportunities are diminishing.
40. The circumstances that generate these outcomes for women are complex and span social, cultural and economic spheres. In 2012, of the 5.9 million women working part-time in the UK, approximately 75% said they did not want a full-time job compared with approximately 40% for men[27]. In Wales, the incidence of part-time working is similar to the UK and the gender split is also very similar (43.1% of women in Wales work part time, as compared to 43.4% at a UK level, while the equivalent figures for men are 13.7% in Wales and 13.4% in the UK).

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41. Data showing the proportion of women working part-time who do not want a full-time job is not available for Wales. However, the proportion of people working part-time in 2012 who did not want a full-time job in Wales was 67%; very similar to the UK where it was 65%. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the proportion of women working part-time who do not want a full-time job in Wales is similar to the UK too.
42. In 2012, women earned on average £479 per week in EW compared with £578 per week for men. Female earnings as a proportion of male earnings are 83%, slightly lower than in Wales on average. Female average gross weekly earnings in Wales are lower than male earnings in all major occupational groups, although this disparity is not as marked in Wales as it is in the rest of the UK, perhaps reflecting the greater proportion of employment in the public sector. In the private sector female earnings are 78% of male earnings in Wales, close to the UK ratio of 76%. These figures however report weekly earnings irrespective of working patterns, making no allowance for the higher proportion of women working part-time.
43. **Strategy for ESF in EW**
44. This strategy will be delivered as part of an integrated approach to the delivery of ESI Funds across Wales and will support the aims of the Welsh Government's Programme for Government and the European Union strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth (EU2020). This approach recognises that the most effective way to create the conditions which would lead to a significant, positive movement in GVA is through coordinated, integrated and focussed action with Government, in all its forms, working with both the private and third sectors across Wales.
45. As outlined in the Partnership Agreement, in order to produce a transformational effect in relation to jobs and growth the Welsh Government will look to maximise the impact of all European Funding streams, encouraging the development of schemes and projects which ensure each is a part of a coordinated portfolio of investments. Integrated action will be possible to support communities across Wales, including rural and coastal communities, to utilise ESI funds to develop workforce skills to take advantage of growth opportunities, address emerging economic challenges and diversify into new markets.
46. Wales will be pursuing a more concentrated and integrated approach in the 2014-20 round of programmes which will help to foster cooperation and coordination between funds. The linkages between the ESF investments and other European Funding streams (including across ESF Programmes) are set out in more detail later within each priority area, as is the integration approach. Links to other EU funding instruments also expected to be made on a project-by-project basis.
47. In support of the joint programming approach a strict approach to demarcation has been avoided for 2014-2020 programmes. This approach means that, where state aid allows, farmers and fishermen will be able to access ESF to support efforts to up-skill or re-skill, particularly where this can support actions to take advantage of emerging opportunities such as those in support of climate change actions and green growth. This approach also reflects the interrelationships in Wales of the Rural, Coastal and Urban economies.
48. The EW ESF programme recognises that, if there is to be genuine and transformational change in our economy and labour market, there is a need for devolved and non-devolved measures to link and add value in the targeting of deep seated problems. Interventions will respond to the needs of employers, utilising Labour Market Intelligence (LMI)[28] to ensure interventions achieve

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the required sustainable employment outcomes and the skills interventions that support our future workforce.

49. A suite of guidance documents, including an Economic Prioritisation Framework (EPF), will be used to drive synergy between ESI Funds and wider investments in the Welsh economy. Alongside LMI these documents will enable ESF investments to align with areas of economic growth and opportunity and interact, as part of a wider investment context, to ensure that the investments in people can deliver the skills and workforce that the economy will need.
50. The EPF seeks to capture the wider investments and key economic opportunities of relevance to the ESI funds taking place in the Welsh economy to support these funds to add value to those wider investments, avoid duplication and build on existing assets. There are a number of key economic areas of opportunity, particularly in the area of skills and workforce supply and development, where ESF will underpin a number of investments across Wales.
51. These are explored in greater detail in the EPF but would include; investments in energy and supporting the transition to a low carbon and energy efficient economy; climate change and resource efficiency including protection and strategic management of resources (which could include supporting agriculture and aquaculture to address issues of food security and climate change); active participation in the digital economy and opportunities of the digital marketplace; advanced manufacturing and the development of expertise in waste, recycling and reuse, remanufacturing, emissions, resource use (including water and energy), and resource resilience (scarce metals); Life Sciences and Health; and, Tourism, Recreation and Leisure.
52. It will be possible through linkages to these key economic growth areas and wider investments across the ESI funds to ensure ESF investments also support wider efforts to address those EU2020 targets which are not directly linked to ESF activity. Skills and employment provision through ESF can, for example, help to underpin actions towards the EU2020 targets of a reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and increased shares of renewables in final energy consumption to 20%.
53. For those areas which cover non-devolved competencies such as Employment and Welfare, close working relationships have been developed between the Managing Authority and both the Welsh Government and the UK Government to ensure that ESF interventions are able to demonstrate added value and complementarity with mainstream provision. The selection of the relevant Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities (specifically where complementarities can exist with access to employment) reflects this additionality approach and is addressed in further detail in the relevant priorities. Section 8 further outlines the mechanisms at a Welsh Government and UK government level to manage the integration of actions in these areas.
54. **Vision for the ESI Fund programmes in Wales**
55. The **Welsh Government's vision**, as set out in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement, is that ESI Funds, aligned with the Programme for Government, will help Wales become **a confident, entrepreneurial and ambitious nation, prospering from sustainable economic growth**.
56. **EW ESF Programme Aims and Objectives**
57. The following outline the ESF programme aims and objectives for EW and form the basis of the Priority Axis approach adopted within the programme and the Specific Objectives within each Priority Axis. In pursuing these aims and objectives, the programme will ensure that the benefits of economic growth are genuinely accessible to all and not rely solely on 'trickle down' effects which

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would risk creating inequalities. The pursuit of economic growth must also not have any adverse effect on the environment or society more widely.

58. **Aims**
    - To tackle poverty and social exclusion by increasing labour market participation and helping people to access sustainable employment;
    - To invest in skills as a driver of productivity and growth, to aid progression within employment and improve the skills mix and diversity of our workforce; and
    - To invest in our young people to create a vibrant and responsive future workforce with the skills needed to respond to the needs of a challenging knowledge based economy.
59. **Objectives**
    - To reduce poverty by increasing employment levels, particularly for underrepresented groups and those furthest from the labour market;
    - To increase skills levels of the workforce, increasing the number of people qualified to intermediate level or above and reducing the number of people with no skills or basic skills only;
    - To increase youth employment and attainment, thereby reducing poverty and disadvantage in our young people; and
    - To reduce inequalities in the labour market amongst women and recognised equality groups.
60. Built around a Priority Axis approach, the EW ESF programmes will provide a balanced approach which underpins economic growth, further developing the competitiveness of EW and supporting those individuals at greatest need and at risk of disadvantage or discrimination. Actions will be focused on a limited number of Investment Priorities within each Thematic Objective to ensure that the ESF programmes are able to provide the concentration and focus which the regulations require and which will deliver the greatest impact.
61. The ESF programme in EW will deliver a coherent programme of actions that enable economic growth through promoting high levels of sustainable employment and developing a skilled and responsive Welsh workforce now and for the future. It will focus on three key areas: targeting poverty and social exclusion through promoting sustainable employment, investing in a skilled workforce and investing in our young people to ensure that they have the skills and opportunities to achieve sustainable employment.
62. The programme will facilitate the development of a balanced portfolio of investments targeting shorter-term issues through securing improvements against key indicators such as employment outcomes and qualifications, whilst also seeking to achieve longer term outcomes such as addressing structural issues on youth unemployment and NEETs.
63. **Priority Axes for EW**
64. The EW ESF programme has been developed around three interrelated Priority Axes which will deliver complementary action in support of the overall aims and objectives of the ESF programmes in Wales:
    - **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment;**
    - **Skills for Growth; and**
    - **Youth Employment**
65. ~~The~~ Modifictaions ot the programmes in 2018 saw proposals for the introduction of a new Priority Axis for '**Public services reform and regional working**'. The intention is for the Priority will focus on addressing capacity constraints and barriers to working collaboratively across the public sector, with a particular emphasis on regional working. This is expected to build on the experiences

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during 2007-2013, moving successful arrangements to a new footing, aligned with the Welsh Government's regionalisation agenda. For example the 2007-2013 programmes helped establish regional skills partnerships, which could be supported to evolve into a more regionally integrated mode.

~~65.~~66. The **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment** Priority Axis will aim to support efforts to tackle poverty and social exclusion in EW. In line with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan; this will be achieved by supporting key target groups to increase employability and achieve sustained employment.

~~66.~~67. In Wales poverty is defined as '*A long-term state of not having sufficient resources to afford food, reasonable living conditions or amenities, or to participate in activities (such as access to attractive neighbourhoods and open spaces) that are taken for granted by others in society*'. The Welsh Government, in the Programme for Government and the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, has a cross governmental commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion and fully endorses the EU focus on poverty, linking into the CSR to continue efforts to reduce child poverty in low-income households. The introduction of a Tackling Poverty cross-cutting theme will reinforce this and ensure that this focus is reflected across all ESI funds.

~~67.~~68. Investments within this Priority Axis will focus on participants who are furthest from the labour market[29], living in or at risk of persistent poverty and prolonged worklessness. This focus recognises the pockets of economic inactivity and unemployment that exist within the largely positive employment indicators and will complement the mainstream adult employment services at a UK level. The broader longer term impacts of the interventions will be to support the overall Welsh Government approach to tackling poverty and to contribute to the reduction in unemployment or economic inactivity rates across Wales.

69. The Priority will also support the effective transition into stable and sustainable work. This additional support could include continuing with mentoring support for a limited period or helping with the costs of barriers such as child care, travel, equipment or clothing. This support for participants entering employment or self-employment will better support participants during the critical first 9 months of a new job in order to avoid individuals moving repeatedly in and out of work due to lack of transitional support.

~~68.~~70. Previous experience has shown that clearly targeted and tailored support based on individual client needs have been particularly effective at achieving employment outcomes for individuals. Outreach, co-location and partnership working is important to this and help to provide clearer pathways for beneficiaries to progress through complementary provision and into employment. Particularly effective in this area are operations which have clear mechanisms for progressing individuals towards employment as part of a portfolio of activities which span the supported employment ladder; from soft outreach and engagement activities; through to work experience, skills training and job search as well as job retention provision.

~~69.~~71. Investments will help individuals to overcome the complex and multi-causal barriers they face in moving closer to re-engaging with the labour market, accessing sustained employment and realising the opportunities employment can bring in tackling poverty. Delivered as part of wider strategies to address worklessness, poverty and disadvantaged communities, interventions will be integrated and personalised, focused on the needs of the individual in both the methods of engagement and delivery and structured in a method that avoids the

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need for an individual facing multiple or complex barriers to access a complex configuration of separate interventions.

~~70.~~72. Due to the increased competition in accessing employment, especially for those most disadvantaged, LMI linking economic growth and employment opportunities to employability interventions will be key to ensuring sustainable employment outcomes.

~~71.~~73. Both the 2014 Country Specific Recommendations and the Commission's Position Paper for the UK recognise the need for coordinated action to address the challenges of poverty, inclusive of continuing efforts to reduce child poverty in low-income households, improving the availability of affordable, quality childcare and increasing employment to progress the achievement of this aim. With a direct link to the Flagship Initiative, *The EU Platform Against Poverty,* the approach above is in line with Commission requirements for a minimum focus on tackling poverty and social exclusion through ESF and will deliver to the EU2020 target of 20 million fewer people in poverty. Getting people into stable jobs is also seen as an important factor in achieving the European employment target of 75% employment. The UK National Reform Programme highlights that barriers remain to inclusive employment and that in Wales employment is seen as the best route out of poverty.

~~72.~~74. Actions under the **Skills for Growth** Priority Axis will deliver a demand-led approach to identify and address key skills gaps and shortages amongst those who are in work, utilising LMI to respond to identified need and demand from employers and focused on specific target groups. Investing in skills aligned with growth activity and ensuring that employers have a suitably qualified workforce for sustainable economic development continues to be a key driver in the development of a modern knowledge-based economy and in helping economies to respond and adapt to economic changes a fact which is recognised by the 2014 CSRs.

~~73.~~75. Previous experience has shown that tailoring provision to specific target groups, such as the low skilled or older workers, is a significant factor which could further enhance the reach, and therefore impact of ESF supported skills activities.[30] Delivering qualifications that are recognised by employers is also a key benefit, providing increased job security for the low skilled. Research also indicates that ESF funded skills provision should be viewed as part of an integrated and ongoing approach to lifelong learning and continuous professional development, which recognises the specific needs the target groups and the labour market position of participants.[31] Actions will therefore be designed to respond to the specific needs of employers and specific target groups, enabling progression from basic or low skills, through to intermediate skills or higher.

~~74.~~76. The 2011 ESF Leavers Survey[32] found that, following their participation in an ESF operation, the majority of respondents reported improvements in job satisfaction, future pay and promotion prospects and opportunities for training. Moreover, approximately 20% of respondents who were employed in a different job from that held prior to their participation in an ESF operation reported that the ESF activity was vital to them gaining their current employment.

~~75.~~77. There is a direct correlation between skills levels and poverty, with those with higher skills being less affected by the recession and benefiting from increased labour market mobility.[33] The Socio Economic Analysis shows that people with higher skills levels have a higher propensity to be in employment than people with low skill levels or no qualifications. It also shows that, while EW performs well in terms of the proportion of working age adults with higher

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skills, a large proportion of its population continue to have low or no skills, a significant contributing factor to the continued GVA lag with the UK.

~~76.~~78. This insulation effect of higher level skills on employment rates during periods of recession and labour market uncertainty emphasises the importance of skills in achieving and maintaining sustained employment[34], as well as enhancing employer adaptability, improving workers abilities and effectiveness in the workplace[35] and enabling lower-skilled, lower paid employees to progress in employment and increase their income levels[36]. With the programme period more likely than not to cover a period of economic uncertainty, it is arguably more important than ever that the insulation effect is available to those who need it most, so as to maintain (at least) or improve (at best) the EW employment rate through an uncertain economic landscape.

~~77.~~79. Basic and essential skills therefore remain a priority, with actions encouraging and supporting skills progression up to intermediate level to maximise the benefits skills can have on addressing in-work poverty as part of the wider approach to tackling poverty within the ESF programme.

~~78.~~80. A balance will be struck between basic and essential skills provision, including apprenticeships, which can help to bridge the productivity gap with the UK and actions to deliver intermediate and higher level technical and job specific vocational qualifications (including apprenticeships) which can increase competitiveness, as referenced by the 2014 CSRs.

~~79.~~81. Higher levels of qualification are associated with higher levels of employment, and higher wages[37]. Apprenticeships can have some of the largest long term impacts on earnings and employability[38], estimated between £48,000 and £74,000 in additional lifetime earnings[39] with Net Present Value per achievement twice that of similar level NVQ[40]. Higher education qualifications are also among the best paying of all qualifications and the return in the UK is higher than in many other countries. The wage premium for holding a degree is estimated to be almost 25% more than for 2 or more A levels, providing additional net lifetime earnings of nearly £130,000 on average.

~~80.~~82. The ESF programme will therefore support intermediate and higher level technical and job specific vocational qualifications which are responsive to the needs of business, support organisational growth and adaptability and increase the competencies of the workforce, including High Performance Working (HPW). Such skills can be a driver for economic growth, supporting the development of a better skilled and qualified workforce which will equip enterprises with the capability to respond with greater agility to long term challenges such as emerging markets or economic change, as well as improving staff retention and motivation and increasing productivity.

~~81.~~83. Higher level skills can be a driver for economic growth and productivity and can provide additional wage premiums. Evidence suggests that there is a direct correlation between skills levels and poverty. Those with higher skills have been less affected by the recession and have found it easier to move around the labour market. The insulation effect of higher level skills on employment rates during periods of recession and labour market uncertainty emphasises the importance of skills in achieving and maintaining sustained employment.

~~82.~~84. Actions will encourage and support skills progression up to and beyond intermediate level, particularly for those with low or no skills, to maximise the benefits skills can have on supporting in-work poverty as part of the wider approach to tackling poverty within the programmes.

~~83.~~85. There will be a specific focus on promoting gender equality in employment and improving the position of women in the workforce. We will

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invest in actions which facilitate and promote career advancement and which provide women with increased job security and increased pay, as well as facilitating the provision of more flexible working practices and solutions which can assist women to progress their career while recognising care or childcare responsibilities, in line with the objectives of the UK 2014 CSRs.

~~84.~~86. EU2020 covers a number of key target areas relating to education, training and lifelong learning which this Priority Axis will support. This investment area has a clear link to inclusive growth with a direct link to the Flagship Initiative *New Skills for New Jobs*. Addressing skills shortages and mismatches and increasing advanced and higher level skills provision to meet the needs of employers and move to a higher skilled economy, thereby tackling high levels of individuals with poor basic skill levels and increasing the numbers attaining intermediate skills or above are priorities within the UK Country Specific Recommendations, the Common Strategic Framework and the EC Position Paper for the UK. Along with the National Reform programme the County Specific Recommendations also highlights a focus on apprenticeships in delivering growth friendly investments.

~~85.~~87. Actions within the **Youth Employment** Priority Axis will look to invest in interventions which address the high levels of youth unemployment in EW whilst also investing in longer term solutions to help drive attainment and employment outcomes for those at highest risk of becoming NEET.

~~86.~~88. The recent economic downturn has had a disproportionate effect on our young people and on youth unemployment, which is higher in EW than Wales and WWV[41]. Addressing this will be the main focus of this priority, providing our unemployed young people with the skills and competencies required to access and maintain sustainable employment in an increasing competitive labour market.

~~87.~~89. Experience form the 2007-2013 Programmes showed that ESF support to young people enabled many operations to develop innovative approaches to supporting young people, extending and enhancing existing provision to be more responsive to their needs. Partnership approaches were seen to be important, and significant successes were experienced where these involved partners from across a number of service areas including Local Authorities, the Emergency services and wider Youth service providers.

~~88.~~90. One of the key lessons learned was a need for early and consistent identification mechanisms for those who are most at risk of becoming NEET especially those who had multiple needs, or fell into gaps in existing services as they made transitions between schools, colleges, and adult services. Effective shared systems which monitor and identify children and young people's needs and which can support effect evaluation of service delivery both through ESF and wider interventions were also seen as key to delivering results.

~~89.~~91. The social economic analysis has shown that in EW pockets of severe deprivation exist and this is the same for youth unemployment and specifically issues of NEET. In addition to supporting those who are NEET post 16 to access training and employment this Priority Axis will target those pre 16 who are at highest risk of becoming NEET. The programme will invest in preventative and remedial actions to tackle the needs of these young people, with an unequivocal focus on improving employability and access to sustainable employment and improving their longer term life chances.

~~90.~~92. A combined investment approach focused on those young people from 11-24 who are at highest risk of becoming NEET will deliver support in two key thematic areas. This approach will ensure that we are able to support our young people through their progression and through key transition points in education

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and on into work. In the context of the youth guarantee, ESF investments in this Priority Axis will work alongside actions to support apprenticeships in the Skills for Growth Priority Axis to help deliver and add value to the Welsh Government Youth Guarantee. Actions will enhance support mechanisms to access a good-quality job traineeship, or continued education for those beyond the first time transition from compulsory education, aligning to the Country Specific Recommendation to improve the skills of young people to meet employer needs, including through apprenticeships and reducing the number of young people with low basic skills.

~~91.~~93. Action will also be taken to support those young people aged 11-24 at most risk of becoming NEET to reduce the risk of disengagement and increase attainment levels. Actions to address risk of NEET will be centred on the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and more specifically the Early Identification and Tracking Systems which will help to ensure the accurate and systematic identification and tracking of those young people at greatest risk of disengaging from education, employment and training. This targeted approach will ensure ESF provision works as part of wider Welsh Government efforts to tackle the more structural issues of NEET which persist through all economic circumstances.

~~92.~~94. With access to the labour market as the main driver, and through utilising LMI and future employment demand, the ESF programmes will also work to combat disaffection and to reduce the risk of young people becoming NEET, increasing skills and educational attainment amongst our young people, addressing areas such as early school leaving and skills development and attainment of qualifications. Actions being taken forward in the Skills for Growth Priority Axis, such as apprenticeships, will therefore complement the actions being taken forward in this Priority Axis.

~~93.~~95. The European Commission, through its Country Specific Recommendations, the UK Position Paper, the Common Strategic Framework and the UK National Reform Programme all highlight the challenges in addressing the high levels of youth unemployment and poor youth attainment. The recommendations recognise the importance of supporting young people to achieve improved skills outcomes, in line with employer needs and to improve access to higher quality training and employment opportunities. This investment area has a clear link to initiatives under Smart Growth including the *Youth on the Move* Flagship Initiative but also will impact on targets under Inclusive Growth. The EU2020 targets to reduce the rates of early school leaving to below 10% and to increase the employment rate to 75% are likely to be the main targets impacted but additionally efforts within this priority area can also support the targets on poverty reduction and in the longer term on the rate of individuals with tertiary level education.

~~94.~~96. Underpinning the ESF programmes and the priorities above, indeed all ESI Fund programmes in Wales, will be three Cross Cutting Themes (CCT), Equal Opportunities, Sustainable Development and Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion.

~~95.~~97. The first two of these themes are mandatory and are governed by the EU General Regulations, Article 7 Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination (in Wales this includes the Welsh Language) and Article 8 Sustainable Development and are detailed in Section 11. In addition, Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion has been proposed as an additional CCT in line with the EU Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative) and as a key commitment of the Welsh Government through

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its Tackling Poverty Action Plan. Further detail on the Tackling Poverty CCT is in Section 5.

~~96.~~98. The CCT's require action in multiple fields and as such will be integrated into all areas of the ESF programmes. Wales has a good record of integrating the CCT's into the European programmes and has been commended by the EU Commission for the work done in this area. The aim of the CCT's is to improve the quality and the legacy from each project and to add value to the programmes as a whole. However it will also be possible to use the CCT approach to focus operations on opportunities which may emerge as a result of the combined focus across the ESI Funds and Welsh Government on these areas.

~~97.~~99. For example in considering Sustainable Development, operations will not only be able to assess the likely impact of the operation itself but also consider opportunities available as a result of the wider Sustainable Development ambitions. These might include areas of employment growth through the creation of green jobs or skills demand as a result of the shift towards a low carbon economy. Equally the Equal Opportunities CCT might also encourage operations to consider supporting access to non traditional areas of employment where imbalances such as gender might exist in the workforce.

~~98.~~100. The intention is to build on the work already carried out and move the agenda forward for the 2014-2020 programmes and ensure equality, sustainability and tackling poverty are at the centre of the overall aims of the programmes. Specific guidance on the implementation of the CCT's will be developed. This will set out the contribution expected from the programmes, guidance for project sponsors on how to consider specific issues in project design, monitoring and evaluation processes, and support mechanisms available.

~~99.~~101. The EW ESF programme, as part of the overall investment approach for ESF and ESI fund programmes in Wales, will invest to deliver **economic, social and territorial cohesion** across Wales. ESF in EW will enhance the competiveness of the region and continue to reduce the gap with the higher performing regions primarily through investing in skills to improve productivity. The EW ESF programme will also provide a balanced investment approach to increase employment, tackle poverty and address the needs of the most disadvantaged to support Social Cohesion. The EW ESF programme will integrate investments as part of wider ESI investment programmes in the region and across Wales, recognising the value of connectivity between the regions and the contribution that economic growth and social development can bring to developing the economy of Wales as a whole.

~~100.~~102. When spending ESI funds by means of public contracts/concessions, the Managing Authority – and any Intermediate Body where applicable – will require beneficiaries to fully respect EU public procurement rules and in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into United Kingdom legislation, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Applicants and beneficiaries will be informed of this fundamental requirement via grant award agreements and national eligibility rules and guidance documents, supplemented by training and support where needed.

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[1] Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2013); *Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Wales 2013*

[2] Adams, S & Phillips, D Institute for Fiscal Studies (2013); *An ex-ante analysis of the effects of the UK government's welfare reforms on labour supply in Wale*s (IFS Report 75) and Welsh Government (2013); *Analysis the impact of the UK Government's welfare reforms in Wales – Stage 3 Analysis; Part 1: Impact on those with protected characteristics*

[3] Eurostat

[4] Office for National Statistics; *Annual Population Survey*

[5] Unemployed for 12 months or more

[6] Eurostat

[7] Eurostat

[8] [8] Office for National Statistics; Annual Population Survey / Local Labour market Survey

[9] Annual Population Survey, ONS (2012)

[10] Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2011) http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/wimd/wimd2011/?lang=en

[11] Stats Wales

[12] UKCES (2012), *Working Futures Report for Wales*. *Summary Report for Wales*, October

[13] UKCES, Wales Future Skills Assessment

[14] UKCES, Wales Future Skills Assessment

[15] Office for National Statistics; *Annual Population Survey 2009-2013. This data is an estimate and not directly comparable to the Statistical First Release NEET data at Wales level*

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[16] Bradshaw, J., Ager, R., Burge, B. and Wheater, R. (2010). PISA 2009: Achievement of 15-Year-Olds in Wales. Slough: NFER

[17] ONS and Annual Population Survey

[18] Statistical First Release (24th July 2013) *Participation of young people in education and the labour market*. EW breakdowns by specific age ranges are not available.

[19] Welsh Government Statistical Article, *Further Analysis of data related to Young People Not in Education, Employment or training (NEET)*

[20] Welsh Government Statistical Bullet, *Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Year to 31 December 2013*

[21] Welsh Government Statistical Article, *Further Analysis of data related to Young People Not in Education, Employment or training (NEET)*

[22] Welsh Government (2011), Programme for Government

[23] Welsh Government: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en

[24] Welsh Government:

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/earlyyearshome/building-a-brighter-future-early-years-and-childcare-plan/?lang=en

[25] http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/delivering-the-youth-guarantee-in-wales/?lang=en

[26] Davies R et al, (2011) An anatomy of economic inequality in Wales, see http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/WISERD_RRS_002.pdf

[27] See Labour Market Statistics, October 2012, Office for National Statistics

[28] Labour Market Intelligence identifies skills needs / trends for coming years. These needs / trends can be illustrated through skills shortages or skills gaps identified by research or by employers.

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[29] Defined as long term unemployed and economically inactive. Separate eligibility criteria around UK Government Welfare programmes may apply.

[30] European Commission(2011), *Evaluation of the capacity of ESF delivery systems to attract and support OP target groups*

[31] ECORYS, *Evaluation of the ESF support to Lifelong Learning*

[32] 2011 ESF Leavers Survey, Cardiff University et al, 2013

[33] UKCES (2010); *The Value of Skills: An Evidence Review*,

[34] UKCES (2012), *Working Futures Report for Wales*. *Summary Report for Wales*, October

[35] See UKCES (2011); *Skills for Jobs: The National Skills Audit for Wales 2011 – Volume 1 Key Findings and Volume 2: Evidence Report*

[36] International Labour Conference, 97th Session, 2008, Skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development; UK Commission for Employment and Skills, Employer Practice in progressing low-paid staff

[37] UKCES (2010); *The Value of Skills: An Evidence Review*,

[38] BIS (2011); *Research Paper No 47, The Long Term Effect of Vocational Qualifications on Labour Market Outcomes*

[39] BIS (2011); *Returns to Intermediate and Low Level Vocational Qualifications*, Research Paper 53

[40] BIS (2011); *Measuring the Economic Impact of Further Education*

[41] http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/1-22052013-AP/EN/1-22052013-AP-EN.PDF

1.1.2 A justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities having regard to the partnership agreement, based on an identification of regional and, where appropriate, national needs including the need to address the challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and the relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) TFEU, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

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Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	• Commission Position Paper (CPP) highlights need to tackle high levels of youth unemployment. • Country Specific Recommendation to improve skills of young people to meet employer needs. • A number of key interrelated EU2020 targets for Wales to address, including Early School Leaving (ESL), poverty and employment. • Nearly a quarter of young people unemployed in EW. • Ambitious targets within the Tackling Poverty Action Plan to reduce 16-18 NEET from 12.1% in 2011 to 9% by 2017. • Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan to support young people to enter the labour market. • Declining low skilled industries with employment challenges leading to a low carbon and climate resilient economy. • Opportunity to invest in reducing the number of young people with basic or low skills, in line with Country Specific Recommendations. • Support the implementation of the Welsh Government Youth Guarantee.
08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work	• CPP highlights investing in the labour market participation of women as a priority to tackle the gender gap. • No direct target for EU2020 but potential impact on a

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		number of the targets on employment, poverty and skills. • Gender inequalities continue to exist in Wales with women more likely to be underemployed, working part time and earning less than men. • Country Specific Recommendations highlight importance of reducing child poverty in low-income households. • Need to continue efforts to build on recent successes in Wales in this area.
09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	• CPP places employability, exclusion and poverty at the core of the ESI funds. • Country Specific Recommendations emphasise the need to continue efforts to reduce child poverty in low income households including those on welfare • CPP emphasises the need to reduce poverty and exclusion through employability. • Sustainable employment seen as best route out of poverty. Tackling Poverty Action plan sets a number of key challenges in this area • Key EU2020 targets on poverty and employment • Relatively high levels of poverty and worklessness in Wales.
10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education	• CPP highlights the need to reduce ESL and increase access to quality education. • Country Specific

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
lifelong learning	including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training	Recommendation on improving skills of young people and reducing number of young people with low basic skills. • ESL in Wales 9% above EU target. • Clear evidence that early intervention to address underlying issues affecting young people's attainment and employability can have a profound effect on future development and attainment. • Building on Welsh Government approaches to address risk of NEET across Wales. • Opportunity to align skills and qualifications with emerging areas of economic and employment growth.
10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences	• CPP highlights the need to invest in quality and relevant skills and lifelong learning to help support individuals and enterprises and to drive growth. • Country Specific Recommendation on addressing skills mismatches through more advanced and higher level skills provision, including apprenticeships. • Opportunity to drive Wales level EU2020 target on tertiary level education. • Increasing skills levels seen as a key driver to economic growth and will underpin investments across ESI funds. • Oversupply of no skilled or low skilled workers. • Opportunity to link to emerging markets and skills

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		demand of the economy.
11 - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	• Increasing evidence base pointing to the importance of institutional capacity as a factor affecting the relative success of regional investments (OECD). • Difficulties instituting public sector reform in Wales over the last 20 years suggests some resistance to new ways of working; but collaborations levered by ESI funds are providing some evidence of the effectiveness of regional partnership working. • Plans for local government reform in Wales are in place. Dedicated additional investment could lever quicker, wider and more systematic reform. • Building institutional capacity of the public sector can ensure that public administrations are equipped to deal with challenges in the long term (European Commission, 2014). • The design of the Priority and results sought reflect lessons learned from related activity included in the 2007-2013 programmes and take into account Commission guidance (*Guidance Document on Indicators of Public Administration Capacity Building, 2014)* -

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1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

~~1. As set out in Section 2 (Priority Axes) priorities will be constructed in some cases bringing together Investment Priorities from more than one Thematic Objective (TO). The rationale for doing so is set out in that section. The justification for financial allocations set out in this section seeks to reflect both the construction of the Priority Axes set out in Section 2, and the associated Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities (IP). Values by IP will also be further reflected in table 14 in Section 2.~~

~~2.~~1. **Priority Axis 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment**

~~3.~~2. This Priority Axis is focussed around TO 9: Promoting Social Inclusion, Combating Poverty and any Discrimination.

~~4.~~3. ~~21.5% (just over 1/5th)~~ 16% of all ESF in EW will be allocated to this Priority Axis. The investment will be focused on the *Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability* IP and those most at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Justification for this allocation is based on:

- The regulatory requirement, and a Welsh Government commitment within the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, to allocate at least 20% of ESF resorces to this TO~~;~~
- Challenges around long term unemployment, economic inactivity, poverty and workless households;
- Country Specific Recommendation on reducing child poverty in low income households;
- Significant complementary investment through mainstream UK Welfare to Work provision with compulsory job-search activities restricting added value to large sections of the potential target groups;
- Opportunities to link with complimentary investments within this TO through EAFRD;
- Significant complementary ESF investment to support youth unemployment through the Youth Employment Priority Axis;
- Integrated approach to tackling poverty which looks to target, prevent and mitigate the causes and impacts of poverty; and
- The guiding Welsh Government principle that employment is the best route out of poverty.

~~5.~~4. **Priority Axis 2: Skills for Growth**

~~6.~~5. This Priority Axis is focussed around TO 10: *Investing in Education, Training and Vocational Training for Skills and Life-long Learning*. It also seeks to incorporate a single complementary Investment Priority from the TO 8, *Promoting Sustainable and Quality Employment and Supporting Labour Mobility*.

~~7.~~6. ~~47% (just under a ½)~~ Just over 42% of all ESF in the programme area will be allocated to this Priority Axis. Within this Priority allocation approximately ~~95%~~94% will be allocated to the *Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the*

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knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences. IP in TO10 representing the bulk of the investment with approximately ~~5%~~6% allocated to the *Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work* IP in TO 8. Justification for this allocation is based on:

- Skills investment will be a key underpinning factor to all ESI fund investments and in driving economic growth during the programme period;
- Clear opportunities to utilise ESF investment to underpin emerging markets including for example in supporting the shift to low carbon and high value economies;
- Reflecting evidence in the Socio Economic Analysis which shows larger proportion of GVA gap due to lower added value per job arguing for greater concentration of resources on Skills;
- Evidence in the Socio Economic Analysis which shows GVA gap due to lower productivity arguing for greater concentration of resources on Skills;
- Apprenticeships are seen as offering a high value return to both employers and employees;
- A number of related EU2020 targets on Early School Leaving and people educated to a tertiary level or equivalent level;
- Country Specific Recommendation on addressing skills mismatches through more advanced and higher level skills provision, including apprenticeships.
- Continued undersupply of intermediate and higher level skills and oversupply of low or no skilled workforce and an ambition to progress individuals with no or low skills to intermediate levels;
- Challenges remain in supporting the role of women in the workforce and in tackling the gender pay gap; and
- Additional opportunities to link with investments within TO10 under EAFRD combined with more flexibility to utilise ESF to up-skill or re-skill farmers and fishermen.

~~8.~~7. **Priority Axis 3: Youth Employment**

~~9.~~8. This Priority Axis is focussed around TO 8, *Promoting Sustainable and Quality Employment and Supporting Labour Mobility*. It also seeks to incorporate a single complementary Investment Priority from the TO 10, *Investing in Education, Training and Vocational Training for Skills and Life-long Learning*.

~~10.~~9. ~~29.5% (just under 1/3rd)~~ Just over 32% of all ESF in the programme area will be allocated to this Priority Axis. Within this Priority allocation approximately ~~75%~~77% will be allocated to the *Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee* IP in TO 8 with approximately ~~25%~~23% allocated to the *Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training* IP in TO 10. Justification for this allocation is based on:

- Addressing youth unemployment seen as an important area of investment both at EU level and in Wales. Compared to general unemployment levels

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Youth unemployment although decreasing is higher in EW than the Wales average;

- Opportunity to reduce the number of young people with basic or low skills and to align skills and qualifications to emerging economic opportunities and employment growth, in line with Country Specific Recommendations;
- Targeted support, at those at highest risk of NEET, preventing or reducing pockets of NEET is key to tackling structural issues of youth unemployment and as a preventative long term investment; and
- Opportunity to contribute to key EU2020 targets now and for the future with long term legacy investment benefits.

~~11.~~10. **Priority Axis 4: Technical Assistance**

~~12.~~11. 2% of all the ESF in the programme area will be located within this priority axis to support the successful and compliant implementation of the programmes. Allocations have been developed based on the experience of the Managing Authority and its stakeholders in the implementation of the 2007-2013 programmes.

12. **Priority Axis 5: Public services refrom and regional working**

13. This Priority Axis is focussed around Thematic Objective (11) – Institutional Capacity Building). Just over 7% of all ESF in the programme area will be allocated to this Priority Axis, Justification for this allocation is based on:

- Assessing organisational capacity and capability, and developing and delivering workforce development plans.
- Supporting the reconfiguration of regional governance arrangements to ensure representative and inclusive planning and decision making functions.

compare report

Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the operational programme

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
1	ESF	~~43,784~~32,084,989.00	~~21.54%~~15.78 %	▾ 09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination ▾ 9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability ▾ 1.1 - To increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment.	[102A6, 102B6, 1100A, 1100B, 1102A, 1102B, 1103, 1104A, 1104B]
2	ESF	~~95,483~~86,123,905.00	~~46.96%~~42.36 %	▾ 08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility ▾ 8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work ▾ 2.3 - To improve the position of women in the workforce. ▾ 10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning ▾ 10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences ▾ 2.1 - To increase the skills levels, including work relevant skills, of those in the workforce with no or low skills. ▾ 2.2 - To increase the number of people in the workforce with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level. ▾ 2.4 - To increase the number of people with graduate degrees or equivalent undertaking research and innovation activities with enterprise.	[1101, 1109, 1174F, 1174M, 1175F, 1175M, 1180F, 1180M, 1181F, 1181M, CR03]

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Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
3	ESF	~~59,977~~65,827,115.00	~~29.50%~~32.38 %	▼ 08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility ▼ 8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee ▼ 3.1 - To reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET). ▼ 10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning ▼ 10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training ▼ 3.2 - To reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET amongst 11-24 year olds.	[1123, 1124, 1125, 1127, 1128, 1183]
5	ESF	15,210,000.00	7.48%	▼ 11 - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration ▼ 11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance ▼ 5 - Public services reform and regional working	[1184]
4	ESF	4,066,245.00	2.00%	4.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes 4.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations. 4.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.	[TAR1, TAR2, TAR3]

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2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	1
Title of the priority axis	Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. The Priority Axis has been developed in line with the aims of the ESF programme in East Wales (EW) and in particular the aim:
   - *To tackle poverty and social exclusion by increasing labour market participation and helping people to access sustainable employment*
2. Two key programme objectives outlined in the strategy apply also:
   - *To reduce poverty by increasing employment levels, particularly for underrepresented groups and those furthest from the labour market; and*
   - *To reduce inequalities in the labour market amongst women and recognised equality groups.*
3. The Welsh Government has a clear commitment to tackling poverty in Wales. The ESF Programme Strategy and actions within this Priority Axis have been developed to support this commitment and to align to the CSR to continue efforts to reduce child poverty in low-income households.

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4. The definition of poverty in Wales is based on not having 'sufficient resource', or income, and the lack of ability to 'participate in activities', or social exclusion. The Priority Axis itself will deliver interventions that align with Welsh Government policy, as articulated within its Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which states that the best route out of poverty is through employment and focuses on removing barriers to employment and helping people to move onto the employment ladder.
5. The overall objective of this Priority Axis is therefore to reduce levels of poverty in EW through supporting access to sustainable employment. As part of the strategy outlined in Section 5, the focus will be on supporting those at greatest risk of poverty and social exclusion. Actions will concentrate on those who are furthest from the labour market - the long term unemployed and the economically inactive - with a specific emphasis on those with complex barriers to employment at most at risk of poverty and exclusion.
6. The guiding principle of all interventions will be moving the individual towards achieving and maintaining sustained employment, including self-employment, as a means of tackling poverty.
7. This Priority Axis will delivered be through a single Thematic Objective *((9)(9) – Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination).* While some of the proposed interventions may also fit within the (9)(8) *Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility* Thematic Objective, coordination of sustainable employment interventions to tackle poverty through a single Thematic Objective and Investment Priority will ensure greater integration both within the programmes and with poverty actions across all ESI funds.
8. Experience from the 2007–2013 programmes shows that integration of interventions is key to achieving successful employment outcomes for the individual. In addition, much of the core employment services which might be delivered through an employment Thematic Objective are non-devolved and delivered as part of mainstream UK Government programmes.
9. This Priority Axis will align with, complement, and add value to, UK mainstream labour market programmes through delivering a single coordinated approach to improving employment and employability for individuals as a route-way out of poverty. The principles of specific eligibility around mainstream UK Government programmes will be addressed through the Welsh eligibility guidance documentation, made available via the WEFO website and updated throughout the Programme period.

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ESF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	9i
Title of the investment priority	Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective is to increase the employability for both Economically Inactive individuals over 25 with complex barriers to employment and Long Term Unemployed individuals over 25 with complex barriers to employment. As set out in the strategy there are a number of characteristics for the economically inactive or long term unemployed demographic which are linked to higher than average rates of economic inactivity or long term unemployment. These barriers are shown to be multiple and complex and include work limiting health conditions or disabilities, low or no skills and individuals in jobless households. The full list of the barriers to be addressed is included in Section 2.A.6.1 2. There are no specific measures of employability at a national or regional level. It may be possible through supporting the target groups to access employment to contribute to reductions in Economic Inactivity or Long Term Unemployment amongst the target group however this data is subject to significant external factors and these results alone will not truly reflect the overall investments within the Specific Objective. 3. The direct results therefore will be focused around a number of proxy indicators for employability to include the

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	number of the specific target group gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving, the number completing a work experience placement or volunteering opportunity and for the Economically Inactive cohort, the number engaged in job search upon leaving. 4. In addition, result indicators will be included for the number entering employment and self employment upon leaving and to further evidence the sustainability of the employment outcome the number in employment or self employment 6 months after leaving. It may also be possible through evaluation to measure the longer term impact on Economic Inactivity and Long Term Unemployment rates in a way which takes account of the range of external factors which impacts on these macro level indicators. 5. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision or similar activity elsewhere. Targets on skills and qualifications have been set to reflect the additional focus on those with no skills and the inclusion of work relevant certification. For employment outcomes, ambitious targets have been set which will help increase the employment outcomes of each specific target group towards those of the general population or those closest to the labour market. Some targets will only aim to match the existing baselines. This reflects the new and uncertain nature of these targets where baselines indicators are not a direct match but provide a useful benchmark to work to.

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
102A6	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	More developed	Ratio				20.00	Ratio (%)	2013			45.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
102B6	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self employment, 6 months after leaving	More developed	Ratio				25.00	Ratio (%)	2013			45.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1100A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				40.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1100B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				40.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1102A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				14.00	Ratio (%)	2013			20.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1102B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self employment, upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				20.00	Ratio (%)	2013			25.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1103	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment engaged in	More developed	Ratio				25.00	Ratio (%)	2013			25.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority : 9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
	job search upon leaving													
1104A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	More developed	Ratio				54.00	Ratio (%)	2013			54.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1104B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	More developed	Ratio				53.00	Ratio (%)	2013			53.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

1. **Specific Objective 1**
2. In delivering to **Specific Objective 1**, actions under this Investment Priority will target those furthest from the labour market with complex barrier to employment. In line with the poverty strategy in Section 5 and are there are 2 main targets groups within this Specific Objective. The target groups are recognised as being most at risk of poverty and whilst distinct can be addressed through the single Specific Objective as the barriers

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

they face will be similar. The target groups will be Economically Inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment, and Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over), who have complex barriers to employment.

3. The Economically Inactive target group will have one or more of the following barriers to employment; low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability (including substance or alcohol misuse); care or childcare responsibilities; are over 54; are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; or from a jobless household. Similarly the Long-term unemployed group will have one or more of the following barriers; low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability (including substance or alcohol misuse); are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; or from a jobless household. Separate eligibility criteria around UK Government Welfare programmes may apply; these criteria will be addressed through the Welsh eligibility guidance documentation, made available via the WEFO website and updated throughout the Programme period.
4. Interventions will be personalised and focused on the needs of the individual in both the methods of engagement and in delivery. Delivery will be integrated with other wider strategies to address worklessness, poverty and disadvantaged communities.
5. In line with the guiding principle of supporting employment as a route out of poverty, whilst providing individual tailored support, interventions will focus on sustained employment (including self-employment) as the desired outcome.
6. Individuals such as those who are furthest from the labour market face multiple and complex barriers to achieving sustained employment, including skills and qualifications, transport, care and childcare, financial and emotional barriers as well as attitudes to work and welfare dependence. Recent periods of recession and labour market uncertainty have presented additional challenges for these individuals when competing for the opportunities available. Actions will support individuals to address these multiple and complex barriers. Actions will ensure that individuals are able to access integrated and personalised provision which is designed to addresses their range of needs, thereby avoiding any requirement for participants to access a multiple and complex configuration of interventions.
7. On-going changes in the UK Government Welfare system will bring challenges to the implementation of actions under this Specific Objective. Research shows[1] that current welfare reform will be disproportionately regressive in Wales with greater impact on those most at risk of poverty including recognised equality groups. Mainstream UK employment provision will provide a focus for interventions on those who are closest to the labour market. Due to the limited funding available in EW and the fact that its overall employment rates are more robust than those in West Wales and the Valleys, actions under this Priority Axis will focus on complementing and adding value to this mainstream provision. Actions will work specifically to support those most at risk of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion to re-engage with the labour market and to access sustainable employment and in so doing, will align to the Country Specific Recommendation of reducing child poverty in low income households, a Recommendation which also cites the potential impact of Welfare Reform in relation to this aim.
8. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of the Specific Objective and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome the complex barriers faced by the target group in accessing sustainable employment and improving employability including for example through the provision of mentor support;

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

- Actions to address barriers such as care or childcare including innovative actions linked to improving the availability of affordable quality childcare;
- Actions to support the target groups to access sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in areas of economic and employment growth, including basic job search, CV writing and interview skills;
- Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate;
- Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification;
- Support for the Economically Inactive target group to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option; or
- Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment amongst the target group such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and finance and debt management.

9. The planned actions described above within the Specific Objective provide indicative areas of action which operations could take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.
10. Beneficiaries of funding are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations); universities; and the private sector.

[1] Adams, S & Phillips, D Institute for Fiscal Studies, An ex-ante analysis of the effects of the UK government's welfare reforms on labour supply in Wales (IFS Report 75)

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2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

1. The following common principles will guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities:
    - An unequivocal focus on supporting sustainable jobs, employment and growth and operations which facilitate the role of the third sector and private sector;
    - Interventions should seek to integrate economic, social and environmental outcomes, consistent with the central organising principle of sustainable development and contributing to the outcomes of the cross cutting themes;
    - Opportunities to achieve greater leverage from the deployment of EU funds, particularly with the private and third sector; and also more collaborative investments where these can add value and achieve outcomes;
    - Clear added value, when compared with other ways of supporting and delivering policy, based on sound evidence;
    - Evidence of opportunity will form the foundation of the design and delivery of operations with investments building on existing and emerging expertise, with human capital delivering to the future needs of businesses;
    - Prioritisation of key strategic operations that underpin the Specific Objectives and which deliver significant outcomes, will be a core part of a portfolio management approach to programme delivery; and
    - Clear exit strategies need to be in place at the outset which fully consider the role of the third sector and private sector, build social resilience and tackle poverty within communities, promote equality, and achieve legacy effects.
2. Operations will need to consider a range of targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment. The degree of targeting will vary according to the intervention and, where appropriate, should reflect:
    - clear identification of the **specific target groups**, their needs and how actions will address these needs at a national, regional or local level as appropriate;
    - **growth sectors** (e.g. specifically the Welsh Government identified key sectors, Grand Challenge areas in Science for Wales and the emerging Innovation Strategy); and,
    - areas of specific **geographical opportunity** (e.g. Enterprise Zones, any potential City region or other regional opportunity, Business Improvement District, Rural or Regeneration Area).
3. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**
4. In line with the Tackling Poverty Action plan and the outlined strategy in Section 5 for addressing those most at risk of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion interventions must be integrated with other wider strategies to address worklessness, poverty and disadvantaged communities.
5. All activity will be planned with a return to work focus (to achieve a job outcome) and all interventions and skills support will be designed to support individuals to achieve this goal.
6. Skills interventions, where needed, will look to achieve or progress individuals, where possible, to intermediate level on the National Qualification

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Framework (NQF) or above, outlining clear progression routes for those with no / low skills.

7. Actions should be flexible and responsive to labour market fluctuations; utilising and responding to LMI, which identifies skills needs and trends for coming years as a means to ensuring employment supply meets employment demand.
8. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.
9. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories:
    - Gender;
    - Age (over 54 years);
    - Disability;
    - Work limiting health conditions;
    - Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
    - Care / Childcare responsibilities.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

1. The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments (FI) in ESF concluded that in most cases there was limited potential for FI in the delivery of the actions outlined above and any potential approach is likely to be less effective than a grant based approach in terms of achieving the results sought. It noted that FI for the proposed actions would be unlikely to be cost effective and cited concerns around the return for business and hence potential for repayment which, for actions focused around enabling people to access employment, would be based upon a reduction in benefit claimants, a non-devolved issue for Wales.
2. The first phase recommended additional research on the value of FI in delivering support for participants to move into self-employment and entrepreneurship as scope may exist. However the conclusions of further research in the second phase found that a loan-based approach is unlikely to prove an appropriate or cost-effective delivery mechanism. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the actions within this

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability
Investment Priority. Interventions will link with actions through SME Competitiveness priority of the ERDF to support business start up, self employment and entrepreneurship.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability
1. This is not applicable for ESF.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in	Number	ESF	More developed			12,700.00	Management Information	Quarterly

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Investment priority		9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)							Systems	
1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; are from a BME group; or from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	More developed			3,800.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

1. **Promotion of Social Innovation (SI) within ESF Programme**

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

2. All operations will be encouraged to consider the opportunities SI provides to pilot or develop innovative approaches to delivery. Operations will be encouraged to consider options to undertake small scale SI activities to explore alternative delivery models or target specific groups with a view to incorporating and scaling up successful delivery. Such small scale trialling, particularly through commissioning or procurement, will engage the third sector, community groups and social partners in a risk based approach to developing new delivery models which can add to and complement successful delivery models already in place.
3. Potential areas for SI actions across the programme might include:
    - targeting of specific under-represented groups with a view to up-scaling into core activity and the delivery of enhanced equality outcomes;
    - trialling, on a risk basis, new models of delivery, especially within well established delivery methodology or approaches; and
    - support to trial and develop sustainable exit strategies through testing of new delivery models.
4. Opportunities for SI may develop as operations progress. It will not be necessary for SI activity to be fully scoped however the principle and mechanics of trialling and subsequent mainstreaming of lessons learnt will need to be outlined where SI action is anticipated. Larger strategic interventions should have an evidence base indicating where trialling or piloting of approaches would work most effectively.
5. SI actions will be subject to specific monitoring and more rigorous evaluation with lessons learnt being disseminated both within operations and across WEFO. SI actions can take place as discreet elements of larger strategic operations or as discreet stand alone operations.
6. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:
    - Innovative approaches to engaging with those most at risk of disadvantage, furthest from the labour market or with multiple complex barriers to employment with a view to enhancing social integration, labour market participation and sustainable employment outcomes;
    - Innovative actions to support the development of quality and affordable childcare where childcare is a barrier to sustainable employment; and
    - Innovative approaches to addressing issues of poverty relating to those with barriers relating to health, care or childcare.
7. Through this approach it will also be possible to incorporate linkages with LEADER groups within EAFRD (or Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG's) within EMFF). LEADER groups or FLAG's, will be able to engage in commission processes for SI actions particularly for trialling new approaches with a view to mainstreaming successful delivery models. These groups will also be able to work through the regional and spatial approaches described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and in Section 4 of this OP to encourage mainstreaming of activity funded through other ESI funds into collaborative ESF proposals.
8. **Specific Provision for Transnational Cooperation**
9. Transnational cooperation actions will be targeted towards addressing specific needs within EW while maximising the added value that can be delivered by transnational cooperation.
10. Actions will involve stakeholders from the public, higher and further education, third and private sectors. Operations may be wholly comprised of

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transnational cooperation activity or feature transnational cooperation as one strand within the wider operation.

11. Actions will be expected to support transnational cooperation with other Member States which are facing similar challenges to EW and working to common goals. Actions should support transnational partnership working to share good practice and to develop and pilot innovative solutions, to develop and share high level skills and expertise and to develop and share skills and expertise that will support a modern knowledge-based economy and a modern, adaptable and agile labour market.
12. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:
    - Actions to share good practice and develop common and innovative approaches to supporting the long-term unemployed and economically inactive who are facing complex barriers to employment, to access the labour market.
13. **The contribution of the ESF to Thematic Objectives 1 - 7**
14. ESF investments in human capital will be centred on and deliver to the future needs of enterprise and business, supporting the development of a modern, knowledge based economy. ESF investments made under TO 8, 9 and 10 are designed to complement and combine with investments made by ESI funds under TO 1-7. Where clear additionality to provision under EAFRD and EMFF is demonstrable, individuals from farming and fishing communities will be able to access ESF support. This approach will facilitate and enable the optimal realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales and support the integrated approach to implementation outlined in Section 4.
15. ESF interventions in this Priority Axis will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF interventions under TO3 to stimulate business growth, develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities, encourage start ups and improve the productivity of SMEs through:
    - Increasing the supply of work-ready individuals and better linking workforce supply with employer demand, supporting SME's to grow and increase productivity, including through diversification and expansion into new markets; and
    - Promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment as a means of enabling people to move out of poverty and engage with the labour market, ensuring that they are able to access financial support and advice provided through other ESI funds.
16. The integrated approach to tackling poverty across ESI programmes will see ESF interventions, by supporting individuals to become work-ready and by addressing barriers to accessing sustainable employment, work in conjunction with ERDF and EAFRD actions under TO4 and 7 to increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres and to improve rural connectivity. Thereby ensuring that ESF interventions complement sustainable transport solutions to improve and improve physical accessibility to employment centres. There will also be complementarity between actions with ERDF investments under TO4 to reduce the number and percentage of households living in fuel poverty, both mitigating the impacts of poverty and equipping people to move out of poverty through employment.

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2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment												
ID	**Indicator type**	**Indicator or key implementation step**	**Measurement unit, where appropriate**	**Fund**	**Category of region**	**Milestone for 2018**			**Final target (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate**
						M	**W**	**T**	**M**	**W**	**T**		
P1F	F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed			~~22,336,382~~13,000,000			~~87,569,978~~64,000,000.00	Management Information Systems	Economically Inactive participants and Long-term Unemployed participants both ensure appropriate representation of the Priority Axis and its Investment Priority. Together they cover all of the Priority Axis in East Wales.
1002	O	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	More developed			3239			12,700.00	Management Informatin Systems	Economically Inactive participants and Long-term Unemployed participants both ensure appropriate representation of the Priority Axis and its Investment Priority. Together they cover all of the Priority Axis in East Wales.
1003	O	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; are from a BME group; or from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	More developed			969			3,800.00	Management Information Systems	Economically Inactive participants and Long-term Unemployed participants both ensure appropriate representation of the Priority Axis and its Investment Priority. Together they cover all of the Priority Axis in East Wales.

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Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

1. *Financial indicators*
2. The 2023 target is the total Eligible Expenditure allocation for the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 target is based on N+3 Eligible Expenditure.
3. *Output indicators*
4. The overall approach used to set targets within the 2014-2020 WWV ESF programme and the EW ESF programme involved mapping activity from appropriate and comparable projects funded under the 2007-2013 WWV ESF Convergence Programme. These were selected to best reflect the targeted approach and proposed activity to be funded as outlined in the 2014-2020 ESF Programmes. Projects' achievements to date of mapped activity were compared with spend to date and projects' current final targets were compared with their total financial allocation. The resulting ratios were then scaled to indicative funding allocations under the future Specific Objectives of each the Investment Priorities to derive a set of targets for the indicators.
5. In some cases where the ambition of the 2014-2020 programmes was substantially different to the current 2007-13 delivery a policy based approach is utilised selecting comparable targets reflecting the emphasis of the programme within each priority and the aspirations and objectives for change.. In all cases evidence of Unit costs etc. within the current programme are utilised to ensure these policy based targets are achievable within the funding parameters available. In addition, the use of National Statistics, where available, based on the current population share for key demographic groups, is used in order to provide aspirational targets to ensure the fair distribution of funds. This approach is supplemented with additional evidence and experience from the current 2007-2013 programming period and the targeting outlined in the proposed ESF programmes. In some cases a combination of these methods has been used.
6. The 2023 targets are the final targets for this Output indicator under the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 targets are based on the same ratio as the 2018 Financial indicator target, and unit costs.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

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Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	109. Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	~~43,784~~32,084,989.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	~~43,784~~32,084,989.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	~~24,817,332~~18,185,772.00
ESF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	~~13,752,865~~10,077,895.00
ESF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	~~5,214,792~~3,821,322.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

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Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	07. Not applicable	~~43,784~~32,084,989.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	02. Social innovation	~~10,946~~8,021,248.00
ESF	More developed	08. Not applicable	~~32,838~~24,063,741.00

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
1. The planned use of Technical Assistance will be addressed in the specific Technical Assistance Priority Axis.	

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2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	Skills for Growth

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. The Priority Axis has been developed in line with the aims of the ESF programme in EW and in particular the aim:
    - *To invest in skills as a driver of productivity and growth, to aid progression within employment and improve the skills mix and diversity of our workforce.*
2. Two key programme objectives outlined in the EW strategy apply also:
    - *To increase skills levels of the workforce, increasing the number of people qualified to intermediate level or above and reducing the number of people with no skills or basic skills only; and*
    - *To reduce inequalities in the labour market amongst women and recognised equality groups.*
3. As recognised in the Country Specific Recommendations, investing in skills is a key driver in the development of a modern knowledge-based economy and in responding and adapting to economic changes[1][2]. There is a strong correlation between qualification and skills, employment and earnings, with those in part-time work more likely to have low skills[3], emphasising the role of skills development in addressing in-work poverty, up-skilling those with no or basic skills to support them to progress within the labour market[4][5].
4. The Priority Axis has been developed to coordinate skills investment in the workforce of EW. Labour Market Intelligence will underpin investments and ensure interventions meet the needs of key economic growth areas and opportunities in Wales.

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5. This Priority approach and the associated European Commission Thematic Objectives, (*(9)(8) – promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility* and *(9)(10) – Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning*) centred on a demand led approach, will ensure that employers have a suitably qualified workforce and that skills development and attainment levels are aligned with growth activity. It will also, through up-skilling low skilled workers and thereby addressing an important contributory factor to in-work poverty, complement Priority Axis 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment, as part of an integrated approach to tackling poverty.
6. The inclusion of the equality based Investment Priority within Thematic Objective (9)(8) is based on experience and success of this approach within the 2007-2013 ESF programmes. Investing in the skills of women in the workforce, as part of the wider skills Priority Axis, will provide a thematically coherent integrated approach to delivering skills interventions that are consistent to the needs of the economy and employers. This approach will also complement equality actions across the programmes and the objectives of the Cross Cutting Themes.
7. Delivering to the needs of both employers and the wider economy will be the fundamental principle of all demand led skills interventions within this Priority Axis. Demand will be articulated in a number of ways including directly through employers or through research evidence on areas of economic opportunity or growth.

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[1] DBIS (2009), *Economic Impact of Training and Education in Basic Skills. Summary of Evidence*, October, URN 09/1432

[2] UKCES (2010), *The Value of Skills: An Evidence Review*, July ISBN 978-1-906-597-51-1

[3] *Skills and the Quality of Work in Wales, 2006-2012* (Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods, 2013); chapter 3: Broad Skills

[4] Welsh Government (2013) Tackling Poverty Action Plan

[5] European Commission (2010), *Platform against Poverty*, COM(2010) 758 Final,.

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ESF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	10iii
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the skills levels, including work relevant skills, of those in the workforce with no or low skills.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective is to increase the skills and qualification levels, including vocational skills, of employed (including self employed) individuals across EW with no or low skills. It will target those qualified to ISCED Level 2 (lower secondary education) or below, including those with no formal qualifications, with a focus on both increasing their qualification levels and on addressing skills gaps at this level. 2. As set out in the Strategy, of those working age adults in employment in Wales, the most recent figures show that approximately 43% have either no or low (up to and including NQF Level 2) qualifications. At a more detailed level, of the working age adults in employment, 6.9% have no qualifications at all, while 14.1% have below NQF level 2

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	qualifications and 21.7% have qualifications at NQF level 2. 3. While there are no specific measures for skills gaps, research indicates that they are more common among lower skilled occupations, with both skills specific to the job role (technical, practical and job specific skills) and essential and basic skills (such as planning and organisation, oral communication, customer handling and problem solving skills) being cited as skills shortages.[1] This indicates that there is a need not only to increase the level at which the no and low skilled are qualified but also to ensure that they achieve qualifications in skills which are relevant to the needs of employers. 4. The direct results will therefore be focused around the number of the specific target group gaining qualifications at ISCED Levels 1 and 2 in essential and technical or job specific skills. These results will both increase the qualification levels of those with no or low skills and upgrade and update the skills of those already qualified to ISCED Levels 1 and 2, providing them with the skills and qualifications relevant to the needs of employers. 5. The longer term impact of these interventions on the overall skills levels of the workforce will be measured through programme evaluation, which will consider the impact of ESF interventions in the context of the range of external factors that influence these measures. 6. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision. Findings from the 2012 ESF Leavers Survey have been utilised to support the identification of ambitious yet achievable targets which represent a real increase on the baselines and which reflect our aspirations within the design of the programmes on the achievement of qualifications by the target group. [1] UKCES (2013), *Employer Skills Survey 2013 – Wales report*
ID of the specific objective	2.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number of people in the workforce with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level.
Results that the Member States	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective, in line with the Country Specific Recommendations, will be to increase the

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seek to achieve with Union support	number of people in the workforce in EW with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level. It will target those qualified to ISCED Level 2 (lower secondary education) and above, progressing them to at least an ISCED Level 3 (upper secondary education) qualification, while also upgrading and updating the skills of those who are already qualified to ISCED Level 3 and above. 2. As set out in the Strategy, of the working age adults in employment in Wales, the most recent figures show that 21.7% have qualifications at NQF level 2, while 57.3% are qualified to NQF level 3 or above and 37.2% are qualified to NQF level 4 and above. 3. These measures do not provide direct measures of the relevancy and currency of the skills of the workforce, however evidence demonstrates a persistence of skills shortages at an intermediate level[1], while around 69% of all skill-shortage vacancies are ascribed to a lack of technical, practical or job specific skills[2]. In 2013, 39% of employers in the UK who recruit staff with STEM skills and knowledge reported difficulties recruiting such skills[3] while 72% of employers expect that at least some of their staff will need to acquire new skills or knowledge over the next twelve months. Common reasons for upskilling include new legislative or regulatory requirements, the introduction of new technologies or equipment, the introduction of new working practices and the development of new products and services.[4] 4. The direct results will therefore be focused around the number of the specific target group gaining qualifications at ISCED Levels 3 and above in technical and job specific skills. These results will both increase the number of those qualified to ISCED Level 3 and above and update the skills of those already qualified to that level, ensuring that their qualifications and skillset are current and relevant to the needs of employers. 5. The longer term impact of these interventions on the overall skills levels of the workforce will be measured through programme evaluation, which will consider the impact of ESF interventions in the context of the range of external factors that influence these measures. 6. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision. Targets have been set to reflect a genuine increase on the baselines, reflecting our aspirations within the design of the programme on the achievement of qualifications by the target group.

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	[1]UKCES, Wales Future Skills Assessment and UKCES (2013), *Employer Skills Survey 2013 – Wales report* [2] UKCES (2013), *Employer Skills Survey 2013 – Wales report* [3] Pearson/CBI Education and Skills Surveys of 2008 and 2013 [4] UKCES (2013), *Employer Skills Survey 2013 – Wales report*
ID of the specific objective	2.4
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number of people with graduate degrees or equivalent undertaking research and innovation activities with enterprise.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective will be to increase the number of individuals with higher level skills in research and innovation (R&I) to support a wider Welsh ambition to increase R&I activity within business[1]. Interventions will focus on the Grand Challenge areas as articulated in *Science for Wales: A strategic agenda for science and innovation in Wales*[2], and facilitate the commercialisation of research. Action will be targeted at those with a graduate degree or equivalent as a minimum. 2. Innovation depends on people who are able to generate and apply knowledge and ideas in the workplace; the OECD recommends a focus on enabling the acquisition of innovation skills and the optimal use of these skills at work.[3] However, figures from 2012 show that, of the four constituent nations of the UK, Wales had the lowest percentage of working age adults qualified to NQF Level 7-8 (8.1% for England, 8.2% for Scotland, 7.4% for Wales and 7.5% for Northern Ireland). The percentage rate for Wales, at 7.4%, is also below the UK average of 8.1%.[4] Additionally, the UK Innovation Survey[5] reported that only 15% of innovation-active businesses cooperate with universities in the UK. While this figure is not specific to WWV, it indicates significant scope for greater interaction between business and higher education institutions. 3. The direct results will therefore be focused around increasing the supply of individuals undertaking R&I activities at ISCED Levels 7-8 in collaboration with and driven by the needs of the private sector and focused on the Grand

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	Challenge areas. This will be achieved through measuring the number of enterprises collaborating with learning providers in research and innovation activities and the number of individuals gaining a qualification upon leaving (at ISCED 7 or 8). 4. It may also be possible through evaluation to consider, in a way that takes account of the range of external factors that influence these measures, the longer term impact of these ESF interventions on wider measures of research and innovation activity within business and collaboration between enterprise and universities. 5. Baselines and targets for participants gaining qualifications at ISCED 7 and 8 have been based on broadly comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision. However, in keeping with the aspirations of our programme, the scope of this activity is much tighter than in previous programmes therefore it is considered that maintaining the baseline represents a rigorous and challenging target. The result indicator on participants in employment upon leaving represents a new measure for ESF. Baselines and target values have been set based on the Higher Education Statistics Agency's figures on the destinations of leavers from higher education, postgraduate level courses. [1] As articulated in Welsh Government (2014); *Innovation Wales – the Innovation Strategy for Wales* [2]The Grand Challenge areas of "Life Sciences and Health"; "Advanced Engineering and Materials"; "Low Carbon, Energy and Environment"; and" ICT and the Digital Economy" set a focus for innovative research activities in Wales build on existing strengths and provide clear routes from research through to commercialisation. [3] The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD (2011); *Skills for Innovation and Research* [4] UKCES (November 2012); *UK Skill levels and international competitiveness Evidence Report 70*

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	[5] *UK Innovation Survey 2011* (2012), BIS

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences														
ID	**Indicator**	**Category of region**	**Measurement unit for indicator**	**Common output indicator used as basis for target setting**	**Baseline value**			**Measurement unit for baseline and target**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**			**M**	**W**	**T**		
1174F	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Female	More developed	Ratio				34.00	Ratio (%)	2013			72.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1174M	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	More developed	Ratio				38.00	Ratio (%)	2013			72.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1175F	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - female	More developed	Ratio				34.00	Ratio (%)	2013			72.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1175M	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - male	More developed	Ratio				38.00	Ratio (%)	2013			72.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1180F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - female	More developed	Ratio				57.00	Ratio (%)	2013			60.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1180M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper	More developed	Ratio				57.00	Ratio (%)	2013			60.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority : 10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
	secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - male													
1181F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - female	More developed	Ratio				44.00	Ratio (%)	2013			60.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1181M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - male	More developed	Ratio				44.00	Ratio (%)	2013			60.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

1. **Specific Objective 1**
2. In delivering to **Specific Objective 1**, actions under this Investment Priority will operate as part of a coordinated Priority Axis to ensure that the

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Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

workforce in EW is equipped with the skills needed to enable growth and increased productivity while also facilitating career progression and tackling in-work poverty. Actions will target employed and self employed individuals with low or no skills with a view to developing essential and work-relevant skills up to ISCED Level 2. Actions will prioritise the achievement of qualifications as the main output however individuals will also receive support to participate in training and to enter further learning where appropriate.

3. Actions will be coordinated within the Priority Axis to support demand led interventions to identify and address key skills gaps in the labour market which can support economic growth and individual progression. Labour Market Intelligence (LMI), utilising business demand and economic research, will be key to supporting targeted interventions.
4. Essential and basic skills as articulated by the Welsh Government's Skills Implementation Plan[1], remain a priority. This will be complemented by the development of technical or job specific skills, as identified by LMI. Investments will focus on progression to ISCED Level 2 to maximise the potential return on skills investments and potential positive impacts on tackling in-work poverty.
5. Over 90% of new jobs require basic internet skills, with increasing numbers of employment and progression opportunities being advertised online, therefore action will be taken to develop skills to break down barriers to engagement with technologies.
6. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 1** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Actions to provide basic and essential skills provision at ISCED Levels 1 (primary) and 2 (lower secondary education) for employed individuals with low skills (qualifications up to and including lower secondary education ISCED Level 2) or with no formal qualifications;
    - Actions to provide technical or job specific vocational qualifications at ISCED Levels 1 (primary) and 2 (lower secondary) for employed individuals with low skills (qualifications up to and including lower secondary education ISCED Level 2) or with no formal qualifications;
    - Provision of apprenticeships at ISCED Levels 1 and 2 for individuals in the target groups, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship places; and
    - Developing skills at ISCED Levels 1 and 2 to break down barriers to engagement with technologies, such as digital skills, reducing social isolation and increasing access to work progression opportunities on-line.
7. **Specific Objective 2**
8. In delivering to **Specific Objective 2,** actions under this Investment Priority will support the development of intermediate and higher level technical and job specific skills at ISCED Level 3 and higher.
9. Actions will recognise that equipping employed individuals with the skills to drive economic growth involves both upskilling our workforce as well as updating and refreshing existing skills to ensure that they remain relevant and current. Therefore, actions will target both individuals qualified to ISCED Level 2, with a view to progressing them to ISCED Level 3 and above, and individuals already possessing qualifications at ISCED Levels 3 and above, ensuring that their skills remain current and that they meet the needs of employers.

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Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

10. In achieving this, actions will develop technical and job specific vocational skills at ISCED Level 3 or higher. Actions will prioritise the achievement of qualifications as the main output however individuals will also receive support to participate in training and to enter further learning where appropriate.
11. Actions will be coordinated as part of the overall Priority Axis to support demand led interventions to address key skills gaps in the labour market which can support economic growth and individual progression. Actions will be designed to meet the needs of employers, facilitating organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges and supporting individuals to prosper and progress within the labour market. Labour market intelligence, identified utilising business demand and economic research, will be key to supporting targeted interventions.
12. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 2** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Provision of apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships at ISCED Level 3 (upper secondary education) or above for individuals in the target groups, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship and higher level apprenticeship places;
    - Actions to provide intermediate and higher level technical and job specific vocational qualifications at ISCED Level 3 (upper secondary) and above for employed individuals in the target groups in order to upskill the workforce and to address skills gaps, shortages and mismatches; and
    - Targeted interventions to stimulate demand for skills and workforce development and to provide the skills needed at ISCED Level 3 (upper secondary education) and above to support organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges, including High Performance Working.
13. The planned actions described above within each Specific Objective provide indicative areas of action which operations could take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.
14. Beneficiaries of funding within this Investment Priority and under each of the Specific Objectives above are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations including the Third Sector); education providers; universities; and the private sector.

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Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

[1] Welsh Government (2014); *Skills implementation plan – Delivering the policy statement on skills*
http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en

1. **Specific Objective 3**
2. In delivering to **Specific Objective 3**, actions under this Investment Priority will target individuals who possess a graduate degree or equivalent as a minimum. These may be employed, unemployed or in full time education at point of enrolment to ESF. Actions will work through academia and the private sector in the development of the higher skills at ISCED Levels 7 and 8 needed to drive encourage and support research and innovation to support wider Welsh ambitions to increase research and innovation.
3. Actions will act as part of a coordinated approach within the Priority Axis to embed research and innovation in enterprise through delivering demand led investments which align higher level skills with clear economic, commercial and business benefits. All actions will be aligned with the Grand Challenge areas set out *Science for Wales: A strategic agenda for science and innovation in Wales* of:
    - Life Sciences and Health;
    - Advanced Engineering and Materials;
    - Low Carbon, Energy and Environment; and
    - The underpinning area of ICT and the Digital Economy.
4. By focusing on demand led investments which respond to LMI, the actions will align investments in the human capital (the skilled workforce) with the needs and priorities of businesses[2]. By doing this, they aim to stimulate an increase in the volume and quality of R&I activity, supporting the greater commercialisation of research and increasing the percentage investment in R&I activities. In this way, actions will complement and add value to actions supported by other EU funded programmes, notably the ERDF and Horizon 2020 programmes.
5. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 3** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Actions to deliver research and innovation qualifications at ISCED Levels 7 (Master's) and 8 (Doctoral) undertaken in partnership between learning providers and enterprise and aligned to the Grand Challenge areas of "Life Sciences and Health"; "Advanced Engineering and Materials"; "Low Carbon, Energy and Environment"; and "ICT and the Digital Economy"; and,
    - Actions driven by the private sector in collaboration with learning providers to increase the supply of individuals with higher skills in research and innovation.
6. The planned actions described above within each Specific Objective provide indicative areas of action which operations could take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet

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Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.

7. Beneficiaries of funding within this Investment Priority and under each of the Specific Objectives above are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations including the Third Sector); education providers; universities; and the private sector.

-

[1] Welsh Government (2014); *Skills implementation plan – Delivering the policy statement on skills* http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en

[2] Wales Employment and Skills Board (2011); *Skills for Jobs: Priorities*

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

1. The common principles to guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities, including targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment, are set out under the Common Principles section of Investment Priority 9i "Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability". These common selection principles will apply equally to this Investment Priority.
2. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**

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Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

3. Investment in skills and qualifications should look to achieve, or progress individuals where possible, to intermediate level or above on the National Qualification Framework (NQF), outlining clear progression routes for those with no / low skills.
4. Actions should be demand led, flexible and responsive to labour market fluctuations; utilising and responding to LMI, to identify skills needs which will underpin economic growth and investment.
5. Operation design should take into consideration the need to stimulate employer demand for skills and incentivise appropriate employer or participant contributions, especially for higher level skills, to help develop a stronger culture of cost sharing within operations.
6. Actions will be consistent with Welsh Government Skills Strategies and the Welsh Government Policy Statement on Skills[1], in line with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan, skills interventions will be aligned with broader initiatives targeting poverty, specifically in-work poverty.
7. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories:
    - Gender;
    - Age (under 25, over 54 years);
    - Disability;
    - Work limiting health conditions;
    - Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
    - Care / Childcare responsibilities.
8. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] Welsh Government Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en

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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

1. The first phase ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments (FI) in ESF concluded that in most cases there was limited potential for FI in the delivery of the actions outlined above and any potential approach is likely to be less effective than a grant based approach in terms of achieving the results sought. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the actions within this Investment Priority.

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

1. This is not applicable for ESF.

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female	Number	ESF	More developed			7,101.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male	Number	ESF	More developed			7,799.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1173F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed			12,104.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority		10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
1173M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number	ESF	More developed			13,296.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed			5,862.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number	ESF	More developed			6,438.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1179F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - Female	Number	ESF	More developed			3,908.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority		10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
1179M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - Male	Number	ESF	More developed			4,292.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1180M	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent - Male	Number	ESF	More developed			125.00	Management Information systems	Quarterly
1181F	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent - Female	Number	ESF	More developed			125.00	Management information systems	Quarterly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	8iv
Title of the investment priority	Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

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2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.3
Title of the specific objective	To improve the position of women in the workforce.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective is to improve the position of women in the workplace. It will specifically target employed women, complementing interventions being taken forward under Priority Axis 1 to increase the employability of those women who are economically inactive or long term unemployed and who face complex barriers to employment. 2. The Specific Objective, recognising the range of factors influencing the position of women in the workforce, as outlined in the Strategy, will also target employers to raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices. 3. While there are some high level measures of women's position in the workforce (such as the gender pay gap, the representation of women in senior positions and the percentage of women who work part time) these measures are directly influenced by a wide range of external factors. ESF interventions taken in isolation cannot result in any significant changes to these measures. 4. Therefore, the direct results for this Specific Objective will focus on the number of the target group gaining a qualification upon leaving and upon the number of participants who have an improved position in the labour market (such as progression to more senior position, an increase in their pay or working hours or a move to more flexible working patterns) upon leaving. The number of enterprises adopting equality and diversity strategies as a result of ESF interventions will also be measured. 5. It may also be possible through evaluation to consider the longer term impact of these interventions on wider socio-economic measures relating to women's position in the workforce in a way that takes account of the range of external factors that influence these measures. 6. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision. The target for participants gaining a qualification upon leaving has been set to maintain the high level of achievement against this measure in current ESF provision while the target for supported enterprises adopting equality and diversity strategies represents our ambition to build upon current achievement and to increase upon the baseline. The target for participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving represents an ambition to achieve a true increase on the baseline while being set at a realistic level that recognises that it is measured at the point when a

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	participant leaves an intervention.

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work														
ID	**Indicator**	**Category of region**	**Measurement unit for indicator**	**Common output indicator used as basis for target setting**	**Baseline value**			**Measurement unit for baseline and target**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**			**M**	**W**	**T**		
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed	Number	employed, including self-employed			73.00	Ratio (%)	2013			73.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1101	Employed, including self-employed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				14.00	Ratio (%)	2013			40.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1109	Employers adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	More developed	Ratio				45.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

1. **Specific Objective 3**
2. In delivering to Specific Objective 3, actions within this Investment Priority will primarily target employed females with some complementary organisational and enterprise based actions also. In raising issues of equality and diversity within the workforce, indirect benefits may be accrued

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Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

to employed males also, although they will not be the target group.

3. Focus will be placed on actions and skills provision to improve the position of women in the workforce, supporting their progression to more senior positions, enabling an increase in their working hours or allowing them to benefit from more flexible working practices, as well as enhancing their job security and enabling them to access a wider range of employment options. Actions will also raise the awareness of employers of gender disadvantage in the workforce.
4. Actions will operate as part of a coordinated Priority Axis to increase the skills levels of women in the workforce and to raise the awareness of employers of issues around gender disadvantage in the workforce. Action will prioritise qualifications at all levels for participants however individuals will also be supported to access training and enter into further learning if relevant. Additionally, in support of the overall Cross Cutting Themes objectives a greater number of employers will have equality and diversity policies in place.
5. Action will be taken to reduce the current under-representation of women at senior levels by supporting their progression within the workplace, through raising their skills levels and equipping them with an increased capability to achieve their full potential and develop their career. Actions will build on the progress made across Wales and by the 2007-2013 ESF programmes for WWV to address and promote gender equality in the workplace in EW.
6. The Equality Impact Assessment supports the view that actions to raise awareness among employers of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies will enable employers to address issues that cause gender disadvantage. Actions will also support efforts to tackle gender stereotyping, , thereby enabling an increased participation of both men and women in non-traditional work areas.
7. Additionally, actions that support the delivery of flexible and practical working solutions to women will support their increased effectiveness and sustainability within the workplace and support them to achieve their full potential. The adoption of flexible working practices is likely to be of significant benefit to women, who may be subject to inequality of opportunity or even discrimination regarding pregnancy and maternity rights, or the need to provide childcare.
8. There is also potential for actions supported under this Specific Objective to deliver some indirect benefits to men through the positive action on addressing gender stereotyping, thereby facilitating an increased participation of both men and women in non-traditional work areas.
9. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of Specific Objective 3 and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay and/or career advancement;
    - Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace; and

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Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

- Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.

10. The planned actions described above provide indicative areas of action which operations could to take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.
11. Beneficiaries of funding within this Investment Priority and under the Specific Objective are expected to be the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations to include the Third Sector); and the private sector.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

1. The common principles to guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities, including targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment, are set out under the Common Principles section of Investment Priority 9i "Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability". These common selection principles will apply equally to this Investment Priority.
2. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**
3. Investments in skills should look to achieve or progress individuals, where possible, to intermediate level or above on the National Qualification Framework (NQF), outlining clear progression routes for those with no / low skills.
4. Actions should be demand led, flexible and responsive to labour market fluctuations; utilising and responding to Labour Market Intelligence to identify skills needs which will underpin economic growth and investment.
5. Actions will have strong linkages with the wider cross cutting theme of equality and actions in other priorities to tackle gender stereotyping and increasing participation of both men and women in non traditional work areas.
6. Actions will be consistent with Welsh Government Skills Strategies and the Welsh Government Policy Statement on Skills[1], the Strategic

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Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Equality Plan and, in line with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan, skills interventions will be aligned with broader initiatives targeting poverty, specifically in-work poverty.

7. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories:
    - Gender;
    - Age (under 25, over 54 years);
    - Disability;
    - Work limiting health conditions;
    - Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
    - Care / Childcare responsibilities.
8. For SO2 it is anticipated, at a programme level, that of the total Employed, including self employed participants target in table 5; 25% will be above 54 years of age and 31% will work part time.
9. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] Welsh Government Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en

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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

1. The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments (FI) in ESF did not specifically review the actions within this objective however in reviewing the remaining elements of the ESF programmes a number of equalities and equal opportunity based actions were considered and the evaluation concluded that in most cases there was limited potential for FI in the delivery of the actions outlined above and any potential approach is likely to be less effective than a grant based approach in terms of achieving the results sought. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the actions within this Investment Priority.

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

1. This is not applicable for ESF.

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2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Number	ESF	More developed	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Number	ESF	More developed	0.00	0.00	300.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth

1. **Promotion of Social Innovation (SI) within the Priority Axis**
2. All operations will be encouraged to consider the opportunities SI provides to pilot or develop innovative approaches to delivery. Operations will be encouraged to consider options to undertake small scale SI to explore alternative delivery models or target specific groups with a view to incorporating and scaling up successful delivery. Such small scale trialling, particularly through commissioning or procurement, will engage the

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third sector, community groups and social partners in a risk based approach to developing new delivery models which can add to and complement successful delivery models already in place.

3. Potential areas for SI actions across the programme might include:
    - targeting of specific under-represented groups with a view to up-scaling into core activity and the delivery of enhanced equality outcomes;
    - trialling, on a risk basis, new models of delivery, especially within well established delivery methodology or approaches; and,
    - support to trial and develop sustainable exit strategies through testing of new delivery models.
4. Opportunities for SI may develop as operations progress. It will not be necessary for SI activity to be fully scoped however the principle and mechanics of trialling and subsequent mainstreaming of lessons learnt will need to be outlined where SI action is anticipated. Larger strategic interventions should have an evidence base indicating where trialling or piloting of approaches would work most effectively.
5. SI actions will be subject to specific monitoring and more rigorous evaluation with lessons learnt being disseminated both within operations and across WEFO. SI actions can take place as discreet elements of larger strategic operations or as discreet stand alone operations.
6. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:
    - Innovative approaches to support the targeting of specific underrepresented target groups.
7. Through this approach it will also be possible to incorporate linkages with LEADER groups within EAFRD (or Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG's) within EMFF). LEADER groups or FLAG's, will be able to engage in commission processes for SI actions particularly for trialling new approaches with a view to mainstreaming successful delivery models. These groups will also be able to work through the regional and spatial approaches described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and in Section 4 of this OP to encourage mainstreaming of activity funded through other ESI funds into collaborative ESF proposals.
8. **Specific Provision for Transnational Cooperation**
9. It is not proposed to target actions supported under this Priority Axis for transnational cooperation. Transnational cooperation actions within the EW ESF Programme will be targeted towards addressing specific needs within EW, while maximising the added value that can be delivered by transnational cooperation. Priority for transnational cooperation actions is therefore given to actions supported by the Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment and Youth Employment Priority Axes, which offer significant opportunity for transnational cooperation to be used to develop common solutions to common and emerging issues; to strengthen capacities to innovate, modernise and adapt to new socio-economic challenges; and to promote and share information and good practice.
10. **The contribution of the ESF to Thematic Objectives 1-7**
11. ESF investments in human capital will be centred on and deliver to the future needs of enterprise and business, supporting the development of a modern, knowledge based economy. ESF investments made under TO 8, 9 and 10 are designed to complement and combine with investments made by ESI funds under TO 1-7. Where clear additionality to provision under EAFRD and EMFF is demonstrable, individuals involved in

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Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth

farming, fishing and aquaculture will be able to access ESF support. This approach will facilitate and enable the optimal realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales and support the integrated approach to implementation outlined in Section 4.

12. ESF investments in this Priority Axis to up-skill the workforce and to address specific skills gaps and support the development of technical skills will underpin the ability of enterprise to increase its productivity and competitiveness, complementing and adding value to ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF investments under TO3 to increase SME productivity including through supporting SME's to grow and increase productivity through diversification into new markets.
13. Non sector specific ESF skills interventions will complement and underpin EAFRD and EMFF actions under TO 2, 3 and 4 to support rural and coastal (including fisheries and aquaculture) businesses to adopt new technology and increase efficiencies and to develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities. There is also potential for skills interventions to complement land based measures being supported by the EAFRD programme under TO 5 and 6.
14. ESF investments could also support, on a demand led basis, the development of the specialised and higher level skills required to realise the potential of investments in ICT and innovative and emergent technologies being supported by the ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF programmes under TO 1, 2 and 4. ESF skills investments could help to realise the ERDF programme's objective to increase the capacity and capability of Welsh businesses to win business in the development and installation of these technologies.

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis		2 - Skills for Growth												
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
~~P2F~~	~~F~~	~~Expenditure~~	~~€~~	~~ESF~~	~~More developed~~			~~50,302,887~~			~~197,212,886.00~~	~~Management Information~~	~~These indicators cover all of Specific~~

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Priority axis		2 - Skills for Growth											
ID	**Indicator type**	**Indicator or key implementation step**	**Measurement unit, where appropriate**	**Fund**	**Category of region**	**Milestone for 2018**			**Final target (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Explanation of relevance of indicator,**
												~~Systems~~	~~Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in East Wales which amounts to approximately 82% of the Priority Axis.~~
~~1172F~~	~~O~~	~~Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female~~	~~Number~~	~~ESF~~	~~More developed~~			~~1,811~~			~~7,101.00~~	~~Management Information Systems~~	~~These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in East Wales which amounts to approximately 82% of the Priority Axis.~~
~~1172M~~P2F	~~O~~F	~~Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male~~Expenditure	~~Number~~€	ESF	More developed			~~1,989~~60,000,000			~~7,799~~178,000,000.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in East Wales which amounts to approximately 82% of the Priority Axis.
1173F	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed			~~3,087~~4898			12,~~104~~000.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in East Wales which amounts to approximately 82% of the Priority Axis.
1173M	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number	ESF	More developed			~~3,391~~5380			~~13,296~~10,000.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in East Wales which amounts to approximately 82% of the Priority Axis.
1178F	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed			1,495			5,862.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in East Wales which amounts to approximately 82% of the Priority Axis.
1178M	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number	ESF	More developed			1,642			6,438.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in East Wales which amounts to approximately 82% of the Priority Axis.

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Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

1. *Financial indicators*
2. The 2023 target is the total Eligible Expenditure allocation for the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 target is based on N+3 Eligible Expenditure.
3. *Output indicators*
4. The overall approach used to set targets within the 2014-2020 WWV ESF programme and the EW ESF programme involved mapping activity from appropriate and comparable projects funded under the 2007-2013 WWV ESF Convergence Programme. These were selected to best reflect the targeted approach and proposed activity to be funded as outlined in the 2014-2020 ESF Programmes. Projects' achievements to date of mapped activity were compared with spend to date and projects' current final targets were compared with their total financial allocation. The resulting ratios were then scaled to indicative funding allocations under the future Specific Objectives of each the Investment Priorities to derive a set of targets for the indicators.
5. In some cases where the ambition of the 2014-2020 programmes was substantially different to the current 2007-13 delivery a policy based approach is utilised selecting comparable targets reflecting the emphasis of the programme within each priority and the aspirations and objectives for change.. In all cases evidence of Unit costs etc. within the current programme are utilised to ensure these policy based targets are achievable within the funding parameters available. In addition, the use of National Statistics, where available, based on the current population share for key demographic groups, is used in order to provide aspirational targets to ensure the fair distribution of funds. This approach is supplemented with additional evidence and experience from the current 2007-2013 programming period and the targeting outlined in the proposed ESF programmes. In some cases a combination of these methods has been used.
6. The 2023 target is the final target for this Output indicator under the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 target is based on the same ratio as the 2018 Financial indicator target, and unit costs.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

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Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	105. Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work	4,930,322.00
ESF	More developed	117. Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences	~~90,553~~81,193,583.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	~~95,483~~86,123,905.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	~~47,035,372~~42,424,636.00
ESF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	~~33,371,625~~30,100,305.00
ESF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	~~15,076,908~~13,598,964.00

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Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	07. Not applicable	~~95,483~~86,123,905.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	01. Supporting the shift to a low-carbon, resource efficient economy	4,420,238.00
ESF	More developed	04. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	8,840,475.00
ESF	More developed	07. Gender equality	~~4,930,322~~5,304,285.00
ESF	More developed	08. Not applicable	~~90,553,583~~67,558,907.00

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	2 - Skills for Growth
1. The planned use of Technical Assistance will be addressed in the specific Technical Assistance Priority Axis.	

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2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	Youth Employment

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. The Priority Axis has been developed in line with the aims of the ESF Programme in EW and in particular the aim:
    - *To invest in our young people to create a vibrant and responsive future workforce with the skills needed to respond to the needs of a challenging knowledge based economy.*
2. Two key programme objectives outlined in the strategy apply also:
    - *To increase youth employment and attainment, thereby reducing poverty and disadvantage in our young people; and*
    - *To reduce inequalities in the labour market amongst women and recognised equality groups.*
3. The recent economic downturn has significantly impacted on youth employment. More young people are finding it harder to move from education into employment.
4. The Priority Axis has been developed to focus on addressing the relatively high youth unemployment in EW with sustainable employment outcomes at its core. The Priority Axis will also include some early preventative actions to support those most at risk of becoming Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) to move through education into employment. Thereby aligning to the Country Specific Recommendations.

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5. This approach and the associated Thematic Objectives (9)(8) - *promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility* and (9)(10) - *Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning* within the Priority Axis will support youth employment outcomes while increasing the potential impact of investments.
6. The Priority Axis will align closely with the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework[1], supporting the identification, tracking and mapping of services and outcomes for young people from education into employment. This alignment will ensure a consistent approach in supporting young people and that ESF investments add value to an integrated approach to achieving the programme aims and objectives.
7. In line with the approach above the definition of 'young people' has been extended to 24 years of age ensuring ESF investments support individuals at most risk as they move through education into sustainable employment, reducing the risk of becoming NEET and ensuring interventions begin early and tackle key transition points.
8. A key challenge will be the effective use of interventions to respond to labour market demands to identify and exploit growth opportunities and continue to enhance the competitiveness of EW. Evidence shows that the fastest growing occupational groups require skills at NQF Levels 3, 4 and above; the fastest declining occupations cluster around NQF Level 2 and below. STEM skills are also seen as vital to areas of future growth and employment[2][3]. In 2013, 39% of UK employers who recruit staff with STEM skills reported difficulties recruiting such skills[4].
9. The alignment of interventions within this Priority Axis will ensure that young people's skills and career aspirations are consistent with employer demand, growth opportunities and the needs of the economy.

[1] Welsh Government: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/;jsessionid=1847D153EF2A644B7B4A0EE1EC4EEDC4?lang=en and http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en

[2] Wales Employment and Skills Board (2011); *Skills for Jobs: Priorities July 2011*

[3] Advanced Materials and Manufacturing (AM&M) Summary Advice from the Sector Panel

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[4] Pearson/CBI Education and Skills Surveys of 2008 and 2013

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ESF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	10i
Title of the investment priority	Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	3.2
Title of the specific objective	To reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET amongst 11-24 year olds.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. This Specific Objective aims to reduce the risk of becoming NEET amongst 11-24 year olds with a specific focus on those at highest risk. The investments will complement actions across the priority targeting NEET and Youth Unemployment by taking early action amongst those who are in education to reduce the risk of them dropping out of education or not entering employment following education.

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	2. Alignment of investments within this priority to the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and its core standards on early identification of those at risk of NEET will ensure a consistent approach to the identification and tracking of individuals within this cohort. 3. The Early identification approach focuses as a core, on attendance, behaviour and attainment indicators in defining risk of NEET although other local indicators may be added. The primary result of interventions within this Specific Objective therefore will be a reduced risk of NEET as measured by the tracking systems within the framework. 4. Additional measures of reduced risk will include measuring the number of qualifications gained and, reflecting the importance of targeting key transition points in the reduction of risk of NEET, measuring progression into further education or training. 5. Alignment with the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework will also ensure that actions within this Specific Objective will help address in the longer term the structural and persistent issues of non-engagement which are present through all economic conditions. 6. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision or similar activity elsewhere. For the reduced risk of NEET measure, it has not been possible to set a baseline as the Framework is a new approach which, in part, is responding to lessons learnt through ESF and other activity on the need for early and consistent identification mechanisms. For this same reason, it is not currently possible to set a target value for this indicator. An Action Plan has therefore been set out in Table 25 of Section 9 to establish this target value by the end of December 2016. 7. For the other measures, the targets reflect baselines which have a wider previous definition of Risk of NEET and therefore remain challenging for this more defined cohort.

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
1125	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) gaining qualifications upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				27.00	Ratio (%)	2013			27.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1127	Participants at risk of becoming NEET(11-24) into education or training upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				18.00	Ratio (%)	2013			18.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1128	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				0.00	Ratio (%)	2013			0.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training
1. In delivering to **Specific Objective 2**, actions within this Investment Priority will target young people between the ages of 11-24 at highest risk of becoming NEET, as identified through the identification and tracking system outlined in the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and	

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Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Progression Framework.

2. Actions will operate as part of a coordinated Priority Axis which delivers to the longer term needs of our young people, supporting the engagement of those at highest risk of NEET through transitions from education into employment, providing a range of interventions which will complement and add value, but do not duplicate, mainstream services.
3. Action will prioritise qualification and further learning outcomes for participants however utilising the identification and tracking system within the Youth Employment and Progression Framework, results associated with a reduction of risk of NEET will also be achieved. Actions will also positively reinforce choices and help to break down traditional gender stereotypes in employment and learning and broaden horizons for non traditional job roles or employment sectors.
4. Increasing attainment levels, reducing ESL and early action on NEET, focused on those at highest risk of disengagement or becoming NEET, will support the Priority Axis objective of reducing youth unemployment through early structural interventions preventing disadvantage and disengagement.
5. Increased competition in the labour market puts a sharper focus on the importance of supporting early attainment and engagement[1]. Early intervention to reduce risk of NEET can have significant longer term impacts. The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework notes that failure to engage young people increases the costs associated with health and social services and contributes to the challenges associated with long-term unemployment, while the Wales Audit Office estimates the lifetime cost of the current numbers of young people 16-18 who are NEET is £626 million in public finance costs and £1.21 billion in resource costs.[2]
6. Due to the nature of the NEET cohort, actions will naturally focus on but will not be limited to supporting those young people (11-24) from specific groups including young offenders, young people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds, teenage mothers and young people with disabilities or with special educational needs or care leavers who might face additional barriers to engagement or attainment.
7. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 2** and to the target groups identified above could include Actions planned to deliver to Specific Objective 2 and to the target groups above include:
    - Early targeted action to combat disaffection, provide access to a broader and innovative range of learning options supporting the acquisition of both vocational and higher level skills and prevent young people from falling out of education; and
    - Actions to help those who are, or at risk of becoming, NEET to continue or re-engage with education, to develop their skills and attainment, to make more effective career decisions and to gain access to the alternative curriculum.
8. The planned actions described above within each theme provide indicative areas of action which operations delivering to this Specific Objective could take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to

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Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.

9. Beneficiaries of funding are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations including the Third Sector); education providers; universities and the private sector.

[1] UKCES (2011) The Youth Enquiry: Employer Perspectives on Tackling Youth Unemployment

[2] Wales Audit Office (2014); *Young people not in education, employment or training*

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

1. The common principles to guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities, including targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment, are set out under the Common Principles section of Investment Priority 9i "Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability". These common selection principles will apply equally to this Investment Priority.
2. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**
3. Actions must respond to labour market demands to identify and exploit growth opportunities and continue to enhance the competitiveness of the area. Actions must be responsive to the needs of the economy, aligned to labour market information and be linked to employers to ensure that skills, interventions and the career aspirations of our young people are consistent with employer demand and emerging growth opportunities.

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Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

4. Interventions will integrate with actions within Specific Objective 1 of this Priority Axis to support progression at key transition points for those at most risk of becoming NEET and will work with wider initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of our young people.
5. Actions must align to the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework[1].
6. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories:
    - Gender;
    - Disability;
    - Work limiting health conditions;
    - Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
    - Care / Childcare responsibilities.
7. For SO2 it is anticipated, at a programme level, that of the total at risk of becoming NEET participants (11-24, male and female) target in table 5; 10% will have a disability.
8. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] Welsh Government:
http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/;jsessionid=1847D153EF2A644B7B4A0EE1EC4EEDC4?lang=en

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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training
The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments in ESF concluded that FI for the proposed actions were inappropriate, unlikely to be cost effective and be too dependent on uncertain employment outcomes. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the proposed actions.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training
1. Not applicable for ESF.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training**					
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**	**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**

compare report

					M	**W**	**T**		
1028	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24)	Number	ESF	More developed			13,000.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	8ii
Title of the investment priority	Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	3.1
Title of the specific objective	To reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET).
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The aim of this Specific Objective, as part of the integrated approach within the priority to address issues of NEET and Youth Unemployment, is to reduce the number of 16-24 years olds who are NEET. This will include those who are unemployed or economically inactive. 2. In line with the Country Specific Recommendations, the impact of investments within this Specific Objective, taking into account in-flow and outflow rates, will be to reduce youth unemployment rates in EW. It will also reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are NEET. 3. Direct results of the ESF investments will be centred on measuring the number of those who are classified as NEET 16-24 who move into either Education or Employment as a result of ESF support. Additional result indicators will also measure the number of NEET 16-24 who achieve a qualification as a pathway to sustainable employment, also reflecting the Country Specific Recommendations to reduce the number of young people with low basic skills. 4. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF

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	provision or similar activity elsewhere. Targets have been set to reflect the overarching ambition to help those whoa re NEET to access employment building on significant success in the current programme. Other targets reflect baselines as these are deemed to be appropriate whilst not detracting from the need for employment outcomes.

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
1123	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) in education/training upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				17.00	Ratio (%)	2013			17.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1124	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				25.00	Ratio (%)	2013			28.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1183	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving	More developed	Ratio				18.00	Ratio (%)	2013			20.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

1. In delivering to **Specific Objective 1**, actions under this Investment Priority will target young people of working age (from 16 up to and including age 24) who are classified as NEET, including unemployed or economically inactive.

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Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

2. Actions will operate as part of a coordinated Priority Axis which delivers to the longer term needs of our young people, providing a range of interventions to support and facilitate access to sustained employment both for those who are ready for work and for those who may require additional skills and work focused interventions.
3. Action will prioritise employment outcomes for participants however individuals will also receive support to access further learning, gain qualifications and participate in training as part of supporting access and progression to sustainable employment. For those young people within this target group who may have experienced prolonged periods of worklessness, Interventions may for a short period and where appropriate, provide appropriate measures, such as mentoring, to ensure the sustainability of employment outcomes.
4. ESF investments through this Investment Priority will align with the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to ensure that investments add value to existing mapped provision and are delivered as part of a coordinated response to addressing the challenges faced by young people in accessing Sustainable Employment. Actions will also help deliver and add value to the Welsh Government Youth Guarantee, enhancing support mechanisms to access a good-quality job traineeship**,** or continued education for those beyond the first time transition from compulsory education.
5. In addition to the specific objectives of the cross cutting themes and horizontal principles, investments will look to positively reinforce choice and actions which help to break down traditional gender stereotypes in employment and learning and broaden horizons for non traditional job roles or employment sectors, such as females in industries where STEM subjects are required (e.g. Engineering, Information Technology).
6. On-going changes in the UK Government Welfare system will bring challenges to the implementation of the youth employment agenda within this Priority Axis. Interventions will need to complement and add value to mainstream delivery whilst avoiding duplication. This will require a certain amount of flexibility to adapt to the changing environment. The principles of specific eligibility around mainstream UK Government programmes will be addressed through the Welsh eligibility guidance documentation, made available via the WEFO website and updated throughout the Programme period.
7. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 1** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Actions to ensure that young people gain the skills, competencies and experience required to access sustainable employment, including self-employment;
    - Actions to support young people to return to education or training to further develop the skills for future employment;
    - Actions to support young people to access and maintain sustained employment; and
    - Activities with enterprises and educators to challenge traditional assumptions and stereotypes and to raise participation levels in occupations and sectors where a particular gender or recognised equality groups are under-represented.
8. The planned actions described above provide indicative areas of action which operations delivering to this Specific Objective could take forward.

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Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.

9. Beneficiaries of funding are expected to be the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations); education providers; universities; and the private sector.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

1. The common principles to guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities, including targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment, are set out under the Common Principles section of Investment Priority 9i "Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability". These common principles will apply equally to this Investment Priority.
2. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**
3. Actions must be designed to align with the principles of ensuring that employers have a suitably qualified workforce for the future, that skills development and attainment levels are aligned with growth activity and that young people are engaged in appropriate education and training to meet employment growth areas and employer demand. LMI will form a key part in supporting investments to align interventions with the needs of employers now and in the future.
4. Interventions will integrate with actions within Specific Objective 2 of this Priority Axis to support progression for those at most risk of becoming NEET at key transition points and will work with wider initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of our young people.
5. Actions must align to the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework[1].
6. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories:
    - Gender;

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Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

- Disability;
- Work limiting health conditions;
- Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
- Care / Childcare responsibilities

7. For SO1 it is anticipated, at a programme level, that of the total NEET participants (16-24, male and female) target in table 5; 24% will have a disability.
8. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.

[1] Welsh Government:
http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/;jsessionid=1847D153EF2A644B7B4A0EE1EC4EEDC4?lang=en

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

1. The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments (FI) in ESF concluded that FI for the proposed actions were inappropriate, unlikely to be cost effective and be too dependent on uncertain employment outcomes. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the proposed actions. There was seen to be some limited opportunity to utilise ESF FI to support self employment especially around business start up however it was considered that a more cost effective approach would be to ensure closer integration with ERDF funded activity in this area.

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Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee
1. This is not applicable for ESF.	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	More developed			21,200.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment

1. **Promotion of Social Innovation (SI) within the Priority Axis.**
2. All operations will be encouraged to consider the opportunities SI provides to pilot or develop innovative approaches to delivery. Operations will be encouraged to consider options to undertake small scale SI activities to explore alternative delivery models or target specific groups with a view to incorporating and scaling up successful delivery. Such small scale trialling, particularly through commissioning or procurement, will engage the third sector, community groups and social partners in a risk based approach to developing new delivery models which can add to and complement successful delivery models already in place. Through this approach it will also be possible to incorporate linkages with LEADER groups within the EAFRD programme.
3. Potential areas for SI actions across the programme might include:
    - targeting of specific under-represented groups with a view to up-scaling into core activity and the delivery of enhanced equality outcomes;
    - trialling, on a risk basis, new models of delivery, especially within well established delivery methodology or approaches; and
    - support to trial and develop sustainable exit strategies through testing of new delivery models.
4. Opportunities for SI may develop as operations progress. It will not be necessary for SI activity to be fully scoped however the principle and mechanics of trialling and subsequent mainstreaming of lessons learnt will need to be outlined where SI action is anticipated. Larger strategic interventions should have an evidence base indicating where trialling or piloting of approaches would work most effectively.
5. SI actions will be subject to specific monitoring and more rigorous evaluation with lessons learnt being disseminated both within operations and across WEFO. SI actions can take place as discreet elements of larger strategic operations or as discreet stand alone operations.
6. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:
    - Innovative approaches to engaging with young people furthest from the labour market with complex and long term barriers, supporting them to access the labour market and achieve sustainable employment; and
    - Innovative approaches targeting those at highest risk of NEET in order to increase engagement and attainment and reduce Early School Leaving.
7. Through this approach it will also be possible to incorporate linkages with LEADER groups within EAFRD (or Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG's) within EMFF). LEADER groups or FLAG's, will be able to engage in commission processes for SI actions particularly for trialling new approaches with a view to mainstreaming successful delivery models. These groups will also be able to work through the regional and spatial approaches described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and in Section 4 of this OP to encourage mainstreaming of activity funded through other ESI funds into collaborative ESF proposals.

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Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment

8. **Specific Provision for Transnational Cooperation**
9. Transnational cooperation actions will be targeted towards addressing specific needs within EW while maximising the added value that can be delivered by transnational cooperation.
10. Actions will involve stakeholders from the public, higher and further education, third and private sectors. Operations may be wholly comprised of transnational cooperation activity or feature transnational cooperation as one strand within the wider operation.
11. Actions will be expected to support transnational cooperation with other Member States which are facing similar challenges to EW and working to common goals. Actions should support transnational partnership working to share good practice and to develop common and innovative approaches to common challenges.
12. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:
    - Actions to share good practice and develop common and innovative approaches to supporting young people, including those who are NEET, to access the labour market.
13. **The contribution of the ESF to Thematic Objectives 1-7**
14. ESF investments in human capital will be centred on and deliver to the future needs of enterprise and business, supporting the development of a modern, knowledge based economy. ESF investments made under TO 8, 9 and 10 are designed to complement and combine with investments made by ESI funds under TO 1-7. Where clear additionality to provision under EAFRD and EMFF is demonstrable, individuals from farming and fishing communities will be able to access ESF support. This approach will facilitate and enable the optimal realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales and support the integrated approach to implementation outlined in Section 4.
15. ESF interventions in this Priority Axis will engage young people in appropriate education and training to deliver the qualified future workforce required by employers. In this way actions will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF interventions under TO3 to support SME's to stimulate business growth, diversification and expansion into new markets, develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities, encourage start ups and improve the productivity of SMEs.
16. ESF interventions, by equipping our young people with the skills and ability to engage in entrepreneurial activity, will also support ERDF interventions under TO 3 to promote entrepreneurship. Those young entrepreneurs seeking self-employment will be able to access financial support and advice provided through ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF, avoiding duplication of activity.
17. Actions to support young people to access the labour market will work in conjunction with ERDF and EAFRD. Interventions under TO4 and 7 to increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres and to improve rural connectivity, thereby ensuring that ESF interventions to enable young people to access sustainable employment will complement sustainable transport solutions to improve physical accessibility to employment centres.
18. ESF interventions in youth attainment will support the development of a future workforce that is equipped with the specialised and higher level

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Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment

skills required to realise the potential of ERDF supported investments in ICT and innovative and emergent technologies under TO1, 2 and 4. Actions will also develop a future workforce that is equipped to realise the potential of EAFRD and EMFF actions under T 2, 3 and 4 to support rural and coastal businesses to adopt new technology and increase efficiencies and to develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities.

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis		3 - Youth Employment											
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
P3F	F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed			30,596,600			~~119,954,230~~132,000,000.00	Management Information Systems	NEET Participants (16-24 years of age) ensure appropriate representation of the Priority Axis, forming 75% of the Priority Axis in East Wales.
1027	O	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	More developed			5,407			21,200.00	Management Information Systems	NEET Participants (16-24 years of age) ensure appropriate representation of the Priority Axis, forming 75% of the Priority Axis in East Wales.

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Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

1. *Financial indicators*
2. The 2023 target is the total Eligible Expenditure allocation for the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 target is based on N+3 Eligible Expenditure.
3. *Output indicators*
4. The overall approach used to set targets within the 2014-2020 WWV ESF programme and the EW ESF programme involved mapping activity from appropriate and comparable projects funded under the 2007-2013 WWV ESF Convergence Programme. These were selected to best reflect the targeted approach and proposed activity to be funded as outlined in the 2014-2020 ESF Programmes. Projects' achievements to date of mapped activity were compared with spend to date and projects' current final targets were compared with their total financial allocation. The resulting ratios were then scaled to indicative funding allocations under the future Specific Objectives of each the Investment Priorities to derive a set of targets for the indicators.
5. In some cases where the ambition of the 2014-2020 programmes was substantially different to the current 2007-13 delivery a policy based approach is utilised selecting comparable targets reflecting the emphasis of the programme within each priority and the aspirations and objectives for change.. In all cases evidence of Unit costs etc. within the current programme are utilised to ensure these policy based targets are achievable within the funding parameters available. In addition, the use of National Statistics, where available, based on the current population share for key demographic groups, is used in order to provide aspirational targets to ensure the fair distribution of funds. This approach is supplemented with additional evidence and experience from the current 2007-2013 programming period and the targeting outlined in the proposed ESF programmes. In some cases a combination of these methods has been used.
6. The 2023 targets are the final targets for this Output indicator under the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 targets are based on the same ratio as the 2018 Financial indicator target, and unit costs.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

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Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	103. Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	44,982,836.00
ESF	More developed	115. Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training	20,844,279.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	65,827,115.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	39,509,434.00
ESF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	20,873,778.00
ESF	More developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	5,443,903.00

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Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	07. Not applicable	65,827,115.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	08. Not applicable	65,827,115.00

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	3 - Youth Employment
1. The planned use of Technical Assistance will be addressed in the specific Technical Assistance Priority Axis.	

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.

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	5
Title of the priority axis	Public services reform and regional working

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

This priority axis covers one category of region, but will be closely coordinated with an identical priority under the other Wales ESF programme (different category of region). It only covers one thematic objective and a single fund.

There is an increasing evidence base pointing to the importance of institutional capacity as a factor affecting the relative success of regional investments (OECD). Having the right capacity in place can therefore magnify the effect and impact of regional investments; with ineffective arrangements having a negative effect. As such, a lack of capacity in Welsh regions risks undermining investments made across the entire suite of European Structural and Investment (ESI) programmes in Wales and beyond. Effectively operating regional arrangements can better integrate investments in places and improve the effectiveness and impact of those investments both collectively and individually.

The 2007-2013 ESF programmes kick-started a process of regionalisation in Wales, supporting the creation of regional skills partnerships and building capacity for improved collaborative working. Since the 2014-2020 programmes were negotiated in 2014 the Welsh Government has further developed a

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coherent policy framework that commits to regionalisation in those areas where it provides added value; providing a sound basis on which to create the state changes needed for the next phase. This includes:

- **Prosperity for All (September 2017).** This indicates "*It is only through closer working, on a consistent regional basis, that the resilience and responsiveness of services can be maintained in the future*". Commitments are made to respond to the diverse needs of different regions, working with partners in those regions in areas such as skills and economic development.

- **Economic Action Plan (December 2017).** This describes the need to ensure "*the different players in our economy - from the emerging City Deals and local government reform structures, to the new Development Bank of Wales and Regional Skills Partnerships – work together on a clear footprint with businesses and other partners in a new, strategic and more collaborative partnership to support distinctive regional strengths*"

- **Employability Plan (March 2018).** This identified a range of relevant actions, such as the need to "*prioritise the co-location of local services to simplify employability support for the individual*", "*to provide a holistic view of local and regional employability support*" and to "*strengthen the governance and expertise of the Regional Skills Partnerships to ensure that they provide regional leadership and robust labour market intelligence*". Working in tandem with the Economic Action Plan this will "*encourage local and regional growth and innovation in relation to skills*".

Plans for regionalisation across Wales have been developed over time, initially stimulated by investments made by ESF during 2007-2013. Further, proposals for local government reform reflect the reality facing public service delivery with falling budgets, increased demands on services, and an ageing population. Dedicated additional investment could lever quicker, wider and more systematic reform and could demonstrate significant added value in driving structural reform in public service delivery and collaboration.

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[1] http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ESF	More developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	11i
Title of the investment priority	Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	5
Title of the specific objective	Public services reform and regional working
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	The result indicator selected takes into account Commission guidance (*Guidance Document on Indicators of Public Administration Capacity* *Building*, 2014) which makes clear indicators need to the related to the capacity/state change of the public body (e.g. new

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	integrated structures or delivery models), not the performance change (i.e. effects on services), which is an impact measure. - The indicator is directly linked to the European Commission core indicator, which offers a broad result indicator that can capture the result of a range of activity. Supported units in this case will primarily be entities involved in public service delivery (primarily national, regional, local government, and third sector bodies), but beneficiaries (delivering projects) may provide expertise to those supported units (e.g. HE/FE, research institutions). - A central outcome of investment will be the development and dissemination of improved working methods, procedures, and tools. This will be captured by a single result indicator for the development of new methods, procedures and tools; with them considered developed once disseminated.

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
1184	Number of new methods, procedures, and tools developed and disseminated	Less developed	Number				0.00	Number	2018			8.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

In delivering the results sought there will be a series of complementary investment needed in people, organisations and systems. All investments are expected to align directly to the regionalisation agenda of the Welsh Government, as described in Prosperity for All[1], the Economic Action Plan[2], and the Employability Plan[3]. These, alongside emerging proposals for local government reform, provide the policy framework for activity under this Priority.

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

Our approach will need to be flexible and responsive. It will change over time, as the tasks being undertaken change. There will be some core, common elements and some bespoke provision, recognising that capacity and specific capability will vary between regions and entities.

-

While the emphasis is likely to be on the role of local government and the specific opportunities for integration and transformation stemming from those organisations coming together, the Specific Objective will also need to ensure other stakeholders, in particular the third sector and other delivery bodies are a central part of proposals, dependent on the service / activity being examined.

-

Governance is particularly important to the public sector because of the accountability held by stakeholders. Good governance can increase trust, citizen engagement and social capital. Any reform of governance structures should not lead to overcomplicated structures: given the small size of Wales this could negatively affect service delivery

-

The approach to this Priority seeks to learn lessons from previous experience and from others' experiences, by taking a more incremental approach that focusses on the state changes, rather than the long-term impact desired (which is dependent on factors outside of the control of an ESF investment programme). In particular we will seek to build on the solid progress made to date on improving regionalisation and cooperation between public service

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

providers, such as the development of regional skills partnerships and improving integrated planning and delivery of economic development and skills activities in places. The nature of emerging Local Government reform proposals will bring challenges to the implementation of this priority, requiring a staged and flexible approach to implementation, but all options being considered will strengthen collaboration and regional working by simplifying arrangements and promoting collaboration. Added value, particularly in terms of making long-needed reforms take place, is clear.

-

Regional working and planning is expected to focus on cohering a fragmented policy and planning landscape across the Welsh regions, in particular for economic development, skills, strategic land use, and transport planning. Various initiatives operate on regional footprints, with related capacity issues created, potential inefficiencies, and risks to strategic and integrated planning approaches. For example there are different arrangements for City Deals, Growth Deals, prioritising ESI funding, skills, planning regional regeneration investments, and a range of other spatial initiatives that could be more effectively coordinated and integrated if long-standing structural weaknesses can be addressed.

-

Social innovation and innovation in service delivery is also expected to feature prominently in this priority. ESF offers an opportunity to develop, pilot, evaluate and disseminate new ways of working across public services, for example in applying new technology such as the use of big data.

-

Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of this Specific Objective may include (but are not limited to):

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

- Assessments of capacity and capability for collaborative working, including development / application of toolkits and the transfer of new / improved methods and procedures. This could include transnational activity and international benchmarking.

-

- Building capacity and capability within existing partnerships, moving them to a more sustainable footing. For example addressing specific gaps in provision, investing in skills, governance, integrating different policy areas, or using new tools, methods and procedures.

-

- Targeted investments for specific regional or collaborative partnerships where a capacity and capability assessment has been completed and a clear plan to sustainably address constraints and weaknesses is in place.

-

- Innovative activities that promote social innovation, the use of new technology / techniques, delivery of new services, and integration of services. Support might be expected to cover idea development, piloting, evaluation and dissemination of results.

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

- Development and implementation of new approaches to integrated service delivery, linked to local government reform, including skills and shared services (e.g. via digital solutions, online provision, aggregated administration, one-stop-shops, joint / shared services, pooled specialist services, etc.)

-

- Training to provide staff with skills, models and tools to deliver organisational change and service improvement, particularly leadership.

.

All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.

-

Beneficiaries of funding under each of the Specific Objectives above are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations including the Third Sector); Research Organisations and higher/further education bodies; and the private sector. The end beneficiary is expected to be involved in public service design and delivery and regional planning.

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

Operations will not support ongoing running costs and are not intended to simply address funding gaps in normal service delivery. Operations must demonstrate that investment will lead to a state change for the related partnership or service and be sustainable in the long-term once the operation is complete.

-

[1] http://gov.wales/docs/strategies/170919-prosperity-for-all-en.pdf

[2] http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf

[3] http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/180319-employability-plan-en.pdf

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

The following common principles will guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities:

-

- An focus on supporting sustainable jobs, productivity, employment and growth and operations which facilitate the role of the third sector and private sector in the delivery of public services;

-

- Interventions should seek to integrate economic, social and environmental outcomes, consistent with the central organising principle of sustainable development and contributing to the outcomes of the cross cutting themes;

-

- Opportunities to achieve greater leverage from the deployment of EU funds, particularly with the private and third sector; and also more collaborative investments where these can add value and achieve outcomes;

-

- Clear added value, when compared with other ways of supporting and delivering policy, based on sound evidence;

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

- Evidence of opportunity will form the foundation of the design and delivery of operations with investments building on existing and emerging expertise, with human capital delivering to future needs;

-

- Prioritisation of key strategic operations that underpin the Specific Objectives and which deliver significant outcomes, will be a core part of a portfolio management approach to programme delivery; and

-

- Clear exit strategies need to be in place at the outset which fully consider the role of the third sector and private sector, build social resilience and tackle poverty within communities, promote equality, and achieve legacy effects.

-

Operations will need to consider a range of targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment. The degree of targeting will vary according to the intervention and, where appropriate, should reflect:

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

- Clear identification of the specific target groups, their needs and how actions will address these needs at a national, regional or local level as appropriate;

-

- Growth sectors (e.g. specifically the Welsh Government identified National Thematic and Foundation sectors, Grand Challenge areas in Science for Wales and the areas of specialisation in Innovation Wales); and

-

- Areas of specific geographical opportunity (e.g. City region or other regional opportunity, regional skills needs, Rural or Regeneration Area).

Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority

-

- All interventions will be expected to demonstrate alignment with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the related five ways of working.

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

- Interventions will need to be aligned with the policy framework for regionalisation, including Prosperity for All, the Economic Action Plan, the Employability Plan and emerging proposals for local government reform

-

- Wherever possible options for accredited training should be considered, whilst recognising this will not always be possible

-

- With the exception of innovative actions, interventions are expected to target reform that builds sustainable capacity in the long-term, with a focus on integration and transformation of public service delivery (e.g. structural, systemic, horizontal change)

-

While the beneficiary (i.e. delivering operations) may be broader (e.g. also including Higher Education/Further Education), the target groups of this priority will be:

-

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance
• Public administration on national, regional and local level - • Stakeholders, such as social partners, NGOs/CSOs, - • Individuals working within and with the entities noted above	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance
It is not proposed to utilise Financial Instruments in the delivery of the proposed actions. -	

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2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance
This is not applicable for ESF. -	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local	Number	ESF	Less developed			4.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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Investment priority		11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance								
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	level								
1182	Number of methods, processes and tools being developed with support	Number	ESF	More developed			10.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
1183	Number of entities* participating in projects target public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Number	ESF	More developed			15.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	5 - Public services reform and regional working

Promotion of Social Innovation (SI) within the Priority Axis

All operations will be encouraged to consider the opportunities SI provides to pilot or develop innovative approaches to delivery. Operations will be encouraged to consider options to undertake small scale SI activities to explore alternative delivery models or target specific groups with a view to incorporating and scaling up successful delivery. Such small scale trialling, particularly through commissioning or procurement, will engage the third sector, community groups and social partners in a risk based approach to developing new delivery models which can add to and complement successful

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Priority axis	5 - Public services reform and regional working

delivery models already in place.

Potential areas for SI actions across the programme might include:

- targeting of specific under-represented groups with a view to up-scaling into core activity and the delivery of enhanced equality outcomes;
- trialling, on a risk basis, new models of delivery, especially within well established delivery methodology or approaches; and
- support to trial and develop sustainable exit strategies through testing of new delivery models.

Opportunities for SI may develop as operations progress. It will not be necessary for SI activity to be fully scoped however the principle and mechanics of trialling and subsequent mainstreaming of lessons learnt will need to be outlined where SI action is anticipated. Larger strategic Interventions should have an evidence base indicating where trialling or piloting of approaches would work most effectively.

SI actions will be subject to specific monitoring and more rigorous evaluation with lessons learnt being disseminated both within operations and across WEFO. SI actions can take place as discreet elements of larger strategic operations or as discreet stand alone operations.

Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:

- Innovative approaches to public service transformation with a view to improving efficiency, improving public services, making them more sustainable, and enhancing social integration and access to services; and
- Innovative actions to support the development of entirely new systems, processes and services, such as new uses for data for planning and service

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delivery; and

Through this approach it will may also be possible to incorporate linkages with LEADER groups within EAFRD (or Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG's) within EMFF). LEADER groups or FLAG's, will be able to engage in commission processes for SI actions particularly for trialling new approaches with a view to mainstreaming successful delivery models. These groups will also be able to work through the regional and spatial approaches described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and in Section 4 of this OP to encourage mainstreaming of activity funded through other ESI funds into collaborative ESF proposals.

Specific Provision for Transnational Cooperation

Transnational cooperation actions will be targeted towards addressing specific needs within WWV while maximising the added value that can be delivered by transnational cooperation. Actions could involve stakeholders from the public, higher and further education, third and private sectors. Operations may be wholly comprised of transnational cooperation activity or feature transnational cooperation as one strand within the wider operation.

Actions will be expected to support transnational cooperation with other Member States which are facing similar challenges to WWV and working to common goals. Actions should support transnational partnership working to share good practice and to develop and pilot innovative solutions, to develop and share high level skills and expertise and to develop and share skills and expertise that will support a modern knowledge-based economy and modern, adaptable and agile public services.

Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:

- Actions to share good practice and develop innovative approaches to public services transformation, local government reform and regional planning;

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Priority axis	5 - Public services reform and regional working

- Transferring and translating international experience to the Welsh context.

The contribution of the ESF to Thematic Objectives 1-7

ESF investments under this Priority Axis are fundamental to supporting citizens across the whole economy, and in turn businesses by providing the best possible planning and investment context. This priority will ensure suitable capacity and capabliity is available to deliver to the future needs of enterprise and business, supporting the development of a modern, knowledge based economy. ESF investments are designed to complement and combine with investments made by ESI funds under TOs 1-7. This approach will facilitate and enable the optimal realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales and support the integrated approach to implementation outlined in Section 4.

ESF interventions in this Priority Axis will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF interventions under TO3 to stimulate business growth, develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities, encourage start ups and improve the productivity of SMEs through:

- Improving public service provision, increacing the attractiveness of places and the supply of work-ready individuals, supporting SME's to grow and increase productivity, including through diversification and expansion into new markets;

- Improving regional coordination and planning to support a more sustainable, predicable and reliable planning context to encourge long-term investments;

- Increasing productivity by supporting individuals and enterprise to address underemployment resulting from in-work barriers such as work limiting health conditions and reducing the number of hours lost to sickness.

The integrated approach to tackling poverty across ESI fund programmes will see ESF interventions within this Priority Axis integrate with ERDF and EAFRD actions under TO4 and 7 to increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres and to improve rural connectivity. Thereby ensuring that ESF interventions to address barriers to accessing sustainable employment will complement sustainable transport solutions to

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Priority axis	5 - Public services reform and regional working
improve physical accessibility to employment centres. There will also be complementarity with ERDF investments to reduce the number and percentage of households living in fuel poverty under TO4, both mitigating the impacts of poverty and equipping people to move out of poverty through employment.	

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis			5 - Public services reform and regional working										
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO22	O	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Number	ESF	More developed			1			4.00	Monitoring data	
P1F	F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed			0			26.00	Monitoring data	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

compare report

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	~~3 - Youth Employment~~5 - Public services reform and regional working		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
~~ESF~~	~~More developed~~	~~103. Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee~~	~~44,982,836.00~~
ESF	More developed	~~115. Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training~~119. Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	~~14,994,279~~15,210,000.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	~~3 - Youth Employment~~5 - Public services reform and regional working		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	~~59,977,115~~15,210,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	~~3 - Youth Employment~~5 - Public services reform and regional working		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
~~ESF~~	~~More developed~~	~~01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)~~	~~35,998,264.00~~

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Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment5 - Public services reform and regional working		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	19,018,743.00
ESF	More developed	0307. Rural areas (thinly populated)Not applicable	4,960,10815,210,000.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	35 - Youth Employment Public services reform and regional working		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	07. Not applicable	59,977,11515,210,000.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	35 - Youth Employment Public services reform and regional working		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	More developed	08. Not applicable	59,977,11515,210,000.00

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	3 - Youth Employment

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Priority axis:	5 - Public services reform and regional working
~~1. The planned use of Technical Assistance will be addressed in the specific Technical Assistance Priority Axis.~~	

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2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	4
Title of the priority axis	Technical Assistance

2.B.2 Justification for establishing a priority axis covering more than one category of region (where applicable)

1. Technical Assistance (TA) funded actions, as with the 2007-2013 programmes, will be developed as part of mono fund priorities but will be delivered by the Managing Authority (MA) and relevant stakeholders as part of collaborative and integrated approaches across the ERDF and ESF programmes for the West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales programme areas. The approach outlined in the priority axis below will be mirrored across these programme areas and reflected in the result and output indicators selected.
2. The approach builds on the successful implementation of TA activity in the 2007-2013 programmes which utilised TA to enhance implementation arrangements, providing additional capacity for programme support and development, research and monitoring activity and programme promotion. TA was also utilised in the direct support of salary costs by the MA and relevant stakeholders.
3. Supporting direct salary costs within the 2014-2020 programmes of the MA, Certifying Authority (CA), Audit Authority (AA) and partners is considered an important element of the delivery of the programmes. It is proposed for the 2014-2020 programmes to utilise TA to continue to support those posts identified within the 2007-2013 programme as increasing the capacity of the administrative functions of the relevant authorities and partners. In line with this approach, any new additional posts required for the 2014-2020 programmes to further develop the audit and administrative function of the MA, CA and AA, will also be supported by TA. The resources of the Welsh Government and its partners will be used alongside the TA resource.
4. A number of programme level evaluation and external reviews have been undertaken during the 2007-2013 programmes[1] which have covered a number of areas supported through TA funded activity including:
    - The enhanced programme management and monitoring arrangements, to include the Project Development Officer (PDO) function;

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- specialist and technical guidance and support, including the Specialist European Teams (SET) and Cross Cutting teams;
- research and evaluation;
- information and publicity, including operating a customer helpline; and
- strengthened audit arrangements and irregularities' management

5. The findings of the evaluations showed that there is widespread support for the PDO role and support services for beneficiaries, delivered through the MA and SET bringing genuine programme benefits and ensuring that the appraisal and management processes are well understood and effectively implemented. The successful management of the 2007-2013 Welsh programmes has also been recognised through a number of awards to Wales including the 'Region of Excellence' Awards and four project based RegioStars awards.
6. It is important that TA funds are used during the 2014-2020 programmes to maintain this strong position and deliver further improvements.

[1] The Guilford Review of Implementation Arrangements (2012): WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009: The Effectiveness of Implementation in the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programming Period Final Report. (January 2011); Thematic Evaluations of 2007-2013 EU Structural Funds Programmes; and Spatial European Teams Evaluation (November 2010).

2.B.3 Fund and category of region

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ESF	More developed	Total

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support

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ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
4.1	To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes	1. Specific Objective 1 aims to ensure that the programmes are delivered efficiently and effectively in Wales. The key measure underpinning this objective and forming part of the compliance report for the programme is the irregularity rate. This measure displays the total value of irregularities for the programme reported to OLAF as a percentage of total certified eligible expenditure claimed by projects. 2. In 2013 the irregularity rate for the programme area was 0.17%, well below the 2% threshold used by the EC to implement corrective action. 3. In addition, the WEFO error rate, published by the Audit Authority in the Annual Control Report will also be used as a measure to support and measure the achievement of the Specific Objective. The December 2012 WEFO error rate for the programme areas was 0.00%.

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2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		4.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
TAR1	Managing Authority Irregularity Rate	Ratio			0.17	2013			Below 2	WEFO Compliance Report	Annual
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate	Ratio			0.0	2012			Below 2	Audit Authority Annual Control Report	Annual

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
4.2	To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations.	1. Specific Objective 2 aims to improve customer satisfaction levels through providing high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations. Measured across TA funded activity for all Structural funds in Wales this reflects the satisfaction of beneficiaries with the service received from WEFO for all approved operations. 2. The baseline overall customer satisfaction rating, dating from 2009, is 45%.[1] [1] WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009 - This is the percentage of interactions, where the operation

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ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
		was approved, with which the beneficiary was satisfied or very satisfied with the service received

2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		4.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
TAR3	Customer Satisfaction	Ratio			45	2009			50	Customer Insight Survey	One-off

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
4.3	To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.	1. Specific Objective 3 aims to ensure that the programmes complement and are integrated with all ESI funds in Wales and wider Commission, Welsh Government and Sector Led programmes. Measurement of this activity will primarily be in the form of the outputs such as the number of collaborative projects delivered.

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2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		4.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		

2.B.6 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.6.1 A description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

1. TA is an essential resource for supporting the effective delivery of the Programme. The delivery of the 2014-2020 programmes requires a continued emphasis on strategic delivery with greater alignment and harmonisation of ESI Fund investments through the concentration of resources to achieve sustainable outcomes for jobs and growth.
2. In Wales there are a number of key areas which will be developed and undertaken by partner organisations and the MA itself in order to deliver to the objectives and to ensure the new programmes achieve the integration, concentration and focus required. Actions are not mutually exclusive to any of the objectives and have therefore been grouped around 6 key investment areas which collectively will ensure the objectives and associated results are achieved.
3. Salary costs, as with the 2007-13 programmes, will form an important part in the delivery of TA funded activity for the MA, the Audit Authority, CA and wider delivery partners. These Salary costs will be incurred within all activities set out below, enhancing the capacity to achieve the overall objectives of the TA priority.

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Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

4. The MA and its partners have substantial experience in the implementation of TA in this way. All posts funded via TA will be subject to the Human Resources and remuneration policies of the employing organisation.
5. **Management**
6. Integration of funds will bring new administrative challenges for the MA, for example in the implementation of an enhanced role for Financial Instruments and the integration of specialist functions such as Cross Cutting Themes[1] (CCTs). Actions will enhance and strengthen strategic and integrated programme support and development.
7. Actions will include:
    - To continue to enhance the internal programme management function in the development and delivery of integrated and sustainable programmes;
    - To continue to develop the specialist knowledge within the MA and stakeholders through regular training and networking activities;
    - To advise and support the development of projects, encouraging innovation, transnational cooperation, sharing of good practice and mainstreaming;
    - Actions, in line with those outlined in Section 10, seeking to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries;
    - To provide high quality technical advice and expert functions, in areas relating to, for example; procurement, financial (to include Financial Instruments) and scientific expertise, project development, complaint resolution, innovation and compliance;
    - To develop and enhance bespoke and integrated IT systems for the delivery of ESI Funds and to aid e-Cohesion; and,
    - To provide specialist advice and support to projects on the integration, implementation and monitoring of the CCTs.
8. **Partnership and Networking**
9. Strong partnerships and networks lie at the heart of the successful implementation of the programmes and the integration of the ESI funds at all levels. The MA will continue to engage partners, including social partners, and key stakeholders in programme implementation and delivery.
10. Actions will include:
    - Encouraging and facilitating collaborative projects and approaches;
    - Alignment with European Commission led, ESI fund and Sector based programmes;
    - Enhancing capacity for cross programme coordination and the integration of ESI funds with national expenditure and programmes; and,
    - Strengthening coordination and liaison mechanisms with partnerships and promoting partnership working.
11. **Monitoring**
12. A single Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) will be established to oversee the effectiveness, quality and integration of the ESI Fund programmes[2]. TA will be used, where eligibility allows, to ensure the efficient and effective management of the programme through supporting the duties of the PMC.

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Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

13. The MA will establish a Secretariat team to manage PMC arrangements for all ESI Fund programmes. The Secretariat will approve, manage and monitor all TA expenditure declared in respect of PMC meetings and functions, ensuring that expenditure is not declared more than once against different ESI Funds. PMC costs will be apportioned across the five programmes, based on the relative size (value of EU contribution) of each programme.
14. Actions will include:
    - Enhanced management support to the PMC and improved reporting to the European Commission; and
    - Expenditure on PMC including expenses and fees for appointed experts (experts appointed to the PMC based on merit will be remunerated in line with the Welsh Governments normal practice).
15. **Research and Evaluation**
16. Research and Evaluation continues to play a central role in helping the MA to manage programmes effectively. The specialist Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team within the Managing Authority will continue to design, carry out and manage programme level evaluations and provide or source expert advice and guidance to project level evaluations.
17. Actions will include:
    - Programme level research and evaluation, including research into the CCTs;
    - Provision of evaluation advice and guidance to sponsor organisations;
    - Research and evaluation dissemination and workshops events; and
    - Management of research and evaluation exercises, for example through the Evaluation Advisory Group.
18. **Information and Publicity**
19. The successful integration of ESI funded programmes will depend to a large degree on a wide understanding among the sponsors, partners and stakeholders of its contents, governing regulations, aims and objectives. It is also essential that the benefits and achievements of the programmes are widely publicised to highlight the value added by the EU working in partnership with the Welsh Government and its partners.
20. Actions will include:
    - Dissemination of information, publicity and communication including guidance for partners and sponsors, seminars and workshops and networking events;
    - Disseminating and promoting of the impacts of enhanced integration with ESI funds and wider sector programmes e.g. Horizon 2020;
    - WEFO website development and maintenance;
    - Diversity and accessibility initiatives; and
    - The operation of a Helpline.
21. **Audit and Control**

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Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

22. WEFO and the Audit Authority has developed significant strengths in audit and control within the 2007-2013 programmes. Further enhancing the audit and control functions alongside a dedicated compliance unit will ensure that WEFO continue to build on developed strengths and maximise the opportunity structural funds investments can bring.
23. Actions will include:
    - Enhanced audit arrangements to ensure that these work effectively, improving quality and timelines;
    - Improving irregularity monitoring and reporting;
    - Enhanced support to combat fraud and corruption; and
    - Provision of consistent advice and guidance to sponsors and partners through the WEFO Compliance Unit.

[1] WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009 and The Effectiveness of Implementation in the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programming Period

[2] ERDF and ESF (Less Developed and More Developed Regions) and EAFRD

2.B.6.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results

Table 13: Output indicators (by priority axis) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		4 - Technical Assistance		
ID	**Indicator (name of indicator)**	**Measurement unit**	**Target value (2023) (optional)**	**Source of data**

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			M	W	T	
TAO1	Number of training events held	Number			10.00	Monitoring data
TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	Number			72.00	Monitoring data
TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	Ratio			75.00	Monitoring data
TAO12	Number of audit visits	Ratio			50.00	Monitoring data
TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	Number			1.00	Monitoring data
TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	Ratio			90.00	Monitoring data
TAO4	Number of research reports published	Number			17.00	Monitoring data
TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	Ratio			100.00	Monitoring data
TAO6	Number of dissemination events	Number			6.00	Monitoring data
TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	Number			10.00	Monitoring data
TAO8	Number of press releases issued	Number			50.00	Monitoring data
TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	Ratio			50.00	Monitoring data

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2.B.7 Categories of intervention (by priority axis)

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of the Union support

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ESF	More developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	1,423,185.00
ESF	More developed	122. Evaluation and studies	1,423,186.00
ESF	More developed	123. Information and communication	1,219,874.00

Table 15: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ESF	More developed	01. Non-repayable grant	4,066,245.00

Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory type

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ESF	More developed	07. Not applicable	4,066,245.00

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3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

Table 17

Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
		Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve
ESF	More developed	25,705,825.00	1,640,798.00	26,220,462.00	1,673,646.00	26,745,327.00	1,707,148.00	27,280,587.00	1,741,314.00	27,826,544.00	1,776,162.00	28,383,408.00	1,811,707.00	28,951,366.00	1,847,960.00	191,113,519.00	12,198,735.00
Total		**25,705,825.00**	**1,640,798.00**	**26,220,462.00**	**1,673,646.00**	**26,745,327.00**	**1,707,148.00**	**27,280,587.00**	**1,741,314.00**	**27,826,544.00**	**1,776,162.00**	**28,383,408.00**	**1,811,707.00**	**28,951,366.00**	**1,847,960.00**	**191,113,519.00**	**12,198,735.00**

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3.2 Total financial appropriation by fund and national co-financing (€)

Table 18a: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)				Union support (h) = (a) - (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) – (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a)	(l) = (j) / (a) * 100
1	ESF	More developed	Total	43,78432,084,989.00	43,78432,084,989.00	34,152,00025,026,078.00	9,632,9897,058,911.00	87,56964,169,978.00	50.0000000000%	0.00	41,104,27530,121,388.00	41,104,27530,121,388.00	2,680,7141,963,601.00	2,680,7141,963,601.00	6.12%
2	ESF	More developed	Total	95,48386,123,905.00	101,728,98191,723,464.00	59,163,67353,354,018.00	42,565,30838,369,446.00	197,212,886177,847,369.00	48.41666634304257402762%	0.00	89,637,95280,853,123.00	95,500,67686,109,989.00	5,845,953270,782.00	6,228,3055,613,475.00	6.12%
3	ESF	More developed	Total	65,827,115.00	65,827,115.00	49,370,613.00	16,456,502.00	131,654,230.00	50.0000000000%	0.00	61,798,496.00	61,798,496.00	4,028,619.00	4,028,619.00	6.12%
35	ESF	More developed	Total	59,977,11515,210,000.00	59,977,11515,855,517.00	44,983,00010,548,094.00	14,994,1155,307,423.00	119,954,23031,065,517.00	50.0000000000%48.96103933415%	0.00	56,305,04714,279,148.00	56,305,04714,885,159.00	3,672,068930,852.00	3,672,068970,358.00	6.12%
4	ESF	More developed	Total	4,066,245.00	4,066,245.00	4,066,245.00	0.00	8,132,490.00	50.0000000000%		4,066,245.00	4,066,245.00			
Total	**ESF**	**More developed**		**203,312,254.00**	**209,557,330.00**	**142,364,918365,048.00**	**67,192,412282.00**	**412,869,584.00**	**49.2436987075%**		**191,113,519118,400.00**	**196,976,243981,277.00**	**12,198,735193,854.00**	**12,581,087576,053.00**	**6.00%**
Grand total				**203,312,254.00**	**209,557,330.00**	**142,364,918365,048.00**	**67,192,412282.00**	**412,869,584.00**	**49.2436987075%**	**0.00**	**191,113,519118,400.00**	**196,976,243981,277.00**	**12,198,735193,854.00**	**12,581,087576,053.00**	

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

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Table 18b: Youth Employment Initiative - ESF and YEI specific allocations (where appropriate)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a)/(e) (2)
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)		
Total				**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**		**0.00%**

Ratio	%
Ratio of ESF for less developed regions	0.00%
Ratio of ESF for transition regions	0.00%
Ratio of ESF for more developed regions	0.00%

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

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Table 18c: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, fund, category of region and thematic objective

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	More developed	Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	~~43,784~~32,084,989.00	~~43,784~~32,084,989.00	~~87,569~~64,169,978.00
Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	4,930,322.00	4,930,322.00	9,860,644.00
Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	90,553,583.00	96,798,659.00	187,352,242.00
Youth Employment	ESF	More developed	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	44,982,836.00	44,982,836.00	89,965,672.00
Youth Employment	ESF	More developed	Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	14,994,279.00	14,994,279.00	29,988,558.00
Public services reform and regional working	ESF	More developed	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	15,210,000.00	15,855,517.00	31,065,517.00
Total				**~~199,246~~202,756,009.00**	**~~205,491,085~~209,646,602.00**	**~~404,737,094~~412,402,611.00**

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Table 19: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)
2	4,420,238.00	2.17%
Total	**~~0~~4,420,238.00**	**~~0.00%~~2.17%**

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4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development taking into account the content and objectives of the operational programme having regard to the Partnership Agreement and showing how it the operational programme contributes to the accomplishment of the objectives of the operational programme and expected results

1. The Welsh ESI fund programmes have all been developed taking a view across the whole of Wales, looking to address structural issues in a coherent and coordinated way. A key element to deliver this in an integrated, concentrated and simplified method will be effective targeting of all funds, including targeting based on specific and ongoing territorial needs and opportunities. This enables differing territorial development needs to be reflected in the most appropriate way (national, regional, sub-regional or local). The NUTS2 regions do not take into account sub-regional functional economic areas in Wales, such as the Cardiff City Region in South East Wales or the Swansea Bay City Region in South West Wales[1]. Integrated approaches to territorial development irrespective of these boundaries will therefore be actively encouraged. An outline of this approach for all ESI funds is set out in the Partnership Agreement. The Welsh Economic Prioritisation Framework[2] acts as a complement to the various Operational Programmes, helping to identify key spatial targeting approaches already underway and key opportunities for future investment.
2. Key spatial strategies are emerging supporting both the development of key urban areas (City Region strategies), rural areas (the Growth Zone initiatives[3]), and strategic sites (Enterprise Zones[4]). Each initiative has its own strategic planning and governance arrangements, complemented through local government and regional planning (e.g. Regional Learning Partnerships). There are clear common needs identified across each spatial analysis, including skills development to respond to identified need and demand from employers, as well as increasing connectivity, developing strategic infrastructure and attracting private sector investment. Alignment with these approaches therefore aligns closely to the objectives of the Operational Programmes, in particular where the development of critical mass can be supported.
3. The Managing Authority will work with beneficiaries to identify the most appropriate funding package across the ESI funds. This will be of particular importance for investments which seek to target those at risk of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion as set out in Section 5, and linking these target groups with economic opportunity at local, regional and national level.

[1] To see report on City Regions: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/publications/120711cityregions/?lang=en

[2] See: http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/applyingforfunding/funding2014-2020/epf/?lang=en

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[3] For example in Powys (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/policy/plgzones/?lang=en) and the Teifi Valley (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/policy/teifi/?lang=en)

[4] Seven Enterprise Zones have been identified across Wales, each focussing on specific sectors. More information available at: www.enterprisezones.wales.gov.uk

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and the principles for identifying the areas in where they will be implemented

1. The approach to Community Led Local Development (CLLD) is set out in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement (UKPA) and will be centred on the integrated approach to territorial development described above and in the Welsh Chapter of the UK PA. No direct support for CLLD as set out in Article 32 of the Common Provisions Regulation is envisaged for this Operational Programme; however in order to ensure an integrated approach to territorial development direct links will be encouraged between CLLD supported through the EAFRD (under LEADER) or EMFF (FLAGs) and investments made under the ESF.
2. The regional coordination and delivery of regional strategies described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement will be expected to create links between the CLLD investments made under the RDP (and other community initiatives funded outside of the ESI funding framework) and the opportunities for regional integrated investments under the ESF. It is anticipated that the strengthened regional engagement to be put in place for the 2014-2020 programmes (as recommended by the Guilford Report) will have an explicit role to identify any links between different ESI funds.
3. The Welsh Chapter of the UK PA also details the relationship between CLLD investments under RDP. In practice this might take three distinct forms:
    - Successful pilot actions under LEADER or other Community schemes (e.g. Communities First) are scaled up from local pilots as part of regional demonstration schemes or within nationally delivered activity;
    - LEADER Groups (or other community partnerships) will be eligible to bid directly to the Managing Authority if they develop a scheme that fits with the programme strategy; and
    - LEADER Groups (or other community partnerships) will be encouraged to support the opportunities for Social Innovation as outlined in each of the Priority Axes.
4. To facilitate these linkages a number of administrative functions have been bought together as described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement. These include; a single programme monitoring Committee for the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD; a single Research Monitoring and Evaluation team; a single Cross Cutting Themes Unit; a single ESI Funds management board; a single website portal for ESI funds; and, a single set of national eligibility rules and guidance.

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4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Where appropriate the indicative amount of ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development to be implemented in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated action.

1. No ESF will be used to support sustainable urban development in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of the ERDF Regulation as this action does not feature within the ERDF programme. However, the design of ESF investments will be expected to take due regard of ERDF funded actions supporting sustainable urban development which meet the spirit of the regulations. Regional and urban authorities will therefore be encouraged to consider opportunities for developing integrated programmes of complementary investments, utilising ESF in conjunction with wider investments (including other ESI funds) to deliver against integrated territorial strategies.

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Table 20: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF and ESF support

Fund	ERDF and ESF support (indicative) (€)	Proportion of fund's total allocation to programme
Total ESF	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL ERDF+ESF	**0.00**	**0.00%**

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis.

1. At the outset of the programme there is no immediate intention to use Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) vehicles. This approach and a period of review are set out in the Welsh chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.
2. At this time it is felt that the same benefits can be achieved through Welsh-designed implementation arrangements that would not require pre-selection of funding allocations or new reporting and monitoring requirements. The Welsh Managing authorities are seeking to ensure greater integration and coordination between all ESI funds in Wales, and as a small country are able to work closely with partners across Wales in delivering integrated territorial investments without needing to put in place new administrative architecture.
3. Regional and urban authorities will be encouraged to use existing planning and coordination mechanisms (for the delivery of existing territorial strategies) to prioritise investments for their territorial areas. The Managing Authority will work with those authorities to help identify the most appropriate ESI funding package, if relevant. For example an integrated package of support might be developed across the ESI funds to support the development of a City Region or Enterprise Zone, but this does not need to be done through an ITI, merely through effective planning and coordination.

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Table 21: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Fund	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Total		**0.00**

4.4 The arrangements for interregional and transnational actions, within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State (where appropriate)

1. A key challenge for the programme will be to more effectively mainstream cooperation actions and achieve better international coordination. This is particularly important for investments aimed at targeting shared social challenges and goals such as unemployment, youth unemployment, and labour market mobility and those targeting recognised equality groups and those most at risk of poverty. It is expected that operations supported in these areas through this programme will seek opportunities to incorporate some form of transnational or cooperation activity, international best practice or technical expertise.
2. Direct links are also being made between this programme and the European Territorial Cooperation programmes in which the programme area participates. There are a number of common objectives, for which complementary funding packages will be sought in particular where skills investments will help underpin economic ambitions and investments.

4.5 Contribution of the planned actions under the programme to macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State (where appropriate)

(Where the Member State and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea basin strategies).

1. The UK is incorporated in the Atlantic Strategy and this is described in the UK Partnership Agreement. This is not seen as a key driver for this programme though links will be encouraged where opportunities arise specifically in the provision of skills which can support blue growth and cooperation on research and innovation.

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5. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

5.1 Geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

1. In Wales poverty is defined as '*A long-term state of not having sufficient resources* to *afford food, reasonable living conditions or amenities, or to participate in activities (such as access to attractive neighbourhoods and open spaces) that are taken for granted by others in society*'. Social Exclusion or the ability to participate is strongly linked therefore to issues of Poverty.
2. The Socio Economic Analysis and the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) demonstrates that those who are more likely to be at risk of exclusion, poverty, disadvantage or discrimination are not confined to any particular area. Place based geographical targeting through for example the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011 (WIMD) can however help to demonstrate where concentrations of disadvantage and poverty exist.
3. The WIMD is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales which are called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Although the geographical size of these LSOAs varies quite widely, and depends on the local population density, the populations are intended to be roughly the same in each, with an average population of 1,500. In WIMD 2011, the most deprived LAU1 (local authority) area is defined as the authority with the greatest fraction of its LSOAs in the most deprived 10% of all LSOAs in Wales. This method can be seen as identifying the concentration of the most deprived areas in a local authority, rather than an average level of deprivation.
4. As stated in the Socio Economic Analysis, interventions designed to improve employment and income outcomes are more likely to succeed when focussed on individuals. However the Welsh approach to the development of integrated activity as outlined in Section 4 will be of particular importance for investments which seek to target those at risk of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion, linking these target groups with economic opportunity and growth at local, regional and national level and placed based investments made across the ESI funds. All operations will be expected to incorporate such linkages and integrated approaches at an early stage in the development process.
5. The strategy and priority sections of this programme are broadly developed around three core target groups. These can be summarised as those in work, those out of work and young people. However it is recognised that whilst those who are most at risk of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or exclusion may be found to a higher degree in one or other of the groups above they are not limited to any particular one of these areas. Discrimination or social exclusion is likely to be associated with individuals with specific individual (or multiple) characteristic or socio-economic circumstance. More entrenched issues of discrimination, poverty or exclusion are likely to be associated where multiple circumstances exist.
6. The EIA, which accompanies this programme, provides a robust assessment of the needs of those who may be at risk of exclusion, disadvantage or discrimination as a result of one or more characteristics protected under the Equality Act (2010) and their specific needs in terms of supporting access to employment and skills. These 'protected characteristics' include age (covering all age groups), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership

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pregnancy and maternity, race and ethnicity, religion or belief, sex / gender and sexual orientation.

7. The EIA highlights that groups with characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010 can face specific issues that impact upon their ability to access and progress within the labour market, and which place them at greater risk of poverty and exclusion. The EIA: also shows that BME groups are disproportionately affected by unemployment[1], with ethnicity closely linked to income poverty.
8. The ESF programme and accompanying published documentation, including the Socio Economic Analysis which accompanies this programme, identifies additional target groups or individuals who are associated with particular Socio Economic circumstances and the particular challenges they may face. These economic circumstances may be both a means of identifying the individual or describing the barrier which they face to participation.
9. These can be summarised as:
    - workless households;
    - those furthest from the labour market, such as those with complex issues (welfare dependency, mental health, emotional or financial or homelessness), including those in persistent poverty;
    - those with alcohol dependency or substance misuse issues;
    - those in poverty or at risk of poverty as a result of barriers to employment and employability;
    - those with accessibility issues including difficulties accessing transport;
    - Young people, NEET and those who are at risk of becoming NEET;
    - those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage mothers and lone parents;
    - workers with no skills or low skills who are either at risk of long term unemployment or vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness;
    - those facing in-work poverty; and
    - those at risk of slipping out of sustained employment or facing individual or work place barriers to progression in-work relating to issues such as ill-health and caring responsibilities.
10. The more complex the barriers or the greater the number of recognised characteristics individuals possess the greater likelihood of poverty or higher the risk of becoming poor.
11. Children from poorer or disadvantaged backgrounds and whose mothers have no qualifications have lower educational and occupational outcomes than other children[2]. They are at risk of poor educational attainment, are more likely to have poorer health outcomes and have lower skills and aspirations, as well as being more likely to be low paid, unemployed and welfare dependent in adulthood[3]. Research into child poverty[4] emphasises the importance of improving parenting and children's early development as a means of ending the inter-generational transmission of child poverty.
12. The Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and associated guidance will be key to identifying and targeting those young people most at risk of NEET. Early identification systems, pre 16, will focus as a core on attendance, behaviour and attainment indicators to identify, prioritise and track those most at risk of becoming NEET. The programmes in EW will target those who within this framework are identified as most at risk.

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[1] See Institute for Race Relations: http://www.irr.org.uk/research/statistics/poverty/.

[2] UKCES (2010), *The Value of Skills: An Evidence Review*, July ISBN 978-1-906-597-51-1

[3] 2011 Children and Young People's Wellbeing Monitor for Wales

[4] Field MP, F. (2010) The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children becoming poor adults. The report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances

5.2 Strategy to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, and where relevant, the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Agreement

1. The commitment to promote social inclusion and combat poverty is reflected through the inclusion of a new horizontal objective or Cross Cutting Theme (CCT) across all ESI funds which will be an integral element of the overall programme approach to the implementation of the CCT's including Sustainable Development CCT and Equality of Opportunity CCT detailed in Section 11. Details of this approach and the overall approach of ESI funds in tackling poverty and social exclusion are included in the Welsh Chapter of the UKPA and further expanded below. The strategy for the ESF programmes has been developed in line with this overall approach.
2. The key Tackling Poverty CCT objectives for ESI programmes in Wales are:
    - the creation of jobs and growth providing employment opportunities for those who are out of work;
    - tackling barriers to employment such as poor skills, lack of childcare or limited transport options, helping more people to access employment opportunities; and
    - focusing on growth, aligned with skills development interventions, enabling those experiencing in-work poverty to access more highly-skilled, better paid jobs.
3. Specific activities within the implementation of the CCT will ensure that poverty, and the needs of those most at risk of poverty and discrimination will be central to all operations. Actions will include:
    - targets set at the level of activities to be supported by the programme, providing an important driver to addressing the programme's CCT;
    - CCT assessment at all stages of the development of operations;
    - on-going specialist advice to support operations through development and implementation. A key objective will be to provide the specialist input at an early stage in the process to maximise take-up of the opportunities to promote the CCT;
    - a programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to WEFO staff and beneficiaries on how to integrate the CCT;
    - activity level guidance will be prepared together with best practice case study examples that will provide specific information on how beneficiaries can address the CCT within their operation plans;

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- regular monitoring of progress, allowing for early intervention if necessary; and
- update reports to PMC and other stakeholders.

4. The Welsh Government has a cross governmental focus on tackling poverty. The Tackling Poverty Action Plan argues that the Welsh Government's commitment to social justice and equality of opportunity makes it essential in the current climate that we continue to drive forward tackling poverty by prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and exclusion. Particular emphasis is placed on targeted action to help people improve their skills and qualifications, recognising that the best route out of poverty is through employment.
5. The ESF programmes will reinforce the Welsh Government expectation that integrated action would be taken within the ESI programmes to promote social inclusion and combat poverty, contributing simultaneously to the 2020 initiative and the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan. For this to work effectively operations will need to clearly demonstrate at assessment, the integration of ESF interventions to address poverty and discrimination with wider economic investments and growth opportunities including placed based investment through other ESI funds.
6. As discussed in the Welsh Chapter of the UKPA actions will not be undertaken which are solely aimed at addressing the effects of poverty. The ESF programme will deliver an integrated programme of interventions that combat poverty and social exclusion, economic inactivity and worklessness while also taking preventative action to support those at risk of falling into poverty. Results will be evidenced through reduced rates of poverty and persistent poverty, reduced unemployment, including youth unemployment, and economic inactivity. There will be fewer workless households, qualification levels and earnings will be increased and, in terms of the longer term legacy impacts, early school leaving, NEET rates, especially amongst those 16-18, and the numbers of those at risk of NEET will be reduced.
7. The ESF programme is constructed around three main Priority Axes; **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment, Skills for Growth and Youth Employment.** In line with the ESF regulations we will commit at least 20% of our ESF to the *'promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination'* Thematic Objective. This concentration will be achieved through the **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment Priority Axis**.
8. Promoting access to sustainable employment is seen in Wales as the main route for tackling poverty and social exclusion and there are also substantial economic benefits from increasing employment rates and tackling economic inactivity. Individuals in workless households are also more likely to experience persistent poverty, so actions which support this group in particular will be important. Many other longer term benefits can also be realised from sustainable employment, for example improved health and well being and tackling disadvantage and deprivation.
9. However as the evidence above shows, poverty, the risk of poverty, discrimination and exclusion are not limited to unemployed individuals only. The programme recognises this and will look to undertake actions which will reduce poverty and the risk of poverty through all priorities. These actions themselves will not contribute to the poverty concentration target however they will be intrinsic to a coordinated and holistic approach to addressing the target groups identified and those at most risk of poverty.

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10. The **Skills for Growth Priority Axis** will support investment in skills to support progression in employment including for those with no skills or basic skills, and therefore help tackle in-work poverty. Actions will support those in low paid, low hour or temporary jobs to progress in employment. The creation of high-skilled jobs and progression opportunities will have wider employment benefits and have the potential to free up entry level jobs for the unemployed.
11. The **Youth Employment Priority Axis** will support action to increase the rate of youth employment and reduce the impacts periods of unemployment or NEET can have on income and poverty in the long term. Through increasing engagement and attainment amongst those young people most at risk we will reduce the risk of future NEET or unemployment and reduce longer term risks of poverty

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Table 22: Actions to address specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
Those furthest from the labour market	Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome complex barriers to accessing sustainable employment and improving employability including for example through the provision of mentor support Actions to address barriers such as care or childcare including innovative actions linked to improving the availability of affordable quality childcare Actions to support the target groups to access sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in areas of economic and employment growth, including basic job search, CV writing and interview skills. Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification. Support for the Economically Inactive to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and finance and debt management.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	More developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
Those with accessibility issues including difficulties accessing transport	Actions, where appropriate, to support self employment as a realistic and flexible option for employment. Support for the Economically Inactive target group to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Targeted actions to address associated barriers to sustainable employment such as transport.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	More developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability
Those with alcohol dependency or substance misuse issues	Actions to support those with a work limiting health condition to access sustainable employment, including job search, CV writing and interview skills and alignment of existing skills and competencies with work opportunities Actions to update or increase their skills and qualifications Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome complex barriers to accessing sustainable employment and improving employability. Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Support for the Economically Inactive to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and finance and debt management.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	More developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage	Actions to address barriers such as care or childcare including innovative actions linked to improving the	1 - Tackling Poverty through	ESF	More	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
mothers and lone parents	availability of affordable quality childcare. Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome complex barriers to accessing sustainable employment and improving employability. Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification. Support for the Economically Inactive target group to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment amongst the target group such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and finance and debt management.	Sustainable Employment		developed	opportunities and active participation, and improving employability
Workers with no skills or low skills who are either at risk of long term unemployment or vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness	Actions to support those with no or low skills to access sustainable employment. Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome complex barriers to accessing sustainable employment and improving employability including for example through the provision of mentor support. Actions to support access to sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in areas of economic and employment growth, including basic job search, CV writing and interview skills.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	More developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification Support for the Economically Inactive target group to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option.				
Workless households	Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome complex barriers to accessing sustainable employment and improving employability including for example through the provision of mentor support. Actions to address barriers such as care or childcare including innovative actions linked to improving the availability of affordable quality childcare Actions to support the target groups to access sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in areas of economic and employment growth, including basic job search, CV writing and interview skills. Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	More developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	Support for the Economically Inactive to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and finance and debt management.				
Those at risk of slipping out of sustained employment or facing individual or work place barriers to progression in-work relating to issues such as ill-health and caring responsibilities	Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay and/or career advancement. Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace. Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work
Those at risk of slipping out of sustained employment or facing individual or work place barriers to progression in-work relating to issues such as ill-health and caring responsibilities	Targeted interventions to stimulate demand for skills and workforce development and to provide the skills needed to support organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Those facing in-work poverty	Actions to provide basic and essential skills provision for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	qualifications. Actions to provide technical or job specific vocational qualifications for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Provision of apprenticeships for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship places. Developing skills to break down barriers to engagement with technologies, such as digital skills, reducing social isolation and increasing access to work progression opportunities on-line.			developed	groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Those facing in-work poverty	Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay and/or career advancement. Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace. Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work
Those with alcohol dependency or substance misuse issues	Targeted interventions to stimulate demand for skills and workforce development and to provide the skills needed to support organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
					pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage mothers and lone parents	Actions to provide basic and essential skills provision for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Actions to provide technical or job specific vocational qualifications at for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Provision of apprenticeships for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship places. Developing skills to break down barriers to engagement with technologies, such as digital skills, reducing social isolation and increasing access to work progression opportunities on-line. Provision of apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships for employed individuals with skills at Level 2 or above. Actions to provide intermediate and higher level technical and job specific vocational qualifications. Targeted interventions to stimulate demand for skills and workforce development and to provide the skills needed to support organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage mothers and lone parents	Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	and/or career advancement; Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace; and Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.				progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work
Workers with no skills or low skills who are either at risk of long term unemployment or vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness	Actions to provide basic and essential skills provision for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Actions to provide technical or job specific vocational qualifications for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Provision of apprenticeships for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship places. Developing skills to break down barriers to engagement with technologies, such as digital skills, reducing social isolation and increasing access to work progression opportunities on-line.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Workers with no skills or low skills who are either at risk of long term unemployment or vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness	Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay and/or career advancement. Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.				
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage mothers and lone parents	Actions to ensure that young people gain the skills, competencies and experience required to access sustainable employment, including self-employment. Support young people to access and maintain sustained employment. Activities with enterprises and educators to challenge traditional assumptions and stereotypes and to raise participation levels in occupations and sectors where a particular gender or recognised equality groups are under-represented.	3 - Youth Employment	ESF	More developed	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage mothers and lone parents	Early targeted action to combat disaffection, provide access to a broader and innovative range of learning options supporting the acquisition of both vocational and higher level skills and prevent young people from falling out of education. Equip young people with a range of skills that allow them to be more flexible and adaptable in a fast changing labour market and gain sustainable employment, encouraging linkages between career choices and longer term labour market trends and tackling traditional gender stereotypes in employment. Support the development of practitioners in order to better engage with disadvantaged young people and to improve linkages with, and knowledge of, the private sector. Removing barriers to learning, helping create independence, and providing individual mentoring and advocacy advice to	3 - Youth Employment	ESF	More developed	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	young people.				
Young People, NEET and those who are risk of becoming NEET	Early targeted action to combat disaffection, provide access to a broader and innovative range of learning options supporting the acquisition of both vocational and higher level skills and prevent young people from falling out of education. Equip young people with a range of skills that allow them to be more flexible and adaptable in a fast changing labour market and gain sustainable employment, encouraging linkages between career choices and longer term labour market trends and tackling traditional gender stereotypes in employment. Support the development of practitioners in order to better engage with disadvantaged young people and to improve linkages with, and knowledge of, the private sector. Removing barriers to learning, helping create independence, and providing individual mentoring and advocacy advice to young people.	3 - Youth Employment	ESF	More developed	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training
Young People, NEET and those who are risk of becoming NEET	Ensure that young people gain the skills, competencies and experience required to access sustainable employment, including self-employment. Support young people to access and maintain sustained employment. Activities with enterprises and educators to challenge traditional assumptions and stereotypes and to raise participation levels in occupations and sectors where a particular gender or recognised equality groups are under-represented.	3 - Youth Employment	ESF	More developed	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

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6. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

1. Not applicable.

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7. AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS

7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO)	WEFO Chief Executive
Certifying authority	Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO)	Head of Certifying Authority
Audit authority	European Funds Audit Team (Welsh Government)	Deputy Director, Corporate Governance & Assurance (Welsh Government)
Body to which Commission will make payments	Department for Finance and Corporate Services (Welsh Government)	Director General, Finance & Corporate Services (Welsh Government)

7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

7.2.1 Actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of those partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

1. The Operational Programme has been developed in partnership with key stakeholders. WEFO, as Managing Authority has led the process and taken responsibility for drafting the Operational Programmes with extensive engagement with partners over the development and content.
2. This has involved a number of specifically appointed Advisory Groups and expert workstreams / working groups together with extensive public engagement over the development period. Membership of each group reflected a full range of stakeholder interests (and those specified in Article 5) from the public, private and third sectors, together with appropriate gender and geographical balance and with equality and environmental interests represented. The various groups are described below with membership details at section 12.3.
3. Before embarking upon drafting the Operational Programme the then Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes initiated a "**Reflections Exercise**"[1] which provided stakeholders with an early opportunity to comment on the strategic direction and future investment priorities based on the draft legislative proposals. Partners and stakeholders were generally

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supportive of the principles underpinning the legislative proposals and the need to align the new programmes with Welsh Government policy objectives to maximise impact. This enabled the Deputy Minister to outline the strategic direction and a number of guiding principles under which the 2014-2020 programmes would be developed in a statement to the National Assembly for Wales on 8 May 2012[2]. These included the need to focus and concentrate resources on areas most likely to have a transformational impact on the Welsh economy and contribute significantly to job creation.

4. Initial work was assisted through the **Ministerial Advisory Group on European Programmes**, a small task-and-finish group, established to generate ideas and advise Ministers directly on a number of key strategic issues. The members were carefully selected as experts in their field, with the ability and insight to offer the necessary strategic thinking across all programme and policy areas. The group consists of external experts with significant experience and strategic expertise, senior Officials from the main Welsh Government spending departments and advisors offering specialist advice, including senior officials responsible for the development and delivery of European programmes.
5. **The European Programmes Partnership Forum** was established as the main vehicle for external stakeholder engagement on European funding developments post 2013. The Forum was established in 2011 and remained in operation during the entire programme development period; providing direct input into the formation of both the Operational Programme and the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement. The membership was drawn partially from the All-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), supplemented with additional partners to ensure that the Forum reflected the interests of all relevant stakeholder groups in Wales. The formation of the group provided a balance of interests and reflected an appropriate level of private sector representation, gender balance, spread across funds, and geographical representation.
6. Four **technical workstream groups** were established in mid 2012 to consider the technical and operational detail of the 2014 to 2020 programmes and to advise on the content, processes and procedures reflecting Ministerial strategic direction. These covered:
    - Operational Programmes;
    - Delivery and Compliance;
    - Monitoring and Evaluation; and
    - Territorial Cooperation.
7. Members of the Operational Programmes workstream were directly involved in defining the content of the programmes including the direction of the strategy and cross cutting themes (horizontal principles) while members of the Delivery and Compliance and Monitoring and Evaluation workstreams were specifically involved in the consideration and preparation of guidance, indicators and delivery and control arrangements. Members were appointed via invitations for nominations and were selected based on experience of EU funded programmes together with relevant EU, UK and Welsh policy, and relevant subject experience appropriate to each Workstream. A full stakeholder interest, geographical and gender balance was maintained.
8. Finally, to ensure proposals were aligned to Welsh Government policies and strategies a **Welsh Government European Programmes Policy Group** was established. Policy Group meetings followed those of the Operational Programmes workstream and both groups informed the draft proposals presented for public consultation in early 2013. Members comprised senior level policy

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representatives nominated by Directors General from all relevant Welsh Government Departments.

9. A full **public consultation**, 'Wales and the EU: Partnership for Jobs and Growth' was launched on 14 January 2013 to seek views from partners on the Welsh Government's proposals for the Structural and Rural Development Funds. The consultation ended on the 23 April 2013, and generated 126 responses for the Structural Fund proposals, 29 of which were specifically relating to EW and 18 specifically covering both EW and WWV[3].
10. The consultation was supported by four Welsh Government regional stakeholder events, with over 300 stakeholders attending to discuss the key opportunities and challenges in a series of workshops. A number of external stakeholder groups also organised sectoral events during the consultation period which were attended by WEFO officials.
11. Consultants were appointed to analyse the results of the consultation and their Structural Funds report was published on the WEFO[4] and Welsh Government websites and announced by the Minister of Finance in a statement to the National Assembly for Wales on 9 July 2013. The consultants appointed to analyse the consultation were from the same organisation responsible for the Ex Ante Evaluation and therefore had a detailed understanding of the issues raised.
12. The consultation generated overwhelming support for the Structural Fund proposals both in terms of the Investment Priorities selected and the importance of concentrating resources in order to achieve a transformational impact. A number of respondents commented on the value of including within the ESF programme a discrete Priority Axis to tackle poverty and social exclusion. In line with the Welsh Government policy, as articulated within its Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which states that the best route out of poverty is through employment, and in response to the concerns raised, WEFO incorporated a 'Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment' Priority Axis, into the ESF programme in EW.
13. Actions within the Priority Axis will support the long term unemployed and economically inactive, who are most at risk of poverty and social exclusion, to overcome barriers to labour mobility and access sustainable employment. These actions also complement the cross-cutting theme on Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion, which embeds tackling poverty across the ESF and ERDF programmes.
14. A single **Wales Programme Monitoring Committee** for the 2014-2020 European and Structural Investment (ESI) programmes has been established in shadow form and will be formally be adopted following approval of the programmes by the European Commission.
15. The PMC will cover all three ESI funds managed by the Welsh Government (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD) and will be responsible for approving Structural Funds operation selection criteria, examining the progress made in delivering agreed programme objectives and any modifications to the programmes, and agreeing the Evaluation Plan and any modifications to the programmes.
16. The membership of 27 (plus Chair), based on the principles of partnership and many of the best practices set out in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, consists of 6 expert members appointed via a public appointments process and 21 members nominated on a sectoral basis. Members are drawn from across the private, public and third sectors (including economic and social partners, national, regional and local authorities; and representatives of civil society including environmental and equality bodies). The membership composition was also designed to deliver a broad gender balance and distribution

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across the two Welsh regions and the urban/rural dimension. Draft terms of reference will be prepared and agreed at the inaugural meeting. This will include detailed guidance on how potential conflicts of interests are addressed.

17. The establishment of a single PMC was supported by our partners on the basis of the feedback received during the public consultation and will facilitate a more holistic assessment of the impact and effectiveness of the funds in delivering the EU2020 agenda, set against the Economic Prioritisation Framework and supported by enhanced management and monitoring information.
18. The existing Delivery and Compliance and Evaluation Advisory Groups will remain in operation for the duration of the 2014-2020 programmes to continue to advise on delivery and implementation (including the content of guidance) and monitoring and evaluation arrangements. These groups have been in existence throughout the 2007-13 programming period and comprise wide internal Welsh Government and external stakeholder interests.
19. The Delivery and Compliance Group is a technical expert group established by the Managing Authority (WEFO) as a forum for partners to feedback implementation and compliance operational issues.
20. The Group's work informs the work of PMC, and has a specific remit to review WEFO's regular 'Compliance Report' before presentation at the PMC. This includes audit results and common errors found in management verification work. The group supports the PMC to satisfy itself of the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the Welsh Structural Funds Programmes in the areas of delivery and compliance.
21. The role of the Evaluation Advisory Group is to advise and assist in designing evaluation studies, quality controlling the research final reports and ensuring that findings are disseminated widely. The group will also monitor the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for the Structural Funds programmes in Wales for the period 2014–2020.
22. There are no plans to entrust part of the management of the Operational Programme to Intermediate Bodies, for example by using Global Grants or Integrated Territorial Investments and using the provisions set out in Article 123(7) of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) EU 1303/2013. Intermediate Bodies, using the provisions set out in article 123(6) of the CPR, will be designated to perform certain delegated tasks in relation to the management of certain aid schemes. Delegated tasks will include, at least, the selection of projects (beneficiaries), the issue of documents to beneficiaries that set out the conditions of support and state aid administration for the scheme. The Intermediate Bodies designated to manage the aid schemes are likely to be Welsh Government departments.

[1] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/post2013/milestones/120515reflectionsexercise/?lang=en

[2] http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber-fourth-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=233432&ds=5%2F2012#dat4

[3] http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/businessandeconomy/130114walesandtheeu/?lan

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g=en&utm_source=130114&utm_medium=wefowebsite&utm_campaign=consultation_en

[4] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/130115consultation/?lang=en

*7.2.2 **Global grants*** (for the ESF, where appropriate)

1. We will not be utilising global grants in the implementation of ESF in the Programme Area.

*7.2.3 **Allocation of an amount for capacity building*** (for the ESF, where appropriate)

1. The participation of the social partners (business and trade unions) will be actively encouraged in the implementation of the ESF programme in EW. It is not proposed to invest specifically in building the capacity of social partners within the main priority axes of the programme however there will continue to be a role in implementation through procured delivery and as beneficiaries leading on, or participating in, the delivery of operations as is the case in the 2007-2013 programmes.
2. The following activities provide an indication of actions that could be taken forward in close collaboration with the social partners:
    - Strengthening links between business and education aimed at ensuring that there is a closer integration between employer needs and the vocational and basic skills curricula;
    - Greater role in communicating labour market intelligence on future employment and skills needs across the Welsh Economy;
    - Actions which improve the effectiveness of social dialogue and activities jointly undertaken by or led by the social partners, in particular as regards the adaptability of workers and enterprises; and
    - Partnership initiatives aimed at promoting equality and diversity in employment and in the workforce generally.
3. In the 2007-2013 programme period Technical Assistance has been used to support the engagement of, and developing the capacity of, NGO's and voluntary organisations in the delivery of programmes. This has included the provision of tailored support, information, advice and networking opportunities. It is proposed that similar activities will be possible through Technical Assistance activities within the ESF programme as described in Section 2.B, these will include:
    - Management – further developing the functions and systems of the Managing Authority to deliver integrated sustainable programmes and to provide expert advice and guidance to beneficiaries;
    - Partnership and Networking – facilitating effective engagement and partnership working with stakeholders in support of programme implementation;
    - Monitoring – establishing and supporting the single ESI Funds Programme Monitoring Committee;
    - Research and Evaluation – continuing to deliver quality evidence based information to support programme delivery;
    - Information and Publicity – highlighting the value added by the EU working in partnership with the Welsh Government and its partners; and

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- Audit and Control – delivering effective and compliant programmes in Wales.

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8. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB

The mechanisms to ensure coordination between the Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and other Union and national funding instruments, and with the European Investment Bank (EIB), taking into account the relevant provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework.

1. The approach to the delivery and coordination of the ESI funds in Wales is set out in the Welsh Chapter of the UKPA, with all funds being delivered together and overseen by a single Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC). A coordination group comprising representatives from the Managing Authorities for each of the Funds will be established to promote coordination across the Funds, identifying the most appropriate source of funding and building portfolios of operations in areas of common interest and ensuring no duplication of funding.
2. A suite of guidance documents, including an Economic Prioritisation Framework (EPF), will be used to drive synergy between ESI Funds and wider investments in the Welsh economy. The EPF aims to capture the wider investments which are of relevance to the ESI funds. Using this Framework, all ESI funds will be expected to add value to those wider investments, avoiding duplication and building on existing assets.
3. ESF investments in human capital will complement and combine with investments made by the wider ESI funds in order to facilitate the realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales. A strict approach to demarcation has been avoided for 2014-2020 to facilitate the joint development of schemes and operations. Therefore, where clear additionality to provision under EAFRD and EMFF is demonstrable, individuals involved in farming and fishing will be able to access ESF support.
4. Specific information on the complementarity between specific ESF Priority Axes and other ESI Funds is given below, while the contribution of the ESF programme to Thematic Objectives 1-7, is detailed in each ESF Priority Axis. The approach to coordination and integration with ERDF and EAFRD is outlined in Section 4, which highlights the use of existing planning and coordination mechanisms to prioritise investments and to identify and integrate the most appropriate ESI funding package.
5. In all cases complementary between investments will be sought and the potential for use of flexibilities or joint funding will be explored on a case by case basis. This will be achieved through the operation selection criteria by which every operation will be required, amongst a number of other criteria, to demonstrate:
    - how they have considered the other relevant funding sources;
    - to articulate how they are linking into or establishing complementarity with these funds and the investments which they are supporting; and,
    - to evidence how their proposal links into and adds value to wider investment programmes.
6. There will be opportunities for complementarity with actions being supported by the ESF programme in West Wales and the Valleys (WWV). Common Priority Axes of "Tackling Poverty through Employment", "Skills for Growth" and "Youth Employment" have been designed across both programmes, utilising the same Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities. Both Programmes will be managed by WEFO as Managing Authority, with the same teams managing the

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equivalent Priority Axes across both programmes, overseen by an ESF portfolio management group.

7. Where the aims of the Programmes and Specific Objectives of the Priority Axes complement each other, WEFO will facilitate the establishment of both complementary operations and complementarity between operations. The approach will vary by Priority Axis dependant on the strength of the complementarity. It will also vary by operation, reflecting the proportionality principle.
8. **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment**
9. Employment policy is a non-devolved competency area with benefit, welfare and core employment programmes policy and delivery managed through the UK Government. The UK Government programme for welfare reform will have a significant impact on the delivery of ESF supported employment actions both within this Priority Axis and the Youth Employment Priority Axis. The ESF programmes, focused around an emphasis on poverty and sustainable employment will complement and add value to mainstream provision in relevant areas. The Managing Authority will work alongside and support wider Welsh Government arrangements which coordinate the interrelationships with UK Government provision in these areas.
10. The Welsh National Eligibility Rules, made available via the WEFO website and updated throughout the Programme period, will provide guidance on the eligibility of individuals in relation to the mainstream UK Government programmes. The guidance will support operations to demonstrate added value to mainstream provision, while avoiding duplication. An assessment of how any proposed operation fits within the context of mainstream UK Government employment support will be essential to demonstrate added value and will feature as part of the selection and assessment process.
11. ESF interventions to increase the supply of work-ready individuals and better link workforce supply to employer demand and promote self-employment as a means of engaging with the labour market will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF investments to stimulate business growth and increased productivity and to develop local supply chains.
12. Rurality and peripherality exacerbate barriers to inclusion and participation. There is considerable scope for ESF interventions to increase the supply of work-ready individuals to complement ERDF and EAFRD interventions to improve physical accessibility to employment and training opportunities and centres and to ensure that residents are able to take advantage of new opportunities which result from infrastructure investment (including any inward investment).
13. Specific links will also be made with the European Territorial programmes in which Wales participates, in particular where complementary investments can be made to support those areas where employment growth is anticipated. The co-location of a European Territorial Cooperation Unit with the Managing Authority for ESF, with WEFO acting as Managing Authority for the 2014-2020 Ireland-Wales Cooperation Programme, will help ensure coordination of these funds.
14. The **European Globalisation Adjustment Fund** offers support geared to helping workers who have suffered redundancy as a result of changing global patterns. ESF interventions, while concentrating on employment as the best route out of poverty, are distinct from this Fund as they are focused on supporting people furthest from the labour market, defined as long term unemployed and economically inactive, to find and sustain employment
15. **The Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived** (FEAD) in the UK, is subject to specific geographical targeting and is not operating in Wales.

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16. Complementarity exists between the **Progress** and **EURES** programmes and ESF actions. The Managing Authority will work closely with the UK National Contacts for these programmes to stimulate specific links and complementarities. An assessment of how any proposed operation fits within this context will feature as part of the selection and assessment process. Expert advice will be sought where required.
17. As with the ERDF SME Competitiveness Priority Axis, the **European Progress Microfinance Facility** (which supports selected microcredit providers in the EU to increase lending), offers the opportunity to create linkages between ESF interventions supporting those seeking to move towards sustainable employment through starting their own business and business finance and start up support programmes. Although ESF is focused on the long term unemployed and economically inactive, there may be some linkages in this area as it is not proposed to provide start up support through ESF.
18. **Skills for Growth**
19. ESF investments to up-skill the workforce, address specific skills gaps and to increase the supply of individuals with technical, specialised and higher level skills will work alongside rural specific skills training provided via the EAFRD. These investments will support the ability of SMEs benefitting from ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF funding (including those enterprises in rural and coastal communities where additionality to EARDF and EMFF provision can be demonstrated) to diversify into new markets and to increase their productivity and competitiveness, while also supporting the development of local supply chains. Opportunities to support skills development that underpins ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, low carbon technologies and ICT and innovative and emergent technologies will also be actively sought under this Priority Axis.
20. The EU's **Lifelong Learning Programme** and specifically the Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig elements will potentially complement activity within the ESF programmes. The Managing Authority will work closely with the UK National Agencies for these programmes (the UK National Agency - Leonardo, Grundtvig & Transversal Programmes – Ecorys) as well as the policy department coordinating information in Wales (the Department for Education and Skills) to stimulate links and complementarities. An assessment of how any proposed operation proposal fits within this context will feature as part of the selection and assessment process. Expert advice will be sought where required.
21. The selection and assessment process and monitoring of operations within WEFO will ensure these opportunities are maximised throughout the development and implementation of operations.
22. **Youth Employment**
23. At a UK level, as with the Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment Priority Axis above, the UK Government programme for welfare reform will have a significant impact on the delivery of ESF supported employment actions. The ESF programmes will have to complement and add value to mainstream delivery. Mechanisms for achieving this have been described above and in the relevant Priority Axis sections of the Programme.
24. Alignment of the ESF programme with the Welsh Government Youth Employment and Progression Framework and its identification and tracking systems will be a key tool in ensuring ESF complements and adds value to interventions to support those young people most at need of support. The mapping exercise undertaken as part of this Framework will ensure that any ESF operation truly addresses gaps in provision and does not duplicate mainstream

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statutory provision. The Managing Authority will work with the relevant Welsh Government departments on the appraisal and implementation of ESF operations to support this process.

25. ESF investments to make young people work ready and to promote entrepreneurship will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF investments to increase business productivity and growth, matching future workforce supply with employer demand. ESF support will also equip young people to access employment opportunities within their communities, including those opportunities being created by the ERDF and, within rural and coastal communities, as a result of EAFRD and EMFF investment.
26. The EU's **Lifelong Learning Programme** and specifically the Comenius and Erasmus elements will potentially complement activity within the ESF programmes. The Managing Authority will work closely with the UK National Agencies for these programmes (the British Council for Comenius and Erasmus) as well as the policy department coordinating information in Wales (the Department for Education and Skills) to stimulate links and complementarities. An assessment of how any proposed operation fits within this context will feature as part of the operation selection and assessment process. Expert advice will be sought where required.
27. The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments (FI) in ESF (i.e. a potential use of **European Investment Bank - EIB** - funding) considered a number of equalities and equal opportunity based actions. The evaluation concluded that in most cases there was limited potential for FI in the delivery of ESF actions and any potential approach is likely to be less effective than a grant based approach in terms of achieving the results sought. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of ESF actions.

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9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

Information on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (optional).

Table 24: Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	Yes
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	3 - Youth Employment	Yes
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	2 - Skills for Growth	Yes
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	5 - Public services reform and regional working	Partially
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment 4 - Technical Assistance	~~Partially~~Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	1 - A national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction, aiming at active inclusion, is in place that:	Yes	Programme for Government: Chapter 9: Tackling Poverty http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/poverty/?lang=en Tackling Poverty Action Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en	The Programme for Government is the Welsh Government's strategic programme for government. Chapter 9 of the Programme sets out the Welsh Government's policies for tackling poverty. It is underpinned by the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which sets out actions to build resilient communities and to prevent and reduce poverty in Wales, prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and exclusion.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	2 - provides a sufficient evidence base to develop policies for poverty reduction and monitor developments;	Yes	Programme for Government: Chapter 9: Tackling Poverty: http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/poverty/?lang=en Tackling Poverty Action Plan: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en	The Programme for Government identifies the challenges facing Wales in tackling poverty, the progress being made, key actions and indicators to measure the effectiveness and impact of actions. The Welsh Government annually reviews evidence on progress and identifies where action or indicators need to be added or adjusted to achieve stated goals. The Tackling Poverty Action Plan outlines actions to prevent and reduce poverty in Wales. It takes into consideration key economic and policy changes and identifies targets and milestones to track progress. Its actions are based around: • preventing poverty, especially for children and families in poverty through childcare, education and

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				support services; • recognising that employment is the best route out of poverty and supporting people into work and removing barriers to employment; and • mitigating the impact of poverty through increasing access to advice, services, leisure facilities, affordable credit and transport.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	3 - contains measures supporting the achievement of the national poverty and social exclusion target (as defined in the National Reform Programme), which includes the promotion of sustainable and quality employment opportunities for people at the highest risk of social exclusion, including people from marginalised communities;	Yes	Programme for Government: Chapter 9: Tackling Poverty http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/poverty/?lang=en Tackling Poverty Action Plan Sections 1-3, pages 5-25 http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en UK National Reform Programme 2014 page 88 http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-	The Programme for Government sets out key actions and the indicators that are used to measure the effectiveness and impact of actions. The Welsh Government annually reviews evidence on progress and identifies where action or indicators need to be added or adjusted to achieve stated goals. The Tackling Poverty Action Plan sets clear targets for reducing levels of poverty and exclusion and milestones to track progress. These link into Wales level indicators cited in the UK National Reform Programme for increasing skills levels of working age adults and young people who are NEET, thereby increasing employability and underpinning the key assumption of the Plan that employment is the best route

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			recommendations/index_en.htm	out of poverty. The Plan also sets out both remedial and preventative actions to prevent and reduce poverty, prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and providing narrative explanations.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	4 - involves relevant stakeholders in combating poverty;	Yes	Programme for Government: Chapter 9: Tackling Poverty: http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/poverty/?lang=en Tackling Poverty Action Plan Sections 1-4 , pages 5-26: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en Tackling Poverty External Advisory Group: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/decisions/dr2012/aprjun/soju/cs1285/?lang=en	The Programme for Government includes explicit commitments to work in partnership with a range of stakeholders to deliver actions to help communities and individuals into work and out of poverty. The Tackling Poverty Action Plan includes actions to involve a range of stakeholders in designing and delivering actions to help communities and individuals into work and out of poverty. The Tackling Poverty External Advisory Group is a Ministerial advisory panel comprising a panel of 12 experts in the field of poverty. Its purpose is to: • provide expert, evidence based advice to the Minister for Local Government and Communities and the Ministerial Programme Board on the implementation and further policy requirements necessary to deliver the Tackling Poverty Action Plan in Wales.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				• consider and comment on the progress of the Welsh Government in the attainment of its tackling poverty targets as set out in Programme for Government and the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	5 - depending on the identified needs, includes measures for the shift from institutional to community based care;	Yes	Tackling Poverty Action Plan Section 1, pages 6-8 and 10-11; Section 3, pages 20, 22 and 24: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en	The Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan sets out the actions being taken forward to build resilient communities and to help prevent and reduce poverty in Wales. The Plan outlines actions to provide local systems of support for families, strengthen services in the community, promote access to services for the most vulnerable, promote and support local action to tackle poverty, support and enhance community based care and build community resilience.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	6 - Upon request and where justified, relevant stakeholders will be provided with support for submitting project applications and for implementing and managing the selected projects.	Yes	WEFO: http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/?lang=en	The functions of the Managing Authority will address the support for submitting applications for operations through the role of the Project Development Officer and the Specialist Tackling Poverty Cross Cutting Theme Advisors. Details can be found on the WEFO website.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	1 - A system for collecting and analysing data and information on ESL at relevant levels is in place that:	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/education/?lang=en; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en Sections 1-2, 4, 7-8; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en Sections 1, 6, 7; http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf Introduction; Sections 1-3; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/outcomes/?lang=en	Chapter 3 of the Programme for Government sets specific indicators to measure the effectiveness of actions. The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework & Implementation Plan provide a framework of data and tracking systems based on systematic and regular data collection and analysis, with key milestones and targets. The Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan is based upon a clear evidence base, with data collection systems and indicators to monitor and measure progress and support sustained improvement. The Improving Schools Plan is based upon evidence and data analysis and sets out provisions for monitoring and performance management, supported by regular data collection through annual School Banding exercises. Families First sets out national outcomes, using key population indicators to measure progress. A Families First page on LSB Insight (http://lsb.infobasecymru.net/IAS/launch) hosts the Families First indicators.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of	2 - provides a sufficient evidence-base to develop targeted policies and monitors developments.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/education/?lang=en; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educat	The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework & Implementation Plan provides a framework of data and tracking

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
Article 165 TFEU.			ionandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en Sections 1-2, 4, 7-8; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en Sections 1, 6-7; http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf Introduction, Sections 1-3; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/outcomes/?lang=en	systems for the early identification of young people at risk of ESL / becoming NEET, focusing on factors that increase the risk of ESL. It provides for an evaluation of the effectiveness of support put in place, utilising annual data collection. Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan is based upon a clear evidence base, with data collection systems and indicators to monitor progress. The Improving Schools Plan is based upon evidence and data analysis, supported by regular data collection through annual School Banding exercises. It sets out reforms to improve literacy and numeracy and to reduce the impact of deprivation on educations outcomes. Families First sets national outcomes, using key population indicators to measure progress. A Families First page on LSB Insight (http://lsb.infobasecymru.net/IAS/launch) hosts the Families First indicators.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	3 - A strategic policy framework on ESL is in place that:	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/yeeap/?lang=en	The Programme for Government sets out the Welsh Government's education policies. The following documents form an integrated strategic framework to address the factors contributing to ESL. The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework &

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en http://21stcenturyschools.org/splash?orig=/ http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/?lang=en	Implementation Plan is a framework for early identification of young people at risk of ESL / becoming NEET. The Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan outlines approaches to preventing young people disengaging from learning. The Improving Schools Plan sets out reforms to improve literacy and numeracy and reduce the impact of deprivation on educational outcomes. Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan focuses on improving children's well-being, supporting families and high-quality early and primary education and childcare. The 21st Century Schools Programme is a capital investment programme for schools and educational facilities. Families First aims to improve outcomes for families, particularly those in poverty.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	4 - is based on evidence;	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/yeeap/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-	The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework & Implementation Plan is a framework for early identification of young people at risk of ESL comprising six components proven to be effective at increasing youth engagement & progression. It provides a framework of data and tracking systems. Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan, the Improving Schools

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			future/?lang=en http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf http://21stcenturyschools.org/splash?orig=/ nhttp://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/?lang=en	Plan and the Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan are based upon an analysis of evidence on the issues and barriers faced by young people. All investments made by the 21st Century Schools Programme to develop schools and educational facilities are based on Strategic Outline Programmes demonstrating that each local authority has a strategy for future educational provision, including details of required changes and evidence of the need for, and nature of, the investment. Families First delivers interventions based on the needs of local communities, using population indicators to measure progress.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	5 - covers relevant educational sectors including early childhood development, targets in particular vulnerable groups that are most at risk of ESL including people from marginalised communities, and addresses prevention, intervention and compensation measures;	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/yeeap/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf	The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework & Implementation Plan is a framework for identifying and working with young people at risk of disengagement and ESL. The Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan outlines the approach to preventing children and young people from disengaging from learning and supporting them to enter employment. The Improving Schools Plan aims to improve literacy and numeracy and reduce the impact of deprivation on educational outcomes. Building a Brighter Future: The Early

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			http://21stcenturyschools.org/splash?orig=/ http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/principles/?lang=en	Years and Childcare Plan aims to improve children's well-being and includes actions to provide high-quality, accessible early education and childcare. The 21st Century Schools Programme aims to create school environments that meet the needs of the community, considering all sectors and groups of learners from 3-19 and joining up plans for primary, secondary and 14-19 learning. Families First aims to improve outcomes for families, particularly in poverty.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	6 - involves all policy sectors and stakeholders that are relevant to addressing ESL.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/yeeap/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf http://21stcenturyschools.org/aboutus/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childr	The Youth Engagement & Progression Framework Implementation Plan involves local authorities working closely with Careers Wales, wider Youth Services, schools and other partners. The Youth Engagement & Employment Action Plan provides for supporting initiatives from all sectors. The Improving Schools Plan sets out how the Welsh Government, in partnership with schools and local authorities, will implement the actions in the Plan. Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years & Childcare Plan covers plans from across Welsh Government policy departments and identifies the roles of partners (including local authorities and local health boards) in the improvement

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			enyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/principles/?lang=en	process. 21st Century Schools is delivered by a partnership between the Welsh Government, local authorities, the Diocesan Directors of the Voluntary Aided Sector and CollegesWales. Families First aims for seamless progression for families between different interventions and programmes, with local Action Plans delivered with partners.
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	1 - A national or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning is in place that contains measures:	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/growth/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/education/?lang=en Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en	The Programme for Government sets out high level skills policies. The Welsh Government's Policy Statement on Skills, focuses on employment and skills and covers four priority areas: • Skills for jobs and growth • Skills that respond to local needs • Skills that employers value • Skills for employment In July 2014, the Welsh Government published a Skills Implementation Plan, setting out key policy actions to deliver the objectives of the Policy Statement on Skills.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	2 - to support the developing and linking services for LL, including their implementation and skills upgrading (i.e. validation, guidance, education and training) and providing for the involvement of, and partnership with relevant stakeholders ;	Yes	Programme for Government http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/growth/?lang=en and http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/education/?lang=en Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en pp 6-19 Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en pages 6-14	The Programme for Government commits to work with partners and sets key actions for improving governance and encouraging collaborative service provision. The Policy Statement on Skills outlines actions to develop and strengthen provision through collaboration and joint delivery arrangements; streamlined planning and delivery; simplified access to support, workforce development; and joint working with partners to plan and deliver services. The Skills Implementation Plan outlines actions to: • develop Skills Performance Measures for use in developing, delivering and evaluating policies and programmes • work with employers and Welsh Government departments to introduce a Flexible Skills Programme • introduce a Skills Gateway for accessing skills and employment support

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				• work with regional partnerships • establish Sector Qualification Advisory Panels to ensure vocational qualifications provide the skills needed • work with employers and stakeholders to develop the apprenticeships framework
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	3 - for the provision of skills development for various target groups where these are identified as priorities in national or regional strategic policy frameworks (for example young people in vocational training, adults, parents returning to the labour market, low skilled and older workers, migrants and other disadvantaged groups, in particular people with disabilities);	Yes	Programme for Government http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/growth/?lang=en and http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/education/?lang=en Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en pp 17-19 Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en pages 7-11, 14-16	The Programme for Government outlines specific actions focused on skills provision for young people. The Policy Statement on Skills builds on this, outlining strategic actions to develop a skills system that provides the employment support necessary for individuals – and specific groups such as young people and the low skilled - to enter employment and improve their skills. The Skills Implementation Plan outlines actions to support these groups, including reducing the number of households living in poverty and improving outcomes for those living in low income households through delivering adult employability programmes and essential skills provision, introducing a Flexible Skills Programme and a Skills Priorities Programme, establishing a Skills Gateway, developing the

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				apprenticeships framework, supporting young people who are NEET and working with employers and other stakeholders to ensure that learners and employees have the right skills and qualifications and working.
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	4 - to widen access to LL including through efforts to effectively implement transparency tools (for example the European Qualifications Framework, National Qualifications Framework, European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training, European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training);	Yes	Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en pp 6-16 Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en pages 6, 8, 10-11, 14	The Policy Statement on Skills outlines strategic actions to: • widen access to provision (including through developing new routeways, part time provision, greater availability of localised and distance-learning delivery arrangements and continuing professional development); and • support the development of National Occupational Standards and to utilise credit frameworks professional standards and performance measures to increase flexibility and standards. The Skills Implementation Plan outlines actions to: • develop Skills Performance Measures; • introduce a Skills Gateway, simplifying arrangements for accessing

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				skills and employment support; • introduce a Skills Priorities Programme to deliver vocational skills provision through further education institutions; • establish Sector Qualification Advisory Panels; • develop the apprenticeships framework; and • bring forward legislation to establish "Qualifications Wales" to streamline the qualifications system in Wales.
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	5 - to improve the labour market relevance of education and training and to adapt it to the needs of identified target groups (for example young people in vocational training, adults, parents returning to the labour market, low-skilled and older workers, migrants and other disadvantaged groups, in particular people with disabilities).	Yes	Programme for Government http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/growth/?lang=en Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en pp 6-19 Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/po	The Programme for Government sets out actions on LMI, skills development and effective routes into employment via skills provision. The Policy Statement on Skills outlines actions on skills provision, skills needs and gaps and employer demand. The Skills Implementation Plan outlines actions to: • work with employers and stakeholders to introduce a Flexible Skills Programme focused on regional

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			licy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en pp 6-14 StatsWales https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue Learning Wales http://learning.wales.gov.uk/?lang=en	economic needs, a Skills Priorities Programme and developing the apprenticeships framework • introduce a Skills Gateway for accessing skills and employment support, conducting skills assessments for individuals and directing employers to skills provision • develop regional skills delivery based on needs identified via LMI • establish Sector Qualification Advisory Panels to ensure vocational qualifications provide skills for employment; and • providing an adult employability programme, essential skills provision and supporting young people most at risk to achieve increased skills and employability.
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	1 - A strategic policy framework for reinforcing a Member State's public authorities' administrative efficiency and their skills with the following elements are in place and in the process of being implemented:	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/180319-employability-plan-en.pdf	In delivering this priority there will be a series of complementary investment needed in people, organisations and systems. All investments are expected to align directly to the regionalisation agenda of the Welsh Government, as described in Prosperity for All, the Economic Action Plan, and the

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				Employability Plan. These, alongside emerging proposals for local government reform, provide the policy framework for activity under this Priority.
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	2 - an analysis and strategic planning of legal, organisational and/or procedural reform actions;	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-03/180320-strengthening-local-government-consultation-v1.pdf	This priority directly aligned to the Welsh Government's regionalisation agenda and ongoing discussions on an ambitious but realistic public sector reform agenda in Wales, as well as building on existing networks for regional working.
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	3 - the development of quality management systems;	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf	Economic Action Plan (December 2017). This describes the need to ensure "the different players in our economy - from the emerging City Deals and local government reform structures, to the new Development Bank of Wales and Regional Skills Partnerships – work together on a clear footprint with businesses and other partners in a new, strategic and more collaborative partnership to support distinctive regional strengths
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public	4 - integrated actions for simplification and rationalisation of administrative procedures;	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/strategies/170919-prosperity-for-all-en.pdf http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-	Prosperity for All (September 2017). This indicates "It is only through closer working, on a consistent regional basis, that the resilience and responsiveness of services can be maintained in the

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
administration.			plan-en.pdf	future". Commitments are made to respond to the diverse needs of different regions, working with partners in those regions in areas such as skills and economic development. Economic Action Plan (December 2017). This describes the need to ensure "the different players in our economy - from the emerging City Deals and local government reform structures, to the new Development Bank of Wales and Regional Skills Partnerships – work together on a clear footprint with businesses and other partners in a new, strategic and more collaborative partnership to support distinctive regional strengths" The Welsh Government's regionalisation agenda that now features as a central part of much Welsh policy, including the recently launched Economic Action Plan (December 2017).
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	5 - the development and implementation of human resources strategies and policies covering the main gaps identified in this field;	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publ	The Economic Action Plan sets out a regional approach to economic development, to help tailor our delivery to specific challenges and opportunities in different parts of

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			ications/180319-employability-plan-en.pdf	Wales, and how Weksh Government will work with partners to capitalise on local growth opportunities Employability Plan (March 2018). This identified a range of relevant actions, such as the need to "prioritise the co-location of local services to simplify employability support for the individual.". Working in tandem with the Economic Action Plan this will "encourage local and regional growth and innovation in relation to skills".
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	6 - the development of skills at all levels of the professional hierarchy within public authorities;	Yes	https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-03/180320-strengthening-local-government-consultation-v1.pdf	The Welsh Government Green paper on 'Strengthening Local Government outlines options for making best use of the skills and capabilities of the public service administration.
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	7 - the development of procedures and tools for monitoring and evaluation.	No	http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/2014-2020/wefo-guidance/monitoring/?lang=en	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. This plan will be updated yo

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				incorporate the new Priority axis.
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund related activities.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made The Welsh Language Act (1993): http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1993/38/contents Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh Specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and has given a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes.
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti discrimination law and policy.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/crosscutting/?lan	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to:

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			g=en	A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protected characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh Specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and has given a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes.
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/crosscutting/?lan	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to:

compare report

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			g=en	A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protected characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.	Yes	UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders charged with the protection of rights for disabled people. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and has given a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled people into the programmes. The Welsh Government are

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants'.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/crosscutting/?lang=en	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	3 - Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	Yes	UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang=	The Welsh Government are responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants'. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protected characteristics and to monitor the implementation on the UNCRPD. A full monitoring and implementation plan has been developed which ensures Article 9 of the UNCRPD is fed into the development of the programmes and the implementation.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	Yes	https://www.gov.uk/transposing-eu-procurement-directives https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/procurement-policy-notes http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/bettervfm/?lang=en http://prp.wales.gov.uk/toolkit/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/	The EU Directives were transposed by the UK in 2006 (Public Contracts Regulations 2006) and the UK Government has committed to early transposition of the new public procurement rules agreed in January 2014. The Cabinet Office issues Procurement Policy Notes providing guidance on public procurement policy. In line with the other UK devolved administrations, a protocol has been established with the UK Government whereby the Procurement Policy programme of Value Wales (the Welsh Government's procurement unit) provides procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well procurement services to the Welsh Government. Support and guidance relating to procurement legislation and policy is available for public sector beneficiaries via Value Wales. WEFO is able to call on the expertise of Value Wales to help interpret legislation and understand the requirements of the EC directives. This advice extends to general procurement advice as well as public contracts.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2012/welshprocurement/?lang=en http://prp.wales.gov.uk/ http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/bettervfm/publications/openingdoors/?lang=en www.sell2wales.gov.uk	The Welsh Government's procurement policies ensure open and fair competition and non-discrimination, irrespective of the contract value. In accordance with the commitments laid out in the Welsh Government's 'Opening Doors: The Charter for SME Friendly Procurement', all requirements over £25,000 (but below the applicable OJEU threshold), as well as those which are not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, should be on a website accessible across the EU. The Welsh Government published a 'Wales Procurement Policy Statement' in December 2012 setting out eight principles to maximise the impact of public procurement. The Welsh Government has launched a web-based procurement toolkit to support compliant procurement (Procurement Route Planner). The website promotes a consistent and structured approach to procurement, builds in best practice and provides specialist guidance and tools to help contracting authorities in Wales.
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of	3 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the	Yes	http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/general/?lang=en	A series of one day training sessions on Procurement legislation has been provided for all WEFO staff involved in project delivery. The training was

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
the ESI Funds.	ESI funds.			delivered by procurement specialists. Further training will be undertaken as necessary for the new programmes. Guidance documents are available for WEFO staff. This guidance is authored and/or reviewed by Welsh Government's procurement unit before dissemination.
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	4 - Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/bettervfm/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/bettervfm/procskills/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/general/?lang=en	Value Wales (Welsh Government) is the central body in Wales with the resources and expertise to support WEFO – and contracting authorities/ wider Welsh public sector – in understanding and applying procurement rules. Value Wales was successful in securing funding from the European Social Fund Convergence Programme for a 4-5 year project to improve procurement across public services in Wales. The Transforming Procurement through Home-Grown Talent project has raised procurement skills and capability across public services. Guidance documents are available for beneficiaries. This guidance is authored and/or reviewed by Welsh Government's procurement unit before dissemination.
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	UK Chapter of the Partnership Agreement http://wales.gov.uk/topics/busine	State Aid is largely handled at UK level (see UK PA). Work to ensure adherence in Wales is as follows:

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
Funds.			ssandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/projectinspectionandaudit1/?lang=en	All operations are subject to State Aid analysis as part of the assessment process and where necessary advice and further scrutiny is sought from the Welsh Government's State Aid Unit (SAU) or Legal Services. This ensures that funding award decisions are compliant with State Aid rules and the necessary Commission notifications/approvals are in place. Assessments are undertaken and guidance provided to beneficiaries on the rules surrounding cumulation. Operations running de minimis schemes are notified via the grant funding agreement of their responsibilities and their systems checked for compliance. In addition the SAU co-ordinates the annual reporting process for block exempted and notified schemes. Compliance and recovery measures relating to breach of State Aid rules are contained within funding agreements and compliance checks are undertaken

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				by the Management Verification teams
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/	The SAU works closely with WEFO's training team to identify necessary training requirements for all staff. It has recently run awareness sessions about the Modernisation programme and State Aid training will be embedded into the induction process for all new staff. A training strategy has been updated so that all Managing Authority and Certifying Authority staff will receive foundation/awareness training by end October 2014. This is being supplemented by more detailed "Roles and Responsibilities" training to be rolled out to all key staff by the end of 2014 and to all staff by mid 2015. The SAU regularly attend UK wide network meetings and disseminate information/guidance through the Welsh Government website and to WEFO accordingly. WEFO disseminates information widely to external stakeholders and beneficiaries, including through the WEFO website. Further staff guidance is made

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				available through Welsh Government and WEFO intranet sites.
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 - Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	UK Chapter of the Partnership Agreement http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/projectinspectionandaudit1/?lang=en	Managing Authority staff have a good working knowledge of the State aid rules. They are supported by the Welsh Government's SAU and lawyers who provide training and advice on specific cases as necessary. The Welsh Government believes that it has sufficient administrative capacity to carry out its State Aid responsibilities. The SAU is made up of 3 members of staff with over 15 years experience who are supported by a team of 3 lawyers. There are a number of practical tools available to WEFO staff including a bespoke State aid assessment sheet, State aid toolkit and detailed guidance on the rules. These are generated by the SAU and LS and are made available through the Welsh Government's intranet site. In addition guidance is made available to beneficiaries through the Welsh Government's web site.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	1 - Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. All beneficiaries of Structural Funds will use the PPIMS database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (including factual analysis) can be found in the M&E Plan.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	2 - Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E Pplan which is published on the WEFO website. Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the WEFO website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties. Arrangements are in place to collect, store and use individual data (micro data) in conformity with article 125(2), of the CPR and the guidance for ESF Monitoring and evaluation.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	3 - An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme.	Yes	See Tables 4 and 5 in Section 2 of this Operational Programme http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E Plan which is published on the WEFO website. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements and published on the WEFO website. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				model annexed to the Operational Programmes. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (which includes counter-factual analysis) can be found in the M&E Plan. Arrangements are in place to collect, store and use individual data (micro data) in conformity with Article 125(2), of the CPR and the guidance for ESF M&E.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	4 - An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	~~No~~Yes	See Tables 4 and 5 in Section 2 of this Operational Programme http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E pPlan which is published on the WEFO website. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements and published on the WEFO website. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				Targets ~~are~~were set for indicators in the OPs, with the exception of indicator ID1128~~, and are shown in the appropriate tables. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (which includes counter-factual analysis) can be found in the M&E Plan.~~. An extension on this action was given to February 2017. This has now been completed and accepted. The indicator 1128 was retained without a baseline or target and will be used for monitoring purposes only. It was agreed that progress would be adequately measured by the two existing result indicators. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result	5 - An effective system of result indicators including: the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative	Yes	See Tables 4 and 5 in Section 2 of this Operational Programme http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E Plan which is

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data.			published on the WEFO website. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements and published on the WEFO website. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (which includes counter-factual analysis) can be found in the M&E Plan. Arrangements are in place to collect, store and use individual data (micro data) in conformity with Article 125(2), of the CPR and the guidance for ESF M&E.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	6 - Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Yes	See Tables 4 and 5 in Section 2 of this Operational Programme http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E Plan which is published on the WEFO website. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements and published on the WEFO website. Result

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (which includes counter-factual analysis) can be found in the M&E Plan. Arrangements are in place to collect, store and use individual data (micro data) in conformity with Article 125(2), of the CPR and the guidance for ESF M&E.

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9.2 Description of actions to fulfil ex-ante conditionalities, responsible bodies and timetable

Table 25: Actions to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
~~G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the~~	~~4 - An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for~~	~~The issue of non-compliance relates to no target being set for indicator ID 1128 in Priority Axis 3 Specific Objective 2. Risk of NEET will be identified utilising the standard~~	~~31-Dec-2016~~	~~Welsh Government~~

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
~~effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.~~	~~these indicators.~~	~~principles within the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. This standard approach to identifying and tracking risk of NEET is new and actions will be subject to an impact evaluation in 2016. The outcomes of this evaluation will establish a target for this indicator and fulfil the ex-ante conditionality.~~		

Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	7 - the development of procedures and tools for monitoring and evaluation.	To be defined		

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10. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce administrative burden.

1. Significant progress was made in reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries under the 2007-13 programmes. This has involved the introduction of new working procedures around the introduction of the PPIMS IT system which led to the harmonisation of processes across structural funds and enables beneficiaries to input operation data directly via a web based portal. This has resulted in common processes, the improved exchange of documentation together with efficiency gains and quicker processes and payments to beneficiaries. The current round of programmes has also seen the establishment of the Project Development Officer model. This has involved a single officer as a primary point of contact for beneficiaries throughout the application, development and post approval stages.
2. A customer insight survey[1] was undertaken by WEFO in 2009 which sought the views of beneficiaries on administrative procedures and processes involved in applying for and managing EU operations. There was general support for efficiencies resulting from many of the web based improvements introduced for the 2017-13 funding round together with support for the concept of the Project Development Officer. Some concerns were raised over the bureaucracy involved in applying for funding (decisions could be made earlier involving less form filling) and over the accessibility and technical language in some of the guidance.
3. The Welsh Government is building upon previous developments and addressing feedback from beneficiaries for the 2014-2020 programmes by maximising integration and harmonisation opportunities wherever possible in order to assist delivery and further reduce the burden for beneficiaries.
4. This will include a streamlined application and assessment process involving a series of gateways and decision points over the eligibility of operations together with further enhancements to PPIMS. This will include a single online gateway for potential beneficiaries to access all ESI funds, which will direct potential beneficiaries to a specific Thematic Objective team and facilitate the selection of the optimal funding instrument(s) and delivery mechanism, whilst respecting the demarcation lines between funds.
5. Harmonised ESI fund national eligibility rules and common supporting guidance will be in place for all organisations in Wales receiving funds from ERDF, ESF and the EAFRD, other than where eligibility rules have been determined by fund-specific EC legislation. This will represent a significant simplification for beneficiaries in Wales and builds on the Commission's common eligibility provisions in the Common Provisions Regulation for matters such as durability, revenue generation, and simplified cost options. The harmonised eligibility rules will be agreed and published and easily accessible via the WEFO website in 2014.
6. In addition, Wales intends to encourage the take-up of simplified cost re-imbursement options (lump sums, flat-rates, unit costs) by making all legislative options available to potential applicants, issuing detailed guidance, and running training workshops with representatives from key sectors to understand and address the barriers to take-up. It is expected that flat-rate costs in relation to

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reimbursement of indirect costs will be of particularly interest to Welsh beneficiaries.

7. The extent of the shift towards a more results-based reimbursement system (lump sums, unit costs) will also depend on the provisions of the cohesion policy legislative package, the suitability of the EC standard rates, and the implementation guidance from the Commission. The overarching principle when considering options for simplifications will be adopting mechanisms which are best suited to the Welsh context and to maintaining the successful and compliant delivery of structural funds programmes in Wales.
8. Welsh operations will also benefit from a reduction in administration by Welsh Government implementing in full the EC simplification measures, such as shorter document retention periods, flat-rate revenue generation calculations, and protecting operations against duplication of audit activity from both the Audit Authority and European Commission in the same year.

[1] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/publications/monitoringevaluation/programmeevaluations/customerinsightsurvey2009/?lang=en

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11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

11.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

1. The Welsh Chapter of the UKPA provides an overview of the approach to promoting the horizontal principles across the ESI funds in Wales which includes the Sustainable Development Cross Cutting Theme (CCT) detailed here, and the Equal Opportunities and Equalities CCT (detailed in Section 11.2 and 11.3) and the Tackling Poverty CCT (detailed in section 5). It also outlines the main Welsh Government organising principles and objectives for sustainability which provide the basis for the implementation of the CCT within the ESF Programmes in Wales.
2. Key to the ESF programmes is the Welsh Government emphasis on social, economic and environmental well-being for people and communities; fairness and social justice; and how decisions we make now affect the lives of future as well as current generations.
3. In implementing the Sustainable Development CCT the key Sustainable Development objectives for the ESF Programme are to:
    - Promote environmental awareness and good practice in the implementation of activity;
    - Integrate sustainable development into operations undertaking awareness raising, education and training programmes;
    - Support participating employers to adopt or improve Environmental Sustainability Strategies;
    - Promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
    - Recognise and promote health and wellbeing as one of the corner stones of a healthy, vibrant economy.
4. As part of the development of the ESF programmes in Wales a Strategic Environmental Assessment screening exercise was undertaken by external evaluators. The report concluded that any environmental effects will be insignificant in the short to medium term. Travel to training, and ultimately to work, may have implications, though these will not be significant in the context of this programme. It further concluded that the ESF programme does not determine the allocation of space, therefore no impacts are anticipated.
5. Through indirect measures, at an individual or organisational level, and through ensuring operations adopt appropriate Sustainable Development practices and principles in the delivery of ESF activity, investments will be able to support the overall Welsh Government Sustainable Development principles and objectives. Actions, where appropriate, would include:
    - Encouraging sustainable transport solutions in the delivery of activity within operations such as through linking unemployed and economically inactive individuals with work and in supporting access to skills and training;
    - Promoting resource efficiency, including energy efficiency and waste management, in the delivery and implementation of operation;

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- Promoting employment opportunities in emerging economic sectors including for example creation of green jobs, renewable energy and energy efficiency; and
- Investing in skills to develop competencies and knowledge in for example, environmental management, energy production, energy efficiency and waste management, and skills to support the development of the low carbon, energy and environment sector.

6. In terms of environmental sustainability, 'Sustaining a living Wales' is the Welsh Government's new approach to natural resource management in Wales and is based on the ecosystem approach, defined as; all the living things, in an environment, including their interactions, with each other and their environment.
7. Reinforcing the environmental element of the CCT will ensure that awareness raising and promoting good practice through training and guidance will be incorporated into implementation of operations. Specific to the ESF programmes, the following actions will be taken in the selection and development of operations to ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaption, disaster resilience and management are integrated where appropriate:
   - CCT assessment at all stages of the development of operations;
   - Early and on-going specialist advice will be made available to beneficiaries from WEFO for the implementation of operations;
   - A programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to WEFO staff and beneficiaries on the benefits of, and best practice in, integrating the cross cutting themes;
   - Guidance will be prepared together with best practice case study examples that will provide specific information on how beneficiaries can address the CCT within their operation plans;
   - Regular monitoring of achievement of Sustainable Development commitments and outputs allowing for early intervention if necessary;
   - Update reports to PMC and other stakeholders; and
   - WEFO will encourage key equality, social inclusion and sustainable development organisations to engage and participate in an effective network of specialist support.
8. Sustainable Development result indicator targets will be set at a Priority Axis level providing an important driver to ensure that operations address the programme's CCT objectives. Targets will include, but are not limited to:
   - For operations within the Skills for Growth Priority 20% of Employers assisted will adopt or improve Environmental Sustainability Strategies.
   - 75% of operations within the Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment Priority and 10 % of operations within the Skills for Growth and the Youth Employment priorities will integrate sustainable development into awareness raising, education and training programmes.

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11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the operational programme and in particular in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements for ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

1. The integration of equal opportunities, gender mainstreaming and the Welsh language (which we also include in the Equal Opportunities CCT) is important not only for legal reasons, but also because overcoming inequalities between different social and demographic sections of society contributes to the overall effectiveness of the activity delivered by the programmes.
2. The Welsh Government launched its Strategic Equality Plan (2012-16) and equality objectives on 2 April 2012. These highlight how the Welsh Government is fulfilling its legal obligations as well as its strong commitment to equality and inclusion. The Strategic Equality Plan was developed in-line with the general duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of the Equality Act 2010. The PSED states that public authorities must have due regard to the need to:
    - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act;
    - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
    - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
3. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to highlight potential impacts of the ESF programmes on people with different socio-demographic characteristics. The EIA supports the compliance of the Welsh Government compliance with the PSED by providing evidence on the potential effects of the programme on people with the nine protected characteristics:
    - Age;
    - Disability;
    - Gender Reassignment;
    - Marriage and Civil Partnership;
    - Pregnancy and Maternity;
    - Race and Ethnicity;
    - Religion and Belief;
    - Sex / Gender; and
    - Sexual Orientation.
4. The report concludes that the development of the 2014-20 ESF programmes has included extensive consideration of equality and because of this it is highly unlikely that there will be any disproportionate negative impacts on any of the characteristics protected under the Equality Act and that it will support the Welsh language as required by the 2006 Government of Wales Act.
5. Key equality objectives for the ESF programme which cover a number of the selected Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities will be to:
    - Reduce the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET);
    - Reduce the over-representation of certain ethnic groups, care leavers and disabled young people among those who are NEET;
    - Provide targeted support to employers to employ disadvantaged individuals;

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- Support older workers, and those with health issues, to remain in work and continue to learn new skills;
- Identify and test solutions to pay and employment differences in Wales to overcome the negative impact that these have, in particular on women, disabled people and people from Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) groups;
- Create an environment which supports inclusive work places, promotes equality of opportunity for staff through improved employee engagement and supports the reconciliation of work and private life; and
- Support access for disabled people and those from BME backgrounds to training and employment opportunities.

6. The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement (PA) outlines the approach within all ESI programmes to the integration of equality, an approach acknowledged in the EIA as a key way of delivering equality through the Programmes. The Equality CCT will be implemented as part of the overall approach to the implementation of the CCT's including the Sustainable Development CCT (detailed in section 11.1) and Tackling Poverty CCT (detailed in Section 5).
7. **Selection and Development of Operations**
8. Specific to this Programme, the following actions will be taken in the selection and development of operations to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on the nine protected characteristics outlined above:
    - On-going specialist advice will be made available to beneficiaries. Specialist input will be provided at an early stage to maximise take-up of the opportunities to promote gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities;
    - A programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to Welsh Government staff and beneficiaries on integrating gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities;
    - Activity level guidance will be prepared together with best practice case study examples;
    - Regular monitoring of progress, through 'forecast' data and 'actual' achievement (monitored through the quarterly return system), allowing for early intervention if necessary;
    - Update reports to PMC and other stakeholders; and
    - Welsh Government will encourage key gender mainstreaming, equality and social inclusion organisations to be involved to establish a network of specialist support.
9. Equality result indicator targets will be set at a Priority Axis level providing an important driver to ensure that operations address the programme's CCT objectives. Targets will include, but are not limited to:
    - For Operations within the Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment and Skills for Growth Priorities 50% of Employers assisted will adopt or improve equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems.
10. Further examples of specific actions are included in the poverty section which further identifies groups likely to face discrimination and poverty.

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11.3 Equality between men and women

Description of contribution of the operational programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational programme and operation level.

1. The Welsh Government's Gender Equality Scheme sets out its plans to promote equality of opportunity for women and men in Wales. Although the Welsh Government has no specific duty to produce a Gender Equality Scheme it wants to be recognised for providing an exemplary service to women and men in Wales by developing strategies and policies that are effective and outcome focused.
2. Key Equality Objectives for the ESF programme which cover a number of the selected Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities will be to:
    - Overcome the negative impact that pay and employment differences have on women in Wales;
    - Create an environment which supports inclusive work places, which promote equality of opportunity for staff through improved employee engagement and for reconciliation of work and private life;
    - Challenge occupational segregation by increasing the numbers of women and men training or retraining in non-traditional areas (e.g. childcare, social care) focusing on areas where there are skills shortages;
    - Challenge traditional employment roles where gender stereotypes may exist and assist young people, both males and females, to take up and retain employment in non-traditional areas or industries where specific genders are underrepresented, such as females in industries where STEM subjects are required (e.g. Engineering, Information Technology;
    - Increase the representation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses;
    - Provide affordable, quality childcare which meets the need of a modern economy and its workforce;
    - Identify and support opportunities to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language; and
    - Recognise health and wellbeing as one of the corner stones of a healthy, vibrant economy.
3. As outlined in Section 11.2 operations funded through the Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment and Skills for Growth Priority Axes will be required to contribute to the following Result Indicator:
    - Employers adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems.
4. The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement looks to identify how, as part of the Equality CCT, overcoming inequalities between men and women and promoting gender equality will be addressed. The Equality CCT will be implemented as part of the overall approach to the implementation of the CCT's including the Sustainable Development CCT (detailed in section 11.1) and Tackling Poverty CCT (detailed in Section 5).
5. **Selection and Development of Operations**
6. Specific actions are included where relevant in each Priority Axis section. These actions reflect the ESF Programme strategy and include a specific focus on the needs of women in employment. They will help tackle the gender pay gap and support the role of women in the workplace, as well as challenging occupational segregation where it exists.

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7. Specific actions within the programme for the selection and development of operations to promote and deliver the equality objectives above are identified in section 11.2.

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12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period

Table 27: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification/submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axes / Investment Priorities

12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

Table 28: Performance framework by fund and category of region (summary table)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	More developed	Expenditure	€			~~22,336,382~~13,000,000			~~87,569,978~~64,000,000.00
1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	More developed	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare	Number			3239			12,700.00

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
			responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)							
1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	More developed	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; are from a BME group; or from a jobless household)	Number			969			3,800.00
~~2 - Skills for Growth~~	~~ESF~~	~~More developed~~	~~Expenditure~~	~~€~~			~~50,302,887~~			~~197,212,886.00~~
~~2 - Skills for Growth~~	~~ESF~~	~~More developed~~	~~Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female~~	~~Number~~			~~1,811~~			~~7,101.00~~
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	~~Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male~~Expenditure	~~Number~~€			~~1,989~~60,000,000			~~7,799~~178,000,000.00
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number			~~3,087~~4898			12,~~104~~000.00
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number			~~3,391~~5380			~~13,296~~10,000.00
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number			1,495			5,862.00

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	More developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number			1,642			6,438.00
3 - Youth Employment	ESF	More developed	Expenditure	€			30,596,600			~~119,954,230~~132,000,000.00
3 - Youth Employment	ESF	More developed	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number			5,407			21,200.00
5 - Public services reform and regional working	ESF	More developed	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Number			1			4.00
5 - Public services reform and regional working	ESF	More developed	Expenditure	€			0			26.00

12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP ON EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES 2014-20

Partners:

- British Telecom (private sector)
- Cogitamus (private sector)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (equalities)
- Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (third sector)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Torfaen County Borough Council (local government)

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- Plus representatives from key Welsh Government spending departments

EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES PARTNERSHIP FORUM (2014-20)

Partners:

- Bangor Mussel Producers Ltd (fisheries / private sector)
- Barsby Associates (Institute of Directors)
- British Telecom (private sector)
- CBI Wales (employers organisation)
- Cardiff University (higher education)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (equalities)
- Forestry Commissioner for Wales (environment / rural)
- Grahame Guilford & Co Ltd (private sector)
- Gower College (further education)
- Job Centre Plus (employment)
- National Institute for Continuing Adult Education (education)
- National Trust (environment/rural)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Torfaen County Borough Council (local government)
- Wales Commissioner for Sustainable Futures (environment)
- Wales Co-operative Centre (third sector)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)
- Wales TUC (workers organisation)

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- Welsh farmers (agricultural)
- Welsh Local Government association (local government)
- Working Links (employment)
- Plus representatives from key Welsh Government spending departments

POST 2013 WORKSTREAMS

Operational Programmes Workstream

Partners:

- Anglesey County Council CBI Wales (employers organisation)
- Cardiff County Council (higher education)
- Chwarae Teg (third sector)
- Countryside Council for Wales (environment/rural)
- Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales (environmental / sustainability)
- EEF Cymru (manufacturers' organisation)
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (higher education)
- Job Centre Plus (employment)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- RSPB Cymru (environment and countryside)
- Wales Co-operative Centre (third sector)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

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Delivery and Compliance Workstream

Partners:

- Arts Council of Wales (arts)
- Bridgend County Borough Council (local government)
- Countryside Council for Wales (rural)
- Gower College (further education)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

Monitoring and Evaluation Workstream

Partners:

- Bridgend County Borough Council (local government)
- Countryside Council for Wales (environment/rural)
- London Economics (private sector consultancy)
- Monmouthshire County Council (local government)
- National Trust (environment/rural)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)
- Welsh Local Government association (local government)

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Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
~~Annex 7 Opinion of National Equalities Body ESF~~	~~Opinion of national equality bodies on sections 12.2 and 12.3~~	~~18-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3842831~~	~~Annex 7 Opinion of National Equalities Body ESF~~	~~18-Nov-2014~~	~~nwlisdav~~
~~Annex 1 Ex Ante Evaluation Report East Wales~~	~~Report of the ex-ante evaluation~~	~~18-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3842831~~	~~Annex 1 Ex Ante Evaluation Report East Wales~~	~~18-Nov-2014~~	~~nwlisdav~~
~~Annex 4 - Ex-Ante Conditionalities Self Assessment Grid~~	~~Documentation on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities~~	~~18-Nov-2014~~		~~Ares(2014)3842831~~	~~Annex 4 - Ex-Ante Conditionalities Self Assessment Grid~~	~~18-Nov-2014~~	~~nwlisdav~~

Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Annex 1 Ex Ante Evaluation Report East Wales	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.2	18-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3842831	Annex 1 Ex Ante Evaluation Report East Wales	18-Nov-2014	nwlisdav
Programme Snapshot 2014UK05SFOP002 1.2	Snapshot of data before send	1.2	18-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3842831	Programme Snapshot 2014UK05SFOP002 1.2 en	18-Nov-2014	nwlisdav
Annex 4 - Ex-Ante Conditionalities Self Assessment Grid	Documentation on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities	1.2	18-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3842831	Annex 4 - Ex-Ante Conditionalities Self Assessment Grid	18-Nov-2014	nwlisdav

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Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
~~Info~~		~~Programme version has been validated.~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.18.6~~	~~At least one indicator must be defined in the relevant indicator tables. Priority axis "4", specific objective "4.3", Table 12~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.19.3~~	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2014", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "354,383,343.00", "320,548,422.00".~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.19.3~~	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2015", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "361,478,159.00", "326,965,858.00".~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.19.3~~	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2016", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "368,713,961.00", "333,510,861.00".~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.19.3~~	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2017", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "376,093,226.00", "340,185,493.00".~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.19.3~~	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2018", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "383,619,808.00", "346,993,502.00".~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.19.3~~	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2019", must be smaller~~

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Severity	Code	Message
		~~or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "391,296,825.00", "353,937,533.00".~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.19.3~~	~~The sum of the annual EU Support per category of region "Less developed" and per year "2020", must be smaller or equal than the corresponding annual EU Support specified in the Financial Perspectives: "399,126,740.00", "361,019,901.00".~~

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OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME UNDER THE 'INVESTMENT FOR GROWTH AND JOBS' GOAL

CCI	2014UK05SFOP001
Title	United Kingdom - ESF West Wales and the Valleys
Version	~~2~~3.~~2~~0
First year	2014
Last year	2020
Eligible from	01-Jan-2014
Eligible until	31-Dec-2023
Making use of Art. 96(8) CPR	
Major amendment (requiring EC approval - cf. Art. 96 CPR)	✓
Approved by monitoring committee	✓
Justification for amendment	Request for a revision to the West Wales and the Valleys ESF Operational Programme in line with Article 30 of Regulation 1303/2013. The proposed revisions reflect ~~the additional €4,814,104 allocated to the West Wales and the Valleys programmes following the European Commission's mid-term adjustment of national allocations for Cohesion policy~~a changing socio-economic situation, in particular tightening labour market, rectifying incorrect assumptions made in the original document, in particular for some indicators, and clarifications to text.
EC decision number	~~C(2017)8821~~
EC decision date	~~15-Dec-2017~~
MS amending decision number	

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MS amending decision date	
MS amending decision entry into force date	
NUTS regions covered by the operational programme	UKL1 - West Wales and The Valleys

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1. STRATEGY FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Introduction

1. The European Social Fund (ESF) programme strategy for West Wales and the Valleys (WWV) sets out how the 2014-2020 ESF programmes will focus on supporting high quality, strategically aligned operations which operate in a cohesive and coordinated manner with wider domestic programmes.
2. A full Socio Economic Analysis has been undertaken to identify needs, challenges and opportunities across WWV. This has been subject to ex-ante evaluation and represents a robust evidence base upon which this strategy is developed (as part of a suite of European Structural and Investment (ESI) fund programmes in Wales). This establishes the rationale for the investments across all the ESI fund programmes and will be published with the programme documents.
3. The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement sets out a strategy for the use of the ESI funds together to deliver a coordinated suite of investment programmes providing a summary of the analysis of disparities, needs and growth potentials across the Welsh economy and labour market. The UK Partnership Agreement specifically considers links to the UK Country Specific Recommendations and the Commission Position Paper on the UK for each of the main Thematic Objectives.
4. In relation to both the Treaty goals and the Europe 2020 (EU2020) goals it should be noted that the Welsh Government has placed sustainable development and equality as its central organising principles and they are also at the core of these programmes. This means all development needs to achieve an appropriate balance between economic, social and environmental outcomes, recognising that each is mutually reinforcing.
5. **Needs and Opportunities in the WWV Programme Area**
6. The Socio Economic and SWOT analyses that underpin this strategy identify a range of opportunities that can be exploited and challenges to be overcome if WWV and Wales are to see economic growth and, through that, the creation of sustainable job opportunities for their citizens.
7. Prior to the 2007 economic downturn and subsequent recession, Wales and WWV had begun to make clear progress in tackling some of the long-standing structural, economic challenges. Previous rounds of EU Structural Funds investments,

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developed at a time of growth in the Welsh economy and labour market, made an important contribution to this enhanced position.

8. Whilst the economic downturn has impacted severely upon WWV, progress made in reducing gaps with the wider Welsh and UK economy has not been lost entirely. Nonetheless, in preparing for a further round of Structural Fund programmes in 2014-2020, the current economic and labour market conditions in WWV are very different from those existing at the same stage of preparations for previous programmes.
9. At the start of the new programme round in 2014, it is anticipated that the WWV economy will not have recovered to its pre-recession state and that several labour market problems, such as high youth unemployment, a low skills mix and high numbers of workless households will remain.
10. WWV covers an area of 1.24 million hectares, comprising 15 Local Authority areas. The 2011 census showed that the area has a population of some 1.9 million people, 51% of whom are female, 14% are disabled and 3% are ethnic minorities. In 2011, 30% of the population were under 25, 51% were 25-64 and 19% were 65 and over.
11. Population projections in Wales suggest the population will increase to 3.17 million in 2020 and to 3.31 million in 2035. Statistics do not exist at the WWV programme level however trends are likely to be similar to Wales level data. The main driver of population growth is considered to be net migration. Overall the number of children under 16 is projected to increase by 3% between 2012 and 2035. The 16-64 age group is likely to decrease by 3% with the over 65 age group projected to increase by 47% over the same period.
12. Gross Value Added (GVA) per head in WWV between 2010 and 2012 was approximately £6,000 lower than GVA per head in the UK. The majority of this gap is explained by lower value added per job (broadly speaking productivity). Lower employment, net out-commuting and a relatively high dependency ratio also contributed to the gap in GVA per head.
13. The productivity gap is influenced by: an adverse industrial structure / mix; poor skills mix; a lack of agglomeration effects (where firms gain benefits from proximity to other firms or a large urban economy); and lower levels of capital. The Socio Economic Analysis shows that around 60% of private sector employment is in SMEs (33% in micro-businesses of up to 9 employees, and 27% in other SMEs).
14. Poverty and the consequences of poverty remain a challenge particularly in the current economic environment and when set in the context of an EU2020 target of 20 million fewer people at risk of poverty across the EU, The 2014 UK Country Specific Recommendations (CSR) also identifies the importance of continuing efforts to reduce child poverty in low-income households. Latest figures (Wales figures only for the three years ending 2011/12) show that relative income poverty for working age adults (where a household is living on 60% or less of the UK median income, after housing costs) was slightly higher than ten years previously (23% and 22% respectively). In-work poverty also constitutes a greater proportion of those in relative income poverty than 10 years ago[1].
15. As recognised by the 2014 CSR's the UK Governments Welfare Reform Agenda and The Welfare Reform Act 2012, introduces the greatest changes to welfare benefits in 60 years. Although reform of welfare benefits is a non-devolved matter, the reforms are expected to have far reaching consequences with significant implications for devolved services, individuals and communities in Wales. A report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and research from the Welsh Government suggest that the reforms will be largely regressive in Wales. The

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report suggests that impacts on people across the country will be negative with a potential to increase poverty for those on low incomes and furthest from the labour market and groups with protected characteristics such as women, disabled people and black and ethnic minority groups (BME)[2].

16. The employment rate in WWV for the 20-64 population was 70% in 2012, lower than both the Wales and UK average and significantly below the Europe 2020 target of 75%. The socio economic analysis states that this lower employment rate in WWV accounts for 15% of the overall GVA gap. Employment rates in WWV have varied significantly during the recent economic downturn depending on location and qualification level. Employment rates increased between 2000 and 2005, however there was a sharp decline in 2009 when the UK wide recession was at its most severe.
17. Employment rates for those with NQF level 4 and above remained constant at around 86%. In contrast, employment rates for those with low or no qualifications have declined sharply to as low as 39%. This decline reflects an overall decline in the traditional low-skilled industries in Wales and is further emphasised through evidence which shows the areas with the lowest employment rates are in the South Wales Valleys. It is also worth noting that the redundancy rate in WWV for the year ending 31 March 2012 was 0.9%, compared to 0.7% for both Wales and the UK as a whole,[3] showing that the WWV area has been more adversely affected by the recession.
18. The Socio-economic analysis also shows under-representation in employment amongst women, ethnic minorities and disabled people at 62.3%, 53.2% and 42.5% respectively (compared to 70% for the 20-64 population as a whole).
19. Unemployment in WWV in 2012 was 8.4%, with long term unemployment at 35.5%. Although the unemployment rate in WWV has stabilised over the last few years following a sharp increase in 2008, it was still higher in 2012, than both Wales (8.3%) and the UK (7.9%). Unemployment rates among disabled groups and ethnic minorities are significantly higher in WWV, at 11.7% and 14.5% respectively[4]. These rates are higher than both the Wales and UK averages. Youth unemployment (15-24) rose sharply following the economic downturn to 26.8% in 2010 but has since shown signs of recovery, reducing to 23.8% in 2012[5]. Evidence also suggests that of those who are unemployed a significant proportion of these had low or no skills[6].
20. Employment policy in Wales is a non devolved competence and is the responsibility of the UK Government. The Welsh Government provides a supportive policy context to target areas where it can complement and add value to mainstream provision. Supporting people into work is seen as a critical solution to reducing poverty in Wales. The Tackling Poverty Action plan and the Child Poverty Strategy in Wales are two key documents which outline the Welsh Governments approach to support individuals to access sustainable employment with simplification and integration of programmes the main underlying principles.
21. A population with a relatively poor qualifications profile and a relatively low employment rate, along with the potential impact of UK welfare reforms, add additional challenges to reducing poverty in WWV. In the UK, of those households in poverty, 72% were classed as workless with one or more unemployed. The UK itself has a higher proportion of children living in workless households than almost any other EU country.
22. Whilst figures do not exist for Wales or WWV, it is reasonable to assume that a similar pattern holds true. WWV has a higher percentage of workless households (23.2% / 139,000 households in 2012) than the Wales (21.5%) and the UK

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(18.1%)[7] averages. In WWV in 2012, 16.8% of Unemployed individuals and 52.4% of Economically Inactive individuals were from a workless household[8]. Evidence shows that there is a close correlation between worklessness and poverty. The 2014 UK CSR's recognise the importance of reducing child poverty in low-income households. Poverty has a negative correlation with educational attainment and skills and children from poorer or disadvantaged backgrounds and whose mothers have no qualifications have lower educational and occupational outcomes than other children.

23. Inactivity rates have been declining in WWV over the last decade. In 2012 the rate of inactivity excluding students was 23.8%, dropping from 28.1% a decade earlier, a drop of just over 4%. However, this figure remains higher than both the Welsh (22.2%) and UK (19.3%) averages[9]. In 2012 inactivity rates in WWV were highest amongst the disabled population (51.2%) and amongst older workers (36.4%). Long term illness at 35% is the single largest underlying factor of inactivity, looking after family / home accounted for 28%. Evidence also suggests that a significant proportion of those who are economically inactive have low or no skills (level 2 or below)[10].
24. The 2014 CSRs make reference to the importance of addressing skills mismatches and increasing provision of more advanced and higher level skills. The qualifications profile of the workforce in WWV has improved in recent years, however the Socio Economic Analysis shows that it remains on average weaker than for the UK as a whole. In 2012, 51.2% of working age adults in WWV have an intermediate (NQF level 3–4) or above while, in comparison to UK figures, the proportion of people qualified to NQF level 4 and above in WWV is relatively low at 29.9% (UK rate of 37%). Of the four constituent nations of the UK, Wales also has the lowest percentage of working age adults qualified to NQF Level 7-8 (8.1% for England, 8.2% for Scotland, 7.4% for Wales and 7.5% for Northern Ireland). The percentage rate for Wales, at 7.4%, is also below the UK average of 8.1%[11]. Meanwhile, the proportion of people with no qualifications in WWV is also relatively high at 11.8%. It is important to note, however, that significant gains have been made in these areas since 2001; with increases of 9.4% in the proportion qualified to NQF level 4 and above and reductions of 11.1% in the proportion of those with no qualifications.
25. Of those working age adults in employment in Wales, the most recent figures show that 6.9% of working age adults in employment have no qualifications at all, 14.1% have below NQF level 2 qualifications, 21.7% have qualifications at NQF level 2, while 57.3% are qualified to NQF level 3 or above and 37.2% are qualified to NQF level 4 and above.
26. Wales performs well against the EU2020 target for at least 40% of 30-34 year olds to have completed a tertiary or equivalent education. At 41% Wales is above the EU average of 35.8% (2012) however, WWV is below this at 35.7%.
27. Although current demand for skilled individuals is relatively weak across the UK, the labour market demand for employees with higher skills is projected to grow as more high skilled jobs are created within the economy, as recognised by the 2014 CSRs. The fastest declining occupational groups are clustered around NQF Level 2 and below; in 2000, around one third of jobs were held by people with no or low level qualifications but by 2020 this figure is projected to fall to just over one fifth.[12] Meanwhile, intermediate and higher level occupations account for the largest share of employment in the Welsh economy and are expected to be the main source of future jobs growth, with the fastest growing occupational groups requiring skills at NQF Levels 3, 4 and above.

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28. By 2020, more than two-fifths of jobs are expected to be held by people with higher level qualifications (level 4 and above).[13] Wales also has a large concentration of employment at an intermediate level and intermediate occupations are projected to contribute more than one third of future job openings.[14] Increasing the labour market relevance of education and training will be a key challenge for all the ESI funds as will be the use of labour market intelligence to inform investments.
29. Supporting the development of our young people will impact on a number of the key EU2020 targets centred on increasing employment, tackling poverty and social inclusion and reducing early school leaving, as well as directly contributing to the 2014 CSR to improve skills to meet employer needs and to reduce the number of young people with low basic skills. A focus on youth which supports attainment and transition through education and into employment will be vital in achieving the EU2020 target for Early School Leaving (ESL) of less than 10%. ESL in Wales at 16.9% is above the EU average and significantly higher than the EU2020 target, with WWV higher at 17.5% in 2012.[15]
30. Education attainment levels of 15 year olds as measured by PISA are also lower in Wales than the rest of the UK and significantly below the OECD average, with poor attainment in numeracy and science and a visible gender gap in these topics, with boys scoring significantly higher than girls.[16] Level 2 examination results[17] at age 16 in WWV (47.8%) are lower than the Wales average (48.7%) and significant local variations exist, with some areas as low as 34.1%.
31. Welsh GCSE entries for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects have declined by 12% over recent years,[18] with a corresponding decrease in attainment levels during the period 2008-2013. However, GCSE attainment levels among girls compare well to boys, with a higher proportion of girls gaining GCSE Grades A*-C in 2013 in Biology, Chemistry, Science and Additional Science. However, there is a sharp decrease in participation levels in STEM subjects post 16, especially among girls, with Welsh figures lower than the rest of the UK[19]. With the exception of ICT, the proportion of A level students taking STEM subjects has declined over the period 2001-2013. In 2013, 17% of male A level students were taking science, while the equivalent figure for girls was 10.7%. For ICT and CDT[20] subjects, the figures are 10% for boys and 5% for girls. A level biology and physics grades achieved by Welsh students are also lower than English students.
32. This trend continues into higher education, with the proportion of females enrolling in STEM subjects being lower for Wales than the UK. Women are particularly underrepresented in specialist technical subjects such as Mechanical Aero and Production Engineering, the proportion of first degree students who are female is only 9.6%.[21] Engineering UK projections forecast a significant shortfall in the availability of suitably qualified individuals (at all qualification levels) over the next ten years.
33. Previous data shows the high levels of youth unemployment compared to unemployment generally. Young people are finding it harder to access work and move from education into employment in a highly competitive labour market which is becoming more congested as people work later in life. These same pressures also impact on those furthest from the labour market and the economically inactive who are trying to get back to sustainable employment.
34. In Wales the number of 19-24 year olds who are NEET in 2012 markedly increased to 23% following the 2008 recession[22] (data for WWV is not available separately for the 16-18 and 19-24 age range however, most recent estimates for WWV shows the NEET rate for 16-24 year olds at 19.8%[23]).

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However, the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET has remained fairly constant at a rate of between 10-13% over the years 1996 to 2012. This would indicate that non-engagement for the 16-18 cohort is a structural and persistent issue which is present through all economic conditions. This illustrates a need to target specific tailored early interventions at addressing the requirements of this cohort, particularly at those pre 16 who are at greatest risk of becoming NEET.

35. For those who are NEET, and in line with the 2014 CSRs, particular attention should be given to providing higher and more relevant skills and key competences to improve employability and tackle barriers to employment. In Wales 21% of 16-18 year old NEETs have no qualifications and 26% of 19-24 year old NEETs are without qualifications[24]. The proportion of young people who are NEET is higher amongst those with a disability with 60% of 16-18 year old NEETs classed as unemployed and 20% as inactive due to sickness or disability, family or caring responsibilities[25]. Among 19-24 year old NEETs nearly 60% were considered to be economically inactive, mainly due to sickness, disability and family or caring responsibilities[26]. Other barriers to employment cited by young people who are NEET are a lack of work experience and a lack of self confidence.
36. Competition in the labour market puts a sharper focus on the need to address the issues of those who are NEET, or at risk of becoming NEET, to increase attainment levels, reduce early school leaving and prevent further disadvantage. This competition also compounds the issues for those who are disabled or disadvantaged in seeking to return to or retain employment.
37. The Programme for Government[27] identifies the big long term challenges for tackling youth unemployment, attainment and developing children during the early years. There are a number of key relevant Welsh Government policy documents which sit under this and include; the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework[28], which has been developed around the needs of young people, strengthening the accountability of different agencies in the system for delivering better outcomes for young people; and, the Building a Brighter Future: An Early Years and Childcare Plan*[29]* which sets out the Welsh Government commitment to improve the life chances and outcomes of all children in Wales over the next 10 years.
38. The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework also includes a Welsh Government commitment to introduce a guarantee to a place in education or training for young people leaving compulsory education for the first time. The Welsh Government Youth Guarantee[30] is the "offer, acceptance and commencement of a suitable place in education or training for a young person making the first time transition from compulsory education at age 16" and contributes directly to the 2014 CSRs to improve the skills of young people to meet employer needs and to reduce the number of young people with low basic skills. The Welsh Government Youth Guarantee is along lines that are the same as, or very similar to, the kind of measures suggested in the Council Recommendation on Establishing a Youth Guarantee.
39. Attainment and educational outcomes can be greatly influenced from an early age. Commission recommendations also recognise the need for early intervention including the role that high quality childcare provision can play in supporting our youngest children to have the best start in life, with specific mention made in the 2014 CSRs of the importance of quality childcare. There is close correlation between the quality of provision and the skills of the workforce.
40. Research in Wales estimates that 38% of Early Years and Childcare workforce have no more than level 2 qualifications, 25% have no qualifications at all[31].

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The workforce has expanded by 8% since 2005 and nearly 3% of all women employed in Wales work in childcare. The workforce does not reflect wider society in that it is predominantly staffed by White British, female employees with men making up only 2%[32]; reinforcing the Equality Impact Assessment view that gender stereotyping with regards employment remains a substantial issue[33].

41. Early interventions will help ensure a strong legacy effect of ESF investments in our young people. Investing in the skills of the workforce will improve the quality of provision, and the quality of early year childcare provision can have a long lasting impact in reducing early school leaving and promoting social inclusion in education[34].
42. Projected population changes will influence the mobility of our workforce in the future. Recent increases in birth rates and an ageing workforce mean that childcare and caring responsibilities, particularly amongst women and lone parents, will potentially become barriers to labour mobility and employability to more people, as recognised in the 2014 CSRs. This may mean more people moving out of the labour market and potentially into poverty to cope with these demands. People will also be required to work until later in life as pension ages change, and the need to supplement pension income increases.
43. Within the labour market, women continue to be underrepresented in senior positions and in growth sectors, particularly where STEM subjects are required. Only 9.9% of employed women are employed in "Managers and senior officials" occupations, while only 38.4% of those who are classified as "Managers and senior officials" are women.
44. There are several issues influencing the position of women in the workforce in WWV.[35] For example, women have a higher propensity to be in part-time employment than men even though women on average are better qualified than men. In addition, despite a stronger qualifications profile, women are under-represented in higher paying jobs and over-represented in the public sector, where employment opportunities are diminishing.
45. The circumstances that generate these outcomes for women are complex and span social, cultural and economic spheres. In 2012, of the 5.9 million women working part-time in the UK, approximately 75% said they did not want a full-time job compared with approximately 40% for men[36]. In Wales, the incidence of part-time working is similar to the UK and the gender split is also very similar (43.1% of women in Wales work part time, as compared to 43.4% at a UK level, while the equivalent figures for men are 13.7% in Wales and 13.4% in the UK).
46. Data showing the proportion of women working part-time who do not want a full-time job is not available for Wales. However, the proportion of people working part-time in 2012 who did not want a full-time job in Wales was 67%; very similar to the UK where it was 65%. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the proportion of women working part-time who do not want a full-time job in Wales is similar to the UK too.
47. In 2012, women earned on average £464 per week in WWV compared with £535 per week for men. Female earnings as a proportion of male earnings are 87%, higher than the Wales or UK average. Female average gross weekly earnings in Wales are lower than male earnings in all major occupational groups, although this disparity is not as marked in Wales as it is in the rest of the UK, perhaps reflecting the greater proportion of employment in the public sector. In the private sector female earnings are 78% of male earnings in Wales, close to the UK ratio of 76%. These figures however report weekly earnings irrespective of working

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patterns, making no allowance for the higher proportion of women working part-time.

48. Research by the UK Department for Work and Pensions cites earners not working enough hours as one of three main causes of in-work poverty among families with children. Part time working, at 30.4%%, continues to make up a significant proportion of the total employment in WWV[37]. 33% of those in part time employment want a full time job[38].
49. Although we are living and required to work longer, evidence shows that our health is not improving at similar rates. Health issues in the workforce may become more commonplace[39]. In Wales 2.5% of working hours are lost due to sickness or injury higher than the UK at 1.8%[40]. Poor mental health in the workforce has been estimated to cost the Welsh economy £1.2bn a year with an average of 1 in 6 of the workforce being affected by mental health issues[41].
50. The effects of disabilities and work limiting health conditions can impair productivity and may also be or become barriers to maintaining sustained employment, as can the effects of substance or alcohol misuse. It is estimated that, due to sickness, there will be 45,000 employees absent from work in Wales in 2014/15 for 4 weeks or more[42]. Mental health and musculoskeletal problems account for over 50% of long-term absentee employees with around 1/3 of long term absentee employees report having two or more health conditions.
51. **Strategy for ESF in WWV**
52. This strategy will be delivered as part of an integrated approach to the delivery of ESI Funds across Wales and will support the aims of the Welsh Government's Programme for Government and the European Union strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth (EU2020). This approach recognises that the most effective way to create the conditions which would lead to a significant, positive movement in GVA is through coordinated, integrated and focussed action with Government, in all its forms, working with both the private and third sectors across Wales.
53. As outlined in the Partnership Agreement, in order to produce a transformational effect in relation to jobs and growth the Welsh Government will look to maximise the impact of all European Funding streams, encouraging the development of schemes and projects which ensure each is a part of a coordinated portfolio of investments. Integrated action will be possible to support communities across Wales, including rural and coastal communities, to utilise ESI funds to develop workforce skills to take advantage of growth opportunities, address emerging economic challenges and diversify into new markets.
54. Wales will be pursuing a more concentrated and integrated approach in the 2014-20 round of programmes which will help to foster cooperation and coordination between funds. The linkages between the ESF investments and other European Funding streams (including across ESF Programmes) are set out in more detail later within each priority area, as is the integration approach. Links to other EU funding instruments also expected to be made on a project-by-project basis.
55. In support of the joint programming approach a strict approach to demarcation has been avoided for 2014-2020 programmes. This approach means that, where state aid allows, farmers and fishermen will be able to access ESF to support efforts to up-skill or re-skill, particularly where this can support actions to take advantage of emerging opportunities such as those in support of climate change actions and green growth. This approach also reflects the interrelationships in Wales of the Rural, Coastal and Urban economies.
56. The WWV ESF programme recognises that, if there is to be genuine and transformational change in the economy and labour market, there is a need for

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devolved and non-devolved measures to link and add value in the targeting of deep seated problems. Interventions will respond to the needs of employers, utilising Labour Market Intelligence (LMI)[43] to ensure interventions achieve the required sustainable employment outcomes and the skills interventions that support our future workforce.

57. A suite of guidance documents, including an Economic Prioritisation Framework (EPF), will be used to drive synergy between ESI Funds and wider investments in the Welsh economy. Alongside LMI these documents will enable ESF investments to align with areas of economic growth and opportunity and interact, as part of a wider investment context, to ensure that the investments in people can deliver the skills and workforce that the economy will need.
58. The EPF seeks to capture the wider investments and key economic opportunities of relevance to the ESI funds taking place in the Welsh economy to support these funds to add value to those wider investments, avoid duplication and build on existing assets. There are a number of key economic areas of opportunity, particularly in the area of skills and workforce supply and development, where ESF will underpin a number of investments across Wales.
59. These are explored in greater detail in the EPF but would include; investments in energy and supporting the transition to a low carbon and energy efficient economy; climate change and resource efficiency including protection and strategic management of resources (which could include supporting agriculture and aquaculture to address issues of food security and climate change); active participation in the digital economy and opportunities of the digital marketplace; advanced manufacturing and the development of expertise in waste, recycling and reuse, remanufacturing, emissions, resource use (including water and energy), and resource resilience (scarce metals); Life Sciences and Health; and, Tourism, Recreation and Leisure.
60. It will be possible through linkages to these key economic growth areas and wider investments across the ESI funds to ensure ESF investments also support wider efforts to address those EU2020 targets which are not directly linked to ESF activity. Skills and employment provision through ESF can, for example, help to underpin actions towards the EU2020 targets of a reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and increased shares of renewables in final energy consumption to 20%.
61. For those areas which cover non-devolved competencies such as Employment and Welfare, close working relationships have been developed between the Managing Authority and both the Welsh Government and the UK Government to ensure that ESF interventions are able to demonstrate added value and complementarity with mainstream provision. The selection of the relevant Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities (specifically where complementarities can exist with access to employment) reflects this additionality approach and is addressed in further detail in the relevant priorities. Section 8 further outlines the mechanisms at a Welsh Government and UK government level to manage the integration of actions in these areas.
62. **Vision for the ESI Fund Programmes in Wales**
    - The **Welsh Government's vision**, as set out in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement, is that ESI Funds, aligned with the Programme for Government, will help Wales become **a confident, entrepreneurial and ambitious nation, prospering from sustainable economic growth**.
63. **WWV ESF Programme Aims and Objectives**

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64. The following outline the ESF programme aims and objectives for WWV and form the basis of the Priority Axis approach adopted within the programme and the Specific Objectives within each Priority Axis. In pursuing these aims and objectives, the programme will ensure that the benefits of economic growth are genuinely accessible to all and not rely solely on 'trickle down' effects which would risk creating inequalities. The pursuit of economic growth must also not have any adverse effect on the environment or society more widely.
    - To tackle poverty and social exclusion by increasing labour market participation and helping people to access sustainable employment;
    - To invest in skills as a driver of productivity and growth, to aid progression within employment and improve the skills mix and diversity of our workforce; and
    - To invest in our young people to create a vibrant and responsive future workforce with the skills needed to respond to the needs of a challenging knowledge based economy.
65. **Objectives**
    - To reduce poverty by increasing employment levels, particularly for underrepresented groups and those furthest from the labour market;
    - To increase skills levels of the workforce, increasing the number of people qualified to intermediate level or above, reducing the number of people with no skills or basic skills only and increasing higher level skills in research and innovation;
    - To increase youth employment and educational attainment, thereby reducing poverty and disadvantage in our young people; and
    - To reduce inequalities in the labour market amongst women and recognised equality groups
66. Built around a Priority Axis approach, the WWV ESF programme will provide a balanced approach which underpins economic growth and supports those individuals at greatest need and at risk of disadvantage or discrimination. Actions will be focused on a limited number of Investment Priorities within each Thematic Objective to ensure that the ESF programmes are able to provide the concentration and focus which the regulations require and which will deliver the greatest impact.
67. The ESF programme in WWV will deliver a coherent programme of actions that enable economic growth through promoting high levels of sustainable employment, developing a skilled and responsive Welsh workforce now and for the future. It will focus on three key areas: targeting poverty and social exclusion through promoting sustainable employment, investing in a skilled workforce and investing in our young people to ensure the best start in life.
68. The programme will facilitate the development of a balanced portfolio of investments targeting short-term issues, through securing improvements against key indicators such as employment outcomes and qualifications, whilst also seeking to achieve longer term outcomes such as addressing structural issues on youth unemployment and NEETs and increasing the quality of childcare.
69. **Priority Axes for WWV**
70. The WWV ESF programme has ~~been~~was originally developed around three interrelated Priority Axes which will deliver complementary action in support of the overall aims and objectives of the ESF programmes in Wales:
    - **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment;**
    - **Skills for Growth; and**
    - **Youth Employment and Attainment**

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71. ~~The~~ Modifictaions ot the programmes in 2018 saw proposals for the introduction of a new Priority Axis for '**Public services reform and regional working**'. The intention is for the Priority will focus on addressing capacity constraints and barriers to working collaboratively across the public sector, with a particular emphasis on regional working. This is expected to build on the experiences during 2007-2013, moving successful arrangements to a new footing, aligned with the Welsh Government's regionalisation agenda. For example the 2007-2013 programmes helped establish regional skills partnerships, which could be supported to evolve into a more regionally integrated mode.

~~71.~~72. The **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment** Priority Axis will aim to support efforts to tackle poverty and social exclusion in WWV. In line with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan, this will be achieved by supporting key target groups to increase employability and achieve sustained employment.

~~72.~~73. In Wales, poverty is defined as '*A long-term state of not having sufficient resources to afford food, reasonable living conditions or amenities, or to participate in activities (such as access to attractive neighbourhoods and open spaces) that are taken for granted by others in society*'. The Welsh Government, in the Programme for Government and the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, has a cross governmental commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion and fully endorses the European Union's focus on poverty, linking into the 2014 CSR to continue efforts to reduce child poverty in low-income households. The introduction of a Tackling Poverty Cross-Cutting Theme will reinforce this and ensure that this focus is reflected across all ESI funds.

~~73.~~74. Actions within this Priority Axis will look to prevent and tackle poverty as a result of unemployment or underemployment, with sustainable employment as the driving principle. The broader longer term impacts of the interventions will be to support the overall Welsh Government approach to tackling poverty and to contribute to the reduction in unemployment or economic inactivity rates across Wales.

~~74.~~75. Previous experience has shown that clearly targeted and tailored support based on individual client needs have been particularly effective at achieving employment outcomes for individuals. Outreach, co-location and partnership working is important to this and help to provide clearer pathways for beneficiaries to progress through complementary provision and into employment. Particularly effective in this area are operations which have clear mechanisms for progressing individuals towards employment as part of a portfolio of activities which span the supported employment ladder; from soft outreach and engagement activities; through to work experience, skills training and job search as well as job retention provision.

~~75.~~76. The main focus of investments within this Priority Axis will support those furthest from the labour market and therefore living in persistent poverty to overcome the complex and multi-causal barriers they face to moving closer to the labour market. Investments will help individuals to address the barriers they face and to re-engage with the labour market, access sustained employment and to realise the opportunities employment can bring in tackling out of work poverty.

~~76.~~77. Support will target Long Term Unemployed and Economically Inactive individuals who have complex barriers to labour market mobility including; low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability (including substance or alcohol misuse); care or childcare responsibilities; are over 54; from BME group or from a jobless household. Support will also be provided to help address associated barriers such as transport, financial and emotional; ICT; and, issues

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such as attitudes to work and welfare dependence. Delivered as part of wider strategies to address worklessness, poverty and disadvantaged communities, interventions will be integrated and personalised, focused on the needs of the individual in both the methods of engagement and delivery and structured in a method that avoids the need for an individual facing multiple or complex barriers to access a complex configuration of separate interventions.

~~77.~~78. More focused investments will also target those closest to the labour market who are at most risk of poverty, providing reactive and responsive solutions to address labour market fluctuations and cycles of work and worklessness (the low pay no pay cycle), working to prevent individuals slipping into long term unemployment and poverty. Support will focus on early remedial action to address the underlying causes of worklessness and allow an early return to the labour market.

~~78.~~79. In supporting access to sustainable employment there will need to be close linkages with areas of economic growth and opportunity for example in the transition to low carbon or a higher skilled economy. This will be key to helping to diversify employment options for those closest to the labour market away from declining sectors and into areas of growth and to ensure the sustainability of employment outcomes for those re-entering employment after periods of prolonged absence.

80. The Priority- will also support the effective transition into stable and sustainable work. This additional support could include continuing with mentoring support for a limited period or helping with the costs of barriers such as child care, travel, equipment or clothing. This support for participants entering employment or self-employment will better support participants during the critical first 9 months of a new job in order to avoid individuals moving repeatedly in and out of work due to lack of transitional support.

~~79.~~81. The Priority Axis will also act to prevent poverty through action targeted at those at risk of slipping out of sustainable employment as a result of long term sustained periods of sickness absence or those facing barriers (such as health, disability, substance misuse or caring or childcare responsibilities) which can cause or be a contributing factor to underemployment. Interventions will look to provide sustainable innovative solutions focused on clear areas of need to prevent barriers becoming a cause of worklessness.

~~80.~~82. Both the 2014 Country Specific Recommendations and the Commission's Position Paper for the UK recognise the need for coordinated action to address the challenges of poverty, inclusive of continuing efforts to reduce child poverty in low-income households, improving the availability of affordable, quality childcare and increasing employment to progress the achievement of this aim. With a direct link to the Flagship Initiative, *The EU Platform Against Poverty,* the approach above will support the Commission focus on tackling poverty and social exclusion and will deliver to the EU2020 target of 20 million fewer people in poverty. Getting people into stable jobs is also seen as an important factor in achieving the European employment target of 75% employment. The UK National Reform Programme highlights that barriers remain to inclusive employment and that in Wales employment is seen as the best route out of poverty.

~~81.~~83. Actions under the **Skills for Growth** Priority Axis will deliver a demand-led approach to identify and address key skills gaps and shortages amongst those in work, utilising LMI to respond to identified need and demand from employers and focused on specific target groups. Investing in skills aligned with growth activity and ensuring that employers have a suitably qualified workforce for

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sustainable economic development continues to be a key driver in the development of a modern knowledge-based economy and in helping economies to respond and adapt to economic changes, a fact which is recognised by the 2014 CSRs.

~~82.~~84. Previous experience has shown that tailoring provision to specific target groups, such as the low skilled or older workers, is a significant factor which could further enhance the reach, and therefore impact of ESF supported skills activities.[44] Delivering qualifications that are recognised by employers is also a key benefit, providing increased job security for the low skilled. Research also indicates that ESF funded skills provision should be viewed as part of an integrated and ongoing approach to lifelong learning and continuous professional development, which recognises the specific needs the target groups and the labour market position of participants.[45] Actions will therefore be designed to respond to the specific needs of employers and specific target groups, enabling progression from basic or low skills, through to intermediate skills or higher.

~~83.~~85. The 2011 ESF Leavers Survey[46] found that, following their participation in an ESF operation, the majority of respondents reported improvements in job satisfaction, future pay and promotion prospects and opportunities for training. Moreover, approximately 20% of respondents who were employed in a different job from that held prior to their participation in an ESF operation reported that the ESF activity was vital to them gaining their current employment.

~~84.~~86. There is a direct correlation between skills levels and poverty, with those with higher skills being less affected by the recession and benefiting from increased labour market mobility.[47] The Socio Economic Analysis shows that employment rates for those with low or no qualifications have declined sharply to as low as 39% in WWV. This insulation effect of higher level skills on employment rates during periods of recession and labour market uncertainty emphasises the importance of skills in achieving and maintaining sustained employment[48], as well as enhancing employer adaptability, improving workers abilities and effectiveness in the workplace[49] and enabling lower-skilled, lower paid employees to progress in employment and increase their income levels[50].

~~85.~~87. Basic and essential skills therefore remain a priority, with actions encouraging and supporting skills progression up to intermediate level to maximise the benefits skills can have on addressing in-work poverty as part of the wider approach to tackling poverty within the ESF programme.

~~86.~~88. A balance will be struck between basic and essential skills provision, including apprenticeships, and actions to deliver intermediate and higher level technical and job specific vocational qualifications (including apprenticeships), as well as higher level Research and Innovation (R&I) skills, as referenced by the 2014 CSRs.

~~87.~~89. Higher levels of qualification are associated with higher levels of employment, and higher wages[51]. Apprenticeships can have some of the largest long term impacts on earnings and employability[52], estimated between £48,000 and £74,000 in additional lifetime earnings[53] with Net Present Value per achievement twice that of similar level NVQ[54]. Higher education qualifications are also among the best paying of all qualifications and the return in the UK is higher than in many other countries. The wage premium for holding a degree is estimated to be almost 25% more than for 2 or more A levels, providing additional net lifetime earnings of nearly £130,000 on average. A postgraduate degree stands to provide a further £70,000-£80,000 of earnings.[55]

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88.90. The ESF programme will therefore support intermediate and higher level technical and job specific vocational qualifications which are responsive to the needs of business, support organisational growth and adaptability and increase the competencies of the workforce, including High Performance Working (HPW). Such skills can be a driver for economic growth, supporting the development of a better skilled and qualified workforce which will equip enterprises with the capability to respond with greater agility to long term challenges such as emerging markets or economic change, as well as improving staff retention and motivation and increasing productivity.

89.91. *Innovation Wales – the Innovation Strategy for Wales****[56]*** states that the level of R&I within businesses in Wales needs to increase and identifies the importance of equipping the next generation of learners with the right skills to innovate. Additionally, the UK Innovation Survey[57] reported that only 15% of innovation-active businesses cooperate with universities in the UK. While this figure is not specific to WWV, it indicates significant scope for greater interaction between business and higher education institutions.

90.92. Actions will therefore be taken to support an increase in the number of individuals with higher level R&I skills undertaking R&I activities in collaboration with and driven by the needs of the private sector. Investments will be focused on the Grand Challenge areas outlined in *Science for Wales: A strategic agenda for science and innovation in Wales*.[58] This approach will also complement approaches through ERDF and other ESI Funds in targeting the EU2020 target of 3% of GDP to be invested in Research and Innovation.

91.93. There will be a specific focus on promoting gender equality in employment and improving the position of women in the workforce. We will invest in actions which facilitate and promote career advancement and which provide women with increased job security and increased pay, as well as facilitating the provision of more flexible working practices and solutions which can assist women to progress their career while recognising care or childcare responsibilities, in line with the objectives of the 2014 CSRs. These interventions will also complement actions being taken forward by the Youth Employment and Attainment Priority Axis to support the greater take up of STEM subjects amongst girls.

92.94. EU2020 covers a number of key target areas relating to education, training and lifelong learning which this Priority Axis will support. This investment area has a clear link to inclusive growth with a direct link to the Flagship Initiative *New Skills for New Jobs*. It also links to smart growth, linking into the Flagship Initiatives of a *Digital Agenda for Europe* and *Innovation Union*. Addressing skills shortages and mismatches and increasing advanced and higher level skills provision to meet the needs of employers and move to a higher skilled economy, thereby tackling high levels of individuals with poor basic level skills and increasing the numbers attaining intermediate skills or above are priorities within the UK Country Specific Recommendations, the Common Strategic Framework and the EC position paper for the UK. Along with the National Reform programme, the Country Specific Recommendations also highlights a focus on apprenticeships in delivering growth friendly investments.

93.95. Actions within the **Youth Employment and Attainment** Priority Axis will look to invest in interventions which address the high levels of youth unemployment in WWV whilst investing in longer term solutions to help drive attainment and employment outcomes, including improving the quality of early years and childcare provision.

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~~94.~~96. The recent economic downturn has had a disproportionate effect on our young people and on youth unemployment. Through this Priority Axis we will invest in a combination of preventative and remedial actions to tackle the needs of young people through each stage of development to improve their attainment and their longer term life chances with an unequivocal focus on improving employability and access to sustainable employment.

~~95.~~97. Experience form the 2007-2013 Programmes showed that ESF support to young people enabled many operations to develop innovative approaches to supporting young people, extending and enhancing existing provision to be more responsive to their needs. Partnership approaches were seen to be important, and significant successes were experienced where these involved partners from across a number of service areas including Local Authorities, the Emergency services and wider Youth service providers.

~~96.~~98. One of the key lessons learned was a need for early and consistent identification mechanisms for those who are most at risk of becoming NEET especially those who had multiple needs, or fell into gaps in existing services as they made transitions between schools, colleges, and adult services. Effective shared systems which monitor and identify children and young people's needs and which can support effect evaluation of service delivery both through ESF and wider interventions were also seen as key to delivering results.

~~97.~~99. A combined investment approach focused on young people from 0-24 will ensures that we are able to support our young people through their progression and through key transition points in education and on into work. The main focus of the Priority Axis will be on supporting unemployed young people and those who are NEET to progress into employment, delivering a range of interventions to support and facilitate access to the labour market. In the context of the youth Guarantee, ESF investments in this Priority Axis will work alongside actions to support apprenticeships in the Skills for Growth Priority Axis to help deliver and add value to the Welsh Government Youth Guarantee. Actions will enhance support mechanisms to access a good-quality job traineeship, or continued education for those beyond the first time transition from compulsory education, aligning to the 2014 CSR to improve the skills of young people to meet employer needs, including through apprenticeships and reducing the number of young people with low basic skills.

~~98.~~100. Action will also be taken to support those young people aged 11-24 at most risk of becoming NEET to reduce the risk of disengagement and increase attainment levels and reduce youth unemployment in the longer term. These actions will be centred on the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and more specifically the Early Identification and Tracking Systems which help to ensure the accurate and systematic identification and tracking of those young people at greatest risk of disengaging from education, employment and training. This targeted approach will ensure ESF provision works as part of wider Welsh Government efforts to tackle the more structural issues of NEET which persist through all economic circumstances.

~~99.~~101. Smaller more focused interventions will also be made to increase attainment and participation especially in Science Engineering, Technology and Maths subjects, reflecting the increasing importance of STEM skills and equipping our young people with the skills that will allow them to be flexible and adaptable in the labour market, to gain sustainable employment and to support economic growth in Wales.

~~100.~~102. With access to the labour market as the main driver, utilising LMI and future employment demand, we will also work to combat disaffection and to

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increase skills and educational attainment amongst our young people, addressing areas such as early school leaving and skills development and attainment of qualifications. Actions being taken forward in the Skills for Growth Priority Axis, such as apprenticeships, will therefore complement the actions being taken forward in this Priority Axis.

~~101.~~103. Investments within this Priority Axis, as part of wider family based initiatives, will also help improve the life chances of children in the early years. This will be achieved through focused investment in the skills of the childcare and early years' workforce in order to improve the quality of childcare and early years provision, linking into the CSRs and their emphasis on quality childcare.

~~102.~~104. There are multiple potential influencing factors that impact upon the early development of our children. These factors, if addressed effectively, can contribute to wider efforts to ameliorate the high level of early school leaving and the low levels of educational attainment in Wales (which are below UK and wider EU and OECD averages)[59]. Our ambition is to improve the quality of childcare and early years provision and, through this, to reduce the likelihood of children in disadvantaged areas from falling behind or becoming disengaged from education and under-achieving, all factors which increase the risk of early school leaving and becoming NEET.

~~103.~~105. Supporting the development of our children and helping young people to shape their futures through better use of LMI offers an opportunity, not only to support future growth and prosperity but to positively reinforce choices based on areas of employment growth and demand from employers. There are also opportunities to support actions which help to break down traditional gender stereotypes in employment and learning and broaden horizons for non traditional job roles or employment sectors.

~~104.~~106. The European Commission, through its Country Specific Recommendations, the UK Position Paper, the Common Strategic Framework and the National Reform Programme all highlight the challenges in addressing the high levels of youth unemployment and poor youth attainment. The recommendations recognise the importance of supporting young people to achieve improved skills outcomes, in line with employer needs and to improve access to higher quality training and employment opportunities. This investment area has a clear link to initiatives under SMART Growth including the *Youth on the Move* Flagship Initiative but also will impact on targets under inclusive growth.

~~105.~~107. The EU2020 targets to reduce the rates of early school leaving below 10% and increasing the employment rate to 75% are likely to be the main targets impacted but additionally efforts within this Priority Axis can also support the targets on poverty reduction and, in the longer term, on the rate of individuals with tertiary level education. The 2014 CSRs also urge action to reduce the levels of child poverty in low income households, citing the availability of high-quality childcare as a key issue.

~~106.~~108. Underpinning the ESF programmes and the priorities above, indeed all ESI Fund programmes in Wales, will be three Cross Cutting Themes (CCT), Equal Opportunities, Sustainable Development and Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion.

~~107.~~109. The first two of these themes are mandatory and are governed by the EU General Regulations, Article 7 Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination (in Wales this includes the Welsh Language) and Article 8 Sustainable Development and are detailed in Section 11. In addition, Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion has been proposed as an additional CCT in line

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with the EU Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative) and as a key commitment of the Welsh Government through its Tackling Poverty Action Plan. Further detail on the Tackling Poverty CCT is in Section 5.

~~108.~~110. The CCT's require action in multiple fields and as such will be integrated into all areas of the ESF programmes. Wales has a good record of integrating the CCT's into the European programmes and has been commended by the EU Commission for the work done in this area. The aim of the CCT's is to improve the quality and the legacy from each project and to add value to the programmes as a whole. However it will also be possible to use the CCT approach to focus operations on opportunities which may emerge as a result of the combined focus across the ESI Funds and Welsh Government on these areas.

~~109.~~111. For example in considering Sustainable Development, operations will not only be able to assess the likely impact of the operation itself but also consider opportunities available as a result of the wider Sustainable Development ambitions. These might include areas of employment growth through the creation of green jobs or skills demand as a result of the shift towards a low carbon economy. Equally the Equal Opportunities CCT might also encourage operations to consider supporting access to non traditional areas of employment where imbalances such as gender might exist in the workforce.

~~110.~~112. The intention is to build on the work already carried out and move the agenda forward for the 2014-2020 programmes and ensure equality; sustainability and tackling poverty are at the centre of the overall aims of the programmes. Specific guidance on the implementation of the CCT's will be developed. This will set out the contribution expected from the programmes, guidance for project sponsors on how to consider specific issues in project design, monitoring and evaluation processes, and support mechanisms available.

~~111.~~113. The WWV ESF programme, as part of the overall investment approach for ESF and ESI fund programmes in Wales, will invest to **deliver economic, social and territorial cohesion** across Wales. ESF in WWV will reduce the gap with the more developed regions through investing in skills and increasing the employment rate to improve productivity. The WWV ESF programme will also provide a balanced investment approach to increase employment, tackle poverty and address the needs of the most disadvantaged to support Social Cohesion. The ESF WWV programme will integrate investments as part of wider ESI investment programmes in the region and across Wales, recognising the value of connectivity between the regions in developing the economy of Wales as a whole.

~~112.~~114. When spending ESI funds by means of public contracts/concessions, the Managing Authority – and any Intermediate Body where applicable – will require beneficiaries to fully respect EU public procurement rules and in particular (i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC, (ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into United Kingdom legislation, (iii) Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC and (iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. Applicants and beneficiaries will be informed of this fundamental requirement via grant award agreements and national eligibility rules and guidance documents, supplemented by training and support where needed.

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[22] Statistical First Release (24th July 2013) *Participation of young people in education and the labour market*. EW breakdowns by specific age ranges are not available.

[23] Office for National Statistics; *Annual Population Survey 2009-2013* - this data is an estimate and not directly comparable to the Statistical first release NEET data at Wales level.

[24] Welsh Government Statistical Article, *Further Analysis of data related to Young People Not in Education, Employment or training (NEET)*

[25] Welsh Government Statistical Bullet, *Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Year to 31 December 2013*

[26] Welsh Government Statistical Article, *Further Analysis of data related to Young People Not in Education, Employment or training (NEET)*

[27] Welsh Government (2011), Programme for Government

[28] Welsh Government: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en

[29] Welsh Government:

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/earlyyearshome/building-a-brighter-future-early-years-and-childcare-plan/?lang=en

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[30] http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/delivering-the-youth-guarantee-in-wales/?lang=en

[31] Dallimore, D.(2012); *The Early Years & Childcare Workforce in Wales: 2012*, Care Council for Wales, Cardiff

[32] Care Council for Wales (2010); *The Early Years and Childcare Workforce in Wales*

[33] Equality Impact Assessment

[34] European Commission; *Early Childhood and Care: Providing all our children with the best start for the world of tomorrow*

[35] Davies R et al, (2011) An anatomy of economic inequality in Wales, see http://www.wiserd.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/WISERD_RRS_002.pdf

[36] See Labour Market Statistics, October 2012, Office for National Statistics

[37] Office for National Statistics: 2011 census

[38] Welsh Government (2013); *Socio Economic Analysis of West Wales and the Valleys*

[39] Dame Carol Black (2008); *Working for a Healthier Tomorrow*

[40] Office for National Statistics: www.ons.gov.uk (these figures include employees and self-employed, aged 16+, across the whole of the UK)

[41] Frideli and Parsonage (2009); *Promoting mental health and preventing mental illness: the economic case for investment in Wales*

[42] DWP analysis of the Labour Force Survey

[43] Labour Market Intelligence identifies skills needs / trends for coming years. These needs / trends can be illustrated through skills shortages or skills gaps identified by research or by employers.

[44] European Commission(2011), *Evaluation of the capacity of ESF delivery systems to attract and support OP target groups*

[45] ECORYS, *Evaluation of the ESF support to Lifelong Learning*

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[46] 2011 ESF Leavers Survey, Cardiff University et al, 2013

[47] UKCES (2010); *The Value of Skills: An Evidence Review*,

[48] UKCES (2012), *Working Futures Report for Wales*. *Summary Report for Wales*, October

[49] See UKCES (2011); *Skills for Jobs: The National Skills Audit for Wales 2011 – Volume 1 Key Findings and Volume 2: Evidence Report*

[50] International Labour Conference, 97th Session, 2008, Skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development; UK Commission for Employment and Skills, Employer Practice in progressing low-paid staff

[51] UKCES (2010); *The Value of Skills: An Evidence Review*,

[52] BIS (2011); *Research Paper No 47, The Long Term Effect of Vocational Qualifications on Labour Market Outcomes*

[53] BIS (2011); *Returns to Intermediate and Low Level Vocational Qualifications*, Research Paper 53

[54] BIS (2011); *Measuring the Economic Impact of Further Education*

[55] UKCES (2010); *The Value of Skills: An Evidence Review*

[56] Welsh Government (2014); *Innovation Wales – the Innovation Strategy for Wales*

[57] *UK Innovation Survey 2011* (2012), BIS

[58] The Grand Challenge areas of "Life Sciences and Health"; "Advanced Engineering and Materials"; "Low Carbon, Energy and Environment"; and" ICT and the Digital Economy" set a focus for innovative research activities in Wales build on existing strengths and provide clear routes from research through to commercialisation.

[59] Socio Economic Analysis

1.1.2 A justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities having regard to the partnership agreement, based on an identification of regional and, where appropriate, national needs including the need to address the challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) TFEU and the relevant Council recommendations

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adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) TFEU, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	• Commission Position Paper (CPP) highlights need to tackle high levels of youth unemployment. • Country Specific Recommendation to improve skills of young people to meet employer needs. • A number of key interrelated EU 2020 targets for Wales to address, including Early School Leaving (ESL), poverty and employment. • Nearly a quarter of young people unemployed in WWV. • Ambitious targets within the Tackling Poverty Action Plan to reduce 16-18 NEET from 12.1% in 2011 to 9% by 2017. • Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan to support young people to enter the labour market. • Declining low skilled industries with employment challenges leading to a low carbon and climate resilient economy. • Opportunity to invest in reducing the number of young people with basic or low skills, in line with Country Specific Recommendations. • Support the implementation of the Welsh Government Youth Guarantee.
08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career	• CPP highlights investing in the labour market participation of women as a

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
and supporting labour mobility	progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work	priority to tackle the gender gap. • No direct target for EU2020 but potential impact on a number of the targets on employment, poverty and skills. • Gender inequalities continue to exist in Wales with women more likely to be underemployed, working part time and earning less than men. • Country Specific Recommendations highlight importance of reducing child poverty in low-income households. • Need to continue efforts to build on recent successes in Wales in this area.
09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	• CPP places employability, exclusion and poverty at the core of the ESI funds. • Country Specific Recommendations emphasise the need to continue efforts to reduce child poverty in low income households including those on welfare • CPP emphasises the need to reduce poverty and exclusion through employability. • Sustainable employment seen as best route out of poverty. Tackling Poverty Action plan sets a number of key challenges in this area. • Key EU2020 targets on poverty and employment. • Relatively high levels of poverty and worklessness in Wales.

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training	• CPP highlights need to reduce ESL and increase access to quality education and childcare. • Country Specific Recommendation (on improving skills of young people and reducing number of young people with low basic skills. • Country Specific Recommendation highlighting importance of quality childcare. • ESL in Wales 9% above EU target. • Early Years and Childcare Plan with aim to improve quality of childcare and early years provision. • Building on Welsh Government approaches to address risk of NEET across Wales. • Opportunity to align skills and qualifications with emerging areas of economic and employment growth. • Evidence that early intervention has a profound effect on child development and attainment. • Low skills profile of early years and childcare workforce.
10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences	• CPP highlights the need to invest in quality and relevant skills and lifelong learning to help support individuals and enterprises and to drive growth. • Country Specific Recommendation on addressing skills mismatches through more advanced and higher level skills provision, including apprenticeships.

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		• Close to EU2020 target on tertiary level education, continued investment needed to ensure gains are not lost. • Increasing skills levels seen as a key driver to economic growth and will underpin investments across ESI funds. • Undersupply of higher level skills and oversupply of no skilled or low skilled workers. • Opportunity to link to emerging markets and skills demand of the economy.
11 - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	• Increasing evidence base pointing to the importance of institutional capacity as a factor affecting the relative success of regional investments (OECD). • Difficulties instituting public sector reform in Wales over the last 20 years suggests some resistance to new ways of working; but collaborations levered by ESI funds are providing some evidence of the effectiveness of regional partnership working. • Plans for local government reform in Wales are in place to deliver essential reforms. Dedicated additional investment could lever quicker, wider and more systematic reform. • Building institutional capacity of the public sector can ensure that public administrations are equipped to deal with challenges in the long term (European Commission, 2014). • The priorities take into

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Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		account lessons from similar activity during 2007-2013, and the intervention logic takes into account Commission guidance (*Guidance Document on Indicators of Public Administration Capacity Building, 2014)*

1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

~~1.~~ ~~As set out in Section 2 (Priority Axes) priorities will be constructed in some cases bringing together Investment Priorities (IP) from more than one Thematic Objective (TO). The rationale for doing so is set out in that section. The justification for financial allocations set out in this section seeks to reflect both the construction of the Priority Axes set out in Section 2, and the associated TO and (IP). Values by IP will also be further reflected in table 14 in Section 2.~~

~~2.~~1. **Priority Axis 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment**

~~3.~~2. This Priority Axis is focussed around TO 9: Promoting Social Inclusion, Combating Poverty and any Discrimination.

~~4.~~3. ~~24.4%~~23.3% (just under a 1/4) of all ESF in WWV will be allocated to this Priority Axis. The investment will be focused on the *Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability* IP. Justification for this allocation is based on:

- The regulatory requirement, and a Welsh Government commitment within the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, to allocate at least 20% of ESF to this TO;
- Challenges around employment, economic inactivity, poverty and workless households;
- Country Specific Recommendation on reducing child poverty in low income households;
- Significant complementary investment through mainstream UK Welfare to Work provision with compulsory job-search activities for large sections of unemployed cohort restricting eligible cohort for ESF support as a result of limited opportunity to prove added value;

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- Opportunities to link with complimentary investments within this TO through EAFRD;
- Significant complementary ESF investment to support youth unemployment through the Youth Employment and Attainment Priority Axis; and
- Integrated approach to tackling poverty which looks to target, prevent and mitigate the causes and impacts of poverty.

~~5.~~4. **Priority Axis 2: Skills for Growth**

~~6.~~5. This Priority Axis is focussed around TO 10: Investing in Education, Training and Vocational Training for Skills and Life-long Learning. It also seeks to incorporate a single complementary Investment Priority from the TO 8: Promoting Sustainable and Quality Employment and Supporting Labour Mobility.

~~7.~~6. ~~43.1%~~42% (just under a ½) of all ESF in the programme area will be allocated to this Priority Axis. Within this Priority allocation approximately 94% will be allocated to the *Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences.* IP in TO10, representing the bulk of the investment. Also approximately 6% will be allocated to the *Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work* IP in TO 8. Justification for this allocation is based on:

- Skills investment will be a key underpinning factor to all ESI fund investments and in driving economic growth during the programme period;
- Clear opportunities to utilise ESF investment to underpin emerging markets including for example in supporting the shift to low carbon and high value economies;
- Reflecting evidence in the Socio Economic Analysis which shows larger proportion of GVA gap due to lower added value per job arguing for greater concentration of resources on skills;
- The majority of the GVA gap is due to lower added value per job arguing for greater concentration of resources on skills;
- Apprenticeships are seen as offering a high value return to both employers and employees;
- A number of related EU2020 targets on Early School Leaving and people educated to a tertiary level or equivalent level;
- Country Specific Recommendation on addressing skills mismatches through more advanced and higher level skills provision, including apprenticeships;
- Continued undersupply of intermediate and higher level skills and oversupply of low or no skilled workforce and an ambition to progress individuals with no or low skills to intermediate levels;
- Challenges remain in supporting the role of women in the workforce and in tackling the gender pay gap; and
- Additional opportunities to link with investments within TO10 under EAFRD combined with more flexibility to utilise ESF to up-skill or re-skill farmers and fishermen.

~~8.~~7. **Priority Axis 3: Youth Employment and Attainment**

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9.8. This Priority Axis is focussed around TO 8, Promoting Sustainable and Quality Employment and Supporting Labour Mobility. It also seeks to incorporate a single complementary investment Priority from the TO 10, Investing in Education, Training and Vocational Training for Skills and Life-long Learning.

10.9. 30.5%4% (just under 1/3rd) of all ESF in the programme area will be allocated to this Priority Axis. Within this Priority allocation approximately 55% will be allocated to the *Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee* IP in TO 8 with approximately 45% allocated to the *Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training* IP in TO 10. Justification for this allocation is based on:

- Addressing youth unemployment is seen as an important area of investment both at EU level and in Wales. Compared to general unemployment levels, youth unemployment is relatively high in WWV;
- Opportunity to reduce the number of young people with basic or low skills and to align skills and qualifications to emerging economic opportunities and employment growth, in line with Country Specific Recommendations;
- Country Specific Recommendation highlighting the importance of quality childcare;
- Supporting the development of our young people from as early age as possible, preventing or reducing the levels of NEET, is key to tackling structural issues of youth unemployment and as a preventative long term investment; and
- Opportunity to contribute to key EU2020 targets now and for the future with long term legacy investment benefits.

11.10. **Priority Axis 4: Technical Assistance**

12.11. 2% of all the ESF in the programme area will be located within this Priority Axis to support the successful and compliant implementation of the programmes. Allocations have been developed based on the experience of the Managing Authority and its stakeholders in the implementation of the 2007-2013 programmes.

12. **Priority Axis 5: Public services refrom and regional working**

13. This Priority Axis is focussed around Thematic Objective (11) – Institutional Capacity Building). Just over 7% of all ESF in the programme area will be allocated to this Priority Axis, Justification for this allocation is based on:

- Assessing organisational capacity and capability, and developing and delivering workforce development plans.
- Supporting the reconfiguration of regional governance arrangements to ensure representative and inclusive planning and decision making functions.

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Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the operational programme

Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
1	ESF	~~195,964~~187,774,437.00	~~24.36%~~23.34 %	▾ 09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination ▾ 9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability ▾ 1.1 - To increase the employability of those closest to the labour market at most risk of poverty. ▾ 1.2 - To increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment. ▾ 1.3 - To reduce underemployment or absence rates for employed individuals safeguard and increase the labour market participation of those with work limiting health conditions and/or other barriers to sustainable engagement with the labour market.	[102A6, 102B6, 1100A, 1101B, 1102A, 1102B, 1103, 1104A, 1104B, 110A6, 110B6, 1110, 1110A, 1112, 1113, 1118, 1120, 1170, 1171]
2	ESF	~~347,829~~339,639,752.00	~~43.23%~~42.21 %	▾ 08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility ▾ 8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work ▾ 2.4 - To improve the position of women in the workforce. ▾ 10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning ▾ 10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences ▾ 2.1 - To increase the skills levels, including work relevant skills, of those in the workforce with no or low skills ▾ 2.2 - To increase the number of people in the workforce with technical and job specific skills at an	[1101, 1108F, 1108M, 1109, 1174F, 1174M, 1175F, 1175M, 1177F, 1177M, 1180F, 1180M, 1181F, 1181M, CR03]

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Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
				intermediate and higher level. ▾ 2.3 - To increase the number of people with graduate degrees or equivalent undertaking research and innovation activities with enterprise.	
3	ESF	244,713,791.00	30.42%	▾ 08 - Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility ▾ 8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee ▾ 3.1 - To reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET). ▾ 10 - Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning ▾ 10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training ▾ 3.2 - To reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET, amongst 11-24 year olds. ▾ 3.3 - To increase the take up of and attainment levels in STEM subjects amongst 11-19 year olds. ▾ 3.4 - To increase the skills of the Early Years and Childcare workforce.	[1123, 1124, 1125, 1127, 1128, 1129F, 1129M, 1130F, 1130M, 1183, 1184F, 1184M]
5	ESF	16,380,000.00	2.04%	▾ 11 - Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration ▾ 11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance ▾ 5 - Public services reform and regional working	[1185]

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Priority axis	Fund	Union support (€)	Proportion of total Union support for the operational programme	Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Common and programme-specific result indicators for which a target has been set
4	ESF	16,046,806.00	1.99%	4.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes. 4.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations. 4.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.	[TAR1, TAR2, TAR3]

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2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	1
Title of the priority axis	Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. The Priority Axis has been developed in line with the aims and objectives of the ESF programme in West Wales and the Valleys (WWV) and in particular:
2. Aim:
    - *To tackle poverty and social exclusion by increasing labour market participation and helping people to access sustainable employment.*
3. *Objectives:*
    - *To reduce poverty by increasing employment levels, particularly for underrepresented groups and those furthest from the labour market; and*
    - *To reduce inequalities in the labour market amongst women and recognised equality groups.*

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4. The Welsh Government has a clear commitment to tackling poverty in Wales. The ESF Programme Strategy and actions within this Priority Axis have been developed to support this commitment and to align to the CSR to continue efforts to reduce child poverty in low-income households.
5. The definition of poverty in Wales is based on not having 'sufficient resource', or income, and the lack of ability to 'participate in activities', or social exclusion. The Priority Axis itself will deliver interventions that align with Welsh Government policy, as articulated within its Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which states that the best route out of poverty is through employment and focuses on removing barriers to employment and helping people to move onto the employment ladder.
6. The overall objective of this Priority Axis is therefore to reduce levels of poverty and persistent poverty in WWV through supporting access to sustainable employment. As part of the strategy outlined in Section 5, the focus will be on supporting people, particularly those at greatest risk of poverty and social exclusion, or furthest from the labour market to increase employability and access and stay in sustainable employment.
7. The guiding principle of all interventions will be moving the individual towards achieving and maintaining sustained employment, including self-employment, as a means of tackling poverty.
8. This Priority Axis will be delivered through a single Thematic Objective *((9)(9) –Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination).* While some of the proposed interventions may also fit within the (9)(8) *Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility* Thematic Objective, coordination of sustainable employment interventions to tackle poverty through a single Thematic Objective and Investment Priority will ensure greater integration both within the programmes and with poverty actions across all ESI funds.
9. Experience from the 2007–2013 programmes shows that integration of interventions is key to achieving successful employment outcomes for the individual. In addition, much of the core employment services which might be delivered through an employment Thematic Objective are non-devolved and delivered as part of mainstream UK Government programmes.
10. This Priority Axis will align with, complement, and add value to, UK mainstream labour market programmes through delivering a single coordinated approach to improving employment and employability for individuals as a route-way out of poverty. The principles of specific eligibility around mainstream UK Government programmes will be addressed through the Welsh eligibility guidance documentation, made available via the WEFO website and updated throughout the Programme period.

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ESF	Less developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	9i
Title of the investment priority	Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	1.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the employability of those closest to the labour market at most risk of poverty.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. This Specific Objective will increase the employability of those closest to the labour market at most risk of poverty. The targeting approach will be in line with the strategy on poverty outlined in Section 5 supporting those who may be vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness (the low pay no / pay cycle), and complement the strategic approach to youth unemployment outlined in Priority Axis 3. Investments will focus on those over the age of 25 who are short term unemployed and who have low or no skills or a work limiting health condition or disability or individuals who have been impacted by redundancy. 2. With supporting access to employment as the central underlying principle and considering the relative proximity of the cohort group to the labour market, it may be possible for ESF interventions to impact on the wider measures of employment for these cohort groups. Because of the wider economic influences on unemployment however, these longer term impacts would better suit measurement through evaluation. 3. The direct results of the Specific Objective will look to measure two main aspects of employability interventions; those

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	gaining employment upon leaving; and, as a measure of enhanced employability, those gaining a qualification upon leaving. Results will also be measured for those in employment 6 months after leaving both to measure the longer term impacts of employability support and to measure the sustainability of employment outcomes. 4. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision or similar activity elsewhere. Targets have been set to ensure a genuine increase on the baseline and to reflect the specific target groups, especially around the acquisition of skills, and the predicted improvements in the labour market situation. Employment outcome targets for the short term unemployed target group aim to increase results to the level achieved in the 2007-2013 programmes against the general short term unemployed population.
ID of the specific objective	1.2
Title of the specific objective	To increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective is to increase the employability for both Economically Inactive individuals over 25 with complex barriers to employment and Long Term Unemployed individuals over 25 with complex barriers to employment. As set out in the strategy there are a number of characteristics for the economically inactive or long term unemployed demographic which are linked to higher than average rates of economic inactivity or long term unemployment. These barriers are shown to be multiple and complex and include work limiting health conditions or disabilities, low or no skills and individuals in jobless households. The full list of the barriers to be addressed is included in Section 2.A.6.1 2. There are no specific measures of employability at a national or regional level. It may be possible through supporting the target groups to access employment to contribute to reductions in Economic Inactivity or Long Term Unemployment amongst the target group however this data is subject to significant external factors and these results alone will not truly reflect the overall investments within the Specific Objective. 3. The direct results therefore will be focused around a number of proxy indicators for employability to include the number of the specific target group gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving, the number completing a work experience placement or volunteering opportunity and for the Economically Inactive cohort, the number engaged in job search upon leaving. 4. In addition, result indicators will be included for the number entering employment and self employment upon leaving and to further evidence the sustainability of the employment outcome the number in employment or self employment 6

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	months after leaving. It may also be possible through evaluation to measure the longer term impact on Economic Inactivity and Long Term Unemployment rates in a way which takes account of the range of external factors which impacts on these macro level indicators. 5. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision or similar activity elsewhere. Targets on skills and qualifications have been set to reflect the additional focus on those with no skills and the inclusion of work relevant certification. For employment outcomes, ambitious targets have been set which will help increase the employment outcomes of each specific target group towards those of the general population or those closest to the labour market. Some targets will only aim to match the existing baselines. This reflects the new and uncertain nature of these targets where baselines indicators are not a direct match but provide a useful benchmark to work to.
ID of the specific objective	1.3
Title of the specific objective	To reduce underemployment or absence rates for employed individuals safeguard and increase the labour market participation of those with work limiting health conditions and/or other barriers to sustainable engagement with the labour market.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. This Specific Objective will aim to reduce underemployment or absence rates as a result of barriers such as ill health, work limiting health conditions or disabilities, caring or childcare responsibilities, preventing such barriers becoming drivers to poverty and exclusion from the labour. Actions will be to those who already have contracts of employment and will complement actions to unemployed participants in Specific Objectives 1 and 2 above. The specific focus will be on those with work limiting health conditions or disabilities and those who are underemployed with barriers to full employment. 2. Underemployment is defined as the underutilisation of the productive capacity of employed persons i.e. when specific issues or barriers prevent employed persons from being able to fully utilise their existing capability. The specific results will therefore focus on measures which can demonstrate further utilisation of capacity upon leaving ESF provision and will include for example increased working hours or gaining a permanent contract. 3. There are a number of wider Wales measures included in the strategy section which this Specific Objective will seek to influence and which inform the rational for intervention, these include hours lost to sickness and the number of employees absent for 4 weeks and part time working as a percentage of employment. 4. Absence rates in particular will be harder to influence at a national level and therefore the direct measurable results will

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	also focus on those with work limiting health condition or disability returning to work after a period of absence upon leaving the ESF provision. 5. The Specific Objective will also work with micro, small and medium sized enterprises to encourage workforce development and the adoption of flexible working practises. This specific element will be measured through the number of enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems. This result indicator will also be a key contributor to the Cross Cutting Themes agenda. 6. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision or similar activity elsewhere. Targets have been set to match the baselines where relevant. Experience from the 2007-2013 programmes show that these outcomes represent realistic ambitions in these areas. 7. The result measures of returning to work after a period of absence and improved labour market situation upon leaving introduce a new targeting approach to the ESF programmes, focusing on specific demographic groups within the employed workforce and articulating a specific desired result for these groups. Such measures have not previously been in place within the ESF programmes and comparable national data is not available due to the high degree of specificity within the demographic targeting. These factors have not allowed for baselines to be set for these indicators. Ambitious but achievable targets have however been set for these result measures, reflecting the commitment within the programmes to achieve meaningful benefit for these target groups while acknowledging the complexities of interventions within this area. Evaluation will also be used to gauge the effectiveness of actions and the outputs and results achieved.

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
102A6	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment in employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	Ratio				20.00	Ratio (%)	2013			45.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
102B6	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment in employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	Ratio				25.00	Ratio (%)	2013			45.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1100A	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				40.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1101B	Individuals impacted by redundancy in employment upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				50.00	Ratio (%)	2013			55.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1102A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				14.00	Ratio (%)	2013			20.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1102B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self employment, upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				20.00	Ratio (%)	2013			25.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1103	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment engaged in job search upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				25.00	Ratio (%)	2013			25.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority : 9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
1104A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	Less developed	Ratio				54.00	Ratio (%)	2013			54.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1104B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	Less developed	Ratio				54.00	Ratio (%)	2013			54.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
110A6	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability in employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	Ratio				33.00	Ratio (%)	2013			45.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
110B6	Individuals impacted by redundancy in employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	Ratio				55.00	Ratio (%)	2013			60.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1110	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				40.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1110A	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability in employment upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				30.00	Ratio (%)	2013			33.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1112	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				40.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1113	Individuals impacted by redundancy gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				40.00	Ratio (%)	2013			70.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1118	Supported enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and	Less developed	Ratio				50.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority : 9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
	monitoring systems													
1120	Employed, including self employed participants with work limiting health condition or disability with an improved labour market situation upon leaving such as increased hours, permanent contract	Less developed	Ratio				0.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1170	Underemployed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving, such as increased hours, permanent contract	Less developed	Ratio				0.00	Ratio (%)	2013			40.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1171	Employed, including self employed participants with work limiting health condition or disability returning to work after a period of absence	Less developed	Ratio				0.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

1. Actions under this Investment Priority have been developed to tackle poverty and the causes of poverty through supporting access to sustainable employment.

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

2. **Specific Objective 1**
3. In delivering to **Specific Objective 1**, actions under this Investment Priority will target those closest to the labour market, over 25 years of age, who are at most risk of poverty. Actions will primarily support the short term unemployed (up to 12 months) with no / low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability and those impacted by redundancy (defined as those under formal notice of redundancy and those redundant within the past 3 months).
4. Actions will operate as part of a coordinated approach within the Priority Axis to target individuals at most risk of poverty including those who may be trapped, or at risk of becoming trapped in low pay no pay cycles to overcome barriers to accessing sustainable employment as a means of tackling and preventing poverty. Actions will ensure that individuals are able to access integrated and personalised provision which is designed to addresses their range of needs, thereby avoiding any requirement for participants to access a multiple and complex configuration of interventions.
5. Declines in the traditional low-skilled industries have left low skilled workers and those impacted by redundancy either at risk of long term unemployment or vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness, trapped in alternating periods of no-pay or low pay. Similarly those with work limiting health conditions or disabilities have lower employment rates and are at most risk of longer term poverty and worklessness. Investments will provide reactive and responsive solutions to address labour market fluctuations, helping to increase employability and encourage diversification into more sustainable employment opportunities.
6. On-going support to sustain employment may be a key factor to prevent and break cycles of work and worklessness, the 'revolving door' effect. Interventions may for a short period and where appropriate, provide appropriate measures, such as mentoring, to ensure the sustainability of employment outcomes.
7. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of Specific Objective 1 and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Actions to support those with no or low skills or work limiting health conditions to access sustainable employment, including job search and alignment of existing skills and competencies with work opportunities;
    - Actions to support those with low or now skills or a work limiting health condition or disability, and those impacted by redundancy, to update or increase their skills and qualifications;
    - Activities which provide access to broader and more sustainable employment opportunities by tackling work limiting health conditions or disabilities as a barrier to sustainable employment;
    - Actions to support individuals impacted by redundancy to diversify employment options and to access sustainable employment opportunities particularly in emerging areas of economic growth; or
    - Targeted action to address the wider associated causes of the low pay / no pay cycle amongst the target group such as debt and finance management or care and childcare responsibilities.
8. **Specific Objective 2**

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

9. In delivering to **Specific Objective 2,** actions under this Investment Priority will target those furthest from the labour market with complex barriers to employment. In line with the poverty strategy in Section 5 and are there are 2 main targets groups within this Specific Objective. The target groups are recognised as being most at risk of poverty and whilst distinct can be addressed through the single Specific Objective as the barriers they face will be similar. The target groups will be Economically Inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training who have complex barriers to employment, and Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over), who have complex barriers to employment.
10. The Economically Inactive target group will have one or more of the following barriers to employment; low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability (including substance or alcohol misuse); care or childcare responsibilities; are over 54; or from a jobless household. Similarly the Long-term unemployed group will have one or more of the following barriers; low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability (including substance or alcohol misuse); are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; or from a jobless household. Separate eligibility criteria around UK Government Welfare programmes may apply; these criteria will be addressed through the Welsh eligibility guidance documentation, made available via the WEFO website and updated throughout the Programme period.
11. Actions will operate as part of a coordinated approach within the Priority Axis to support the target groups to increase employability, to address barriers to labour market participation, to access sustainable employment and realise the opportunities employment can bring in tackling poverty.
12. Individuals such as these who are furthest from the labour market face multiple and complex barriers to achieving sustained employment, including skills and qualifications, transport, care and childcare, financial and emotional barriers as well as attitudes to work and welfare dependence. Recent periods of recession and labour market uncertainty have presented additional challenges for these individuals when competing for the opportunities available. Actions will support activities to help address these multiple and complex barriers and ensure that individuals are able to access integrated and personalised provision which is designed to addresses their range of needs, thereby avoiding any requirement for participants to access a multiple and complex configuration of interventions.
13. Interventions will be personalised and focused on the needs of the individual in both the methods of engagement and in delivery. Delivery will be integrated with other wider strategies to address worklessness, poverty and disadvantaged communities. In line with the guiding principle of supporting employment as a route out of poverty, whilst providing individual tailored support, interventions will focus on sustained employment as the desired outcome.
14. On-going changes in the UK Government Welfare system will bring challenges to the implementation of actions under this Specific Objective. Research shows[1] that current welfare reform will be disproportionately regressive in Wales with greater impact on those most at risk of poverty including recognised equality groups. Integrated actions aligned within this Priority Axis will work to complement mainstream provision to support those most at risk to re-engage with the labour market and access sustainable employment and, in so doing, will align to the Country Specific Recommendation of reducing child poverty in low income households, which also cites the potential impact of Welfare Reform in relation to this aim.

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

15. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 2** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome the complex barriers faced by the target group in accessing sustainable employment and improving employability including for example through the provision of mentor support;
    - Actions to address barriers such as care or childcare including innovative actions linked to improving the availability of affordable quality childcare:
    - Actions to support the target groups to access sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in areas of economic and employment growth, including basic job search, CV writing and interview skills;
    - Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate;
    - Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification;
    - Support for the Economically Inactive target group to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option; or
    - Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment amongst the target group such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and finance and debt management.
16. **Specific Objective 3**
17. In delivering to **Specific Objective 3**, actions under this Investment Priority will target employed individuals at most risk of poverty or exclusion from sustainable employment. The focus will be on those in work who have a work limiting health condition or barriers to sustainable engagement with the labour market which may be a cause of underemployment, sickness absence or loss of employment.
18. Actions will operate as part of a coordinated approach within the Priority Axis to maintain sustainable employment as a means to prevent poverty. Actions will address barriers to employability, progression and labour mobility relating to health, disabilities and substance misuse or more personal barriers such as access to full time employment, age, caring and childcare responsibilities. Actions will ensure that individuals are able to access integrated and personalised provision which is designed to addresses their range of needs, thereby avoiding any requirement for participants to access a multiple and complex configuration of interventions.
19. Additional complementary actions will be undertaken with small and medium enterprises to encourage a cultural change in organisations towards a more diverse and healthy workforce. Employers will be supported to improve flexibility within the workplace, encouraged to adopt flexible work practices and promote the benefits a healthy workplace can bring to an organisation.
20. In support of the specific objectives of the cross cutting themes and horizontal principles, investments will look to address barriers which disproportionately affect one or more recognised equality groups.
21. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of Specific Objective 3 and to the target groups identified above could include:

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

- Activities which help people (employed and self employed) in the early stages of sickness absence to return to, and remain in, work to prevent poverty through loss of employment;
- Innovative activities which work with employed participants to help address barriers to mobility in the labour market (not including skills) and causes of underemployment such as ill health, caring or childcare responsibilities, transport barriers and substance and alcohol misuse;
- Activities with employers to support workforce development and to promote flexible working arrangements; or
- Activities with employers to address health related issues within the workforce and to develop or improve appropriate work place or occupational health programmes, adopting collaborative approaches in the delivery of occupational health services.

22. The planned actions described above within each Specific Objective provide indicative areas of action which operations could take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.
23. Beneficiaries of funding under each of the Specific Objectives above are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations including the Third Sector); universities; and the private sector.

[1] Adams, S & Phillips, D Institute for Fiscal Studies (2013); *An ex-ante analysis of the effects of the UK government's welfare reforms on labour supply in Wales (IFS Report 75)*

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2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

1. The following common principles will guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities:
   - An unequivocal focus on supporting sustainable jobs, employment and growth and operations which facilitate the role of the third sector

Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

and private sector;
- Interventions should seek to integrate economic, social and environmental outcomes, consistent with the central organising principle of sustainable development and contributing to the outcomes of the cross cutting themes;
- Opportunities to achieve greater leverage from the deployment of EU funds, particularly with the private and third sector; and also more collaborative investments where these can add value and achieve outcomes;
- Clear added value, when compared with other ways of supporting and delivering policy, based on sound evidence;
- Evidence of opportunity will form the foundation of the design and delivery of operations with investments building on existing and emerging expertise, with human capital delivering to the future needs of businesses;
- Prioritisation of key strategic operations that underpin the Specific Objectives and which deliver significant outcomes, will be a core part of a portfolio management approach to programme delivery; and
- Clear exit strategies need to be in place at the outset which fully consider the role of the third sector and private sector, build social resilience and tackle poverty within communities, promote equality, and achieve legacy effects.

2. Operations will need to consider a range of targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment. The degree of targeting will vary according to the intervention and, where appropriate, should reflect:
   - clear identification of the **specific target groups**, their needs and how actions will address these needs at a national, regional or local level as appropriate;
   - **growth sectors** (e.g. specifically the Welsh Government identified key sectors, Grand Challenge areas in Science for Wales and the emerging Innovation Strategy); and
   - areas of specific **geographical opportunity** (e.g. Enterprise Zones, any potential City region or other regional opportunity, Business Improvement District, Rural or Regeneration Area).
3. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**
4. In line with the Tackling Poverty Action plan and the outlined strategy in Section 5 for addressing those in most at risk of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion. Interventions must be integrated with other wider strategies to address worklessness, poverty and disadvantaged communities.
5. In line with the guiding principle of supporting employment as a route out of poverty, all activity will be planned with a return to work focus (to achieve a job outcome) and all interventions and skills support will be designed to support individuals to achieve this goal.
6. Skills interventions, where needed, will look to achieve or progress individuals, where possible, to intermediate level on the National Qualification Framework (NQF) or above, outlining clear progression routes for those with no / low skills.
7. Actions should be flexible and responsive to labour market fluctuations; utilising and responding to LMI, which identifies skills needs and trends for coming years as a means to ensuring employment supply meets employment demand.

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

8. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.
9. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories.
    - Gender;
    - Age (over 54 years);
    - Disability;
    - Work limiting health conditions;
    - Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
    - Care / Childcare responsibilities.

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

1. The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments (FI) in ESF concluded that in most cases there was limited potential for FI in the delivery of the actions outlined above and any potential approach is likely to be less effective than a grant based approach in terms of achieving the results sought. It noted that FI for the proposed actions would be unlikely to be cost effective and cited concerns around the return for business and hence potential for repayment which, for actions focused around enabling people to access employment, would be based upon a reduction in benefit claimants, a non-devolved issue for Wales.
2. The first phase recommended additional research on the value of FI in delivering support for participants to move into self-employment and entrepreneurship as scope may exist. However the conclusions of further research in the second phase found that a loan-based approach is unlikely to prove an appropriate or cost-effective delivery mechanism. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the actions within this Investment Priority. Interventions will link with actions through SME Competitiveness priority of the ERDF to support business start up, self employment and entrepreneurship.

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Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability
1. This is not applicable for ESF	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to	Number	ESF	Less developed			36,000.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority		9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
	employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)								
1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability ; are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	Less developed			10,800.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1013A	Short term unemployed with no / low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability	Number	ESF	Less developed			5,999.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1013B	Individuals impacted by redundancy	Number	ESF	Less developed			12,001.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority		9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
1022	Participants Employed, including self-employed with work-limiting health condition or disability	Number	ESF	Less developed			4,000.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1023	Underemployed participants with barriers to full employment	Number	ESF	Less developed			4,000.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1025	Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises supported	Number	ESF	Less developed			2,000.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1026	Workplace health programmes	Number	ESF	Less developed			300.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

1. **Promotion of Social Innovation (SI) within the Priority Axis**
2. All operations will be encouraged to consider the opportunities SI provides to pilot or develop innovative approaches to delivery. Operations will be encouraged to consider options to undertake small scale SI activities to explore alternative delivery models or target specific groups with a view to incorporating and scaling up successful delivery. Such small scale trialling, particularly through commissioning or procurement, will engage the third sector, community groups and social partners in a risk based approach to developing new delivery models which can add to and complement

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successful delivery models already in place.

3. Potential areas for SI actions across the programme might include:
    - targeting of specific under-represented groups with a view to up-scaling into core activity and the delivery of enhanced equality outcomes;
    - trialling, on a risk basis, new models of delivery, especially within well established delivery methodology or approaches; and
    - support to trial and develop sustainable exit strategies through testing of new delivery models.
4. Opportunities for SI may develop as operations progress. It will not be necessary for SI activity to be fully scoped however the principle and mechanics of trialling and subsequent mainstreaming of lessons learnt will need to be outlined where SI action is anticipated. Larger strategic Interventions should have an evidence base indicating where trialling or piloting of approaches would work most effectively.
5. SI actions will be subject to specific monitoring and more rigorous evaluation with lessons learnt being disseminated both within operations and across WEFO. SI actions can take place as discreet elements of larger strategic operations or as discreet stand alone operations.
6. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:
    - Innovative approaches to engaging with those most at risk of disadvantage, furthest from the labour market or with multiple complex barriers to employment with a view to enhancing social integration, labour market participation and sustainable employment outcomes;
    - Innovative actions to support the development of quality and affordable childcare where childcare is a barrier to sustainable employment; and
    - Innovative approaches to addressing issues of poverty relating to underemployment including those with barriers relating to health, care or childcare.
7. Through this approach it will also be possible to incorporate linkages with LEADER groups within EAFRD (or Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG's) within EMFF). LEADER groups or FLAG's, will be able to engage in commission processes for SI actions particularly for trialling new approaches with a view to mainstreaming successful delivery models. These groups will also be able to work through the regional and spatial approaches described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and in Section 4 of this OP to encourage mainstreaming of activity funded through other ESI funds into collaborative ESF proposals.
8. **Specific Provision for Transnational Cooperation**
9. Transnational cooperation actions will be targeted towards addressing specific needs within WWV while maximising the added value that can be delivered by transnational cooperation. Actions will involve stakeholders from the public, higher and further education, third and private sectors. Operations may be wholly comprised of transnational cooperation activity or feature transnational cooperation as one strand within the wider operation.
10. Actions will be expected to support transnational cooperation with other Member States which are facing similar challenges to WWV and working to common goals. Actions should support transnational partnership working to share good practice and to develop and pilot innovative solutions, to

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develop and share high level skills and expertise and to develop and share skills and expertise that will support a modern knowledge-based economy and a modern, adaptable and agile labour market.

11. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:
    - Actions to share good practice and develop innovative approaches to supporting the long-term unemployed and economically inactive who are facing complex barriers to employment, to access the labour market;
    - Actions to share good practice and develop innovative approaches to addressing barriers that limit an employed individual's mobility in the labour market, cause underemployment or place continued employment at risk.
12. **The contribution of the ESF to Thematic Objectives 1-7**
13. ESF investments in human capital will be centred on and deliver to the future needs of enterprise and business, supporting the development of a modern, knowledge based economy. ESF investments made under TOs 8, 9 and 10 are designed to complement and combine with investments made by ESI funds under TOs 1-7. Where clear additionality to provision under EAFRD and EMFF is demonstrable, individuals from farming and fishing communities will be able to access ESF support. This approach will facilitate and enable the optimal realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales and support the integrated approach to implementation outlined in Section 4.
14. ESF interventions in this Priority Axis will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF interventions under TO3 to stimulate business growth, develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities, encourage start ups and improve the productivity of SMEs through:
    - Increasing the supply of work-ready individuals and better linking workforce supply with employer demand, supporting SME's to grow and increase productivity, including through diversification and expansion into new markets;
    - Promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment as a means of enabling people to move out of poverty and engage with the labour market, ensuring that they ; are able to access financial support and advice provided through other ESI funds; and
    - Increasing productivity by supporting individuals and enterprise to address underemployment resulting from in-work barriers such as work limiting health conditions and reducing the number of hours lost to sickness.
15. The integrated approach to tackling poverty across ESI fund programmes will see ESF interventions within this Priority Axis integrate with ERDF and EAFRD actions under TO4 and 7 to increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres and to improve rural connectivity. Thereby ensuring that ESF interventions to address barriers to accessing sustainable employment will complement sustainable transport solutions to improve physical accessibility to employment centres. There will also be complementarity with ERDF investments to reduce the number and percentage of households living in fuel poverty under TO4, both mitigating the impacts of poverty and equipping people to move out of poverty through employment.

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2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment												
ID	**Indicator type**	**Indicator or key implementation step**	**Measurement unit, where appropriate**	**Fund**	**Category of region**	**Milestone for 2018**			**Final target (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate**
						M	**W**	**T**	**M**	**W**	**T**		
P1F	F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed			~~63,300,209~~53,000,000			~~248,169~~238,000,000.00	Management Information Systems	
1002	O	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	Less developed			9,182			36,000.00	Management Information Systems	Inactive participants and Long-term participants both ensure appropriate representation of the priority and its Investment Priority. Together they cover around 60% of activity under the Priority Axis in West Wales and the Valleys and all of the Priority Axis in East Wales.
1003	O	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability ; are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	Less developed			2,755			10,800.00	Management Information Systems	Inactive participants and Long-term participants both ensure appropriate representation of the priority and its Investment Priority. Together they cover around 60% of activity under the Priority Axis in West Wales and the Valleys and all of the Priority Axis in East Wales.

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Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

1. *Financial indicators*
2. The 2023 target is the total Eligible Expenditure allocation for the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 target is based on N+3 Eligible Expenditure.
3. *Output indicators*
4. The overall approach used to set targets within the 2014-2020 WWV ESF programme and the EW ESF programme involved mapping activity from appropriate and comparable projects funded under the 2007-2013 WWV ESF Convergence Programme. These were selected to best reflect the targeted approach and proposed activity to be funded as outlined in the 2014-2020 ESF Programmes. Projects' achievements to date of mapped activity were compared with spend to date and projects' current final targets were compared with their total financial allocation. The resulting ratios were then scaled to indicative funding allocations under the future Specific Objectives of each the Investment Priorities to derive a set of targets for the indicators.
5. In some cases where the ambition of the 2014-2020 programmes was substantially different to the current 2007-13 delivery a policy based approach is utilised selecting comparable targets reflecting the emphasis of the programme within each priority and the aspirations and objectives for change.. In all cases evidence of Unit costs etc. within the current programme are utilised to ensure these policy based targets are achievable within the funding parameters available. In addition, the use of National Statistics, where available, based on the current population share for key demographic groups, is used in order to provide aspirational targets to ensure the fair distribution of funds. This approach is supplemented with additional evidence and experience from the current 2007-2013 programming period and the targeting outlined in the proposed ESF programmes. In some cases a combination of these methods has been used.
6. The 2023 targets are the final targets for this Output indicator under the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 targets are based on the same ratio as the 2018 Financial indicator target, and unit costs.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

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Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	109. Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	~~195,964~~187,774,437.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	~~195,964~~187,774,437.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	~~24,084,029~~23,077,478.00
ESF	Less developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	~~143,779,107~~137,770,104.00
ESF	Less developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	~~28,101,301~~26,926,855.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

compare report

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	~~195,964~~187,774,437.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	02. Social innovation	48,991,109.00
ESF	Less developed	08. Not applicable	146,973,328.00

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
1. The planned use of Technical Assistance will be addressed in the specific Technical Assistance Priority Axis.	

compare report

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	2
Title of the priority axis	Skills for Growth

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. The Priority Axis has been developed in line with the aims and objectives of the ESF programme in West Wales and the Valleys (WWV) and in particular:
2. *Aim:*
    - *To invest in skills as a driver of productivity and growth, to aid progression within employment and improve the skills mix and diversity of our workforce.*
3. *Objectives:*
    - *To increase skills levels of the workforce, increasing the number of people qualified to intermediate level or above, reducing the number of people with no skills or basic skills only and increasing higher level skills in research and innovation and*
    - *To reduce inequalities in the labour market amongst women and recognised equality groups.*
4. As recognised in the Country Specific Recommendations, investing in skills is a key driver in the development of a modern knowledge-based economy and in responding and adapting to economic changes[1][2]. There is a strong correlation between qualification and skills, employment and earnings, with those in part time work more likely to have low skills[3], emphasising the role of skills development in addressing in-work poverty, up-skilling those with no or basic skills to support them to progress within the labour market[4][5].

compare report

5. The Priority Axis has been developed to coordinate skills investment in the workforce of WWV. Labour Market Intelligence will underpin investments and ensure interventions meet the needs of key economic growth areas and opportunities in Wales.
6. This framework and the associated European Commission Thematic Objectives, (9) *(8) – promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility* and (9) *(10) – Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning*) centred on a demand led approach, will ensure that employers have a suitably qualified workforce and that skills development and attainment levels are aligned with growth activity. It will also, through up-skilling low skilled workers and thereby addressing an important contributory factor to in-work poverty, complement Priority Axis 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment, as part of an integrated approach to tackling poverty.
7. The inclusion of the equality based Investment Priority within Thematic Objective (8) is based on experience and success of this approach within the 2007-2013 ESF programmes. Investing in the skills of women in the workforce, as part of the wider skills priority, will provide a thematically coherent integrated approach to embedding skills interventions around the needs of the economy and employers. This approach will also complement equality actions across the programmes and the objectives of the Cross Cutting Themes.
8. Delivering to the needs of both employers and the wider economy will be the fundamental principle of all demand led skills interventions within this Priority Axis. Demand will be articulated in a number of ways including directly through employers or through research evidence on areas of economic opportunity or growth.

compare report

[1] Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) (2009); *Economic Impact of Training and Education in Basic Skills. Summary of Evidence*

[2] UKCES (2010), *The Value of Skills: An Evidence Review*, July

[3] Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods (2013); *Skills and the Quality of Work in Wales, 2006-2012*: *chapter 3: Broad Skills*

[4] Welsh Government (2013); *Tackling Poverty Action Plan*

[5] European Commission (2010), *Platform against Poverty*, COM(2010) 758 Final

2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ESF	Less developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	10iii
Title of the investment priority	Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.1
Title of the specific objective	To increase the skills levels, including work relevant skills, of those in the workforce with no or low skills
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective is to increase the skills and qualification levels, including vocational skills, of employed (including self employed) individuals across WWV with no or low skills. It will target those qualified to ISCED Level 2 (lower secondary education) or below, including those with no formal qualifications, with a focus on both increasing their qualification levels and on addressing skills gaps at this level.

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	2. As set out in the Strategy, of those working age adults in employment in Wales, the most recent figures show that approximately 43% have either no or low (up to and including NQF Level 2) qualifications. At a more detailed level, of the working age adults in employment, 6.9% have no qualifications at all, while 14.1% have below NQF level 2 qualifications and 21.7% have qualifications at NQF level 2. 3. While there are no specific measures for skills gaps, research indicates that they are more common among lower skilled occupations, with both skills specific to the job role (technical, practical and job specific skills) and essential and basic skills (such as planning and organisation, oral communication, customer handling and problem solving skills) being cited as skills shortages.[1] This indicates that there is a need not only to increase the level at which the no and low skilled are qualified but also to ensure that they achieve qualifications in skills which are relevant to the needs of employers. The direct results will therefore be focused around the number of the specific target group gaining qualifications at ISCED Levels 1 and 2 in essential and technical or job specific skills. These results will both increase the qualification levels of those with no or low skills and upgrade and update the skills of those already qualified to ISCED Levels 1 and 2, providing them with the skills and qualifications relevant to the needs of employers. 4. The longer term impact of these interventions on the overall skills levels of the workforce will be measured through programme evaluation, which will consider the impact of ESF interventions in the context of the range of external factors that influence these measures. 5. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision. Findings from the 2012 ESF Leavers Survey have been utilised to support the identification of ambitious yet achievable targets which represent a real increase on the baselines and which reflect our aspirations within the design of the programmes on the achievement of qualifications by the target group. [1] UKCES (2013), *Employer Skills Survey 2013 – Wales report*
ID of the specific objective	2.2

compare report

Title of the specific objective	To increase the number of people in the workforce with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective, in line with the Country Specific Recommendations, will be to increase the number of people in the workforce in WWV with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level. It will target those qualified to ISCED Level 2 (lower secondary education) and above, progressing them to at least an ISCED Level 3 (upper secondary education) qualification, while also upgrading and updating the skills of those who are already qualified to ISCED Level 3 and above. 2. As set out in the Strategy, of the working age adults in employment in Wales, the most recent figures show that 21.7% have qualifications at NQF level 2, while 57.3% are qualified to NQF level 3 or above and 37.2% are qualified to NQF level 4 and above. 3. These measures do not provide direct measures of the relevancy and currency of the skills of the workforce, however evidence demonstrates a persistence of skills shortages at an intermediate level[1], while around 69% of all skill-shortage vacancies are ascribed to a lack of technical, practical or job specific skills[2]. In 2013, 39% of employers in the UK who recruit staff with STEM skills and knowledge reported difficulties recruiting such skills[3] while 72% of employers expect that at least some of their staff will need to acquire new skills or knowledge over the next twelve months. Common reasons for upskilling include new legislative or regulatory requirements, the introduction of new technologies or equipment, the introduction of new working practices and the development of new products and services.[4] 4. The direct results will therefore be focused around the number of the specific target group gaining qualifications at ISCED Levels 3 and above in technical and job specific skills. These results will both increase the number of those qualified to ISCED Level 3 and above and update the skills of those already qualified to that level, ensuring that their qualifications and skillset are current and relevant to the needs of employers. 5. The longer term impact of these interventions on the overall skills levels of the workforce will be measured through programme evaluation, which will consider the impact of ESF interventions in the context of the range of external factors that influence these measures. 6. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision. Targets have been set to reflect a genuine increase on the baselines, reflecting our aspirations within the design of the programme on the achievement of qualifications by the target group.

Compare report

	[1]UKCES, Wales Future Skills Assessment and UKCES (2013), *Employer Skills Survey 2013 – Wales report* [2] UKCES (2013), *Employer Skills Survey 2013 – Wales report* [3] Pearson/CBI Education and Skills Surveys of 2008 and 2013 [4] UKCES (2013), *Employer Skills Survey 2013 – Wales report*
ID of the specific objective	2.3
Title of the specific objective	To increase the number of people with graduate degrees or equivalent undertaking research and innovation activities with enterprise.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective will be to increase the number of individuals with higher level skills in research and innovation (R&I) to support a wider Welsh ambition to increase R&I activity within business[1]. Interventions will focus on the Grand Challenge areas as articulated in *Science for Wales: A strategic agenda for science and innovation in Wales*[2], and facilitate the commercialisation of research. Action will be targeted at those with a graduate degree or equivalent as a minimum. 2. Innovation depends on people who are able to generate and apply knowledge and ideas in the workplace; the OECD recommends a focus on enabling the acquisition of innovation skills and the optimal use of these skills at work.[3] However, figures from 2012 show that, of the four constituent nations of the UK, Wales had the lowest percentage of working age adults qualified to NQF Level 7-8 (8.1% for England, 8.2% for Scotland, 7.4% for Wales and 7.5% for Northern Ireland). The percentage rate for Wales, at 7.4%, is also below the UK average of 8.1%.[4] Additionally, the UK Innovation Survey[5] reported that only 15% of innovation-active businesses cooperate with universities in the UK. While this figure is not specific to WWV, it indicates significant scope for greater interaction between business

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	and higher education institutions. 3. The direct results will therefore be focused around increasing the supply of individuals undertaking R&I activities at ISCED Levels 7-8 in collaboration with and driven by the needs of the private sector and focused on the Grand Challenge areas. This will be achieved through measuring the number of enterprises collaborating with learning providers in research and innovation activities and the number of individuals gaining a qualification upon leaving (at ISCED 7 or 8). 4. It may also be possible through evaluation to consider, in a way that takes account of the range of external factors that influence these measures, the longer term impact of these ESF interventions on wider measures of research and innovation activity within business and collaboration between enterprise and universities. 5. Baselines and targets for participants gaining qualifications at ISCED 7 and 8 have been based on broadly comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision. However, in keeping with the aspirations of our programme, the scope of this activity is much tighter than in previous programmes therefore it is considered that maintaining the baseline represents a rigorous and challenging target. The result indicator on participants in employment upon leaving represents a new measure for ESF. Baselines and target values have been set based on the Higher Education Statistics Agency's figures on the destinations of leavers from higher education, postgraduate level courses. [1] As articulated in Welsh Government (2014); *Innovation Wales – the Innovation Strategy for Wales* [2]The Grand Challenge areas of "Life Sciences and Health"; "Advanced Engineering and Materials"; "Low Carbon, Energy and Environment"; and" ICT and the Digital Economy" set a focus for innovative research activities in Wales build on existing strengths and provide clear routes from research through to commercialisation. [3] The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD (2011); *Skills for Innovation and Research*

compare report

	[4] UKCES (November 2012); *UK Skill levels and international competitiveness Evidence Report 70* [5] *UK Innovation Survey 2011* (2012), BIS

compare report

Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
1108F	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - female	Less developed	Ratio				48.00	Ratio (%)	2013			52.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1108M	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - male	Less developed	Ratio				48.00	Ratio (%)	2013			52.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1174F	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - female	Less developed	Ratio				34.00	Ratio (%)	2013			72.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1174M	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	Less developed	Ratio				38.00	Ratio (%)	2013			72.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1175F	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - female	Less developed	Ratio				34.00	Ratio (%)	2013			72.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1175M	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - Male	Less developed	Ratio				38.00	Ratio (%)	2013			72.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1177F	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (ISCED 7) or	Less developed	Ratio				63.00	Ratio (%)	2013			63.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority : 10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
	Doctoral (ISCED 8) level - female													
1177M	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (ISCED 7) or Doctoral (ISCED 8) level - male	Less developed	Ratio				63.00	Ratio (%)	2013			63.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1180F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - female	Less developed	Ratio				57.00	Ratio (%)	2013			60.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1180M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - Male	Less developed	Ratio				57.00	Ratio (%)	2013			60.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1181F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - female	Less developed	Ratio				44.00	Ratio (%)	2013			60.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1181M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - male	Less developed	Ratio				44.00	Ratio (%)	2013			60.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

1. **Specific Objective 1**
2. In delivering to **Specific Objective 1**, actions under this Investment Priority will operate as part of a coordinated Priority Axis to ensure that the workforce in WWV is equipped with the skills needed to enable growth and increased productivity while also facilitating career progression and tackling in-work poverty. Actions will target employed and self employed individuals with low or no skills with a view to developing essential and work-relevant skills up to ISCED Level 2. Actions will prioritise the achievement of qualifications as the main output however individuals will also receive support to participate in training and to enter further learning where appropriate.
3. Actions will be coordinated as part of the overall Priority Axis to support demand led interventions to address key skills gaps in the labour market which can support economic growth and individual progression. Labour Market Intelligence (LMI), identified utilising business demand and economic research, will be key to supporting targeted interventions.
4. Essential and basic skills, as articulated by the Welsh Government's Skills Implementation Plan[1], remain a priority. This will be complemented by the development of demand led technical or job specific skills. Investments will focus on progression to ISCED Level 2 to maximise the potential return on skills investments and potential positive impacts on tackling in-work poverty.
5. Over 90% of new jobs require basic internet skills, with increasing numbers of employment and progression opportunities being advertised online, therefore action will be taken to develop skills to break down barriers to engagement with technologies.
6. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 1** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Actions to provide basic and essential skills provision at ISCED Levels 1 (primary) and 2 (lower secondary education) for employed individuals with low skills (qualifications up to and including lower secondary education ISCED Level 2) or with no formal qualifications;
    - Actions to provide technical or job specific vocational qualifications at ISCED Levels 1 (primary) and 2 (lower secondary) for employed individuals with low skills (qualifications up to and including lower secondary education ISCED Level 2) or with no formal qualifications;
    - Provision of apprenticeships at ISCED Levels 1 and 2 for individuals in the target groups, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship places; and
    - Developing skills at ISCED Levels 1 and 2 to break down barriers to engagement with technologies, such as digital skills, reducing social

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Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

isolation and increasing access to work progression opportunities on-line.

7. **Specific Objective 2**
8. In delivering to **Specific Objective 2,** actions under this Investment Priority will support the development of intermediate and higher level technical and job specific skills at ISCED Level 3 and higher.
9. Actions will recognise that equipping employed individuals with the skills to drive economic growth involves both upskilling our workforce as well as updating and refreshing existing skills to ensure that they remain relevant and current. Therefore, actions will target both individuals qualified to ISCED Level 2, with a view to progressing them to ISCED Level 3 and above, and individuals already possessing qualifications at ISCED Levels 3 and above, ensuring that their skills remain current and that they meet the needs of employers.
10. In achieving this, actions will develop technical and job specific vocational skills at ISCED Level 3 or higher. Actions will prioritise the achievement of qualifications as the main output however individuals will also receive support to participate in training and to enter further learning where appropriate.
11. Actions will be coordinated as part of the overall Priority Axis to support demand led interventions to address key skills gaps in the labour market which can support economic growth and individual progression. Actions will be designed to meet the needs of employers, facilitating organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges and supporting individuals to prosper and progress within the labour market.
12. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 2** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Provision of apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships at ISCED Level 3 (upper secondary education) or above for individuals in the target groups, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship and higher level apprenticeship places;
    - Actions to provide intermediate and higher level technical and job specific vocational qualifications at ISCED Level 3 (upper secondary) and above for employed individuals in the target groups in order to upskill the workforce and to address skills gaps, shortages and mismatches; and
    - Targeted interventions to stimulate demand for skills and workforce development and to provide the skills needed at ISCED Level 3 (upper secondary education) and above to support organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges, including High Performance Working.
13. **Specific Objective 3**
14. In delivering to **Specific Objective 3**, actions under this Investment Priority will target individuals who possess a graduate degree or equivalent as a minimum. These may be employed, unemployed or in full time education at point of enrolment to ESF. Actions will work through academia and the private sector in the development of the higher skills at ISCED Levels 7 and 8 needed to drive encourage and support research and innovation

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Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

to support wider Welsh ambitions to increase research and innovation.

15. Actions will act as part of a coordinated approach within the Priority Axis to embed research and innovation in enterprise through delivering demand led investments which align higher level skills with clear economic, commercial and business benefits. All actions will be aligned with the Grand Challenge areas set out *Science for Wales: A strategic agenda for science and innovation in Wales* of:
    - Life Sciences and Health;
    - Advanced Engineering and Materials;
    - Low Carbon, Energy and Environment; and
    - The underpinning area of ICT and the Digital Economy.
16. By focusing on demand led investments which respond to LMI, the actions will align investments in the human capital (the skilled workforce) with the needs and priorities of businesses[2]. By doing this, they aim to stimulate an increase in the volume and quality of R&I activity, supporting the greater commercialisation of research and increasing the percentage investment in R&I activities. In this way, actions will complement and add value to actions supported by other EU funded programmes, notably the ERDF and Horizon 2020 programmes.
17. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 3** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Actions to deliver research and innovation qualifications at ISCED Levels 7 (Master's) and 8 (Doctoral) undertaken in partnership between learning providers and enterprise and aligned to the Grand Challenge areas of "Life Sciences and Health"; "Advanced Engineering and Materials"; "Low Carbon, Energy and Environment"; and "ICT and the Digital Economy"; and,
    - Actions driven by the private sector in collaboration with learning providers to increase the supply of individuals with higher skills in research and innovation.
18. The planned actions described above within each Specific Objective provide indicative areas of action which operations could take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.
19. Beneficiaries of funding within this Investment Priority and under each of the Specific Objectives above are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations including the Third Sector); education providers; universities; and the private sector.

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Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

[1] Welsh Government (2014); *Skills implementation plan – Delivering the policy statement on skills*
http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en

[2] Wales Employment and Skills Board (2011); *Skills for Jobs: Priorities*

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

1. The common principles to guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities, including targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment, are set out under the common principles section of Investment Priority 9i "Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability". These common selection principles will apply equally to this investment priority.
2. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**
3. Investment in skills and qualifications should look to achieve, or to enable individuals to progress where possible to intermediate level or above on the National Qualification Framework (NQF), outlining clear progression routes for those with no / low skills.
4. Actions should be demand led, flexible and responsive to labour market fluctuations; utilising and responding to Labour Market Intelligence to identify skills needs which will underpin economic growth and investment.
5. Operation design should take into consideration the need to stimulate employer demand for skills and incentivise appropriate employer or participant contributions, especially for higher level skills, to help develop a stronger culture of cost sharing within operations.
6. Actions will be consistent with the Welsh Government's Skills Strategies, Welsh Government Policy Statement on Skills and Skills Implementation Plan[1], in line with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan, skills interventions will be aligned with broader initiatives targeting poverty, specifically in-work poverty.

compare report

Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

7. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.
8. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories:
    - Gender;
    - Age (under 25, over 54 years);
    - Disability;
    - Work limiting health conditions;
    - Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
    - Care / Childcare responsibilities.

[1] Welsh Government (2014); *Policy Statement on Skills;* Welsh Government (2014); *Skills implementation plan – Delivering the policy statement on skills* http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

1. The first phase ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments (FI) in ESF concluded that in most cases there was limited potential for FI in the delivery of the actions outlined above and any potential approach is likely to be less effective than a grant based approach in terms of achieving the results sought. The first phases recommended additional research in the second phase on the value of FI in delivering of the Research and

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Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Innovation activities as scope may exist, however the conclusions of the second phase found that there was limited opportunity to effectively utilise FI in this area. It found that there were too many varying factors outside the scope of the interventions which would influence successful delivery. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the actions within this Investment Priority.	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
1. This is not applicable for ESF	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

compare report

					M	W	T		
1008	Number of enterprises collaborating with learning providers in Research and Innovation activities	Number	ESF	Less developed			754.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - female	Number	ESF	Less developed			~~12,8360~~.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - male	Number	ESF	Less developed			~~14,1000~~.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1173F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number	ESF	Less developed			21,~~840~~730.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1173M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a	Number	ESF	Less developed			23,~~991~~870.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

compare report

	lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male								
1176F	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent – female	Number	ESF	Less developed			724.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1176M	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent – male	Number	ESF	Less developed			784.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number	ESF	Less developed			14,697.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number	ESF	Less developed			16,144.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1179F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - female	Number	ESF	Less developed			9,814.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1179M	Employed, including self employed participants with	Number	ESF	Less developed			10,780.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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	upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - male								

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	8iv
Title of the investment priority	Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	2.4
Title of the specific objective	To improve the position of women in the workforce.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective is to improve the position of women in the workplace. It will specifically target employed women, complementing interventions being taken forward under Priority Axis 1 to increase the employability of those women who are closest to the labour market and trapped in cycles of no pay / low pay and those women who are economically inactive or long term unemployed and who face complex barriers to employment. 2. The Specific Objective, recognising the range of factors influencing the position of women in the workforce, as outlined in the Strategy, will also target employers to raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices. 3. While there are some high level measures of women's position in the workforce (such as the gender pay gap, the representation of women in senior positions and the percentage of women who work part time) these measures are directly influenced by a wide range of external factors. ESF interventions taken in isolation cannot result in any significant changes to these measures. 4. Therefore, the direct results for this Specific Objective will focus on the number of the target group gaining a qualification upon leaving and upon the number of participants who have an improved position in the labour market

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	(such as progression to more senior position, an increase in their pay or working hours or a move to more flexible working patterns) upon leaving. The number of enterprises adopting equality and diversity strategies as a result of ESF interventions will also be measured. 5. It may also be possible through evaluation to consider the longer term impact of these interventions on wider socio-economic measures relating to women's position in the workforce in a way that takes account of the range of external factors that influence these measures. 6. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision. The target for participants gaining a qualification upon leaving has been set to maintain the high level of achievement against this measure in current ESF provision while the target for supported enterprises adopting equality and diversity strategies represents our ambition to build upon current achievement and to increase upon the baseline. The target for participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving represents an ambition to achieve a true increase on the baseline while being set at a realistic level that recognises that it is measured at the point when a participant leaves an intervention.

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work														
ID	**Indicator**	**Category of region**	**Measurement unit for indicator**	**Common output indicator used as basis for target setting**	**Baseline value**			**Measurement unit for baseline and target**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**			**M**	**W**	**T**		
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	Number	employed, including self-employed			75.00	Ratio (%)	2013			75.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1101	Employed, including self-employed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				14.00	Ratio (%)				40.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1109	Supported Enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Less developed	Ratio				45.00	Ratio (%)	2013			50.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

1. **Specific Objective 4**
2. In delivering to Specific Objective 4, actions within this Investment Priority will primarily target employed females with some complementary organisational and enterprise based actions also. In raising issues of equality and diversity within the workforce indirect benefits may be accrued to

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Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

employed males also, although they will not be the target group.

3. Focus will be placed on actions and skills provision to improve the position of women in the workforce, supporting their progression to more senior positions, enabling an increase in their working hours or allowing them to benefit from more flexible working practices, as well as enhancing their job security and enabling them to access a wider range of employment options. Actions will also raise the awareness of employers of gender disadvantage in the workforce.
4. Actions will operate as part of a coordinated Priority Axis to increase the skills levels of women in the workforce and to raise the awareness of employers of issues around gender disadvantage in the workforce. Action will prioritise qualifications at all levels for participants however individuals will also be supported to access training and enter into further learning if relevant. Additionally, in support of the overall Cross Cutting Themes objectives, a greater number of employers will have equality and diversity policies in place.
5. Action will be taken to reduce the current under-representation of women at senior levels by supporting their progression within the workplace, through raising their skills levels and equipping them with an increased capability to achieve their full potential and develop their career. Actions will build on the progress made through the 2007-2013 programmes and across Wales to address and promote gender equality in the workplace.
6. The Equality Impact Assessment supports the view that actions to raise awareness among employers of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies will enable employers to address issues that cause gender disadvantage. It will support efforts to tackle Gender stereotyping, and thereby enabling an increased participation of both men and women in non-traditional work areas.
7. Additionally, actions that support the delivery of flexible and practical working solutions to women will support their increased effectiveness and sustainability within the workplace and support them to achieve their full potential. The adoption of flexible working practices is likely to be of significant benefit to women, who may be subject to inequality of opportunity or even discrimination regarding pregnancy and maternity rights, or the need to provide childcare.
8. There is also potential for actions supported under this Specific Objective to deliver some indirect benefits to men through the positive action on addressing gender stereotyping, thereby facilitating increased participation of both men and women in non-traditional work areas.
9. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of Specific Objective 4 and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay and/or career advancement;
    - Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace; and
    - Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.

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Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

10. The planned actions described above within each Specific Objective provide indicative areas of action which operations could take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.
11. Beneficiaries of funding within this Investment Priority and under the Specific Objective above are expected to be the public sector (local authorities; the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations to include the Third Sector); and the private sector.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

1. The common principles to guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities, including targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment, are set out under the common principles section of Investment Priority 9i "Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability". These common selection principles will apply equally to this Investment Priority.
2. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**
3. Investments in skills should look to achieve or progress individuals, where possible, to intermediate level on the National Qualification Framework (NQF) or above, outlining clear progression routes for those with no / low skills.
4. Actions should be demand led, flexible and responsive to labour market fluctuations; utilising and responding to LMI to identify skills needs which will underpin economic growth and investment.
5. Actions will have strong linkages with the wider cross cutting theme of Equality and actions in other Priority Axes and Investment Priorities to tackle gender stereotyping and facilitate an increased participation of both men and women in non traditional work areas.
6. Actions will be consistent with the Welsh Government's Skills Strategies, Welsh Government Policy Statement on Skills and Skills Implementation Plan[1], the Strategic Equality Plan and, in line with the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan, skills interventions will be aligned with broader initiatives targeting poverty, specifically in-work poverty.

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Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

7. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.
8. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories:
    - Gender;
    - Age (under 25, over 54 years);
    - Disability;
    - Work limiting health conditions;
    - Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
    - Care / Childcare responsibilities.
9. For SO4 it is anticipated, at a programme level, that of the total Employed, including self employed participants target in table 5; 32% will be above 54 years of age, 3% will have a work limiting health condition or disability and 29% will work part time.

[1] Welsh Government (2014); *Policy Statement on Skills;* Welsh Government (2014); *Skills implementation plan – Delivering the policy statement on skills* http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en

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2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

1. The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments (FI) in ESF did not specifically review the actions within this Specific Objective

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

however in reviewing the remaining elements of the ESF programmes a number of equalities and equal opportunity based actions were considered and the evaluation concluded that in most cases there was limited potential for FI in the delivery of the actions outlined above and any potential approach is likely to be less effective than a grant based approach in terms of achieving the results sought. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the actions within this Investment Priority.

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

1. This is not applicable for ESF

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of

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				relevant)	M	W	T		reporting
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Number	ESF	Less developed	0.00	4,400.00	4,400.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Number	ESF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	800.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth

1. **Promotion of Social Innovation (SI) within the Priority Axis**
2. All operations will be encouraged to consider the opportunities Social Innovation (SI) provides in piloting or developing innovative approaches to delivery. Operations will be encouraged to consider options to undertake small scale SI activities to explore alternative delivery models or target specific groups with a view to incorporating and scaling up successful delivery. Such small scale trialling, particularly through commissioning or procurement, will engage the third sector, community groups and social partners in a risk based approach to developing new delivery models which can add to and complement successful delivery models already in place.
3. Potential areas for SI actions across the programme might include:
    - targeting of specific under-represented groups with a view to up-scaling into core activity and the delivery of enhanced equality outcomes;
    - trialling, on a risk basis, new models of delivery, especially within well established delivery methodology or approaches; and
    - support to trial and develop sustainable exit strategies through testing of new delivery models.
4. Opportunities for SI may develop as operations progress. It will not be necessary for SI activity to be fully scoped however the principle and mechanics of trialling and subsequent mainstreaming of lessons learnt will need to be outlined where SI action is anticipated. Larger strategic interventions should have an evidence base indicating where trialling or piloting of approaches would work most effectively.
5. SI actions will be subject to specific monitoring and more rigorous evaluation with lessons learnt being disseminated both within operations and

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across WEFO. SI actions can take place as discreet elements of larger strategic operations or as discreet stand alone operations.

6. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include but are not limited to:
    - Innovative approaches to support the targeting of specific underrepresented target groups.
7. Through this approach it will also be possible to incorporate linkages with LEADER groups within EAFRD (or Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG's) within EMFF). LEADER groups or FLAG's, will be able to engage in commission processes for SI actions particularly for trialling new approaches with a view to mainstreaming successful delivery models. These groups will also be able to work through the regional and spatial approaches described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and in Section 4 of this OP to encourage mainstreaming of activity funded through other ESI funds into collaborative ESF proposals.
8. **Specific Provision for Transnational Cooperation**
9. Transnational cooperation actions will be targeted towards addressing specific needs within WWV while maximising the added value that can be delivered by transnational cooperation.
10. Actions will involve stakeholders from the public, higher and further education, third and private sectors. Operations may be wholly comprised of transnational cooperation activity or feature transnational cooperation as one strand within the wider operation.
11. Actions will be expected to support transnational cooperation with other Member States which are facing similar challenges to WWV and working to common goals. Actions should support transnational partnership working to share good practice and to develop and pilot innovative solutions, to develop and share high level skills and expertise and to develop and share skills and expertise that will support a modern knowledge-based economy and a modern, adaptable and agile labour market.
12. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include but are not limited to:
    - Actions to develop and share expertise in research and innovation, including facilitating the commercialisation of research supported by other EU transnational funds such as Horizon 2020; and
    - Actions to support partnership working to develop common and innovative approaches to strengthening the capacity for innovation, modernisation and adaption to new socio-economic challenges within the labour market, including addressing demographic issues such as an ageing workforce.
13. **The contribution of the ESF to Thematic Objectives 1-7**
14. ESF investments in human capital will be centred on and deliver to the future needs of enterprise and business, supporting the development of a modern, knowledge based economy. ESF investments made under Thematic Objectives (TO) 8, 9 and 10 are designed to complement and combine with investments made by ESI funds under TO 1-7. Where clear additionality to provision under EAFRD and EMFF is demonstrable, individuals involved in farming, fishing and aquaculture will be able to access ESF support. This approach will facilitate and enable the optimal realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales and will support the integrated approach to implementation outlined in Section 4.

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Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth

15. ESF investments in this Priority Axis to up-skill the workforce, to address specific skills gaps and support the development of technical and higher level skills will:
    - complement and add value to ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF investments under TO3 to increase SME productivity and competitiveness, including through supporting SMEs to grow and to increase productivity through diversification into new markets;
    - help realise the potential of ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF supported investments in ICT and innovative and emergent technologies (including low carbon) under TO 1, 2 and 4 that aim to support business adaptation, growth and competitiveness and to increase the capacity and capability of Welsh businesses to win business in the development and installation of these technologies; and
    - complement and underpin EAFRD and EMFF actions under TO 2, 3 and 4 to support rural and coastal (including fisheries and aquaculture) businesses to adopt new technology and increase efficiencies and to develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities. There is also potential for skills interventions to complement land based measures being supported by the EAFRD programme under TO 5 and 6.
16. ESF investments in this Priority Axis to increase the supply of individuals with the specialised skills will:
    - support the ERDF programme's objectives (under TO 1) of increasing the amount of competitive and private finance coming into Welsh research institutions, increasing the levels of innovation in Welsh business and of commercialising the research and innovation interventions;
    - complement EMFF actions to increase R&I capability and exploitation of that capability for low-carbon technologies, products and services; and
    - complement actions being considered by the EAFRD programme to support LEADER Local Actions Groups to engage in the pre-commercial development and piloting of new processes and products.

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2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth												
ID	**Indicator type**	**Indicator or key implementation step**	**Measurement unit, where appropriate**	**Fund**	**Category of region**	**Milestone for 2018**			**Final target (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate**
						M	**W**	**T**	**M**	**W**	**T**		
P2F	F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed			~~122,472,128~~133.00 0.000			~~482,367,489~~471.00 0.000.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in West Wales and the Valleys which amounts to approximately 66% of the Priority Axis.
1172F	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - female	Number	ESF	Less developed			~~3,258~~0			~~12,836~~0.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in West Wales and the Valleys which amounts to approximately 66% of the Priority Axis.
1172M	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - male	Number	ESF	Less developed			~~3,578~~0			~~14,100~~0.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in West Wales and the Valleys which amounts to approximately 66% of the Priority Axis.
1173F	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number	ESF	Less developed			~~5,543~~8801			~~21,840~~31.000.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in West Wales and the Valleys which amounts to approximately 66% of the Priority Axis.
1173M	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number	ESF	Less developed			~~6,088~~9666			~~23,991~~26.000.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in West Wales and the Valleys which amounts to approximately 66% of the Priority Axis.

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Priority axis		2 - Skills for Growth												
ID	**Indicator type**	**Indicator or key implementation step**	**Measurement unit, where appropriate**	**Fund**	**Category of region**	**Milestone for 2018**			**Final target (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Explanation of relevance of indicator,**
1178F	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number	ESF	Less developed			3,732			14,697.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in West Wales and the Valleys which amounts to approximately 66% of the Priority Axis.
1178M	O	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number	ESF	Less developed			4,099			16,144.00	Management Information Systems	These indicators cover all of Specific Objective 1 and 60% of Specific Objective 2 in West Wales and the Valleys which amounts to approximately 66% of the Priority Axis.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

1. *Financial indicators*
2. The 2023 target is the total Eligible Expenditure allocation for the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 target is based on N+3 Eligible Expenditure.
3. *Output indicators*
4. The overall approach used to set targets within the 2014-2020 WWV ESF programme and the EW ESF programme involved mapping activity from appropriate and comparable projects funded under the 2007-2013 WWV ESF Convergence Programme. These were selected to best reflect the targeted approach and proposed activity to be funded as outlined in the 2014-2020 ESF Programmes. Projects' achievements to date of mapped activity were compared with spend to date and projects' current final targets were compared with their total financial allocation. The resulting ratios were then scaled to indicative funding allocations under the future Specific Objectives of each the Investment Priorities to derive a set of targets for the indicators.
5. In some cases where the ambition of the 2014-2020 programmes was substantially different to the current 2007-13 delivery a policy based approach is utilised selecting comparable targets reflecting the emphasis of the programme within each priority and the aspirations and objectives for change.. In all cases evidence of Unit costs etc. within the current programme are utilised to ensure these policy based targets are achievable within the funding parameters available. In addition, the use of National Statistics, where available, based on the current population share for key demographic groups, is used in order to provide aspirational targets to ensure the fair distribution of funds. This approach is supplemented with additional evidence and experience from the current 2007-2013 programming period and the targeting outlined in the proposed ESF programmes. In some cases a combination of these methods has been used.

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6. The 2023 target is the final target for this Output indicator under the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 target is based on the same ratio as the 2018 Financial indicator target, and unit costs.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	**2 - Skills for Growth**		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	105. Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work	21,422,486.00
ESF	Less developed	117. Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences	~~326,407~~318,217,266.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	**2 - Skills for Growth**		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

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Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	~~347,829~~339,639,752.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	~~43,340,154~~42,319,667.00
ESF	Less developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	~~223,166,326~~217,911,651.00
ESF	Less developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	~~81,323,272~~79,408,434.00

Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	~~347,829~~339,639,752.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth

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Fund	Category of region	Code	€ amount
ESF	Less developed	01. Supporting the shift to a low-carbon, resource efficient economy	17,852,072.00
ESF	Less developed	04. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	35,704,143.00
ESF	Less developed	07. Gender equality	21,422,486.00
ESF	Less developed	08. Not applicable	272,851,051.00

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	**2 - Skills for Growth**

1. The planned use of Technical Assistance will be addressed in the specific Technical Assistance Priority Axis.

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2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	3
Title of the priority axis	Youth Employment and Attainment

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

1. The Priority Axis has been developed in line with the aims and objectives of the ESF Programme in WWV and in particular:
2. *Aim:*
    - *To invest in our young people to create a vibrant and responsive future workforce with the skills needed to respond to the needs of a challenging knowledge based economy.*
3. *Objectives:*
    - *To increase youth employment and educational attainment, thereby reducing poverty and disadvantage in our young people; and*
    - *To reduce inequalities in the labour market amongst women and recognised equality groups*
4. The recent economic downturn has significantly impacted youth employment as shown in the socio-economic analysis. Supporting our young people through education into employment requires a seamless approach with particular attention to key transition points.
5. The Priority Axis has been developed around a thematic framework to promote both increased youth employment and attainment, including the early years, thereby aligning to the Country Specific Recommendations. This Priority Axis approach and the associated Thematic Objectives selected (9)(8) - *promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility* and (9)(10) - *Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning* will significantly increase the impact of interventions in supporting our young people to progress through education into sustainable employment, increasing the potential long term legacy of investments.

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6. The Priority Axis will align closely with the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework[1], supporting the identification, tracking and mapping of services and outcomes for young people from education into employment. This alignment will ensure a consistent approach in supporting our young people and that ESF investment adds value to an integrated approach to achieving the programme's aim.
7. In line with the approach above the definition of 'young people' has been extended to 0-24 years of age (previously 11-19), ensuring ESF investments support individuals as they move through mainstream education into sustainable employment, reducing the risk of becoming Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) and ensuring interventions begin early and tackle key transition points.
8. A key challenge will be the effective use of interventions to respond to labour market demands, to identify and exploit growth opportunities and continue to enhance the competitiveness of WWV. Evidence shows that the fastest growing occupational groups require skills at NQF Levels 3, 4 and above; the fastest declining occupations cluster around NQF Level 2 and below[2]. STEM skills are seen as vital to areas of future growth and employment[3][4]. In 2013, 39% of UK employers who recruit staff with STEM skills reported difficulties recruiting such skills[5].
9. The alignment of interventions within this Priority Axis approach will ensure that the skills and career aspirations of our young people are consistent with employer demand, emerging growth opportunities and the long term needs of the economy.

[1] Welsh Government (2013); http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en

[2] UKCES (2011); *Skills for Jobs: The National Skills Audit for Wales 2011*

[3] Wales Employment and Skills Board (2011); *Skills for Jobs: Priorities July 2011*

[4] Advanced Materials and Manufacturing (AM&M) Summary Advice from the Sector Panel

[5] Pearson/CBI Education and Skills Surveys of 2008 and 2013

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ESF	Less developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	10i
Title of the investment priority	Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	3.2
Title of the specific objective	To reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET, amongst 11-24 year olds.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. This Specific Objective aims to reduce the risk of becoming NEET amongst 11-24 year olds with a specific focus on those at highest risk. The investments will compliment actions across the priority targeting NEET and Youth Unemployment by taking early action amongst those who are in education to reduce the risk of them dropping out of education or not entering employment following education. 2. Alignment of investments within this priority to the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and its core standards on early identification of those at risk of NEET will ensure a consistent approach to the identification and tracking of individuals within this cohort. 3. The Early identification approach focuses as a core, on attendance, behaviour and attainment indicators in defining risk

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	of NEET although other local indicators may be added. The primary result of interventions within this Specific Objective therefore will be a reduced risk of NEET as measured by the tracking systems within the framework. 4. Additional measures of reduced risk will include measuring the number of qualifications gained and, reflecting the importance of targeting key transition points in the reduction of risk of NEET, measuring progression into further education or training. 5. Alignment with the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework will also ensure that actions within this Specific Objective will help address in the longer term the structural and persistent issues of non-engagement which are present through all economic conditions. 6. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision or similar activity elsewhere. For the reduced risk of NEET measure, it has not been possible to set a baseline as the Framework is a new approach which, in part, is responding to lessons learnt through ESF and other activity on the need for early and consistent identification mechanisms. For this same reason, it is not currently possible to set a target value for this indicator. An Action Plan has therefore been set out in Table 25 of Section 9 to establish this target value by the end of December 2016. 7. For the other measures, the targets reflect baselines which have a wider previous definition of Risk of NEET and therefore remain challenging for this more defined cohort.
ID of the specific objective	3.3
Title of the specific objective	To increase the take up of and attainment levels in STEM subjects amongst 11-19 year olds.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The main focus of this Specific Objective is to increase the take up of and attainment levels in STEM subjects among 11-19 year olds in WWV. It will target pupils in secondary education, with particular attention given to sustained interventions to increase participation rates in STEM subjects post 16 and to increase the participation of girls in STEM subjects. 2. As outlined in the Strategy, Welsh GCSE entries for STEM subjects have declined by 12% over recent years,[1] with a corresponding decrease in attainment levels during the period 2008-2013. 3. There is also a sharp decrease in participation levels in STEM subjects post 16, especially among girls, with Welsh figures lower than the rest of the UK[2]. With the exception of ICT, the proportion of A level students taking STEM subjects has declined over the period 2001-2013. In 2013, 17% of male A level students were taking science, while the

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	equivalent figure for girls was 10.7%. For ICT and CDT[3] subjects, the figures are 10% for boys and 5% for girls. A level biology and physics grades achieved by Welsh students are also lower than English students. 4. The direct results will therefore be focused around the number of the target group completing training in STEM subjects and the number of those in the target group who continue to study a STEM subject post 16. The longer term impact of these interventions on wider measures such as A level entries in STEM subjects and attainment levels in STEM subjects at GCSE and A Level will be considered as part of programme evaluation, which will consider the impact of ESF interventions in the context of the range of external factors that influence these measures. 5. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision. The expectation that this activity will constitute a more intensive and sustained intervention than in previous provision results in the decision to set target values that will maintain the baseline. The result indicator measuring the proportion of participants who continue to study STEM subjects post 16 represents a new measure for ESF provision therefore national data on the participation rates among the wider post 16 cohort has been used to inform the setting of the baseline. The target represents the ambition of the programme to effect a genuine increase upon this baseline. [1] The Welsh Government (2012), *Science for Wales, A strategic agenda for science and innovation in Wales* [2] The Royal Society, *State of the nation, Preparing for the transfer to STEM higher education*, 15 February 2011 https://royalsociety.org/education/policy/state-of-nation/higher-education/ as cited in The Welsh Government (2012), *Science for Wales, A strategic agenda for science and innovation in Wales*. [3] Craft, Design and Technology
ID of the specific objective	3.4

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Title of the specific objective	To increase the skills of the Early Years and Childcare workforce.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. This objective aims to increase the skills of the Early Years and Childcare workforce in the programme area in order to increase the quality of provision and to enhance the development and attainment of our children in their early years. Participants will be already be in employment in the Early Years and Childcare workforce. Owing to the nature of provision this will include those who may be part of the public sector workforce, particularly for those in 'maintained settings' but will not include teachers. 2. As set out in the Effective Provision of Pre-school Education study on what makes a good quality early years setting[1], the workforce is central to improving quality. It is recognised that there are many highly complex and interdependent factors which influence child development, however high quality child care has been shown to be the most effective and cost beneficial single early intervention strategy to enhance child developmental outcomes, in particular language and cognitive development[2]. The quality of Early Years and Childcare support is intrinsically linked to the skills and qualification of the workforce. The Care Council for Wales undertook a study into the Early Years and Childcare Workforce in Wales in 2010. The study reflects the overall skills levels of the childcare and early years workforce at the time and helped to underpin the development and setting of the result indicators and associated targets. The main direct results for the Specific Objective will be the number of participants from the Early Years and Childcare sector gaining a qualification upon leaving. It may be possible, should the study on the Early Years and Childcare Workforce in Wales be repeated, to evaluate the overall impact on the workforce of this Specific Objective also. 3. There are no specific baselines for the direct result indicators as this is a new area of activity for ESF. Comparable activity which might reflect the skills levels, if not the specific sector, has been used to set appropriate baselines. The 2010 workforce study above could be a useful baseline for evaluating the impact of investments in the future. [1] Sylva, K et al (2007); *Effective pre-school and primary education: findings from the pre-school period. Teaching and Learning Research Briefing no. 24* [2] Watson, J., White, A., Taplin, S., & Huntsman, L. (2005); *Active engagement of families in early intervention programs*.

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	Sydney, NSW: NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS), Centre for Parenting & Research.

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training														
ID	**Indicator**	**Category of region**	**Measurement unit for indicator**	**Common output indicator used as basis for target setting**	**Baseline value**			**Measurement unit for baseline and target**	**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**			**M**	**W**	**T**		
1125	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) gaining qualifications upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				7.00	Ratio (%)	2013			7.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1127	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) into education or training upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				19.00	Ratio (%)	2013			19.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1128	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				0.00	Ratio (%)	2013			0.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1129F	Young People 11-19 completing training in maths, Science Engineering and Technology - female	Less developed	Ratio				47.00	Ratio (%)	2013			55.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1129M	Young People 11-19 receiving completing training in maths, Science Engineering and Technology - male	Less developed	Ratio				53.00	Ratio (%)	2013			55.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1130F	Young People 11-19 who continue to study a Maths, Science, Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - female	Less developed	Ratio				11.00	Ratio (%)	2013			45.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1130M	Young People 11-19 who continue to study a Maths, Science, Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - male	Less developed	Ratio				17.00	Ratio (%)	2013			45.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1184F	Employed including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - female	Less developed	Ratio				57.00	Ratio (%)	2013			77.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1184M	Employed including self employed participants from the early years and	Less developed	Ratio				57.00	Ratio (%)	2013			77.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority : 10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
	childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - male													

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

1. **Specific Objective 2**
2. Set within a 'Youth Attainment and Engagement' theme, actions will be delivered through two distinct Specific Objectives which operate as part of a coordinated Priority Axis to delivers to the longer term needs of our young people.
3. In delivering to the **Specific Objective 2**, actions within this Investment Priority will target young people between the ages of 11-24, at highest risk of becoming NEET, supporting transitions from primary education through secondary education and into employment, providing a range of interventions which will complement and add value, but do not duplicate, mainstream services. Interventions will focus on those most at risk of disengagement or of becoming NEET, as identified through the identification and tracking system outlined in the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.
4. Due to the nature of the NEET cohort actions will naturally focus on, but will not be limited to, young people from specific groups including young offenders, young people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds, teenage mothers and young people with disabilities or with special

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Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

educational needs or care leavers who might face additional barriers to engagement or attainment.

5. Action will prioritise qualification and further learning outcomes for participants however utilising the identification and tracking system within the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, results associated with a reduction of risk of NEET will also be achieved.
6. In line with Welsh Government policy, actions are designed to address at an earlier age, the underlying issues which affect young people's attainment and employability, including poor aspirations and attainment fall-off at key transition points. Increasing competition in the labour market puts a sharper focus on the importance of supporting early attainment and engagement[1].
7. Early intervention to reduce risk of NEET can have significant long term impacts also. The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework notes that failure to engage young people increases the costs associated with health and social services and contributes to the challenges associated with long-term unemployment. The Wales Audit Office estimates the lifetime cost of the current numbers of young people 16-18 who are NEET is £626 million in public finance costs and £1.21 billion in resource costs.[2]
8. In support of the Cross Cutting Themes outlined in Section 11, actions will also address a clear attainment gap at 15 between males and females (82% and 89% respectively)[3]. Actions will positively reinforce choices and help to break down traditional gender stereotypes in employment and learning and broaden horizons for non traditional job roles or employment sectors.
9. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 2** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Early targeted action to combat disaffection, provide access to a broader and innovative range of learning options supporting the acquisition of both vocational and higher level skills and prevent young people from falling out of education;
    - Actions to equip young people with a range of skills that allow them to be more flexible and adaptable in a fast changing labour market and to gain sustainable employment, encouraging linkages between career choices and longer term labour market trends and tackling traditional gender stereotypes in employment;
    - Supporting the development of practitioners in order to better engage with disadvantaged young people and to improve linkages with, and knowledge of, the private sector; and
    - Removing barriers to learning, helping create independence, and providing individual mentoring and advocacy advice to young people.
10. **Specific Objective 3**
11. In delivering to the **Specific Objective 3**, actions within this Investment Priority will target young people between the ages of 11-19, with the aim of increasing engagement with and attainment in STEM subjects, particularly among girls. Actions will enrich the core STEM subject curriculum, complementing and adding value to, but not duplicating, mainstream services.
12. Actions will increase engagement with STEM subjects in order to increase attainment levels at 16 and to increase the take up of STEM subjects post 16, promoting STEM pathways through secondary school and, either directly or through entry to higher education, into employment.

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Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Attention will be given to developing engagement with STEM subjects at an early stage of secondary education and consolidating and retaining this engagement through the key transition points at 14 (Key Stage 3 into Key Stage 4) and 16 (the move from compulsory education into post 16 education and training). It is expected that actions will constitute sustained interventions over a prolonged period and involve a significant number of contact hours.

13. Actions will also increase the engagement of girls with STEM subjects, increasing attainment levels both pre and post 16 and increasing the uptake of STEM subjects post 16 amongst girls. Actions will positively reinforce choices and help to break down traditional gender stereotypes in employment and learning, broadening horizons for non traditional job roles or employment sectors and addressing the current under-representation of females in STEM subjects in higher education and in STEM based careers.
14. All interventions will be designed to increase the future employability of young people and will therefore be responsive to the needs of employers, prioritising further learning outcomes for participants. In line with evidence that employer engagement is vital to enthusing and inspiring young people[4], actions which actively engage and involve employers will be encouraged.
15. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 3** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - actions that increase the engagement and attainment levels of young people 11-16 in STEM subjects and increase the proportion of the cohort that continue to study STEM subjects post 16;
    - actions that increase the engagement and attainment levels of girls 11-19 in STEM subjects, increasing the proportion of girls who continue to study STEM subjects post 16 and closing the participation gap between girls and boys; and
    - actions that promote STEM related career paths, encouraging linkages between career choices and longer term labour market trends and tackling traditional gender stereotypes in employment.
16. **Specific Objective 4**
17. In delivering to the **Specific Objective 4**, actions within this Investment Priority will target adults engaged in the Early Years and Childcare workforce. Actions will focus primarily on those with no skills or low skills with a view to progression to intermediate level or beyond, but will also include those with intermediate level qualifications to enhance the number of setting leaders.
18. Set within a 'Early Years' theme, actions will operate as part of a coordinated Priority Axis which will deliver a long term legacy approach to addressing the attainment and future employment prospects of our young people, setting in place, through supply side investments, a strong basis for the development of our children going forward.
19. Actions will prioritise qualifications as the main direct result. Due to the nature of the sector and the prevalence of public sector based settings within the Early Years and Childcare sector actions will include participants from the Public Sector Early Years and Childcare workforce. This will not include teachers.

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Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

20. Cognitive development in the early years is of great importance to later outcomes and cognitive performance at age three and five are related to later school achievement, academic attainment and occupational outcomes[5]. Research points to the impact that high-quality early education for two year olds can have on later life chances[6] and as a means of ending the inter-generational transmission of child poverty. The quality of childcare is especially important for the most disadvantaged groups where high quality care boosts development[7].
21. The Nutbrown review[8] shows evidence that by improving the qualification of carers (and therefore the overall quality of the childcare) improvements in the attainment of young children will be seen and children with high attainment will be less likely to become NEET in later life. Research into child poverty[9] emphasises the importance of improving children's early development as a means of ending the inter-generational transmission of child poverty.
22. Allied to this, and in support of the cross cutting themes actions will be targeted at promoting a better gender balance and diversity across the childcare and early years workforce. The Equality Impact Assessment notes that these actions are likely to deliver positive impacts for men seeking to enter the sector. It also concludes that children are likely to benefit from this more balanced approach, which can assist to challenge traditional views regarding gender roles[10].
23. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of Specific Objective 4 and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Supporting the development of skills in the early years and childcare sector including both current and potential childcare practitioners.
24. The planned actions described above within each theme provide indicative areas of action which operations delivering to this Specific Objective could take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.
25. Beneficiaries of funding are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations); education providers; universities and the private sector.

[1] UKCES (2011); *The Youth Enquiry: Employer Perspectives on Tackling Youth Unemployment*

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Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

[2] Wales Audit Office (2014); *Young people not in education, employment or training*

[3] Welsh Government Statistical Release (Dec 2010); *Educational Attainment of Young People by Age 19, 2008/09*

[4] For example, the CBI has stated that the 'real world' perspective that employers can bring to learning can help to alert young people to the practical value and creative scope of STEM subjects. Cited in Engineering UK 2014 http://www.engineeringuk.com/Research/Engineering_UK_Report_2014/

[5] Duncan, G.J., Dowsett, C.J., Claessens, A., Magnuson,K., Hudson, A.C., Klebov, P., Pagani, L., Feinstein, L., Engel, M., Brooks-Gunn, J., Sexton, H. and Duckworth, K, (2007) *School readiness and later achievement. Development Psychology, 43(6), 1428-1446.*

[6] Field MP, F. (2010); *The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children becoming poor adults. The report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances*

[7] *Sammons, P. et al (2004); The Effective Provision of Pre-School Education Project; Findings from Pre-school to end Key Stage 1*

[8] Professor Cathy Nutbrown (2012); *FOUNDATIONS FOR QUALITY The independent review of early education and childcare qualifications*

[9] Field MP, F. (2010); *The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children becoming poor adults. The report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances*

[10] Equality Impact Assessment

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Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

1. The common principles to guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities, including targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment, are set out under the common principles section of Investment Priority 9i "Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability". These common selection principles will apply equally to this Investment Priority.
2. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**
3. Actions under Specific Objective 2 and 3 must respond to labour market demands to identify and exploit growth opportunities and continue to enhance the competitiveness of the area. Actions must be responsive to the needs of the economy, aligned to labour market information and be linked to employers to ensure that skills, interventions and the career aspirations of our young people are consistent with employer demand and emerging growth opportunities.
4. Interventions will integrate with actions within Specific Objective 1 of this priority to support progression at key transition points and will work with wider initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of our young people.
5. Actions under Specific Objective 2 and 3 must align to the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework[1].
6. Actions under Specific Objective 4 must align to the Welsh Government's Early Years and Childcare Plan and support wider ESF, Welsh Government and societal actions to give our children the best start in life and increased life chances. All interventions must make effective links with wider strategies which address early years development and family based initiatives and contributing to wider programmes to tackle poverty and social inclusion.
7. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.
8. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories:

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Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

- Gender;
- Disability;
- Work limiting health conditions;
- Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
- Care / Childcare responsibilities.

9. For SO2 it is anticipated, at a programme level, that of the total at risk of becoming NEET participants (11-24, male and female) target in table 5; 10% will have a disability.

[1] Welsh Government: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

1. The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments in ESF concluded that FI for the proposed actions were inappropriate, unlikely to be cost effective and be too dependent on uncertain employment outcomes. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the proposed actions.

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2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

1. This is not applicable to ESF.

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
1028	Participants at Risk of becoming NEET (11-24 years of age)	Number	ESF	Less developed			49,700.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1030M	Young people 11-19 years of age - Male	Number	ESF	Less developed			8,400.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1031	Young People 11-19 years of age – Female	Number	ESF	Less developed			15,000.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

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Investment priority		10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
1032F	Employed, including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector - Female	Number	ESF	Less developed			2,700.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1032M	Employed, including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector - Male	Number	ESF	Less developed			300.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	8ii
Title of the investment priority	Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	3.1

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Title of the specific objective	To reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET).
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	1. The aim of this Specific Objective, as part of the integrated approach within the priority to address issues of NEET and Youth Unemployment, is to reduce the number of 16-24 years olds who are NEET. This will include those who are unemployed or economically inactive. 2. In line with the Country Specific Recommendations, the impact of investments within this Specific objective, taking into account in-flow and outflow rates, will be to reduce youth unemployment rates in WWV. It will also reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are NEET. 3. Direct results of the ESF investments will be centred on measuring the number of those who are classified as NEET 16-24 who move into either Education or Employment as a result of ESF support. Additional result indicators will also measure the number of NEET 16-24 who achieve a qualification as a pathway to sustainable employment, also reflecting the Country Specific Recommendations to reduce the number of young people with low basic skills. 4. Baselines have been set for the result indicators based on comparable activity supported through previous ESF provision or similar activity elsewhere. Targets have been set to reflect the overarching ambition to help those who are NEET to access employment building on significant success in the current programme. Other targets reflect baselines as these are deemed to be appropriate whilst not detracting from the need for employment outcomes.

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
1123	NEET participants (16-24 years of age) in education / training upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				17.00	Ratio (%)	2013			17.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1124	NEET participants (16-24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				25.00	Ratio (%)	2013			28.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly
1183	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio				18.00	Ratio (%)	2013			20.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

1. **Specific Objective 1**
2. In delivering to Specific Objective 1, actions under this Investment Priority will target young people of working age (from 16 up to and including age 24) who are classified as NEET including unemployed or economically inactive.

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Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

3. Set within a 'Youth Employment' theme, actions will operate as part of a coordinated Priority Axis which delivers to the longer term needs of our young people, providing a range of interventions to support and facilitate access to sustained employment both for those who are ready for work and for those who may require additional skills and work focused interventions.
4. Action will prioritise employment outcomes for participants however individuals will also receive support to access further learning, gain qualifications and participate in training as part of supporting access and progression to sustainable employment. For those young people within this target group who may have experienced prolonged periods of worklessness, Interventions may for a short period and where appropriate, provide appropriate measures, such as mentoring, to ensure the sustainability of employment outcomes.
5. ESF investments through this Investment Priority will align with the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to ensure that investments add value to existing mapped provision and are delivered as part of a coordinated response to addressing the challenges faced by young people in accessing Sustainable Employment. Actions will also help deliver and add value to the Welsh Government Youth Guarantee, enhancing support mechanisms to access a good-quality job traineeship**,** or continued education for those beyond the first time transition from compulsory education.
6. On-going changes in the UK Government Welfare system will bring challenges to the implementation of the youth employment agenda within this priority. Interventions will need to complement and add value to mainstream delivery whilst avoiding duplication. This will require a certain amount of flexibility to adapt to the changing environment. The principles of specific eligibility around mainstream UK Government programmes will be addressed through the Welsh eligibility guidance documentation, made available via the WEFO website and updated throughout the Programme period.
7. Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of **Specific Objective 1** and to the target groups identified above could include:
    - Actions to ensure that young people gain the skills, competencies and experience required to access sustainable employment, including self-employment;
    - Actions to support young people to return to education or training to further develop the skills for future employment;
    - Actions to support young people to access and maintain sustained employment; and
    - Activities with enterprises and educators to challenge traditional assumptions and stereotypes and to raise participation levels in occupations and sectors where a particular gender or recognised equality groups are under-represented.
8. The planned actions described above provide indicative areas of action which operations delivering to this Specific Objective could take forward. All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.

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Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

9. Beneficiaries of funding are expected to be the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations including the Third Sector); education providers; universities; and the private sector.

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

1. The common principles to guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities, including targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment, are set out under the common principles section of Investment Priority 9i "Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability". These common principles will apply equally to this Investment Priority.
2. **Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority**
3. Actions must be designed to align with the principles of ensuring that employers have a suitably qualified workforce for the future, that skills development and attainment levels are aligned with growth activity and that young people are engaged in appropriate education and training to meet employment growth areas and employer demand. LMI will form a key part in supporting investments to align interventions with the needs of employers now and in the future.
4. Interventions will integrate with actions within Specific Objective 2 of this priority axis to support progression at key transition points and will work with wider initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of our young people.
5. Actions must align to the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and associated Implementation Plan[1].
6. Any public support under this programme must comply with the procedural and material State Aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted.
7. Unless otherwise specified within the output indicators for this investment priority all operations seeking support within this investment priority area will be required to establish appropriate operation level output targets, at a minimum, within the following categories:
    - Gender;
    - Disability;

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Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

- Work limiting health conditions;
- Migrants / BME / Minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma); and
- Care / Childcare responsibilities.

8. For SO1 it is anticipated, at a programme level, that of the total NEET participants (16-24, male and female) target in table 5; 24% will have a disability.

[1] Welsh Government: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

1. The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments in ESF concluded that FI for the proposed actions were inappropriate, unlikely to be cost effective and be too dependant on uncertain employment outcomes. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of the proposed actions. There was seen to be some limited opportunity to utilise ESF FI to support self employment especially around business start up however it was considered that a more cost effective approach would be to ensure closer integration with ERDF funded activity in this area.

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2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

1. This is not applicable for ESF.

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee**							
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	Less developed			42,700.00	Management Information Systems	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	**3 - Youth Employment and Attainment**

1. **Promotion of Social Innovation (SI) within the Priority Axis.**

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Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment

2. All operations will be encouraged to consider the opportunities Social Innovation (SI) provides in piloting or developing innovative approaches to delivery. Operations will be encouraged to consider the options to undertake small scale SI activities which will explore alternative delivery models or target specific groups with a view to incorporating and scaling up successful delivery. Such small scale trialling, particularly through commissioning or procurement, will engage the third sector, community groups and social partners in a risk based approach to developing new delivery models which can add to and complement successful delivery models already in place.
3. Potential areas for SI actions across the programme might include:
    - targeting of specific under-represented groups with a view to up-scaling into core activity and the delivery of enhanced equality outcomes;
    - trialling, on a risk basis, new models of delivery, especially within well established delivery methodology or approaches; and
    - support to trial and develop sustainable exit strategies through testing of new delivery models.
4. Opportunities for SI may develop as operations progress. It will not be necessary for SI activity to be fully scoped however the principle and mechanics of trialling and subsequent mainstreaming of lessons learnt will need to be outlined where SI action is anticipated. Interventions which are likely to deliver substantial outcomes should have an evidence base indicating where trialling or piloting of approaches would work most effectively.
5. SI actions will be subject to specific monitoring and more rigorous evaluation with lessons learnt being disseminated both within operations and across WEFO. SI actions can take place as discreet elements of larger strategic operations or as discreet stand alone operations.
6. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include but are not limited to:
    - Innovative approaches to engaging with young people furthest from the labour market with complex and long term barriers, supporting them to access the labour market and achieve sustainable employment.
    - Innovative approaches targeting those at most risk of NEET in order to increase engagement and attainment and reduce Early School Leaving.
7. Through this approach it will also be possible to incorporate linkages with LEADER groups within EAFRD (or Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG's) within EMFF). LEADER groups or FLAG's, will be able to engage in commission processes for SI actions particularly for trialling new approaches with a view to mainstreaming successful delivery models. These groups will also be able to work through the regional and spatial approaches described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and in Section 4 of this OP to encourage mainstreaming of activity funded through other ESI funds into collaborative ESF proposals.
8. **Specific Provision for Transnational Cooperation**
9. Transnational cooperation actions will be targeted towards addressing specific needs within WWV while maximising the added value that can be delivered by transnational cooperation.
10. Actions will involve stakeholders from the public, higher and further education, third and private sectors. Operations may be wholly comprised of

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transnational cooperation activity or feature transnational cooperation as one strand within the wider operation.

11. Actions will be expected to support transnational cooperation with other Member States which are facing similar challenges to WWV and working to common goals. Actions should support transnational partnership working to share good practice and to develop and pilot innovative solutions, to develop and share high level skills and expertise and to develop and share skills and expertise that will support a modern knowledge-based economy and a modern, adaptable and agile labour market.
12. Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include but are not limited to:
    - Actions to share good practice and develop common and innovative approaches to supporting young people, including those who are NEET, to access the labour market; and
    - Actions to share good practice and develop common and innovative approaches to combat disaffection amongst young people and to develop innovative learning options.
13. **The contribution of the ESF to Thematic Objectives 1-7**
14. ESF investments in human capital will be centred on and deliver to the future needs of enterprise and business, supporting the development of a modern, knowledge based economy. ESF investments made under Thematic Objectives (TO) 8, 9 and 10 are designed to complement and combine with investments made by ESI funds under TO1-7. Where clear additionality to provision under EAFRD and EMFF is demonstrable, individuals from farming and fishing communities will be able to access ESF support. This approach will facilitate and enable the optimal realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales and will support the integrated approach to implementation outlined in Section 4.
15. Investments within this priority will engage young people in appropriate education and training to deliver the qualified future workforce required by employers. In this way actions will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF interventions under TO3 to support SME's to stimulate business growth, diversification and expansion into new markets, develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities, encourage start ups and improve the productivity of SMEs.
16. Supporting young people to develop entrepreneurial skills will also complement and integrate with ERDF interventions under TO3 to promote entrepreneurship. Those young entrepreneurs seeking self-employment will be facilitated to access financial support and advice provided through ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF, avoiding duplication of activity.
17. Actions to support young people to access the labour market will work in conjunction with ERDF and EAFRD. Interventions under TO4 and 7 to increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres and to improve rural connectivity, thereby ensuring that ESF interventions to enable young people to access sustainable employment will complement sustainable transport solutions to improve physical accessibility to employment centres.
18. ESF interventions in youth attainment, particularly STEM, will support the development of a future workforce that is equipped with the specialised and higher level skills required to realise the potential of ERDF supported investments in ICT and innovative and emergent technologies under

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Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment

TO1, 2 and 4. Actions will also develop a future workforce that is equipped to realise the potential of EAFRD and EMFF actions under TO2, 3 and 4 to support rural and coastal businesses to adopt new technology and increase efficiencies and to develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities.

2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis				3 - Youth Employment and Attainment									
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
P3F	F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed			83,941,491			329,093,318.00	Management Information Systems	
1027	O	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	Less developed			10,891			42,700.00	Management Information Systems	NEET Participants (16-24 years of age) ensures appropriate representation of the Priority Axis, forming around 55% of activity under the Priority Axis in West Wales and the Valleys and around 75% of the Priority Axis in East Wales.

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

1. *Financial indicators*

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2. The 2023 target is the total Eligible Expenditure allocation for the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 target is based on N+3 Eligible Expenditure.
3. *Output indicators*
4. The overall approach used to set targets within the 2014-2020 WWV ESF programme and the EW ESF programme involved mapping activity from appropriate and comparable projects funded under the 2007-2013 WWV ESF Convergence Programme. These were selected to best reflect the targeted approach and proposed activity to be funded as outlined in the 2014-2020 ESF Programmes. Projects' achievements to date of mapped activity were compared with spend to date and projects' current final targets were compared with their total financial allocation. The resulting ratios were then scaled to indicative funding allocations under the future Specific Objectives of each the Investment Priorities to derive a set of targets for the indicators.
5. In some cases where the ambition of the 2014-2020 programmes was substantially different to the current 2007-13 delivery a policy based approach is utilised selecting comparable targets reflecting the emphasis of the programme within each priority and the aspirations and objectives for change.. In all cases evidence of Unit costs etc. within the current programme are utilised to ensure these policy based targets are achievable within the funding parameters available. In addition, the use of National Statistics, where available, based on the current population share for key demographic groups, is used in order to provide aspirational targets to ensure the fair distribution of funds. This approach is supplemented with additional evidence and experience from the current 2007-2013 programming period and the targeting outlined in the proposed ESF programmes. In some cases a combination of these methods has been used.
~~6.~~ The 2023 targets are the final targets for this Output indicator under the Priority Axis, whilst the 2018 targets are based on the same ratio as the 2018 Financial indicator target, and unit costs.

6.

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

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Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF		103. Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	134,592,585.00
ESF		115. Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training	110,121,206.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	244,713,791.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF		01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	27,628,187.00
ESF	Less developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	170,614,455.00
ESF	Less developed	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	46,471,149.00

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Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	244,713,791.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	08. Not applicable	244,713,791.00

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

Priority axis:	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
1. The planned use of Technical Assistance will be addressed in the specific Technical Assistance Priority Axis.	

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2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	5
Title of the priority axis	Public services reform and regional working

☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
☐ The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development
☐ For the ESF: The entire priority axis is dedicated to social innovation or to transnational cooperation, or both

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one category of region, thematic objective or fund (where applicable)

This priority axis covers one category of region, but will be closely coordinated with an identical priority under the other Wales ESF programme (different category of region). It only covers one thematic objective and a single fund.

There is an increasing evidence base pointing to the importance of institutional capacity as a factor affecting the relative success of regional investments (OECD). Having the right capacity in place can therefore magnify the effect and impact of regional investments; with ineffective arrangements having a negative effect. As such, a lack of capacity in Welsh regions risks undermining investments made across the entire suite of European Structural and Investment (ESI) programmes in Wales and beyond. Effectively operating regional arrangements can better integrate investments in places and improve the effectiveness and impact of those investments both collectively and individually.

The 2007-2013 ESF programmes kick-started a process of regionalisation in Wales, supporting the creation of regional skills partnerships and building capacity for improved collaborative working. Since the 2014-2020 programmes were negotiated in 2014 the Welsh Government has further developed a

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coherent policy framework that commits to regionalisation in those areas where it provides added value; providing a sound basis on which to create the state changes needed for the next phase. This includes:

- **Prosperity for All (September 2017).** This indicates "*It is only through closer working, on a consistent regional basis, that the resilience and responsiveness of services can be maintained in the future*". Commitments are made to respond to the diverse needs of different regions, working with partners in those regions in areas such as skills and economic development.

- **Economic Action Plan (December 2017).** This describes the need to ensure "*the different players in our economy - from the emerging City Deals and local government reform structures, to the new Development Bank of Wales and Regional Skills Partnerships – work together on a clear footprint with businesses and other partners in a new, strategic and more collaborative partnership to support distinctive regional strengths*"

- **Employability Plan (March 2018).** This identified a range of relevant actions, such as the need to "*prioritise the co-location of local services to simplify employability support for the individual*", "*to provide a holistic view of local and regional employability support*" and to "*strengthen the governance and expertise of the Regional Skills Partnerships to ensure that they provide regional leadership and robust labour market intelligence*". Working in tandem with the Economic Action Plan this will "*encourage local and regional growth and innovation in relation to skills*".

Plans for regionalisation across Wales have been developed over time, initially stimulated by investments made by ESF during 2007-2013. Further, proposals for local government reform reflect the reality facing public service delivery with falling budgets, increased demands on services, and an ageing population. Dedicated additional investment could lever quicker, wider and more systematic reform and could demonstrate significant added value in driving structural reform in public service delivery and collaboration.

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2.A.3 Fund, category of region and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)	Category of region for outermost regions and northern sparsely populated regions (where applicable)
ESF	Less developed	Total	

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	11i
Title of the investment priority	Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	5
Title of the specific objective	Public services reform and regional working
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	The result indicator selected takes into account Commission guidance (*Guidance Document on Indicators of Public Administration Capacity* *Building*, 2014) which makes clear indicators need to the related to the capacity/state change of the public body (e.g. new integrated structures or delivery models), not the performance change (i.e. effects on services), which is an impact measure. -

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	The indicator is directly linked to the European Commission core indicator, which offers a broad result indicator that can capture the result of a range of activity. Supported units in this case will primarily be entities involved in public service delivery (primarily national, regional, local government, and third sector bodies), but beneficiaries (delivering projects) may provide expertise to those supported units (e.g. HE/FE, research institutions). - A central outcome of investment will be the development and dissemination of improved working methods, procedures, and tools. This will be captured by a single result indicator for the development of new methods, procedures and tools; with them considered developed once disseminated. - - -

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Table 4: Common result indicators for which a target value has been set and programme-specific result indicators corresponding to the specific objective (by investment priority and category of region) (for the ESF)

Investment priority : 11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance														
ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Baseline value			Measurement unit for baseline and target	Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T			M	W	T		
1185	Number of new methods, procedures, and tools developed and disseminated	Less developed	Number				0.00	Number	2018			8.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.6 Action to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 Description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives including, where appropriate, the identification of main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

In delivering the results sought there will be a series of complementary investment needed in people, organisations and systems. All investments are expected to align directly to the regionalisation agenda of the Welsh Government, as described in Prosperity for All[1], the Economic Action Plan[2], and the Employability Plan[3]. These, alongside emerging proposals for local government reform, provide the policy framework for activity under this Priority.

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

Our approach will need to be flexible and responsive. It will change over time, as the tasks being undertaken change. There will be some core, common elements and some bespoke provision, recognising that capacity and specific capability will vary between regions and entities.

-

While the emphasis is likely to be on the role of local government and the specific opportunities for integration and transformation stemming from those organisations coming together, the Specific Objective will also need to ensure other stakeholders, in particular the third sector and other delivery bodies are a central part of proposals, dependent on the service / activity being examined.

-

Governance is particularly important to the public sector because of the accountability held by stakeholders. Good governance can increase trust, citizen engagement and social capital. Any reform of governance structures should not lead to overcomplicated structures: given the small size of Wales this could negatively affect service delivery

-

The approach to this Priority seeks to learn lessons from previous experience and from others' experiences, by taking a more incremental approach that focusses on the state changes, rather than the long-term impact desired (which is dependent on factors outside of the control of an ESF investment programme). In particular we will seek to build on the solid progress made to date on improving regionalisation and cooperation between public service

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

providers, such as the development of regional skills partnerships and improving integrated planning and delivery of economic development and skills activities in places. The nature of emerging Local Government reform proposals will bring challenges to the implementation of this priority, requiring a staged and flexible approach to implementation, but all options being considered will strengthen collaboration and regional working by simplifying arrangements and promoting collaboration. Added value, particularly in terms of making long-needed reforms take place, is clear.

-

Regional working and planning is expected to focus on cohering a fragmented policy and planning landscape across the Welsh regions, in particular for economic development, skills, strategic land use, and transport planning. Various initiatives operate on regional footprints, with related capacity issues created, potential inefficiencies, and risks to strategic and integrated planning approaches. For example there are different arrangements for City Deals, Growth Deals, prioritising ESI funding, skills, planning regional regeneration investments, and a range of other spatial initiatives that could be more effectively coordinated and integrated if long-standing structural weaknesses can be addressed.

-

Social innovation and innovation in service delivery is also expected to feature prominently in this priority. ESF offers an opportunity to develop, pilot, evaluate and disseminate new ways of working across public services, for example in applying new technology such as the use of big data.

-

Indicative actions which could be undertaken in support of this Specific Objective may include (but are not limited to):

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

- Assessments of capacity and capability for collaborative working, including development / application of toolkits and the transfer of new / improved methods and procedures. This could include transnational activity and international benchmarking.

-

- Building capacity and capability within existing partnerships, moving them to a more sustainable footing. For example addressing specific gaps in provision, investing in skills, governance, integrating different policy areas, or using new tools, methods and procedures.

-

- Targeted investments for specific regional or collaborative partnerships where a capacity and capability assessment has been completed and a clear plan to sustainably address constraints and weaknesses is in place.

-

- Innovative activities that promote social innovation, the use of new technology / techniques, delivery of new services, and integration of services. Support might be expected to cover idea development, piloting, evaluation and dissemination of results.

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

- Development and implementation of new approaches to integrated service delivery, linked to local government reform, including skills and shared services (e.g. via digital solutions, online provision, aggregated administration, one-stop-shops, joint / shared services, pooled specialist services, etc.)

-

- Training to provide staff with skills, models and tools to deliver organisational change and service improvement, particularly leadership.

.

All operations will be expected to identify precise and specific activities within the above areas of action. These activities should be designed to meet the specific needs of the operation's identified target group/s and the results sought. Evidence should be presented to prove the efficacy and applicability of these specific activities.

-

Beneficiaries of funding under each of the Specific Objectives above are expected to include the public sector (local authorities, the Welsh Government); NGO's (non governmental organisations including the Third Sector); Research Organisations and higher/further education bodies; and the private sector. The end beneficiary is expected to be involved in public service design and delivery and regional planning.

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

-

Operations will not support ongoing running costs and are not intended to simply address funding gaps in normal service delivery. Operations must demonstrate that investment will lead to a state change for the related partnership or service and be sustainable in the long-term once the operation is complete.

-

[1] http://gov.wales/docs/strategies/170919-prosperity-for-all-en.pdf

[2] http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf

[3] http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/180319-employability-plan-en.pdf

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for selection of operations

Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

The following common principles will guide future selection of operations across all Investment Priorities:

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

- An focus on supporting sustainable jobs, productivity, employment and growth and operations which facilitate the role of the third sector and private sector in the delivery of public services;

- Interventions should seek to integrate economic, social and environmental outcomes, consistent with the central organising principle of sustainable development and contributing to the outcomes of the cross cutting themes;

- Opportunities to achieve greater leverage from the deployment of EU funds, particularly with the private and third sector; and also more collaborative investments where these can add value and achieve outcomes;

- Clear added value, when compared with other ways of supporting and delivering policy, based on sound evidence;

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

- Evidence of opportunity will form the foundation of the design and delivery of operations with investments building on existing and emerging expertise, with human capital delivering to future needs;

-

- Prioritisation of key strategic operations that underpin the Specific Objectives and which deliver significant outcomes, will be a core part of a portfolio management approach to programme delivery; and

-

- Clear exit strategies need to be in place at the outset which fully consider the role of the third sector and private sector, build social resilience and tackle poverty within communities, promote equality, and achieve legacy effects.

-

Operations will need to consider a range of targeting mechanisms to provide a focus for investment. The degree of targeting will vary according to the intervention and, where appropriate, should reflect:

-

- Clear identification of the specific target groups, their needs and how actions will address these needs at a national, regional or local level as

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

appropriate;

-

- Growth sectors (e.g. specifically the Welsh Government identified National Thematic and Foundation sectors, Grand Challenge areas in Science for Wales and the areas of specialisation in Innovation Wales); and

-

- Areas of specific geographical opportunity (e.g. City region or other regional opportunity, regional skills needs, Rural or Regeneration Area).

-

Additional principles relevant to the specific Investment Priority

-

- All interventions will be expected to demonstrate alignment with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the related five ways of working.

-

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance

- Interventions will need to be aligned with the policy framework for regionalisation, including Prosperity for All, the Economic Action Plan, the Employability Plan and emerging proposals for local government reform

-

- Wherever possible options for accredited training should be considered, whilst recognising this will not always be possible

-

- With the exception of innovative actions, interventions are expected to target reform that builds sustainable capacity in the long-term, with a focus on integration and transformation of public service delivery (e.g. structural, systemic, horizontal change)

-

While the beneficiary (i.e. delivering operations) may be broader (e.g. also including Higher Education/Further Education), the target groups of this priority will be:

-

- Public administration on national, regional and local level

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Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance
- • Stakeholders, such as social partners, NGOs/CSOs, - • Individuals working within and with the entities noted above	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance
It is not proposed to utilise Financial Instruments in the delivery of the proposed actions. -	

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2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance
This is not applicable for ESF. -	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators by investment priority and, where appropriate by category of region

Table 5: Common and programme-specific output indicators (by investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ESF, and where relevant, for the ERDF)

Investment priority		**11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance**								
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Fund**	**Category of region (where relevant)**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
					M	**W**	**T**		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Number	ESF	Less developed			4.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

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Investment priority		11i - Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance							
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region (where relevant)	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
					M	W	T		
1180	Number of methods, processes and tools being developed with support	Number	ESF	Less developed			10.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly
1181	Number of entities* participating in projects target public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Number	ESF	Less developed			15.00	Monitoring data	Quarterly

2.A.7 Social innovation, transnational cooperation and contribution to thematic objectives 1-7

Priority axis	5 - Public services reform and regional working

Promotion of Social Innovation (SI) within the Priority Axis

All operations will be encouraged to consider the opportunities SI provides to pilot or develop innovative approaches to delivery. Operations will be encouraged to consider options to undertake small scale SI activities to explore alternative delivery models or target specific groups with a view to incorporating and scaling up successful delivery. Such small scale trialling, particularly through commissioning or procurement, will engage the third sector, community groups and social partners in a risk based approach to developing new delivery models which can add to and complement successful

compare report

Priority axis	5 - Public services reform and regional working

delivery models already in place.

Potential areas for SI actions across the programme might include:

- targeting of specific under-represented groups with a view to up-scaling into core activity and the delivery of enhanced equality outcomes;
- trialling, on a risk basis, new models of delivery, especially within well established delivery methodology or approaches; and
- support to trial and develop sustainable exit strategies through testing of new delivery models.

Opportunities for SI may develop as operations progress. It will not be necessary for SI activity to be fully scoped however the principle and mechanics of trialling and subsequent mainstreaming of lessons learnt will need to be outlined where SI action is anticipated. Larger strategic Interventions should have an evidence base indicating where trialling or piloting of approaches would work most effectively.

SI actions will be subject to specific monitoring and more rigorous evaluation with lessons learnt being disseminated both within operations and across WEFO. SI actions can take place as discreet elements of larger strategic operations or as discreet stand alone operations.

Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:

- Innovative approaches to public service transformation with a view to improving efficiency, improving public services, making them more sustainable, and enhancing social integration and access to services; and
- Innovative actions to support the development of entirely new systems, processes and services, such as new uses for data for planning and service delivery; and

Through this approach it will may also be possible to incorporate linkages with LEADER groups within EAFRD (or Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG's) within EMFF). LEADER groups or FLAG's, will be able to engage in commission processes for SI actions particularly for trialling new

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Priority axis	5 - Public services reform and regional working

approaches with a view to mainstreaming successful delivery models. These groups will also be able to work through the regional and spatial approaches described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and in Section 4 of this OP to encourage mainstreaming of activity funded through other ESI funds into collaborative ESF proposals.

Specific Provision for Transnational Cooperation

Transnational cooperation actions will be targeted towards addressing specific needs within WWV while maximising the added value that can be delivered by transnational cooperation. Actions could involve stakeholders from the public, higher and further education, third and private sectors. Operations may be wholly comprised of transnational cooperation activity or feature transnational cooperation as one strand within the wider operation.

Actions will be expected to support transnational cooperation with other Member States which are facing similar challenges to WWV and working to common goals. Actions should support transnational partnership working to share good practice and to develop and pilot innovative solutions, to develop and share high level skills and expertise and to develop and share skills and expertise that will support a modern knowledge-based economy and modern, adaptable and agile public services.

Specific actions within this Priority Axis might include, but are not limited to:

- Actions to share good practice and develop innovative approaches to public services transformation, local government reform and regional planning;
- Transferring and translating international experience to the Welsh context.

The contribution of the ESF to Thematic Objectives 1-7

ESF investments under this Priority Axis are fundamental to supporting citizens across the whole economy, and in turn businesses by providing the best

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Priority axis	5 - Public services reform and regional working

possible planning and investment context. This priority will ensure suitable capacity and capabliity is available to deliver to the future needs of enterprise and business, supporting the development of a modern, knowledge based economy. ESF investments are designed to complement and combine with investments made by ESI funds under TOs 1-7. This approach will facilitate and enable the optimal realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales and support the integrated approach to implementation outlined in Section 4.

ESF interventions in this Priority Axis will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF interventions under TO3 to stimulate business growth, develop local supply chains that link into economic growth opportunities, encourage start ups and improve the productivity of SMEs through:

- Improving public service provision, increacing the attractiveness of places and the supply of work-ready individuals, supporting SME's to grow and increase productivity, including through diversification and expansion into new markets;
- Improving regional coordination and planning to support a more sustainable, predicable and reliable planning context to encourge long-term investments;
- Increasing productivity by supporting individuals and enterprise to address underemployment resulting from in-work barriers such as work limiting health conditions and reducing the number of hours lost to sickness.

The integrated approach to tackling poverty across ESI fund programmes will see ESF interventions within this Priority Axis integrate with ERDF and EAFRD actions under TO4 and 7 to increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres and to improve rural connectivity. Thereby ensuring that ESF interventions to address barriers to accessing sustainable employment will complement sustainable transport solutions to improve physical accessibility to employment centres. There will also be complementarity with ERDF investments to reduce the number and percentage of households living in fuel poverty under TO4, both mitigating the impacts of poverty and equipping people to move out of poverty through employment.

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2.A.8 Performance framework

Table 6: Performance framework of the priority axis (by fund and, for the ERDF and ESF, category of region)

Priority axis			5 - Public services reform and regional working										
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)			Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
						M	W	T	M	W	T		
CO22	O	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Number	ESF	Less developed			1			4.00	Monitoring data	
P1F	F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed			0			26.00	Monitoring data	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.9 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 7-11: Categories of intervention

Table 7: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis			
	35 - ~~Youth Employment and Attainment~~Public services reform and regional working		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**

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Priority axis		35 - Youth Employment and AttainmentPublic services reform and regional working	
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF		103. Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	134,592,585.00
ESF	Less developed	115. Reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training119. Investment in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administrations and public services at the national, regional and local levels with a view to reforms, better regulation and good governance	110,121,20616,380,000.00

Table 8: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis		35 - Youth Employment and AttainmentPublic services reform and regional working	
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	244,713,7911,638,000.00

Table 9: Dimension 3 - Territory type

Priority axis		35 - Youth Employment and AttainmentPublic services reform and regional working	
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF		01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	27,628,187.00
ESF	Less developed	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	170,614,455.00
ESF	Less developed	0307. Rural areas (thinly populated)Not applicable	46,471,14916,380,000.00

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Table 10: Dimension 4 - Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	~~3~~5 - ~~Youth Employment and Attainment~~Public services reform and regional working		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	~~244,713,791~~16,380,000.00

Table 11: Dimension 6 - ESF secondary theme (ESF and YEI only)

Priority axis	~~3~~5 - ~~Youth Employment and Attainment~~Public services reform and regional working		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ amount**
ESF	Less developed	08. Not applicable	~~244,713,791~~16,380,000.00

2.A.10 Summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries (where appropriate) (by priority axis)

~~Priority axis:~~	~~3 - Youth Employment and Attainment~~
Priority axis:	5 - Public services reform and regional working
~~1. The planned use of Technical Assistance will be addressed in the specific Technical Assistance Priority Axis.~~	

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2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	4
Title of the priority axis	Technical Assistance

2.B.2 Justification for establishing a priority axis covering more than one category of region (where applicable)

1. Technical Assistance (TA) funded actions, as with the 2007-2013 programmes, will be developed as part of mono fund priorities but will be delivered by the Managing Authority (MA) and relevant stakeholders as part of collaborative and integrated approaches across the ERDF and ESF programmes for the West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales programme areas. The approach outlined in the priority axis below will be mirrored across these programme areas and reflected in the result and output indicators selected.
2. The approach builds on the successful implementation of TA activity in the 2007-2013 programmes which utilised TA to enhance implementation arrangements, providing additional capacity for programme support and development, research and monitoring activity and programme promotion. TA was also utilised in the direct support of salary costs by the MA and relevant stakeholders.
3. Supporting direct salary costs within the 2014-2020 programmes of the MA, Certifying Authority (CA), Audit Authority (AA) and partners is considered an important element of the delivery of the programmes. It is proposed for the 2014-2020 programmes to utilise TA to continue to support those posts identified within the 2007-2013 programme as increasing the capacity of the administrative functions of the relevant authorities and partners. In line with this approach any new additional posts required for the 2014-2020 programmes to further develop the audit and administrative function of the MA, CA and AA, will also be supported by TA. The resources of the Welsh Government and its partners will be used alongside the TA resource.
4. A number of programme level evaluation and external reviews have been undertaken during the 2007-2013 programmes[1] which have covered a number of areas supported through TA funded activity including:
    - the enhanced programme management and monitoring arrangements, to include the Project Development Officer (PDO) function;

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- specialist and technical guidance and support, including the Specialist European Teams (SET) and Cross Cutting teams;
- research and evaluation;
- information and publicity, including operating a customer helpline; and
- strengthened audit arrangements and irregularities' management.

5. The findings of the evaluations showed that there is widespread support for the PDO role and support services for beneficiaries, delivered through the MA and SET, bringing genuine programme benefits and ensuring that the appraisal and management processes are well understood and effectively implemented. The successful management of the 2007-2013 Welsh programmes has also been recognised through a number of awards to Wales including the 'Region of Excellence' Awards and four project based RegioStars awards.
6. It is important that TA funds are used during the 2014-2020 programmes to maintain this strong position and deliver further improvements.

[1] The Guilford Review of Implementation Arrangements (2012): WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009: The Effectiveness of Implementation in the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programming Period Final Report. (January 2011); Thematic Evaluations of 2007-2013 EU Structural Funds Programmes; and Spatial European Teams Evaluation (November 2010).

2.B.3 Fund and category of region

Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ESF	Less developed	Total

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support

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ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
4.1	To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes.	1. Specific Objective 1 aims to ensure that the programmes are delivered efficiently and effectively in Wales. The key measure underpinning this objective and forming part of the compliance report for the programme is the irregularity rate. This measure displays the total value of irregularities for the programme reported to OLAF as a percentage of total certified eligible expenditure claimed by projects. 2. In 2013 the irregularity rate for the programme area was 0.41%, well below the 2% threshold used by the EC to implement corrective action. 3. In addition, the WEFO error rate, published by the Audit Authority in the Annual Control Report will also be used as a measure to support and measure the achievement of the Specific Objective. The December 2012 WEFO error rate for the programme areas was 0.17%.

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2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		**4.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes.**									
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**			**Baseline year**	**Target value (2023)**			**Source of data**	**Frequency of reporting**
			M	**W**	**T**		**M**	**W**	**T**		
TAR1	Management Authority Irregularity Rate	Ratio			0.41%	2013			Below 2%	WEFO Compliance Report	Annual
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate	Ratio			0.17%	2012			Below 2%	Audit Authority Compliance Report	Annual

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	**Specific objective**	**Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support**
4.2	To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations.	1. Specific Objective 2 aims to improve customer satisfaction levels through providing high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations. Measured across TA funded activity for all Structural funds in Wales this reflects the satisfaction of beneficiaries with the service received from WEFO for all approved operations. 2. The baseline overall customer satisfaction rating, dating from 2009, is 45%.[1] [1] WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009 - This is the percentage of interactions, where the operation was approved, with which the beneficiary was satisfied or very satisfied with the service received

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2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		4.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		
TAR3	Customer Satisfaction	Ratio			45.00	2009			50.00	Customer Insight Survey	Once during programme period

2.B.4 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
4.3	To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.	1. Specific Objective 3 aims to ensure that the programmes complement and are integrated with all ESI funds in Wales and wider Commission, Welsh Government and Sector Led programmes. Measurement of this activity will primarily be in the form of the outputs such as the number of collaborative projects delivered.

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2.B.5 Result indicators

Table 12: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis		4.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.									
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value			Baseline year	Target value (2023)			Source of data	Frequency of reporting
			M	W	T		M	W	T		

2.B.6 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.6.1 A description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

1. TA is an essential resource for supporting the effective delivery of the Programme. The delivery of the 2014-2020 programmes requires a continued emphasis on strategic delivery with greater alignment and harmonisation of ESI Fund investments through the concentration of resources to achieve sustainable outcomes for jobs and growth.
2. In Wales there are a number of key areas which will be developed and undertaken by partner organisations and the MA itself in order to deliver to the objectives and to ensure the new programmes achieve the integration, concentration and focus required. Actions are not mutually exclusive to any of the objectives and have therefore been grouped around 6 key investment areas which collectively will ensure the objectives and associated results are achieved.
3. Salary costs, as with the 2007-13 programmes, will form an important part in the delivery of TA funded activity for the MA, the Audit Authority, CA and wider delivery partners. These Salary costs will be incurred within all activities set out below, enhancing the capacity to achieve the overall objectives of the TA priority.
4. The MA and its partners have substantial experience in the implementation of TA in this way. All posts funded via TA will be subject to the Human Resources and remuneration policies of the employing organisation.

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Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

5. **Management**
6. Integration of funds will bring new administrative challenges for the MA, for example in the implementation of an enhanced role for Financial Instruments and the integration of specialist functions such as Cross Cutting Themes[1] (CCTs). Actions will enhance and strengthen strategic and integrated programme support and development.
7. Actions will include:
    - To continue to enhance the internal programme management function in the development and delivery of integrated and sustainable programmes;
    - To continue to develop the specialist knowledge within the MA and stakeholders through regular training and networking activities;
    - To advise and support the development of projects, encouraging innovation, transnational cooperation, sharing of good practice and mainstreaming;
    - Actions, in line with those outlined in Section 10, seeking to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries;
    - To provide high quality technical advice and expert functions, in areas relating to, for example; procurement, financial (to include Financial Instruments) and scientific expertise, project development, complaint resolution, innovation and compliance;
    - To develop and enhance bespoke and integrated IT systems for the delivery of ESI Funds and to aid e-Cohesion; and,
    - To provide specialist advice and support to projects on the integration, implementation and monitoring of the CCTs.
8. **Partnership and Networking**
9. Strong partnerships and networks lie at the heart of the successful implementation of the programmes and the integration of the ESI funds at all levels. The MA will continue to engage partners, including social partners, and key stakeholders in programme implementation and delivery.
10. Actions will include:
    - Encouraging and facilitating collaborative projects and approaches;
    - Alignment with European Commission led, ESI fund and Sector based programmes;
    - Enhancing capacity for cross programme coordination and the integration of ESI funds with national expenditure and programmes; and
    - Strengthening coordination and liaison mechanisms with partnerships and promoting partnership working.
11. **Monitoring**
12. A single Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) will be established to oversee the effectiveness, quality and integration of the ESI Fund programmes[2]. TA will be used, where eligibility allows, to ensure the efficient and effective management of the programme through supporting the duties of the PMC.
13. The MA will establish a Secretariat team to manage PMC arrangements for all ESI Fund programmes. The Secretariat will approve, manage and monitor all TA expenditure declared in respect of PMC meetings and functions, ensuring that expenditure is not declared more than once against

compare report

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

different ESI Fund. PMC costs will be apportioned across the ESI fund programmes, based on the relative size (value of EU contribution) of each programme.

14. Actions will include:
    - Enhanced management support to the PMC and improved reporting to the European Commission; and
    - Expenditure on PMC including expenses and fees for appointed experts (experts appointed to the PMC based on merit will be remunerated in line with the Welsh Governments normal practice).
15. **Research and Evaluation**
16. Research and Evaluation continues to play a central role in helping the MA to manage programmes effectively. The specialist Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team within the MA will continue to design, carry out and manage programme level evaluations and provide or source expert advice and guidance to project level evaluations.
17. Actions will include:
    - Programme level research and evaluation, including research into the CCTs;
    - Provision of evaluation advice and guidance to sponsor organisations;
    - Research and evaluation dissemination and workshops events; and
    - Management of research and evaluation exercises, for example through the Evaluation Advisory Group.
18. **Information and Publicity**
19. The successful integration of ESI funded programmes will depend to a large degree on a wide understanding among the sponsors, partners and stakeholders of its contents, governing regulations, aims and objectives. It is also essential that the benefits and achievements of the programmes are widely publicised to highlight the value added by the EU working in partnership with the Welsh Government and its partners.
20. Actions will include:
    - Dissemination of information, publicity and communication including guidance for partners and sponsors, seminars and workshops and networking events;
    - Disseminating and promoting of the impacts of enhanced integration with ESI funds and wider sector programmes e.g. Horizon 2020;
    - WEFO website development and maintenance;
    - Diversity and accessibility initiatives; and
    - The operation of a Helpline.
21. **Audit and Control**
22. WEFO and the Audit Authority has developed significant strengths in audit and control within the 2007-2013 programmes. Further enhancing the audit and control functions alongside a dedicated compliance unit will ensure that WEFO continue to build on developed strengths and maximise

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Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

the opportunity structural funds investments can bring.

23. Actions will include:
    - Enhanced audit arrangements to ensure that these work effectively, improving quality and timelines;
    - Improving irregularity monitoring and reporting;
    - Enhanced support to combat fraud and corruption; and
    - Provision of consistent advice and guidance to sponsors and partners through the WEFO Compliance Unit.

[1] WEFO Customer Insight Survey 2009 and The Effectiveness of Implementation in the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programming Period

[2] ERDF and ESF (Less Developed and More Developed Regions) and EAFRD

2.B.6.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results

Table 13: Output indicators (by priority axis) (for ERDF/ESF/Cohesion Fund)

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance					
ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) (optional)			Source of data
			M	W	T	

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TAO1	Number of training events held	Number			10.00	Monitoring data
TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	Number			72.00	Monitoring data
TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	Ratio			75.00	Monitoring data
TAO12	Number of audit vists	Ratio			50.00	Monitoring data
TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	Number			1.00	Monitoring data
TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	Ratio			90.00	Monitoring data
TAO4	Number of research reports published	Number			20.00	Monitoring data
TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	Ratio			100.00	Monitoring data
TAO6	Number of dissemination events	Number			6.00	Monitoring data
TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	Number			10.00	Monitoring data
TAO8	Number of press releases issued	Number			150.00	Monitoring data
TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	Ratio			50.00	Monitoring data

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2.B.7 Categories of intervention (by priority axis)

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of the Union support

Tables 14-16: Categories of intervention

Table 14: Dimension 1 - Intervention field

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ESF	Less developed	121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	5,616,382.00
ESF	Less developed	122. Evaluation and studies	5,616,382.00
ESF	Less developed	123. Information and communication	4,814,042.00

Table 15: Dimension 2 - Form of finance

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ESF	Less developed	01. Non-repayable grant	16,046,806.00

Table 16: Dimension 3 – Territory type

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance		
Fund	**Category of region**	**Code**	**€ Amount**
ESF	Less developed	07. Not applicable	16,046,806.00

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3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

Table 17

Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
		Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve
ESF	Less developed	101,444,057.00	6,475,154.00	103,474,987.00	6,604,786.00	105,546,285.00	6,736,997.00	108,163,658.00	6,904,063.00	110,328,293.00	7,042,231.00	112,536,175.00	7,183,160.00	114,788,043.00	7,326,897.00	756,281,498.00	48,273,288.00
Total		**101,444,057.00**	**6,475,154.00**	**103,474,987.00**	**6,604,786.00**	**105,546,285.00**	**6,736,997.00**	**108,163,658.00**	**6,904,063.00**	**110,328,293.00**	**7,042,231.00**	**112,536,175.00**	**7,183,160.00**	**114,788,043.00**	**7,326,897.00**	**756,281,498.00**	**48,273,288.00**

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3.2 Total financial appropriation by fund and national co-financing (€)

Table 18a: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)				Union support (h) = (a) - (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) – (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a)	(l) = (j) / (a) * 100
1	ESF	Less developed	Total	~~195,964~~187,774,437.00	~~52,204,563~~50,022,762.00	~~42,804,753~~41,015,801.00	9,~~399,810~~006,961.00	~~248,169,000~~237,797,199.00	78.~~96410792659%~~9641079835%	0.00	~~183,967~~175,777,288.00	~~49,008,545~~46,826,744.00	11,997,149.00	3,196,018.00	6.~~12%~~39%
2	ESF	Less developed	Total	~~347,829~~339,639,752.00	~~134,537,737~~131,347,341.00	~~92,331,591~~90,153,873.00	~~42,206,146~~41,193,468.00	~~482,367,489~~470,987,093.00	72.~~10887133340%~~1123268658%	0.00	~~326,535~~318,345,248.00	~~126,301,195~~123,112,214.00	21,294,504.00	8,~~236,542~~235,127.00	6.~~12%~~27%
3	ESF	Less developed	Total	244,713,791.00	84,379,527.00	77,629,000.00	6,750,527.00	329,093,318.00	74.3599999195%	0.00	229,732,156.00	79,213,724.00	14,981,635.00	5,165,803.00	6.12%
5	ESF	Less developed	Total	16,380,000.00	5,372,197.00	3,966,670.00	1,405,527.00	21,752,197.00	75.3027383855%		16,380,000.00	5,372,197.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
4	ESF	Less developed	Total	16,046,806.00	5,533,084.00	5,533,084.00	0.00	21,579,890.00	74.3599990547%	0.00	16,046,806.00	5,533,084.00			
Total	**ESF**	**Less developed**		**804,554,786.00**	**276,654,911.00**	**218,298,428.00**	**58,356,483.00**	**1,081,209,697.00**	**74.4124648745%**		**756,281,498.00**	**260,~~856,548~~057,963.00**	**48,273,288.00**	**16,~~598,363~~596,948.00**	**6.00%**
Grand total				**804,554,786.00**	**276,654,911.00**	**218,298,428.00**	**58,356,483.00**	**1,081,209,697.00**	**74.4124648745%**	**0.00**	**756,281,498.00**	**260,~~856,548~~057,963.00**	**48,273,288.00**	**16,~~598,363~~596,948.00**	

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

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Table 18b: Youth Employment Initiative - ESF and YEI specific allocations (where appropriate)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a)/(e) (2)
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)		
Total				**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**		**0.00%**

Ratio	%
Ratio of ESF for less developed regions	0.00%
Ratio of ESF for transition regions	0.00%
Ratio of ESF for more developed regions	0.00%

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

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Table 18c: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, fund, category of region and thematic objective

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	~~195,964~~187,774,437.00	~~52,204,563~~50,022,762.00	~~248,169,000~~237,797,199.00
Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	21,422,486.00	7,386,514.00	28,809,000.00
Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	326,407,266.00	127,151,223.00	453,558,489.00
Youth Employment and Attainment	ESF	Less developed	Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	134,592,585.00	46,408,740.00	181,001,325.00
Youth Employment and Attainment	ESF	Less developed	Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	110,121,206.00	37,970,787.00	148,091,993.00
Public services reform and regional working	ESF	Less developed	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	16,380,000.00	5,372,197.00	21,752,197.00
Total				**~~788,507~~796,697,980.00**	**~~271,121,827~~274,312,223.00**	**1,~~059,629,807~~071,010,203.00**

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Table 19: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the operational programme (%)
2	17,852,072.00	2.22%
Total	**17,852,072.00**	**2.22%**

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4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development taking into account the content and objectives of the operational programme having regard to the Partnership Agreement and showing how it the operational programme contributes to the accomplishment of the objectives of the operational programme and expected results

1. The Welsh ESI fund programmes have all been developed taking a view across the whole of Wales, looking to address structural issues in a coherent and coordinated way. A key element to deliver this in an integrated, concentrated and simplified method will be effective targeting of all funds, including targeting based on specific and ongoing territorial needs and opportunities. This enables differing territorial development needs to be reflected in the most appropriate way (national, regional, sub-regional or local). The NUTS2 regions do not take into account sub-regional functional economic areas in Wales, such as the Cardiff City Region in South East Wales or the Swansea Bay City Region in South West Wales[1]. Integrated approaches to territorial development irrespective of these boundaries will therefore be actively encouraged. An outline of this approach for all ESI funds is set out in the Partnership Agreement. The Welsh Economic Prioritisation Framework[2] acts as a complement to the various Operational Programmes, helping to identify key spatial targeting approaches already underway and key opportunities for future investment.
2. Key spatial strategies are emerging supporting both the development of key urban areas (City Region strategies), rural areas (the Growth Zone initiatives[3]), and strategic sites (Enterprise Zones[4]). Each initiative has its own strategic planning and governance arrangements, complemented through local government and regional planning (e.g. Regional Learning Partnerships). There are clear common needs identified across each spatial analysis, including skills development to respond to identified need and demand from employers, as well as increasing connectivity, developing strategic infrastructure and attracting private sector investment. Alignment with these approaches therefore aligns closely to the objectives of the Operational Programmes, in particular where the development of critical mass can be supported.
3. The Managing Authority will work with beneficiaries to identify the most appropriate funding package across the ESI funds. This will be of particular importance for investments which seek to target those at risk of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion, as set out in Section 5, and linking these target groups with economic opportunity and growth at local, regional and national level.

[1] To see report on City Regions: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/publications/120711cityregions/?lang=en

[2] See: http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/applyingforfunding/funding2014-2020/epf/?lang=en

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[3] For example in Powys (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/policy/plgzones/?lang=en) and the Teifi Valley (http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/policy/teifi/?lang=en)

[4] Seven Enterprise Zones have been identified across Wales, each focussing on specific sectors. More information available at: www.enterprisezones.wales.gov.uk

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and the principles for identifying the areas in where they will be implemented

1. The approach to Community Led Local Development (CLLD) is set out in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and will be centred on the integrated approach to territorial development described above and in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement. No direct support for CLLD as set out in Article 32 of the Common Provisions Regulation is envisaged for this Operational Programme; however in order to ensure an integrated approach to territorial development direct links will be encouraged between CLLD supported through the EAFRD (under LEADER) or EMFF (Fisheries Local Action Groups - FLAGs) and investments made under the ESF.
2. The regional coordination and delivery of regional strategies described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement will create the linkages between the CLLD investments made under the RDP (and other community initiatives funded outside of the ESI funding framework) and the opportunities for regional integrated investments under the ESF. It is anticipated that the strengthened regional engagement to be put in place for the 2014-2020 programmes (as recommended by the Guilford Report) will have an explicit role to identify any links between different ESI funds.
3. The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement also details the relationship between CLLD investments under RDP. In practice this might take three distinct forms:
    - Successful pilot actions under LEADER or other Community schemes (e.g. Communities First) are scaled up from local pilots as part of regional demonstration schemes or within nationally delivered activity;
    - LEADER Groups (or other community partnerships) will be eligible to bid directly to the Managing Authority if they develop a scheme that fits with the programme strategy; and
    - LEADER Groups (or other community partnerships) will be encouraged to support the opportunities for Social Innovation as outlined in each of the Priority Axes.
4. To facilitate these linkages a number of administrative functions have been bought together as described in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement. These include; a single programme monitoring Committee for the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD; a single Research Monitoring and Evaluation team; a single Cross Cutting Themes Unit; a single ESI Funds management board; a single website portal for ESI funds; and, a single set of national eligibility rules and guidance.

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4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Where appropriate the indicative amount of ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development to be implemented in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 and the indicative allocation of ESF support for integrated action.

1. No ESF will be used to support sustainable urban development in accordance with the provisions under Article 7(2) of the ERDF Regulation as this action does not feature within the ERDF programme. However, the design of ESF investments will be expected to take due regard of ERDF funded actions supporting sustainable urban development which meet the spirit of the regulations. Regional and urban authorities will therefore be encouraged to consider opportunities for developing integrated programmes of complementary investments, utilising ESF in conjunction with wider investments (including other ESI funds) to deliver against integrated territorial strategies.

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Table 20: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF and ESF support

Fund	ERDF and ESF support (indicative) (€)	Proportion of fund's total allocation to programme
Total ESF	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL ERDF+ESF	**0.00**	**0.00%**

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis.

1. At the outset of the programme there is no immediate intention to use Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) vehicles. This approach and a period of review are set out in the Welsh chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement.
2. At this time it is felt that the same benefits can be achieved through Welsh-designed implementation arrangements that would not require pre-selection of funding allocations or new reporting and monitoring requirements. The Welsh Managing Authorities are seeking to ensure greater integration and coordination between all ESI funds in Wales, and as a small country are able to work closely with partners across Wales in delivering integrated territorial investments without needing to put in place new administrative architecture.
3. Regional and urban authorities will be encouraged to use existing planning and coordination mechanisms (for the delivery of existing territorial strategies) to prioritise investments for their territorial areas. The Managing Authority will work with those authorities to help identify the most appropriate ESI funding package, if relevant. For example an integrated package of support might be developed across the ESI funds to support the development of a City Region or Enterprise Zone, but this does not need to be done through an ITI, merely through effective planning and coordination.

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Table 21: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Fund	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Total		**0.00**

4.4 The arrangements for interregional and transnational actions, within the operational programme, with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State (where appropriate)

1. A key challenge for the programme will be to more effectively mainstream cooperation actions and achieve better international coordination. This is particularly important for investments aimed at targeting shared social challenges and goals such as unemployment, youth unemployment, and labour market mobility and those targeting recognised equality groups and those most at risk of poverty. It is expected that operations supported in these areas through this programme will seek opportunities to incorporate some form of transnational or cooperation activity, international best practice or technical expertise.
2. Direct links are also being made between this programme and the European Territorial Cooperation programmes in which the programme area participates. There are a number of common objectives, for which complementary funding packages will be sought in particular where skills investments will help underpin economic ambitions and investments.

4.5 Contribution of the planned actions under the programme to macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the Member State (where appropriate)

(Where the Member State and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and sea basin strategies).

1. The UK is incorporated in the Atlantic Strategy and this is described in the UK Partnership Agreement. This is not seen as a key driver for this programme though links will be encouraged where opportunities arise specifically in the provision of skills which can support blue growth and cooperation on research and innovation.

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5. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY POVERTY OR TARGET GROUPS AT HIGHEST RISK OF DISCRIMINATION OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

5.1 Geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

1. In Wales poverty is defined as '*A long-term state of not having sufficient resources to afford food, reasonable living conditions or amenities, or to participate in* activities *(such as access to attractive neighbourhoods and open spaces) that are taken for granted by others in society*'. Social Exclusion or the ability to participate is strongly linked therefore to issues of Poverty.
2. The Socio Economic Analysis and the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) demonstrates that those who are more likely to be at risk of exclusion, poverty, disadvantage or discrimination are not confined to any particular area. Place based geographical targeting through for example the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011 (WIMD) can help to demonstrate where concentrations of disadvantage and poverty exist.
3. The WIMD is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales which are called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Although the geographical size of these LSOAs varies quite widely, and depends on the local population density, the populations are intended to be roughly the same in each, with an average population of 1,500. In WIMD 2011, the most deprived LAU1 (local authority) area is defined as the authority with the greatest fraction of its LSOAs in the most deprived 10% of all LSOAs in Wales. This method can be seen as identifying the concentration of the most deprived areas in a local authority, rather than an average level of deprivation.
4. As stated in the Socio Economic analysis, interventions designed to improve employment and income outcomes are more likely to succeed when focussed on individuals. However the Welsh approach to the development of integrated activity as outlined in Section 4 will be of particular importance for investments which seek to target those at risk of poverty, disadvantage and exclusion and linking these target groups with economic opportunity and growth at local, regional and national level and placed based investments made across the ESI funds. All operations will be expected to incorporate such linkages and integrated approaches at an early stage in the development process.
5. The strategy and priority sections of this programme are broadly developed around three core target groups. These can be summarised as those in work, those out of work and young people. However it is recognised that whilst those who are most at risk of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or exclusion may be found to a higher degree in one or other of the groups above they are not limited to any particular one of these areas. Discrimination or social exclusion is likely to be associated with individuals with specific individual (or multiple) characteristic or socio-economic circumstance. More entrenched issues of discrimination, poverty or exclusion are likely to be associated where multiple circumstances exist.
6. The EIA, which accompanies this programme, provides a robust assessment of the needs of those who may be at risk of exclusion, disadvantage or discrimination as a result of one or more characteristics protected under the Equality Act (2010) and their specific needs in terms of supporting access to employment and skills. These 'protected characteristics' include age (covering all age groups), disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership

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pregnancy and maternity, race and ethnicity, religion or belief, sex / gender and sexual orientation.

7. The EIA highlights that groups with characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010 can face specific issues that impact upon their ability to access and progress within the labour market, and which place them at greater risk of poverty and exclusion. The EIA: also shows that BME groups are disproportionately affected by unemployment[1], with ethnicity closely linked to income poverty.
8. The ESF programme and accompanying published documentation, including the Socio Economic analysis which accompanies this programme, identifies additional target groups or individuals who are associated with particular socio economic circumstances and the particular challenges they may face. These economic circumstances may be both a means of identifying the individual or describing the barrier which they face to participation.
9. These can be summarised as
    - workless households;
    - those furthest from the labour market, such as those with complex issues (welfare dependency, mental health, emotional or financial or homelessness), including those in persistent poverty;
    - those with alcohol dependency or substance misuse issues;
    - those in poverty or at risk of poverty as a result of underemployment or barriers to employment and employability;
    - those with accessibility issues including difficulties accessing transport;
    - Young people, NEET and those who are at risk of becoming NEET;
    - those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage mothers and lone parents;
    - workers with no skills or low skills who are either at risk of long term unemployment or vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness;
    - those facing in-work poverty; and
    - those at risk of slipping out of sustained employment or facing individual or work place barriers to progression in-work relating to issues such as ill-health and caring responsibilities.
10. The more complex the barriers or the greater the number of recognised characteristics individuals possess the greater likelihood of poverty or higher the risk of becoming poor.
11. Children from poorer or disadvantaged backgrounds and whose mothers have no qualifications have lower educational and occupational outcomes than other children[2]. They are at risk of poor educational attainment, are more likely to have poorer health outcomes and have lower skills and aspirations, as well as being more likely to be low paid, unemployed and welfare dependent in adulthood[3]. Research into child poverty[4] emphasises the importance of improving parenting and children's early development as a means of ending the inter-generational transmission of child poverty.
12. The Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and associated guidance will be key to identifying and targeting those young people most at risk of NEET. Early identification systems, pre 16, will focus as a core on attendance, behaviour and attainment indicators to identify, prioritise and track those most at risk of becoming NEET. The programmes in WWV will target those who within this framework are identified as most at risk.

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[1] See Institute for Race Relations: http://www.irr.org.uk/research/statistics/poverty/.

[2] UKCES (2010); *The Value of Skills: An Evidence Review*

[3] 2011 Children and Young People's Wellbeing Monitor for Wales

[4] Field MP, F. (2010); *The Foundation Years: Preventing poor children becoming poor adults. The report of the Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances*

5.2 Strategy to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, and where relevant, the contribution to the integrated approach set out in the Partnership Agreement

1. The commitment to promote social inclusion and combat poverty is reflected through the inclusion of a new horizontal objective or Cross Cutting Theme (CCT) across all ESI funds which will be an integral element of the overall programme approach to the implementation of the CCT's including Sustainable Development CCT and Equality of Opportunity CCT detailed in Section 11. Details of this approach and the overall approach of ESI funds in tackling poverty and social exclusion are included in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement (PA) and further expanded below. The strategy for the ESF programmes has been developed in line with this overall approach.
2. The key Tackling Poverty CCT objectives for ESI fund programmes in Wales are:
    - the creation of jobs and growth providing employment opportunities for those who are out of work;
    - tackling barriers to employment such as poor skills, lack of childcare or limited transport options, helping more people to access employment opportunities; and
    - focusing on growth aligned with skills development interventions, enabling those experiencing in-work poverty to access more highly-skilled, better paid jobs.
3. Specific activities within the implementation of the CCT will ensure that poverty, and the needs of those most at risk of poverty and discrimination will be central to all operations. Actions will include:
    - targets set at the level of activities to be supported by the programme, providing an important driver to addressing the programme's CCT;
    - CCT assessment at all stages of the development of operations;
    - on-going specialist advice to support operations through development and implementation providing specialist input at an early stage in the process to maximise take-up of the opportunities to promote the CCT;
    - a programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to WEFO staff and beneficiaries on how to integrate the CCT;
    - preparing activity level guidance together with best practice case study examples that will provide specific information on how beneficiaries can address the CCT within their operation plans;
    - regular monitoring of progress, allowing for early intervention if necessary; and

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- update reports to PMC and other stakeholders.

4. The Welsh Government has a cross governmental focus on tackling poverty. The Tackling Poverty Action Plan argues that the Welsh Government's commitment to social justice and equality of opportunity makes it essential in the current climate to continue to drive forward tackling poverty by prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and exclusion. Particular emphasis is placed on providing good quality, affordable childcare and targeted action to help people improve their skills and qualifications, recognising that the best route out of poverty is through employment.
5. The ESF programmes will reinforce the Welsh Government expectation that integrated action will be taken within the ESI programmes to promote social inclusion and combat poverty, contributing simultaneously to the EU2020 initiative and the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan. For this to work effectively operations will need to clearly demonstrate at assessment, the integration of ESF interventions to address poverty and discrimination, with wider economic investments and growth opportunities, including placed based investment, through other ESI funds.
6. As discussed in the Welsh Chapter of the UK PA actions will not be undertaken which are solely aimed at addressing the effects of poverty. The ESF programme will deliver an integrated programme of interventions that combat poverty and social exclusion, economic inactivity and worklessness while also taking preventative action to support those at risk of falling into poverty. Results will be evidenced through reduced rates of poverty and persistent poverty, reduced unemployment, including youth unemployment, and economic inactivity. There will be fewer workless households and hours lost in work due to sickness. Qualification levels and earnings will be increased, and in terms of the longer term legacy impacts, early school leaving, NEET rates, especially amongst those 16-18, and the numbers of those at risk of NEET will be reduced.
7. The ESF programme is constructed around three main Priority Axes: **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment, Skills for Growth and Youth Employment and Attainment.** In line with the ESF regulations we will commit at least 20% of our ESF to the *'promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination'* Thematic Objective. This concentration will be achieved through the **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment priority**.
8. Promoting access to sustainable employment is seen in Wales as the main route for tackling poverty and social exclusion and there are also substantial economic benefits from increasing employment rates and tackling economic inactivity. Individuals in workless households are also more likely to experience persistent poverty, so actions which support this group in particular will be important, as will actions which support people to remain in work. Many other longer term benefits can also be realised from sustainable employment, for example improved health and well being and tackling disadvantage and deprivation.
9. However as the evidence above shows poverty, the risk of poverty, discrimination and exclusion are not limited to unemployed individuals only. The programme recognises this and will look to undertake actions which will reduce poverty and the risk of poverty through all priorities. These actions themselves will not contribute to the poverty concentration target however they will be intrinsic to a coordinated and holistic approach to addressing the target groups identified and those at most risk of poverty.
10. The **Skills for Growth Priority Axis** will support investment in skills to support progression in employment, including for those with no skills or basic skills, and therefore help tackle in-work poverty. Actions will support those in low paid, low

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hour or temporary jobs, together with working with employers to develop leadership and management skills to promote workforce development, employee progression and opportunities for part time workers. Supporting progression opportunities will have wider employment benefits and have the potential to free up entry level jobs for the unemployed.

11. The **Youth Employment and Attainment Priority Axis** will support action to increase the rate of youth employment and reduce the impacts periods of unemployment or NEET can have on income and poverty in the long term. Increasing engagement and attainment amongst our young people will reduce the risk of future NEET or unemployment and reduce longer term risks of poverty. Targeting the development of early years services will deliver a long term legacy impact on the life chances of our youngest children.

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Table 22: Actions to address specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty/target groups at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
Those at risk of slipping out of sustained employment or facing individual or work place barriers to progression in-work relating to issues such as ill-health and caring responsibilities	Activities which help people (employed and self employed) in the early stages of sickness absence to return to, and remain in, work to prevent poverty through loss of employment. Innovative activities which work with employed participants to help address barriers to mobility in the labour market (not including skills) and causes of underemployment such as ill health, caring or childcare responsibilities, transport barriers and substance and alcohol misuse. Activities with employers to support workforce development and to promote flexible working arrangements. Activities with employers to address health related issues within the workforce and to develop or improve appropriate work place or occupational health programmes, adopting collaborative approaches in the delivery of occupational health services.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability
Those facing in-work poverty	Activities which help people (employed and self employed) in the early stages of sickness absence to return to, and remain in, work to prevent poverty through loss of employment. Innovative activities which work with employed participants	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	to help address barriers to mobility in the labour market (not including skills) and causes of underemployment such as ill health, caring or childcare responsibilities, transport barriers and substance and alcohol misuse. Activities with employers to support workforce development and to promote flexible working arrangements. Activities with employers to address health related issues within the workforce and to develop or improve appropriate work place or occupational health programmes, adopting collaborative approaches in the delivery of occupational health services.				
Those furthest from the labour market	Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome complex barriers to accessing sustainable employment and improving employability including for example through the provision of mentor support. Actions to address barriers such as care or childcare including innovative actions linked to improving the availability of affordable quality childcare. Actions to support the target groups to access sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in areas of economic and employment growth, including basic job search, CV writing and interview skills.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification. Support for the Economically Inactive to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and finance and debt management.				
Those in poverty or at risk of poverty as a result of underemployment or barriers to employment and employability	Actions to support those with a work limiting health condition to access sustainable employment. Actions to support update or increase their skills and qualifications. Targeted action to address the wider associated causes of the low pay / no pay cycle.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	Actions to address barriers such as care or childcare including innovative actions linked to improving the availability of affordable quality childcare. Actions to support the target groups to access sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in areas of economic and employment growth, including basic job search, CV writing and interview skills. Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Support for the Economically Inactive to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Innovative activities which work with employed participants to help address barriers to mobility in the labour market. Activities which help people in the early stages of sickness absence to return to, and remain in, work to prevent poverty through loss of employment Activities with employers to support workforce development				

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	and to promote flexible working arrangements. Activities with employers to address health related issues within the workforce and to develop or improve appropriate work place or occupational health programme.				
Those with accessibility issues including difficulties accessing transport	Actions to support individuals impacted by redundancy to diversify employment options and to access sustainable employment opportunities particularly in emerging areas of economic growth Targeted action to address the wider associated causes of the low pay / no pay cycle. Actions, where appropriate, to support self employment as a realistic and flexible option for employment. Support for the Economically Inactive target group to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Targeted actions to address associated barriers to sustainable employment such as transport. Innovative activities which work with employed participants to help address barriers to mobility in the labour market (not including skills) and causes of underemployment such as transport barriers.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
Those with alcohol dependency or substance misuse issues	Actions to support those with a work limiting health condition to access sustainable employment, including job search, CV writing and interview skills and alignment of existing skills and competencies with work opportunities Actions to update or increase their skills and qualifications Targeted action to address the wider associated causes of the low pay / no pay cycle. Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome complex barriers to accessing sustainable employment and improving employability. Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Support for the Economically Inactive to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	finance and debt management. Innovative activities which work with employed participants to help address barriers to mobility in the labour market (not including skills) and causes of underemployment such as ill health, caring or childcare responsibilities, transport barriers and substance and alcohol misuse				
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage mothers and lone parents	Actions to diversify employment options and to access sustainable employment opportunities particularly in emerging areas of economic growth. Targeted action to address the wider associated causes of the low pay / no pay cycle such as care and childcare responsibilities. Actions to address barriers such as care or childcare including innovative actions linked to improving the availability of affordable quality childcare. Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	Support for the Economically Inactive target group to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option. Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment amongst the target group such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and finance and debt management. Innovative activities which work with employed participants to help address barriers to mobility in the labour market and causes of underemployment such as caring responsibilities. Activities with employers to support workforce development and to promote flexible working arrangements.				
Workers with no skills or low skills who are either at risk of long term unemployment or vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness	Actions to support those with no or low skills to access sustainable employment. Actions to support those with low or now skills and impacted by redundancy to update or increase their skills and qualifications Actions to support individuals impacted by redundancy to diversify employment options and to access sustainable employment opportunities particularly in emerging areas of economic growth	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	Targeted action to address the wider associated causes of the low pay / no pay cycle. Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome complex barriers to accessing sustainable employment and improving employability including for example through the provision of mentor support. Actions to support access to sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in areas of economic and employment growth, including basic job search, CV writing and interview skills. Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification Support for the Economically Inactive target group to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option.				
Workless households	Activities, including the development of innovative solutions, to address and overcome the complex barriers	1 - Tackling Poverty through	ESF	Less	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal

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Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	faced by the target group in accessing sustainable employment and improving employability including for example through the provision of mentor support. Actions to address barriers such as care or childcare including innovative actions linked to improving the availability of affordable quality childcare. Actions to support the target groups to access sustainable employment opportunities, particularly in areas of economic and employment growth, including basic job search, CV writing and interview skills. Actions to enhance employability including supporting access to work experience or work focused volunteering as a pathway to employment or self employment where appropriate Actions which update and enhance skills levels, including essential skills, through gaining qualifications or work relevant certification Support for the Economically Inactive target group to develop self confidence and perception of work as a meaningful and realistic option Targeted actions, where appropriate, to address other associated barriers to sustainable employment amongst the	Sustainable Employment		developed	opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

compare report

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	target group such as prolonged periods of worklessness, ICT, transport and finance and debt management.				
Those at risk of slipping out of sustained employment or facing individual or work place barriers to progression in-work relating to issues such as ill-health and caring responsibilities	Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay and/or career advancement. Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace. Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work
Those at risk of slipping out of sustained employment or facing individual or work place barriers to progression in-work relating to issues such as ill-health and caring responsibilities	Targeted interventions to stimulate demand for skills and workforce development and to provide the skills needed to support organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Those facing in-work poverty	Actions to provide basic and essential skills provision for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and

compare report

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	Actions to provide technical or job specific vocational qualifications for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Provision of apprenticeships for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship places. Developing skills to break down barriers to engagement with technologies, such as digital skills, reducing social isolation and increasing access to work progression opportunities on-line.				competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Those facing in-work poverty	Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay and/or career advancement. Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace. Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work
Those in poverty or at risk of poverty as a result of	Actions to provide basic and essential skills provision for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age

compare report

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
underemployment or barriers to employment and employability	qualifications. Actions to provide technical or job specific vocational qualifications at for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Provision of apprenticeships for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship places Developing skills to break down barriers to engagement with technologies, such as digital skills, reducing social isolation and increasing access to work progression opportunities on-line.			developed	groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Those with alcohol dependency or substance misuse issues	Targeted interventions to stimulate demand for skills and workforce development and to provide the skills needed to support organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage mothers and lone parents	Actions to provide basic and essential skills provision for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading

compare report

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	Actions to provide technical or job specific vocational qualifications at for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Provision of apprenticeships for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship places. Developing skills to break down barriers to engagement with technologies, such as digital skills, reducing social isolation and increasing access to work progression opportunities on-line. Provision of apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships for employed individuals with skills at Level 2 or above. Actions to provide intermediate and higher level technical and job specific vocational qualifications. Targeted interventions to stimulate demand for skills and workforce development and to provide the skills needed to support organisational growth and adaptability to economic and labour market challenges.				the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage	Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career

compare report

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
mothers and lone parents	and/or career advancement; Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace; and Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.				progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work
Workers with no skills or low skills who are either at risk of long term unemployment or vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness	Actions to provide basic and essential skills provision for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Actions to provide technical or job specific vocational qualifications for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications. Provision of apprenticeships for employed individuals with low skills or with no formal qualifications, and actions to encourage the availability and take up of apprenticeship places. Developing skills to break down barriers to engagement with technologies, such as digital skills, reducing social isolation and increasing access to work progression opportunities on-line.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

compare report

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
Workers with no skills or low skills who are either at risk of long term unemployment or vulnerable to cycles of work and worklessness	Actions which offer flexible working practices and solutions to women to provide them with increased job security, increased or more flexible working hours, increased pay and/or career advancement. Interventions which provide women with the support and skills development to promote career advancement and progression within the workplace. Actions with employers which raise their awareness of gender disadvantage in the workforce and to support the development of equality and diversity policies and flexible working practices.	2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage mothers and lone parents	Actions to ensure that young people gain the skills, competencies and experience required to access sustainable employment, including self-employment. Support young people to access and maintain sustained employment Activities with enterprises and educators to challenge traditional assumptions and stereotypes and to raise participation levels in occupations and sectors where a particular gender or recognised equality groups are under-represented.	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment	ESF	Less developed	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee
Those with care or childcare responsibilities, including teenage	Early targeted action to combat disaffection, provide access to a broader and innovative range of learning options supporting the acquisition of both vocational and higher	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment	ESF	Less developed	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good

compare report

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
mothers and lone parents	level skills and prevent young people from falling out of education. Equip young people with a range of skills that allow them to be more flexible and adaptable in a fast changing labour market and gain sustainable employment, encouraging linkages between career choices and longer term labour market trends and tackling traditional gender stereotypes in employment. Support the development of practitioners in order to better engage with disadvantaged young people and to improve linkages with, and knowledge of, the private sector. Removing barriers to learning, helping create independence, and providing individual mentoring and advocacy advice to young people. Increase engagement and attainment levels of young people 11-16 in STEM subjects, increasing post 16 participation rates; Increase engagement and attainment levels of girls 11-19 in STEM subjects, increasing the proportion of girls studying STEM subjects post 16. Promote STEM related career paths, encouraging linkages between career choices and labour market trends and				quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

compare report

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	tackling traditional gender stereotypes. Support the development of skills in the early years and childcare sector including both current and potential childcare practitioners.				
Young People, NEET and those who are risk of becoming NEET	Early targeted action to combat disaffection, provide access to a broader and innovative range of learning options supporting the acquisition of both vocational and higher level skills and prevent young people from falling out of education. Equip young people with a range of skills that allow them to be more flexible and adaptable in a fast changing labour market and gain sustainable employment, encouraging linkages between career choices and longer term labour market trends and tackling traditional gender stereotypes in employment. Support the development of practitioners in order to better engage with disadvantaged young people and to improve linkages with, and knowledge of, the private sector. Removing barriers to learning, helping create independence, and providing individual mentoring and advocacy advice to young people. Increase engagement and attainment levels of young people 11-16 in STEM subjects, increasing post 16 participation	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment	ESF	Less developed	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

compare report

Target group/geographical area	Main types of planned action as part of integrated approach	Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Investment priority
	rates; Increase engagement and attainment levels of girls 11-19 in STEM subjects, increasing the proportion of girls studying STEM subjects post 16. Promote STEM related career paths, encouraging linkages between career choices and labour market trends and tackling traditional gender stereotypes. Support the development of skills in the early years and childcare sector including both current and potential childcare practitioners.				
Young People, NEET and those who are risk of becoming NEET	Ensure that young people gain the skills, competencies and experience required to access sustainable employment, including self-employment. Support young people to access and maintain sustained employment (including financial support to employers for up to 12 months form the commencement or employment). Activities with enterprises and educators to challenge traditional assumptions and stereotypes and to raise participation levels in occupations and sectors where a particular gender or recognised equality groups are under-represented.	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment	ESF	Less developed	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

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6. SPECIFIC NEEDS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WHICH SUFFER FROM SEVERE AND PERMANENT NATURAL OR DEMOGRAPHIC HANDICAPS (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

1. Not applicable.

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7. AUTHORITIES AND BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT, CONTROL AND AUDIT AND THE ROLE OF RELEVANT PARTNERS

7.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 23: Relevant authorities and bodies

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO)	WEFO Chief Executive
Certifying authority	Welsh European Funding Office	Head of Certifying Authority
Audit authority	European Funds Audit Team (Welsh Government)	Deputy Director, Corporate Governance and Assurance (Welsh Government)
Body to which Commission will make payments	Finance and Corporate Services (Welsh Government)	Director General, Finance and Corporate Services

7.2 Involvement of relevant partners

7.2.1 Actions taken to involve the relevant partners in the preparation of the operational programme, and the role of those partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme

1. The Operational Programme has been developed in partnership with key stakeholders. WEFO, as Managing Authority has led the process and taken responsibility for drafting the Operational Programmes with extensive engagement with partners over the development and content.
2. This has involved a number of specifically appointed Advisory Groups and expert workstreams / working groups together with extensive public engagement over the development period. Membership of each group reflected a full range of stakeholder interests (and those specified in Article 5) from the public, private and third sectors, together with appropriate gender and geographical balance and with equality and environmental interests represented. The various groups are described below with membership details at section12.3.
3. Before embarking upon drafting the Operational Programme the then Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes initiated a "**Reflections Exercise"**[1] which provided stakeholders with an early opportunity to comment on the strategic direction and future investment priorities based on the draft legislative proposals. Partners and stakeholders were generally

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supportive of the principles underpinning the legislative proposals and the need to align the new programmes with Welsh Government policy objectives to maximise impact. This enabled the Deputy Minister to outline the strategic direction and a number of guiding principles under which the 2014-2020 programmes would be developed in a statement to the National Assembly for Wales on 8 May 2012[2]. These included the need to focus and concentrate resources on areas most likely to have a transformational impact on the Welsh economy and contribute significantly to job creation.

4. Initial work was assisted through the **Ministerial Advisory Group on European Programmes**, a small task-and-finish group, established to generate ideas and advise Ministers directly on a number of key strategic issues. The members were carefully selected as experts in their field, with the ability and insight to offer the necessary strategic thinking across all programme and policy areas. The group consists of external experts with significant experience and strategic expertise, senior Officials from the main Welsh Government spending departments and advisors offering specialist advice, including senior officials responsible for the development and delivery of European programmes.
5. The **European Programmes Partnership Forum** was established as the main vehicle for external stakeholder engagement on European funding developments post 2013. The Forum was established in 2011 and remained in operation during the entire programme development period; providing direct input into the formation of both the Operational Programme and Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement. The membership was drawn partially from the All-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), supplemented with additional partners to ensure that the Forum reflected the interests of all relevant stakeholder groups in Wales. The formation of the group provided a balance of interests and reflected an appropriate level of private sector representation, gender balance, spread across funds, and geographical representation.
6. Four **technical workstream groups** were established in mid 2012 to consider the technical and operational detail of the 2014 to 2020 programmes and to advise on the content, processes and procedures reflecting Ministerial strategic direction. These covered:
    - Operational Programmes;
    - Delivery and Compliance;
    - Monitoring and Evaluation; and
    - Territorial Cooperation.
7. Members of the Operational Programmes workstream were directly involved in defining the content of the programmes including the direction of the strategy and cross cutting themes (horizontal principles) while members of the Delivery and Compliance and Monitoring and Evaluation workstreams were specifically involved in the consideration and preparation of guidance, indicators and delivery and control arrangements. Members were appointed via invitations for nominations and were selected based on experience of EU funded programmes together with relevant EU, UK and Welsh policy, and relevant subject experience appropriate to each workstream. A full stakeholder interest, geographical and gender balance was maintained.
8. Finally, to ensure proposals were aligned to Welsh Government policies and strategies a **Welsh Government European Programmes Policy Group** was established. Policy Group meetings followed those of the Operational Programmes workstream and both groups informed the draft proposals presented for public consultation in early 2013. Members comprised senior level policy

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representatives nominated by Directors General from all relevant Welsh Government Departments.

9. A full **public consultation**, 'Wales and the EU: Partnership for Jobs and Growth' was launched on 14 January 2013 to seek views from partners on the Welsh Government's proposals for the Structural and Rural Development Funds. The consultation ended on the 23 April 2013, and generated 126 responses for the Structural Fund proposals.[3]
10. The consultation was supported by four Welsh Government regional stakeholder events, with over 300 stakeholders attending to discuss the key opportunities and challenges in a series of workshops. A number of external stakeholder groups also organised sectoral events during the consultation period which were attended by WEFO officials.
11. Consultants were appointed to analyse the results of the consultation and their Structural Funds report was published on the WEFO[4] and Welsh Government websites and announced by the Minister of Finance in a statement to the National Assembly for Wales on 9 July 2013. The consultants appointed to analyse the consultation were from the same organisation responsible for the Ex Ante Evaluation and therefore had a detailed understanding of the issues raised.
12. The consultation generated overwhelming support for the Structural Fund proposals both in terms of the Investment Priorities selected and the importance of concentrating resources in order to achieve a transformational impact. A number of respondents raised concerns about the absence of a discrete priority relating to tackling poverty and social exclusion. The ESF programme has been developed in line with the Welsh Government policy, as articulated within its Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which states that the best route out of poverty is through employment.
13. Actions to address poverty and social exclusion therefore focus on removing barriers to employment and helping people to move onto the employment ladder. With this as the underlying principle, WEFO re-framed actions to support those living in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion to sit within a 'Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment' Priority Axis supporting these participants to access and retain secure and sustainable employment. This Priority Axis complements the cross-cutting theme on Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion.
14. A single **Wales Programme Monitoring Committee** for the 2014-2020 European and Structural Investment (ESI) programmes has been established in shadow form and will be formally be adopted following approval of the programmes by the European Commission.
15. The PMC will cover all three ESI funds managed by the Welsh Government (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD) and will be responsible for approving Structural Funds operation selection criteria, examining the progress made in delivering agreed programme objectives, and any modifications to the programmes and agreeing the Evaluation Plan and any modifications to the programmes.
16. The membership of 27 (plus Chair), based on the principles of partnership and many of the best practices set out in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, consists of 6 expert members appointed via a public appointments process and 21 members nominated on a sectoral basis. Members are drawn from across the private, public and third sectors (including economic and social partners, national, regional and local authorities; and representatives of civil society including environmental and equality bodies). The membership composition was also designed to deliver a broad gender balance and distribution across the two Welsh regions and the urban/rural dimension. Draft terms of

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reference will be prepared and agreed at the inaugural meeting. This will include detailed guidance on how potential conflicts of interests are addressed.

17. The establishment of a single PMC was supported by our partners on the basis of the feedback received during the public consultation and will facilitate a more holistic assessment of the impact and effectiveness of the funds in delivering the EU2020 agenda, set against the Economic Prioritisation Framework and supported by enhanced management and monitoring information.
18. The existing **Delivery and Compliance and Evaluation Advisory Groups** will remain in operation for the duration of the 2014-2020 to continue to advise on delivery and implementation (including the content of guidance) and monitoring and evaluation arrangements. These groups have been in existence throughout the 2007-13 programming period and comprise wide internal Welsh Government and external stakeholder interests.
19. The **Delivery and Compliance Group (D&CG)** is a technical expert group established by the Managing Authority (WEFO) as a forum for partners to feedback implementation and compliance operational issues.
20. The Group's work informs the work of PMC, and has a specific remit to review WEFO's regular 'Compliance Report' before presentation at the PMC. This includes audit results and common errors found in management verification work. The group supports the PMC to satisfy itself of the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the Welsh Structural Funds Programmes in the areas of delivery and compliance.
21. The role of the **Evaluation Advisory Group** is to advise and assist in designing evaluation studies, quality controlling the research final reports and ensuring that findings are disseminated widely. The group will also monitor the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for the Structural Funds programmes in Wales for the period 2014–2020.
22. There are no plans to entrust part of the management of the Operational Programme to Intermediate Bodies, for example by using Global Grants or Integrated Territorial Investments and using the provisions set out in article 123(7) of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) EU 1303/2013. Intermediate Bodies, using the provisions set out in article 123(6) of the CPR, will be designated to perform certain delegated tasks in relation to the management of certain aid schemes. Delegated tasks will include, at least, the selection of projects (beneficiaries), the issue of documents to beneficiaries that set out the conditions of support and state aid administration for the scheme. The Intermediate Bodies designated to manage the aid schemes are likely to be Welsh Government departments.

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[1] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/post2013/reflectionexercise/?lang=en

[2] http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber-fourth-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=233432&ds=5%2F2012#dat4

[3] http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/businessandeconomy/130114walesandtheeu/?lang=en&utm_source=130114&utm_medium=wefowebsite&utm_campaign=consultation_en

[4] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/130115consultation/?lang=en

7.2.2 Global grants (for the ESF, where appropriate)

1. *We* will *not be utilising global grants in the implementation of ESF in the Programme Area.*

7.2.3 Allocation of an amount for capacity building (for the ESF, where appropriate)

1. The participation of the social partners (business and trade unions) will be actively encouraged in the implementation of the ESF programme in WWV. It is not proposed to invest specifically in building the capacity of social partners within the main priority axes of the programme however there will continue to be a role in implementation through procured delivery and as beneficiaries leading on, or participating in, the delivery of operations as is the case in the 2007-2013 programmes.
2. The following activities provide an indication of actions that could be taken forward in close collaboration with the social partners:
    - Strengthening links between business and education aimed at ensuring that there is a closer integration between employer needs and the vocational and basic skills curricula;
    - Greater role in communicating labour market intelligence on future employment and skills needs across the Welsh Economy;
    - Actions which improve the effectiveness of social dialogue and activities jointly undertaken by or led by the social partners, in particular as regards the adaptability of workers and enterprises;
    - Partnership initiatives aimed at promoting equality and diversity in employment and in the workforce generally;
    - Actions to support the health and wellbeing of the workforce especially where poor health may be a contributor to the loss of employment.
3. In the 2007-2013 programme period Technical Assistance has been used to support the engagement of, and developing the capacity of, NGO's and voluntary organisations in the delivery of programmes. This has included the provision of tailored support, information, advice and networking opportunities. It is proposed that similar activities will be possible through Technical Assistance activities within the ESF programme as described in Section 2.B., these will include:
    - Management – further developing the functions and systems of the Managing Authority to deliver integrated sustainable programmes and to provide expert advice and guidance to beneficiaries;
    - Partnership and Networking – facilitating effective engagement and partnership working with stakeholders in support of programme implementation;
    - Monitoring – establishing and supporting the single ESI Funds Programme Monitoring Committee;
    - Research and Evaluation – continuing to deliver quality evidence based information to support programme delivery;
    - Information and Publicity – highlighting the value added by the EU working in partnership with the Welsh Government and its partners; and

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- Audit and Control – delivering effective and compliant programmes in Wales.

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8. COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FUNDS, THE EAFRD, THE EMFF AND OTHER UNION AND NATIONAL FUNDING INSTRUMENTS, AND WITH THE EIB

The mechanisms to ensure coordination between the Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and other Union and national funding instruments, and with the European Investment Bank (EIB), taking into account the relevant provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework.

1. The approach to the delivery and coordination of the ESI funds in Wales is set out in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement, with all funds being delivered together and overseen by a single Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC). A coordination group comprising representatives from the Managing Authorities for each of the Funds will be established to promote coordination across the Funds, identifying the most appropriate source of funding and building portfolios of operations in areas of common interest and ensuring no duplication of funding.
2. A suite of guidance documents, including an Economic Prioritisation Framework (EPF), will be used to drive synergy between ESI Funds and wider investments in the Welsh economy. The EPF aims to capture the wider investments which are of relevance to the ESI funds. Using this Framework, all ESI funds will be expected to add value to those wider investments, avoiding duplication and building on existing assets.
3. ESF investments in human capital will complement and combine with investments made by the wider ESI funds in order to facilitate the realisation of the overall aims and objectives of the ESI Funds in Wales. A strict approach to demarcation has been avoided for 2014-2020 to facilitate the joint development of schemes and operations. Therefore, where clear additionality to provision under EAFRD and EMFF is demonstrable, individuals involved in farming and fishing will be able to access ESF support.
4. Specific information on the complementarity between specific ESF Priority Axes and other ESI Funds is given below, while the contribution of the ESF programme to Thematic Objectives 1-7, is detailed in each ESF Priority Axis. The approach to coordination and integration with ERDF and EAFRD is outlined in Section 4, which highlights the use of existing planning and coordination mechanisms to prioritise investments and to identify and integrate the most appropriate ESI funding package.
5. In all cases complementary between investments will be sought and the potential for use of flexibilities or joint funding will be explored on a case by case basis. This will be achieved through the operation selection criteria by which every operation will be required, amongst a number of other criteria, to demonstrate:
    - how they have considered the other relevant funding sources;
    - to articulate how they are linking into or establishing complementarity with these funds and the investments which they are supporting; and
    - to evidence how their proposal links into and adds value to wider investment programmes.
6. There will be opportunities for complementarity with actions being supported by the ESF programme in East Wales (EW). Common Priority Axes of “Tackling Poverty through Employment”, “Skills for Growth” and “Youth Employment” have been designed across both programmes, utilising the same Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities. Both Programmes will be managed by

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WEFO as Managing Authority, with the same teams managing the equivalent Priority Axes across both programmes, overseen by an ESF portfolio management group.

7. Where the aims of the Programmes and Specific Objectives of the Priority Axes complement each other, WEFO will facilitate the establishment of both complementary operations and complementarity between operations. The approach will vary by Priority Axis dependant on the strength of the complementarity. It will also vary by operation, reflecting the proportionality principle.
8. **Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment**
9. Employment policy is a non-devolved competency area with benefit, welfare and core employment programmes policy and delivery managed through the UK Government. The UK Government programme for welfare reform will have a significant impact on the delivery of ESF supported employment actions both within this Priority Axis and the Youth Employment and Attainment Priority Axis. The ESF programmes, focused around an emphasis on poverty and sustainable employment, will complement and add value to mainstream provision in relevant areas. The Managing Authority will work alongside and support wider Welsh Government arrangements which coordinate the interrelationships with UK Government provision in these areas.
10. The Welsh National Eligibility Rules, made available via the WEFO website and updated throughout the programme period, will provide guidance on the eligibility of individuals in relation to the mainstream UK Government programmes. The guidance will support operations to demonstrate added value to mainstream provision, while avoiding duplication. An assessment of how any proposed operation fits within the context of mainstream UK Government employment support will be essential to demonstrate added value and will feature as part of the selection and assessment process.
11. ESF interventions to increase the supply of work-ready individuals and better link workforce supply to employer demand and promote self-employment as a means of engaging with the labour market will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF investments to stimulate business growth and increased productivity and to develop local supply chains.
12. Rurality and peripherality exacerbate barriers to inclusion and participation. There is considerable scope for ESF interventions to increase the supply of work-ready individual to complement ERDF and EAFRD interventions to improve physical accessibility to employment and training opportunities and centres and to ensure that residents are able to take advantage of new opportunities which result from infrastructure investment (including any inward investment).
13. Specific links will also be made with the European Territorial programmes in which Wales participates, in particular where complementary investments can be made to support those areas where employment growth is anticipated. The co-location of a European Territorial Cooperation Unit with the Managing Authority for ESF, with WEFO acting as Managing Authority for the 2014-2020 Ireland-Wales Cooperation Programme, will help ensure coordination of these funds.
14. The **European Globalisation Adjustment Fund** offers support geared to helping workers who have suffered redundancy as a result of changing global patterns. Redundant workers as with the 2007-2013 programmes will remain an eligible target group for this Priority Axis. ESF interventions are designed to complement but not duplicate this primarily through addressing more localised economic patterns.

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15. **The Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived** (FEAD) in the UK, is subject to specific geographical targeting and is not operating in Wales.
16. Complementarity exists between the **Progress** and **EURES** programmes and ESF actions. The Managing Authority will work closely with the UK National Contacts for these programmes to stimulate specific links and complementarities. An assessment of how any proposed operation fits within this context will feature as part of the selection and assessment process. Expert advice will be sought where required.
17. As with the ERDF SME Competitiveness Priority Axis, the **European Progress Microfinance Facility** (which supports selected microcredit providers in the EU to increase lending), offers the opportunity to create linkages between ESF interventions supporting those seeking to move towards sustainable employment through starting their own business and business finance and start up support programmes. These will be key linkages as it is not proposed to provide start up support through ESF.
18. **Skills for Growth**
19. ESF investments to up-skill the workforce, address specific skills gaps and to increase the supply of individuals with technical, specialised and higher level skills will work alongside rural specific skills training provided via the EAFRD. These investments will support the ability of SMEs benefitting from ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF funding (including those enterprises in rural and coastal communities where additionality to EARDF and EMFF provision can be demonstrated) to diversify into new markets and to increase their productivity and competitiveness, while also supporting the development of local supply chains. Opportunities to support skills development that underpins ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, low carbon technologies and ICT and innovative and emergent technologies will also be actively sought under this Priority Axis.
20. ESF investments also have the scope to increase the supply of individuals with the specialised skills to support capacity building in research institutions and to increase innovation in Welsh business. Very close coordination will therefore be sought between the ESF investments in research and innovation skills and research and innovation activities supported under the ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF, with the potential for complementary funding actively explored.
21. Actions will foster the skills required to enable Welsh enterprises to engage in innovation in product and ICT development that contributes to the aims of the **European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing** to foster innovation in products, processes and services contributing to Active and Healthy Ageing.
22. Actions will complement and add value to actions supported by **Horizon 2020** by developing the higher skills needed to drive, encourage and support research and innovation and to support the greater commercialisation of research. The co-location of a Horizon 2020 Unit with the Managing Authority for ESF, coupled with use of expert advice to inform the selection of operations, will help ensure coordination between these funds. The selection and assessment process and monitoring of operations within WEFO will ensure these opportunities are maximised throughout the development and implementation of operations.
23. The EU's **Lifelong Learning Programme** and specifically the Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig elements will potentially complement activity within the ESF programmes. The Managing Authority will work closely with the UK National Agencies for these programmes (the UK National Agency - Leonardo, Grundtvig & Transversal Programmes – Ecorys) as well as the policy department

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coordinating information in Wales (the Department for Education and Skills) to stimulate links and complementarities. An assessment of how any proposed operation fits within this context will feature as part of the selection and assessment process. Expert advice will be sought where required.

24. **Youth Employment and Attainment**
25. At a UK level, as with the Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment Priority Axis above, the UK Government programme for welfare reform will have a significant impact on the delivery of ESF supported employment actions. The ESF programmes will have to complement and add value to mainstream delivery. Mechanisms for achieving this have been described above and in the relevant Priority Axis sections of the Programme.
26. Alignment of the ESF programme with the Welsh Government Youth Employment and Progression Framework and its identification and tracking systems will be a key tool in ensuring ESF complements and adds value to interventions to support those young people most in need of support. The mapping exercise undertaken as part of this Framework will ensure that any ESF operation truly addresses gaps in provision and does not duplicate mainstream statutory provision. The Managing Authority will work with the relevant Welsh Government departments on the appraisal and implementation of ESF operations to support this process.
27. ESF investments to make young people work ready and to promote entrepreneurship will complement ERDF, EAFRD and EMFF investments to increase business productivity and growth, matching future workforce supply with employer demand. ESF support will also equip young people to access employment opportunities within their communities, including those opportunities being created by the ERDF and, within rural and coastal communities, as a result of EAFRD and EMFF investment.
28. The EU's **Lifelong Learning Programme** and specifically the Comenius and Erasmus elements will potentially complement activity within the ESF programmes. The Managing Authority will work closely with the UK National Agencies for these programmes (the British Council for Comenius and Erasmus) as well as the policy department coordinating information in Wales (the Department for Education and Skills) to stimulate links and complementarities. An assessment of how any proposed operation fits within this context will feature as part of the operation selection and assessment process. Expert advice will be sought where required.
29. The ex-ante assessment of the use of Financial Instruments (FI) in ESF (i.e. a potential use of **European Investment Bank - EIB** - funding) considered a number of equalities and equal opportunity based actions. The evaluation concluded that in most cases there was limited potential for FI in the delivery of ESF actions and any potential approach is likely to be less effective than a grant based approach in terms of achieving the results sought. It is therefore not proposed to utilise FI in the delivery of ESF actions.

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9. EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

9.1 Ex-ante conditionalities

Information on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (optional).

Table 24: Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and assessment of their fulfilment

Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	Yes
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment	Yes
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	2 - Skills for Growth	Yes
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	5 - Public services reform and regional working	Yes
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment and Attainment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment and Attainment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Priority axes to which conditionality applies	Ex-ante conditionality fulfilled (Yes/No/Partially)
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment and Attainment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment and Attainment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment and Attainment 4 - Technical Assistance	Yes
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment 2 - Skills for Growth 3 - Youth Employment and Attainment 4 - Technical Assistance	~~Partially~~Yes

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	1 - A national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction, aiming at active inclusion, is in place that:	Yes	Programme for Government: Chapter 9: Tackling Poverty http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/poverty/?lang=en Tackling Poverty Action Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en	The Programme for Government is the Welsh Government's strategic programme for government. Chapter 9 of the Programme sets out the Welsh Government's policies for tackling poverty. It is underpinned by the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, which sets out actions to build resilient communities and to prevent and reduce poverty in Wales, prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and exclusion.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	2 - provides a sufficient evidence base to develop policies for poverty reduction and monitor developments;	Yes	Programme for Government: Chapter 9: Tackling Poverty http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/poverty/?lang=en Tackling Poverty Action Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en	The Programme for Government identifies the challenges facing Wales in tackling poverty, the progress being made, key actions and indicators to measure the effectiveness and impact of actions. The Welsh Government annually reviews evidence on progress and identifies where action or indicators need to be added or adjusted to achieve stated goals. The Tackling Poverty Action Plan outlines actions to prevent and reduce poverty in Wales. It takes into consideration key economic and policy changes and identifies targets and milestones to track progress. Its actions are based around: • preventing poverty, especially for children and families in poverty through childcare, education and

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				support services; • recognising that employment is the best route out of poverty and supporting people into work and removing barriers to employment; and • mitigating the impact of poverty through increasing access to advice, services, leisure facilities, affordable credit and transport.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	3 - contains measures supporting the achievement of the national poverty and social exclusion target (as defined in the National Reform Programme), which includes the promotion of sustainable and quality employment opportunities for people at the highest risk of social exclusion, including people from marginalised communities;	Yes	Programme for Government: Chapter 9: Tackling Poverty http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/poverty/?lang=en Tackling Poverty Action Plan Sections 1-3, pages 5-25 http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en UK National Reform Programme 2014 page 88 http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm	The Programme for Government sets out key actions and the indicators that are used to measure the effectiveness and impact of actions. The Welsh Government annually reviews evidence on progress and identifies where action or indicators need to be added or adjusted to achieve stated goals. The Tackling Poverty Action Plan sets clear targets for reducing levels of poverty and exclusion and milestones to track progress. These link into Wales level indicators cited in the UK National Reform Programme for increasing skills levels of working age adults and young people who are NEET, thereby increasing employability and underpinning the key assumption of the Plan that employment is the best route out of poverty. The Plan also sets out both remedial and preventative actions

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				to prevent and reduce poverty, prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and providing narrative explanations.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	4 - involves relevant stakeholders in combating poverty;	Yes	Programme for Government: Chapter 9: Tackling Poverty http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/poverty/?lang=en Tackling Poverty Action Plan Sections 1-4 , pages 5-26 http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en Tackling Poverty External Advisory Group http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/decisions/dr2012/aprjun/soju/cs1285/?lang=en	The Programme for Government includes explicit commitments to work in partnership with a range of stakeholders to deliver actions to help communities and individuals into work and out of poverty. The Tackling Poverty Action Plan includes actions to involve a range of stakeholders in designing and delivering actions to help communities and individuals into work and out of poverty. The Tackling Poverty External Advisory Group is a Ministerial advisory panel comprising a panel of 12 experts in the field of poverty. Its purpose is to: • provide expert, evidence based advice to the Minister for Local Government and Communities and the Ministerial Programme Board on the implementation and further policy requirements necessary to deliver the Tackling Poverty Action Plan in Wales. • consider and comment on the progress of the Welsh Government in

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				the attainment of its tackling poverty targets as set out in Programme for Government and the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	5 - depending on the identified needs, includes measures for the shift from institutional to community based care;	Yes	Tackling Poverty Action Plan Section 1, pages 6-8 and 10-11; Section 3, pages 20, 22 and 24 http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/tacklingpoverty/publications/taking-forward-tack-pov-plan/?lang=en	The Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty Action Plan sets out the actions being taken forward to build resilient communities and to help prevent and reduce poverty in Wales. The Plan outlines actions to provide local systems of support for families, strengthen services in the community, promote access to services for the most vulnerable, promote and support local action to tackle poverty, support and enhance community based care and build community resilience.
T.09.1 - The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.	6 - Upon request and where justified, relevant stakeholders will be provided with support for submitting project applications and for implementing and managing the selected projects.	Yes	http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/?lang=en	The functions of the Managing Authority will address the support for submitting applications for operations through the role of the Project Development Officer and the Specialist Tackling Poverty Cross Cutting Theme Advisors. Details can be found on the WEFO website.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	1 - A system for collecting and analysing data and information on ESL at relevant levels is in place that:	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/education/?lang=en; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/yo	Chapter 3 of the Programme for Government sets specific indicators to measure the effectiveness of actions. The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework &

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			uthengagement/?lang=en Sections 1-2, 4, 7-8; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en Sections 1, 6, 7; http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf Introduction; Sections 1-3; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/outcomes/?lang=en	Implementation Plan provide a framework of data and tracking systems based on systematic and regular data collection and analysis, with key milestones and targets. The Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan is based upon a clear evidence base, with data collection systems and indicators to monitor and measure progress and support sustained improvement. The Improving Schools Plan is based upon evidence and data analysis and sets out provisions for monitoring and performance management, supported by regular data collection through annual School Banding exercises. Families First sets out national outcomes, using key population indicators to measure progress. A Families First page on LSB Insight (http://lsb.infobasecymru.net/IAS/launch) hosts the Families First indicators.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	2 - provides a sufficient evidence-base to develop targeted policies and monitors developments.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/education/?lang=en; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en Sections 1-2, 4, 7-8; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidan	The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework & Implementation Plan provides a framework of data and tracking systems for the early identification of young people at risk of ESL / becoming NEET, focusing on factors that increase the risk of ESL. It provides for an evaluation of the

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			ce/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en Sections 1, 6-7; http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf Introduction, Sections 1-3; http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/outcomes/?lang=en	effectiveness of support put in place, utilising annual data collection. Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan is based upon a clear evidence base, with data collection systems and indicators to monitor progress. The Improving Schools Plan is based upon evidence and data analysis, supported by regular data collection through annual School Banding exercises. It sets out reforms to improve literacy and numeracy and to reduce the impact of deprivation on educations outcomes. Families First sets national outcomes, using key population indicators to measure progress. A Families First page on LSB Insight (http://lsb.infobasecymru.net/IAS/launch) hosts the Families First indicators.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	3 - A strategic policy framework on ESL is in place that:	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/yeeap/?lang=en http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educat	The Programme for Government sets out the Welsh Government's education policies. The following documents form an integrated strategic framework to address the factors contributing to ESL. The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework & Implementation Plan is a framework for early identification of young people at risk of ESL / becoming NEET. The Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan outlines approaches to

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			ionandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en http://21stcenturyschools.org/splash?orig=/ http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/?lang=en	preventing young people disengaging from learning. The Improving Schools Plan sets out reforms to improve literacy and numeracy and reduce the impact of deprivation on educational outcomes. Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan focuses on improving children's well-being, supporting families and high-quality early and primary education and childcare. The 21st Century Schools Programme is a capital investment programme for schools and educational facilities. Families First aims to improve outcomes for families, particularly those in poverty.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	4 - is based on evidence;	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/yeeap/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf	The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework & Implementation Plan is a framework for early identification of young people at risk of ESL comprising six components proven to be effective at increasing youth engagement & progression. It provides a framework of data and tracking systems. Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan, the Improving Schools Plan and the Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan are based upon an analysis of evidence on the issues and barriers faced by young people. All investments made by the

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			http://21stcenturyschools.org/splash?orig=/ nhttp://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/?lang=en	21st Century Schools Programme to develop schools and educational facilities are based on Strategic Outline Programmes demonstrating that each local authority has a strategy for future educational provision, including details of required changes and evidence of the need for, and nature of, the investment. Families First delivers interventions based on the needs of local communities, using population indicators to measure progress.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	5 - covers relevant educational sectors including early childhood development, targets in particular vulnerable groups that are most at risk of ESL including people from marginalised communities, and addresses prevention, intervention and compensation measures;	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/yeeap/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf http://21stcenturyschools.org/splash?orig=/ http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/fa	The Youth Engagement and Progression Framework & Implementation Plan is a framework for identifying and working with young people at risk of disengagement and ESL. The Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan outlines the approach to preventing children and young people from disengaging from learning and supporting them to enter employment. The Improving Schools Plan aims to improve literacy and numeracy and reduce the impact of deprivation on educational outcomes. Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan aims to improve children's well-being and includes actions to provide high-quality, accessible early education and childcare. The 21st Century Schools

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			miliesfirst/principles/?lang=en	Programme aims to create school environments that meet the needs of the community, considering all sectors and groups of learners from 3-19 and joining up plans for primary, secondary and 14-19 learning. Families First aims to improve outcomes for families, particularly in poverty.
T.10.1 - Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	6 - involves all policy sectors and stakeholders that are relevant to addressing ESL.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/youthengagement/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/yeeap/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/building-a-brighter-future/?lang=en http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/news/121025improvingschoolsen.pdf http://21stcenturyschools.org/aboutus/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/childrenyoungpeople/parenting/help/familiesfirst/principles/?lang=en	The Youth Engagement & Progression Framework Implementation Plan involves local authorities working closely with Careers Wales, wider Youth Services, schools and other partners. The Youth Engagement & Employment Action Plan provides for supporting initiatives from all sectors. The Improving Schools Plan sets out how the Welsh Government, in partnership with schools and local authorities, will implement the actions in the Plan. Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years & Childcare Plan covers plans from across Welsh Government policy departments and identifies the roles of partners (including local authorities and local health boards) in the improvement process. 21st Century Schools is delivered by a partnership between the Welsh Government, local authorities, the Diocesan Directors of the Voluntary Aided Sector and

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				CollegesWales. Families First aims for seamless progression for families between different interventions and programmes, with local Action Plans delivered with partners.
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	1 - A national or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning is in place that contains measures:	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/growth/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/education/?lang=en Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en	The Programme for Government sets out high level skills policies. The Welsh Government's Policy Statement on Skills, focuses on employment and skills and covers four priority areas: • Skills for jobs and growth • Skills that respond to local needs • Skills that employers value • Skills for employment In July 2014, the Welsh Government published a Skills Implementation Plan, setting out key policy actions to deliver the objectives of the Policy Statement on Skills.
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	2 - to support the developing and linking services for LL, including their implementation and skills upgrading (i.e. validation, guidance, education and training) and providing for the involvement of, and partnership with	Yes	Programme for Government http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/growth/?lang=en and http://wales.gov.uk/about/progra	TheProgramme forGovernment commits to work with partners and sets key actions for improving governance and encouraging collaborative service provision.The PolicyStatement on Skills outlines actions to develop and

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
	relevant stakeholders ;		mmeforgov/education/?lang=en Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en pp 6-19 Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en pages 6-14	strengthen provision through collaboration and joint delivery arrangements; streamlined planning and delivery; simplified access to support, workforce development; and joint working with partners to plan and deliver services.The Skills Implementation Plan outlines actions to: • develop Skills Performance Measures for use in developing, delivering and evaluating policies and programmes; • work with employers and Welsh Government departments to introduce a Flexible Skills Programme; • introduce a Skills Gateway for accessing skills and employment support; • work with regional partnerships; • establish Sector Qualification Advisory Panels to ensure vocational qualifications provide the skills needed; • work with employers and stakeholders to develop the

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				apprenticeships framework.
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	3 - for the provision of skills development for various target groups where these are identified as priorities in national or regional strategic policy frameworks (for example young people in vocational training, adults, parents returning to the labour market, low skilled and older workers, migrants and other disadvantaged groups, in particular people with disabilities);	Yes	Programme for Government http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/growth/?lang=en and http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/education/?lang=en Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en pp 17-19 Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en pages 7-11, 14-16	The Programme for Government outlines specific actions focused on skills provision for young people. The Policy Statement on Skills builds on this, outlining strategic actions to develop a skills system that provides the employment support necessary for individuals – and specific groups such as young people and the low skilled - to enter employment and improve their skills. The Skills Implementation Plan outlines actions to support these groups, including reducing the number of households living in poverty and improving outcomes for those living in low income households through delivering adult employability programmes and essential skills provision, introducing a Flexible Skills Programme and a Skills Priorities Programme, establishing a Skills Gateway, developing the apprenticeships framework, supporting young people who are NEET and working with employers and other stakeholders to ensure that learners and employees have the right skills and qualifications and working.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	4 - to widen access to LL including through efforts to effectively implement transparency tools (for example the European Qualifications Framework, National Qualifications Framework, European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training, European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training);	Yes	Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en pp 6-16 Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en pages 6, 8, 10-11, 14	The Policy Statement on Skills outlines strategic actions to: • widen access to provision (including through developing new routeways, part time provision, greater availability of localised and distance-learning delivery arrangements and continuing professional development); and • support the development of National Occupational Standards and to utilise credit frameworks professional standards and performance measures to increase flexibility and standards. The Skills Implementation Plan outlines actions to: • develop Skills Performance Measures; • introduce a Skills Gateway, simplifying arrangements for accessing skills and employment support; • introduce a Skills Priorities Programme to deliver vocational skills provision through further education institutions;

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				• establish Sector Qualification Advisory Panels; • develop the apprenticeships framework; and • bring forward legislation to establish "Qualifications Wales" to streamline the qualifications system in Wales.
T.10.3 - Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.	5 - to improve the labour market relevance of education and training and to adapt it to the needs of identified target groups (for example young people in vocational training, adults, parents returning to the labour market, low-skilled and older workers, migrants and other disadvantaged groups, in particular people with disabilities).	Yes	Programme for Government http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/growth/?lang=en Policy Statement on Skills http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/?lang=en pp 6-19 Skills Implementation Plan http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/skillsandtraining/policy-statement-on-skills/skills-implementation-plan/?lang=en pp 6-14 StatsWales https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue Learning Wales http://learning.wales.gov.uk/?lang=en	Programme for Government sets out actions on LMI, skills development and effective routes into employment via skills provision. The Policy Statement on Skills outlines actions on skills provision, skills needs and gaps and employer demand. The Skills Implementation Plan outlines actions to: • work with employers and stakeholders to introduce a Flexible Skills Programme focused on regional economic needs, a Skills Priorities Programme and developing the apprenticeships framework; • introduce a Skills Gateway for accessing skills and employment support, conducting skills assessments for individuals and directing employers

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				to skills provision; • develop regional skills delivery based on needs identified via LMI; • establish Sector Qualification Advisory Panels to ensure vocational qualifications provide skills for employment; and • providing an adult employability programme, essential skills provision and supporting young people most at risk to achieve increased skills and employability.
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	1 - A strategic policy framework for reinforcing a Member State's public authorities' administrative efficiency and their skills with the following elements are in place and in the process of being implemented:	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/180319-employability-plan-en.pdf	In delivering this priority there will be a series of complementary investment needed in people, organisations and systems. All investments are expected to align directly to the regionalisation agenda of the Welsh Government, as described in Prosperity for All, the Economic Action Plan, and the Employability Plan. These, alongside emerging proposals for local government reform, provide the policy framework for activity under this Priority.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	2 - an analysis and strategic planning of legal, organisational and/or procedural reform actions;	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf https://beta.gov.wales/strengthening-local-government-delivering-people	This priority directly aligned to the Welsh Government's regionalisation agenda and ongoing discussions on an ambitious but realistic public sector reform agenda in Wales, as well as building on existing networks for regional working.
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	3 - the development of quality management systems;	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf	Economic Action Plan (December 2017). This describes the need to ensure "the different players in our economy - from the emerging City Deals and local government reform structures, to the new Development Bank of Wales and Regional Skills Partnerships – work together on a clear footprint with businesses and other partners in a new, strategic and more collaborative partnership to support distinctive regional strengths
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	4 - integrated actions for simplification and rationalisation of administrative procedures;	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/strategies/170919-prosperity-for-all-en.pdf http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf	Prosperity for All (September 2017). This indicates "It is only through closer working, on a consistent regional basis, that the resilience and responsiveness of services can be maintained in the future". Commitments are made to respond to the diverse needs of different regions, working with

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				partners in those regions in areas such as skills and economic development. Economic Action Plan (December 2017). This describes the need to ensure "the different players in our economy - from the emerging City Deals and local government reform structures, to the new Development Bank of Wales and Regional Skills Partnerships – work together on a clear footprint with businesses and other partners in a new, strategic and more collaborative partnership to support distinctive regional strengths" The Welsh Government's regionalisation agenda that now features as a central part of much Welsh policy, including the recently launched Economic Action Plan (December 2017).
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	5 - the development and implementation of human resources strategies and policies covering the main gaps identified in this field;	Yes	http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/171213-economic-action-plan-en.pdf	The Economic Action Plan sets out a regional approach to economic development, to help tailor our delivery to specific challenges and opportunities in different parts of Wales, and how Weksh Government will work with partners to capitalise on local growth opportunities

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	6 - the development of skills at all levels of the professional hierarchy within public authorities;	Yes	https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-03/180320-strengthening-local-government-consultation-v1.pdf	The Welsh Government Green paper on 'Strengthening Local Government outlines options for making best use of the skills and capabilities of the public service administration.
T.11.1 - The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member State's administrative efficiency including public administration.	7 - the development of procedures and tools for monitoring and evaluation.	Yes	http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/2014-2020/wefo-guidance/monitoring/?lang=en	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. This plan will be updated yo incorporate the new Priority axis.
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund related activities.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made The Welsh Language Act (1993): http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk	A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh Specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and has given a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			pga/1993/38/contents Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	Authority has taken to implement equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes.
G.1 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti discrimination law and policy.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/crosscutting/?lang=en	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protected characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and

compare report

Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund-related activities.	Yes	Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh Specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and has given a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				into the programmes.
G.2 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/crosscutting/?lang=en	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protected characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	1 - Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.	Yes	UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalit	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders charged with the protection of rights for disabled people. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and has given a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
			yact/?lang=en	Equal treatment including the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled people into the programmes. The Welsh Government are responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants'.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	2 - Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/crosscutting/?lang=en	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.
G.3 - The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC.	3 - Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	Yes	UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang=	The Welsh Government are responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants'. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protected characteristics and to monitor the implementation on the UNCRPD.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				A full monitoring and implementation plan has been developed which ensures Article 9 of the UNCRPD is fed into the development of the programmes and the implementation.
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	Yes	https://www.gov.uk/transposing-eu-procurement-directives https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/procurement-policy-notes http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/bettervfm/?lang=en http://prp.wales.gov.uk/toolkit/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/	The EU Directives were transposed by the UK in 2006 (Public Contracts Regulations 2006) and the UK Government has committed to early transposition of the new public procurement rules agreed in January 2014. The Cabinet Office issues Procurement Policy Notes providing guidance on public procurement policy. In line with the other UK devolved administrations, a protocol has been established with the UK Government whereby the Procurement Policy programme of Value Wales (the Welsh Government's procurement unit) provides procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well procurement services to the Welsh Government. Support and guidance relating to procurement legislation and policy is available for public sector beneficiaries via Value Wales. WEFO is able to call on the expertise of Value Wales to help interpret legislation and understand the requirements of the EC directives. This advice extends to

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				general procurement advice as well as public contracts.
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2012/welshprocurement/?lang=en http://prp.wales.gov.uk/ http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/bettervfm/publications/openingdoors/?lang=en www.sell2wales.gov.uk	The Welsh Government's procurement policies ensure open and fair competition and non-discrimination, irrespective of the contract value. In accordance with the commitments laid out in the Welsh Government's 'Opening Doors: The Charter for SME Friendly Procurement', all requirements over £25,000 (but below the applicable OJEU threshold), as well as those which are not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, should be on a website accessible across the EU. The Welsh Government published a 'Wales Procurement Policy Statement' in December 2012 setting out eight principles to maximise the impact of public procurement. The Welsh Government has launched a web-based procurement toolkit to support compliant procurement (Procurement Route Planner). The website promotes a consistent and structured approach to procurement, builds in best practice and provides specialist guidance and tools to help contracting authorities in Wales.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/general/?lang=en	A series of one day training sessions on Procurement legislation has been provided for all WEFO staff involved in project delivery. The training was delivered by procurement specialists. Further training will be undertaken as necessary for the new programmes. Guidance documents are available for WEFO staff. This guidance is authored and/or reviewed by Welsh Government's procurement unit before dissemination.
G.4 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	4 - Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/bettervfm/?lang=en http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/bettervfm/procskills/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/general/?lang=en	Value Wales (Welsh Government) is the central body in Wales with the resources and expertise to support WEFO – and contracting authorities/ wider Welsh public sector – in understanding and applying procurement rules. Value Wales was successful in securing funding from the European Social Fund Convergence Programme for a 4-5 year project to improve procurement across public services in Wales. The Transforming Procurement through Home-Grown Talent project has raised procurement skills and capability across public services. Guidance documents are available for beneficiaries. This guidance is authored and/or reviewed by Welsh Government's procurement

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				unit before dissemination.
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	1 - Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	UK Chapter of the Partnership Agreement http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/projectinspectionandaudit1/?lang=en	State Aid is largely handled at UK level (see UK PA). Work to ensure adherence in Wales is as follows: All operations are subject to State Aid analysis as part of the assessment process and where necessary advice and further scrutiny is sought from the Welsh Government's State Aid Unit (SAU) or Legal Services. This ensures that funding award decisions are compliant with State Aid rules and the necessary Commission notifications/approvals are in place. Assessments are undertaken and guidance provided to beneficiaries on the rules surrounding cumulation. Operations running de minimis schemes are notified via the grant funding agreement of their responsibilities and their systems checked for compliance. In addition the SAU co-ordinates the annual reporting process for block exempted

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				and notified schemes. Compliance and recovery measures relating to breach of State Aid rules are contained within funding agreements and compliance checks are undertaken by the Management Verification teams
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	2 - Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/	The SAU works closely with WEFO's training team to identify necessary training requirements for all staff. It has recently run awareness sessions about the Modernisation programme and State Aid training will be embedded into the induction process for all new staff. A training strategy has been updated so that all Managing Authority and Certifying Authority staff will receive foundation/awareness training by end October 2014. This is being supplemented by more detailed "Roles and Responsibilities" training to be rolled out to all key staff by the end of 2014 and to all staff by mid 2015. The SAU regularly attend UK wide network meetings and disseminate information/guidance through the

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				Welsh Government website and to WEFO accordingly. WEFO disseminates information widely to external stakeholders and beneficiaries, including through the WEFO website. Further staff guidance is made available through Welsh Government and WEFO intranet sites.
G.5 - The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	3 - Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	UK Chapter of the Partnership Agreement http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/ http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/guidance/projectinspectionandaudit1/?lang=en	Managing Authority staff have a good working knowledge of the State aid rules. They are supported by the Welsh Government's SAU and lawyers who provide training and advice on specific cases as necessary. The Welsh Government believes that it has sufficient administrative capacity to carry out its State Aid responsibilities. The SAU is made up of 3 members of staff with over 15 years experience who are supported by a team of 3 lawyers. There are a number of practical tools available to WEFO staff including a bespoke State aid assessment sheet, State aid toolkit and detailed guidance on the rules. These are generated by the SAU and LS and are made

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				available through the Welsh Government's intranet site. In addition guidance is made available to beneficiaries through the Welsh Government's web site.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	1 - Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. All beneficiaries of Structural Funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the WEFO website. The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	2 - Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data.	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/post2013/walespmc/?lang=en	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E Pplan which is published on the WEFO website. Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the WEFO website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties. Arrangements are in place to collect, store and use individual data (micro data) in conformity with article 125(2), of the CPR and the guidance for ESF Monitoring and evaluation.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	3 - An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme.	Yes	See Tables 4 and 5 in Section 2 of this Operational Programme http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E Plan which is published on the WEFO website. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements and published on the WEFO website. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				model annexed to the Operational Programmes. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (which includes counter-factual analysis) can be found in the M&E Plan. Arrangements are in place to collect, store and use individual data (micro data) in conformity with Article 125(2), of the CPR and the guidance for ESF M&E.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	4 - An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators.	~~No~~Yes	See Tables 4 and 5 in Section 2 of this Operational Programme http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E pPlan which is published on the WEFO website. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements and published on the WEFO website. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes.

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				Targets ~~are~~were set for indicators in the OPs, with the exception of indicator ID1128~~, and are shown in the appropriate tables. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (which includes counter-factual analysis) can be found in the M&E Plan.~~. An extension on this action was given to February 2017. This has now been completed and accepted. The indicator 1128 was retained without a baseline or target and will be used for monitoring purposes only. It was agreed that progress would be adequately measured by the two existing result indicators. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result	5 - An effective system of result indicators including: the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative	Yes	See Tables 4 and 5 in Section 2 of this Operational Programme http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E Plan which is

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data.			published on the WEFO website. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements and published on the WEFO website. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (which includes counter-factual analysis) can be found in the M&E Plan. Arrangements are in place to collect, store and use individual data (micro data) in conformity with Article 125(2), of the CPR and the guidance for ESF M&E.
G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	6 - Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators.	Yes	See Tables 4 and 5 in Section 2 of this Operational Programme http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E Plan which is published on the WEFO website. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements and published on the WEFO website. Result

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Ex-ante conditionality	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference	Explanations
				indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process. A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (which includes counter-factual analysis) can be found in the M&E Plan. Arrangements are in place to collect, store and use individual data (micro data) in conformity with Article 125(2), of the CPR and the guidance for ESF M&E.

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9.2 Description of actions to fulfil ex-ante conditionalities, responsible bodies and timetable

Table 25: Actions to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
~~G.7 - The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the~~	~~4 - An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for~~	~~The issue of non-compliance relates to no target being set for indicator ID 1128 in Priority Axis 3 Specific Objective 2. Risk of NEET will be identified utilising the standard~~	~~31-Dec-2016~~	~~Welsh Government~~

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible
~~effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.~~	~~these indicators.~~	~~principles within the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. This standard approach to identifying and tracking risk of NEET is new and actions will be subject to an impact evaluation in 2016. The outcomes of this evaluation will establish a target for this indicator and fulfil the ex-ante conditionality.~~		

Table 26: Actions to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

Thematic ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions to be taken	Deadline (date)	Bodies responsible

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10. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce administrative burden.

1. Significant progress was made in reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries under the 2007-13 programmes. This has involved the introduction of new working procedures around the introduction of the PPIMS IT system which led to the harmonisation of processes across structural funds and enables beneficiaries to input operation data directly via a web based portal. This has resulted in common processes, the improved exchange of documentation together with efficiency gains and quicker processes and payments to beneficiaries. The current round of programmes has also seen the establishment of the Project Development Officer model. This has involved a single officer as a primary point of contact for beneficiaries throughout the application, development and post approval stages.
2. A customer insight survey[1] was undertaken by WEFO in 2009 which sought the views of beneficiaries on administrative procedures and processes involved in applying for and managing EU operations. There was general support for efficiencies resulting from many of the web based improvements introduced for the 2017-13 funding round together with support for the concept of the Project Development Officer. Some concerns were raised over the bureaucracy involved in applying for funding (decisions could be made earlier involving less form filling) and over the accessibility and technical language in some of the guidance.
3. The Welsh Government is building upon previous developments and addressing feedback from beneficiaries for the 2014-2020 programmes by maximising integration and harmonisation opportunities wherever possible in order to assist delivery and further reduce the burden for beneficiaries.
4. This will include a streamlined application and assessment process involving a series of gateways and decision points over the eligibility of operations together with further enhancements to PPIMS. This will include a single online gateway for potential beneficiaries to access all ESI funds, which will direct potential beneficiaries to a specific Thematic Objective team and facilitate the selection of the optimal funding instrument(s) and delivery mechanism, whilst respecting the demarcation lines between funds.
5. Harmonised national eligibility rules for ESI funds and common supporting guidance will be in place for all organisations in Wales receiving funds from ERDF, ESF and the EAFRD, other than where eligibility rules have been determined by fund-specific EC legislation. This will represent a significant simplification for beneficiaries in Wales and builds on the Commission's common eligibility provisions in the Common Provisions Regulation for matters such as durability, revenue generation, and simplified cost options. The harmonised eligibility rules will be agreed and published and easily accessible via the WEFO website in 2014.
6. In addition, Wales intends to encourage the take-up of simplified cost re-imbursement options (lump sums, flat-rates, unit costs) by making all legislative options available to potential applicants, issuing detailed guidance, and running training workshops with representatives from key sectors to understand and address the barriers to take-up. It is expected that flat-rate costs in relation to

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reimbursement of indirect costs will be of particularly interest to Welsh beneficiaries.

7. The extent of the shift towards a more results-based reimbursement system (lump sums, unit costs) will also depend on the provisions of the cohesion policy legislative package, the suitability of the EC standard rates, and the implementation guidance from the Commission. The overarching principle when considering options for simplifications will be adopting mechanisms which are best suited to the Welsh context and to maintaining the successful and compliant delivery of structural funds programmes in Wales.
8. Welsh operations will also benefit from a reduction in administration by Welsh Government implementing in full the EC simplification measures, such as shorter document retention periods, flat-rate revenue generation calculations, and protecting operations against duplication of audit activity from both the Audit Authority and European Commission in the same year.

[1] http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/publications/publications/monitoringevaluation/programmeevaluations/customerinsightsurvey2009/?lang=en

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11. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

11.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

1. The Welsh Chapter of the UKPA provides an overview of the approach to promoting the horizontal principles across the ESI funds in Wales which includes the Sustainable Development Cross Cutting Theme (CCT) detailed here, and the Equal Opportunities and Equalities CCT (detailed in Section 11.2 and 11.3) and the Tackling Poverty CCT (detailed in section 5). It also outlines the main Welsh Government organising principles and objectives for sustainability which provide the basis for the implementation of the CCT within the ESF Programmes in Wales.
2. Key to the ESF programmes is the Welsh Government emphasis on social, economic and environmental well-being for people and communities; fairness and social justice; and how decisions we make now affect the lives of future as well as current generations.
3. In implementing the Sustainable Development CCT the key Sustainable Development objectives for the ESF Programme are to:
    - Promote environmental awareness and good practice in the implementation of activity;
    - Integrate sustainable development into operations undertaking awareness raising, education and training programmes;
    - Support participating employers to adopt or improve Environmental Sustainability Strategies;
    - Promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
    - Recognise and promote health and wellbeing as one of the corner stones of a healthy, vibrant economy.
4. As part of the development of the ESF programmes in Wales a Strategic Environmental Assessment screening exercise was undertaken by external evaluators. The report concluded that any environmental effects will be insignificant in the short to medium term. Travel to training, and ultimately to work, may have implications, though these will not be significant in the context of this programme. It further concluded that the ESF programme does not determine the allocation of space, therefore no impacts are anticipated.
5. Through indirect measures, at an individual or organisational level, and through ensuring operations adopt appropriate Sustainable Development practices and principles in the delivery of ESF activity, investments will be able to support the overall Welsh Government Sustainable Development principles and objectives. Actions, where appropriate, would include:
    - Encouraging sustainable transport solutions in the delivery of activity within operations such as through linking unemployed and economically inactive individuals with work and in supporting access to skills and training;
    - Promoting resource efficiency, including energy efficiency and waste management, in the delivery and implementation of operations;

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- Promoting employment opportunities in emerging economic sectors including for example creation of green jobs, renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- Investing in skills to develop competencies and knowledge in for example, environmental management, energy production, energy efficiency and waste management, and skills to support the development of the low carbon, energy and environment sector; and
- Promoting research and innovation in the Grand Challenge area of low carbon, energy and environment.

6. In terms of environmental sustainability, 'Sustaining a living Wales' is the Welsh Government's new approach to natural resource management in Wales and is based on the ecosystem approach, defined as; all the living things, in an environment, including their interactions, with each other and their environment.
7. Reinforcing the environmental element of the CCT will ensure that awareness raising and promoting good practice through training and guidance will be incorporated into implementation of operations. Specific to the ESF programmes, the following actions will be taken in the selection and development of operations to ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaption, disaster resilience and management are integrated where appropriate:
    - CCT assessment at all stages of the development of operations;
    - Early and on-going specialist advice will be made available to beneficiaries for the implementation of operations;
    - A programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to WEFO staff and beneficiaries on the benefits of, and best practice in, integrating the cross cutting themes;
    - Guidance will be prepared together with best practice case study examples that will provide specific information on how beneficiaries can address the CCT within their operation plans;
    - Regular monitoring of achievement of Sustainable Development commitments and outputs allowing for early intervention if necessary;
    - Update reports to PMC and other stakeholders; and
    - WEFO will encourage key equality, social inclusion and sustainable development organisations to engage and participate in an effective network of specialist support.
8. Sustainable Development result indicator targets will be set at a Priority Axis level providing an important driver to ensure that operations address the programme's CCT objectives. Targets will include, but are not limited to:
    - For operations within the Skills for Growth priority 20% of Employers assisted will adopt or improve Environmental Sustainability Strategies.
    - 75% of operations within the Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment priority and 10 % of operations within the Skills for Growth and the Youth Employment priorities will integrate sustainable development into awareness raising, education and training programmes.

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11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the operational programme and in particular in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements for ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

1. The integration of equal opportunities, gender mainstreaming and the Welsh language (which we also include in the Equal Opportunities CCT) is important not only for legal reasons, but also because overcoming inequalities between different social and demographic sections of society contributes to the overall effectiveness of the activity delivered by the programmes.
2. The Welsh Government launched its Strategic Equality Plan (2012-16) and equality objectives on 2 April 2012. These highlight how the Welsh Government is fulfilling its legal obligations as well as its strong commitment to equality and inclusion. The Strategic Equality Plan was developed in-line with the general duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of the Equality Act 2010. The PSED states that public authorities must have due regard to the need to:
    - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act;
    - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
    - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
3. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to highlight potential impacts of the ESF programmes on people with different socio-demographic characteristics. The EIA supports the compliance of the Welsh Government compliance with the PSED by providing evidence on the potential effects of the programme on people with the nine protected characteristics:
    - Age;
    - Disability;
    - Gender Reassignment;
    - Marriage and Civil Partnership;
    - Pregnancy and Maternity;
    - Race and Ethnicity;
    - Religion and Belief;
    - Sex / Gender; and
    - Sexual Orientation.
4. The report concludes that the development of the 2014-20 ESF programmes has included extensive consideration of equality and because of this it is highly unlikely that there will be any disproportionate negative impacts on any of the characteristics protected under the Equality Act and that it will support the Welsh language as required by the 2006 Government of Wales Act.
5. Key equality objectives for the ESF programme which cover a number of the selected Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities will be to:
    - Reduce the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET);
    - Reduce the over-representation of certain ethnic groups, care leavers and disabled young people among those who are NEET;
    - Provide targeted support to employers to employ disadvantaged individuals;

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- Support older workers, and those with health issues, to remain in work and continue to learn new skills;
- Identify and test solutions to pay and employment differences in Wales to overcome the negative impact that these have, in particular on women, disabled people and people from Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) groups;
- Create an environment which supports inclusive work places, promotes equality of opportunity for staff through improved employee engagement and supports the reconciliation of work and private life; and
- Support access for disabled people and those from BME backgrounds to training and employment opportunities.

6. The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement (PA) outlines the approach within all ESI fund programmes to the integration of equality, an approach acknowledged in the EIA as a key way of delivering equality through the Programmes. The Equality CCT will be implemented as part of the overall approach to the implementation of the CCT's including the Sustainable Development CCT (detailed in section 11.1) and Tackling Poverty CCT (detailed in Section 5).
7. **Selection and Development of Operations**
8. Specific to this Programme, the following actions will be taken in the selection and development of operations to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on the nine protected characteristics outlined above:
    - On-going specialist advice will be made available to beneficiaries. Specialist input will be provided at an early stage to maximise take-up of the opportunities to promote gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities;
    - A programme of awareness raising and training will be provided to Welsh Government staff and beneficiaries on integrating gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities;
    - Activity level guidance will be prepared together with best practice case study examples;
    - Regular monitoring of progress, through 'forecast' data and 'actual' achievement (monitored through the quarterly return system), allowing for early intervention if necessary;
    - Update reports to PMC and other stakeholders; and
    - Welsh Government will encourage key gender mainstreaming, equality and social inclusion organisations to be involved to establish a network of specialist support.
9. Equality result indicator targets will be set at a Priority Axis level providing an important driver to ensure that operations address the programme's CCT objectives. Targets will include, but are not limited to:
    - For Operations within the Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment and Skills for Growth priorities 50% of Employers assisted will adopt or improve equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems.
10. Further examples of specific actions are included in the poverty section which further identifies groups likely to face discrimination and poverty.

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11.3 Equality between men and women

Description of contribution of the operational programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational programme and operation level.

1. The Welsh Government's Gender Equality Scheme sets out its plans to promote equality of opportunity for women and men in Wales. Although the Welsh Government has no specific duty to produce a Gender Equality Scheme it wants to be recognised for providing an exemplary service to women and men in Wales by developing strategies and policies that are effective and outcome focused.
2. Key Equality Objectives for the ESF programme which cover a number of the selected Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities will be to:
    - Overcome the negative impact that pay and employment differences have on women in Wales;
    - Create an environment which supports inclusive work places, which promote equality of opportunity for staff through improved employee engagement and for reconciliation of work and private life;
    - Challenge occupational segregation by increasing the numbers of women and men training or retraining in non-traditional areas (e.g. childcare, social care) focusing on areas where there are skills shortages;
    - Challenge traditional employment roles where gender stereotypes may exist and assist young people, both males and females, to take up and retain employment in non-traditional areas or industries where specific genders are underrepresented, such as females in industries where STEM subjects are required (e.g. Engineering, Information Technology);
    - Increase the representation of women in STEM courses;
    - Provide affordable, quality childcare which meets the need of a modern economy and its workforce;
    - Identify and support opportunities to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language; and
    - Recognise health and wellbeing as one of the corner stones of a healthy, vibrant economy.
3. As outlined in Section 11.2 operations funded through the Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment and Skills for Growth Priority Axes will be required to contribute to the following Result Indicator:
    - Employers adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems.
4. The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement looks to identify how, as part of the Equality CCT, overcoming inequalities between men and women and promoting gender equality will be addressed. The Equality CCT will be implemented as part of the overall approach to the implementation of the CCT's including the Sustainable Development CCT (detailed in section 11.1) and Tackling Poverty CCT (detailed in Section 5).
5. **Selection and Development of Operations**
6. Specific actions are included where relevant in each Priority Axis section. These actions reflect the ESF Programme strategy and include a specific focus on the needs of women in employment. They will help to tackle the gender pay gap and support the role of women in the workplace, as well as challenging occupational segregation where it exists.
7. Specific actions within the programme for the selection and development of operations to promote and deliver the equality objectives above are identified in section 11.2.

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12. SEPARATE ELEMENTS

12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period

Table 27: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification/submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axes / Investment Priorities

12.2 Performance framework of operational programme

Table 28: Performance framework by fund and category of region (summary table)

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	Eligible Expenditure	Euros			~~63,300,209~~53,000,000			~~248,169~~238,000,000.00
1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare	Number			9,182			36,000.00

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
			responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)							
1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	ESF	Less developed	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability ; are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; from a jobless household)	Number			2,755			10,800.00
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	Eligible Expenditure	Euros			~~122,472,128~~13 3,000,000			~~482,367,489~~471,000,000.00
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - female	Number			~~3,258~~0			~~12,836~~0.00
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - male	Number			~~3,578~~0			~~14,100~~0.00
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number			~~5,543~~8801			~~21,840~~31,000.00
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number			~~6,088~~9666			~~23,991~~26,000.00
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education	Number			3,732			14,697.00

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018			Final target (2023)		
					M	W	T	M	W	T
			(ISCED 2) - female							
2 - Skills for Growth	ESF	Less developed	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number			4,099			16,144.00
3 - Youth Employment and Attainment	ESF	Less developed	Eligible Expenditure	Euros			83,941,491			329,093,318.00
3 - Youth Employment and Attainment	ESF	Less developed	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number			10,891			42,700.00
5 - Public services reform and regional working	ESF	Less developed	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Number			1			4.00
5 - Public services reform and regional working	ESF	Less developed	Eligible Expenditure	Euros			0			26.00

12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP ON EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES 2014-20

Partners:

- British Telecom (private sector)
- Cogitamus (private sector)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (equalities)
- Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (third sector)
- Swansea University (higher education)

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- Torfaen County Borough Council (local government)
- Plus representatives from key Welsh Government spending departments

EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES PARTNERSHIP FORUM (2014-20)

Partners:

- Bangor Mussel Producers Ltd (fisheries / private sector)
- Barsby Associates (Institute of Directors)
- British Telecom (private sector)
- CBI Wales (employers organisation)
- Cardiff University (higher education)
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (equalities)
- Forestry Commissioner for Wales (environment / rural)
- Grahame Guilford & Co Ltd (private sector)
- Gower College (further education)
- Job Centre Plus (employment)
- National Institute for Continuing Adult Education (education)
- National Trust (environment/rural)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Torfaen County Borough Council (local government)
- Wales Commissioner for Sustainable Futures (environment)
- Wales Co-operative Centre (third sector)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

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- Wales TUC (workers organisation)
- Welsh farmers (agricultural)
- Welsh Local Government association (local government)
- Working Links (employment)
- Plus representatives from key Welsh Government spending departments

POST 2013 WORKSTREAMS

Operational Programmes Workstream

Partners:

- Anglesey County Council CBI Wales (employers organisation)
- Cardiff County Council (higher education)
- Chwarae Teg (third sector)
- Countryside Council for Wales (environment/rural)
- Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales (environmental / sustainability)
- EEF Cymru (manufacturers' organisation)
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (higher education)
- Job Centre Plus (employment)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- RSPB Cymru (environment and countryside)
- Wales Co-operative Centre (third sector)

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- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

Delivery and Compliance Workstream

Partners:

- Arts Council of Wales (arts)
- Bridgend County Borough Council (local government)
- Countryside Council for Wales (rural)
- Gower College (further education)
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (local government)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

Monitoring and Evaluation Workstream

Partners:

- Bridgend County Borough Council (local government)
- Countryside Council for Wales (environment/rural)
- London Economics (private sector consultancy)
- Monmouthshire County Council (local government)
- National Trust (environment/rural)
- Swansea University (higher education)
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (third sector)

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- Welsh Local Government association (local government)

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Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By

Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Annex 1 Ex Ante Evaluation Report West Wales and the Valleys	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.2	18-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3842822	Annex 1 Ex Ante Evaluation Report West Wales and the Valleys	18-Nov-2014	njoneelu
Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014UK05SFOP001 2.2	Snapshot of data before send	2.2	31-Oct-2017		Ares(2017)5324221	Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014UK05SFOP001 2.2 en	31-Oct-2017	nsmithts
Annex 4 - Ex-Ante Conditionalities Self Assessment Grid	Documentation on the assessment of the applicability and the fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities	1.2	18-Nov-2014		Ares(2014)3842822	Annex 4 - Ex-Ante Conditionalities Self Assessment Grid	18-Nov-2014	njoneelu

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Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
~~Info~~		~~Programme version has been validated.~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.13.1~~	~~The total Union support (main+performance) per Fund/year (ESF/2017) in Table 17 should be equal to the total Union support for the programme/Fund/year in the last partnership agreement sent to the Commission (2014UK16M8PA001 3.2) : 115,067,721.00 - 114,530,434.00~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.13.1~~	~~The total Union support (main+performance) per Fund/year (ESF/2018) in Table 17 should be equal to the total Union support for the programme/Fund/year in the last partnership agreement sent to the Commission (2014UK16M8PA001 3.2) : 117,370,524.00 - 116,822,491.00~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.13.1~~	~~The total Union support (main+performance) per Fund/year (ESF/2019) in Table 17 should be equal to the total Union support for the programme/Fund/year in the last partnership agreement sent to the Commission (2014UK16M8PA001 3.2) : 119,719,335.00 - 119,160,341.00~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.13.1~~	~~The total Union support (main+performance) per Fund/year (ESF/2020) in Table 17 should be equal to the total Union support for the programme/Fund/year in the last partnership agreement sent to the Commission (2014UK16M8PA001 3.2) : 122,114,940.00 - 121,544,766.00~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.18.6~~	~~At least one indicator must be defined in the relevant indicator tables. Priority axis "4", specific objective "4.3", Table 12~~
~~Warning~~	~~2.65~~	~~The total ESF allocation (Main + Performance Reserve from Table 17) over all IGJ Programmes of country "UK" is not equal to the total ESF allocation in Table 1.4.1 of the Partnership Agreement with CCI "2014UK16M8PA001": "4,969,651,713.00", "4,942,593,693.00".~~

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PWYLLGOR MONITRO RHAGLEN CYMRU, CRONFEYDD STRWYTHUROL A BUDDSODDI EWROPEAIDD 2014 - 2020:

Diwygiad i Feini Prawf Dethol: Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru – Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020

Y mater dan sylw

1. Cyflwynwyd y papur "WPMC(15)56 Meini Prawf Dethol – Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig (EAFRD) 2014 -2020" i'r Aelodau yn ystod cyfarfod Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglen Cymru ar 11 Medi 2015. Roedd Atodiad 1 i WPMC(15)56 yn nodi'r Meini Prawf Dethol i'w defnyddio gan Gynlluniau o dan Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020. Cafodd y rhain eu diwygio ar gyfer rhai cynlluniau yn ystod cyfarfodydd mis Chwefror 2016, mis Medi 2016, mis Rhagfyr 2016, mis Mehefin 2017 a mis Medi 2017.

2. Fel yr esboniwyd yn WPMC(15)56 gall Llywodraeth Cymru, fel yr Awdurdod Rheoli, ddiwygio'r meini prawf dethol hyn neu gyflwyno meini prawf dethol newydd o fewn cyfnod y rhaglen, a hynny'n unol ag anghenion rhaglenni ac ar ôl ymgynghori â Phwyllgor Monitro Rhaglen Cymru.

3. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n cynnig addasu'r meini prawf dethol ar gyfer y cynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy a chyflwyno proses ymgeisio newydd a mwy syml ar gyfer grantiau rhwng €14,117 a €58,823 ar gyfer y Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy (gweler Atodiad 1) ac mae'n dymuno derbyn sylwadau gan yr Aelodau ynghylch y newid arfaethedig hwn.

Argymhelliad

4. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wrthi'n ymgynghori â'r Aelodau ynghylch y newidiadau sy'n cael eu cynnig i'r meini prawf dethol a ddisgrifir yn Atodiad 1.

Y Cefndir

5. Mae Atodiad 1 yn cyflwyno'r meini prawf dethol a gaiff eu defnyddio ar gyfer y Cynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy ac mae'n amlinellu'r dull newydd a mwy syml i'w ddefnyddio ar gyfer y Cynllun Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy (grantiau rhwng €14,117 a €58,823).

Y camau nesaf

6. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n gwahodd yr Aelodau i nodi'r newidiadau a gynigir.

Swyddog Arweiniol Tir, Natur a Bwyd: Gail Merriman

Cymeradwywyd gan: Terri Thomas: Dyddiad: 16 Ebrill 2018

Diwygiad i Gynllun presennol

Mesur 16.5: Y Cynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy

Braslun: Nod y Cynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy yw cefnogi prosiectau cydweithredol ar raddfa tirwedd i gymryd camau sy'n gwella ein hadnoddau naturiol mewn ffordd sydd o fudd i fusnesau ffermio a gwledig a chymunedau gwledig. Bydd hefyd yn cefnogi ac yn hwyluso gwaith cydgysylltu â chynlluniau eraill er mwyn cymryd y camau hanfodol sydd eu hangen i wneud busnesau ffermio a gwledig a chymunedau gwledig yn fwy cydnerth i wrthsefyll effeithiau'r hinsawdd drwy roi cymorth i brosiectau sy'n lleihau allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr o weithgareddau rheoli tir a busnesau ffermio yn uniongyrchol. Bydd dwy ffenestr yn 2018 a'r nod fydd targedu mwy o ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb gan fentrau cydweithredol sydd â grwpiau o reolwyr tir (ffermwyr, coedwigwyr, cominwyr, perchenogion tir) wrth eu gwraidd.

Y Meini Prawf Dethol a'r Cam Sgorio Datganiadau o Ddiddordeb:
Mae'r meini prawf dethol yn hollbwysig er mwyn rhoi'r cynllun ar waith a gweithredu Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016. Mae'r meini prawf yn adlewyrchu'r ymagwedd at reoli adnoddau naturiol a nodir yn y Ddeddf a phwysigrwydd mabwysiadu egwyddorion rheoli adnoddau naturiol yn gynaliadwy. Bydd y meini prawf yn parhau i annog gweithgareddau o dan Feysydd Ffocws 2, 4, 5 a 6.

Nodir y newid arfaethedig isod.

Y fersiwn gyfredol:

Bydd sgôr o 0 ym meini prawf 1-3 yn atal y datganiad o ddiddordeb rhag symud ymlaen i'r cam nesaf.

	Meini Prawf Dethol	Sgôr	Ffactor Pwysoliad
1	Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer Gweithredu i gefnogi Polisi Adnoddau Naturiol Llywodraeth Cymru	0-4	x 3
2	Cymhwyso egwyddorion rheoli adnoddau naturiol yn gynaliadwy	0-4	x 4
3	Camau i fynd i'r afael â heriau lleol ac achub ar gyfleoedd	0-4	x 3
4	Sicrhau trefniadau llywodraethu a rheoli prosiect da a chanlyniadau clir	0-4	x 2
5	Cynlluniau monitro a gwerthuso clir a phriodol.	0-4	x 2

Y fersiwn newydd arfaethedig:

Dangosir y diwygiadau mewn coch.

Bydd sgôr o 0 ym meini prawf 1-3 yn atal y datganiad o ddiddordeb rhag symud ymlaen i'r cam nesaf.

	Meini Prawf Dethol	Sgôr	Ffactor Pwysoliad
1	Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer Gweithredu i gefnogi Polisi Adnoddau Naturiol Llywodraeth Cymru	0-5	x 3
2	Cymhwyso egwyddorion rheoli adnoddau naturiol yn gynaliadwy	0-5	x 4
3	Camau i fynd i'r afael â heriau lleol ac achub ar gyfleoedd	0-5	x 3
4	Sicrhau trefniadau llywodraethu a rheoli prosiect da a chynlluniau monitro a gwerthuso clir a phriodol.	0-5	x 2
~~5~~	~~Cynlluniau monitro a gwerthuso clir a phriodol.~~	~~0-4~~	~~x 2~~

Esboniad o'r newidiadau:

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru, mewn ymateb i drafodaethau parhaus â'r gymuned ffermio a choedwigaeth, yn cynnig creu proses symlach a chliriach ar gyfer datganiadau o ddiddordeb er mwyn annog cyflwyniadau gan fentrau cydweithredol sy'n cynnwys rheolwyr tir a hynny, o bosibl, ar gam cynnar yn y trafodaethau cydweithredol. Nod y broses arfaethedig yw asesu potensial y mentrau cydweithredol hyn a arweinir gan gymunedau ar lawr gwlad yn hytrach na phroses sy'n ffafrio mentrau cydweithredol a phrosiectau sydd wedi'u datblygu ac sy'n bodoli eisoes. Mae'r newidiadau arfaethedig:

1. Yn symleiddio'r system sgorio o 5 i 4 cam (disgrifyddion sgorio ar gyfer 5, 3, 1 a 0).
2. Yn cyfuno'r ddau faen prawf olaf i greu un asesiad sy'n seiliedig ar drefniadau llywodraethu, rheoli a gwerthuso a chaiff y canlyniadau eu hasesu drwy'r ddau faen prawf cyntaf.
3. Yn gofyn i'r fenter gydweithredol ganolbwyntio ar 4 egwyddor allweddol yn ei hymateb ar gyfer Maen Prawf 2 er mwyn asesu dealltwriaeth y fenter o'r cysyniad o reoli adnoddau naturiol yn gynaliadwy.
4. Yn diwygio'r canllawiau ar gyfer y datganiadau o ddiddordeb hyn yn sylweddol er mwyn rhoi eglurder, lleihau'r angen am waith datblygu nas ariennir a rhoi canllawiau ynghylch faint o destun y dylid ei gyflwyno.

Caiff ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i wneud y cynllun yn fwy hygyrch ei gefnogi ymhellach gan Wasanaeth Cymorth, a gaiff ei lansio drwy'r rhaglen Cyswllt Ffermio i gyd-fynd â'r newidiadau hyn. Gwnaed hyn yn unol â gweithrediadau a maes ffocws Cymunedau Gwledig - Mesur 1 y Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig.

Prif nod y Gwasanaeth Cymorth arfaethedig yw cynyddu effaith y newidiadau arfaethedig i'r cynllun a galluogi ac annog mentrau cydweithredol a

phartneriaethau newydd i ddatblygu syniadau prosiect a gwneud cais i'r ffenestri sy'n weddill o dan y Cynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r rhan fwyaf o brosiectau sy'n symud ymlaen i ail gam y broses gwneud cais gan grwpiau a phartneriaethau sefydledig sydd eisoes wedi ystyried eu syniadau a'u gweithgareddau yn drylwyr.

Bydd Gwasanaeth Cymorth y Cynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy yn canolbwyntio ar helpu ffermwyr, coedwigwyr a rheolwyr tir eraill i ddatblygu syniadau prosiect newydd a ffurfio grwpiau cydweithredol newydd er mwyn gallu cyflwyno datganiad o ddiddordeb i'r Cynllun.

Bydd y gwasanaeth hefyd yn rhoi cymorth i brosiectau a gaiff eu gwahodd i ail gam y broses gwneud cais er mwyn eu helpu i ddiffinio'r trefniadau llywodraethu ar gyfer eu gwaith cydweithredol a hwyluso camau i ddatblygu cynlluniau'r prosiect yn llawn. Caiff y cymorth ei ariannu'n llawn ar y cam datgan diddordeb a'r cais llawn.

Mae'r gwasanaeth cymorth a'r meini prawf diwygiedig yn newidiadau hanfodol er mwyn gwneud y cynllun a'i arian cysylltiedig mor hygyrch â phosibl i'r rhai sy'n gwybod ac yn deall sut i reoli'r tir yn eu hardaloedd. Gyda'i gilydd, bydd y ddau newid hyn yn sicrhau y caiff y Cynllun effaith fuddiol ar y lefel gymunedol lle mae ei hangen fwyaf.

Y Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy:

Mae'r Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy wedi'i sefydlu i helpu busnesau ffermio i wneud newidiadau sylweddol er mwyn gwella perfformiad economaidd ac amgylcheddol eu daliadau.

Mae nifer yr achosion o lygredd ar ffermydd, sy'n effeithio ar ansawdd dŵr a bywyd gwyllt, wedi cynyddu'n ddiweddar. Yn aml, mae hyn oherwydd storio slyri'n wael a defnyddio cyfleusterau dŵr sy'n frwnt.

Bydd cylch nesaf y Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy, y bwriedir ei gynnal ym mis Gorffennaf, yn canolbwyntio ar helpu ffermwyr i gyflawni amcanion Llywodraeth Cymru, gan gynnwys rheoli maethynnau'n well a chynnal a gwella ansawdd dŵr drwy leihau llygredd. Bydd hyn yn golygu canolbwyntio ar reoli slyri a chyfleusterau storio dan orchudd. Mae'r hyn y gellir ei wneud yn dibynnu ar yr hyn y mae'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd a'r Gyfarwyddeb Nitradau yn ei ganiatáu.

Er mwyn sicrhau bod y broses ymgeisio'n syml, rydym yn bwriadu cynnig detholiad o eitemau ar gyfer rheoli maethynnau a storio dan orchudd. Yn groes i'r Grant Busnes i Ffermydd, ni fydd costau safonol yn cael eu defnyddio ar gyfer yr eitemau. Bydd yr ymgeiswyr yn nodi tri dyfynbris sy'n rhoi gwerth y prosiect a ragwelir ar eu datganiad o ddiddordeb.

Bydd y cymorth ariannol sydd ar gael drwy'r Grant Cynhyrchu Cynaliadwy yn amrywio o €14,117 i €58,823 fel cyfraniad o gyfanswm costau'r prosiect hyd at 40%.

Rhoddir pwyntiau i'r eitemau sydd wedi'u disgrifio ymlaen llaw yn unol â pha mor dda maen nhw'n bodloni gofynion y pedair thema: Iechyd a Lles Anifeiliaid, Storio Cnydau, Storio a Thrin Cynnyrch, a Rheoli Pridd a Chnydau, a'r tair thema drawsbynciol: Defnyddio Maethynnau'n Effeithlon, Arbed Ynni ac Arbed Dŵr.

Caiff sgoriau eu cynyddu yn unol â'r canrannau a ganlyn:

Nodwedd	**Canran i'w defnyddio**
Grwpiau o ffermwyr	10
Ffermwyr Organig	20
Grwpiau o ffermwyr organig	30

Rhoddir contractau i ymgeiswyr llwyddiannus ar sail eu datganiadau o ddiddordeb ac ar ôl i Lywodraeth Cymru gymeradwyo'u cynlluniau busnes.

PWYLLGOR MONITRO RHAGLENNI CYMRU, CRONFEYDD STRWYTHUROL A BUDDSODDI EWROPEAIDD 2014-2020:

ADRODDIADAU GWEITHREDU BLYNYDDOL 2017:

- **CYMUNEDAU GWLEDIG LLYWODRAETH CYMRU – RHAGLEN DATBLYGU GWLEDIG 2014-2020**
- **ERDF GORLLEWIN CYMRU A'R CYMOEDD**
- **ESF GORLLEWIN CYMRU A'R CYMOEDD**
- **ERDF DWYRAIN CYMRU**
- **ESF DWYRAIN CYMRU**

Mater

1. Mae angen i aelodau'r Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni ystyried a chymeradwyo Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol Cronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd Llywodraeth Cymru 2014-2020, fel y rhestrir uchod, cyn eu cyflwyno i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd erbyn y dyddiad cau rheoliadol, sef 31 Mai bob blwyddyn ar gyfer adroddiadau'r Cronfeydd Strwythurol a 30 Mehefin bob blwyddyn ar gyfer adroddiad y Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig.

Argymhelliad

2. Gofynnir i aelodau ystyried a chymeradwyo cynnwys yr Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol 2017 sydd ynghlwm.

Cefndir

3. Mae gofyniad rheoleiddiol ar Lywodraeth Cymru, fel yr Awdurdod Rheoli ar gyfer Cronfeydd Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd 2014-2020, i gyflwyno Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol ar gyfer pob cronfa, yn rhoi manylion y cynnydd yn ystod y flwyddyn galendr blaenorol, i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd bob blwyddyn.

4. Yn unol ag Erthygl 74(e) o Reoliad y Cyngor Ewropeaidd 1305/2013 mae'n rhaid ymgynghori ag aelodau'r Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni a cheisio eu cymeradwyaeth hwy cyn cyflwyno'r Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol i'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd

5. Mae strwythur a chynnwys yr Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol sydd ynghlwm yn dilyn templed adroddiadau'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn manylu ar y gweithgareddau yr ymgymerwyd â hwy i weithredu'r rhaglen yn ystod 2017.

Mae gwahanol dempledi ar gyfer Cronfeydd Strwythurol a'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig. Ceir crynodeb o'r adrannau perthnasol ar gyfer y rhain isod:

Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru – Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020

Adran 1 – Cynnydd y Rhaglen
Adran 2 – Cynnydd wrth weithredu'r Cynllun Gwerthuso
Adran 3 – Materion sy'n effeithio ar berfformiad y Rhaglen a'r mesurau a gymerwyd
Adran 4 –Camau a gymerwyd i weithredu Cymorth Technegol a gofynion cyhoeddusrwydd y Rhaglen
Adran 11 – Amgodio tablau ar gyfer dangosyddion cyffredinol a rhaglen-benodol a gwerthoedd targed meintiol

ERDF & ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd
ERDF & ESF Dwyrain Cymru

Adran 2 – Cynnydd y Rhaglen
Adran 3 – Gweithredu'r Echel Flaenoriaeth
Adran 4 – Cyfuniad o'r Gwerthusiadau
Adran 6 – Materion sy'n effeithio ar berfformiad y Rhaglen a'r mesurau a gymerwyd
Adran 9 – Camau a gymerwyd i gyflawni'r amodau o flaen llaw
Adran 11 – Asesiad o weithrediad y Rhaglen
Adran 12 – Cynnydd Gwerthuso'r Rhaglen

6. Dylid nodi bod y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd wedi penderfynu adnewyddu'r templed ar gyfer data monitro ar gyfer Adroddiad Blynyddol y Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig 2017. Nid oedd y templed hwn ar gael ar adeg cyhoeddi'r adroddiad drafft i'r Aelodau felly mae fformat y blynyddoedd blaenorol wedi'u defnyddio. Mae'n bosibl y bydd angen data ychwanegol unwaith bydd y templed diwygiedig wedi'i rhyddhau gan y CE yn ystod mis Mai.

7. Yn ogystal â'r prif adroddiadau a thablau monitro, atodir dogfennau cryno ar gyfer pob adroddiad hefyd.

Penderfyniad

8. Gofynnir i Aelodau ystyried a chymeradwyo'r pum Adroddiad Gweithredu Blynyddol 2017 drafft yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni ar 04 Mai 2018 ar gyfer:

- Cymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru – Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020
- ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd
- ESF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd
- ERDF Dwyrain Cymru
- ESF Dwyrain Cymru

Camau Nesaf

9. Mae Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol 2017 ynghlwm wrth y papur hwn.

10. Ymatebion gan Aelodau i'w derbyn hyd at a chan gynnwys diwrnod cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni. Fodd bynnag, os oes gan Aelodau unrhyw sylwadau o sylwedd, byddem yn ddiolchgar i'w derbyn yn ysgrifenedig cyn y cyfarfod. Anfonwch unrhyw ymatebion ysgrifenedig at Ysgrifenyddiaeth y Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni.

11. Caiff sylwadau/addasiadau aelodau'r Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni eu cynnwys yn yr adroddiad, lle cânt eu hystyried yn briodol.

12. Ar ôl derbyn gwybodaeth i'w chynnwys a phan fydd cworwm ar gyfer cadarnhau'r gymeradwyaeth, caiff Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol 2017 eu cyflwyno i'r Undeb Ewropeaidd erbyn y dyddiad cau.

13. Cyhoeddir fersiynau cymeradwy terfynol yr Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol 2017 ar ôl 31 Mai 2018 **er gwybodaeth yn unig**, gyda phapur yn nodi'r diwygiadau a wnaed o ganlyniad i sylwadau/addasiadau Aelodau. Wedi i'r UE gytuno'n ffurfiol ar yr adroddiadau, cyhoeddir crynodebau o'r Adroddiadau Gweithredu Blynyddol yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg a chyhoeddir y prif Adroddiadau yn Saesneg yn unig

Annual and final implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014UK16RFOP006
Title	United Kingdom - ERDF East Wales
Version	2017.0
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	

Not validated

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) AND 111(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

The East Wales Programme during 2017 continued to make good progress with the programme committing 65% of available EU funds against 26 approved operations. These commitments reflect that the logic set out for each Specific Objective remains sound, as do the overall results. The focus for delivery of the programme during 2017 has been on contributing to the results, rather than solely focussing on outputs. This is particularly important to recognise for those areas where delivery approaches have changed such as the increased targeting via smart specialisation.

Commitment across the priorities varies as expected with Research and Innovation and SME Competitiveness performing very well. 84% for Research resources and 92% of available funds for SME Competitiveness were committed by end 2017. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency is a very technical area of the programme and as such commitments have been slower to be made but progress has been made and by the end of 2017 (20% of available funds had been committed). Connectivity has made steady progress during 2017 with 26% of available funds committed. The programme's Technical Assistance priority has supported a number of regionally based operations to assist with the delivery and promotion of the programme. The small amount of uncommitted funds by end 2017 will be committed in 2018 to continue to support the delivery of the programme.

There is a healthy pipeline of potential proposals with interest in all areas of the programme being maintained. To maximise this interest a different delivery model to complement the existing open programme approach was introduced in 2017 for two of the programme priorities. For Research and Innovation 'Calls' were opened in the spring and autumn of 2017 to enhance the commercialisation and capacity building aims of the programme. Also, and building on the stakeholder engagement workshops, a 'Call' for Energy and Energy Efficiency proposals, specifically for small scale energy schemes was opened in the summer 2017. The 'Call' for Research Innovation generated a considerable amount of interest and commitments against those proposals supported under the Call commenced in 2017. Unfortunately the 'Call' for small scale community energy schemes was not quite so successful with only a small number of quality proposals submitted and taken into the business planning phase of the appraisal process. Overall, however, the 'Call' approach has added value to the open programme model and for Research and Innovation in particular where priority commitment is high the 'Call' was able to specifically focus the remaining resources on two key aims and associated indicators.

During 2017 the decision was taken that the Metro proposal, being a rail infrastructure development, was not a major project and as such the JASPER approach whilst very helpful and supportive came to an end. Metro will be delivered via a number of individual discrete proposals with the first commitment for Metro, East Wales made in

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2017. This decision will mean the programme will not be submitting for Commission consideration any Major projects.

The Programme has invested in a Financial Instrument to provide finance into SMEs. The Business Wales Fund is part of the Business Wales family, a collection of strategic operations that complement one another to increase SME competitiveness. During 2017 Finance Wales, the beneficiary for the Business Wales Fund, became the Development Bank for Wales. This change did not interrupt performance of the Fund which invested in 38 SMEs and raised £61 million in private investment in 2017. The Fund also hit key performance milestones resulting in two draw-downs in 2017 being made. During 2018 an update of the ex-ante for the Financial Instrument will be undertaken to include an update of the analysis of the market to assess the gap or changes in provision for debt/mezzanine/equity investments and whether further finance needs to be made available to fill this gap.

Steady progress across programme indicators was made during 2017. Due to the nature of ERDF a number of indicators will not be reported against until later into the programming period. During 2017 work was undertaken to review indicators across the programme. Some changes will need to be made to reflect where delivery approaches have changed significantly such as smaller scale operations that reflect evaluation findings of the 2007-2013 programming period, work to improve targeting approaches and operations commencing very much later in the programming period than originally planned for.

2017 N+3 target

The Programme met its N+3 target for 2017.

Programme amendments

In 2017 work commenced to review the delivery to date, including the implications of different targeting approaches and the changing socio-economic context in Wales. This review has highlighted challenges in some areas, in particular where Specific Objectives were reliant on fewer operations of a particular scale coming forward that have not materialised. Whilst the intervention logic set out for each Specific Objectives remains sound, as do the expected results some revisions to the programme will be required. Changes to the East Wales programme include:

- Reallocation of €17,550,000 from Priority 3 (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency); increasing Priority 1 (Research and Innovation) by €11,700,000 and Priority 2 (SME Competitiveness) by €5,850,000;

- Changes to the indicators and targets in different parts of the programme to reflect updated evidence and correcting incorrect assumptions at programme

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development stage; and

- Adjustments to the Performance Framework reflecting the above and to ensure indicators represent at least 50% of each Priority Axis.

The proposed modification was discussed at the December 2017 PMC meeting and subsequently approved. Discussions on the proposed changes with the Commission will commence in 2018 with a view of agreeing a modified programme by summer 2018.

E-cohesion

E-cohesion requires a system to allow the electronic transfer of data between beneficiaries and the Managing Authority. To manage Structural Funds WEFO uses an IT system called PPIMS, used by Managing Authority and Certifying Authority Officials. The externally facing system, used by beneficiaries to enter data, including everything from appraisal documentation to transaction lists and claims is called WEFO Online. By allowing the electronic transfer of data, WEFO Online meets the conditions of an Electronic Data Exchange System under the e-cohesion requirements and therefore WEFO has been compliant with e-cohesion as of November 2015.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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
1	Research and Innovation	By end of 2017 around 84% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 9 operations under the Priority. This included the first approval following the call for innovative proposals that can successfully translate research and innovation into new and improved commercial products, processes and services. The remaining proposals from the call are expected to be approved in the first quarter of 2018. With the key elements of the Priority in place there was an increasing focus on delivery this year but demand for R&I funding remains high and therefore it was decided to utilise the remaining funds strategically through another call, this time with the theme 'accelerating world-class collaboration in research and innovation'. The call was launched in December and demand is expected to be high. As previously reported, the shift in the targeting approach for this Priority, compared with previous programmes, has the potential to have a greater economic impact but will mean less of a focus on volume of businesses supported. This has particularly affected the commercialisation part of the Priority. The first call for proposals looked to address this and the resulting bids appear to have the potential to make a significant contribution to the commercialisation targets. The second call for proposals has a greater focus on capacity building but also has a strong emphasis on industry pull and is therefore expected to make a further contribution to the commercialisation targets.
2	SME Competitiveness	By end of 2017 around 92% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 7 operations under the Priority. This includes the 2 operations of the Wales Business Fund, now being delivered by The development Bank of Wales, alongside the Business Wales suite of operations delivering business support across the sectors. The Wales Business Fund is performing extremely well and a refresh of the ex ante assessment is to be undertaken early in 2018 to test whether there is a real demand and need to extend the provision already signed up to. The 2 operations under the Business Wales suite of operations that are run by the third sector organisations are

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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
		looking to widen their activities, particularly around niche gaps that should address future demand and the emerging policy shift in Welsh strategy through the published "Prosperity for all: economic action plan".
3	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	By end 2017 around 20% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 1 operation under the Priority, the Arbed 3 strategic operation for energy efficiency in housing (approved during 2016). The Priority also aims to support small scale community renewable energy schemes. Workshops around the Programme area have taken place to raise the awareness of available funds for small scale community renewable energy schemes and a call was undertaken in the early summer of 2017. One operation is now in the business planning phase. Significant challenges have arisen in the Community Energy specific objective. Changes to the legislative context have added to the complexity for community energy schemes in the UK, and combined with difficulty identifying match funding and capacity issues within community organisations this has meant take up in this area has been well below expectations. The energy efficiency in housing objective was reliant on the ARBED scheme. This has been significantly scaled back from the original planning assumptions in response to evaluation findings and the increased focus on fuel poverty. In light of the challenges noted above a programme modification is in development to propose reallocation of resources to more active programme areas.
4	Connectivity	By end 2017 over 26% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 3 operations under the Priority - the Superfast and Ultrafast broadband operations and the first of the South Wales Metro proposals (Llandaf and Radyr Station Improvements). The Programme is focused on these two activities and a further broadband project aimed at achieving 100% coverage has recently been submitted to WEFO for consideration in 2018. Discussions have continued with the EC, JASPERS and Welsh Government Transport over the development of proposals for the South Wales Metro with the decision now reached that this will not be progressed as a major project but as a number of individual discrete proposals. These are being worked up by Welsh Government and will be progressed during 2018.

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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
		It will be sometime before the Metro proposals get firmly underway in terms of delivery against indicator targets. However, indications are that from what has been approved and what is the pipeline, achievement appears to be on track for the priority.
5	Technical Assistance	By the end of 2017 81% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 6 operations in the Priority. This includes revenue support for WEFO in implementing the programme, the three 'Regional Engagement Teams' based in North Wales, Mid Wales and South East Wales, and Intermediary Body revenue support for the WCVA and Welsh Government department ESNR. Further commitment to existing operations may be allocated in 2018.

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

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation
Investment Priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 1 / 1a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	More developed	290.00			48.00			
S	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	More developed	290.00			102.00			
F	CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	Full time equivalents	More developed	110.00			61.00			
S	CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	Full time equivalents	More developed	110.00			66.00			

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(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	More developed	90.00			2.00			
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	More developed	90.00			81.00			
F	J2	Number of improved research infrastructure facilities	Number	More developed	2.00			1.00			
S	J2	Number of improved research infrastructure facilities	Number	More developed	2.00			2.00			
F	J3	Amount of research funding secured	GBP	More developed	65,000,000.00			28,921,327.00			
S	J3	Amount of research funding secured	GBP	More developed	65,000,000.00			55,264,157.00			

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	91.00			59.00			0.00		
F	CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	61.00			61.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	31.00			126.00			0.00		
F	J2	Number of improved research infrastructure facilities	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J2	Number of improved research infrastructure facilities	1.00			1.00			0.00		
F	J3	Amount of research funding secured	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J3	Amount of research funding secured	28,097,996.00			28,097,986.00			0.00		

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Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation
Investment Priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
Specific objective	1.1 - To increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
1.1	Research income for Higher Education Institutions	GBP	More developed	92800000	2012	6% increase		103,524,000	2015 total: £113.4million. Data for 2015 and 2016 are calculated differently to previous years which makes comparisons over time difficult. Transitional changes for 2015 make this year atypical. Data for 2016 onwards should be consistent from that point onwards

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1	Research income for Higher Education Institutions		117,403,000		113,400,000		

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Priority axis	1 - Research and 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

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 1 / 1b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	2,585.00			48.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	2,585.00			667.00			
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	320.00			0.00			
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	320.00			357.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	2,245.00			48.00			
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	2,245.00			304.00			

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(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	More developed	20.00			0.00			
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	More developed	20.00			6.00			
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	670.00			0.00			
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	670.00			120.00			
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	More developed	715.00			0.00			
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	More developed	715.00			94.00			
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	More developed	26,160,000.00			0.00			
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	More developed	26,160,000.00			19,140,200.00			
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	More developed	300.00			0.00			
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	More developed	300.00			73.00			
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to	Enterprises	More developed	440.00			0.00			

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(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
		introduce new to the firm products									
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	More developed	440.00			113.00			
F	J4	Number of patents registered for products	Number	More developed	315.00			3.00			
S	J4	Number of patents registered for products	Number	More developed	315.00			56.00			
F	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	More developed	0.00			0.00			
S	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	More developed	0.00			0.00			
F	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	50.00			0.00			
S	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	50.00			0.00			
F	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	50.00			0.00			
S	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	50.00			0.00			

Not validated

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	770.00			740.00			0.00		
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	305.00			305.00			0.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	459.00			435.00			0.00		
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	6.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	186.00			136.00			0.00		
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	211.00			4.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	27,540,200.00			25,540,200.00			0.00		
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	91.00			67.00			0.00		
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	141.00			117.00			0.00		
F	J4	Number of patents registered for products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J4	Number of patents registered for products	87.00			75.00			0.00		
F	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
		systems									
S	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Research and 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
Specific objective	1.2 - To increase the successful translation of research and innovation processes into new and improved commercial products, processes and services, in particular through improved technology transfer from HEIs.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
1.3	Average share of total turnover from product innovation, and novel innovation: new to market, new to business and significantly improved	%	More developed	22.40	2010	23.00			Data for 2016 not yet available. No data to report for 2017 as survey only takes place every 2 years.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.3	Average share of total turnover from product innovation, and novel innovation: new to market, new to business and significantly improved						

Not validated

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
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

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 2 / 1b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	25.00			19.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	25.00			0.00			
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	More developed	25.00			19.00			
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	More developed	25.00			0.00			
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	More developed	14,100,000.00			12,152,817.00			
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private	EUR	More developed	14,100,000.00			9,652,500.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
		investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)									
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	145.00			20.00			
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	145.00			70.00			
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	More developed	5.00			0.00			
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	More developed	5.00			6.00			
F	J14	Invetsment in enterprises	GBP	More developed	7,819,774.00			18,341,243.00			
S	J14	Invetsment in enterprises	GBP	More developed	7,819,774.00			12,650,000.00			
F	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	13.00			0.00			
S	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	13.00			1.00			
F	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	5.00			0.00			
S	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and	Number	More developed	5.00			1.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
		monitoring systems									

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	9,652,500.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	70.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
		introduce new to the firm products									
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	6.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J14	Invetsment in enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J14	Invetsment in enterprises	12,650,000.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
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
Specific objective	2.5 - To address market failures in the availability of finance, in particular risk capital, for Welsh SMEs to undertake innovation and commercialise R&D.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.5	Early stage equity investment	GBP	More developed	9000000	2012	£9.5m -£10m			Data not yet available for 2016.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.5	Early stage equity investment		9,000,000		9,000,000		12,000,000

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 2 / 3a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	2,430.00			142.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	2,430.00			4,031.00			
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	45.00			0.00			
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	45.00			0.00			
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	More developed	65.00			25.00			
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	More developed	65.00			31.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	120.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	120.00			0.00			
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	More developed	2,200.00			117.00			
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	More developed	2,200.00			4,000.00			
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	More developed	37,320,000.00			49,199,768.00			
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	More developed	37,320,000.00			16,780,500.00			
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	4,450.00			140.00			
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	4,450.00			7,015.00			
F	J10	Individuals receiving support - Female individuals	Number	More developed	3,100.00			0.00			
S	J10	Individuals receiving support - Female individuals	Number	More developed	3,100.00			0.00			
F	J11	Individuals receiving support - BME individuals	Number	More developed	445.00			0.00			
S	J11	Individuals receiving support - BME individuals	Number	More developed	445.00			0.00			
F	J12	Individuals receiving support - Disbaled individuals	Number	More developed	1,350.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	J12	Individuals receiving support - Disbaled individuals	Number	More developed	1,350.00			0.00			
F	J14	Invetsment in enterprises	GBP	More developed	25,863,898.00			61,279,773.00			
S	J14	Invetsment in enterprises	GBP	More developed	25,863,898.00			22,330,000.00			
F	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	1,225.00			6.00			
S	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	1,225.00			1,001.00			
F	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	490.00			4.00			
S	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	490.00			1,001.00			
F	J9	Individuals recieving support	Number	More developed	6,200.00			0.00			
S	J9	Individuals recieving support	Number	More developed	6,200.00			4,000.00			

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

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	4,031.00			4,000.00			0.00		
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	31.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	4,000.00			4,000.00			0.00		
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	16,780,500.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	7,015.00			6,750.00			0.00		
F	J10	Individuals receiving support - Female individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J10	Individuals receiving support - Female individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J11	Individuals receiving support - BME individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J11	Individuals receiving support - BME individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J12	Individuals receiving support - Disbaled individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J12	Individuals receiving support - Disbaled individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J14	Invetsment in enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J14	Invetsment in enterprises	22,330,000.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	1,000.00			1,000.00			0.00		
F	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and	1,000.00			1,000.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
		monitoring systems									
F	J9	Individuals recieving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J9	Individuals recieving support	4,000.00			45,000.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
Specific objective	2.1 - To increase the amount of finance available to SMEs for both business start-up and for business expansion.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.1	Amount invested in Venture Capital and Expansion Capital	GBP	More developed	18m	2012	19m-20m			Data not yet available for 2017. Latest data available for 2016: but expansion capital data for Wales combined with data for Northern Ireland. Venture capital - £9million, Wales, 2016; Expansion capital - £13million, Wales & Northern Ireland, 2016. Data for 2017 likely to be published in summer 2018.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1	Amount invested in Venture Capital and Expansion Capital				16,000,000		28,000,000

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
Specific objective	2.2 - To increase the number of SME start-ups through the provision of information, advice and guidance and support for entrepreneurship.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.2	Count of birth of new enterprises	Number	More developed	3595	2012	5% increase in annual rate			Data not yet available for 2017, likely to be published in November 2018. Data published in November 2017 was for 2016 (7,040 – West Wales and the Valleys ; 5,075 – East Wales).

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2	Count of birth of new enterprises		5,075		4,965		4,935

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 2 / 3d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	6,425.00			964.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	6,425.00			9,279.00			
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	10.00			0.00			
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	More developed	10.00			15.00			
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	More developed	115.00			0.00			
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	More developed	115.00			0.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	6,300.00			964.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	6,300.00			9,264.00			
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	More developed	2,220,000.00			0.00			
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	More developed	2,220,000.00			300.00			
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	More developed	3,360,000.00			0.00			
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	More developed	3,360,000.00			0.00			
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	2,550.00			771.00			
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	More developed	2,550.00			4,606.00			
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	More developed	400.00			0.00			
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	More developed	400.00			400.00			
F	J15	Increase in level of export	GBP	More developed	65,900,000.00			10,069,744.00			
S	J15	Increase in level of export	GBP	More developed	65,900,000.00			85,000,000.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	3,200.00			64.00			
S	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	3,200.00			3,300.00			
F	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	1,300.00			43.00			
S	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	More developed	1,300.00			3,300.00			

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	9,279.00			9,264.00			0.00		
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	15.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	9,264.00			9,264.00			0.00		
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	300,000.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	4,606.00			4,600.00			0.00		
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to	400.00			400.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
		introduce new to the firm products									
F	J15	Increase in level of export	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J15	Increase in level of export	85,000,000.00			85,000,000.00			0.00		
F	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J6	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	3,300.00			3,300.00			0.00		
F	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J7	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	3,300.00			3,300.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
Specific objective	2.3 - To increase the take-up and exploitation of NGA networks and ICT infrastructure by SMEs

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.3	SME use of fibre and cable broadband	% of SMEs	More developed	22%	2013	27%			Currently unable to access data for this indicator. Exploring options with Ofcom Wales, the data provider. This may require a programme modification. Most comparable data source available: SME receipt of fibre / superfast and cable fixed line broadband: 23% (2016).

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.3	SME use of fibre and cable broadband						22%

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
Specific objective	2.4 - To increase the growth of those SMEs with growth potential, in particular through accessing new markets (both domestic and international)

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.4	Employment within small (10-49 employees) and medium (50-249) SMEs	Percent	More developed	117100	2013	6% increase		125,700	

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.4	Employment within small (10-49 employees) and medium (50-249) SMEs		124,600		122,500		119,600

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment Priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 3 / 4a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	70.00			0.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	More developed	70.00			0.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	70.00			0.00			
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	More developed	70.00			0.00			
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	More developed	35.00			0.00			
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	More developed	35.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO30	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	More developed	8.00			0.00			
S	CO30	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	More developed	8.00			0.00			
F	J16	Community Energy Schemes	Number	More developed	3.00			0.00			
S	J16	Community Energy Schemes	Number	More developed	3.00			0.00			
F	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	Number	More developed	1.00			0.00			
S	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	Number	More developed	1.00			0.00			
F	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	Number	More developed	3.00			0.00			
S	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	Number	More developed	3.00			0.00			
F	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	More developed	3.00			0.00			
S	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	More developed	3.00			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]

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO30	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO30	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J16	Community Energy Schemes	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J16	Community Energy Schemes	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J5	Number of pilot projects	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
		completed									

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment Priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources
Specific objective	3.1 - To increase the number of small scale renewable energy schemes established.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
3.1	Number of sites generating electricity from renewable sources (excluding PV)	Number	More developed	493	2012	3-6 Aditional sites			Data for 2017 not yet available.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.1	Number of sites generating electricity from renewable sources (excluding PV)		834		812		

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment Priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 3 / 4c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	More developed	4,200.00			0.00			
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	More developed	4,200.00			765.00			
F	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	More developed	5.00			0.00			
S	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	More developed	5.00			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]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment Priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
Specific objective	3.2 - To increase the energy efficiency of the existing Welsh housing stock, particularly in areas of fuel poverty

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
3.2	Energy efficincy rating of households facing severe fuel poverty	EPC rating	More developed	61,000	2010	Increase energy performance by 2 ratings for 10% of baseline			Intervention not yet started.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.2	Energy efficincy rating of households facing severe fuel poverty						

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity
Investment Priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 4 / 2a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	More developed	28,000.00			35,422.00			
S	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	More developed	28,000.00			46,801.00			
F	J28	Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbps or higher networks	Number	Less developed	25.00			0.00			
S	J28	Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbps or higher networks	Number	Less developed	25.00			25.00			
F	J29	Additional population covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband	Number	More developed	0.00			39,096.00			
S	J29	Additional population covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband	Number	More developed	0.00			43,494.00			

Not validated

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	46,801.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J28	Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbps or higher networks	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J28	Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbps or higher networks	25.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J29	Additional population covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J29	Additional population covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband	43,494.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity
Investment Priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
Specific objective	4.2 - To contribute to Digital Agenda for Europe targets in Wales for 100% access to next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) and 50% access to 100Mbps

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
4.2	Proportion of premises that are in postcodes served by NGA networks	percentage	More developed	58%	2013	65%			Indicator has changed for 2016 so is not comparable with previous years. Unable to find equivalent indicator for 2017. Will explore with Ofcom Wales, the data provider. This may require a programme modification.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.2	Proportion of premises that are in postcodes served by NGA networks		85%		87%		58%

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity
Investment Priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 4 / 4e

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	More developed	3.00			0.00			
S	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	More developed	3.00			0.00			
F	CO15	Urban transport: Total length of new or improved tram and metro lines	km	More developed	5.00			0.00			
S	CO15	Urban transport: Total length of new or improved tram and metro lines	km	More developed	5.00			0.00			
F	CO2	Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	tCO2e	More developed	1,800.00			0.00			
S	CO2	Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	tCO2e	More developed	1,800.00			1.00			
F	J19	Public transport services created	Vehicle Km	More developed	420,000.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
		or improved									
S	J19	Public transport services created or improved	Vehicle Km	More developed	420,000.00			0.00			
F	J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	Number	More developed	5.00			0.00			
S	J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	Number	More developed	5.00			2.00			
F	J22	Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport	passenger km	More developed	67,200,000.00			0.00			
S	J22	Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport	passenger km	More developed	67,200,000.00			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]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO15	Urban transport: Total length of new or improved tram and metro lines	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO15	Urban transport: Total length of new or improved tram and metro lines	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO2	Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO2	Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J19	Public transport services created or improved	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J19	Public transport services created or improved	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J22	Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J22	Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity
Investment Priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures
Specific objective	4.1 - To increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
4.1	Total passengers using public transport between key urban links	Number	More developed	869,000	2013	10% increase in passengers for selected baseline			Data available on request only. As activity not sufficiently advanced WEFO has not yet asked for an update.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.1	Total passengers using public transport between key urban links						

Not validated

Priority axes for technical assistance

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 5

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	TA13	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number					2.00			
S	TA13	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number					17.00			
F	TAO1	Number of training events held	Number		10.00			1.00			
S	TAO1	Number of training events held	Number		10.00			1.00			
F	TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	Number		72.00			4.00			
S	TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	Number		72.00			8.00			
F	TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	Percentage		75.00			0.00			
S	TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	Percentage		75.00			0.00			
F	TAO12	Number of audit visits	Number		50.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	TAO12	Number of audit visits	Number		50.00			0.00			
F	TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	Number		1.00			0.00			
S	TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	Number		1.00			0.00			
F	TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	Number		90.00			0.00			
S	TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	Number		90.00			0.00			
F	TAO4	Number of research reports published	Number		34.00			0.00			
S	TAO4	Number of research reports published	Number		34.00			2.00			
F	TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	Number		100.00			0.00			
S	TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	Number		100.00			0.00			
F	TAO6	Number of dissemination events	Number		6.00			3.00			
S	TAO6	Number of dissemination events	Number		6.00			10.00			
F	TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	Number		10.00			0.00			
S	TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	Number		10.00			0.00			
F	TAO8	Number of press releases issued	Number		400.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	TAO8	Number of press releases issued	Number		400.00			15.00			
F	TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	Number		50.00			0.00			
S	TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	Number		50.00			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]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	TA13	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TA13	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	16.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO1	Number of training events held	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO1	Number of training events held	7.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	29.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	75.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO12	Number of audit visits	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO12	Number of audit visits	24.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	24.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO4	Number of research reports published	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO4	Number of research reports published	15.00			2.00			0.00		
F	TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	24.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO6	Number of dissemination events	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO6	Number of dissemination events	11.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO8	Number of press releases issued	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO8	Number of press releases issued	47.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	23.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	5.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis - 5 / 5.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
TAR1	Irregularity rate	percentage		0.53	2013	Below 2%		0.83	
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate	percentage		0.67	2012	Below 2%		0.05	

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
TAR1	Irregularity rate		0.25				
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate						

Not validated

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	5.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis - 5 / 5.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
TAR3	Customer satisfaction	percentage		45	2009	50			No customer satisfaction research undertaken to date.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
TAR3	Customer satisfaction						

Not validated

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	5.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis - 5 / 5.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
TAR3	Customer satisfaction	percentage		45	2009	50			No customer satisfaction research undertaken to date.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
TAR3	Customer satisfaction						

Not validated

Table 3B: Number of enterprises supported by the operational programme net of multiple support to the same enterprises

Indicator	Number of enterprises supported by OP net of multiple support
CO01 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	1,469
CO02 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0
CO03 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	39
CO04 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	1,435
CO05 - Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	117

Not validated

Table 5: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2017 Cum men	2017 Cum women	2017 Annual total	2017 Annual total men	2017 Annual total women
1	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	23,257,973.40					
1	I	I2	% of final target for 'number of enterprises receiving non-financial support' which has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	%	ERDF	More developed	2.00					
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed	48.00					
2	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	47,502,144.95					
2	I	I3	% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	%	ERDF	More developed	15.00					
2	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed	964.00					
3	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00					

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2017 Cum men	2017 Cum women	2017 Annual total	2017 Annual total men	2017 Annual total women
			by the authority									
3	I	I4	% of final target for householder with improved energy consumption classification has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	%	ERDF	More developed	0.00					
3	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed	0.00					
4	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	13,757,857.88					
4	I	I5	X% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractural agreements to deliver infrastructure works	%	ERDF	More developed	22.00					
4	O	J22	Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport	passenger km	ERDF	More developed	0.00					

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
1	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	19,138,466.89	0.00	0.00	
1	I	I2	% of final target for ‘number of enterprises receiving non-financial support’ which has	%	ERDF	More developed	1.00	0.00	0.00	

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
			been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations							
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	26,822,390.99	0.00	0.00	
2	I	I3	% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	%	ERDF	More developed	10.00	0.00	0.00	
2	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	I	I4	% of final target for householder with improved energy consumption classification has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	%	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption	Households	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
			classification							
4	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	I	I5	X% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractural agreements to deliver infrastructure works	%	ERDF	More developed	29.00	0.00	0.00	
4	O	J22	Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport	passenger km	ERDF	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
1	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	45500000			178,200,000.00		
1	I	I2	% of final target for ‘number of enterprises receiving non-financial support’ which has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	%	ERDF	More developed	28			100.00		
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed	n/a			2,245.00		
2	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying	€	ERDF	More developed	20300000			79,700,000.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
			authority and certified by the authority									
2	I	I3	% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	%	ERDF	More developed	28			100.00		
2	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	More developed	n/a			6,420.00		
3	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	11400000			44,800,000.00		
3	I	I4	% of final target for householder with improved energy consumption classification has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	%	ERDF	More developed	50			100.00		
3	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	More developed	n/a			4,200.00		
4	F	I2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	More developed	24450000			95,700,000.00		
4	I	I5	X% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractural agreements to deliver	%	ERDF	More developed	75%					

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
			infrastructure works									
4	O	J22	Gross passenger kilometres on public trnsport	passenger km	ERDF	More developed	n/a			67,200,000.00		

Not validated

3.4 Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: 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 the transmission of financial data))

Not validated

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis	Total fund	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
1	ERDF	More developed	Total	178,203,132.00	50.00	171,781,141.62	96.40%	140,699,213.45	25,977,832.53	14.58%	9
2	ERDF	More developed	Total	79,740,942.00	50.00	74,033,901.77	92.84%	50,244,088.25	48,745,366.06	61.13%	7
3	ERDF	More developed	Total	44,800,782.00	50.00	8,307,000.00	18.54%	8,307,000.00	0.00	0.00%	1
4	ERDF	More developed	Total	95,747,162.00	50.00	24,898,840.28	26.00%	24,898,840.28	14,122,805.82	14.75%	3
5	ERDF	More developed	Total	8,132,490.00	50.00	8,202,438.41	100.86%	8,133,465.31	882,259.76	10.85%	6
Total	**ERDF**	**More developed**		**406,624,508.00**	**50.00**	**287,223,322.08**	**70.64%**	**232,282,607.29**	**89,728,264.17**	**22.07%**	**26**
Grand total				**406,624,508.00**	**50.00**	**287,223,322.08**	**70.64%**	**232,282,607.29**	**89,728,264.17**	**22.07%**	**26**

Table 7: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention for the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

Priority axis	Characteristics of expenditure		Categorisation dimensions								Financial data			
	Fund	Category of region	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	Total elegibile expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	More developed	002	01	07	07	01		24	UKL2	9,360,000.00	9,360,000.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	More developed	058	01	01	07	01		08	UKL2	19,530,538.49	18,330,640.61	19,455,201.27	1
1	ERDF	More developed	058	01	07	07	01		24	UKL2	38,225,682.74	38,225,682.73	1,560,069.00	1
1	ERDF	More developed	060	01	07	07	01		13	UKL2	7,859,038.87	7,858,370.56	742,096.86	1
1	ERDF	More developed	060	01	07	07	01		24	UKL2	33,109,874.65	33,110,082.82	2,325,925.42	2
1	ERDF	More developed	064	01	07	07	01		24	UKL2	63,696,006.87	33,814,436.73	1,894,539.98	3
2	ERDF	More developed	066	01	07	07	03		24	UKL2	12,904,602.55	12,904,602.55	5,924,329.87	1
2	ERDF	More developed	066	03	07	07	01		16	UKL2	14,769,461.12	6,406,465.47	12,476,541.92	1
2	ERDF	More developed	066	04	07	07	03		16	UKL2	26,484,479.63	11,642,661.80	23,293,200.50	1
2	ERDF	More developed	067	01	07	07	03		24	UKL2	11,989,302.53	11,989,302.53	4,774,167.83	1
2	ERDF	More developed	073	01	07	07	03		24	UKL2	2,595,995.26	2,595,995.21	968,287.00	1
2	ERDF	More developed	073	02	07	07	03		24	UKL2	1,170,000.00	585,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	More developed	082	01	07	07	03		24	UKL2	4,120,060.68	4,120,060.69	1,308,838.94	1
3	ERDF	More developed	014	01	07	07	04		24	UKL2	8,307,000.00	8,307,000.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF	More developed	043	01	07	07	04		12	UKL2	3,510,000.00	3,510,000.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF	More developed	046	01	07	07	02		13	UKL2	16,307,317.68	16,307,317.68	10,497,182.10	1

Not validated

Priority axis	Characteristics of expenditure		Categorisation dimensions								Financial data			
	Fund	Category of region	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	Total elegibile expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
4	ERDF	More developed	047	01	07	07	02		13	UKL2	5,081,522.60	5,081,522.60	3,625,623.72	1
5	ERDF	More developed	121	01	07	07			18	UKL2	7,928,887.58	7,859,914.48	831,162.47	3
5	ERDF	More developed	123	01	07	07			24	UKL2	273,550.83	273,550.83	51,097.29	3

Not validated

Table 8: The use made of cross-financing

1	2	3	4	5	6
Use of cross-financing	**Priority axis**	**The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for cross financing based on selected operations (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (3/EU support to priority axis*100)**	**The amount of EU support used under cross financing based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (5/EU support to priority axis*100)**

Not validated

Table 9: Cost of operations implemented outside the programme area (the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal)

1	2	3	4	5
Priority axis	**The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for operations implemented outside the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (2/EU support to priority axis*100)**	**The amount of EU support in operations implemented outside the programme area based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (4/EU support to priority axis*100)**

Not validated

Table 10: Expenditure incurred outside the Union (ESF)

The amount of expenditure envisaged to be incurred outside the Union under thematic objectives 8 and 10 based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (1/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)	Eligible expenditure incurred outside the Union declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (3/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)

Not validated

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, with reference of name and reference period of the evaluation reports used

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During 2017, WEFO published the Ex Post Evaluation of the 2007-2013 Programmes. A brief summary of findings is given below.

Programme Design

Overall, the evaluation concluded that the programmes consisted of a well-defined and rationally designed set of Priorities. OB3 judged that each Priority was based on a sound intervention logic apart from the 'Modernising and improving the quality of our public services' Priority where there was an insufficient consideration of issues in public service delivery in the socio-economic analysis underpinning the programmes.

The evaluation found that, despite the economic downturn and major policy changes (particularly the Economic Renewal Programme and the UK Government's Work Programme) which occurred during the programming period, the original programme intervention logic remained valid for the most part. The evaluation also concluded that there was an appropriate degree of flexibility built into the programmes which enabled WEFO and project sponsors to respond constructively to rapidly changing conditions and circumstances.

Cross Cutting Themes

The evaluation concluded that was a lack of evidence to suggest that the Cross Cutting Themes (CCTs) had been fully integrated into the delivery of project activity, though this was much more likely to occur in projects that had a direct focus on either equality or environmental sustainability. Despite this, the evaluation found very encouraging examples of good practice in relation to the CCTs.

Outcomes

The evaluation found evidence of improved turnover and jobs created for supported businesses as well as a positive influence on people's decision to start a business and improvements to the financial resilience, governance and sustainability of social enterprises. The evaluation found evidence that ERDF funded infrastructure has

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increased passenger capacity of public transport systems and helped businesses expand through creating new business premises. The evaluation also found evidence of improvements relating to 'sense of place' and confidence levels in the perceived prospects of towns and areas where physical regeneration took place.

Key recommendations

- Optimising the mix of universally available information (e.g. via on-line platforms) and more intensive and expensive forms of support should be a key strategic priority.

- Future business support should integrate information, advice and guidance with access to finance at the point of delivery.

- Capacity and expertise on the CCTs should be used in the design and delivery of future business support. Information on the CCTs should be presented using language that businesses understand and can relate to.

- Future infrastructure development should be underpinned by more robust pre-developmental market testing to explore market failure, latent demand levels.This should be accompanied by more realistic assessments of the potential social, economic and environmental benefits of infrastructure projects.

- Future infrastructure and public realm projects should invest in up-front and inclusive forms of public consultation to, amongst other things, consider any disruptive effects (e.g. to local small businesses) as a result of public realm / physical regeneration construction works taking place.

- Evaluation planning of future infrastructure projects should take into account the longer timespan over which any benefits of infrastructure are likely to be realised.WEFO will shortly be commissioning a dedicated evaluation of ERDF infrastructure to try and assess any longer term effects.

An account of how WEFO has addressed these recommendations in the design and delivery of the 2014-2020 programmes is provided in the WEFO note accompanying the report. Both the report and the accompanying note are available at http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?lang=en.

2014-2020 programmes

Not validated

There were no programme level evaluation reports for the 2014-2020 period published during 2017 but the report of the inception evaluation for the Sêr Cymru II operation was published at the end of 2017. Sêr Cymru II aims to strengthen Wales' research performance through investing in Wales' research capacity by funding research fellowships in universities across Wales. There are three categories of research fellowships: Rising Star Fellowships designed to attract the very best in up and coming research talent; Research Fellowships designed to attract stellar candidates; and Recapturing Talent Fellowships designed to attract stellar researchers that want to return to work following a career break.

The Ser Cymru II inception evaluation found that there is a very clear, detailed policy framework underpinning Sêr Cymru II and its objectives are well-aligned with Welsh Government policy, particularly the Welsh Government's national science strategy (Science for Wales). The evaluation also found widespread support amongst stakeholders around the need for Sêr Cymru II to build a critical mass in Wales' scientific research base. The evaluation found that there is scope for Sêr Cymru II to demonstrate how it can better reflect and contribute towards the objectives of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. A further key finding was that while match funding for research fellowships already approved was ring-fenced by participating universities, future uncertainties over university funding resulted in uncertainty amongst universities over whether they could apply for further fellowships. This was highlighted as a key risk in terms of the on-going sustainability of Sêr Cymru II and levels of research being undertaken in Wales' universities in the future. The early-stage involvement of universities in advertising, developing, scrutinising and prioritising fellowship proposals was found to have resulted in high quality submissions for Sêr Cymru II funding and a high approval rate. However, this was found to have been a resource-intensive process for central university support staff. In response, the Welsh Government awarded participating universities 'one-off' payments in recognition of the development and on-going support to Sêr Cymru II funded researchers not directly covered by the grant awards. Progress to date has been positive in relation to appointing Research Fellows but interest and demand in Recapturing Talent fellowships has been more limited to date, due to difficulties in identifying and targeting this cohort. The evaluation found that the Cross Cutting Themes (CCTs) have been adequately considered in the design and development of Sêr Cymru II and the actions proposed in terms of implementing CCT activity via the ERDF funded operation are reasonable and logical. For example, it is reasonable to expect that Sêr Cymru II operations should make a positive contribution to a more gender-balanced research workforce in Wales. However, the lack of interest to date in the Recapturing Talent fellowships is a concern in this respect and needs to be a key consideration for the delivery team.

The report of the evaluation is available at: http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-ser-cymru-II-programme/?lang=en.

Not validated

Not validated

6. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

During 2017 the programme has performed well with planned commitments keeping to profile. No specific issues to report.

During 2017 WEFO have continued to monitor the impact of the UK referendum on membership of the European Union. Interest in the European Regional Development Fund does not seem to have been impacted by the decision to leave the EU. During this time WEFO have continued to undertake regular communications with stakeholders to promote the benefits of the European funding and to address any potential concerns raised by beneficiaries.

Not validated

(b) An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

A review of delivery to date, including the implications of different targeting approaches and the changing socio-economic context in Wales has highlighted challenges in some areas, in particular where Specific Objectives were reliant on fewer operations of a particular scale coming forward that have not materialised. Whilst the intervention logic set out for each Specific Objective remains sound revisions to the programme will be required.

Planned modifications in 2018 will reflect the above. Changes will include:

- Reallocation of €17,550,000 from Priority 3 (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency) : increasing Priority 1 (Research and Innovation) by €11,700,00 and Priority 2 (SME Competitiveness) by €5,850,000;
- Changes to the indicators and targets in different parts of the programme to reflect updated evidence and incorrect assumptions at programme development stage; and
- Adjustment to the Performance Framework reflecting the above and to ensure indicators represents at least 50% of each Priority Axis.

Not validated

7. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

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 in the SFC2014 application

Not validated

8. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

I. Identification of the programme and priority or measure from which support from the ESI Funds is provided (Article 46(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
1. Priority axes or measures supporting the financial instrument, including fund of funds, under the ESI Fund programme.	
1.1. Priority axis supporting the financial instrument under the ESI Fund programme	2 - SME Competitiveness
2. Name of ESI Fund(s) supporting the financial instrument under the priority axis or measure	ERDF
3. Thematic objective(s) referred to in the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 supported by the financial instrument	***03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)***
3.1. Amount of ESI Funds committed in funding agreements from the individual thematic objective chosen in field 3 (optional)	
4. other ESI Fund programmes providing contribution to the financial instrument	
4.1. CCI number of each other ESI Fund programme providing contributions to the financial instrument	2014UK16RFOP005
30. Date of completion of the ex ante assessment	30-Sep-2015
31. Selection of bodies implementing financial instrument	
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched	Yes
II. Description of the financial instrument and implementation arrangements (Article 46(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
5. Name of the financial instrument	The Wales Business Fund

Not validated

	(supported by ERDF) SO2.1 EW
6. Official address/place of business of the financial instrument (name of the country and city)	Wales, United Kingdom, Cardiff
7. Implementation arrangements	
7.1. Financial instruments set up at Union level, managed directly or indirectly by the Commission referred to in Article 38(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, supported from ESI Fund programme contributions	No
7.1.1. Name of the Union-level financial instrument	
7.2. Financial instrument set up at national, regional, transnational or cross-border level, managed by or under the responsibility of the managing authority referred to in Article 38(1)(b), supported from ESI Fund programme contributions under point (a), (b) and (c) of Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Entrustment of implementation
8. Type of the financial instrument	Fund of funds
10. Legal status of the financial instrument, pursuant to Article 38(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (for financial instruments referred to in Article 38(4)(b) only): fiduciary account opened in the name of the implementing body and on behalf of the managing authority or separate block of finance within a financial institution	Separate block of finance
III. Identification of the body implementing the financial instrument as referred to in Articles 38(1)(a), 38(4)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, and the financial intermediaries referred to in Article 38(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Article 46(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
11. Body implementing the financial instrument	
11.1. Type of implementing body pursuant to Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (a) existing or newly created legal entity dedicated to implementing financial instruments; (b) a body entrusted with the implementation task or (c) managing authority underatking implementation task directly (for loans or guarantees only)	Existing or newly created legal entity
11.1.1. Name of the body implementing the financial	Finance Wales Investments

Not validated

instrument	Ltd
11.1.2. Official address/place of business (country and town name) of the body implementing the financial instrument	Wales, United Kingdom, Cardiff
12. Procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument: award of a public contract; other procedure	Selection in accordance with the provisions of the public procurement directive
12.1. Description of the other procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument	
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	15-Dec-2016
IV. Total amount of programme contributions, by priority or measure, paid to the financial instrument and management costs incurred or management fees paid (Article 46(2)(d) and (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
14. Total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement (in EUR)	40,500,000.00
14.1. out of which ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	12,375,000.00
14.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR) (optional)	
15. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	23,293,200.51
15.1. out of which amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	9,270,809.25
15.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR)	9,270,809.25
15.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR)	0.00

Not validated

15.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR)	0.00
15.2. out of which total amount of national co-financing (in EUR)	14,022,391.26
15.2.1. out of which total amount of national public funding (in EUR)	14,022,391.26
15.2.2. out of which total amount of national private funding (in EUR)	0.00
16. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument under Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) (in EUR)	0.00
17. Total amount of management costs and fees paid out of programme contributions (in EUR)	0.00
17.1. out of which base remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
17.2. out of which performance-based remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
18. Capitalised management costs or fees pursuant to Article 42(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant only for final report) (in EUR)	
19. Capitalised interest rate subsidies or guarantee fee subsidies pursuant to Article 42(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant to final report only) (in EUR)	
20. Amount of programme contributions for follow-on investments in final recipients pursuant to Article 42(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
21. Contributions of land and/or real estate in the financial instrument pursuant to Article 37(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
VI. The performance of the financial instrument, including progress in its set-up and in selection of bodies implementing the financial instrument (including the body implementing a fund of funds) (Article 46(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	

Not validated

32. Information whether the financial instrument was still operational at the end of the reporting year	Yes
32.1. If the financial instrument was not operational at the end of the reporting year, date of the winding-up	
VII. Interest and other gains generated by support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument, programme resources paid back to financial instrument from investments as referred to in Articles 43 and 44, and the value of equity investments with respect to previous years (Article 46(2)(g) and (i) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
35. Interest and other gains generated by payments from ESI Funds to the financial instrument (in EUR)	2,256.82
37. Amounts of resources reused which were paid back to the financial instrument and are attributable to ESI Funds	0.00
37.1. out of which amounts paid for preferential remuneration of private investors operating under the market economy principle who provide counterpart resources to the support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument or who co-invest at the level of final recipient (in EUR)	0.00
37.2. out of which amounts paid for the reimbursement of management costs incurred and payment of management fees of the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
VIII. Progress in achieving the expected leverage effect of investments made by the financial instrument and value of investments and participations (Article 46(2)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
38. Total amount of other contributions, outside ESI Funds, raised by the financial instrument (EUR)	
38.1. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (in EUR)	28,125,000.00
38.2. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	9,375,000.00
38.2.1. out of which public contributions (EUR)	9,375,000.00
38.2.2. out of which private contributions (EUR)	0.00

Not validated

I. Identification of the programme and priority or measure from which support from the ESI Funds is provided (Article 46(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
1. Priority axes or measures supporting the financial instrument, including fund of funds, under the ESI Fund programme.	
1.1. Priority axis supporting the financial instrument under the ESI Fund programme	2 - SME Competitiveness
2. Name of ESI Fund(s) supporting the financial instrument under the priority axis or measure	ERDF
3. Thematic objective(s) referred to in the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 supported by the financial instrument	***01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation***
3.1. Amount of ESI Funds committed in funding agreements from the individual thematic objective chosen in field 3 (optional)	
4. other ESI Fund programmes providing contribution to the financial instrument	
4.1. CCI number of each other ESI Fund programme providing contributions to the financial instrument	2014UK16RFOP005
30. Date of completion of the ex ante assessment	30-Sep-2015
31. Selection of bodies implementing financial instrument	
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched	Yes
II. Description of the financial instrument and implementation arrangements (Article 46(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
5. Name of the financial instrument	The Wales Business Fund (supported by ERDF) SO2.5 EW
6. Official address/place of business of the financial instrument (name of the country and city)	Wales, United Kingdom, Cardiff
7. Implementation arrangements	
7.1. Financial instruments set up at Union level, managed	No

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directly or indirectly by the Commission referred to in Article 38(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, supported from ESI Fund programme contributions	
7.1.1. Name of the Union-level financial instrument	
7.2. Financial instrument set up at national, regional, transnational or cross-border level, managed by or under the responsibility of the managing authority referred to in Article 38(1)(b), supported from ESI Fund programme contributions under point (a), (b) and (c) of Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Entrustment of implementation
8. Type of the financial instrument	Fund of funds
10. Legal status of the financial instrument, pursuant to Article 38(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (for financial instruments referred to in Article 38(4)(b) only): fiduciary account opened in the name of the implementing body and on behalf of the managing authority or separate block of finance within a financial institution	Separate block of finance
III. Identification of the body implementing the financial instrument as referred to in Articles 38(1)(a), 38(4)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, and the financial intermediaries referred to in Article 38(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Article 46(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
11. Body implementing the financial instrument	
11.1. Type of implementing body pursuant to Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (a) existing or newly created legal entity dedicated to implementing financial instruments; (b) a body entrusted with the implementation task or (c) managing authority underatking implementation task directly (for loans or guarantees only)	Existing or newly created legal entity
11.1.1. Name of the body implementing the financial instrument	Finance Wales Investments Ltd
11.1.2. Official address/place of business (country and town name) of the body implementing the financial instrument	Wales, United Kingdom, Cardiff
12. Procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument: award of a public contract; other	Selection in accordance with the provisions of the public procurement

Not validated

procedure	directive
12.1. Description of the other procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument	
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	15-Dec-2016
IV. Total amount of programme contributions, by priority or measure, paid to the financial instrument and management costs incurred or management fees paid (Article 46(2)(d) and (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
14. Total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement (in EUR)	16,250,000.00
14.1. out of which ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	6,875,000.00
14.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR) (optional)	
15. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	12,476,541.92
15.1. out of which amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	4,961,140.22
15.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR)	4,961,140.22
15.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR)	0.00
15.2. out of which total amount of national co-financing (in EUR)	7,515,401.70
15.2.1. out of which total amount of national public funding (in EUR)	7,515,401.70

Not validated

15.2.2. out of which total amount of national private funding (in EUR)	0.00
16. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument under Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) (in EUR)	0.00
17. Total amount of management costs and fees paid out of programme contributions (in EUR)	0.00
17.1. out of which base remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
17.2. out of which performance-based remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
18. Capitalised management costs or fees pursuant to Article 42(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant only for final report) (in EUR)	
19. Capitalised interest rate subsidies or guarantee fee subsidies pursuant to Article 42(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant to final report only) (in EUR)	
20. Amount of programme contributions for follow-on investments in final recipients pursuant to Article 42(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
21. Contributions of land and/or real estate in the financial instrument pursuant to Article 37(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
VI. The performance of the financial instrument, including progress in its set-up and in selection of bodies implementing the financial instrument (including the body implementing a fund of funds) (Article 46(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
32. Information whether the financial instrument was still operational at the end of the reporting year	Yes
32.1. If the financial instrument was not operational at the end of the reporting year, date of the winding-up	
VII. Interest and other gains generated by support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument, programme resources paid back to financial instrument from investments as referred to in Articles 43 and 44, and the value of equity investments with respect to previous years (Article 46(2)(g) and (i) of Regulation	

Not validated

(EU) No 1303/2013)	
35. Interest and other gains generated by payments from ESI Funds to the financial instrument (in EUR)	1,217.74
37. Amounts of resources reused which were paid back to the financial instrument and are attributable to ESI Funds	0.00
37.1. out of which amounts paid for preferential remuneration of private investors operating under the market economy principle who provide counterpart resources to the support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument or who co-invest at the level of final recipient (in EUR)	0.00
37.2. out of which amounts paid for the reimbursement of management costs incurred and payment of management fees of the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
VIII. Progress in achieving the expected leverage effect of investments made by the financial instrument and value of investments and participations (Article 46(2)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
38. Total amount of other contributions, outside ESI Funds, raised by the financial instrument (EUR)	
38.1. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (in EUR)	9,375,000.00
38.2. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	3,125,000.00
38.2.1. out of which public contributions (EUR)	3,125,000.00
38.2.2. out of which private contributions (EUR)	0.00

Not validated

9. OPTIONAL FOR THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016, NOT APPLICABLE TO OTHER LIGHT REPORTS: ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

Table 14: Actions taken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary

Not validated

Table 15: Actions taken to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary

Not validated

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

10.1. Major projects

Table 12: 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 (year, quarter)	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	Observations

Not validated

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

No Major projects have been approved under the Programme.

Not validated

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the operational programme

Following discussions with the European Commission, JASPERS and Welsh Government Transport, it has been agreed that the Metro proposals don't constitute a major project and that this approach will be abandoned. The proposals will therefore be taken forward as number of individual discrete projects to be approved by WEFO.

Not validated

10.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable to the Programme.

Not validated

Table 13: 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

Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Not applicable to the Programme.

Not validated

PART B

REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

(Article 50(4), 111(3) and (4) of regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

11. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLES 50(4) AND 111(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to prevent discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the operational programme and operations (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.3. Sustainable development (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable to the reporting year.

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

Priority axis	**Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)**	**Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)**
3	4,153,500.00	18.54%
4	702,000.00	1.47%
Total	**4,855,500.00**	**2.39%**

Not validated

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.5. Role of partners in the implementation of the programme

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

12. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 111(4), FIRST SUBPARAGRAPH, (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013

12.1. Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

Not applicable to the reporting year.

12.2. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

13. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) (MAY BE INCLUDED IN REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016 (SEE POINT 9 ABOVE). REQUIRED IN REPORT SUBMITTED IN 2017) OPTION: PROGRESS REPORT

Not validated

14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 111(4), SECOND SUBPARAGRAPH, (A), (B), (C), (D), (G) AND (H), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

14.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including development of regions facing demographic challenges and permanent or natural handicaps, integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the operational programme

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.2. Progress in the implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the Funds

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.3. Progress in the implementation of any interregional and transnational actions

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.4. Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

☐ 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)

Not validated

14.5. Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation, where appropriate

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.6. Progress in the implementation of measures to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of poverty discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities and persons with disabilities, long term unemployment and young people not in employment including, where appropriate, the financial resources used

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

PART C REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

15. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (ARTICLES 21(2) AND 22(7) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Not validated

16. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH (OPTION PROGRESS REPORT)

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

17. 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).

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By

Not validated

Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message

Not validated

European Structural Fund Programmes 2014-2020

East Wales ERDF

2017 Annual Implementation Report – Summary

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1. Introduction

This is the third Annual Implementation Report for the East Wales ERDF Programme, covering the reporting year of 2017.

Wales benefits from around €2.4bn of EU Funds through the four Structural Funds programmes 2014-2020. This includes around €407m through the East Wales European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme to help deliver economic growth by promoting high levels of sustainable employment, developing a skilled and responsive Welsh workforce now and for the future.

About the Programme

The East Wales ERDF Programme is focused on investments which can help to create sustainable jobs and economic growth, concentrating resources in areas where the greatest impact can be made. In delivering its objectives, the programme properly considers and incorporates social and environmental opportunities, fully reflecting the Welsh Government's central organising principle of Sustainable Development.

The Programme is split into five priority areas:

Priority 1: Research and Innovation

- Increase research funding (private and competitive) attracted to Wales' research institutions.
- Increase commercialisation of RD&I by Welsh businesses within the programme area.

Priority 2: SME Competitiveness

- Address market failures in the provision of loan and equity finance to SMEs, including risk capital.
- Increase number and survival of SMEs, particularly high growth SMEs (including Social Enterprises).
- Increase employment growth in SMEs with growth potential by addressing barriers at key stages of growth.
- Increase the take-up and exploitation of Superfast and Ultrafast Broadband by SMEs in Wales.

Priority 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

- Increasing the number of commercially viable small scale renewable energy schemes.
- Improve energy efficiency in those households facing the highest levels of fuel poverty.

Priority 4: Connectivity

- Improving access to key urban and employment centres by public transport.
- Completion of Superfast ICT broadband networks.

Priority 5: Technical Assistance

- Ensure the efficient and effectitive management of the Programme.
- Provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of projects.
- Enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider European Commission-led and Sector based programmes.

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Budget available under each of the Programme's Priorities:

Priority	EU Budget	Total Budget[1]
Priority 1: Research and Innovation	€89m	€178m
Priority 2: SME Competitiveness	€40m	€80m
Priority 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	€22m	€45m
Priority 4: Connectivity	€48m	€96m
Priority 5: Technical Assistance	€4m	€8m
Total available under the Programme	**€203m**	**€407m**

[1] The amount from the EU Budget combined with match funding

The Managing Authority for the Programme is the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), within the Welsh Government.

More information on the programmes' aims and objectives can be found in the East Wales ERDF Programme document and summary on the Welsh Government website at http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/2014-2020/east-wales/?lang=en

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2. Programme progress

Overview

By the end of 2017, the Welsh Government had invested €132m of EU funds to 65 projects, driving a total investment of €287m in East Wales.

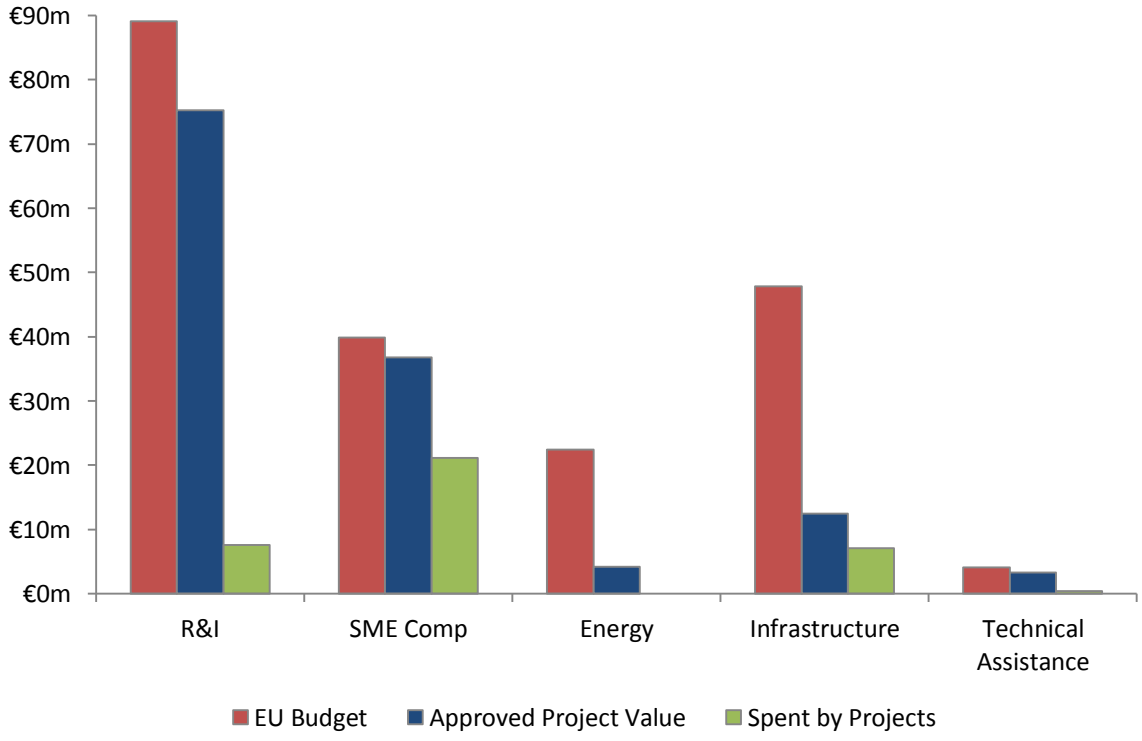
Good progress was made across a number of the Programme indicators during 2017, including:

- Over 1,100 businesses supported and over 900 jobs created.
- £29m of research income generated through EU projects.
- The Wales Business Fund, delivered by the Development Bank of Wales, had invested £77m in Welsh SMEs.
- 35,400 additional premises given broadband access of at least 30 Mbps and over 39,000 additional people given ultrafast broadband coverage of over 100Mbps.
- Progress against a number of other Programme indicators, for example in public transport, will be reported later in the programming period due to the nature of the activity funded through this Programme.

Financial progress

The following chart shows, at Priority level, the total allocation of EU funds, and how much funds has been invested in and spent by projects.

Chart 1: EU Funds: Budget, Approved and Spent



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3. Progress by Priority

Priority 1: Research and Innovation

Investing in innovation and research is helping to drive forward Wales' global competitiveness and productivity. EU funds are supporting the development of world class research capacity in Wales, building on existing strengths to attract further private and competitive research funding. EU funds are also supporting businesses to develop, test and launch new and improved commercial products, processes and services, including those relating to low carbon.

By the end of the year, around 84% (€75m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested in nine projects. This included the first project approval submitted through WEFO's funding call in 2016 for innovative proposals which can successfully translate research and innovation into new and improved commercial products, processes and services. WEFO will be making approval decisions on the remaining proposals submitted through this call in 2018. As demand for Research and Innovation funding continues to be high, another call, focussed on 'accelerating world-class collaboration in research and innovation', was launched in December and has attracted significant interest.

SMART CYMRU

The Welsh Government's SMART Cymru scheme provides financial support to Welsh businesses to help them develop, implement and commercialise new products, processes and services.

Backed by £27m of EU funds, the scheme supports R&D ventures including in the areas of industrial research, technical and commercial feasibility, experimental development, exploitation and open innovation.

Specialist manufacturer Markes International, based in Llantrisant, benefited from SMART Cymru to help develop the company's new HiSorb™ product range for high-capacity sorptive extraction of organic chemicals from liquids and solids.

HiSorb Product Manager, said: "There are many applications of HiSorb, but a key focus for us at the moment is the profiling of beverages, foods, and fragranced products.

"To this end, we've already conducted a number of challenging real-world applications including analysis of flavour compounds in coffee, whisky and milk."

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Priority 2: SME Competitiveness

Supporting the creation and growth of business is helping to build a strong and competitive Welsh economy. EU funds are providing finance and support to help start up ventures, supporting small and medium-sized companies (including social enterprises) to expand and access new markets, and addressing market failures in the provision of repayable finance to those businesses. EU funds are also helping businesses to realise the competitive advantage offered by the availability of superfast broadband across Wales.

By the end of the year, the Welsh Government had invested 92% (€37m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested in seven projects. Investments within this Priority form an integrated suite of initiatives led by the Welsh Government, Wales Co-Operative Centre, the Development Bank of Wales and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, known as the 'Business Wales Family'. The Wales Business Fund, led by the Development Bank of Wales, is performing well and in early 2018 an assessment will identify whether there is further demand and scope to extend the provision of this fund.

Wales Business Fund

The Wales Business Fund, managed by the Development Bank of Wales, is supporting small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to accelerate their expansion plans by providing loans and equity investments from £50,000 up to £2 million.

Jöttnar, the technical outdoor clothing company headquartered in Cardiff, received a seven-figure investment from the Wales Business Fund, which is supported by EU funds, and from London-based investment fund Venrex.

Jöttnar moved into its fifth year of trading with the launch of its new 23-piece winter collection, having only started trading with just six items. They took a couple of years to set up their business, but for both founders the best way to achieve real professional and personal satisfaction was to build a business around the things that they were passionate about.

One of the founders said: "This investment is going to support our expansion over the next few years as we grow our product range and promote the Jöttnar brand. We've been really happy with the support offered by the investor syndicate and their ability to offer a flexible funding solution for us."

The Development Bank of Wales said it was delighted that the Wales Business Fund could support the business to create a high quality product and a brand that is gaining a reputation for superiority in the technical clothing market.

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Priority 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

EU funds invested through the Increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency priority are helping to reduce the impact of carbon emissions on the environment and help tackle fuel poverty. They are helping to address barriers to the development of small scale renewable energy schemes and improve energy efficiency in existing Welsh housing stock for the most fuel poor.

By the end of 2017, one-fifth of the EU funds available had been invested in the Welsh Government's Arbed 3 project to improve energy efficiency in housing. A call for small scale renewable energy schemes took place in the summer, supported by workshops to raise awareness of EU funds for this type of activity.

In response to evaluation findings for previous Arbed schemes and a renewed increased focus on fuel poverty, together with significant challenges in taking forward small scale community renewable energy schemes, there is potential to move some of the Priority's funds to support other areas of the programme.

Arbed

The Arbed scheme, part of the Welsh Government's Warm Homes programme, provides funding to support home energy efficiency improvements in low income households across Wales' deprived communities.

The Arbed scheme is worth some £104m, and includes £33m of EU funds, of which £3.6m is for East Wales.

Arbed works with social housing providers and other partners, including local authorities, to make deprived communities of Wales more energy efficient. This is achieved by retro-fitting homes with measures including solid wall insulation, solar panels and heat pumps.

The improvements made will help ensure long-term solutions are being put in place to future proof Welsh homes.

Priority 4: Connectivity

Developing transport solutions and improving digital connectivity are helping to build thriving businesses and communities, and boost employment across Wales. EU funds are improving public transport in urban areas, and helping to complete superfast digital networks in Wales.

By the end of 2017, EU funds of €12m (26% of the Priority's allocation)had been invested in the Superfast and Ultrafast broadband projects and the first of the South Wales Metro projects (Llandaf and Radyr Station Improvements) being led by the Welsh Government. Further South Wales Metro proposals are underway and will be

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considered for approval of EU funds during 2018. WEFO also is considering a further Superfast and Ultrafast broadband proposal to achieve 100% coverage in East Wales.

Radyr and Llandaf station improvements

Forming part of the South Wales Metro programme, a transformational initiative to help people access work and other services, improvements have been made at two commuter stations in Cardiff.

EU funds of £1.5m have been invested to improve passenger experiences at Radyr and Llandaf stations by creating new paved areas, modern and comfortable waiting shelters, new ticket offices and toilet facilities, a 187 space park and ride facility, and better lighting and CCTV. Improvements have also been made so facilities are more accessible, including the provision of better and safer parking for cars and cycles.

The improvements will complement other South Wales Metro developments, reducing car use and traffic congestion on routes into the centre of Cardiff and helping to improve air quality.



Priority 5: Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance is an essential resource, utilised by WEFO and other partners, for supporting the effective delivery of the Programme.

By the end of 2017, EU funds worth €3m (81% of the Priority's allocation) had been invested in six projects. This includes revenue support for WEFO to effectively deliver the programme, the three 'Regional Engagement Teams' based in North Wales, Mid Wales and South East Wales, and Intermediary Body revenue support for the WCVA and Welsh Government department ESNR. Further investment to existing projects is being considered.

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Annual and final implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014UK05SFOP002
Title	United Kingdom - ESF East Wales
Version	2017.0
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	

Not validated

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) AND 111(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

By the end of December 2017 the Programme had made good progress with a total of 34 operations approved. Some €411m of total eligible costs has been committed; of which €126m of EU Grant has been awarded (around 62% of the EU funds available under the Programme). All of the 'backbone' operations were already in place and a number of extensions were made to existing operations to award additional funding. This increase in the pace of commitment reflected WEFO's own internal target to move towards 80% EU Grant commitment of the four main regional Structural Funds Programmes by the end of December 2017.

In terms of progress at Priority-level, EU Grant commitment stood at 42% of the EU funds available under Priority 1 (Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment) by the end of December 2017, where 7 operations have been approved in total, including two operations during 2017. These were the Newport City Council-led ***Journey 2 Work*** and the Powys County Council-led ***Workways Plus Powys***. For Priority 2 (Skills for Growth), EU Grant commitment stood at 57% of the EU funds available by the end of December 2017, where 10 operations have been approved. EU Grant commitment stood at 82% of the EU funds available under Priority 3 (Youth Employment and Attainment) by the end of December 2017, where 12 operations have been approved, including 3 operations during 2017. These were the Powys County Council-led ***Cynnydd***, the Newport City Council-led ***Inspire 2 Work*** and the Grwp Llandrillo Menai-led ***ADTRAC***. EU Grant commitment stood at 82% of the funds available under Priority 4 (Technical Assistance) by the end of December 2017, where all of the Technical Assistance operations have now been approved.

By the end of December 2017 over €111m had been declared by beneficiaries to WEFO. Section 3.2 shows achievements by operations. Delivery has already begun to be reported with over 37,200 participants assisted across the Programme by the end of 2017. This is expected to increase in 2018 and beyond as operations continue to incur expenditure and submit claims.

Clear progress was made in 2017 towards achieving the milestones and targets for the Performance Framework. However, achievement of the 2018 milestone in relation to targets for participants with no formal qualifications in Priority 2 proved to be more of a challenge because of difficulties in defining precisely what is meant by 'no formal qualifications'. Some operations are reporting that even very low skilled individuals are often presenting with at least some level of prior qualification. A detailed examination of progress against indicator targets took place in 2017, including those that contribute to the Performance Framework, and agreement has been reached with the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) to support a modification to the Operational Programme in 2018 to revise these targets.

Not validated

E-cohesion requires a system to allow the electronic transfer of data between beneficiaries and the Managing Authority. To manage Structural Funds WEFO uses an IT system called PPIMS, used by Managing Authority and Certifying Authority Officials. The externally facing system, used by beneficiaries to enter data, including everything from appraisal documentation to transaction lists and claims is called WEFO Online. By allowing the electronic transfer of data, WEFO Online meets the conditions of an Electronic Data Exchange System under the e-cohesion requirements and therefore WEFO has been compliant with e-cohesion as of November 2015.

Not validated

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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
1	Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	By the end 2017 42% of the EU Funds available had been committed to 7 operations under the Priority. Progress continued to be made during 2017, with two additional approvals. The new approvals were both for Local Government beneficiaries – the Newport City Council-led Journey 2 Work and the Powys County Council-led Workways Plus Powys, both under Specific Objective 1.1. Progress towards meeting the eligible expenditure performance milestones for Priority 1 was slower than anticipated with committing and spending the programme allocation proving to be more of a challenge in 2017 than initially planned. Factors such as the high national co-financing requirement (50% minimum) and the continued pressures on public bodies due to tight UK public spending environment are believed to be having an impact. WEFO held a call for proposals during the summer of 2017 but this raised only a limited level of interest with only one proposal submitted with potential to utilise €2.3m of grant. In order to ensure full commitment of ESF, WEFO reached agreement with the PMC in December 2017 for a modification to the Operational Programme in 2018 to allow funds to be moved out of this Priority to support activity elsewhere in the programme, including the development of a new priority. This will be negotiated during 2018. Just over 3,000 participants were supported by the end of 2017, around 65% of the anticipated number of participants agreed with projects at their inception. The low participant numbers assisted by end 2017 across the Priority reflects the very challenging nature of engaging the harder to reach target groups which underpin the Programme objectives. Many of the operations approved underestimated the time taken.
2	Skills for Growth	By the end of 2017 over 57% of the EU Funds available had been committed to 10 operations under the Priority. Whilst no new operations were approved during the year, an extension and additional ESF was approved for the

Not validated

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
		Welsh Contact Centre Forum-led Welsh Financial Services Graduate Programme. Good progress was made during 2017 against the indicator targets, with over 26,100 participants assisted by approved operations under this Priority. Qualification results were also encouraging, with the numbers of participants gaining qualifications running close to the proportions required by the OP in most areas of the Priority. The data shows some shortfalls in participants with no formal qualifications. This is because it is proving difficult to define what is meant by 'no formal qualifications', with some operations reporting that even very low skilled individuals are often presenting with at least some level of prior qualification. The proposed modification of the programme will alter the indicators and associated targets for this Priority to reflect this more realistic position. Overall, good progress is being made towards the Performance Framework targets.
3	Youth Employment	By the end of 2017 over 82% of the EU Funds available had been committed to 12 operations under the Priority. Three operations were approved during 2017, building on the backbone operations already approved. These were the Newport City Council-led Inspire 2 Work (SO1) and the Grwp Llandrillo Menai-led ADTRAC, both under Specific Objective 3.1, and the Powys County Council-led Cynnydd under Specific Objective 3.2. Achievements by the end of 2017 shows progress has begun to be made against targets for reducing numbers of NEETs or at risk of becoming NEET, with over 8,000 young people supported to date. Forecast data is high and should allow for remaining operations to target niche areas and specific issues. Targeting those at risk of NEET is a new area of intervention with more innovative activity with limited historical data to underpin indicator targets. Achievements by end 2016 reflect the timescales in getting delivery systems in

Not validated

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
		place and the more innovative nature of the interventions required.
4	Technical Assistance	By the end of 2017 77% of the EU Funds available had been committed to 5 operations in the Priority. This includes revenue support for WEFO in implementing the programme, three 'Regional Engagement Teams' based in North Wales, Mid Wales and South East Wales, and Intermediary Body revenue support for the WCVA. Further commitment to existing operations may be allocated in 2018.

Not validated

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

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
Investment Priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 1 / 9i

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed						121.00	34.00	87.00				15.00	40.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed						73.00	32.00	41.00				25.00	29.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed						26.00	2.00	24.00				1.00	16.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed						530.00	192.00	338.00				85.00	177.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a	More developed						697.00	245.00	452.00				119.00	235.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
	qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving														
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed	15.00	33.00	4.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed	7.00	11.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed	1.00	4.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed	95.00	139.00	12.00	22.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	More developed	112.00	180.00	14.00	37.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
Investment Priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1100A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	50.00%			16.02			8.01%	11.24%	6.00%	12.00%	13.00%	11.00%	
1100B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	50.00%			18.02			9.01%	9.28%	6.73%	12.00%	12.00%	10.00%	
1102A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	20.00%			95.95			19.19%	14.60%	22.53%	20.00%	12.00%	28.00%	
1102B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	25.00%			43.76			10.94%	10.57%	11.21%	8.00%	7.00%	10.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	employment entering employment, including self employment, upon leaving																	
1103	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment engaged in job search upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	25.00%			21.88			5.47%	4.35%	6.41%	5.00%	3.00%	7.00%	
1104A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	54.00%			8.20			4.43%	3.80%	4.54%	7.00%	5.00%	8.00%	
1104B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	53.00%			8.43			4.47%	4.49%	4.62%	6.00%	6.00%	5.00%	
102A6	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	45.00%			0.00			0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
102B6	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	45.00%			0.00			0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	employment, 6 months after leaving																	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1100A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	More developed	4.00%	8.21%	2.33%	4.00%	9.00%	2.00%		4.00%	3.00%	4.00%	4.00%	3.00%	4.00%	
1100B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	More developed	5.77%	6.58%	2.48%	7.00%	8.00%	3.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1102A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	More developed	18.38%	19.08%	18.51%	19.00%	20.00%	19.00%		15.00%	13.00%	16.00%	15.00%	13.00%	16.00%	
1102B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self employment, upon leaving	More developed	14.12%	14.11%	12.79%	15.00%	15.00%	14.00%		10.00%	10.00%	7.00%	10.00%	10.00%	7.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1103	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment engaged in job search upon leaving	More developed	5.93%	6.66%	5.98%	5.00%	6.00%	5.00%		11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	
1104A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	More developed	1.84%	1.74%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%		1.00%	0.00%	2.00%	1.00%	0.00%	2.00%	
1104B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	More developed	2.82%	3.00%	4.13%	3.00%	3.00%	5.00%		2.00%	3.00%	0.00%	2.00%	3.00%	0.00%	
102A6	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	More developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
102B6	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self employment, 6 months after leaving	More developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1100 A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1100 B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1102 A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1102 B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self employment, upon leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1103	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment engaged in job search upon leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1104 A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	volunteering opportunity								
1104B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
102A6	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
102B6	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self employment, 6 months after leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
Investment Priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **1 / 9i**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed				1,112.00	753.00	359.00				578.00	375.00	203.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed				1,112.00	753.00	359.00				578.00	375.00	203.00
CO03	inactive	More developed				2,116.00	783.00	1,333.00				1,060.00	495.00	565.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed				2,116.00	783.00	1,333.00				1,060.00	495.00	565.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed				387.00	237.00	150.00				232.00	143.00	89.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed				387.00	237.00	150.00				232.00	143.00	89.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed				964.00	438.00	526.00				421.00	205.00	216.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed				965.00	361.00	604.00				443.00	191.00	252.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed				256.00	93.00	163.00				147.00	62.00	85.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	More developed				2,138.00	918.00	1,220.00				1,064.00	525.00	539.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed				1,088.00	206.00	882.00				445.00	112.00	333.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed				1,167.00	264.00	903.00				475.00	147.00	328.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed				506.00	233.00	273.00				260.00	133.00	127.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed				340.00	170.00	170.00				171.00	87.00	84.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed				2,318.00	940.00	1,378.00				1,135.00	570.00	565.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed				416.00	283.00	133.00				220.00	158.00	62.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed				9.00	5.00	4.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed				23.00						8.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	More developed				0.00						0.00		
	Grand total of participants					3,228.00						1,638.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed	440.00	311.00	129.00	94.00	67.00	27.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed	440.00	311.00	129.00	94.00	67.00	27.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

CO03	inactive	More developed	892.00	250.00	642.00	164.00	38.00	126.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed	892.00	250.00	642.00	164.00	38.00	126.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed	132.00	77.00	55.00	23.00	17.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed	132.00	77.00	55.00	23.00	17.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed	435.00	190.00	245.00	108.00	43.00	65.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed	428.00	133.00	295.00	94.00	37.00	57.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed	95.00	25.00	70.00	14.00	6.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	More developed	851.00	301.00	550.00	223.00	92.00	131.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed	510.00	66.00	444.00	133.00	28.00	105.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed	594.00	112.00	482.00	98.00	5.00	93.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed	207.00	88.00	119.00	39.00	12.00	27.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed	115.00	48.00	67.00	54.00	35.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed	1,002.00	326.00	676.00	181.00	44.00	137.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed	193.00	123.00	70.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed	9.00	5.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed	12.00			3.00			0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

	social economy)										
	Grand total of participants		1,332.00			258.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
Investment Priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **1**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	More developed	Number	12,700.00			2,116.00	783.00	1,333.00	0.17			1,060.00	495.00	565.00
1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; are from a BME group; or from a jobless household)	More developed	Number	3,800.00			1,112.00	753.00	359.00	0.29			578.00	375.00	203.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	More developed	892.00	250.00	642.00	164.00	38.00	126.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; are from a BME group; or from a jobless household)	More developed	440.00	311.00	129.00	94.00	67.00	27.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 2 / 8iv

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed	CO05 employed, including self-employed	Ratio	73.00%	%	%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1109	Employers adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	More developed	Ratio	CO23 number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Ratio	50.00%			0.00			0.00%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1101	Employed, including self-employed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	More developed	Ratio	CO05 employed, including self-employed	Ratio	40.00%			0.00			0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1109	Employers adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	More developed	0.00%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1101	Employed, including self-employed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	More developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1109	Employers adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1101	Employed, including self-employed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **2 / 8iv**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	642.00	0.00	642.00	0.43		0.43	278.00	0.00	278.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed				86.00	0.00	86.00				39.00	0.00	39.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed				17.00	0.00	17.00				9.00	0.00	9.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed				12.00	0.00	12.00				2.00	0.00	2.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed				223.00	0.00	223.00				104.00	0.00	104.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed				396.00	0.00	396.00				170.00	0.00	170.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
	households													
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed				37.00	0.00	37.00				29.00	0.00	29.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed				50.00	0.00	50.00				27.00	0.00	27.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed				15.00	0.00	15.00				10.00	0.00	10.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed				52.00	0.00	52.00				10.00	0.00	10.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed				1.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	More developed	300.00	0.00	0.00	61.00			0.20			0.00		
	Grand total of participants					642.00						278.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed	298.00	0.00	298.00	66.00	0.00	66.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed	38.00	0.00	38.00	9.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed	6.00	0.00	6.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed	7.00	0.00	7.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed	104.00	0.00	104.00	15.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed	180.00	0.00	180.00	46.00	0.00	46.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed	8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed	21.00	0.00	21.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed	4.00	0.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed	28.00	0.00	28.00	14.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed	0.00			1.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	More developed	58.00			3.00			0.00		
	Grand total of participants		298.00			66.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **2**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 2 / 10iii

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed						484.00	285.00	199.00				76.00	82.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed						8,453.00	3,529.00	4,924.00				872.00	1,369.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed						6,689.00	2,605.00	4,084.00				727.00	1,304.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	More developed						10,492.00	4,308.00	6,184.00				1,126.00	1,808.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
	months after leaving														
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed	55.00	56.00	154.00	61.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed	977.00	1,341.00	1,680.00	2,214.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed	568.00	849.00	1,310.00	1,931.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	More developed	1,188.00	1,692.00	1,994.00	2,684.00	0.00	0.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
	months after leaving							
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1174M	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	72.00%			21.47			15.46%	15.46%	%	23.00%	23.00%	0.00%	
1174F	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Female	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	72.00%			4.35			3.13%	%	3.13%	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%	
1175M	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - male	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	72.00%			50.85			36.61%	36.61%	%	57.00%	57.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1175F	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - female	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	72.00%			45.51			32.77%	%	32.77%	44.00%	0.00%	44.00%	
1180M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - male	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	60.00%			62.47			37.48%	37.48%	%	75.00%	75.00%	0.00%	
1180F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - female	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	60.00%			51.80			31.08%	%	31.08%	45.00%	0.00%	45.00%	
1181M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - male	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	60.00%			39.23			23.54%	23.54%	%	44.00%	44.00%	0.00%	
1181F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	60.00%			42.75			25.65%	%	25.65%	51.00%	0.00%	51.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - female																	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1174M	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	More developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1174F	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Female	More developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1175M	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - male	More developed	33.65%	33.65%	%	29.00%	29.00%	0.00%		36.67%	36.67%	%	72.00%	72.00%	0.00%	
1175F	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific	More developed	30.41%	%	30.41%	24.00%	0.00%	24.00%		35.29%	%	35.29%	69.00%	0.00%	69.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - female															
1180M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - male	More developed	32.77%	32.77%	%	30.00%	30.00%	0.00%		34.53%	34.53%	%	70.00%	70.00%	0.00%	
1180F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - female	More developed	28.19%	%	28.19%	24.00%	0.00%	24.00%		31.48%	%	31.48%	64.00%	0.00%	64.00%	
1181M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - male	More developed	19.69%	19.69%	%	16.00%	16.00%	0.00%		22.74%	22.74%	%	40.00%	40.00%	0.00%	
1181F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - female	More developed	20.97%	%	20.97%	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%		21.66%	%	21.66%	36.00%	0.00%	36.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1174 M	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1174F	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Female	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1175 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - male	More developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1175F	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - female	More developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1180 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - male	More developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1180F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - female								
1181 M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - male	More developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1181F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - female	More developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **2 / 10iii**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed				1.00	0.00	1.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed				1.00	0.00	1.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed				23,171.00	9,312.00	13,859.00				3,649.00	1,311.00	2,338.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed				11,609.00	5,600.00	6,009.00				1,104.00	446.00	658.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed				568.00	160.00	408.00				134.00	37.00	97.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed				3,671.00	1,637.00	2,034.00				671.00	256.00	415.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed				15,120.00	6,263.00	8,857.00				2,057.00	734.00	1,323.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed				4,138.00	1,293.00	2,845.00				764.00	241.00	523.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	More developed				29.00	8.00	21.00				4.00	1.00	3.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed				22.00	6.00	16.00				3.00	0.00	3.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed				385.00	26.00	359.00				116.00	8.00	108.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed				1,506.00	567.00	939.00				285.00	91.00	194.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed				1,195.00	516.00	679.00				209.00	85.00	124.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed				4,792.00	1,395.00	3,397.00				1,282.00	373.00	909.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed				19.00	7.00	12.00				7.00	1.00	6.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed				2,118.00	937.00	1,181.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	More developed				53.00						0.00		
	Grand total of participants					23,171.00						3,649.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

Not validated

CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
CO03	inactive	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed	8,245.00	3,322.00	4,923.00	6,092.00	2,451.00	3,641.00	5,185.00	2,228.00	2,957.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed	3,834.00	1,859.00	1,975.00	3,798.00	1,788.00	2,010.00	2,873.00	1,507.00	1,366.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed	224.00	77.00	147.00	109.00	25.00	84.00	101.00	21.00	80.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed	1,399.00	586.00	813.00	823.00	397.00	426.00	778.00	398.00	380.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed	5,366.00	2,226.00	3,140.00	4,076.00	1,705.00	2,371.00	3,621.00	1,598.00	2,023.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed	1,395.00	471.00	924.00	1,193.00	349.00	844.00	786.00	232.00	554.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	More developed	24.00	7.00	17.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed	18.00	6.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed	230.00	16.00	214.00	14.00	0.00	14.00	25.00	2.00	23.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed	567.00	207.00	360.00	317.00	119.00	198.00	337.00	150.00	187.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed	462.00	194.00	268.00	315.00	131.00	184.00	209.00	106.00	103.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed	2,120.00	566.00	1,554.00	897.00	251.00	646.00	493.00	205.00	288.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed	748.00	314.00	434.00	733.00	336.00	397.00	637.00	287.00	350.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

	national, regional or local level										
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	More developed	53.00			0.00			0.00		
	Grand total of participants		8,245.00			6,092.00			5,185.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **2**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female	More developed	Number	7,101.00			123.00	0.00	123.00	0.02			77.00	0.00	77.00
1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male	More developed	Number	7,799.00			119.00	119.00	0.00	0.02			80.00	80.00	0.00
1173F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	More developed	Number	12,104.00			4,281.00	0.00	4,281.00	0.35			743.00	0.00	743.00
1173M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	More developed	Number	13,296.00			3,636.00	3,636.00	0.00	0.27			460.00	460.00	0.00
1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	More developed	Number	5,862.00			2,887.00	0.00	2,887.00	0.49			495.00	0.00	495.00
1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	More developed	Number	6,438.00			2,325.00	2,325.00	0.00	0.36			259.00	259.00	0.00
1179F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - Female	More developed	Number	3,908.00			6,568.00	0.00	6,568.00	1.68			1,023.00	0.00	1,023.00
1179M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - Male	More developed	Number	4,292.00			3,232.00	3,232.00	0.00	0.75			512.00	512.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female	More developed	46.00	0.00	46.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male	More developed	39.00	39.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1173F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	More developed	1,528.00	0.00	1,528.00	1,028.00	0.00	1,028.00	982.00	0.00	982.00
1173M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	More developed	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00	981.00	981.00	0.00	945.00	945.00	0.00
1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	More developed	1,050.00	0.00	1,050.00	660.00	0.00	660.00	682.00	0.00	682.00
1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	More developed	801.00	801.00	0.00	624.00	624.00	0.00	641.00	641.00	0.00
1179F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - Female	More developed	2,299.00	0.00	2,299.00	1,953.00	0.00	1,953.00	1,293.00	0.00	1,293.00
1179M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - Male	More developed	1,232.00	1,232.00	0.00	846.00	846.00	0.00	642.00	642.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment
Investment Priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 3 / 8ii

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed						48.00	18.00	30.00				10.00	18.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed						1,444.00	777.00	667.00				171.00	148.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed						1,363.00	724.00	639.00				191.00	149.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed						1,246.00	633.00	613.00				222.00	205.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	More developed						3,306.00	1,728.00	1,578.00				463.00	412.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
	months after leaving														
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed	6.00	7.00	2.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed	332.00	278.00	274.00	241.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed	220.00	208.00	313.00	282.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed	262.00	247.00	149.00	161.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	More developed	713.00	654.00	552.00	512.00	0.00	0.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
	months after leaving							
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment
Investment Priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1123	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) in education/training upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	17.00%			135.00			22.95%	23.61%	22.56%	31.00%	30.00%	32.00%	
1183	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	20.00%			109.95			21.99%	22.16%	21.35%	33.00%	33.00%	32.00%	
1124	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	28.00%			71.00			19.88%	19.31%	20.52%	41.00%	38.00%	45.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1123	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) in education/training	More developed	21.35%	22.24%	20.84%	24.00%	25.00%	23.00%		18.85%	19.63%	18.78%	26.00%	27.00%	26.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	upon leaving															
1183	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving	More developed	19.81%	19.84%	19.40%	17.00%	17.00%	17.00%		22.47%	22.54%	21.67%	31.00%	31.00%	30.00%	
1124	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	More developed	15.69%	15.33%	16.04%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%		11.60%	10.91%	12.28%	16.00%	15.00%	17.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1123	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) in education/training upon leaving	More developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1183	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving	More developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1124	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	More developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment
Investment Priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **3 / 8ii**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed				5,637.00	3,011.00	2,626.00				702.00	405.00	297.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed				488.00	292.00	196.00				136.00	83.00	53.00
CO03	inactive	More developed				627.00	278.00	349.00				336.00	173.00	163.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed				6,264.00	3,289.00	2,975.00				1,038.00	578.00	460.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed				3,259.00	1,786.00	1,473.00				356.00	208.00	148.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed				2,492.00	1,233.00	1,259.00				484.00	259.00	225.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed				284.00	137.00	147.00				70.00	34.00	36.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	More developed				979.00	459.00	520.00				330.00	165.00	165.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed				250.00	39.00	211.00				101.00	19.00	82.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed				212.00	14.00	198.00				80.00	4.00	76.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed				674.00	385.00	289.00				117.00	78.00	39.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed				903.00	524.00	379.00				112.00	68.00	44.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed				2,499.00	1,310.00	1,189.00				339.00	168.00	171.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed				100.00	61.00	39.00				47.00	29.00	18.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed				439.00	220.00	219.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed				11.00						11.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	More developed				0.00						0.00		
	Grand total of participants					6,264.00						1,038.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

Not validated

CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed	2,296.00	1,226.00	1,070.00	1,901.00	1,000.00	901.00	738.00	380.00	358.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed	236.00	142.00	94.00	116.00	67.00	49.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	More developed	248.00	93.00	155.00	43.00	12.00	31.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed	2,544.00	1,319.00	1,225.00	1,944.00	1,012.00	932.00	738.00	380.00	358.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed	1,226.00	674.00	552.00	1,211.00	659.00	552.00	466.00	245.00	221.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed	1,057.00	521.00	536.00	679.00	318.00	361.00	272.00	135.00	137.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed	174.00	79.00	95.00	40.00	24.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	More developed	396.00	180.00	216.00	237.00	108.00	129.00	16.00	6.00	10.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed	124.00	17.00	107.00	25.00	3.00	22.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed	111.00	9.00	102.00	21.00	1.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed	304.00	161.00	143.00	176.00	108.00	68.00	77.00	38.00	39.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed	335.00	193.00	142.00	339.00	198.00	141.00	117.00	65.00	52.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed	1,000.00	496.00	504.00	890.00	495.00	395.00	270.00	151.00	119.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed	33.00	21.00	12.00	17.00	9.00	8.00	3.00	2.00	1.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed	200.00	97.00	103.00	178.00	89.00	89.00	61.00	34.00	27.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

	national, regional or local level										
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
	Grand total of participants		2,544.00			1,944.00			738.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment
Investment Priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **3**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	More developed	Number	21,200.00			6,264.00	3,289.00	2,975.00	0.30			1,038.00	578.00	460.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	More developed	2,544.00	1,319.00	1,225.00	1,944.00	1,012.00	932.00	738.00	380.00	358.00

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment
Investment Priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 3 / 10i

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed						3.00	1.00	2.00				0.00	1.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed						152.00	89.00	63.00				71.00	54.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed						33.00	21.00	12.00				16.00	8.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed						9.00	5.00	4.00				2.00	2.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	More developed						173.00	99.00	74.00				79.00	62.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	More developed	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	More developed	18.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	More developed	5.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	More developed	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	More developed	20.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment
Investment Priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1125	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) gaining qualifications upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	27.00%			7.33			1.98%	1.96%	1.50%	3.00%	3.00%	2.00%	
1127	Participants at risk of becoming NEET(11-24) into education or training upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	18.00%			43.83			7.89%	8.29%	6.99%	13.00%	14.00%	12.00%	
1128	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	More developed	Ratio		Ratio	0.00%						18.28%	19.50%	15.99%	29.00%	33.00%	24.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1125	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) gaining qualifications upon	More developed	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	leaving															
1127	Participants at risk of becoming NEET(11-24) into education or training upon leaving	More developed	3.00%	3.00%	2.00%	3.00%	3.00%	2.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1128	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	More developed	8.00%	7.00%	8.00%	8.00%	7.00%	8.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1125	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) gaining qualifications upon leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1127	Participants at risk of becoming NEET(11-24) into education or training upon leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1128	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	More developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment
Investment Priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **3 / 10i**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	More developed				1,935.00	1,036.00	899.00				947.00	498.00	449.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed				1,935.00	1,036.00	899.00				947.00	498.00	449.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed				1,935.00	1,036.00	899.00				947.00	498.00	449.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed				235.00	106.00	129.00				112.00	51.00	61.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed				253.00	114.00	139.00				117.00	48.00	69.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed				42.00	17.00	25.00				34.00	14.00	20.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless	More developed				680.00	363.00	317.00				300.00	166.00	134.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
	households													
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed				157.00	81.00	76.00				80.00	43.00	37.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed				188.00	104.00	84.00				100.00	53.00	47.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed				193.00	94.00	99.00				106.00	48.00	58.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed				187.00	92.00	95.00				118.00	57.00	61.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed				1,488.00	835.00	653.00				723.00	402.00	321.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed				36.00	18.00	18.00				14.00	8.00	6.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed				5.00	4.00	1.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed												
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	More developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	More developed				0.00						0.00		
	Grand total of participants					1,935.00						947.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

CO02	long-term unemployed	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	More developed	988.00	538.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	More developed	988.00	538.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	More developed	988.00	538.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	More developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	More developed	123.00	55.00	68.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	More developed	136.00	66.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	More developed	8.00	3.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	More developed	380.00	197.00	183.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	More developed	77.00	38.00	39.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	More developed	88.00	51.00	37.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	More developed	87.00	46.00	41.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	More developed	69.00	35.00	34.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	More developed	765.00	433.00	332.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	More developed	22.00	10.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	More developed	5.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	More developed									
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	More developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
	Grand total of participants		988.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment
Investment Priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **3**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1028	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24)	More developed	Number	13,000.00			1,935.00	1,036.00	899.00	0.15			947.00	498.00	449.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1028	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24)	More developed	988.00	538.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - 4

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - 4

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
TAO1	Number of training events held		Number	10.00			43.00	0.00	0.00	4.30			42.00	0.00	0.00
TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued		Number	72.00			7.00	0.00	0.00	0.10			7.00	0.00	0.00
TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days		Ratio	75.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO12	Number of audit visits		Ratio	50.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery		Number	1.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration		Ratio	90.00			9.00	0.00	0.00	0.10			9.00	0.00	0.00
TAO4	Number of research reports published		Number	17.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice		Ratio	100.00			9.00	0.00	0.00	0.09			9.00	0.00	0.00
TAO6	Number of dissemination events		Number	6.00			1.00	0.00	0.00	0.17			1.00	0.00	0.00
TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO		Number	10.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO8	Number of press releases issued		Number	50.00			7.00	0.00	0.00	0.14			7.00	0.00	0.00
TAO9	Number of high profile project launches		Ratio	50.00			2.00	0.00	0.00	0.04			2.00	0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016	2015	2014

Not validated

			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
TAO1	Number of training events held		1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO12	Number of audit visits		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO4	Number of research reports published		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO6	Number of dissemination events		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO8	Number of press releases issued		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO9	Number of high profile project launches		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	4.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI - 4 / 4.1

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR1	Managing Authority Irregularity Rate					Below 2												0.08%
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate					Below 2												0.05%

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR1	Managing Authority Irregularity Rate								0.11%							
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate															

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014

Not validated

			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	**Men**	**Women**	**Total**	**Men**	**Women**	
TAR1	Managing Authority Irregularity Rate								
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate								

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	4.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations.

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI - 4 / 4.2

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR3	Customer Satisfaction					50												

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR3	Customer Satisfaction								0							0

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR3	Customer Satisfaction								0

Not validated

Table 3B: Number of enterprises supported by the operational programme net of multiple support to the same enterprises

Indicator	Number of enterprises supported by OP net of multiple support

Not validated

Table 5: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2017 Cum men	2017 Cum women	2017 Annual total	2017 Annual total men	2017 Annual total women
1	F	P1F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed	3,016,121.58					
1	O	1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	More developed	2,116.00	783.00	1,333.00	1,060.00	495.00	565.00
1	O	1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; are from a BME group; or from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	More developed	1,112.00	753.00	359.00	578.00	375.00	203.00
2	F	P2F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed	91,867,990.41					
2	O	1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female	Number	ESF	More developed	123.00	0.00	123.00	77.00	0.00	77.00
2	O	1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male	Number	ESF	More developed	119.00	119.00	0.00	80.00	80.00	0.00
2	O	1173F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed	4,281.00	0.00	4,281.00	743.00	0.00	743.00

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2017 Cum men	2017 Cum women	2017 Annual total	2017 Annual total men	2017 Annual total women
2	O	1173M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number	ESF	More developed	3,636.00	3,636.00	0.00	460.00	460.00	0.00
2	O	1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed	2,887.00	0.00	2,887.00	495.00	0.00	495.00
2	O	1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number	ESF	More developed	2,325.00	2,325.00	0.00	259.00	259.00	0.00
3	F	P3F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed	15,642,824.83					
3	O	1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	More developed	6,264.00	3,289.00	2,975.00	1,038.00	578.00	460.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
1	F	P1F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed	815,807.88	0.00	0.00	
1	O	1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	More developed	1,056.00	164.00	0.00	
1	O	1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or	Number	ESF	More developed	534.00	94.00	0.00	

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
			no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; are from a BME group; or from a jobless household)							
2	F	P2F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed	2,383,376.63	0.00	0.00	
2	O	1172 F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female	Number	ESF	More developed	46.00	0.00	0.00	
2	O	1172 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male	Number	ESF	More developed	39.00	0.00	0.00	
2	O	1173 F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed	3,538.00	2,010.00	982.00	
2	O	1173 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number	ESF	More developed	3,176.00	1,926.00	945.00	
2	O	1178 F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed	2,392.00	1,342.00	682.00	
2	O	1178 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number	ESF	More developed	2,066.00	1,265.00	641.00	
3	F	P3F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed	1,491,181.19	0.00	0.00	
3	O	1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	More developed	5,226.00	2,682.00	738.00	

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
1	F	P1F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed	22,336,382			87,569,978.00		
1	O	1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	More developed	3239			12,700.00		
1	O	1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; are from a BME group; or from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	More developed	969			3,800.00		
2	F	P2F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed	50,302,887			197,212,886.00		
2	O	1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Female	Number	ESF	More developed	1,811			7,101.00		
2	O	1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - Male	Number	ESF	More developed	1,989			7,799.00		
2	O	1173F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed	3,087			12,104.00		
2	O	1173M	Employed, including self-employed	Number	ESF	More developed	3,391			13,296.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
			participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male									
2	O	1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Female	Number	ESF	More developed	1,495			5,862.00		
2	O	1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - Male	Number	ESF	More developed	1,642			6,438.00		
3	F	P3F	Expenditure	€	ESF	More developed	30,596,600			119,954,230.00		
3	O	1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	More developed	5,407			21,200.00		

Not validated

3.4 Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: 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 the transmission of financial data))

Not validated

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis	Total fund	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
1	ESF	More developed	Total	87,569,978.00	50.00	36,922,240.20	42.16%	32,455,796.44	5,355,586.03	6.12%	7
2	ESF	More developed	Total	197,212,886.00	48.42	223,240,592.60	113.20%	212,931,137.58	93,910,138.29	47.62%	10
3	ESF	More developed	Total	119,954,230.00	50.00	143,520,524.85	119.65%	141,546,037.51	29,713,864.59	24.77%	12
4	ESF	More developed	Total	8,132,490.00	50.00	6,551,366.91	80.56%	6,471,646.65	1,307,923.30	16.08%	5
Total	**ESF**	**More developed**		**412,869,584.00**	**49.24**	**410,234,724.56**	**99.36%**	**393,404,618.18**	**130,287,512.21**	**31.56%**	**34**
Grand total				**412,869,584.00**	**49.24**	**410,234,724.56**	**99.36%**	**393,404,618.18**	**130,287,512.21**	**31.56%**	**34**

Table 7: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention for the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

Priority axis	Characteristics of expenditure		Categorisation dimensions								Financial data			
	Fund	Category of region	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	Total elegibile expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ESF	More developed	109	01	07	07		08	20	UKL2	5,041,389.64	5,041,038.34	662,764.02	1
1	ESF	More developed	109	01	07	07		02	21	UKL2	31,880,850.56	27,414,758.10	4,692,822.01	6
2	ESF	More developed	105	01	07	07		07	24	UKL2	3,609,019.29	3,323,194.22	2,435,405.05	1
2	ESF	More developed	117	01	07	07		08	16	UKL2	7,021,815.37	3,088,908.50	4,013,581.56	1
2	ESF	More developed	117	01	07	07		03	19	UKL2	4,842,888.16	3,191,059.05	1,160,391.30	1
2	ESF	More developed	117	01	07	07		08	19	UKL2	207,766,869.78	203,327,975.81	86,300,760.38	7
3	ESF	More developed	103	01	07	07		02	21	UKL2	4,403,899.85	4,166,408.94	550,285.13	2
3	ESF	More developed	103	01	07	07		08	21	UKL2	4,264,804.44	4,264,804.44	0.00	1
3	ESF	More developed	103	01	07	07		08	24	UKL2	113,572,123.20	111,972,668.61	22,573,790.27	5
3	ESF	More developed	115	01	07	07		08	19	UKL2	21,279,697.36	21,142,155.52	6,589,789.19	4
4	ESF	More developed	121	01	07	07		08	18	UKL2	6,334,336.55	6,254,616.29	1,266,388.31	2
4	ESF	More developed	123	01	07	07		08	24	UKL2	217,030.36	217,030.36	41,534.99	3

Not validated

Table 8: The use made of cross-financing

1	2	3	4	5	6
Use of cross-financing	**Priority axis**	**The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for cross financing based on selected operations (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (3/EU support to priority axis*100)**	**The amount of EU support used under cross financing based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (5/EU support to priority axis*100)**

Not validated

Table 9: Cost of operations implemented outside the programme area (the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal)

1	2	3	4	5
Priority axis	**The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for operations implemented outside the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (2/EU support to priority axis*100)**	**The amount of EU support in operations implemented outside the programme area based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (4/EU support to priority axis*100)**

Not validated

Table 10: Expenditure incurred outside the Union (ESF)

The amount of expenditure envisaged to be incurred outside the Union under thematic objectives 8 and 10 based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (1/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)	Eligible expenditure incurred outside the Union declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (3/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)

Not validated

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, with reference of name and reference period of the evaluation reports used

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During 2017, WEFO published the Ex Post Evaluation of the 2007-2013 Programmes. A brief summary of findings is given below.

Programme Design

Overall, the evaluation concluded that the programmes consisted of a well-defined and rationally designed set of Priorities. OB3 judged that each Priority was based on a sound intervention logic apart from the 'Modernising and improving the quality of our public services' Priority where there was an insufficient consideration of issues in public service delivery in the socio-economic analysis underpinning the programmes.

The evaluation found that, despite the economic downturn and major policy changes (particularly the Economic Renewal Programme and the UK Government's Work Programme) which occurred during the programming period, the original programme intervention logic remained valid for the most part. The evaluation also concluded that there was an appropriate degree of flexibility built into the programmes which enabled WEFO and project sponsors to respond constructively to rapidly changing conditions and circumstances.

Cross Cutting Themes

The evaluation concluded that was a lack of evidence to suggest that the Cross Cutting Themes (CCTs) had been fully integrated into the delivery of project activity, though this was much more likely to occur in projects that had a direct focus on either equality or environmental sustainability. Despite this, the evaluation found very encouraging examples of good practice in relation to the CCTs.

Outcomes

The evaluation found evidence of positive employment outcomes, improvements in skills and soft outcomes such as increased confidence.

Not validated

Key recommendations

- Future interventions targeting young people should adopt individualised and holistic approaches which combine emotional as well as skills development components.These interventions are most effective when delivered by experienced staff that have the ability to develop positive relationships with young people.

- Interventions supporting people into work should prioritise those that are furthest away from the labour market as this is likely to generate the least amount of deadweight (i.e. people finding work who would not otherwise have done so in the absence of the support).Furthermore, future programmes should have a clearly defined focus on high quality, client-led services that can be flexibly delivered and co-located with complementary services at the point of delivery.

- Future programmes focussed on those already in the workforce should focus on the lower skilled and those least likely to access training.Furthermore, a more coherent approach to employer engagement should be followed so that employers in Wales are clear on what support is available for skills development of their staff.The Welsh Government Skills Gateway should help with this.

An account of how WEFO has addressed these recommendations in the design and delivery of the 2014-2020 programmes is provided in the WEFO note accompanying the report. Both the report and the accompanying note are available at http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?lang=en.

2014-2020 programmes

There were no programme level evaluation reports for the 2014-2020 period published during 2017 but two reports were published as part of the evaluation of the Communities for Work (CfW) operations.

The first report examined the theory of change of CfW. This report concluded that CfW aligns well with the Welsh Government's tackling poverty ambitions and that there is strong evidence and a sound rationale for many features of CfW (e.g. providing continuity of support through a trusted adviser). The report highlighted potential uncertainties over whether the Triage approach can work as planned, given this is a novel characteristic of CfW. The report also highlighted potential uncertainties over whether the referral mechanisms can generate the planned level of demand and over the

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degree to which local contexts will affect delivery.

The second report assessed how CfW has been set up and how it is being operated. This report noted that the development of CfW broke new ground in that it brought together diverse organisations in ways and on a scale not previously seen. Whilst this allowed the leverage of a significant level of ESF support, the ambition and magnitude of CfW has made integration challenging and it took longer to implement than envisaged. Delivery staff found key CfW documentation, i.e. the Operational Guidance and participant portfolio to be clear, comprehensive and useful. There was some concern amongst those interviewed for the evaluation that the closure of Communities First could compromise the implementation of CfW, as a result of the erosion of connections and local knowledge, the loss of premises in target communities, the loss of accessible training provision and other support services and the loss of a key referral route into CfW. The evaluation found that the routes by which participants most commonly came to be involved with CfW are referrals from Jobcentre Plus (JCP), engagement work done by CfW staff, word of mouth from other clients and referrals from CF. Referrals from other local sources have been fewer than had been anticipated so the evaluation recommends a number of actions to increase engagement with other partners and referral sources. In line with the design of the CfW programme, services have been delivered in less formal settings which are accessible and well used for a broad range of activities within the communities where target participants live. However, the facilities available to CfW staff have been better in some areas than others, with a lack of private meeting spaces within community venues being a recurring theme. Whilst there are examples of close cooperation between mentors and advisers, one of the main factors making it difficult for them to work well together was the fact that they had separate targets for participant engagement and outcomes. The evaluation therefore recommends that Welsh Government and the DWP should continue to encourage the adoption of targets for each cluster area instead. The evaluation found some confusion surrounding the first contract triage process and the role of the triage worker although the majority of front line delivery staff interviewed felt that the triage process is effective in allocating individuals to the optimal form of support for them. The evaluation found that the sheer range and complexity of the barriers faced by many participants suggests that the programme is reaching those it was intended to help. Participants were overwhelmingly positive about their advisers/mentors and it was clear that the continuity of support possible under CfW allowed high levels of trust to develop between participants and their advisers/mentors. The take up of Barriers Fund support has been lower than expected, partly due to a perception among front line delivery staff that the Fund is difficult to access. However, where the Barriers Fund is accessed, it is generally considered essential to helping participants get over the final hurdle(s) to work.

The two evaluation reports are available at: http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-communities-Work/?lang=en.

Not Validated

Not validated

6. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

In 2017 the primary focus has continued to be on further developing the remaining backbone operations, with extensions to a number of key projects within each Priority and ensuring regional and local gap fillers within all programme areas. The backbone operation approach within the delivery of the programmes has allowed WEFO to focus on smaller more focused activity over the past year to ensure the more marginalised and harder to reach groups are able to acces ESF support.

Alongside continuing to approve new operations, WEFO have been managing and supporting the mobilisation phases of approved operations this has included; supporting efforts on procurement and ensuring access by the third and private sector to delivery opportunities; helping operations to develop compliant data capture and reporting systems; and, monitoring staff recruitment and implementation of operations.

During 2017 WEFO reduced its euro/sterling planning rate which had the effect of reducing the euro value of commitments made to beneficiaries in sterling. However the ongoing good progress of implementation meant that commitment levels across the programme nevertheless still increased during the year. Commitment levels against the performance framework targets are also encouraging.

WEFO have continued to increase claims processing. payments to beneficiaries and to embed Monitoring and Verification procedures. WEFO continue to hold regular stakeholder / beneficiary events to promote issues of best practice and communicate issues of eligibility and compliance, helping to reduce potential errors and encourage collaborative working.

During 2016 WEFO have continued to monitor the impact of the UK referendum on membership of the European Union. Interest in the European Social Fund does not seem to have been impacted by the decision to leave the EU. During this time WEFO have continued to undertake regular communications with stakeholders to promote the benefits of the European funding and to address any potential concerns raised by beneficiaries.

Not validated

(b) An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

Not validated

7. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

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 in the SFC2014 application

Not validated

8. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Not validated

9. OPTIONAL FOR THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016, NOT APPLICABLE TO OTHER LIGHT REPORTS: ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

Table 14: Actions taken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary

Not validated

Table 15: Actions taken to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary

Not validated

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

10.1. Major projects

Table 12: 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 (year, quarter)	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	Observations

Not validated

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

Not validated

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the operational programme

Not validated

10.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable to this Programme.

Not validated

Table 13: 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

Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Not applicable to this Programme.

Not validated

PART B

REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

(Article 50(4), 111(3) and (4) of regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

11. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLES 50(4) AND 111(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

11.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to prevent discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the operational programme and operations (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.3. Sustainable development (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable to the reporting year.

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

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
Total	**0.00**	**0.00%**

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.5. Role of partners in the implementation of the programme

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

12. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 111(4), FIRST SUBPARAGRAPH, (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013

12.1. Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

Not applicable to the reporting year.

12.2. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

13. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) (MAY BE INCLUDED IN REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016 (SEE POINT 9 ABOVE). REQUIRED IN REPORT SUBMITTED IN 2017) OPTION: PROGRESS REPORT

Not validated

14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 111(4), SECOND SUBPARAGRAPH, (A), (B), (C), (D), (G) AND (H), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

14.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including development of regions facing demographic challenges and permanent or natural handicaps, integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the operational programme

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.2. Progress in the implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the Funds

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.3. Progress in the implementation of any interregional and transnational actions

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.4. Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

☐ 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)

Not validated

14.5. Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation, where appropriate

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.6. Progress in the implementation of measures to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of poverty discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities and persons with disabilities, long term unemployment and young people not in employment including, where appropriate, the financial resources used

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

PART C REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

15. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (ARTICLES 21(2) AND 22(7) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Not validated

16. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH (OPTION PROGRESS REPORT)

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

17. 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).

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By

Not validated

Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message

Not validated

European Structural Fund Programmes 2014-2020

East Wales ESF

2017 Annual Implementation Report – Summary

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1. Introduction

This is the third Annual Implementation Report for the East Wales ESF Programme, covering the reporting year of 2017.

Wales benefits from around €2.4bn of EU Funds through the four Structural Funds programmes 2014-2020. This includes around €200m through the East Wales European Social Fund (ESF) Programme to help deliver economic growth by promoting high levels of sustainable employment, developing a skilled and responsive Welsh workforce now and for the future.

About the Programme

The East Wales ESF Programme is focussed on three key areas: targeting poverty and social exclusion through promoting sustainable employment; investing in a skilled workforce; and investing in our young people to ensure the best start in life. The Programme facilitates the development of a balanced portfolio of investments, supporting short-term outcomes involving employment and qualifications and more long-term outcomes such as addressing structural issues on youth unemployment and NEETs.

The Programme is split into four priority areas:

Priority 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

- Increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment.

Priority 2: Skills for Growth

- Increase the skills levels, including work relevant skills, of those in the workforce with no or low skills.
- Increase the number of people in the workforce with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level.
- Improve the position of women in the workforce.

Priority 3: Youth Employment

- Reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- Reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET, amongst 11-24 year olds.

Priority 4: Technical Assistance

- Ensure the efficient and effectitive management of the Programme.
- Provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of projects.
- Enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider European Commission-led and Sector based programmes.

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Budget available under each of the Programme's Priorities:

Priority	EU Budget	Total Budget[1]
Priority 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	€44m	€88m
Priority 2: Skills for Growth	€95m	€197m
Priority 3: Youth Employment	€60m	€120m
Priority 4: Technical Assistance	€4m	€8m
Total available under the Programme	**€203m**	**€413m**

[1] The amount from the EU Budget combined with match funding

The Managing Authority for the Programme is the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), within the Welsh Government.

More information on the programmes' aims and objectives can be found in the East Wales ESF Programme document and summary on the Welsh Government website at http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/2014-2020/east-wales/?lang=en

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2. Programme progress

Overview

By the end of 2017, the Welsh Government had invested €126m of EU funds to 34 projects, driving a total investment of €411m in East Wales.

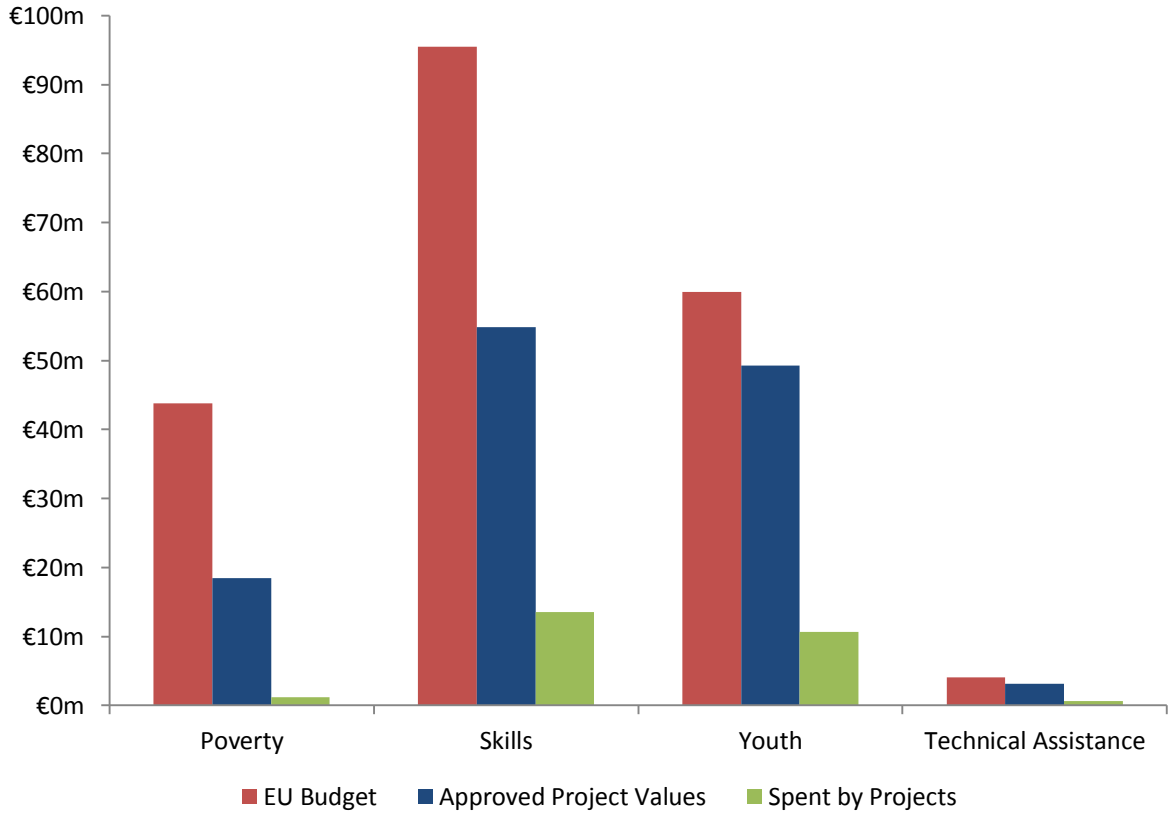
Good progress was made across a number of the Programme indicators during 2017, including:

- around 37,200 people supported, of which over 8,000 are young people
- almost 12,000 qualifications gained
- over 1,600 people supported into employment
- almost 2,000 people entered into further learning

Financial progress

The following chart shows, at Priority level, the total allocation of EU funds, and how much funds has been invested in and spent by projects.

Chart 1: EU Funds: Budget, Approved and Spent



3. Progress by Priority

Priority 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

Helping people into sustainable employment is key to reducing levels of poverty and increasing social inclusion. EU funds are helping to tackle the barriers that prevent people from finding work and are focused on increasing employment and economic activity across Wales.

By the end of the year, 42% (€18m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested to seven projects. Progress continued to be made during 2017, with two additional project approvals. The new approvals were both for Local Government-led projects: the Newport City Council-led Journey 2 Work and the Powys County Council-led Workways Plus Powys.

Active Inclusion Fund

Backed by £22.4m of EU funds, WCVA's Active Inclusion Fund is reducing economic inactivity and raising the employability of people from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds through a range of projects at local level. A case study of a participant is described below.

The participant from Cardiff is one of thousands of people across Wales to benefit. They found their school years difficult due to a number of personal challenges.

In 2017 they signed up to a hospitality skills programme delivered by the Cardiff City FC Foundation despite being extremely nervous about meeting new people but progressed well throughout the programme.

"I found out about the programme online. My psychologist told me about it and I filled the whole application out by myself. I really enjoyed the course, socialising with the people and the experience was really good."

They attended sessions on a regular basis and became a valued member of the group and demonstrated the natural ability to support and mentor other team members.

After taking part in the Active Inclusion project, they successfully applied for a short-term work experience opportunity with a retailer in Cardiff.

They said: "Working within the store was really enjoyable, I can't describe how happy I was to gain some experience in a working environment.

"I enjoyed meeting people and helping them with whatever they needed help with. It also helped with my self-confidence and with meeting new people and dealing with new challenges.

Following the work experience gained by the participant in the project, they have secured employment.

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Priority 2: Skills for Growth

Raising skills and access to training is helping create a strong and diverse workforce capable of addressing labour market challenges and driving economic productivity and business growth. EU funds are helping to increase vocational skills and higher level skills. EU funds are also helping to reduce gender inequalities, increase workforce diversity, and are supporting the progression of women in the workforce.

By the end of 2017, around 57% (€55m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested to ten projects, including the Welsh Government-led Apprenticeships programme. An extension and additional funding was awarded to the Welsh Financial Services Graduate Programme, led by the Welsh Contact Centre Forum.

Good progress was against the indicator targets, with over 26,100 participants assisted. Qualification results were also encouraging, with almost 10,000 participants achieving qualifications, close to programme targets.

Apprenticeships

EU funding is supporting some 100,000 apprenticeships across Wales. A case study of a participant is described below.

The participant was a hands-on learner in school and always enjoyed working on projects at home. They knew they didn't want to stay in full time classroom education and set their sights on an engineering career.

At 16 they were offered an apprenticeship with a global engineering company, which is involved in measurement, motion control, healthcare, spectroscopy and manufacturing. The company employs more than 2,800 people in the UK.

The participant achieved an HNC in Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering with grade distinction, an NVQ level 3 commissioning qualification through the University of South Wales, which was achieved in half of the allocated time.

They are now in their final 'Improver' year at the company. They have completed nine projects all with technical folders and successful results.

They are currently working in the Assembly Development Group where they help to apply engineering changes to the company's advanced metal additive manufacturing machines. They now plan to progress to full HND and Diploma in Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering.

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Priority 3: Youth Employment and Attainment

Supporting young people who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) will help reduce youth unemployment and improve their career and life prospects. EU funds are focused on raising achievement levels, reducing early school leaving and supporting those most at risk of becoming NEET.

By the end of the year, 82% (€49m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested to twelve projects, including the three EU investments made during 2017 for NEET projects Inspire 2 Work, led by Newport City Council, ADTRAC, led by the Grwp Llandrillo Menai, and Cynnydd, led by Powys County Council.

By the end of the year, projects had supported over 8,000 young people demonstrating significant progress against targets for reducing numbers of NEETs or at risk of becoming NEET. Project performance forecasts are encouraging, which will allow remaining funds to be invested in important niche areas.

TRAC 11-24 (East Wales)

TRAC 11-24 in North Wales aims to reduce the number of young people aged 11-24 at risk of becoming NEET (not in Education, Employment or Training).

The scheme, led by Denbighshire County Council, is supported by £2.5m from the European Social Fund and is being delivered in partnership with Local Authorities and Further Education colleges. It works closely with schools to identify and support those at risk of becoming disengaged from education and training.

The delivery is carried out by a team across North Wales through a range of interventions to compliment but not duplicate mainstream services. These include counselling, wellbeing and attendance advice, courses and work placements and bespoke advice from Careers Wales.

Young people benefit from health and wellbeing support to ensure their continued engagement in education. Students who are experiencing difficulties focusing on their learning are identified and are given mentors with a wide variety of expertise in issues such as housing, welfare and health and wellbeing to help students concentrate on their learning.

The project aims to support over 3,000 young people and so far has seen many excellent outcomes for example:

- work placements offering permanent roles
- colleges offering unconditional places
- improved wellbeing scores
- qualifications in a variety of vocations
- hundreds of young people developing new skills to help shape their future

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- stronger family relationships and many new found friendships and connections.

Priority 4: Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance is an essential resource, utilised by WEFO and other partners, for supporting the effective delivery of the Programme.

By the end of 2017, around 77% (€3m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested to five projects. This includes revenue support for WEFO to deliver the programme effectively, three 'Regional Engagement Teams' based in North Wales, Mid Wales and South East Wales, and Intermediary Body revenue support for the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. Further investment to existing projects may be made in 2018.

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The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

Annual implementation report

United Kingdom - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Wales

Annual implementation report	
Period	01/01/2017 – 31/12/2017
Version	2017.0
Status - Current Node	Open - Wales
National reference	
Monitoring committee approval date	tbc

Programme Version in force	
CCI	2014UK06RDRP004
Programme type	Rural Development Programme
Country	United Kingdom
Region	Wales
Programming period	2014 - 2020
Version	2.2
Decision Number	C(2017)4598
Decision Date	26/05/2015
Managing authority	Welsh Government – Environment and Rural Affairs - Rural Development and Legislation Division
Coordination body	UK Co-ordinating Body

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1. KEY INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ITS PRIORITIES

1.a) Financial Data

See annexed documents

1.b) Common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values

1.b1) Overview table

Focus Area 1A						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2017			11,520,329.26	1.19%	22.36
	2015-2016			0	0%	
	2014-2015			0	0%	

Focus Area 1B						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects…) (focus area 1B)	2014-2017			12	1%	1,072.00
	2015-2016			0	0%	
	2014-2015			0	0%	

Focus Area 1C						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2017			5,021	37%	13,500.00
	2015-2016			0	0%	
	2014-2015			0	0%	

Focus Area 2A

Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	2014-2017			10%	1%	10.08
	2015-2016			0	0%	
	2014-2015			0	0%	

Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	21,546,673.23	50.52	6,987,675.95	16.38	42,652,855.84
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	3,885,075.84	45.97	607,836.59	7.19	8,452,241.77
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	17,492,079.77	24.94	2,293,739.94	3.27	70,125,000.90
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	618,750.00	136.61	0.00	0.00	452,939.76
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	42,923,828.84	35.28	9,889,252.48	8.13	121,683,038.27

Focus Area 3A

Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	2014-2017			25%	36%	0.68
	2015-2016			0	0%	
	2014-2015			0	0%	

Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	31,606,044.63	105.82	453,745.22	1.52	29,867,857.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	397,857.23	45.97	62,246.44	7.19	865,564.95
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	36,574,896.99	81.73	16,305,570.38	36.44%	44,750,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	3,682,366.32	11.10	17,657.06	0.05	33,165,810.53
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	72,261,165.16	66.51	16,839,219.10	15.5	108,649,232.48

Priority P4							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)		2014-2017			0	0	0.31
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		2014-2017			0	0	0.18
		2015-2016			0	00	
		2014-2015			0	0	
T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)		2014-2017			0.23	8.31	2.76
		2015-2016			0.20	2.22	
		2014-2015			0.01	0.11	
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)		2014-2017			4.36	87.54	4.99
		2015-2016			4.36	51.50	
		2014-2015			0	0	
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		2014-2017			3.14	22.73	13.83
		2015-2016			3.14	6.40	
		2014-2015			0	0	
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)		2014-2017			20.94	54.04	38.75
		2015-2016			20.94	42.64	
		2014-2015			1.60	3.26	
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	2,518,442.33	50.52	816,741.35	16.38	4,985,398.73
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	2,408,207.58	36.84	165,990.54	2.54	6,536,482.96
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	61,978,793.10	57.66	22,578,821.25	21.01	107,491,727.39
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,119,489.81	24.47	5,001,872.18	20.00	25,007,148.98
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	121,330,289.00	52.56	78,749,343.41	34.11	230,841,570.53
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	15,432,355.91	58.29	9,681,290.19	36.57	26,474,317.45
M15	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	0.00	0.00	375,000.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,907,711.25	50.19	74,797.41	0.54	13,762,132.59
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	216,846,173.59	52.19	117,068,856.33	28.18	415,473,778.63

Focus Area 5B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)		2014-2017			5,364,869	26%	20,625,000.27
		2015-2016			0	0%	
		2014-2015			0	0%	
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	559,653.85	50.52	181,498.02	16.38	1,107,866.39
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	109,410.63	45.96	17,117.77	7.19	238,030.36
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	3,657,085.96	44.33	634,758.18	7.69	8,250,000.11
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	309,375.00	137.72	0	0.00	224,632.53
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	4,635,525.44	47.20	833,373.97	8.49	9,820,529.39

Focus Area 5C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)		2014-2017			0	0	43,862,327.67
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0%	
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	559,653.85	50.52	181,498.00	16.38	1,107,866.39
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	86,202.48	45.97	13,486.71	7.19	187,539.07
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	0	0	0
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	0	0	19,190,481.39
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	0	0	8,344,131.38
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	309,375.00	28.32	0	0	1,092,279.53
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	955,231.33	3.19	194,984.71	0.65	29,922,297.76

Focus Area 5D							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		2014-2017			4.42	105.15	4.20
		2015-2016			3.11	22.17	
		2014-2015			0	0	
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	559,653.85	50.52	181,498.01	16.38	1,107,866.39
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	770,516.80	33.85	120,550.64	5.30	2,276,310.79
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	354,472.09	8.40	506,943.83	12.02	4,217,649.53
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	4,681,562.07	39.8	2,359,902.12	20.07	11,761,246.62
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	309,375.00	137.72	0	0	224,632.53
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,675,579.82	34.08	3,168,894.60	16.18	19,587,705.86

Focus Area 5E							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)		2014-2017			0.13	55.62	0.23
		2015-2016			0.03	23.89	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	559,653.85	50.52	181,498.06	16.38	1,107,866.39
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	521,155.66	38.88	15,665.33	1.17	1,340,519.39
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	1,572,635.29	432.07	1,239,403.97	340.51	363,980.10
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	4,517,314.46	27.09	3,861,327.58	23.16	16,672,343.60
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	809,232.08	76.25	277,303.88	26.13	1,061,224.67
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	309,375.00	53.56	0	0	577,572.53
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	8,289,366.34	39.24	5,575,198.82	26.39	21,123,506.68

Focus Area 6A

Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	2014-2017			0	0	765
	2015-2016			0	0%	
	2014-2015			0	0%	

Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	220,810.79	45.97	34,546.80	7.19	480,388.55
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	0	0	0
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	16,867,573.90	69.17	0	0	24,385,948.12
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	1,135,374.12	63.28	435,597.75	24.28	1,794,076.61
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	769,501.25	209.30	0	0	367,647.00
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	18,993,260.06	70.27	470,144.55	1.74	27,028,060.28

Focus Area 6B

Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	2014-2017			0	0	100.00
	2015-2016			0	0%	
	2014-2015			0	0%	
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	2014-2017			1.21%	1.21%	45.53
	2015-2016			0	0%	
	2014-2015			0	0%	
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2017			100%	100%	45.53
	2015-2016			0	0%	
	2014-2015			0	0%	

Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	12,187,462.65	23.69	631,240.12	1.23	51,455,813.95
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	38,575,250.07	59.83	1,315,530.33	2.04	64,476,606.75
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	58,921,349.85	98.95	4,951,237.72	8.31	59,546,476.39
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	109,684,062.57	62.51	6,898,008.17	3.93	175,478,897.09

Focus Area 6C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)		2014-2017			0	0	16.47
		2015-2016			0	0%	
		2014-2015			0	0%	
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	279,826.93	50.52	90,749.03	16.38	553,933.19
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	180,600.00	5.82	0	0	3,103,704.66
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	460,426.93	12.59	90,749.03	2.48	3,657,637.85

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1.c) Key information on RDP implementation based on data from a) and b) by Focus Area

The Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme (WGRC-RDP) 2014-2020 was formally adopted by the European Commission on 26 May 2015. It is a Wales-wide package of EU and WG funded interventions aligning EU priorities for rural development with the Welsh Government's Programme for Government and the seven 'Well-being of Future Generations' goals. The Programme supports a wide range of activities designed to increase the sustainability and resilience of Wales' natural environment, land-based sector, food businesses and communities. The first modification to the Programme was agreed in 28 June 2017.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Spend to date and activity within this report cover the period from the final quarter of 2015 (October - December 2015) when payments from the Programme commenced to the 31 December 2017. Payments of €104.13m (€73.22m EAFRD) were made during 2017. By the end of 2017, the total paid since the start of the Programme was €163.09m (€117.29m EAFRD). This represents 16.8% (17.99% EAFRD) of the Programme allocation. Of the total cumulative expenditure to date €75.43m came from Pillar 1 transfer funding, of which €42.66m was paid during 2017.

By the end of 2017 a total of €506.20m in funds had been committed. The highest commitments by Focus Area (FA) by the end of 2017 were against P4 (€216.85m), FA6b (€109.68m) and FA3a (€72.26m) with €107.41m committed under the remaining Focus Areas. By Measure the highest commitment was seen against Measure 10 (€126.82m) and Measure 4 (€121.63m) with €257.75m committed under the remaining Measures.

It should be noted that within the 2016 Annual Report a technical issue has been identified regarding Focus Area commitment data reported – data was provided for Measure 1 Focus Area 6a in error, this should have been reported under Focus Area 6c. This has been corrected within the monitoring tables.

Measure 20: Technical Assistance

Activity funded by Technical Assistance (TA) is essential for the successful implementation of the WGRC RDP 2014-20. Funded activities include technical input to the viability of projects, programme implementation and the development of IT systems. TA funds a number of mandatory elements of the RDP such as the Wales Rural Network and the monitoring and evaluation costs for the Programme.

During 2017 six TA funded projects were approved bringing the total number of approved applications to seven. The total cumulative committed value for Measure 20 stood at €22.82m by 31 December 2017. Payments of €2.1m (€1.09m EAFRD) have been made under TA during 2017.

	Number of applications	**Total Value (£m)**	**Total Value (€m)***
Total allocation for TA			**€ 38.8**
Committed – Total Public		£ 19.4 m	€ 22.8
Applications received	8	£ 29.0 m	€ 34.1
Applications under appraisal	1	£ 9.6 m	€ 11.3
Applications approved	7	£ 19.4 m	€ 22.8

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**Euro conversion of applications under appraisal and approved are based on a 0.85 exchange rate*

IMPLEMENTATION BY FOCUS AREA

PRIORITY 1: FOCUS AREAS 1a, 1b, 1c

Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer & Information actions), 2 (Advisory Services) & 16 (Co-operation) are programmed under Priority 1 Focus Area 1a, with Measure 16 also contributing to Focus Area 1b and Measure 1 to Focus Area 1c. In Wales the Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions along with Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services are horizontal Measures relevant to all Priorities of the Programme with actions within the Measures programmed under specific Focus Areas of the other Priorities. Activity also contributes directly to meeting the cross cutting objectives of innovation, climate change and the environment.

A total of €9.07m (€4.81m) expenditure was incurred in respect of Measure 1, €1.04m (€0.55m) under Measure 2 and €1.41m (€1.35m) under Measure 16 during the reporting period. For committed expenditure a total of €58.19m in funding was committed under Measure 1, €8.40m committed under Measure 2 and €51.79m under Measure 16 by the end of 2017. This represents 70.54% commitment against Measure 1 allocation (€82.49m), 41.22% against Measure 2 allocation (€20.38m) and 45.29% against Measure 16 allocation (€114.34m).

Measures 1 & 2

Contracts under Measures 1 and 2, delivered through Farming Connect, commenced on 1 October 2015 coinciding with the end of the services delivered under the 2007-2013 RDP. These services are central in supporting the delivery of other areas of the Programme and form the main mechanism and structure for delivering a co-ordinated and integrated package of knowledge transfer, advice and innovation support services targeting rural communities. Menter a Busnes has been contracted under the Farming Connect Framework to deliver the Farming Connect Knowledge Transfer Programme. Menter a Busnes are supported by a consortium consisting of the Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences (IBERS) part of Aberystwyth University, the Colleges' Network, ADAS, Kite Consulting, Innovis, Bangor University and Lantra, as well as the levy bodies (HCC and AHDB) as key strategic partners. Farming Connect aims to transform the business prospects of thousands of farmers and foresters in Wales. Many services are fully funded, others are subsidised by up to 80%. Eligibility criteria have been widened to include more farmers and foresters with smaller holdings, new categories of self-employed contractors and agricultural students.

Measure 1

The Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (KT&I) Scheme supports the knowledge, training and information requirements of farming, forestry and food manufacturing SME businesses for the creation of a more sustainable and competitive rural economy. The WG has developed the Farming Connect Framework, which comprises an integrated pan Wales programme of knowledge transfer and innovation support. It is a centrally managed and publicly tendered programme, covering specific activities focussing on lifelong learning & development, demonstration and information actions and support for short-term management exchanges in agriculture and forestry. In addition to the centrally procured activity taking place, the KT&I Scheme may also include calls for grant-aided projects for sectorial and industry led, bottom-up initiatives targeting agriculture, forestry, food, other rural SMEs and land managers. This will be fully integrated with the Farming Connect programme to ensure complementarity and best use of resources.

Measure 1.1

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Under Measure 1.1 a total of €1.63m (€0.86m EAFRD) was spent during 2017. Farming Connect has developed several vocational training initiatives under this Measure, including:

1. **One to one mentoring**
   This initiative has been developed by Farming Connect to provide farmers and foresters with peer to peer mentoring. The initiative has been designed to benefit new entrants, businesses considering a significant strategic change in direction and individuals looking to exit the industry and who are considering share/contract farming possibilities. Up until 31 December 2017, 100 mentees had been assigned a mentor. The topics focussed on in 2017 included performance recording with the Electronic Identification Project (EID), out-wintering cattle, grassland management, renewable energy, tourism and wine production amongst others.

2. **Agri Academy**
   The Agri Academy brings together individuals making their way in the agricultural industry in Wales today, giving them the inspiration, confidence, skills and the contacts they need to become future rural leaders, professional business people and entrepreneurs. The programme which provides training, mentoring, support and guidance is split into three distinct programmes;

   - ***The Rural Leadership programme*** – aimed at inspiring and developing a new generation of leaders in rural Wales (a joint collaboration with the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society). 12 individuals took part in this programme in 2017.
   - ***The Business and Innovation programme*** – aimed at supporting and inspiring the next generation of farming and forestry innovators and entrepreneurs in Wales. 14 individuals took part in this programme in 2017.
   - ***The junior programme*** – aimed at supporting young people aged between 16 and 19 years who hope to follow a career in the food, farming and forestry industries (a joint collaboration with Wales Young Farmers' Clubs). 13 individuals benefited from this programme in 2017.

3. **Skills**
   Through the skills programme, individuals can access up to 80% funding for completing short accredited training courses on key topics. To access the training courses individuals need to complete an online Personal Development Plan (PDP) to help analyse the individual as well as business needs and to plan a strategy to strengthen or introduce new skills to the business.

   A total of 2,200 individuals have completed 47 courses out of the 57 courses now available. Examples of courses include:
   - Marketing your business – 73 individuals
   - Financial recording and VAT – 936 individuals
   - Business planning and development – 65 individuals
   - Chainsaw maintenance – 115 individuals

4. **E-learning**
   Up until the end of December 2017 a total of 2,479 e-learning courses were completed. Examples of courses include:
   - Biosecurity – 4 individuals
   - Farm Finance – 18 individuals
   - Farm Liver fluke management – 37 individuals
   - Grazing Management - 30 individuals

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- Health and Safety. Compulsory for machinery or equipment courses – 2,267 individuals
- Tree Identification, Deciduous Trees - 28 individuals

Measure 1.2

Under Measure 1.2 a total of €7.36m (€3.90m EAFRD) was spend during 2017. The following Farming Connect demonstration activities took place during 2017:

1. **Demonstration Network**
   The Demonstration Network consists of eight Innovation sites, 12 Demonstration farms and each year 36 Focus sites are recruited (85 running total up to 31 December 2017). The sites promote innovation and new technology that is available for farmers and foresters and provides a practical platform to demonstrate how this new technology/technique can be implemented at farm/forestry level. By 31 December 2017, 305 events had been hosted on the demonstration network with 6,193 attendees.

2. **Discussion Groups**
   Discussion groups are made up of approximately eight beneficiaries who meet regularly according to a structured programme with clear aims and outcomes identified from the outset. From autumn 2015 until 31 December 2017, 103 groups were recruited with a total of 979 individual members representing 846 businesses. The groups are collecting data that is relevant to their needs and they are able to make comparisons and learn about the benefits of recording information and using it to make management decisions.

3. **Action Learning (Agrisgôp)**
   Agrisgôp is a fully-funded action learning programme which brings together forward-thinking, like-minded individuals from farm and forestry businesses at a local level. Working together in groups of 6-10, group members can learn new management skills, gain confidence, access specialist information and explore and develop viable futures for their businesses. Based on the concept of action learning, Agrisgôp provides the opportunity to progress skills and confidence, which will in turn assist the development of ideas and opportunities to move businesses forward. A total of 68 groups have been established across Wales facilitated by local Agrisgôp leaders. They hold meetings at regular intervals; during this period 479 meetings took place.

4. **One to one surgeries and clinics**
   One to one surgeries allow the customer to receive bespoke advice on a variety of topics ,e.g. strategic business planning, succession planning, IT, planning, and marketing and diversification. Since the beginning of the programme 179 clinics have taken place with 1,554 beneficiaries, likewise some 503 surgeries have taken place with 2370 beneficiaries, this includes 239 surgeries with 922 beneficiaries between January and December 2017.

5. **Diversification Awareness seminars**
   These events aim to help farmers and foresters understand the essential elements of developing diversification ventures. Regional events were held to outline the key elements of planning a diversification project with attendees signposted to the additional support and advice available through the Farming Connect programme - six events were held with 157 beneficiaries.

6. **Venture**

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This is an initiative designed to help match farmers and landowners who are looking to step back from the industry with new entrants looking for a way into farming. The initiative guides people on both sides through the key steps required to find a potential business partner. An integrated package of training, mentoring, specialist advice and business support equips participants with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to help them achieve their goals. Up until 31 December 2017, there are 256 active members and out of these 36 potential matches have been identified. There have been seven new joint venture enterprises established during this period. The individuals who have found potential business partners are now applying for group advice through the advisory service for further guidance.

Measure 1.3

Under Measure 1.3 a total of €0.09m (€0.05m EAFRD) was spent during 2017. The following exchanges and farm visits were organised during 2017:

1. **Farm and Forest short term visits**
   Visiting other businesses can be a valuable way to discover improved methods of working, see best practice in action and bring home new ideas to innovate your enterprise. Groups are provided with funding to support a study visit within the UK for up to four days. Fourteen groups have undertaken visits to a variety of destinations including Scotland, Northern Ireland and Dorset. Topics of interest have included improving fertility and performance in the dairy herd, efficient milk production from grass and improving the beef supply chain.

2. **Farm and Forest exchanges**
   Successful individuals undertake a visit to other farm or forestry situations within the EU to learn about new and improved ways of working in the farming or forestry sectors. They can also host a suitably trained and experienced farm or forest manager to visit their holding and learn about different approaches to business management. The aim is to broaden their knowledge, technical ability and management expertise to provide new development opportunities at both a personal and business level. As at the end of 2017, nineteen successful candidates have been awarded funding on a variety of topics. Eight have completed their exchange visits and reports have been published on the Farming Connect website. All exchange visits will be completed by the end of June 2018.

Measure 2

Under Measure 2 a total of €1.04m (€0.55m EAFRD) was spent during 2017 with €8.34m funds committed.

Measures 2.1 & 2.2

Under these Measures the Farming Connect Advisory Service provides a range of subsidised, independent, confidential and bespoke advice to farm and forestry businesses. Available on a one-to-one basis the individual advice element is up to 80% funded and group advice is 100% funded up to a maximum of €1,500k (£1,275k). The Advisory Service is delivered by eight companies, selected and approved by Farming Connect. The framework offers a range of advisers who have a wealth of experience and knowledge to deliver a high standard advice. During 2017 a total of €0.81m (€0.43m EAFRD) was spent under Measure 2.1 with €0.23m (€0.12m EAFRD) under Measure 2.2. Up until 31 December 2017, 819 instances of one-to-one and Group advice have been completed and claimed.

Individual businesses have requested the following advice;

- Business Planning - 660
- Technical Grassland & Crop Management – 997

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- Technical Livestock Management & Performance – 103
- Technical Diversification and Added Value – 47
- Technical Timber processing and added value – 1
- Technical Horticulture – 2

Measure 2.1
In addition to Farming Connect under Measure 2.1 (support to help benefit from the use of advisory services), Glastir intends to use advisory support to have water management plans carried out and woodland plans verified against the UK Forestry Standard by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). It also requires use of the expertise of Wales' archaeological trusts to give Contract Managers advice on the most suitable management for Glastir Advanced contracts. Furthermore, the report from the Glastir Advanced Independent Evaluation panel, chaired by an independent consultant made a number of recommendations, including Contract Managers needing greater high quality guidance, support and training and contracts needing more follow up visits and advice. The main purpose of this evaluation panel was to assess how successful Glastir Advanced was at addressing its important environmental objectives and to identify steps WG could take which would continue to improve upon the delivery of the scheme going forward under the 2014-2020 Programme. To this end, the WG began procuring a service that could fulfil the remit of these recommendations. To date, no contract has been awarded and no expenditure incurred. Further information on Glastir activity under Measure 2.1 can be found under Priority 4 and 5 sections of this report. A copy of the evaluation panel's report and WG's response can be found at:
http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/farming/schemes/glastir/glastiradvanced/?lang=en
For Glastir historic and water quality advice the first contract for historical advice has been awarded to the Welsh archaeological Trusts. The second part of the approval process for the remainder of advice is currently being procured. The mechanism for delivery of water quality advice is under review.

Measure 2.3
This Measure (support for training of advisors) has yet to be activated. As such there is no activity, commitments or expenditure reported. Measure 2.3 will be kept under review and WG will consider changes as appropriate during the programme period.

Measure 16.1
Under Measure 16.1 in Wales, the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) was launched in January 2016 and applications were, and continue to be, invited from Groups interested in solving common problems. In August 2017, Menter a Busnes were awarded the contract to run the EIP Wales programme which involves the management and facilitation of every stage from enquiry through to awarding project contracts and execution of the successful projects.

Groups are supported by the Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub, a collaboration between Farming Connect and IBERS, Aberystwyth University. The Hub assists them by undertaking background literature searches into their proposed topic to gain a better understanding of what is already known about the topic and to inform the project of any gaps in the information that may need to be investigated. The Hub also provides support and guidance on project designs and will work with the Groups throughout the lifetime of the projects to assist with the project outcomes and dissemination.

The Groups are also able to seek fully funded support from an Innovation Broker, who provides guidance and support to the Group throughout the application process. 67 enquiries have been received to date from individuals interested in EIP. The Knowledge Exchange Hub has completed 51 literature reviews to support

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these enquiries. Of these, 22 have gone on to develop project outlines and 11 have submitted full applications. A total of ten projects were awarded funding during 2017;

1. Potato blight control using components of indigenous non-food waste plants.
2. Developing the Cambrian Mountains Beef group to manage and expand their short supply chain.
3. Pasture for Pollinators.
4. Reducing antibiotic use on sheep farms at lambing time through best practice management, by improving nutrition and hygiene.
5. Comparison of the relative environmental benefits of low impact machinery in small scale farm woodlands.
6. Feasibility study on Squill Production in North Wales.
7. An analysis of the use of a computerised robotic weeder in small scale horticultural operations at two locations in South Wales.
8. Assessing the potential of genomic testing dairy heifers to increase genetic gains and financial returns.
9. Alternative forage systems for marginal land.
10. Night Milk - Assessing the reliability and economic benefit.

As projects are awarded funding, Farming Connect and the Knowledge Exchange Hub will work with the groups to disseminate key messages and prepare case studies to promote the scheme to other interested parties. The Knowledge Exchange Hub will facilitate linkages with other Groups interested in similar topics across Wales and the EU, and has already made links with the thematic network, EuroDairy - relevant dairy Groups have been put in touch with them to enable information, ideas and training opportunities to be shared. TheKnowledge Exchange Hub will help to bring the groups and networks together as new thematic networks are developed that are relevant.

PRIORITY 2: FOCUS AREA 2a

Measures 1, 2, 4.1 and 16.1 are programmed under Priority 2. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Focus Area 2b has not been programmed in Wales.

Under Priority 2 a total of €9.89 expenditure (€6.21m EAFRD) was incurred. This included €6.99m (€3.70m EAFRD) under Measure 1, €0.61m (€0.32m EAFRD) under Measure 2 and €2.29m (€2.19m EAFRD) under Measure 4 during the reporting period. Regarding committed expenditure a total of €21.55m in funding was committed under Measure 1 with €3.89m committed under Measure 2, €17.49m under Measure 4 and €0.62m under Measure 16 by the end of 2017. Progress in implementing Measure 4.1 (support for investments in agricultural holdings) has been provided below;

Measure 4.1

The Sustainable Production Scheme (SPG) under Measure 4.1 primarily delivers under Focus Area 2a in addition to Focus Areas 5b and 5d. The Scheme provides support to help farmers improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holding in line with the WG's and agriculture industry in Wales' vision for more sustainable, profitable and resilient farm businesses. It provides capital investment in facilities and equipment that relate to animal health and welfare, crop storage, production housing and handling, renewable energy production and soil and crop management. Grants represent a 40% contribution and can range from a minimum of €18.82k to a maximum of €470.59k to increase on-farm investment, production and resource efficiencies to improve technical performance.

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During the reporting period three EOI windows have opened for the SPG Scheme, the first for a budget of €2.35m with 172 EOIs received of which 12 were invited to submit a full application. The second had an allocation of €7.06m with 169 EOIs received of which 39 were invited to submit a full application. A third round took place in September 2016, with a budget of €7.06m. Under the third EOI, 154 EOIs were submitted, with 30 beneficiaries invited to the second stage of the application process. Bringing the total number of successful EOIs invited to submit to the second stage application process to 81. Of these a total of 54 applications had been approved (with eight withdrawn / rejected) by the end of December 2017. Payments of €2.07 (100% EAFRD) had been made during this period.

The Farm Business Grant (FBG) alsoprogrammed under Measure 4.1 aims to help farmers in Wales to improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holdings. The grant provides a financial contribution towards standard costed capital investments in equipment and machinery which have been pre-identified as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to farm enterprises. The minimum grant available is €3,529k (£3,000k) and the maximum is €14,118k (£12,000k). To be eligible to apply to the FBG, a member of the farming business must have attended a Farming Connect Farming for the Future event.

To date, after two completed rounds of the FBG, over 850 applications have been received, requesting €6.71m (£5.7m) in grant. During 2017 payments of €0.23m (€0.12m EAFRD) were made under FA2a with 16 completed operations. Please also see Priority 5 section of this report for information on Measure 4.1.

PRIORITY 3: FOCUS AREA 3a

Measures 1, 2, 4.2 and 16 are programmed under Priority 3. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Focus Area 3b has not been activiated as part of the Wales Programme.

Under Priority 3 a total of €0.45m (€0.24m) expenditure was incurred in respect of Measure 1, €0.06m (€0.03m) under Measure 2, €16.31m (€10.15m) under Measure 4 and €0.02m (100% EAFRD) under Measure 16 during the reporting period. Regarding committed expenditure a total of €31.61m in funding was committed under Measure 1 with €0.39m committed under Measure 2, €36.57m under Measure 4 and €3.68m under Measure 16 by the end of 2017.

Progress against Measure 1.1 (support for vocational training and skills), Measure 4.2 (investments in processing / marketing / development of agri products) and Measure 16.4 (Supply chain) is provided below;

Measure 1.1

Project HELIX delivered under Measure 1.1 provides funding support for research into global food production, trends and waste to help small to medium sized food manufacturers across Wales to increase production and reduce waste. Developed by Food Innovation Wales (FIW), a partnership of three food centres, Project HELIX supports food manufacturers in Innovation, Efficiency and Strategy.

All of the proposed activities within Project Helix are aligned with the Welsh Government strategic priorities in Taking Wales Forward, particularly supporting the economy, business and jobs, as well as the business growth and market development actions of Towards Sustainable Growth. These activities contribute to a Prosperous Wales – one of the seven goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, as well as the five ways of working, including collaboration with industry for the long term

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development and growth of the food and drink sector. Project Helix has been aligned with Programme for Government priorities and, in accordance with the Regulations governing the European Programmes, all projects funded through the Common Strategic Framework integrate the Cross Cutting Themes (CCT's) of Equal Opportunities and Gender Mainstreaming and Sustainable Development. In addition the scheme has particular importance in the context of Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The Pan Wales partnership developed by the three food centres has, at its core, the development of rural and valleys communities and the creation of sustainable jobs to impact on poverty throughout Wales. Recent work undertaken by the centres has identified growth in the sector which tends to originate in areas where unemployment is highest, ie rural communities and the South Wales valleys. Due to Wales' geographical location the strategy for a sustainable food sector must focus on the development of start-up companies and support to SMEs. Historically the sale of larger companies to food multi nationals will, in the majority of cases, create a re-alignment of production capacity - this results in the manufacturing site often being incorporated into other processing facilities elsewhere in the UK and internationally. Innovation and food company regeneration is therefore the key to a vibrant, effective and longstanding Welsh food and drink sector.

Project HELIX is designed to develop Welsh businesses to enable them to attend UK and International Food and Drink related trade exhibitions and trade development visits, which are a key component for increasing growth and improving the competitiveness of companies in Wales. The project has been developed into three key areas and will be delivered Pan Wales under the Food Innovation Wales brand; Food Innovation, Food Efficiency and Food Strategy. The project was launched in March 2017, core outputs and expected achievements during its lifetime include:

Food Centre	Project value (Millions)	€ Impact in (Millions)	No.of Enterprises assisted	New jobs created	New markets accessed
Food Innovation Centre		€91.7m (£77.9)	94	200	48
Food Technology Centre		€49.4m (£42)	56	105	23
Food Centre Wales		€35.2m (£29.9)	31	65	16
Total	€25,72m (£21,86m)	€176.3m (£149.9)	181	370	87

Project Helix activity to date:

	Actual	Target
• Number of actions supported:	14	18
• Number of training days given:	159.2	255
• Number of participants in training:	136	445
• Number of Enterprises Assisted:	145	181
• Number of Jobs Created:	33.5	370
• Number of new products supported:	155	423
• Indicative impact in £m / €m :	£19.4m /€22.82m	£129m /€151.76m
• Jobs Safeguarded:	141	2,041
• Start-up companies supported:	40	

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Measure 4.2
Measure 4.2 is delivered through the Food Business Investment Scheme (FBIS). It is designed to help primary producers of agricultural products in Wales to add value to their outputs by providing support to those businesses that do first and/or second stage processing activities. It aims to improve the performance and competitiveness of their businesses; to respond to consumer demand; to encourage diversification and to identify, exploit and service new emerging and existing markets.

All projects supported through FBIS must make a contribution to the overarching 'Food Strategy Action Plan - Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020' and one or more of the following thematic objectives;

- promoting and developing a growing and vibrant food and drink sector in Wales;
- continuing to develop a green image based on sustainable production methods;
- building resilience into the industry to withstand market changes;
- driving improvements in food safety and security;
- promoting technological innovation in both product and processes;
- providing career opportunities at varying skill levels.

During the reporting period four EOI windows have opened for FBIS, the first received 85 EOIs, of which 24 were invited to submit a full application. Twenty were received (three withdrawn / rejected) with 19 approved by the end of 2017, the total value of projects approved was €38.1m (£32.4m) with total value of grant awarded of €13.5m (£11.5m). The second window received 65 EOIs, of which 21 were invited to submit full applications. 18 were received by end 2017 (four withdrawn) with 13 approved and four awaiting final appraisal, total value of projects approved was €64m (£54.4m) with the total value of grant awarded €21.4m (£18.2m). The third received 50 EOIs, of which 46 were invited to submit full applications. 30 were received (16 withdrawn / rejected) with three approved by the end of 2017 with 27 waiting final appraisal, total value of approved projects was €594.9k (£505.7k) with total value of the grant awarded €211.2k (£179.5k). The total value of all applications received €9.9m (£8.4m) with the total grant value of all applications received €2.4m (£2m). The fourth window received 50 EOIs received of which 24 were invited to submit full applications. The available budget for that window was €2.4m (£2m) with a maximum grant application of €176.5k (£150k) for each. The total project cost value of EOIs received was €13.1m (£11.1m) with the total grant requested of EOIs received €4.6m (£3.9m).

By the end of December 2017 a total of €16.3m (€10.15m EAFRD) was spent under FBIS. In spring 2018 it is anticipated that WG will open a further window for larger scale investment.

Measure 16.4
The Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCDS) delivered under Measure 16 provides a broad range of support. The scheme aims to support the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, forestry and food sectors and hospitality sectors (except for fisheries or aquaculture products), and other actors that contribute to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural development policy including:

- small businesses working together to share production facilities and resources.
- short supply chains and local markets including promotion activities in a local context.
- pilot projects where the information is made publicly available and widely disseminated.

The scheme supports collaboration and is designed to make new things happen, achieving transformational change.

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The first EOI window for C&SCDS opened for a targeted purpose: to provide support for businesses, organisations and/or communities to '*develop the capacity to work with a range of stakeholders to promote and develop a collaborative approach*' in order to achieve multiple objectives and outcomes through '*making new things happen*'. Subsequent EOI windows for C&SCDS, have been based on the development work facilitated in the first round to part-fund the projects themselves (pilot projects, supply chain co-operation etc.). Of the two EOI rounds run in 2017 Measure 16.4 was available in the first one. This first round had a budget of €3.5m (£3m). A total of nine EOI's were received of which two indicated compatibility with Measure 16.4. One of these progressed to full application. To date €0.02m (100% EAFRD) was been spent.

Please also see Priority 5 and 6 sections of this report for information on Measure 16 Co-operation and Supply Chain Efficiency Scheme.

PRIORITY 4: FOCUS AREAS 4a, 4b, 4c

Measures 1, 2, 4.4, 8, 10, 11 and 16 are programmed under Priority 4. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period.

During 2017 expenditure incurred against Priority 4 totalled €117.07m (€87.76m EAFRD). Regarding committed expenditure during 2017 a total of €61.98m in funding was committed under Measure 4, €6.12m for Measure 8, with €121.33m under Measure 10 and €15.43m under Measure 11, with the remaining funds (€11.99m) committed under Measures 1, 2, 15 and 16. ring total committed funds under Priority 4 to €216.85m.

Measures programmed under specific Focus Areas under Priority 4 include;

- Focus Area 4a (agriculture): Measure 8.1 (afforestation / creation of woodland), 8.2 (establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems) and 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate)
- Focus Area 4a (forestry): Measure 8.5 (investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) and 15.1 (Forest-environment climate services and forest conservation)
- Focus Area 4b (agriculture): Measure 8.1 (afforestation / creation of woodland), 8.2 (establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems) and 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate)
- Focus Area 4b (forestry): Measure 8.5 (investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) and 15.1(Forest-environment climate services and forest conservation)
- Focus Area 4c (agriculture): Measure 8.1 (afforestation / creation of woodland), 8.2 (establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems), 11.1 (convert to organic farming practices and methods) and 11.2 (maintain organic farming practices and methods)
- Focus Area 4c (forestry): Measure 8.5 (investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) and 15.1(Forest-environment climate services and forest conservation)

Under Focus Area 4a during the reporting period the physical area supported was 298,897.81 hectares (of which 298,183.28 ha Agricultural and 714.53 ha forestry) with 88,538.29 hectares under Focus Area 4b (all agricultural) and 63,499.53 hectares under Focus Area 4c (all agricultural).

Glastir

Woodland creation & agro-forestry, woodland restoration & management, agri-environment and organic

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support provided under Measures 8.1, 8.2, 8.4 & 8.5, 4.4, 10.1 and 11.1 & 11.2, is delivered through the WG's sustainable land management scheme, Glastir, through the following:

- Glastir Entry, Advanced and Small Grants (Measures 4.4 & 10.1) - Focus Areas 4a, 4b, 5d and 5e.
- Glastir Commons (Measure 10.1) - Focus Area 4a.
- Glastir Organic (Measure 11) - Focus Area 4c.
- Glastir Woodland Creation (Measures 8.1 & 8.2) - Focus Areas 4a, 4b, 4c and 5e.
- Glastir Woodland Management (legacy), Forest Management Plans and Restoration - Focus Areas 4a, 5c, 5e and 6a.
- Glastir advisory support (Measure 2.1) – Focus Area 4a, 4b, 4c, 5d and 5e.

Progress against Measure 2.1 (support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services), Measure 4.4 (non productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives), Measure 8 (Investments in forest area development), Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-climate), Measure 11 (Organic Farming), Measure 15.1 (Payment for forest-environmental and climate commitments), Measure 16.5 (joint action to mitigating or adapting to climate change and for joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices) along with Measure 16.8 (forest management plans) has been provided below;

Measure 2.1

Under Measure 2.1 Glastir intends to use advisory support to have water management plans carried out and woodland plans verified against the UK Forestry Standard by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). It also requires use of the expertise of Wales' archaeological trusts to give Contract Managers advice on the most suitable management for Glastir Advanced contracts. To date, no contract has been awarded and no expenditure incurred. See Priority 1 section of this report for further information.

Measure 4.4

Investments that contribute toward Focus Area 4a and 4b objectives are provided through capital works in Glastir Small Grants under Measure 4.4. The capital works are assigned the Focus Area that they deliver against. For example, a fence protecting a Glastir Advanced hay meadow commitment in Measure 10.1 will be assigned Focus Area 4a as the hay meadow commitment is Focus Area 4a, a fence protecting a streamside corridor commitment in Glastir Advanced would be assigned Focus Area 4b as the streamside corridor is Focus Area 4b.

For Glastir Small Grants, the Focus Area is assigned according to the theme for the individual round of Glastir Small Grants. The Carbon theme is assigned to Focus Area 5e, the Water theme against Focus Area 4b and, the Landscape and Pollinators theme to Focus Area 4a. During the reporting period for Measure 4.4 there were 338 approved operations with €1.33m in expenditure. It should be noted a breakdown of these figures for NCA, age and agricultural branch in Table C of the monitoring tables will be provided in future reports. Operations support by farm size has been provided within the supporting monitoring tables.

Measures 8.1 & 8.2

Schemes delivered under Measure 8.1 include legacy Glastir Woodland Creation Maintenance and Premium contracts signed under the 2007-13 RDP and new Glastir Woodland Creation contracts from the 2014-2020 Programme under both Measures 8.1 (support for afforestation / creation of woodland) and 8.2 (support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems).

Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) is programmed Priority 4 and Focus Area 5e, with the majority of

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funding allocated to Priority 4. GWC has seen the establishment of 270.07ha of new woodland creation. The majority has been established under Measure 8.1. Total expenditure to date for Measure 8.1 has been €3.87m (€3.15m EAFRD) across both Priority 4 and 5 of which €1.80m (100% EAFRD) is attributed to Priority 4. During the reporting period for Measure 8.1 establishment there were 79 beneficiaries supported.

Measure 8.3
The Forest Monitoring & Risk Management Scheme is intended to be delivered under Measure 8.3 (prevention of damage to forests) by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The objective of the Scheme will be to support monitoring, mitigation and prevention of harmful results from current tree or woodland environment pest or disease outbreaks. The majority of the scheme's funding (75%) is linked to Focus Area 5e with the remaining funds programmed under Priority 4, Focus Area 4a. The application from NRW is currently undergoing appraisal by Welsh Government. There is no activity or expenditure incurred during the reporting period for this Measure. Further information on Measure 8.3 can be found under Priority 5 section below.

Measure 8.4
The Glastir Woodland Restoration scheme under Measure 8.4 (support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events) supports the re-stocking of larch woodlands that have been infected or threatened by the fungal pathogen Phytophthora ramorum and has seen four Expression of Interest (EOI) rounds under this RDP. The majority of the allocation for this Measure sits under Focus Area 5e with remainder allocated to Priority 4. There were no beneficiaries, area supported, or expenditure incurred under Measure 8.4 for Priority 4. Further information on the Scheme can be found under Priority 5 section below.

Measure 8.5
The Glastir Woodland Management (GWM) Scheme only includes legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 RDP and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area-based payments. Presently, there are 124 extant contracts with expenditure paid under this RDP amounting to €3.27m (100% EAFRD) for Measure 8.5 of which €3.19m is under Priority 4, the remainder under FA 5e. The total area supported was 130.53ha during the reporting period under Measure 8.5. The majority of the allocation for this Measure is under Priority 4 with the remainder programmed under Focus Areas 5c, 5e and 6a.

Measure 10.1
Delivery under Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate) includes the Glastir Entry, Advanced and Commons schemes. It also includes multi-annual, area-based payments for existing farm woodlands in Glastir Woodland Management (GWM). The number of unique contracts under Measure 10.1 stands at 4828 (excluding those Advanced contracts linked to Entry) covering an area of 667,755.59 ha. During 2016 and 2017 enhancements to the operations database has allowed for improvements to data reporting and greater accuracy in the data provided against Focus Areas and types of operations under Measure 10.1.

Glastir Entry has achieved a total of 4,603 contracts, amounting to a total area of 543,496 ha. No further Entry contract offers will be made as the WG considers that more targeted interventions, such as those in Glastir Advanced and Glastir Small Grants are more appropriate to achieve its objectives. Under Glastir Entry the total expenditure incurred by end 2017 was €46.29m (€20.05m EAFRD) of which the majority was paid from Priority 4 (€43.93m).

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Glastir Advanced now comprises 2,403 contracts of which 895 are stand-alone contracts with 1,508 contracts underpinned by Glastir Entry and a further 79 contracts in Glastir Commons. Expenditure under this RDP has been €22.55m (100% EAFRD) for Measure 4.4 and €27.83m (100% EAFRD) for Measure 10.1. The Expression of Interest (EOI) for Glastir Advanced 2019 opened on 18 September 2017and closed 20 October 2017, with 321 EOIs submitted. Selection has now taken place with 121 EOIs selected for contract manager visits.

Glastir Commons is programmed entirely under Priority 4, Focus Area 4a, and is closed to new entrants. Glastir Commons consists of 197 contracts covering 119,069 ha of land. All eligible contracts will be offered an extension to 2019 to allow time for Grazing Associations to explore other funding mechanisms, such as the Sustainable Management Scheme (Measure 16.5) or Payment for Ecosystem Services prospectuses. During 2017 a total of €6.86m (€2.96m EAFRD) was paid out under the Glastir Commons scheme.

Measure 11

Glastir Organic under Measure 11 (Organic farming) supports farmers to convert to (Measure 11.1) or maintain (Measure 11.2) organic farming practices. This Scheme is now closed, there will be no further windows during this Programme. After three rounds of Glastir Organic applications, 526 contracts to maintain (Measure 11.2) organic farming practices have been achieved covering a total area of 63,499ha (9,896 ha under Measure 11.1 and 53,603 ha for Measure 11.2). Expenditure for Measure 11 during the reporting period was €9.68m (100% EAFRD) of which majority was under Measure 11.2 (€7.45m).

Measure 15.1

This Measure (payment for forest-environmental and climate commitments) has yet to be activated. As such there is no activity, commitments or expenditure reported. Measure 15.1 will be kept under review and WG will consider changes as appropriate during the programme period.

Measure 16.5

The Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) is delivered under Measure 16.5. This scheme supports direct action across Wales delivering against the approach and principles laid down in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The SMS is designed to support the delivery of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 that will enable Wales' resources to be managed in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up way and tackle climate change. The SMS has a focus on landscape-scale, collaborative action delivering economic and social benefits to our rural communities through the sustainable management of our natural resources. It encourages projects to consider the natural resources priorities as well as the local level opportunities and challenges to deliver lasting social and economic benefits to rural communities.

SMS supports a collaborative approach rather than single applicants to develop proposals for projects with a three year planned delivery of collaborative actions. These projects must contribute to the longer term ability of the landscape to support continuing social, economic and environmental benefits. Innovative approaches are being explored from diversification of business, multiple usage of the land through to Payment for Ecosystem Services mechanisms. The selection criteria, scheme guidance and EOI guidance/application, were all devised subject to and including consideration of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) principles; social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas, creation of new small enterprise and job creation. . The projects approved by the scheme are required to deliver actions that enhance and improve the resilience of ecosystem and the services these provide to the rural communities linked to them. The projects are also required to deliver mitigation or adaptations to climate change. Each collaboration successful at EOI stage is invited to an initiation meeting.

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to allow WG to provide significant guidance to applicants in developing the full application. By the end of programme it is estimated that 60 cooperation operations will be supported.. The lead time to establish collaborations and develop projects on a scale capable of delivering against the focus areas within this sub-measure is considerable.

This scheme has committed €12.8m (£15m) of WG and EU funding to date through three windows opened during 2016 & 2017. Nine projects are currently under way with a further 27 projects currently developing full applications. Two further potential windows have been scheduled under the RC-RDP scheme plan in 2018 with dates to be announced.

During the reporting period three EOI windows have opened for SMS. The first window received 63 EOIs, of which 11 EOIs were successful and submitted full applications. Of these nine have been approved and are currently undertaking early project activities such as establishing the formal collaboration and initiating contract procurement for capital works / specialist consultancy. The second window received 38 EOIs, of which 13 EOIs were successful and submitted full applications. The third window received 26 EOIs, of which 11 EOIs were successful and have been invited to submit full applications.

Several projects from the EOI windows are farmer led collaborations, and all significantly involve collaboration with the rural community of land owners, farmers, graziers, commoners and the local communities themselves. It is estimated that there will be 35 fully approved projects underway by the end of 2018. A total of €0.74m (100% EAFRD) was during during 2017 under Measure 16.5.

Measure 16.8

Measure 16.8 is programmed under Priority 4 and Focus Areas 5c, 5e and 6a through the Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme (CFPS). The CFPS will provide financial support for a range of activities to encourage planning for the creation of broadleaved and conifer woodland to improve the management of natural resources and contribute to the well-being of rural communities within Wales. Eligible activities under this Measure include the development and co-ordination of collaborative groups, communication and dissemination activities, technical and feasibility studies or monitoring and evaluation activities.

The first EOI window for CFPS opened from 14 November 2016 to 30 April 2017, with appraisal of the EOIs completed by the end of July 2017. The deadline for the submission of full applications resulting from this EOI window is expected to be mid February 2018. A second EOI window was opened in 23 October 2017 and will close on 30 April 2018.

Adjustments were made to the Selection Criteria for the original CFPS, which was presented to the Wales ESI Programme Monitoring Committee (WPMC) on 2 December 2016, and to six of the sub-sections within Sub-measure 16.8. This was to reflect the change in the delivery mechanism for the Measure, which was to deliver the co-operative forest planning as a standalone investment grant rather than as an integrated part of Glastir as originally planned. Further changes to the selection criteria were necessarily made prior to the second EOI window, in order to allow applications for projects that will help deliver the objectives of the WG's Environmental and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP). There was no activity or expenditure under this Measure during the reporting period.

PRIORITY 5: FOCUS AREAS 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e

Measures 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 16 are programmed under Priority 5. Focus Area 5a has not been activated as part of the Wales Programme.

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Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Also see Priority 3 and Priority 6 sections for information on Measure 16 (Co-operation), Priority 2 for Measure 4.1 activity, Priority 4 for Measures 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 and 10.1 delivery also Priority 6 for Measure 7 (Basic Services and village renewal).

By end of 2017 cumulative expenditure incurred against Priority 5 stood at €9.77m (€6.03m EAFRD). Regarding committed expenditure a total of €5.58m funding has been committed under Measure 4, €4.52m under Measure 8, €5.49m under Measure 10 and €1.24m under Measure 16 against this Priority by end 2017.

Specific Measures programmed under Priority 5 include;

- Focus Area 5b: Measure 4.1 (investments in agricultural holdings) – *see Priority 2 section above for Measure 4.1,*
- Focus Area 5c: Measures 7.2 (investments of small scale infrastructure including renewable energy), 8.5 (improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems), and 8.6 (investments for forest technologies), 16.6 and 16.8 (Support for drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments) – *see Priority 4 section above for Measure 8.5 and 16.8*
- Focus Area 5d: Measures 4.1, 4.4 (non-productive investments linked to agri-environmentclimate objectives), 10.1 (agri-environment-climate) – *See also Priority 2 section for Measure 4.1, also Priority 4 for Measure 4.4 and 10.1,*
- Focus Area 5e: Measures 4.4, 8.1 (support for afforestation / woodland creation), 8.2 (establishment / maintenance of agro-forestry systems), 8.3 (prevention of damage to forests), 8.4 (restoration of damage to forests), 8.4 (support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events), 8.5 (improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems), 10.1(agri-environment-climate) and 16.8 (Support for drawing up of forest management plans) – *see also Priority 4 section above for Measures 4.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 ,8.5 and 16.8.*

FOCUS AREA 5b

Under FA 5b a total of €0.83m (€0.44m EAFRD) had been paid by end 2017. There was €4.64m in committed expenditure of which the majority under Measure 4 (€3.66m).

Measure 4.1

The Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) under Measure 4.1 provides support to help farmers improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holding in line with the WG's and agriculture industry in Wales' vision for more sustainable, profitable and resilient farm businesses. There were no recorded operations or expenditure incurred in respect of this Measure under Focus Area 5b during the reporting period. Progress against indicators will be provided in future reports as operations complete. See Priority 2 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.1 and SPG.

The Farm Business Grant Scheme (FBG) programmed under Measure 4.1 had 13 recorded operations during 2017. During 2017 payments of €0.63m (0.34m EAFRD) were made under this Focus Area for Measure 4.1. See Priority 2 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.1, also Focus Area 5d below.

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FOCUS AREA 5c

Under FA 5c a total of €0.19mm (€0.10m EAFRD) had been paid by end 2017. There was €0.96m in committed expenditure of which the majority under Measure 1 (€0.56m).

Measure 7

Measure 7 is delivered via a WG operated grant scheme called the Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF). Under RCDF the WG offers grants for eligible interventions designed to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth. Measure 7 is delivered under three Focus Areas: 5c, 6b and 6c with the majority of the financial allocation for the Measure programmed under Focus Area 6b. See Focus Area 6c for Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure) and Focus Area 5c for Measure 7.2 (investments of small scale infrastructure including renewable energy). The three objectives of RCDF are to:

1. Promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.
2. Help those most deprived in rural Wales and those that have limited scope to change their circumstances.
3. Develop the resilience and capability of rural communities so that they are better able to cope with and adapt to change.

Applicants to RCDF are expected to discuss their proposals with their LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) before submitting their EOI(s) to the WG for appraisal. The LEADER LAGs are therefore a key part of the "pipeline" for EOIs to enter the RCDF Scheme. The work of the LAGs to engage stakeholders, animate the territory, build capacity, pilot potential solutions to barriers/ways to maximise opportunities may lead to the identification of project proposals which require investment funding. Once the idea has been sufficiently developed an EOI can be submitted to RCDF. A "menu" approach was envisaged where a community might apply to more than one sub-Measure in the same Round or incrementally over time. For example, a community might want to apply under Measure 7.4 to remodel their village hall to add a room for use by peripatetic healthcare visitor. They might then come in under Measure 7.2 to install a biomass boiler in the hall to reduce energy costs. They might also apply under Measure 7.7 to convert a redundant building into a biomass store.

It has become apparent, however, that the result of this CLLD approach reflects the experience under the LEADER Measure in that far fewer project proposals are coming forward naturally in relation to broadband or to energy saving and community-based renewable energy generation. The majority of EOIs relate to Measures 7.4, 7.5 or 7.6. There could be a number of reasons for the low take-up under M7.2:

- Existing (and new) initiatives outside the RDP may be sufficient and there may be no need for RDP intervention.
- With regard to the renewable energy sub-Measure, communities may be choosing to forego RDP investment in favour of benefitting from the Feed-In Tariffs.The Feed-In Tariffs (also known as FITs) are payments to ordinary energy users for the renewable electricity they generate.
- The appetite and need may still exist but the projects under Measure 7.2 and Measure 7.3 may require a longer time-scale and increased technical input during the development phase and may be still in the design stage, aiming to submit under a future EOI window. The WG has discussed with the CLLD Consultation Group the possibility of having EOI Rounds targeted only at Measure 7.2 and Measure 7.3 and it is planned that the first Round of 2018 will target these two Measures.

Since the start of the scheme in late 2015 there have been a total of six rounds, of which three were run in

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2017. In each of the three EOI Rounds for RCDF which took place during 2017 the WG opened sub-Measures 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.6 and 7.7. Sub Measure 7.5 was open for the first two of the three Windows when the TAIS Scheme was activitated (see below). This was done to provide maximum flexibility for the true CLLD approach so that when a community had developed a project proposal or a suite of project proposals there would be an appropriate round open for them to submit their EOI(s). A total of 138 EOIs were received during the three windows opened in 2017 of which 86 progressed to the full application stage. Measure 7.2 (investments of small scale infrastructure including renewable energy) is programmed under both Focus Area 5c and Focus Area 6b. During 2017 a total of 14 EOIs were received under FA 5c in the three RCDF EOI Rounds of which four progressed to the full application stage. Please see Priority 6 section below for more information on Measure 7 and the Rural Community Development Fund.

Measure 8.5

The Glastir Woodland Management (GWM) Scheme includes only legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 RDP and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area-based payments. There were no operations, expenditure or land supported under FA 5c for this Measure during the reporting period. Please see Priority 4 section above for further information on Measure 8.5.

Measure 8.6

Measure 8.6 is delivered under Focus Areas 5c and 6a through the Timber Business Investment Scheme (TBIS). TBIS provides funding for capital investments that add value to forests by enabling woodland management activities, timber harvesting and / or timber processing. The scheme is open to private forest owners, local authorities, certain other public sector forest owners and small/medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and community organisations or forestry contractors.

The WG opened the first EOI window for TBIS on 29 February 2016. By the close of that window, on 23 May 2016, a total of 50 EOIs had been received of which 21 invited to submit a full application. Of the 21 invited to application, 11 projects had been approved by the end of 2017, with commitments of approx. €1.64m (£1.14m) with the expectation of a further 15 full applications before the deadline on 31 January 2017, with commitments of approximately €1.8m (£1.5m). A second EOI window for TBIS ran from 01 February 2017 to 30 April 2017. From this 39 EOIs were invited to submit full applications by the deadline of 15 November 2018. Eight have been received, with 31 still expected. A third EOI window for TBIS will be opening from 01 February 2018 to the 30 April 2018. There were no operations or expenditure recorded for Measure 8.6 under FA5c during the reporting period. Please see FA6a for further information on TBIS.

Measure 16.2, 16.6 & 16.9

Measure 16.2 (support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practises, processes and technologies) Measure 16.6 (support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes) are delivered as part of the Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCD) and are programmed under Focus Area 5c. Measure 16.9 (support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food) is yet to open. The Welsh Government plans to open Measure 16.9 during 2018.

There were two EOI Rounds during 2017 which ran for Measures 16.2 and also opened 16.6 (sustainable provision of biomass). Each round had an indicative budget allocation of €3.5m (£3m). A total of 18 EOIs

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were received and all were submitted under Measure 16.2, apart from one Measure 16.4 proposal. Five Measure 16.2 proposals progressed. The second round of nine exclusively Measure 16.2 proposals will be assessed during 2018. There were no Measure 16.6 proposals received when it became available under the second EOI window, WG are to undertake targeted marketing for future windows to try to increase uptake. Further information on Measure 16 C&SCD can be found in Priority 3, 5 and 6 of this report.

Measure 16.8

Measure 16.8 will be delivered under Focus Area 4a, 5c, 5e & 6a through the Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme (CFPS). The CFPS will provide financial support for a range of activities to encourage planning for the creation of broadleaved and conifer woodland to improve the management of natural resources and contribute to the well-being of rural communities within Wales. The WG's first EOI window for CFPS closed April 2017, with appraisal of the EOIs completed by the end of July 2017, which resulted in both of them being invited to submit full applications. The deadline for the submission of full applications is expected to be mid February 2018. A second EOI window was opened in 23 October 2017 and will close in April 2018.

FOCUS AREA 5D

Under FA 5d, a total of €3.17m (€1.70m EAFRD) had been paid by end 2017. There was €6.68m in committed expenditure of which the majority under Measure 10.1 (€4.68m).

Measure 4.1

The Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) under Measure 4.1 (support for investments in agricultural holdings) provides support to help farmers improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holding in line with the WG's and agriculture industry in Wales' vision for more sustainable, profitable and resilient farm businesses. There were no operations or expenditure incurred in respect of this Measure under Focus Area 5d during the reporting period. Progress against indicators will be provided in future reports. Please see Priority 2 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.1 and SPG.

Farm Business Grant (FBG) under Measure 4.1 had 3 recorded operations during 2017 with payments of €0.02m (0.01m EAFRD) were made under this Focus Area by the end of 2017. Please see Priority 2 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.1.

Measure 4.4

The capital works element of the Glastir Advanced scheme is delivered under Measure 4.4 (non productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives) alongside Measure 10.1 for Glastir Advanced. By end of December 2017 there was €0.49m in expenditure for 15 ongoing operations under Focus Area 5d. See Priority 4 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.4 and Glastir.

Measure 10.1

Delivery under Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate) includes the Glastir Entry, Advanced and Commons schemes. It also includes multi-annual, area-based payments for existing farm woodlands in Glastir Woodland Management. See Priority 4 section above for information on theses Schemes. During the reporting period there were 830 contracts covering 63,773.63 ha under Focus Area 5d for Measure 10.1. During 2017 a total of €2.36m (€1.04m EAFRD) was paid under M10.1 FA 5d. See Priority 4 section of this re report for more information on Measure 10.1 and Glastir Schemes.

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FOCUS AREA 5e

Under FA 5e a total of €5.58m (€3.78m EAFRD) had been paid by end 2017. There was €8.29m in committed expenditure of which the majority under Measure 8 (€4.52m).

Measure 2.1

Under Measure 2.1 Glastir intends to use advisory support to have water management plans carried out and woodland plans verified against the UK Forestry Standard by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). It also requires use of the expertise of Wales' archaeological trusts to give Contract Managers advice on the most suitable management for Glastir Advanced contracts. To date, no contract has been awarded and no expenditure incurred. See Priority 1 section of this report for further information.

Measure 4.4

The Glastir Small Grants scheme is delivered under Measure 4.4 (non productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives) alongside the capital works elements for Measure 10.1 for Glastir Advanced. See Priority 4 section above for information on this Measure. During 2017 there was €1.24m in expenditure for 735 ongoing operations under Focus Area 5e.

Measures 8.1 & 8.2

Schemes delivered under Measure 8.1 include legacy contracts under 2007-13 Forestry schemes and also Glastir Woodland Creation under both Measures 8.1 (support for afforestation / creation of woodland) and 8.2 (support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems). See Priority 4 section above for further information on these Schemes. Total expenditure to date for Measure 8.1 under FA 5e is €2.06m (€1.37m EAFRD). There has been no expenditure for Measure 8.2 during the reporting period under this Focus Area. During the reporting period for Measure 8.1 establishment there were 20 beneficiaries with 129.47 ha total area supported. For Measure 8.1 maintenance in 2017 there were 20 beneficiaries with 129.47 ha area supported.

Measure 8.3

The Forest Monitoring & Risk Management Scheme is a direct application delivered under Measure 8.3 (prevention of damage to forests) to be delivered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The objective of the Scheme will be to support monitoring, mitigation and prevention of harmful results from current tree or woodland environment pest or disease outbreaks. Under this Scheme NRW will monitor Phytophthora ramorum and Chalara Ash Dieback diseases using aerial and field surveillance to identify areas of infection and current spread. This information will support the long-term management of these diseases. NRW will also carry out awareness training for the forestry sector and provide advice and guidance to other landowners and the general public. The majority of the scheme's funding (75%) is linked to Focus Area 5e with the remaining funds programmed under Priority 4, Focus Area 4a. As the application from NRW for funds is currently undergoing appraisal by Welsh Government there is no activity or expenditure during the reporting period for this Measure during 2017.

Measure 8.4

The Glastir Woodland Restoration (GWR) scheme under Measure 8.4 (support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events) supports the re-stocking of larch woodlands that have been infected or threatened by the fungal pathogen Phytophthora ramorum and has seen four EOI rounds under this RDP. Under the five rounds there has been a total expenditure of €1.72m (€0.77m EAFRD) with an area of 181.3 ha of woodland undergoing restoration. The majority of the allocation for this Measure is under Focus Area 5e with the remaining allocation under Priority 4. During the reporting period there were 38 beneficiaries supported.

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Measure 8.5
The Glastir Woodland Management (GWM) Scheme includes only legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 RDP and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area-based payments. By December 2017 there were 28 operations under FA 5e for this Measure with €0.08m (€0.03m EAFRD) expenditure paid. The majority of the allocation for this Measure is under Priority 4 with remainder programmed under Focus Areas 5e, 5c and 6a. Please see Priority 4 section above for further information on Measure 8.5.

Measure 10.1
Delivery under Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate) includes the Glastir Entry, Advanced and Commons schemes. It also includes multi-annual, area-based payments for existing farm woodlands in Glastir Woodland Management. See Priority 4 section above for information on theses Schemes. During the reporting period there were 447 contracts covering 2,024.11 ha under FA5e for Measure 10.1. During 2017 a total of €0.28m (€0.27m EAFRD) was paid under M10.1 FA 5e. See Priority 4 section of this report for more information on Measure 10 and Glastir.

Measure 16.8
This Measure (support for drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments) is delivered under through the Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme. See Priority 4 section above for further information on activity for this Measure.

PRIORITY 6: FOCUS AREAS 6a, 6b, 6c
Measures 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 16 and 19 are programmed under Priority 6. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Also see Priority 3 and Priority 5 sections for information on Measure 16 (Co-operation), Priority 4 for Measure 8 activity also Priority 5 for Measure 7 (Basic Services and village renewal).

During 2017 expenditure incurred under Priority 6 stood at €7.46m (€5.72m EAFRD). Committed expenditure under this priority totalled €129.13m during the reporting period, with the majority under FA 6b (€109.69m) for M16 (€38.58m, and M19 (€58.92m) and M7 (€12.19m).

Measures programmed under Priority 6 include;

- Focus Area 6a: Measures 6.2 (business start-up for non-agricultural activities), 6.4 (investments in creation / development of non-agricultural activities), 8.5 improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) , 8.6 (investments in forest technologies and forest products), 16.8 (Support for drawing up of forest management plans) and 16.9 (support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food)– *see also Priority 4 section above for Measures 8.5, 8.6 and 16.8*
- Focus Area 6b: Measures 7(Basic Services and village renewal - excluding 7.3 broadband infrastructure), 16.2 (pilot projects, development new products, practices, processes and technologies), 16.3 (co-operator among small operators in joint work processes, sharing facilities and resources and for developing / marketing tourism) and 19 (support for LEADER local development) *see also Priority 5 section above for Measure 7*

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- Focus Area 6c: Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure)

FOCUS AREA 6a

Under FA 6a a total of €0.47m (€0.23m EAFRD) had been paid by 2017. There was €18.99m in committed expenditure of which the majority under Measure 6 (€16.87m).

Measure 6.2

This Measure has yet to be activated. As such there is no activity, commitments or expenditure reported. Measure 6.2 will be kept under review and WG will consider changes as appropriate during the Programme period.

Measure 6.4

There are two Schemes running under Measure 6.4 (support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities), one related to the Food and Drink sector and one for the Tourism sector. These were the main gaps identified in the intervention logic for the Programme.

Measure 6.4 - Rural Business Investment Scheme - Food (RBISF) is a capital investment scheme to support projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the food and drink industry in Wales. This €3.8m (£3.2m) scheme is open to existing and start-up micro & small food and drink processors and manufacturers throughout Wales. The scheme supports food and drink processing or manufacturing activities currently not eligible under the Food Business Investment Scheme. The maximum grant for an individual investment project is 40% of the total eligible cost with a maximum of €58,824k (£50,000k) for any individual investment project.

All projects supported through the scheme must make a contribution to the overarching Food Strategy Action Plan – Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2010 -2020 with one or more of the following objectives:

- promoting and developing a growing and vibrant food and drink sector in Wales.
- continuing to develop a green image based on sustainable production methods.
- further building resilience into the industry to withstand market changes.
- driving improvements in food safety and security.
- promoting technological innovation in both product and processes.
- providing career opportunities at varying skill levels.

During the reporting period two EOI windows have opened for RBISF. The first windows received 17 EOIs of which nine were successful and invited to submit applications. Of these two have been received for appraisal during the reporting period. The second windows received 19 EOIs during 2017 and closes in January 2018. Through these two initial windows, RBISF aims to support up to 40 micro and small food and drink processors and manufacturers with capital investment support for projects which offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the food and drink industry in Wales. Further windows will be announced in 2018.

Measure 6.4 – the Micro & Small Business Fund – Rural (MSBF) is delivered by Visit Wales (VW). Increasing the growth potential and sustainability of small and micro-businesses in rural Wales continues to be an existing need under the Welsh RDP. This scheme targets private sector businesses to support priority tourism products, including: high quality serviced, self catering, camping and caravan park accommodation products, destination restaurants; visitor attractions and activity products. The MSBF will target viable and sustainable private sector tourism capital projects that will: support the development of priority tourism

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products and create and safeguard jobs in rural areas.

The Scheme opened on the 17 May 2017 with a two stage application process with an Information Questionnaire followed by (if eligible) a project application. Enquiries will be continuously open throughout 2017-2020. Applications are appraised internally by a VW case officer and reviewed by an independent investment panel in line with the appraisal criteria. Successful projects will be recommended for Ministerial consideration and decision. Up to 31 January 2018 some 204 enquiries have been received, 36 cases have been invited to application (17%) and 11 cases have been approved with a level of support offered of €0.88m / £0.75m and a forecast 65.5 jobs created, with 21.5 jobs safeguarded.

Measure 8.5
The Glastir Woodland Management (GWM) Scheme includes only legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 RDP and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area-based payments. There were no operations, area supported or expenditure incurred under Focus Area 6a for this Measure during the reporting period. Please see Priority 4 section above for information on Measure 8.5.

Measure 8.6
Measure 8.6 is delivered under Focus Areas 5c and 6a of the Programme through the Timber Business Investment Scheme (TBIS). TBIS provides funding for capital investments that add value to forests by enabling woodland management activities, timber harvesting and / or timber processing. The scheme is open to private forest owners, local authorities, certain other public sector forest owners and small/medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and community organisations or forestry contractors. During the reporting period two EOI windows have opened for TBIS. The first window received 50 EOIs, of which 21 EOIs were successful and invited to submit full applications. Of these 11projects have been approved by the end of 2017 with commitments of €1.64m (£1.14m)with a further 15 expected during January 2018. The second EOI window invited 39 EOIs to submit full applications of which eight have been received. A third EOI window will open during 2018 but with only half the amount of funding. By the end of 2017 €0.44m (€0.21m EAFRD) had been paid.

Measure 16.8
Measure 16.8 will be delivered under Focus Area 4a, 5c, 5e & 6a through the Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme (CFPS). See Priority 4 section above for further information on this Measure.

Measure 16.9
Measure 16.9 (support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food) is delivered as part of the Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCD). Measure 16.9 has yet to open. For further information on M16 C&SCD scheme see Priority 3 and 5 sections of this report.

FOCUS AREA 6B
Under FA 6b a total of €6.90m (€5.44m EAFRD) had been paid by end 2017. There was €109.68m in committed expenditure of which the majority under Measure 19 (€58.92m).

Measure 7
Measure 7 is delivered via a WG operated grant scheme called the Rural Community Development Fund

(RCDF). Under RCDF the WG offers grants for eligible interventions designed to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth. Measure 7 is delivered under three Focus Areas 5c, 6b and 6c with the majority of the financial allocation for the Measure programmed under Focus Area 6b. A total of 138 EOIs were received during the three windows opened in 2017 of which 86 progressed to the full application stage. 122 EOIs were received under FA6b of which 80 progressed to the full application stage. A total of €0.63m (€0.33m EAFRD) was paid by end 2017 under Measure 7.

See Focus Area 6c for Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure) and Focus Area 5c for Measure 7.2 (investments of small scale infrastructure including renewable energy). During 2017 €0.06m (€0.03m EAFRD) was paid under M7.2; €0.53m (€0.27m EAFRD) under M7.4 and €0.6k (€0.3k EAFRD) under M7.6.

Measure 7.5

Originally delivered as part of the Rural Community Development Scheme, Measure 7.5 is now delivered via a dedicated grant scheme called The Tourism Amenity Investment Support Scheme – Rural (TAIS) delivered via the Welsh Government's Tourism specialists Visit Wales (VW). The TAIS scheme offers small-scale investment to improve the signposting of touristic sites, to construct and modernise tourism information centres, to provide visitor information and guidance. Funding will also be provided for the support of the construction of shelters and safety facilities linked to soft-tourism and the establishment of e-booking systems for tourist services. Investments will be supported for the development of soft tourism (small scale, locally specific product, local ownership and labour, local business linkages, strong social-cultural affinities, limited negative environmental impact). This activity under Measure 7.5 will complement the tourism business development activity under Measure 6.4. TAIS will support investments in recreational and tourism infrastructure which demonstrate clear links to health, education or employment prospects for people living in the most sparsely populated areas in Wales. This activity is intended particularly to contribute to tackling rural poverty and to improving the quality of life for households on low-incomes. There will be an Annual Call programme until 2020, which was launched in May 2017.

During 2017 a total of €0.04m (€0.02m EAFRD) was paid under Measure 7.5 under this Focus Area. The first EOI window was open from 17 May 2017 to 16 June 2017 with:

- 89 EOIs received totally €5.53m / £4.7m.
- 38 Invited to submit Full Applications.
- 31 Full Applications received (7 withdrawn some being premature).
- 26 Approved (5 rejected). Offer letters have been sent to successful applicants.

Of the 89 EOIs, some 42.6% were invited to application. The 38 invited to application represented a project cost value of €14.49m / £12.31m and a support value of €8.88m / £7.55m. The 26 approvals represented a support value of 2.91m /£2.47m. In Spring 2018 Visit Wales will look to open a further window.

Measure 16.2 & 16.9

Measure 16.2 (support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practises, processes and technologies) and Measure 16.9 (support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food) are delvered as part of the Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCD). Measure 16.9 has yet to open.

There were two EOI Rounds during 2017 which opened Measures 16.2 and 16.4 only. Each round had an

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indicative budget allocation of £6m / €70.1m. Over the two EOI rounds in 2017 the WG received 38 EOIs under M16.2, of these 16 of which passed on to the full application stage. Measure 16.2 covers two subjects "pilot projects" and "development of new processes, techniques". The latter is restricted to agriculture, food and forestry sectors. Further information on Measure 16 C&SCD can be found in Priority 3 and 5 this report.

Measure 16.2

The CTA Community Transport Solution ('Connecting communities in Wales') under Measure 16.2 aims to develop pan-Wales, demand responsive community transport solutions in partnership. It seeks to develop sustainable CT networks and build the resilience and capacity of the community transport sector in Wales, recognising that in doing so it can assist in tackling transport issues and challenges faced by rural communities. This initiative was approved late 2017, work will continue during 2018. Future reports will provide activity and expenditure for this Measure.

Measure 16.3

Under Measure 16.3 (other co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources, and for developing/marketing tourism) the Regional Tourism Network and Marketing Support scheme will be delivered by Visit Wales (VW). The principal aim of the Scheme is to increase the profitability and resilience of the individual SME businesses engaged. In particular it will encourage development of new practices and processes in rural small businesses including shared activity and facilities, with a view to business efficiency, and to develop local tourism opportunities. This scheme consists of two separate projects providing two distinct types of activity:

- revenue support for collaborative projects to develop opportunities and products within tourism destinations,
- increased marketing of Wales to a chosen audience to increase visitor numbers into rural areas

The scheme's beneficiaries include; tourism industry sectorial partnerships, groups and consortia, individual private sector tourism organisations, third sector and Local Authorities / National Park Authorities who are working in partnership or on behalf of the private sectorial partnerships, groups and consortia, Local Authorities and National Park Authorities, also tourism Associations, third sector and private sector organisations working on behalf of Destination Management Partnerships. VW have submitted their first claim for expenditure up to 31 March 2017 with value of €1.88m (£1.6m), this was for the 'Year of the legend' TV advert campaign. The next claim will be submitted in Spring 2018 for spend during 2017/2018 for the TV advert 'Year of the Sea' which was released in December (€1.88m / £1.6m). The first EOI window was open from the 26 October to 24 November 2017 for the two Projects delivered via Visit Wales under Measure 16.3:

Regional Tourism Engagement Fund (RTEF);

- 29 EOIs received value of €2.3m /£2m,
- 19 Invited to submit Full Applications close date 2 March 2018

Tourism Product Innovation Fund (TPIF);

- 89 EOIs receive value of £6.1m
- 48 invited to submit full applications with close date 2 March 2018

Measure 19: LEADER

LEADER is a form of Territorial Development. Each Local Action Group (LAG) covers a geographical area and prepares a Local Development Strategy (LDS) which sets out a detailed explanation of the area; an

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analysis of that area through a SWOT assessment; a series of aims and objectives for the area and proposals for activities or initiatives that would achieve those aims and objectives.

There are 18 LAGs covering Rural, Service Centre and Host wards (all wards barring fully urban wards) in 21 of the 22 Local Authority Areas in Wales. The LDS are kept as "living documents" providing a snap-shot (with evidence behind it) of the situation, the needs/opportunities of these areas. Under the Welsh Government's LEADER Scheme the LAGs must review their LDS at least once per annum throughout the Programme period. The most recent review was conducted by the Wales Rural Network Support Unit concluding in December 2017. The LAGs will undertake a mid-term evaluation which will also assist them to update their LDSs during 2018. Other forms of territorial development within the LAG territories such as the development of Area Statements by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) will feed into and enhance the evidence base drawn on for the LDS.

Implementation is progressing well and the Wales Rural Network Support Unit has loaded information on over 300 Local Action Group projects from the 18 Local Action Groups (approved under this Programme period) onto their database, available on the WG website: http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/wales-rural-network/local-action-groups/local-action-group-projects-directory/?lang=en. This resource presents an opportunity to platform the results of the LEADER pilot activity. It is important to highlight the journey begun by LEADER through to jobs and growth. The process can take many years but LEADER has been implemented in Wales for over 25 years and there are many high profile, award-winning examples such as Halen Môn Anglesey Sea Salt of an inititive under LEADER moving through a pre-commercial pilot to the start-up of a commercial business and then its further development to economic success.

There are four Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG) funded under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) who work with Welsh coastal communities though not under multi-funded Local Development Strategies within LEADER there are strong links between the LAGs and the FLAGs and a need for good communication throughout implementation to signpost projects to the appropriate fund and also to share best practice.

During 2017 €4.95m (€3.85m EAFRD) was paid under M19, the majority of which was under Measure 19.4 (€2.86m). All of the LEADER allocation under Measure 19 has been committed for the lifetime of the Programme.

Measure 19.3 Transnational Co-operation:
Under the LEADER Scheme (Measure 19.3) the Welsh Local Action Groups (LAGs) have the opportunity to engage in inter-territorial and Trans-national Co-operation with LAGs or similar bodies. Co-operation can involve exchanges of best practice, mentoring, staff exchanges and/or joint projects. In Wales LEADER Co-operation operates on a LAG-led basis (rather than a series of Managing Authority bidding rounds). This means that Welsh LAGs have committed budgets for Co-operation projects.

Trans-national Co-operation includes co-operation with LAGs in other EU Member States however LAGs are also able to co-operate with "Third Countries" outside of the EU membership. Welsh LAGs have approved a number of inter-territorial projects to date in this Programme period and there are three Trans-national Co-operation projects under development with partners from other EU Member States.

The Welsh Government's policy lead for LEADER raised Third Country Co-operation as an agenda item at the UK Network of Support Units proposing that the Rural Network Support Units for the various parts of

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the UK could work together to provide structured study visits to selected Third Countries. It was agreed by the members of that meeting that the WG LEADER policy lead and the Head of the Rural Network in the Scottish Government would work together to take this forward. They will attend the European Network for Rural Development's (ENRD) workshop on LEADER Simplification on the 6 February 2018 with intention of requesting capacity building support from the ENRD for UK networks to understand how to best support Partner Search in Third Countries.

FOCUS AREA 6c

Under FA 6c a total of €0.09m (€0.05m EAFRD) had been paid by end 2017. There was €0.46m in committed expenditure of which the majority under Measure 1 (€0.28m).

Measure 7.3

Measure 7 is delivered via a WG operated grant scheme called the Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF). Under RCDF the WG offers grants for eligible interventions designed to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth. Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure) of the RCDF Scheme is programmed under Focus Area 6c. During 2017 two Expressions of Interest were received under Focus Area 6c in three EOI Rounds and both progressed to the full application stage. Please see Focus Area 6b section above for more information on Measure 7 and the Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF). Folowing consultation with the CLLD group in April 2017 it was agreed that in order to encourage future Measure 7.2 and 7.3 bids an Expression of Interest Round will be held to specifically target both Measures in 2018. This targeted Round will go ahead in April 2018.

European Commission Currency Converter – exchange rates 2017 monthly

MONTH	***EUR/GBP***
January 2017	0.853
February 2017	0.84935
March 2017	0.8528
April 2017	0.8618
May 2017	0.8442
June 2017	0.86793
July 2017	0.8799
August 2017	0.89568
September 2017	0.92246
October 2017	0.87635
November 2017	0.8798
December 2017	0.88293

The planning rate of €1 = £0.85 has been used for all commitments / allocation values within this Report

1.d) Key information on achievements towards the milestones set in the performance Framework based on Table F

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016 only

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1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional]

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2. THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLAN.

2.a) Description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification

1. Objectives and purpose: The objectives and purpose of the Evaluation Plan both remain the same; no additional Programme-specific objectives have been added. It should be noted that as part of the first Programme modification all references made throughout the Evaluation Plan to the '*Research, Monitoring and Evaluation team*' (RME) were amended to the '*Strategy team*'. This change of name reflects the intention for the team to have a stronger role in helping the Managing Authority use its monitoring data and evaluation findings to improve the design and delivery of the Programme. The main focus of the team is to provide guidance and advice on monitoring and evaluation across the ESI Funds, including the delivery of the Evaluation Plan.

2. Governance and coordination: As part of the Programme modification approved in June 2017 it was proposed to add in an explanation to the Evaluation Plan on the renaming of the former RME team (see Section 2a).

It was initially proposed that the modification to the Evaluation Plan include some additional text on the ESI Strategy Group monitoring the follow-up of evaluation findings. The ESI Strategy Group has since been disbanded as the group's primary objective was to develop an ESI Integration Strategy which has been completed. The various strands of the ESI Integration Strategy are being taken forward by other groups (including the Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory group (MEAG)). The ESI Programme Board is now the key group for ESI-wide issues and it will monitor the implementation of the Integration Strategy and the Evaluation Log (where it covers ESI-wide issues) will be reviewed by this group. The first Programme modification amended this section of the Evaluation Plan to reflect that the ESI Programme Board will be reviewing evaluation findings.

The modification of the Evaluation Plan approved in June 2017 added text to explain the role of the new MEAG, formerly the Evaluation Advisory Group (EAG). This group is now known as MEAG as their remit includes review of the Strategy Team's work on monitoring as well as evaluation. This will help to ensure that the monitoring system captures the necessary information for evaluation purposes.

As part of the second modification it has been proposed to add in details of the changes relating to the modification of the PPIMS and CAPIT system. Formerly this had been done by the CAP Planning Division, however as this division no longer exists, responsibility for this has been transferred to the Rural Payments Wales (RPW) Division. The second modification further includes reference to the relocation of the Scheme Management Unit (SMU) within RPW following an organisational restructure. The Strategy Team will continue to work with SMU to obtain information to inform evaluation requirements.

3. Evaluation topics: Text has been added on the Strategy Team's intention to undertake an Agri-Insurance Feasibility Study as part of the modification approved in June 2017. This study will support additional Programme management needs that have arisen since the drafting of the Evaluation Plan. This study will explore the feasibility of introducing insurance options to redeem and/or restore agricultural production, following extreme weather and/or catastrophic weather events.

As part of the 2017 modification text has been added to the evaluation plan concerning the Strategy Team's intention to conduct a Refugees employment and skills support study. This study is being commissioned in

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response to emerging programme management needs concerning the availability of support to Refugees in rural areas and the ways in which the RDP may be able to improve support services for refugees in rural communities in Wales.

The first Programme modification removed the triennial surveys of rural businesses, communities and households from the Evaluation Plan. These triennial surveys were undertaken by the former Wales Rural Observatory (WRO) during the 2007-2013 Programme to support broader policy requirements (rather than directly supporting the operational needs of the Programme). It is no longer a WG commitment to undertake these surveys and evaluation activity will focus on the Programme and its Measures. The removal of the triennial surveys from the Evaluation Plan has led to a saving of €340,000k.

It is also proposed to remove the text on undertaking evaluation work for future preparations for post-2020 European Programmes, due to EU transitioning.

As part of the proposed second evaluation plan modification to be submitted in 2017 it is suggested to the remove the cross ESI fund evaluation of communications activity. This is due to changing plans on the Structural Funds programmes which have negated the need for an evaluation of communications activity at this stage of the programme. The Strategy Team will liaise with Programme management colleagues to assess the need of an RDP specific evaluation of communications activity.

4. Evaluation activities: The evaluation activities set out in the Evaluation Plan remain the same, with the addition of the Agri-Insurance Feasibility Study, which has been included in the last Programme modification. The second modification will include the addition of the Refugees Employment and Skills Support Study.

The triennial surveys of rural communities, businesses and households were removed from the Evaluation Plan as part of the last modification. The second modification will propose the removal of the cross ESI evaluation of communications activity due to reasons given above.

5. Data and information management: Socio economic measures by SMU arecollected through WEFO online and stored on PPIMS. Land based measures managed by RPW are collected through CAPIT.

6. Timeline: The timeline in the Evaluation Plan remains the same, however, the Agri-Insurance Feasibility Study has been added to the timeline as part of the last Programme modification. This study will report in early 2018.

7. Communication of evaluation results: There have been no additional changes in the communication strategy beyond those made as part of the modification approved in 2017;

The table on target audiences for evaluation was amended as part of the Programme modification approved in 2017 to include the use of the WRN's Twitter account and newsletter as additional communication channels to promote evaluation findings. The table was also amended to include an Evaluation Log which the Strategy Team will maintain to capture Programme managers' responses to evaluation recommendations. This was introduced as a mechanism for the team to follow-up actions taken as a result of evaluation recommendations with key staff. The communications plan and table will be reviewed regularly to ensure its continued relevance.

The Strategy Team attended an ENRD workshop alongside representatives from the WRN on how the NRNs can support evaluation activity during 2017. Following this the Strategy Team has been working with

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the WRN to develop an Evaluation page on the WRN webpage. The webpage will include links to all evaluations conducted by LAGs, as well as evaluations managed by the Strategy team at a programme and Scheme level. This has been introduced to act as a central point for all evaluation evidence in the RDP to encourage easier access to evaluation findings.

8. Resources: There have been no substantial changes in the resources to implement the evaluation plan. The Technical Assistance (TA) budget for evaluation has been reviewed to ensure it is sufficient to deliver the evaluation plan.

No further amendments have been made to this section of the Evaluation Plan other than those in the first modification. These set out the functional independence of the Strategy Team from the Managing Authority. The changes provide confirmation that the Strategy Team is located in a different Directorate of the WG to the Managing Authority (MA). Further information has also been provided on the Strategy Team's research staff membership of the Government Social Research (GSR) Profession. The work and independence of GSRs in the WG is overseen by the Chief Social Research Officer within Welsh Government. Given the functional independence of the Strategy Team, the team has undertaken in-house research to explore the implementation of the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020 as part of the 2016 Annual Implementation Report (AIR). This research was undertaken in-house as it was not effective to procure evaluation work given the early stage of the Programme's implementation.

2.b) A description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year (in relation to section 3 of the evaluation plan)

Describe activities/problems encountered/solutions in relation to:

1. Preparing and conducting the assessment of the contribution of the RDP to rural development priorities, of programme results and impacts, including a description of evaluation approach and methods chosen.

The approach towards assessing the contribution of the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020 to rural development priorities, Programme results and impacts remains the same as envisaged in the Evaluation Plan. The Strategy Team has continued discussions with the WG's Agricultural Statistics team on piloting some analytical work using datasets from the 2007-2013 RDP to explore the potential to use more robust approaches to establishing the counterfactual. It is anticipated that this analysis would involve data from the previous Farming Connect scheme and the Glastir schemes from 2012 onwards. This pilot analysis will help to inform the approach taken to impact analysis in the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020.

The Strategy Team carried out some internal research to answer the common evaluation questions required as part of the enhanced AIR provided in 2017. Semi-structured interviews were undertaken with Measure level policy leads and key Programme delivery staff within Welsh Government. The sampling strategy was therefore purposive as these respondents were chosen specifically due to the relevance of their role for responding to the Common Evaluation Questions (CEQs). Where evidence was available, the findings from the interview were considered in relation to data generated through robust secondary sources as part of the process of triangulation. A systematic review of existing evidence was undertaken. The RDP Ex-Ante Evaluation and Programme Intervention Logic was undertaken with a focus on assessing whether the needs of rural Wales, as identified at the start of the programme, were still relevant and well aligned to current Programme interventions. To assess this alignment, these documents were compared to Measure level guidance documents on eligible activity, and Expression of Interest (EOI) application form design. For the

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interviews an interview schedule was developed that included questions designed around key themes and tailored to the individual interviewees and their roles. The themes included the alignment of Measure delivery against Programme intervention logic, EOI windows, Measure up-take, challenges faced to date, IT system functionality and best practice. The development of these themes assisted in the ability of the research to draw conclusions of measure level findings at a programme wide scale.

The fieldwork for the Agri-Insurance Feasibility study commenced in 2017. The report aims to assess the feasibility of provide agri-insurance mechanisms to help support agriculture against serious weather events. The fieldwork involved extensive literature reviews of agri-insurance policies in other countries to determine the potential avenues of support, as well as stakeholder interviews with Welsh Government policy officials, insurance providers and farmer unions. The fieldwork was completed in late autumn 2017 and a draft report was provided to the Welsh Government in late 2017. The report will be finalised and published in spring 2018.

During 2017 the Strategy Team has designed and commissioned an evaluation of the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Scheme, known otherwise as Farming Connect. Given the stage of implementation this evaluation will largely be focussed on issues of process and obtaining information on early perceptions of the value of Farming Connect for participants. The evaluation will be employing a number of methods to do this including a series of four regional focus groups undertaken three times over the course of the evaluation. These focus groups will enable the early identification of any issue adversely affecting the delivery of the scheme and will also inform subsequent research activity. The other main element of the research will include 13 longitudinal case studies that will be spread across the three different lots of Farming Connect activity. This rationale behind the longitudinal case study approach is to develop an understanding not just what is working, but how certain elements of the scheme are working and how they might then be improved. It is important to note that this will not be the only evaluation activity for the Farming Connect and the Strategy team intend to undertake future evaluation work to assess the impact of the scheme on farm practices and business.

In late 2017 the strategy team also commissioned the Refugees Employment and Skills Support study which aims to look at the job aspirations of refugees in Wales and the support available to help them find work. An important element of this work is drawing a comparison between the support available in the four predominantly urban dispersal areas in Wales with the support aviable in rural areas. This comparison will feed into discussions about how support in rural areas could be improved and the potential for the RDP to contribute to this through LEADER. The research will be situated in the four dispersal areas of Wales and in a selection of rural local authorities across Wales. The research will make use of a team of researchers and community researchers to conduct a structured survey of refugees. The fieldwork is due to start in Spring 2018 with the report due to be completed in October 2018.

In 2017 the Strategy Team began designing the specification for the evaluation of the Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) under Measure 16.5. The evaluation will run for the duration of the scheme until 2022. In order to assess the environmental outcomes of the scheme, this evaluation will use secondary data analysis of project level evaluation and monitoring activity which will be focused on the environmental changes achieved as part of project activity. The scheme level evaluation will seek to Complement this project level data by looking to understand how collaborative arrangements can enable the achievement of land management objectives and the pursuit of wider social outcomes. It is expected that the evaluation will employ a longitudinal case study approach to gather information on the perceived value of collaboration which may be supplemented with survey work.

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Preparation work for evaluation of other elements of the Programme will be undertaken during 2018.

2. Preparing and conducting the evaluation of:

- thematic issues (including those addressed by sub-programmes),
Currently, the Evaluation Plan does not specify thematic issues. It continues to be the intention of the Strategy Team to liaise on an ongoing basis with Programme and scheme managers to identify relevant thematic issues to be captured by evaluations as they arise in the implementation and delivery of the Programme.

- cross-cutting issues (sustainable development, climate change and innovation),
The successor to the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme – the Environment and Natural Resources Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP) will provide evidence on the cross-cutting issues of sustainable development and climate change. ERAMMP was commissioned in late 2017. Evidence on areas of innovation in the Programme will be captured on an ongoing basis in the evaluations named in the evaluation plan. Programme and scheme-level evaluations will include an objective to explore innovative practices.

- the National Rural Networks,
The approach to evaluating the Wales Rural Network (WRN) remains as in the Evaluation Plan. Towards the end of the Programme period, an evaluation of the WRN will be commissioned. This evaluation will provide an assessment of the outputs, results and impact of the Network. This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the Evaluation Helpdesk's guidance document on National Rural Network (NRN) Evaluation. Given the interactive nature of the interventions delivered by the WRN, it is crucial that evidence on both the formal and informal associated networks is captured.

The dedicated evaluation of the WRN will be complemented by a suite of other evaluation work. For example, the evaluations undertaken by the LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) will provide evidence on their networks and their interactions with the WRN. Scheme-level evaluations will capture evidence on the effectiveness of scheme communications activities.

The Strategy Team attended a UK NRN workshop during 2017 on evaluating NRNs. As part of this workshop, WG outlined its approach to evaluating the WRN. In addition, the in-house research conducted by the Strategy Team for the enhanced AIR last year provided a qualitative assessment of the implementation of the WRN in the early phase of the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020.

In terms of the 2007-2013 Rural Development Plan, the WRN was evaluated by the Strategy Team, as part of the Ex Post Evaluation. The evaluation synthesised existing evidence (previous evaluations and monitoring data) and was supplemented by interviews with WG officials and key stakeholders. An online survey was also carried out with stakeholders. The Ex Post Evaluation found that the WRN helped to facilitate communication between stakeholders. However, the Network played less of a role in exchanging information with other RDPs and at EU level. Although the WG provided a sound rationale for the approach taken, stakeholders felt that the WRN's placing within government reduced its effectiveness. A copy of the Ex Post Evaluation can be found at;
http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394495/?lang=en

- the contribution of CLLD strategies to RDP objectives, the added value of LEADER, etc.
The Strategy Team has produced an updated version of the evaluation guidance for LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs). This guidance is part of the team's efforts to build the monitoring and evaluation capacity

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of the LAGs for the new Programme. The document guides the LAGs through the evaluation process. In particular, it:

- Provides the rationale for evaluation of LEADER and it places evaluation within the context of European Commission and WG requirements;
- Outlines practical approaches and tools for undertaking evaluations; and
- Includes practical advice on designing, commissioning and implementing effective evaluations.

The LEADER evaluation guidance can be found on the WRN's webpages at: http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/wales-rural-network/publications/evaluation-guidance-for-leader-local-action-groups?lang=en

The intention is to work with the LAGs on an ongoing basis to improve the quality of their evaluations carried out at a local level, so that they can be reviewed as part of the LEADER evaluation that will be carried out towards the end of the Programme. The Strategy Team has developed a presentation session that provides advice and guidance on evaluation including: the steps needed to prepare for designing an evaluation; designing the evaluation specification; commissioning the evaluation; and managing the evaluation contract once awarded. This presentation is designed to be used across all ESI funds and has been offered to LAG groups.

2.c) A description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data (in relation to section 4 of the evaluation plan)

Describe activities/problems encountered/solutions in relation to:

1. Preparing and running the operations database to collect data and information for evaluation,
To meet the eCohesion requirement (concerning electronic information exchange with beneficiaries). Work continued during 2017 to adapt the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) IT based system used to manage Structural Funds entitled Programme and Project Monitoring Information System (PPIMS) for the socio-economic elements of the Programme. For the land based elements of the Programme the data will continue to be recorded using the CAPIT system that was used during the 2007-2013 Programme. Enhancements have been made to CAPIT in line with the operations data base requirements for the 2014-2020 Programme.

2. Screening data and information sources/providers to ensure the application of robust evaluation methods (including conducting the counterfactual analysis),
The Strategy Team has liaised with the WG's Agricultural Statistics team to undertake some pilot analysis, with a view to informing the development of more robust impact evaluation techniques in the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020. It is envisaged that impact evaluation work with non-farm business beneficiaries would utilise business datasets held by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It is a requirement of the ONS that access to their business datasets is restricted to approved researchers, so it is essential that the commissioning of this impact evaluation work stipulates that the project team must consist of researchers with these approvals in place from the ONS. It is proposed that a theory-based approach would be taken in evaluating the impact of LEADER. The Strategy Team has been meeting with LAGs to discuss evaluation approaches.

The Strategy Team is liaising with the ERAMMP to ensure that Farmer intention survey carried out as part of the ERAMMP will be able to collect data that will assist in mapping changes in farm behaviour as a result of participation with RDP schemes to help inform future evaluation work. It is hoped that this data

will be used to inform the evaluations of Glastir and Farming Connect principally although the opportunities for other schemes will also be examined.

3. Agreements with data providers and necessary arrangements/legal steps to include the identified providers´ data in the databases used in the RDP evaluation,
The WEFO PPIMS system has been extended to allow reporting on the socio-economic aspects of the Rural Programme for 2014-2020. In order to be able to report on the information held within the PPIMS environment Business Objects software will be used in conjunction with other IT solutions. Business objects will assist in Programme wide reporting through the amalgamation of high level data held within other data bases, such as PPIMS.

The Strategy team is working to ensure that schemes include legally correct consent statements for beneficiaries so that where their consent is given their details can be used for monitoring and evaluation purposes. This would also include linking beneficiaries' details to wider datasets as part of a counterfactual evaluation design. As part of the second modification the evaluation plan now includes reference to the GDPR which is to come into force in May 2018. As part of the preparation for the introduction of the GDPR the strategy team is working with other researchers in the Welsh Government to ensure that the basis for the collection of data within the RDP is compliant with the new regulations. Future work will include reviewing the privacy notices used by operations to inform the development of a privacy notice template

4. Arrangements to fill data gaps and collect missing information.
The intention is that where data gaps exist, surveys would be used to collect missing information. Beneficiary surveys are included in the Evaluation Plan, as these provide information that complements the monitoring data.

2.d) A list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line

No evaluations of the 2014-2014 Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme have been completed due to the early stage of the Programme, with the exception of the in house research reported for the Common Evaluation Questions within Section 7.

The Ex Post Evaluation of the 2007-2013 programme was published in November 2017. The report was publuished on the WEFO webpage (http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394495/?lang=en) and on the WRN website.

The Fianl report of the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme was published in 2017. The report, alongside an executive summary was published on the GMEP website (https://gmep.wales/resources).

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2.e) Summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings

No evaluations of the 2014-2014 Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme have been completed due to the early stage of the Programme, with the exception of the in house research reported for the Common Evaluation Questions within Section 7. However there has been the publication of two reports from the previous programmes which are relevant to the current programme, namely the Ex post Evaluation of the 2007-2013 Programme and the final report of the Glastir Monitiorig and Evaluation Programme.

Ex post evaluation of the 2007-13 Programme:

The findings of the ex post evaluation of the 2007-2013 programme largely centred on the high level achievements of the programme. In terms of the main findings of the evaluation, the key messages were that:

- Activities funded under the RDP had increased the competitiveness of businesses in the farming and forestry sector, supported the creation of 3000 jobs, of which half were attributable to the programme, and also helped increase GVA in the rural economy by around €48.3 million
- The RDP provided a variety of environmental land management to biodiversity, improving water quality and climate change mitigation. The impact of this was yet to manifest but modelling work suggests that Glastir and woodland creation options could lead to a 15% reduction of eroded soil and phosphorous delivery to waterbodies.
- The RDP was seen to have benefits for rural communities with 91% of surveyed beneficiaries reporting benefits for their local community. Benefits identified included new or improved facilities (22%), bringing together the community (20%) and increased usage of existing facilities (13%). The LEADER approach was also seen to make a positive contribution to local governance.

More detail can be found in the report available at: (http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394495/?lang=en

Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP) Final Report:

The final report of GMEP was published in 2017 providing an overview of the contributions of the Glastir suite of programmes. The findings of the report are differentiated into the results of Glastir projects and broader changes in national trends.

The headline results for the Glastir projects were as follows:

- A 17% increase in the number of farms in scheme compared to non-scheme farms undertaking actions concerning climate change.
- A 4% increase in the number of farms undertaking actions to improve diversifications and efficiency. Relatedly a 9.5% and 18% decrease in the average carbon footprints expressed per kg of lamb live weight and milk on surveyed farms in receipt of Glastir Efficiency Grants.
- 77% of respondents reported an increase in farm viability
- 4.9% average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per hectare across 15 farms in receipt of Glastir Efficiency Grants.
- A multitude of improvements in relation to improving soil quality and management/improving water quality and managing water resources for in scheme farms in comparison to non-scheme farms.
- An increase in the number of farms restoring or creating woodland in the last three years in

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comparison to non scheme farms

The headline results for national trends were:

- Positive findings in relation to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity including an increase in the patch size of habitat and woodland, a stabilisation of specialist butterfly groups and 65% of priority birds species showing stable or increasing populations.
- An increase in the number of public rights of way that are easy to access.
- Evidence of a general improvement in Welsh farm practices between 2009and 2016 concerning soil management and water management practices.
- Analysis of small stream data over the last 20 years provides evidence of ongoing improvement in invertebrate diversity and nutrient status

In addition to these results the report also highlights areas where there is cause for concerns and where further action is needed. More detail can be found in the report available here: https://gmep.wales/resources

2.f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

No communication activities defined

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2.g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

No evaluations of the 2014-2014 Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme have been completed, due to the early stage of the Programme, with the exception of the in house research reported for the Common Evaluation Questions within Section 7, therefore no follow up actions have been defined.

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3. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN

3.a) Description of steps taken to ensure quality and effectiveness of programme implementation

Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC)
The WG has established a single Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) for Wales European Structural and Investment (ESI) Fund programmes. The All Wales ESI PMC was officially constituted on 05 December 2014 following approval of the Structural Funds programmes and was formally established for the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020 in May 2015 following EC approval of the Programme. During 2017 the PMC met four times in total; on 24 February, 16 June, 15 September and 01 December. In the September PMC meeting it was agreed that from 2018 the PMC would meet three times a year with one meeting a year to be held in North Wales over two days to include project visits for the various ESI funds. The reduction in meetings will give Members more time to engage with projects in their areas. In December 2017 the PMC was consulted via written procedure. The PMC agreed to proposals relating to amendments of the ESI Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy.

Selection Criteria
Proposed revisions to the selection criteria for individual sub-measures activated under the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020 were presented to the PMC during the June (change to M16.1 EIP) and September (change to M16.8 Cooperative Forest Planning) meetings to seek Members opinion and in compliance with the regulatory requirement. WG as Managing Authority can amend selection criteria or introduce new selection criteria within the programming period according to programming needs following consultation with the PMC. Further updates will be provided to the PMC during 2018 on the selection criteria as required.

Error Rates
With regard to error rates for the Programme, the final figures for the analysis of the control statistics shows a further reduction in error in the random sample for area based measures at 2.26% (a reduction from 2.31% in the previous year). The result of one inspection on a Glastir Entry Agri Environmental (Measure 10.1) agreement contributed a significant value to the error rate in value terms. The error related to a number of commitments not fully respected by the beneficiary. If this case is removed, the error rate would be 1.2%, and below the 2% level considered significant. In addition to continuing to implement the remedial action plan on the root causes of error for Rural Development Programmes, the WG increased the rate of On The Spot Checks (OTSCs) for the Integrated Agricultural Control System (IACS) Rural Development measures in the 2017 campaign. The error rate in the random sample for investment measures increased significantly to 2.74% (previous year 0.37%). The increased error relates to a reduction on a single large case (under Measure 4) that contributed over 55% of the total error value for the fund. This error was due to a significant over declaration of non productive investments under Measure 4.4. WG increased the rate of On The Spot Checks (OTSCs) for the non IACS (IACS) Rural Development measures in the 2017 campaign.

WG has continued to communicate with farmers via farm outreach services to improve their understanding of Agri Environment Scheme rules and to minimise irregularities. The planned training events and drop in surgeries have been delivered as planned. An article informing farmers of the 'most common errors' for 2017 was published in the Single Farm Payment guidance. At the June 2017 PMC meeting Members were provided with an update on error rates.

Aid Recovered
The WG's Rural Payments Division (RPD) has a well established Debt Registration and Management

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process in place. All overpayments are pursued on discovery and reimbursement of the account is made within a set time-scale. All current RDP schemes are subject to a strict Control framework. The aid recovered and reallocated during 2016 under Article 56 of Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013 is summarised in the following table:

New RDP Aid Recovered and reallocated during 2017 Calendar Year

Sub Measure	Focus Area	Value (€)	Value (£)
4.1	2a	- 63,938.46	- 57,281.17
4.2	3a	- 37,166.94	- 31,558.36
4.4	P4	- 77,648.05	- 60,763.18
8.1	5e	- 215.84	- 180.80
8.5	P4	- 1,569.09	- 1,295.28
10.1	5d	- 177.68	- 152.80
10.1	5e	- 337.79	- 288.12
10.1	P4	- 372,152.95	- 285,096.46
10.1 Total		*- 372,668.42*	*- 285,537.38*
11.1	P4	- 1,355.61	- 1,151.97
11.2	P4	- 15,369.02	- 12,313.27
Grand Total		**- 569,931.43**	**- 450,081.41**

Notes: Total of new RDP (14-20) recovered debts only, All debts recovered from 01 January to 31 December 2017.

Expression of Interest (EOI)
Much of the WGRC-RDP2014-2020 is being delivered through grant programmes with a two stage process for applications; Expression of Interest (EOI) followed by full applications for those successful at EOI stage. WG have opened numerous EOI windows through 2017 for both socio-economic and land based Measures, where the eligibility and selection criteria are publicised in advance and clearly identified closing dates set. The funding for each call is only a part of the overall budget for a Measure, with calls opening at various times throughout the programme. Each window is advertised to ensure potential beneficiaries are aware what window is open, the amount of budget available and when the next window will open. See web link below for more information; http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/170330-list-of-eoi-scheme-windows-en.pdf

Modification
Early proposals for the second modification for the WGRC-RDP2014-2020 were presented at the December 2017 PMC meeting. These amendments include the re-introduction of Measure 4.3, withdrawal of Measures 1.3, 6.2 and 15.1, change in financial and indicator plans, amendment to performance framework values along with change in description of some Measures. It was agreed that further information on the modification would be provided to the PMC during 2018 once the detail and scope of changes were known.

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Financial Instruments (FI)
Although the WGRC-RDP 2014 – 2020 makes provision for the future use of FIs in 2016 the Welsh Government took the decision that FIs would not be introduced within the programme. This decision was taken due to the lead in time needed to develop and implement FIs before the close of the current Programming period and the uncertainty beyond this period. This decision will be kept under review during the remainder of the Programme.

Data management systems
Further IT developments and testing to IT systems used to manage the RDP were undertaken during 2017 to ensure compliance with Ecohesion (the requirement for a system to allow the electronic transfer of data between beneficiaries and the Managing Authority). These enhancements and adaptions to the PPIMS system have resulted in a delay in drawing down EAFRD funds for certain socio-economic Measures and operations within the Programme whilst this work was undertaken and information recorded onto the system. These enhancements were completed by the end of 2017. Land based operations continue to be managed through the CAPIT IT system. The majority of the Direct Aid and Rural Development schemes and processes managed by the WG's paying agency (Rural Payments Wales) are now fully digital.

3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) [1], proxy automatically calculated

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation[2]	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative[3]
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	651,590,163.00	32.94	9.35

[1] Simplified Cost Options shall be intended as unit cost/flat rates/lumps sums CPR Article 67(5) including the EAFRD specific methods under point (e) of that article such as business start-up lump sums, flat rate payments to producers organisations and area and animal related unit costs.

[2] Automatically calculated from programme version's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

[3] Automatically calculated from declarations of expenditure's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs), based on specific detailed MS data [optional]

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative
Total CPR Article 67(1)(b)(c)(d) + 67(5)(e)	651,590,163.00		
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	651,590,163.00		

E-management for beneficiaries [optional]

	[%] EAFRD funding	[%] Operations concerned
Application for support		
Payment claims		
Controls and compliance		
Monitoring and reporting to the MA/PA		

Average time limits for beneficiaries to receive payments [optional]

[Days] Where applicable, MS deadline for payments to beneficiaries	[Days] Average time for payments to beneficiaries	Comments

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4. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME PUBLICITY REQUIREMENTS

4.a) Action taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the NRN and the implementation of its action plan

4.a1) Actions taken and state of play as regards establishment of the NRN (governance structure and network support unit)

GOVERNANCE

The Wales Rural Network (WRN) is a partnership of organisations, enterprises, administrations and individuals open to any stakeholder with an interest in rural development. Stakeholders are involved in the Governance and activities of the WRN through the external Steering Group which meets twice a year.

WALES RURAL NETWORK SUPPORT UNIT (WRNSU)

The role of the WRNSU is to facilitate the networking process and the engagement of stakeholders by sharing information, best practice and experience across Wales, UK and Europe. The Network makes a significant contribution to the RDP by helping to add value to the funding available. The WRNSU;

- organises and promotes free events and initiatives
- shares rural development news
- showcases examples of funded projects through case studies
- helps you find out about funding opportunities
- arranges study visits to encourage cooperation and sharing of knowledge
- encourages and promotes project partner cooperation searches
- can connect you with other people, businesses and community groups
- links to other rural networks in UK, Europe and beyond
- facilitates the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) delivery work (LEADER LAG).

The team works alongside RDP scheme managers and delivery bodies to identify networking opportunities and to support the wider WRN.

On-going development and review of the Webpages and communications methods have been a priority for the team during 2017. This is an important aspect of the WRNSU's role to maximise awareness of the Programme. Further information can be found on the WRN web pages:
http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/wales-rural-network/?lang=en

WALES RURAL NETWORK STEERING GROUP (WRNSG)

The WRNSG remit is to:

- Advise and assist with the development of a work-plan
- Monitor the delivery of the work-plan and progress towards achieving the objectives and outputs of the WRN;
- Promote the work of the WRN and advise PMC and other stakeholders of its activities;
- Facilitate training and networking, between RDP stakeholders;
- Support co-operation among LAGs and project applicants at Wales, UK and transnational levels;

- Collect, disseminate and encourage the adoption of good practice;
- Assist with evaluations and the sharing and dissemination of monitoring and evaluation findings;
- Contribute to the work of UK and EU networks;
- Additionally, at the discretion of the Managing Authority act as a sounding board for RDP related policy developments.

2017 WRNSG Meetings:

- 16 February 2017: included updates on spend and WRNSU work and a presentation from the Brexit team.
- 25 May 2017: included updates on spend and WRNSU work with the Director for the Environment and Rural Affairs addressing the group with an update on European Transition.

The (WRNSU) will work to implement the 2017 Work Plan and any recommendations arising from WRNSG meetings. More information on the WRNSG can be found at: http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/wales-rural-network/co-operation-projects-wales-uk-and-transnational1/?lang=en

4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan

COLLECTIONS OF EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS (ART. 54 3B(I) OF REG. 1305/2013)

- The new WRN web pages promote all the socio–economic measure approved projects and are regularly updated with news, events, publications and case studies. For current list of all approved RDP projects see Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 - Socio Economic Approved Projects.

- Under the LEADER webpage, there is a requirement for all LEADER groups in Wales to complete a project form once a project has been approved by the Local Action Group (LAG). A project form is then amended to include additional information and can also include you tube clips. http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/wales-rural-network/local-action-groups/local-action-group-projects-directory/?lang=en

- WRN will continue to work closely with all LEADER LAGs to ensure that all approved projects are registered and publicised. This will include the creation and publication of case studies highlighting how the RDP LEADER funding is making a difference to Wales; http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/wales-rural-network/casestudies/?lang=en

- Schemes and EOI window dates. The Newsletter also shares good news stories and / or case studies, evaluations and video footage from LAGs. Updates are also provided in relation to activities in the UK and in Europe.

FACILITATION OF THEMATIC AND ANALYTICAL EXCHANGES (ART. 54 3B(II) OF REG. 1305/2013)

Within the Wales Rural Network Support Unit (WRNSU) lead officers have been identified for the various schemes under the RDP 2014-2020. Dividing responsibility for networking and communications in this way

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has improved the overall service the WRN provides to stakeholders as well as developing WRNSU staff understanding of the programme. In addition WRNSU managers have responsibility for LAGs on a geographical basis.

Publications

- GWLAD: An important remit for the WRN is to maximise publicity of the RDP. One effective method of achieving this is via the GWLAD magazine. The two page allocation within the publication highlights latest news stories, information about agriculture and rural affairs in Wales. The WRNSU promotes good practice and ideas by sharing and publishing case studies. GWLAD currently has 7,501 subscribers to the English version and a further 590 to the Welsh language version.

- *WRNSU Newsletter:* WRNSU launched its own bespoke Newsletter in March 2016 which is distributed every 4-6 weeks. The Newsletter provides information regarding schemes and EOI window dates. The Newsletter also shares good news stories and / or case studies, evaluations and video footage from LAGs. Updates are also provided in relation to activities in the UK and in Europe. The Newsletter currently has 4,032 subscribers to the English version and a further 1,000 to the Welsh language version Collecting, disseminating and encouraging the adoption of good practice; See link for examples of WRN Newsletters
- http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/wales-rural-network/newsletter/?lang=en

PROVISION OF TRAINING AND NETWORKING TO LAG (ART. 54 3B(III) OF REG. 1305/2013)

The WRNSU has been responsible for successfully organising a number of events to support and promote the RDP 2014-2020. These have included;

Land Based Stakeholder Event 22 March 2017. The Welsh Government held its first future land use support workshop hosted by the Wales Rural Network Support Unit in Hafod a Hendre, Builth Wells. The aim of the event was to capture the views of farmers on the changes to their levels of support following the exit from the European Union. Welsh Government Officials presented on the current position and provided an overview of the day, including what input they required from the attendees. Over 60 participants took part in workshops and were given the opportunity to share their views on the threats and opportunities open to them with an indication of what support they will need from Welsh Government and industry stakeholders for their individual businesses.

RDP Funding Fairs during March 2017: These events were aimed at providing attendees with the opportunity to learn about the various funding options available to businesses, communities, farms and other enterprises through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 as well as other sources. The events were held on;

- 02 March – Peterstone Super Ely, Vale of Glamorgan
- 08 March – Builth Wells Showground
- 15 March –Llanrwst

Presentations and Q&A sessions were available on a number of the schemes; Farming Connect, Glastir Woodland Creation, Glastir Advanced and LEADER/RCDF. In addition to the presentations there were trade stands with various scheme leads providing information as well as LAGs, WCVA, Business Wales, Visit Wales, Farm Liaison Service, Big Lottery etc. Overall the event provided attendees with the

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opportunity to speak to experts, view presentations on scheme areas of choice and to find out more about the various funding routes available.

The Future of Uplands Farming 15 March 2017: A one-day conference at Glasdir, Llanrwst, Conwy which examined the impact of Wales' new environmental and sustainability focussed legislation and policies on upland farming. The conference explored key relationships between farming and landscapes, access, the environment and nature. Bangor University in partnership with RSPB Cymru and Cynidr Consulting offered farmers the opportunity to discuss and contribute to future policy developments for the future of upland farming in Wales. Participants heard from upland farmers in Wales, and international examples (from Ireland) where farmers have a clear say in designing agri-environmental schemes which benefit their livelihoods. The conference concluded with a facilitated session that will inform the Welsh Government of farming views, exploring whether farming with and for the environment and nature offers a sustainable future for the Welsh uplands.

Co-operation & Supply Chain Development Workshops (Food) 5 May 2017, in Maesmawr Hall, Casersws: The Welsh Government held a workshop hosted by the Wales Rural Network Support Unit which provided applicants of the Co-operation and Supply Chain Scheme with an opportunity to meet officials from the Food and Rural Development Divisions. At the workshop Welsh Government officials discussed with delegates the current priorities for the Food and Drink Sector in Wales. Those present considered how this could best be addressed, by collaborating as appropriate. The workshop looked at available funding streams, best access routes to funding and future co-operation opportunities and networking.

Competitiveness and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources 24 May 2017: This workshop was hosted by the Wales Rural Network Support Unit on 24 May 2017 in Hafod a Hendre, Builth Wells. The event focused on the subjects of Competitiveness and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. Welsh Government Officials presented on the current position and provided an overview of the day, including what input they required from the attendees. Everyone was given the opportunity to participate in a number of workshops on a range of topics including rural issues (community led local development, services, cultural and natural heritage), woodland and forestry topics, food and drink, renewable energy, tourism and farm diversification. The day concluded with a feedback session that captured key findings, conclusions and issues to be taken forward in shaping the Welsh Government's planning as it aims to safeguard rural interests and explore every opportunity to delivery key economic, social and environmental benefits to Wales.

Royal Welsh Show 24, 25, 26 & 27 July 2017: WG staff attended the Royal Welsh Show (RWS) in Builth Wells, Powys This is the largest agricultural and rural themed show in Europe where WG were able to maximise the awareness of the new Programme and schemes available.

CAVO Funding Fair 17 October 2017: WG staff attended a Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations funding fair which was well attended. The funding fair held in Lampeter provided information on available grants and funding sources to start new projects or to keep existing services going.

UKNRN Conference in Belfast on 14 & 15 November 2017: Designed to examine and explore rural life, This two day conference provided an opportunity to respond to the current trends and challenges of rural areas and together create a 'roadmap' for the future of rural development across the UK.

Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Steering Group: The CLLD Steering Group hold three meetings a year. WG staff attend to provide an update on WRN activities and discuss future events

Local Action Group (LAG) Meetings : The CLLD WG team have attended regular meetings throughout the year giving regular updates on WG activities relating to the RDP and the opening and closing of Socio Economic schemes and signposting where needs be.

PROVISION OF NETWORKING FOR ADVISERS AND INNOVATION SUPPORT SERVICES (ART. 54 3B(IV) OF REG. 1305/2013)

During May 2017 a WG representative attended the two day EIP seminar in Athens, Greece. The topic was *'Moving EIP-AGRI implementation forward'*. The seminar covered topics such as communication methods; best practice for support service provisions, for which Wales was highlighted as for best practice due to the support mechanisms available through Farming Connect; and How to select the best projects.

SHARING AND DISSEMINATION OF M&E FINDINGS (ART. 54 3B(V) OF REG. 1305/2013)

WG continues to actively participate in all UKNRN meetings and works closely with other communications teams to ensure agreed processes and sharing of information/best practice. In support of information exchange at the UK level, WRNSU staff attended a UKNRN Monitoring and Evaluation workshop. WG staff also attended the UKNRN meetings held twice a year. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to discuss RDP stakeholder issues and agree consistent responses to issues affecting the UK as a whole. Regular UKNRN teleconferences are held throughout the year along with the sharing of information via the online platform, Huddle. This ensures that information and publicity guidelines and communication guidelines are interpreted consistently across the UK and each Support Unit is aware of the latest developments in the adjoining administrations.

THE NETWORK COMMUNICATION PLAN (ART. 54 3B(VI) OF REG. 1305/2013)* **this point could be treated under following section 4b of the AIR*

Please refer to Section 4b below for information on the Communication Plan for the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020.

ACTIVITIES REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENRD (ART. 54 3B(VII) OF REG. 1305/2013)

WRNSU participates in and contributes to ENRD activities in order to improve the quality of RDP implementation and integration with existing development policies. WRN representatives make every effort to attend meetings and events as they provide useful networking opportunities and information sharing. The following are some examples of events attended during 2017:

- 7th NRN Meeting, Linkages with Advisory Services, Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal, 15 & 17 March 2017
- EIP-AGRI seminar 'Moving EIP-AGRI implementation forward', 10 May 2017
- The LINC Event, Luxembourg 09 - 11 May 2017
- 8th NRN Meeting, Delivering Smart Rural Development, Jyvaskyla Region, Finland, 26 & 28 June 2017
- Third European Seminar, Capitalising on CLLD Experiences, Building Resilient Local Communities, Hungary 08 – 10 November 2017
- Good Practice Workshop, NRN 'Support to the Evaluation of RDP', Athens, 20 November – 01 December 2017
- FARNET MA Meeting for Fisheries CLLD Managing Authorities and National Networks, 17 & 18 May 2017

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The WRNSU supports stakeholders and monitors by encouraging networking activity by other organisations. The support unit maximises opportunities to network and support Stakeholders. During the year WRN has been able to attend a number of events;

- CAVO – Ceredigion Association Voluntary Organisation Funding Fair in Lampeter on 17 October 2017 – the WRNSU was invited to provide a stall at the annual Funding Fair. Delivering information about all the Socio Economic Schemes that fall under the RDP.
- South East and South West LEADER Admin Group Meetings, providing advice and guidance to delivery bodies on programme delivery and updates on WRN events
- Attendance at Community Led Local Development Meetings, providing updates on WRN activities as and when required.
- Attendance at Local Action Group (LAG) meetings providing update on WRN Events and opening and closing of RDP Socio Economic Schemes.

WRN makes every effort to re-tweet (Twitter) and promote scheduled events that are held to all Stakeholders via various communication channels. This includes obtaining press releases and case studies to disseminate as required.

4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014)

WRN Communications/Work Plan
The WRN Communication/Work Plan forms a vital part of the Wales RDP Communications Strategy. This has been approved and shared with the WRNSG, PMC and DG Agri. A presentation on the role of the WRN and its annual work plan was given at the September PMC meeting during 2017.

To take forward the activities set out in the WRN communication/work plan, meetings are regularly held with the RDP scheme leads to determine the communication needs for each scheme, consider the best way to raise awareness and to target potential beneficiaries. As a result of these meetings, targeted publicity and communications around the launch of Expression of Interest (EOI) windows for each of the RDP Schemes are carried out online, via twitter and by press notices. All schemes are further publicised in bi-monthly WG Gwlad magazine, WRN Newsletter and relevant RDP scheme newsletters.

All EOI windows and downloadable scheme documents are accessible from the website and carry the EAFRD logo, programme name and relevant wording for the programme.

Social media was widely used during this period to maintain interest and engagement around the schemes and to ensure stakeholders were aware of the EOI window opening and closure dates.

Communications
The WRNSU continues to improve the website and has full publishing responsibilities for the RCDF and WRN pages. The WRN manages the communication of all RDP Scheme information and liaises with scheme leads to ensure consistent, logical dissemination of material.

The WRNSU communicates with Welsh LAGs to establish relevant and accurate information for each area. The LEADER Project directory form has been updated to obtain project information on Theme / Measure

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which is published bilingually on the WRN Pages. There are currently over 300 projects on the directory showcasing the type of LEADER projects that are being delivered across Wales.

Co-operation pages have been created and contain agreed standard templates to encourage working together in developing new ways of finding potential partners. Events pages are updated following each WRN event providing copies of the presentations and all supporting documentation. Regular updates and work continues on all areas of the WRN website to ensure it is kept relevant and in accordance with the RDP 2014-2020.

WRN Web pages continue to have build issues which are yet to be resolved. Development work is being discussed to further improve the search platform during 2018. The new WRN website provides regular updates on news, events, publications and case studies. The website has also shown a significant increase in traffic since the implementation of its new format.

The WRNSU uses Twitter to communicate updates on WGRCRDP 2014 - 2020 schemes and to share information from networking partners such as LAGs, UK and European Networks, project examples and RDP Funding information.

WRNSU has recently had approval for a WRN Facebook page which will enhance the wider stakeholder engagement across Wales, UK and Europe.

Twitter followers are as follows:

- WRN Twitter 2017 -
- Tweets - 532 (Down 45)
- Followers – 1.2K (up 189)
- Engagement – 824 (Down 125 and the most concerning one)
- Traffic – Plus 25

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5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

5.a) Unfulfilled criteria of general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criterion

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5.b) Actions taken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Actions to be taken	Deadline	Body responsible for fulfilment	Actions taken	Date of fulfilment of the action	Commission position	Comments

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5.c) Unfulfilled criteria of priority-linked ex-ante conditionalities

Priority-linked ex-ante conditionality	Criterion

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5.d) Actions taken to fulfil applicable priority-linked ex-ante conditionalities

Priority-linked ex-ante conditionality	Criterion	Actions to be taken	Deadline	Body responsible for fulfilment	Actions taken	Date of fulfilment of the action	Commission position	Comments

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5.e) (Optional) additional information to complement the information provided on the 'actions taken' table

Not applicable

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6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

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7. ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

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8. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

8.a) Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination (Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

8.b) Sustainable development (Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

8.c) The role of the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the implementation of the programme

9. PROGRESS MADE IN ENSURING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO USE EAFRD AND OTHER UNION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

This section applies to AIR(s) 2018 only

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10. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

30A. Has the ex-ante assessment been started?	No
30B. Has the ex-ante assessment been completed?	No
30. Date of completion of ex-ante assessment	-
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched?	No
13A. Has the funding agreement been signed?	No
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	-

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11. ENCODING TABLES FOR COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND QUANTIFIED TARGET VALUES

See Monitoring Annex

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Annex II

Detailed table showing implementation level by Focus areas including output indicator

Focus Area 1A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
1A	T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2017			11,520,329.26	1.19	22.3
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	

Focus Area 1B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
1B	T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects…) (focus area 1B)	2014-2017			12%	1	1,072.00
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	

Focus Area 1C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
1C	T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2017			5,021	37	13,500.00
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	

Focus Area 2A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
2A	T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	2014-2017			10%	1	10.08
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	42,923,828.84	35.28	9,889,252.48	8.13	121,683,038.27
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	21,546,673.23	50.52	6,987,675.95	16.38	42,652,855.84
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	1,251,572.22	39.66	3,155,935.48
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017			3,866	38.62	10,010.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	3,885,075.84	45.97	607,836.59	7.19	8,452,241.77
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017			485	16.37	2,963.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	17,492,079.77	24.94	2,993,739.94	3.27	70,125,000.90
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017			13,900,772.00	7.93	175,312,502.25
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	2,293,739.94	3.27	70,125,000.90
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2017			23	0.95	2,431.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	618,750.00	136.61	0	0	452,939.76

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Focus Area 3A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
3A	T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	2014-2017			25	36	0.68
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
3A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	72,261,165.16	66.51	16,839,219.10	15.50	108,649,232.48
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	31,606,044.63	105.82	453,745.22	1.52	29,867,857.00
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	81,270.94	0.30	27,303,121.92
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017			251	21.82	1,150.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	397,857.23	45.97	62,246.44	7.19	865,564.95
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017			50	16.50	303.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	36,574,896.99	81.73	16,305,570.38	36.44	44,750,000.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017			463,44,034.80	4.17	117,000,000.00
M04.1 M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			5	4.17	120.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	3,682,366.32	11.10	17,657.06	0.05	33,165,810.53
M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	2014-2017			60	36.36	165.00

Priority P4							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
P4	T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2017			0	0	0.31
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
	T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2017			0	0	0.18
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
	T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	2014-2017			0.23	8.31	2.76
		2015-2016			0.01	0.11	
		2014-2015			0	0	
	T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2017			4.36	87.54	4.99
		2015-2016			4.36	51.50	
		2014-2015			0	0	
	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2017			3.14	22.73	13.83
		2015-2016			3.14	6.40	
		2014-2015			0	0	
	T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	2014-2017			20.94	54.04	38.75
		2015-2016			20.94	42.64	
		2014-2015			1.60	3.26	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
P4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	216,846,173.59	52.19	117,068,856.33	28.18	415,473,778.63
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	2,518,442.33	50.52	816,741.35	16.38	4,985,398.73
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	146,287.62	39.66	368,875.58
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017			452	38.62	1,170.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	2,408,207.58	36.84	165,990.54	2.54	6,536,482.96
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017			132	3.16	4,195.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	61,978,793.10	57.66	22,578,821.25	21.01	107,491,727.39
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017			22,578,821.25	21.01	107,491,727.39
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			1,945	13.33	14,590.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,119,489.81	24.47	5,001,872.18	20.00	25,007,148.98
M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	1,804,758.18	10.12	17,835,231.94
M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			270.37	10.82	2,498.00
M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	1,938.22	4.85	40,000.00
M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			1	0	50.00

M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	0	0	325,000.00
M08.3	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2017			0	0	1.00
M08.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017			0	0	1,674,174.38
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	3,195,175.78	62.25	5,132,742.66
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			244	60.55	403.00
M08.5	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			714.53	7.57	9,445.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	121,330,289.00	52.56	78,749,343.41	34.11	230,841,570.53
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			667,755.59	105.09	635,399.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	15,432,355.91	58.29	9,681,290.19	36.57	26,474,317.45
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			9,896.37	88.73	11,153.00
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			53,603.16	93.57	57,287.00
M15	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0	00	0	375,000.00
M15.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			0	0	700.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,907,711.25	50.19	74,797.41	0.54	13,762,132.59

Focus Area 5B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5B	T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)	2014-2017			5,364,869	26.01	20,625,000.27
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	4,635,525.44	47.20	833,373.97	8.49	9,820,529.39
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	559,653.85	50.52	181,498.02	16.38	1,107,866.39
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0	0.00	32,508.35	39.66	81,972.35
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017			100	38.62	260.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	109,410.63	45.96	17,117.77	7.19	238,030.36
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017			14	16.87	83
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	3,657,085.96	44.33	634,758.18	7.69	8,250,000.11
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017			5,144,533.00	24.94	20,625,000.27
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			203	70.98	286
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	309,375.00	137.72	0.00	0.00	224,632.53

Focus Area 5C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5C	T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)	2014-2017			0	0	43,862,327.67
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	955,231.33	3.19	194,984.71	0.65	29,922,297.76
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	559,653.85	50.52	181,498.00	16.38	1,107,866.39
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	32,508.33	39.66	81,972.35
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017			100	38.62	260
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	86,202.48	45.97	13,486.71	7.19	187,539.07
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017			11	16.67	66
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M04.1 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017	0	0	0	0	0
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017			0	0	19,190,481.39
M07.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	197
M07.2 M07.3 M07.4 M07.5 M07.6 M07.7 M07.8	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0	0	23,028,577.67
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,344,131.38
M08	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017			0.00	0.00	10,631.38
M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017			0.00	0.00	8,333,500.00
M08.6	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017			0.00	0.00	20,833,750.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	309,375.00	28.32	0.00	0.00	1,092,279.53

Focus Area 5D							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5D	T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	2014-2017			4.42	105.15	4.20
		2015-2016			3.11	22.17	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5D	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	6,675,579.82	34.08	3,168,894.60	16.18	19,587,705.86
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	559,653.85	50.52	181,498.01	16.38	1,107,866.39
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	32,508.33	39.66	81,972.35
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017			100	38.62	260
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	770,516.80	33.85	120,550.64	5.30	2,276,310.79
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017			96	9.72	988.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	354,472.09	8.40	506,943.83	12.02	4,217,649.53
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017			432,111.00	4.15	10,405,149.61
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			190	3.88	4893
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	4,681,562.07	39.80	2,359,902.12	20.07	11,761,246.62
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			63,773.63	106.63	59,807.08
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	309,375.00	137.72	0.00	0.00	224,632.53

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Focus Area 5E							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
5E	T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	2014-2017			0.13	55.62	0.23
		2015-2016			0.03	23.89	
		2014-2015			0	0	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5E	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	8,289,366.34	39.24	5,575,198.82	26.39	21,123,506.68
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	559,653.85	50.52	181,498.06	16.38	1,107,866.39
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	32,508.37	39.66	81,972.35
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017			100	38.62	260
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	521,155.66	38.88	15,665.33	1.17	1,340,519.39
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017			13	1.65	786
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	1,572,635.29	432.07	1,239,403.97	340.51	363,980.10
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017			1,239,403.97	340.51	363,980.10
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			735	15	4,900.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	4,517,314.46	27.09	3,861,327.58	23.16	16,672,343.60
M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017			2,064,812.94	27.89	7,404,656.00
M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			129.47	15.56	832.00
M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			0	0	50
M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017			0.00	0.00	975,000.00
M08.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	1,720,936.99	34.26	5,022,525.15
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	75,577.65	2.34	3,230,162.45
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			28	7.12	393.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	809,232.08	76.25	277,303.88	26.13	1,061,224.67
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			2,024.11	66.99	3,021.6
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	309,375.00	53.56	0.00	0.00	577,572.53

Focus Area 6A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
6A	T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	2014-2017			0	0	765
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	18,993,260.06	70.27	470,144.55	1.74	27,028,060.28
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	220,810.79	45.97	34,546.80	7.19	480,388.55
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2017			28	16.67	168
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	16,867,573.90	69.17	0.00	0.00	24,385,948.12
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017			0	0	53,822,012.30
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2017			0	0	420
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	1,135,374.12	63.28	435,597.75	24.28	1,794,076.61
M08	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2017			5	25	20
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	127,576.61
M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	435,597.75	26.14	1,666,500.00
M08.6	O2 - Total investment	2014-2017			969,978.00	23.28	4,166,250.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	769,501.25	209.30	0.00	0.00	367,647.00

Focus Area 6B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
6B	T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	2014-2017			0	0	100.00
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	2014-2017			1.21	1.21	45.53
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2017			100	100	45.53
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	109,684,062.57	62.51	6,898,008.17	3.93	175,478,897.09
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	12,187,462.65	23.69	631,240.12	1.23	51,455,813.95
M07.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			0	0	100
M07.1 M07.2 M07.4 M07.5 M07.6 M07.7 M07.8	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	2014-2017			16,720	1.21	1,381,745.00
M07.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			0	0	56
M07.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			2	1.19	168
M07.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			0	0	150
M07.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			0	0	80
M07.7	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			0	0	50
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	38,575,250.07	59.83	1,315,530.33	2.04	64,476,606.75
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	58,921,349.85	98.95	4,951,237.72	8.31	59,546,476.39
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2017			1,381,745.00	100.00	1,381,745.00
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2017			18	100.00	18
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	58,171.37	104.47	55,680.00
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	1,114,619.75	2.69	41,457,514.04
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	78,241.54	1.88	4,155,205.88
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	0.00	0.00	2,855,875.19	20.58	13,878,076.47

Focus Area 6C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2023
6C	T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	2014-2017			0	0	16.47
		2015-2016			0	0	
		2014-2015			0	0	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	460,426.93	12.59	90,749.03	2.48	3,657,637.85
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	279,826.93	50.52	90,749.03	16.38	553,933.19
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017		0.00	16,254.20	39.66	40,986.18
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2017			50	38.62	130
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2017	180,600.00	5.82	0.00	0.00	3,103,704.66
M07.3	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	2014-2017			0	0	500,000.00
M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2017			0	0	49

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Annex III

Summary table of quantified results

Result indicator name and unit (1)	Target value (2)	Main value (3)	Secondary contribution (4)	LEADER/CLLD contribution (5)	Total RDP (6)=3+4+5
R1 / T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	10.08	0	N/A	0	0
R2: Change in Agricultural output on supported farms/AWU (Annual Work Unit) (focus area 2A)*	N/A	0	0	0	0
R3 / T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
R4 / T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	0.68	25.00	N/A	0	0
R5 / T7: percentage of farms participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
R6 / T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	2.76		N/A	0	
R7 / T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	38.75		N/A	0	
R8 / T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	13.83		N/A	0	
R9 / T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	0.18	0	N/A	0	0
R10 / T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	4.99		N/A	0	
R11 / T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	0.31		N/A	0	0
R12 / T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
R13: Increase in efficiency of water use in agriculture in RDP supported projects (focus area 5A)*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
R14: Increase in efficiency of energy use in agriculture and food-processing in RDP supported projects (focus area 5B)*	N/A	0	0	0	0

R15: Renewable energy produced from supported projects (focus area 5C)*	N/A	0	0	0	0
R16 / T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.00	0.00
R17 / T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	4.20		N/A	0	
R18: Reduced emissions of methane and nitrous oxide (focus area 5D)*	N/A	0			
R19: Reduced ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)*	N/A	0			
R20 / T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	0.23	5.36	N/A	0	
R21 / T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	765	0	N/A	0	
R22 / T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	45.53	100	N/A		
R23 / T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	45.53	1.21	N/A	0	
R24 / T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	100	0	N/A		
R25 / T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	16.47	0	N/A	0	0

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Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
AIR Financial Annex 2014UK06RDRP004	Financial annex (System)							

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Annual implementation report

Monitoring Annex

United Kingdom - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Wales

Annual implementation report	
Period	01/01/2017 - 31/12/2017
Version	2017.0
Status - Current Node	Open - Wales
National reference	
Monitoring committee approval date	tbc

Programme Version in force	
CCI	2014UK06RDRP004
Programme type	Rural Development Programme
Country	United Kingdom
Region	Wales
Programming period	2014 - 2020
Version	2.2
Decision Number	C(2017)4598
Decision Date	28/06/2017
Managing authority	Welsh Government – Environment and Rural Affairs - Rural Development and Legislation Division
Coordination body	UK Co-ordinating Body

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SECTION 11

1. ENCODING TABLES FOR COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND QUANTIFIED TARGET VALUES

1.a) Table A: Committed expenditure by measure and focus area - ANNUAL

Measure	Sub-Measure	Priority	Focus Area	Total public expenditure
M01		P2	2A	21,546,673.23
M01		P3	3A	31,606,044.63
M01		P4		2,518,442.33
M01		P5	5B	559,653.85
M01		P5	5C	559,653.85
M01		P5	5D	559,653.85
M01		P5	5E	559,653.85
M01		P6	6C	279,826.93
M01				**58,189,602.50**
M02		P2	2A	3,885,075.84
M02		P3	3A	397,857.23
M02		P4		2,408,207.58
M02		P5	5B	109,410.63
M02		P5	5C	86,202.48
M02		P5	5D	770,516.80
M02		P5	5E	521,155.66
M02		P6	6A	220,810.79
M02				**8,399,236.99**
M04		P2	2A	17,492,079.77
M04		P3	3A	36,574,896.99
M04		P4		61,978,793.10
M04		P5	5B	3,657,085.96
M04		P5	5C	354,472.09
M04		P5	5D	1,572,635.29
M04		P5	5E	0
M04		P6	6A	0
M04				**121,629,96.20**
M06		P6	6A	16,867,573.90
M06				**16,867,573.90**
M07		P5	5C	0
M07		P6	6B	12,187,462.65
M07		P6	6C	180,600.00
M07				**12,368,062.65**

M08	M08.1	P4		169,835.29
M08	M08.1	P5	5C	0
M08	M08.1	P5	5E	1,020,256.47
M08	M08.1	P6	6A	0
M08	**M08.1**			**1,020,256.47**
M08	M08.2	P4		0
M08	M08.2	P5	5C	0
M08	M08.2	P5	5E	0
M08	M08.2	P6	6A	0
M08	**M08.2**			**0**
M08	M08.3	P4		0
M08	M08.3	P5	5C	0
M08	M08.3	P5	5E	0
M08	M08.3	P6	6A	0
M08	**M08.3**			**0**
M08	M08.4	P4		0
M08	M08.4	P5	5C	0
M08	M08.4	P5	5E	66,341.18
M08	M08.4	P6	6A	0
M08	**M08.4**			**66,341.18**
M08	M08.5	P4		64,000.00
M08	M08.5	P5	5C	0
M08	M08.5	P5	5E	9,411.76
M08	M08.5	P6	6A	0
M08	**M08.5**			**73,411.76**
M08	M08.6	P4		0
M08	M08.6	P5	5C	0
M08	M08.6	P5	5E	0
M08	M08.6	P6	6A	5,041.18
M08	**M08.6**			**5,041.18**
M10		P4		121,330,289.00
M10		P5	5D	4,681,562.07
M10		P5	5E	809,232.08
M10				**126,821,083.15**
M11		P4		15,432,355.91
M11				**15,432,355.91**
M15		P4		0
M15				**0**
M16		P2	2A	618,750.00
M16		P3	3A	3,682,366.32
M16		P4		6,907,711.25
M16		P5	5B	309,375.00
M16		P5	5C	309,375.00
M16		P5	5D	309,375.00
M16		P5	5E	309,375.00

M16		P6	6A	769,501.25
M16		P6	6B	38,575,250.07
M16				**51,791,078.90**
M19	M19.1	P6	6B	
M19	**M19.1; M19.2; M19.3; M19.4**			58,921,349.85
M19	M19.2	P6	6B	
M19	M19.3	P6	6B	
M19	M19.4	P6	6B	
M20				23,859,997.87

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1.b) Table B: Realised output indicators by measure and focus area

Table B1: Realised outputs (AIR) - CUMULATIVEM01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Priority	Focus Area	B1: output realised (2014-2017 cumul)
M01		O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2A	6,987,675.95
M01		O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3A	453,745.22
M01		O1 - Total public expenditure	P4		816,741.35
M01		O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5B	181,498.02
M01		O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5C	181,498.00
M01		O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5D	181,498.01
M01		O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5E	181,498.06
M01		O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6C	90,749.03
M01		**O1 - Total public expenditure**			**9,074,903.6**
M01	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2A	1,251,572.22
M01	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3A	81,270.94
M01	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	P4		146,287.62
M01	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5B	32,508.35
M01	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5C	32,508.33
M01	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5D	32,508.33
M01	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5E	32,508.37
M01	M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6C	16,254.20
M01	**M01.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**			**1,625,418.36**
M01	M01.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P2	2A	3,866
M01	M01.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P3	3A	251
M01	M01.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P4		452
M01	M01.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5B	100
M01	M01.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5C	100
M01	M01.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5D	100
M01	M01.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5E	100
M01	M01.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P6	6C	50
M01	**M01.1**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**			**5,021**
M01	M01.1	O11 - Number of training days given	P2	2A	4,622
M01	M01.1	O11 - Number of training days given	P3	3A	300
M01	M01.1	O11 - Number of training days given	P4		540
M01	M01.1	O11 - Number of training days given	P5	5B	120
M01	M01.1	O11 - Number of training days given	P5	5C	120
M01	M01.1	O11 - Number of training days given	P5	5D	120
M01	M01.1	O11 - Number of training days given	P5	5E	120
M01	M01.1	O11 - Number of training days given	P6	6C	60

M01	**M01.1**	**O11 - Number of training days given**			**6,003**
M01	M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P2	2A	3,866
M01	M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P3	3A	251
M01	M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P4		452
M01	M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P5	5B	100
M01	M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P5	5C	100
M01	M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P5	5D	100
M01	M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P5	5E	100
M01	M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P6	6C	50
M01	**M01.1**	**O12 - Number of participants in trainings**			**5,021**
M01	M01.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P2	2A	1,297
M01	M01.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P3	3A	84
M01	M01.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P4		152
M01	M01.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5B	34
M01	M01.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5C	34
M01	M01.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5D	34
M01	M01.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5E	34
M01	M01.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P6	6C	17
M01	**M01.2**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**			**1,684**
M01	M01.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P2	2A	17
M01	M01.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P3	3A	1
M01	M01.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P4		5
M01	M01.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5B	0
M01	M01.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5C	0
M01	M01.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5D	0
M01	M01.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5E	0
M01	M01.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P6	6C	0
M01	**M01.3**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**			**22**

M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Priority	Focus Area	B1: output realised (2014-2017 cumul)
M02		O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2A	607,836.59
M02		O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3A	62,246.44
M02		O1 - Total public expenditure	P4		165,990.54
M02		O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5B	17,117.77
M02		O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5C	13,486.71
M02		O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5D	120,550.64
M02		O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5E	15,665.33
M02		O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6A	34,546.80
M02		**O1 - Total public expenditure**			**1,037,440.82**
M02	M02.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P2	2A	15
M02	M02.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P3	3A	2
M02	M02.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P4		4
M02	M02.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5B	0
M02	M02.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5C	0
M02	M02.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5D	3
M02	M02.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5E	0
M02	M02.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P6	6A	1
M02	**M02.1**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**			**25**
M02	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	P2	2A	485
M02	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	P3	3A	50
M02	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	P4		132
M02	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	P5	5B	14
M02	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	P5	5C	11
M02	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	P5	5D	96
M02	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	P5	5E	13
M02	M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	P6	6A	28
M02	**M02.1**	**O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised**			**828**
M02	M02.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P2	2A	0
M02	M02.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P3	3A	0
M02	M02.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P4		0
M02	M02.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations	P5	5B	0

		supported			
M02	M02.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5C	0
M02	M02.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5D	0
M02	M02.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5E	0
M02	M02.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P6	6A	0
M02	**M02.2**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**			**0**
M02	M02.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P2	2A	0
M02	M02.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P3	3A	0
M02	M02.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P4		0
M02	M02.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5B	0
M02	M02.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5C	0
M02	M02.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5D	0
M02	M02.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5E	0
M02	M02.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P6	6A	0
M02	**M02.3**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**			**0**
M02	M02.3	O14 - Number of advisor trained	P2	2A	0
M02	M02.3	O14 - Number of advisor trained	P3	3A	0
M02	M02.3	O14 - Number of advisor trained	P4		0
M02	M02.3	O14 - Number of advisor trained	P5	5B	0
M02	M02.3	O14 - Number of advisor trained	P5	5C	0
M02	M02.3	O14 - Number of advisor trained	P5	5D	0
M02	M02.3	O14 - Number of advisor trained	P5	5E	0
M02	M02.3	O14 - Number of advisor trained	P6	6A	0
M02	**M02.3**	**O14 - Number of advisor trained**			**0**

M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Priority	Focus Area	B1: output realised (2014-2017 cumul)
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure		P2	2A	2,293,739.94
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure		P3	3A	16,305,570.38
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure		P4		22,578,821.25
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5B	634,758.18
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	0
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5D	506,943.83
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5E	1,795,407.19
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M04		**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**44,115,240.77**
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P2	2A	0
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P3	3A	0
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P4		0
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P5	5B	0
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P5	5C	0
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P5	5D	0
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P5	5E	0
M04		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P6	6A	0
M04		**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**out of which FI**			**0**
M04		O2 - Total investment		P2	2A	13,900,772.00
M04		O2 - Total investment		P3	3A	463,44,034.80
M04		O2 - Total investment		P4		22,578,821.25
M04		O2 - Total investment		P5	5B	5,144,533.00
M04		O2 - Total investment		P5	5C	0
M04		O2 - Total investment		P5	5D	432,111.00
M04		O2 - Total investment		P5	5E	1,795,407.19
M04		O2 - Total investment		P6	6A	0
M04		**O2 - Total investment**				**43,419,533.44**
M04		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P2	2A	0
M04		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P3	3A	0
M04		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P4		0
M04		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P5	5B	0
M04		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P5	5C	0
M04		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P5	5D	0
M04		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P5	5E	0
M04		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P6	6A	0
M04		**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**out of which FI**			**0**
M04	M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure		P2	2A	2,293,739.94

M04	M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure		P3	3A	0
M04	M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure		P4		
M04	M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5B	634,758.18
M04	M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	0
M04	M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5D	16,005.18
M04	M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5E	0
M04	M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**2,944,503.30**
M04	M04.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P2	2A	16
M04	M04.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P3	3A	0
M04	M04.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P4		0
M04	M04.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5B	13
M04	M04.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M04	M04.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5D	3
M04	M04.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5E	0
M04	M04.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.1**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				**32**
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P2	2A	17
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P3	3A	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P4		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P5	5B	13
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P5	5C	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P5	5D	3
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P5	5E	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**				**33**
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	out of which FI	P2	2A	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	out of which FI	P3	3A	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	out of which FI	P4		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	out of which FI	P5	5B	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	out of which FI	P5	5C	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	out of which FI	P5	5D	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of	out of which FI	P5	5E	0

		holdings/beneficiaries supported				
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	out of which FI	P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**out of which FI**			**0**
M04	M04.1; M04.3; M04.4	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)		P5	5D	0
M04	M04.2	O1 - Total public expenditure		P2	2A	0
M04	M04.2	O1 - Total public expenditure		P3	3A	16,305,570.38
M04	M04.2	O1 - Total public expenditure		P4		0
M04	M04.2	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5B	0
M04	M04.2	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	0
M04	M04.2	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5D	0
M04	M04.2	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5E	0
M04	M04.2	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.2**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**16,305,570.38**
M04	M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P2	2A	0
M04	M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P3	3A	5
M04	M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P4		0
M04	M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5B	0
M04	M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M04	M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5D	0
M04	M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5E	0
M04	M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.2**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				**5**
M04	M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure		P2	2A	0
M04	M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure		P3	3A	0
M04	M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure		P4		0
M04	M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5B	0
M04	M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	0
M04	M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5D	0
M04	M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5E	0
M04	M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.3**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**0**
M04	M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P2	2A	0
M04	M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P3	3A	0
M04	M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P4		0
M04	M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5B	0
M04	M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M04	M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5D	0

M04	M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5E	0
M04	M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.3**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				**0**
M04	M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P2	2A	0
M04	M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P3	3A	0
M04	M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P4		22,578,821.25
M04	M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5B	0
M04	M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	0
M04	M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5D	490,938.65
M04	M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5E	1,795,407.19
M04	M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.4**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**24,865,167.09**
M04	M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P2	2A	0
M04	M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P3	3A	0
M04	M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P4		1,945
M04	M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5B	0
M04	M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M04	M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5D	174
M04	M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5E	735
M04	M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6A	0
M04	**M04.4**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				**2,854**

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M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Priority	Focus Area	B1: output realised (2014-2017 cumul)
M06		O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M06		**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**0**
M06		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P6	6A	0
M06		**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**out of which FI**			**0**
M06		O2 - Total investment		P6	6A	0
M06		**O2 - Total investment**				**0**
M06		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6A	0
M06		**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				**0**
M06		O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	out of which FI	P6	6A	0
M06		**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**out of which FI**			**0**
M06	M06.1	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**0**
M06	M06.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**				**0**
M06	M06.2	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.2**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**0**
M06	M06.2	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.2**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**				**0**
M06	M06.3	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.3**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**0**
M06	M06.3	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.3**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**				**0**
M06	M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.4**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**0**
M06	M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.4**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**				**0**
M06	M06.5	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.5**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**0**
M06	M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P6	6A	0
M06	**M06.5**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**				**0**

M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Priority	Focus Area	B1: output realised (2014-2017 cumul)
M07		O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	0
M07		O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6B	631,240.12
M07		O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6C	0
M07		**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**631,240.12**
M07		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P5	5C	0
M07		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P6	6B	0
M07		O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P6	6C	0
M07		**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**out of which FI**			**0**
M07		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P5	5C	0
M07		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P6	6B	0
M07		O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P6	6C	0
M07		**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**out of which FI**			**0**
M07	M07.1; M07.6	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	0
M07	M07.1; M07.6	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6B	624.83
M07	M07.1; M07.6	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.1; M07.6**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**624.83**
M07	M07.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	N2000/HNV area management plans	P5	5C	0
M07	M07.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	N2000/HNV area management plans	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	N2000/HNV area management plans	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.1**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**N2000/HNV area management plans**			**0**
M07	M07.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	of village development	P5	5C	0
M07	M07.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	of village development	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	of village development	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.1**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**of village development**			**0**
M07	M07.1; M07.2; M07.4; M07.5; M07.6; M07.7; M07.8	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)		P5	5C	
M07	M07.1; M07.2; M07.4; M07.5; M07.6; M07.7; M07.8	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)		P6	6B	
M07	M07.1; M07.2; M07.4; M07.5; M07.6; M07.7; M07.8	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)		P6	6C	
M07	**M07.1; M07.2; M07.4; M07.5;**	**O15 - Population benefiting of improved**				

	M07.6; M07.7; M07.8	**services/infrastructures (IT or others)**				
M07	M07.2; M07.3; M07.4; M07.5; M07.6; M07.7; M07.8	O2 - Total investment		P5	5C	0
M07	M07.2; M07.3; M07.4; M07.5; M07.6; M07.7; M07.8	O2 - Total investment		P6	6B	631,240.12
M07	M07.2; M07.3; M07.4; M07.5; M07.6; M07.7; M07.8	O2 - Total investment		P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.2; M07.3; M07.4; M07.5; M07.6; M07.7; M07.8**	**O2 - Total investment**				**631,240.12**
M07	M07.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M07	M07.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6B	0
M07	M07.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.2**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				**0**
M07	M07.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	Broadband	P5	5C	0
M07	M07.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	Broadband	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	Broadband	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.3**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Broadband**			**0**
M07	M07.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	Other than broadband	P5	5C	0
M07	M07.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	Other than broadband	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	Other than broadband	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.3**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Other than broadband**			**0**
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	e-Government services	P5	5C	0
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	e-Government services	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	e-Government services	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.3**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**e-Government services**			**0**
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	ICT infrastructure: Very high-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 100 Mbps)	P5	5C	0
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	ICT infrastructure: Very high-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 100 Mbps)	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	ICT infrastructure: Very high-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 100 Mbps)	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.3**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**ICT infrastructure: Very high-speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 100 Mbps)**			**0**
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	ICT infrastructure: High-Speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 30	P5	5C	0

			Mbps)			
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	ICT infrastructure: High-Speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 30 0Mbps)	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	I0CT infrastructure: High-Speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 30 Mbps)	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.3**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**ICT infrastructure: High-Speed broadband network (access/local loop; >/= 30 Mbps)**			**0**
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	ICT: Other types of ICT infrastructure (passive, IT center…)	P5	5C	0
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	ICT: Other types of ICT infrastructure (passive, IT center…)	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	ICT: Other types of ICT infrastructure (passive, IT center…)	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.3**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**ICT: Other types of ICT infrastructure (passive, IT center…)**			**0**
M07	M07.3	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	Broadband	P5	5C	0
M07	M07.3	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	Broadband	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.3	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	Broadband	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.3**	**O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)**	**Broadband**			**0**
M07	M07.3	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	Other than broadband	P5	5C	0
M07	M07.3	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	Other than broadband	P6	6B	0
M07	M07.3	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	Other than broadband	P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.3**	**O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)**	**Other than broadband**			**0**
M07	M07.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M07	M07.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6B	
M07	M07.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.4**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				
M07	M07.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M07	M07.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6B	

M07	M07.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.5**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				
M07	M07.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M07	M07.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6B	0
M07	M07.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.6**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				
M07	M07.7	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M07	M07.7	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6B	0
M07	M07.7	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.7**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				**0**
M07	M07.8	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	0
M07	M07.8	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6B	0
M07	M07.8	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6C	0
M07	**M07.8**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				**0**

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M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Priority	Focus Area	B1: output realised (2014-2017 cumul)
M08	M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	establishment only	P4		5,001,872.18
M08	M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	establishment only	P5	5C	
M08	M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	establishment only	P5	5E	
M08	M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	establishment only	P6	6A	
M08	**M08.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**establishment only**			**5,001,872.18**
M08	M08.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	establishment only	P4		80
M08	M08.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	establishment only	P5	5C	
M08	M08.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	establishment only	P5	5E	20
M08	M08.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	establishment only	P6	6A	
M08	**M08.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**establishment only**			**100**
M08	M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	establishment only	P4		270.37
M08	M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	establishment only	P5	5C	
M08	M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	establishment only	P5	5E	129.47
M08	M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	establishment only	P6	6A	
M08	**M08.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**establishment only**			**399.84**
M08	M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	establishment only	P4		1,938.22
M08	M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	establishment only	P5	5C	
M08	M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	establishment only	P5	5E	
M08	M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	establishment only	P6	6A	
M08	**M08.2**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**establishment only**			**1,938.22**
M08	M08.2	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	establishment only	P4		1
M08	M08.2	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	establishment only	P5	5C	
M08	M08.2	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	establishment only	P5	5E	
M08	M08.2	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	establishment only	P6	6A	
M08	**M08.2**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**establishment only**			**1**
M08	M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	establishment only	P4		1
M08	M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	establishment only	P5	5C	
M08	M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	establishment only	P5	5E	
M08	M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	establishment only	P6	6A	
M08	**M08.2**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**establishment only**			**1**
M08	M08.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P4		
M08	M08.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	
M08	M08.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5E	742,333.23
M08	M08.4	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.4**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**742,333.23**
M08	M08.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P4		

M08	M08.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P5	5C	
M08	M08.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P5	5E	51
M08	M08.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.4**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**				**51**
M08	M08.4	O5 - Total area (ha)		P4		
M08	M08.4	O5 - Total area (ha)		P5	5C	
M08	M08.4	O5 - Total area (ha)		P5	5E	255.01
M08	M08.4	O5 - Total area (ha)		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.4**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**				**255.01**
M08	M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure		P4		3,195,175.78
M08	M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	
M08	M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5E	
M08	M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.5**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				
M08	M08.5	O2 - Total investment		P4		1,790,161.00
M08	M08.5	O2 - Total investment		P5	5C	
M08	M08.5	O2 - Total investment		P5	5E	26.002.27
M08	M08.5	O2 - Total investment		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.5**	**O2 - Total investment**				**1,816,163.27**
M08	M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P4		244
M08	M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	
M08	M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5E	28
M08	M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.5**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				**272**
M08	M08.5	O5 - Total area (ha)		P4		714.53
M08	M08.5	O5 - Total area (ha)		P5	5C	
M08	M08.5	O5 - Total area (ha)		P5	5E	28.37
M08	M08.5	O5 - Total area (ha)		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.5**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**				**742.90**
M08	M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure		P4		0
M08	M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5C	0
M08	M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure		P5	5E	0
M08	M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure		P6	6A	435,597.75
M08	**M08.6**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**				**435,597.75**
M08	M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P4		0
M08	M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P5	5C	0
M08	M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P5	5E	0
M08	M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	out of which FI	P6	6A	0
M08	**M08.6**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**out of which FI**			**0**
M08	M08.6	O2 - Total investment		P4		0
M08	M08.6	O2 - Total investment		P5	5C	0
M08	M08.6	O2 - Total investment		P5	5E	0
M08	M08.6	O2 - Total investment		P6	6A	969,978.00

M08	**M08.6**	**O2 - Total investment**				**969,978.00**
M08	M08.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P4		
M08	M08.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5C	
M08	M08.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P5	5E	
M08	M08.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.6**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**				
M08	M08.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P4		0
M08	M08.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P5	5C	0
M08	M08.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P5	5E	0
M08	M08.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	out of which FI	P6	6A	0
M08	**M08.6**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**out of which FI**			**0**

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M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Dimension 3	Priority	Focus Area	B1: output realised (2014-2017 cumul)
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP			P2	2A	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP			P3	3A	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP			P4		0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP			P5	5B	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP			P5	5C	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP			P5	5D	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP			P5	5E	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP			P6	6A	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP			P6	6B	0
M16		**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**EIP**					**0**
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP	out of which FI		P2	2A	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP	out of which FI		P3	3A	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP	out of which FI		P4		0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP	out of which FI		P5	5B	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP	out of which FI		P5	5C	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP	out of which FI		P5	5D	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP	out of which FI		P5	5E	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP	out of which FI		P6	6A	0
M16		O1 - Total public expenditure	EIP	out of which FI		P6	6B	0
M16		**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**EIP**	**out of which FI**				**0**
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr of EIP cooperation operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)		P2	2A	0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr of EIP cooperation operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)		P3	3A	0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP	EIP	Nr of EIP cooperation		P4		0

		operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups		operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)				
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr of EIP cooperation operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)		P5	5B	0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr of EIP cooperation operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)		P5	5C	0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr of EIP cooperation operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)		P5	5D	0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr of EIP cooperation operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)		P5	5E	0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr of EIP cooperation operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)		P6	6A	0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr of EIP cooperation operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)		P6	6B	0
M16		**O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups**	**EIP**	**Nr of EIP cooperation operations supported (e.g.pilot projects, product development...)**				**0**
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr of EIP groups supported				0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr partners in EIP groups	farm holders			0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr partners in EIP groups	NGOs			0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr partners in EIP groups	SMEs			0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups	EIP	Nr partners in EIP	Advisors			0

		supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups		groups				
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr partners in EIP groups	others (other public bodies…)			0
M16		O16 - Number of EIP groups supported, number of EIP operations supported and number and type of partners in EIP groups	EIP	Nr partners in EIP groups	Research institutes			0
M16	M16.0	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P2	2A	0
M16	M16.0	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P3	3A	0
M16	M16.0	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P4		0
M16	M16.0	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5B	0
M16	M16.0	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5C	0
M16	M16.0	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5D	0
M16	M16.0	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5E	0
M16	M16.0	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6A	0
M16	M16.0	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6B	0
M16	**M16.0**	**O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)**	**non EIP**					
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P2	2A	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P3	3A	17,657.06
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7;	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P4		74,797.41

	M16.8; M16.9							
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P5	5B	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P5	5C	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; 0M16.4; M016.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P5	5D	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P5	5E	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P6	6A	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P6	6B	1,315,530.33
M16	**M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**non EIP**					**1,407,984.80**
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP	out of which FI		P2	2A	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4;	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP	out of which FI		P3	3A	0

	M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9							
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP	out of which FI		P4		0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP	out of which FI		P5	5B	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP	out of which FI		P5	5C	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP	out of which FI		P5	5D	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP	out of which FI		P5	5E	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP	out of which FI		P6	6A	0
M16	M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP	out of which FI		P6	6B	0
M16	**M16.2; M16.3; M16.4; M16.5; M16.6; M16.7; M16.8; M16.9**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**non EIP**	**out of which FI**				**0**

M16	M16.2	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P2	2A	
M16	M16.2	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P3	3A	
M16	M16.2	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P4		
M16	M16.2	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5B	
M16	M16.2	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5C	
M16	M16.2	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5D	
M16	M16.2	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5E	
M16	M16.2	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6A	
M16	M16.2	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6B	
M16	**M16.2**	**O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)**	**non EIP**					
M16	M16.3	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P2	2A	
M16	M16.3	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P3	3A	
M16	M16.3	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P4		
M16	M16.3	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5B	
M16	M16.3	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5C	
M16	M16.3	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5D	
M16	M16.3	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5E	
M16	M16.3	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6A	
M16	M16.3	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6B	
M16	**M16.3**	**O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)**	**non EIP**					
M16	M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	non EIP			P3	3A	60

M16	M16.4	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P2	2A	
M16	M16.4	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P3	3A	
M16	M16.4	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P4		
M16	M16.4	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5B	
M16	M16.4	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5C	
M16	M16.4	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5D	
M16	M16.4	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5E	
M16	M16.4	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6A	
M16	M16.4	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6B	
M16	**M16.4**	**O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)**	**non EIP**					
M16	M16.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P2	2A	0
M16	M16.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P3	3A	0
M16	M16.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P4		74,797.41
M16	M16.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P5	5B	0
M16	M16.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P5	5C	0
M16	M16.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P5	5D	0
M16	M16.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P5	5E	0
M16	M16.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P6	6A	0
M16	M16.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non EIP			P6	6B	0
M16	**M16.5**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**non EIP**					**74,797.41**
M16	M16.5	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P2	2A	0
M16	M16.5	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P3	3A	0
M16	M16.5	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P4		1
M16	M16.5	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5B	0

M16	M16.5	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5C	0
M16	M16.5	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5D	0
M16	M16.5	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5E	0
M16	M16.5	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6A	0
M16	M16.5	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6B	0
M16	**M16.5**	**O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)**	**non EIP**					**1**
M16	M16.6	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P2	2A	
M16	M16.6	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P3	3A	
M16	M16.6	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P4		
M16	M16.6	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5B	
M16	M16.6	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5C	
M16	M16.6	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5D	
M16	M16.6	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5E	
M16	M16.6	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6A	
M16	M16.6	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6B	
M16	**M16.6**	**O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)**	**non EIP**					
M16	M16.7	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P2	2A	
M16	M16.7	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P3	3A	
M16	M16.7	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P4		
M16	M16.7	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5B	
M16	M16.7	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5C	

M16	M16.7	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5D	
M16	M16.7	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5E	
M16	M16.7	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6A	
M16	M16.7	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6B	
M16	**M16.7**	**O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)**	**non EIP**					
M16	M16.8	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P2	2A	
M16	M16.8	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P3	3A	
M16	M16.8	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P4		
M16	M16.8	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5B	
M16	M16.8	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5C	
M16	M16.8	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5D	
M16	M16.8	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5E	
M16	M16.8	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6A	
M16	M16.8	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6B	
M16	**M16.8**	**O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)**	**non EIP**					
M16	M16.9	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P2	2A	
M16	M16.9	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P3	3A	
M16	M16.9	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P4		
M16	M16.9	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5B	
M16	M16.9	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5C	
M16	M16.9	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5D	

M16	M16.9	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P5	5E	
M16	M16.9	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6A	
M16	M16.9	O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)	non EIP			P6	6B	
M16	**M16.9**	**O17 - Number of cooperation operations supported (other than EIP)**	**non EIP**					

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Table B2.1: Realised LEADER outputs (AIR) - CUMULATIVE

Measure	Indicator	Sub-Measure	Dimension 1	Priority	Focus Area	Output realised (2014-2017 cumul)
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.1	LEADER start-up kit	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.1	support for preparation of LDS	P6	6B	58,171.37
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (1A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (1B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (1C) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (2A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (2B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (3A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (3B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (4A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (4B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (4C) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (5A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (5B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (5C) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (5D) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (5E) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (6A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (6B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	1,958,949.62
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA	P6	6B	

			(6C) to which the project contributes)			
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (Additional FA) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.3	preparatory technical support for cooperation	P6	6B	26080.51
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.3	support for inter-territorial cooperation (projects)	P6	6B	26,080.51
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.3	support for transnational cooperation (projects)	P6	6B	26,080.52
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.4	support for animation of the LDS	P6	6B	1,427,937.59
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	M19.4	support for running costs of the LDS	P6	6B	1,427,937.60
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG			P6	6B	
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected			P6	6B	
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected		multi funds	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (1A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (1B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (1C) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (2A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (2B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (3A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (3B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (4A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (4B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (4C) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (5A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (5B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (5C) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (5D) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA	P6	6B	

	projects supported		(5E) to which the project contributes)			
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (6A) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (6B) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (6C) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O20 - Number of LEADER projects supported	M19.2	(based on Predominant FA (Additional FA) to which the project contributes)	P6	6B	
M19	O21 - Number of cooperation project supported		cooperation inter-territorial	P6	6B	
M19	O21 - Number of cooperation project supported		cooperation transnational	P6	6B	
M19	O22 - Number and type of project promoters		LAGs	P6	6B	
M19	O22 - Number and type of project promoters		NGOs	P6	6B	
M19	O22 - Number and type of project promoters		others	P6	6B	
M19	O22 - Number and type of project promoters		Public bodies	P6	6B	
M19	O22 - Number and type of project promoters		SMEs	P6	6B	
M19	O23 - Unique number of LAG involved in cooperation project		cooperation inter-territorial	P6	6B	
M19	O23 - Unique number of LAG involved in cooperation project		cooperation transnational	P6	6B	

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Table B2.2: LEADER Data items to monitor contributions to the main Focus Area - CUMULATIVE

Measure	Priority	Focus Area	Indicator	Dimension 1	Value (2014-2017 Cumul)
M19	P1	1A	O1 - Total public expenditure		
M19	P1	1B	T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects…) (focus area 1B)		
M19	P1	1C	O12 - Number of participants in trainings		
M19	P2	2A	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		
M19	P2	2B	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		
M19	P3	3A	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		
M19	P3	3B	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported		
M19	P4	4A	O5 - Total area (ha)	Agri	
M19	P4	4A	O5 - Total area (ha)	Forest	
M19	P4	4B	O5 - Total area (ha)	Agri	
M19	P4	4B	O5 - Total area (ha)	Forest	
M19	P4	4C	O5 - Total area (ha)	Agri	
M19	P4	4C	O5 - Total area (ha)	Forest	
M19	P5	5A	O5 - Total area (ha)		
M19	P5	5B	O2 - Total investment		
M19	P5	5C	O2 - Total investment		
M19	P5	5D	O5 - Total area (ha)		
M19	P5	5D	O8 - Number of Livestock Units supported (LU)		
M19	P5	5E	O5 - Total area (ha)		
M19	P6	6A	R21 / T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)		
M19	P6	6B	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	others	
M19	P6	6C	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	IT	

Table B2.3: Monitoring of technical assistance - CUMULATIVE

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Table B2.3 Value
M20	M20.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	administrative costs (staff, materials…)	Total	2,056,910.350
M20	M20.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	other costs (studies, trainings…)	Total	0
M20	M20.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	total support for technical assistance		0
M20	M20.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	total support for technical assistance	out of which support for set up and running of the NRN	0
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	Consultations with stakeholders		14
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	Consultations with stakeholders	out of which focused on sharing and disseminating M&E findings	7
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	Consultations with stakeholders	out of which devoted to advisors and/or innovation support services	7
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	Consultations with stakeholders	out of which devoted to LAG including support to cooperation	10
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	others (trainings, web forum…)		12
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	others (trainings, web forum…)	out of which focused on sharing and disseminating M&E findings	5
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	others (trainings, web forum…)	out of which devoted to advisors and/or innovation support services	9
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	others (trainings, web forum…)	out of which devoted to LAG including support to cooperation	7
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	Thematic working groups		0
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	Thematic working groups	out of which focused on sharing and disseminating M&E findings	0
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	Thematic working groups	out of which devoted to advisors and/or innovation support services	0
M20	M20.2	O24 - Number of thematic and analytical exchanges set up with the support of NRN	Thematic working groups	out of which devoted to LAG including support to cooperation	0
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of events organized by NRN		25
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of events organized by NRN	out of which focused on sharing and disseminating M&E findings	14
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of events organized by NRN	out of which devoted to advisors and/or innovation support services	14
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of events organized by NRN	out of which devoted to LAG including support to cooperation	10
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of other tools (website, social media…)		11

M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of other tools (website, social media…)	out of which focused on sharing and disseminating M&E findings	0
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of other tools (website, social media…)	out of which devoted to advisors and/or innovation support services	11
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of other tools (website, social media…)	out of which devoted to LAG including support to cooperation	11
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of projects examples collected and disseminated by NRN		389
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of Publications: leaflets, newsletters, magazines... including e-publications		162
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of Publications: leaflets, newsletters, magazines... including e-publications	out of which focused on sharing and disseminating M&E findings	51
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of Publications: leaflets, newsletters, magazines... including e-publications	out of which devoted to advisors and/or innovation support services	103
M20	M20.2	O25 - Number of NRN communication tools	Nr of Publications: leaflets, newsletters, magazines... including e-publications	out of which devoted to LAG including support to cooperation	61
M20	M20.2	O26 - Number of ENRD activities in which the NRN has participated			13
M20	M20.2	O26 - Number of ENRD activities in which the NRN has participated	out of which NRN had an active contribution		7

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Table B3: Annual monitoring for area based, multi-annual and livestock unit measures (AIR) - ANNUAL

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Priority	Focus Area	Output realised (ANNUAL)
M08	M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	maintenance only		P4		
M08	M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	maintenance only		P5	5C	
M08	M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	maintenance only		P5	5E	681,670.29
M08	M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	maintenance only		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**maintenance only**				**681,670.29**
M08	M08.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	maintenance only		P4		
M08	M08.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	maintenance only		P5	5C	
M08	M08.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	maintenance only		P5	5E	20
M08	M08.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	maintenance only		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**maintenance only**				**20.00**
M08	M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	maintenance only		P4		
M08	M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	maintenance only		P5	5C	
M08	M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	maintenance only		P5	5E	129.47
M08	M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	maintenance only		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**maintenance only**				**129.47**
M08	M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	maintenance only		P4		
M08	M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	maintenance only		P5	5C	
M08	M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	maintenance only		P5	5E	
M08	M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	maintenance only		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.2**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**maintenance only**				**0.00**
M08	M08.2	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	maintenance only		P4		
M08	M08.2	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	maintenance only		P5	5C	
M08	M08.2	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	maintenance only		P5	5E	
M08	M08.2	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	maintenance only		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.2**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**maintenance only**				**0.00**
M08	M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	maintenance only		P4		
M08	M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	maintenance only		P5	5C	
M08	M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	maintenance only		P5	5E	
M08	M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	maintenance only		P6	6A	
M08	**M08.2**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**maintenance only**				**0.00**
M08	M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure			P4		

M08	M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure			P5	5C	
M08	M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure			P5	5E	
M08	M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure			P6	6A	
M08	**M08.3**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**					**0.00**
M08	M08.3	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported			P4		
M08	M08.3	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported			P5	5C	
M08	M08.3	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported			P5	5E	
M08	M08.3	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported			P6	6A	
M08	**M08.3**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**					**0.00**
M08	M08.3	O5 - Total area (ha)			P4		
M08	M08.3	O5 - Total area (ha)			P5	5C	
M08	M08.3	O5 - Total area (ha)			P5	5E	
M08	M08.3	O5 - Total area (ha)			P6	6A	
M08	**M08.3**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**					**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	others		P4		
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	others		P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	others		P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**others**				**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Management of inputs incl. integrated production (reduction of mineral fertilizers, reduction of pesticides)		P4		
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Management of inputs incl. integrated production (reduction of mineral fertilizers, reduction of pesticides)		P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Management of inputs incl. integrated production (reduction of mineral fertilizers, reduction of pesticides)		P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Management of inputs incl. integrated production (reduction of mineral fertilizers, reduction of pesticides)**				**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Cultivation practices	Soil cover, ploughing techniques, low tillage, Conservation agriculture	P4		
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Cultivation practices	Soil cover, ploughing techniques, low tillage, Conservation agriculture	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Cultivation practices	Soil cover, ploughing techniques, low tillage, Conservation agriculture	P5	5E	

M10	**M10.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Cultivation practices**	**Soil cover, ploughing techniques, low tillage, Conservation agriculture**			**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of irrigated areas and/or irrigation rate, irrigation techniques	P4		
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of irrigated areas and/or irrigation rate, irrigation techniques	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of irrigated areas and/or irrigation rate, irrigation techniques	P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Irrigation/drainage**	**Reduction of irrigated areas and/or irrigation rate, irrigation techniques**			**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands	P4		1,476,939.81
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands	P5	5E	24,594.74
M10	**M10.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Irrigation/drainage**	**Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands**			**1,501,534.55**
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)	P4		4,442,764.34
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)	P5	5D	1,893,754.53
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)	P5	5E	35,455.09
M10	**M10.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming**	**Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)**			**6,371,973.96**
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.	P4		19,905,682.08

M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.	P5	5E	100,566.44
M10	**M10.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming**	**Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.**			**20,006,248.52**
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Farm management, integrated approaches	Crop diversification, crop rotation	P4		
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Farm management, integrated approaches	Crop diversification, crop rotation	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Farm management, integrated approaches	Crop diversification, crop rotation	P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Farm management, integrated approaches**	**Crop diversification, crop rotation**			**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Farm management, integrated approaches	Animal feed regimes, manure management	P4		
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Farm management, integrated approaches	Animal feed regimes, manure management	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	Farm management, integrated approaches	Animal feed regimes, manure management	P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Farm management, integrated approaches**	**Animal feed regimes, manure management**			**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	others		P4		
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	others		P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	others		P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**others**				**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Management of inputs incl. integrated production (reduction of mineral fertilizers, reduction of pesticides)		P4		
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Management of inputs incl. integrated production (reduction of mineral fertilizers,		P5	5D	

			reduction of pesticides)				
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Management of inputs incl. integrated production (reduction of mineral fertilizers, reduction of pesticides)		P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**Management of inputs incl. integrated production (reduction of mineral fertilizers, reduction of pesticides)**				**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Cultivation practices	Soil cover, ploughing techniques, low tillage, Conservation agriculture	P4		
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Cultivation practices	Soil cover, ploughing techniques, low tillage, Conservation agriculture	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Cultivation practices	Soil cover, ploughing techniques, low tillage, Conservation agriculture	P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**Cultivation practices**	**Soil cover, ploughing techniques, low tillage, Conservation agriculture**			**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of irrigated areas and/or irrigation rate, irrigation techniques	P4		
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of irrigated areas and/or irrigation rate, irrigation techniques	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of irrigated areas and/or irrigation rate, irrigation techniques	P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**Irrigation/drainage**	**Reduction of irrigated areas and/or irrigation rate, irrigation techniques**			**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands	P4		47,492.77
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Irrigation/drainage	Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands	P5	5E	167.10
M10	**M10.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**Irrigation/drainage**	**Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands**			**47,659.87**
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)	P4		75,542.19
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV	Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer	P5	5D	133,630.52

			farming	areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)			
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)	P5	5E	206.33
M10	**M10.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming**	**Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)**			**209,379.04**
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.	P4		544,720.63
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming	Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.	P5	5E	697.82
M10	**M10.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**Management of landscape, habitats, grassland, HNV farming**	**Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.**			**545,418.45**
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Farm management, integrated approaches	Crop diversification, crop rotation	P4		
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Farm management, integrated approaches	Crop diversification, crop rotation	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Farm management, integrated approaches	Crop diversification, crop rotation	P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**Farm management,**	**Crop diversification,**			**0.00**

			integrated approaches	**crop rotation**			
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Farm management, integrated approaches	Animal feed regimes, manure management	P4		
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Farm management, integrated approaches	Animal feed regimes, manure management	P5	5D	
M10	M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	Farm management, integrated approaches	Animal feed regimes, manure management	P5	5E	
M10	**M10.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**	**Farm management, integrated approaches**	**Animal feed regimes, manure management**			**0.00**
M10	M10.1	O6 - Physical area supported (ha)					395,189.10
M10	M10.1	O7 - Number of contracts supported			P4		4,828
M10	M10.1	O7 - Number of contracts supported			P5	5D	830
M10	M10.1	O7 - Number of contracts supported			P5	5E	447
M10	**M10.1**	**O7 - Number of contracts supported**					**6,105**
M10	M10.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	Plant genetic resources		P4		
M10	M10.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	Plant genetic resources		P5	5D	
M10	M10.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	Plant genetic resources		P5	5E	
M10	**M10.2**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Plant genetic resources**				**0.00**
M10	M10.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	Animal genetic resources		P4		
M10	M10.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	Animal genetic resources		P5	5D	
M10	M10.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	Animal genetic resources		P5	5E	
M10	**M10.2**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Animal genetic resources**				**0.00**
M10	M10.2	O7 - Number of contracts supported			P4		
M10	M10.2	O7 - Number of contracts supported			P5	5D	
M10	M10.2	O7 - Number of contracts supported			P5	5E	
M10	**M10.2**	**O7 - Number of contracts supported**					**0.00**
M11		O1 - Total public expenditure			P4		4,768,863.97
M11		**O1 - Total public expenditure**					**4,768,863.97**
M11		O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported			P4		526
M11		**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**					**526.00**
M11	M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)			P4		9,896.37
M11	**M11.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**					**9,896.37**
M11	M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)			P4		53,603.16
M11	**M11.2**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**					**53,603.16**
M15		O1 - Total public expenditure			P4		
M15		**O1 - Total public expenditure**					**0.00**
M15	M15.1	O5 - Total area (ha)			P4		
M15	**M15.1**	**O5 - Total area (ha)**					**0.00**

M15	M15.1	O7 - Number of contracts supported			P4		
M15	**M15.1**	**O7 - Number of contracts supported**					**0.00**
M15	M15.2	O1 - Total public expenditure			P4		
M15	**M15.2**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**					**0.00**

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Table B4: Total public of the operations which have additional contributions to other Focus Areas (AIR) - CUMULATIVE

Indicator	Priority	Focus Area	Total public - YEAR 2017 Cumulative (total programmed FA)
O1 - Total public expenditure	P1		
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2A	2293739.94
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2B	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3A	16305570.38
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3B	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4		
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5A	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5B	634758.19
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5C	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5D	16005.18
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5E	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6A	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6B	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6C	

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Indicator	Priority	Focus Area	P4 breakdown: Total public - YEAR 2017 Cumulative (Total public of all P4 operations having contributions to each individual P4 Fas - double counting)
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4	4A	117,068,856.33
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4	4B	117,068,856.33
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4	4C	117,068,856.33

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Indicator	Priority	Focus Area	Total public - YEAR 2017 Cumulative (Total public of all the operations having additional contributions to other Fas - double counting)
O1 - Total public expenditure	P1		
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2A	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2B	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3A	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3B	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4	4A	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4	4B	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4	4C	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5A	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5B	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5C	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5D	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5E	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6A	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6B	
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6C	

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1.c) Table C: Breakdown for relevant outputs and measures by type of area, gender and/or age - CUMULATIVE

Table C1.1: Monitoring of outputs broken down by area type - CUMULATIVE

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Cumul 2014-2017
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.3; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	ANC	Other	0
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.3; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	ANC	Mountain	0
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.3; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	ANC	Specific	0
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.3; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	non ANC		0
M04	**M04.1; M04.2; M04.3; M04.4**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Total**		**0**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	ANC	Other	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	ANC	Mountain	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	ANC	Specific	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	non ANC		0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Total**		**0**

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Table C1.2 - CUMULATIVE

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Cumul 2014-2017
M10		O1 - Total public expenditure		81,386,549.41
M10	M10.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	of Which Natura 2000	
M15		O1 - Total public expenditure		0.00
M15	M15.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	of Which Natura 2000	

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Table C1.3 - CUMULATIVE

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Cumul 2014-2017
		O1 - Total public expenditure		81,386,549.41
	M04.1; M06.1; M06.3; M10.1; M10.2; M12.1; M12.2; M12.3; M13.1; M13.2; M13.3; M14.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	of which organic holdings	

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Table C2.1: Monitoring of outputs broken down by age and gender - CUMULATIVE

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Priority	Focus Area	Cumul 2014-2017
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P2	2A	6
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P2	2A	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P2	2A	7
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P2	2A	3
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P2	2A	0
M04	**M04.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P2**	**2A**	**16**
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P2	2B	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P2	2B	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P2	2B	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P2	2B	0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P2	2B	0
M04	**M04.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P2**	**2B**	**0**
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P3		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P3		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P3		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P3		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P3		0
M04	**M04.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P3**		**0**
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P4		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P4		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P4		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P4		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P4		0
M04	**M04.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P4**		**0**
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P5		13

M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P5		1
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P5		2
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P5		0
M04	M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P5		0
M04	**M04.1**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P5**		**16**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P2	2A	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P2	2A	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P2	2A	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P2	2A	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P2	2A	0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P2**	**2A**	**0**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P2	2B	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P2	2B	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P2	2B	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P2	2B	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P2	2B	0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P2**	**2B**	**0**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P3		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P3		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P3		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P3		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P3		0

M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P3**		**0**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P4		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P4		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P4		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P4		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P4		0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P4**		**0**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P5		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P5		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P5		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P5		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P5		0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P5**		**0**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	male	P6		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (> 40)	female	P6		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	male	P6		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Age (≤ 40)	female	P6		0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	Other non individuals		P6		0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4; M06.5**	**O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported**	**Total**		**P6**		**0**

Table C2.2: Monitoring of outputs broken down by type of agricultural branch - CUMULATIVE

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Cumul 2014-2017
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Field crops	0
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Granivores	17,470.55
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Horticulture	0
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Milk	92,410.26
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Mixed (crops + livestock)	14,092.93
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Non agricultural sector (Food industry…)	16,305,570.38
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Other grazing livestock	755,148.60
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Other permanent crops	0
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Wine	0
M04	**M04.1; M04.2; M04.4**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Total**	**17184692.72**
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Field crops	0
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Granivores	1
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Horticulture	0
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Milk	5
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Mixed (crops + livestock)	1
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Non agricultural sector (Food industry…)	4
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Other grazing livestock	25
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Other permanent crops	0
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Wine	0
M04	**M04.1; M04.2; M04.4**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**Total**	**36**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Field crops	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Granivores	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Horticulture	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Milk	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Mixed (crops + livestock)	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Non agricultural sector (Food industry…)	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Other grazing livestock	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Other permanent crops	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	Wine	0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Total**	**0**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Field crops	0

M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Granivores	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Horticulture	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Milk	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Mixed (crops + livestock)	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Non agricultural sector (Food industry…)	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Other grazing livestock	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Other permanent crops	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	Wine	0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**Total**	**0**

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Table C2.3: Monitoring of outputs broken down by size - CUMULATIVE

Measure	Sub-Measure	Indicator	Dimension 1	Cumul 2014-2017
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	< 5 ha	16,341,659.30
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	>= 10 ha to < 20 ha	41,915.83
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	>= 20 ha to < 50 ha	97,892.77
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	>= 5 ha to < 10 ha	214,483.12
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	>= 50 Ha	1,069,544.69
M04	**M04.1; M04.2; M04.4**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Total**	**17,765,495.71**
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	< 5 ha	15
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	>= 10 ha to < 20 ha	57
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	>= 20 ha to < 50 ha	92
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	>= 5 ha to < 10 ha	303
M04	M04.1; M04.2; M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	>= 50 Ha	1628
M04	**M04.1; M04.2; M04.4**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**Total**	**2095**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	< 5 ha	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	>= 10 ha to < 20 ha	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	>= 20 ha to < 50 ha	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	>= 5 ha to < 10 ha	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	>= 50 Ha	0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4**	**O1 - Total public expenditure**	**Total**	**0**
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	< 5 ha	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	>= 10 ha to < 20 ha	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	>= 20 ha to < 50 ha	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	>= 5 ha to < 10 ha	0
M06	M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	>= 50 Ha	0
M06	**M06.1; M06.2; M06.3; M06.4**	**O3 - Number of actions/operations supported**	**Total**	**0**

Table C2.4: Monitoring of supported operations addressing integration of third-country nationals (TCN) (amended art 14 of Regulation 808/2014) - CUMULATIVE

Indicator	Priority	Focus Area	Cumul 2014-2017
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2A	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P2	2B	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3A	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P3	3B	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4	4A	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4	4B	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P4	4C	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5A	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5B	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5C	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5D	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P5	5E	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6A	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6B	0
O1 - Total public expenditure	P6	6C	0
O1 - Total public expenditure			**0**
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P2	2A	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P2	2B	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P3	3A	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P3	3B	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P4	4A	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P4	4B	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P4	4C	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5A	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5B	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5C	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5D	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P5	5E	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P6	6A	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P6	6B	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	P6	6C	0
O3 - Number of actions/operations supported			**0**
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P2	2A	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P2	2B	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P3	3A	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P3	3B	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P4	4A	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P4	4B	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P4	4C	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P5	5A	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P5	5B	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P5	5C	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P5	5D	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P5	5E	0

O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P6	6A	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P6	6B	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings	P6	6C	0
O12 - Number of participants in trainings			**0**

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1.d) Table D: Progress towards targets

Approved operations

Priority	Focus Area	Indicator	Measure	Sub-Measure	Based on approved operations (2014-2017)
P2	2A	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	M04	M04.1	17
P2	2B	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	M04	M04.1	0
P2	2B	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	M06	M06.1	0
P3	3A	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	M03		0
P3	3A	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	M09		0
P3	3A	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	M16	M16.4	60
P5	5B	O2 - Total investment	M04		5,144,533
P5	5B	O2 - Total investment	M07		0
P5	5C	O2 - Total investment	M04		0
P5	5C	O2 - Total investment	M06		0
P5	5C	O2 - Total investment	M07		0
P5	5C	O2 - Total investment	M08	M08.6	0

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Realised targets

Priority	Focus Area	Indicator	Dimension 1	Based on completed realised target *
P1	1A	T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)		11,520,329.26
P1	1B	T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects…) (focus area 1B)		12
P1	1C	T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)		5,021
P2	2A	Number of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)		23
P2	2A	R1 / T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)		10
P2	2B	R3 / T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)		0
P3	3A	R4 / T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)		36
P3	3B	R5 / T7: percentage of farms participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)		0
P4	4A	Forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (ha) (focus area 4A)		714.53
P4	4A	R6 / T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)		8.31
P4	4A	Agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (ha) (focus area 4A)		298,183.28
P4	4A	R7 / T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)		54.04
P4	4B	Agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (ha) (focus area 4B)		88,538.29
P4	4B	R8 / T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		22.73
P4	4B	Forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (ha) (focus area 4B)		0
P4	4B	R9 / T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		0
P4	4C	Agricultural land under management		63,499.53

		contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)		
P4	4C	R10 / T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)		87.54
P4	4C	Forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)		0
P4	4C	R11 / T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)		0
P5	5A	R12 / T14: percentage of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (focus area 5A)		0
P5	5B	T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (focus area 5B)		5364869
P5	5C	T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (focus area 5C)		0
P5	5D	R16 / T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		0
P5	5D	Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (focus area 5D)		62,884.28
P5	5D	R17 / T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		105.15
P5	5E	Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (focus area 5E)		2,171.27
P5	5E	R20 / T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)		55.62
P6	6A	R21 / T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	male	0
P6	6A	R21 / T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	female	0
P6	6B	R22 / T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		100
P6	6B	Net population benefiting from improved services		16720
P6	6B	R23 / T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)		1.21
P6	6B	R24 / T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	male	0
P6	6B	R24 / T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	female	0
P6	6C	Net population benefiting from improved services		0
P6	6C	R25 / T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)		0

1.e) Table E: Monitoring of transitional measures - ANNUAL

Measure	Measure (code) under Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (DM = Discontinued measure)	Total public expenditure (EUR)
M01	331, 111	0
M02	114, 115	0
M03	132, 133	0
M04	216, 121, 125, 123	0
M05	126	0
M06	112, 141, 311,312,313	0
M07	321, 322, 323	0
M08	221, 222, 223, 226, 227, 122, 123	0
M09	142	0
M10	214	0
M11	214	0
M12	213, 224	0
M13	211, 212	0
M14	215	0
M15	225	0
M16	124	0
M19	411, 412, 413, 421, 431	0
	DM 113	0
	DM 131	0
	DM 341	0

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1.f) Table F: Achievement of the performance framework indicators

Table F1: Performance Framework Indicators

Applicable	Priority	Indicator	Realised performance framework indicators (Year {0})* (A)	Adjustment top ups (B)	Calculated achievement rate (YEAR 2017)** (C)=(A-B)/E	Milestone 2018 (from RDP) (D)	Target 2023 (from RDP) (E)
X	P2	Total Public Expenditure P2 (EUR)	9,889,252.48			24%	121,683,038.27
X	P2	Number of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A) + holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investment for young farmers (focus area 2B)	33			10%	2,431
X	P3	Total Public Expenditure P3 (EUR)	16,839,219.10			24%	108,649,232.48
X	P3	Number of supported agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets/short supply circuits, and producer groups (focus area 3A)	60			35%	165
	P3	Number of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)	0				0
X	P4	Total Public Expenditure P4 (EUR)	117,068,856.33			24%	415,473,778.63
X	P4	Agricultural land under management contracts	749,346			85%	706,387

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		contributing to biodiversity (ha) (focus area 4A) + improving water management (ha) (focus area 4B) + improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)					
X	P5	Total Public Expenditure P5 (EUR)	9,772,452.10			24%	80,454,039.69
X	P5	Number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency (focus area 5B) + in renewable energy production (focus area 5C)	203			32%	583
X	P5	Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (focus area 5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (focus area 5D) + Irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (focus area 5A)	71,648			81%	63,710.68
X	P6	Number of operations supported to improve basic services and infrastructures in rural areas (focus areas 6B and 6C)	2			20%	653
X	P6	Total Public Expenditure P6 (EUR)	7,458,901.75			24%	206,164,595.22

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X	P6	Population covered by LAG (focus area 6B)	1,381,745.00			100%	1,381,745.00

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Table F2: Alternative Performance Framework Indicators

Applicable	Priority	Indicator	Realised performance framework indicators (Year {0})* (A)	Adjustment top ups (B)	Calculated achievement rate (YEAR 2017)** (C)=(A-B)/E	Milestone 2018 (from RDP) (D)	Target 2023 (from RDP) (E)
X	P3	Number of operations supported for investments (e.g. in agricultural holdings, in processing and marketing of ag. products) (focus area 3A)	5			35%	120.00

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1.g) Table G: Programme-specific indicators

Table G1: Specific target table

RDP

No specific target indicators defined

AIR

No specific target indicators defined

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Table G2: Specific output table

RDP

No specific output indicators defined

AIR

No specific output indicators defined

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2. LEGEND

Priority/Focus Area

P1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas
1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance
1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors
P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests
2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification
2B) Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture
3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations
3B) Supporting farm risk prevention and management
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry
4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors
5A) Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture
5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy
5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture
5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry
P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas
6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation
6B) Fostering local development in rural areas
6C) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas

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Measure/Submeasure

M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
M1.1 - support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions
M1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions
M1.3 - support for short-term farm and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
M2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services
M2.2 - support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services
M2.3 - support for training of advisors
M03 - Quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs (art 16)
M3.1 - support for new participation in quality schemes
M3.2 - Support for information and promotion activities implemented by groups of producers in the internal market
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
M4.1 - support for investments in agricultural holdings
M4.2 - support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products
M4.3 - support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry
M4.4 - support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives
M05 - Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate prevention actions (art 18)
M5.1 - support for investments in preventive actions aimed at reducing the consequences of probable natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events
M5.2 - support for investments for the restoration of agricultural land and production potential damaged by natural disasters, adverse climatic events and catastrophic events
M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)
M6.1 - business start up aid for young farmers
M6.2 - business start up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas
M6.3 - business start up aid for the development of small farms
M6.4 - support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities
M6.5 - payments for farmers eligible for the small farmers scheme who permanently transfer their holding to another farmer
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M7.4 - support for investments in the setting-up, improvement or expansion of local basic services for the rural population including leisure and culture, and the related infrastructure

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Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020

2017 Summary Report

OVERVIEW

The Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme (WGRC-RDP) 2014-2020 is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Union ('EU') through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development ('EAFRD'). The Wales-wide Programme supports a wide range of activities designed to increase the sustainability and resilience of Wales' natural environment, land-based sector, food businesses and rural communities.

A **budget of up to €971 million** has been agreed for the Rural Development Programme. This is made up of approximately €652 million of EU money and €319 million of the Welsh Government's own money. The majority of activities supported through the Programme are delivered through 'schemes' and can be broadly grouped by;

	EU Budget	Total Budget	EU Spend	Total Spend
Human and Social Capital Schemes (including Farming Connect support)	€125.51m	€217.21m	€6.71m	€11.52m
Investment Schemes (such as the Sustainable Production Grant)	€113.12m	€162.94m	€12.89m	€19.69m
Agri Environment-Climate Schemes (Glastir)	€314.28m	€418.59m	€92.37m	€124.24m
Local Development Schemes (including LEADER)	€78.10m	€133.30m	€4.19m	€5.58m
Other Activity (such as Wales Rural Network)	€20.58m	€38.83m	€1.09m	€2.06m
Totals	**€651.59m**	**€970.87m**	**€117.25m**	**€163.09m**

Each scheme delivered within the Rural Development Programme is allocated a budget. Targets are set for what is expected to be delivered. These targets are monitored throughout each year by the Welsh Government. Progress towards the targets is included in the annual report sent to the European Commission (EC). This monitoring ensures that money is being spent in the way which Welsh Government planned. A copy of these reports can be found here.

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Evaluation is key part of the Programme to help assess the effectiveness of the Programme and identify areas where improvements can be made. A number of guidance documents have been published to support this work.

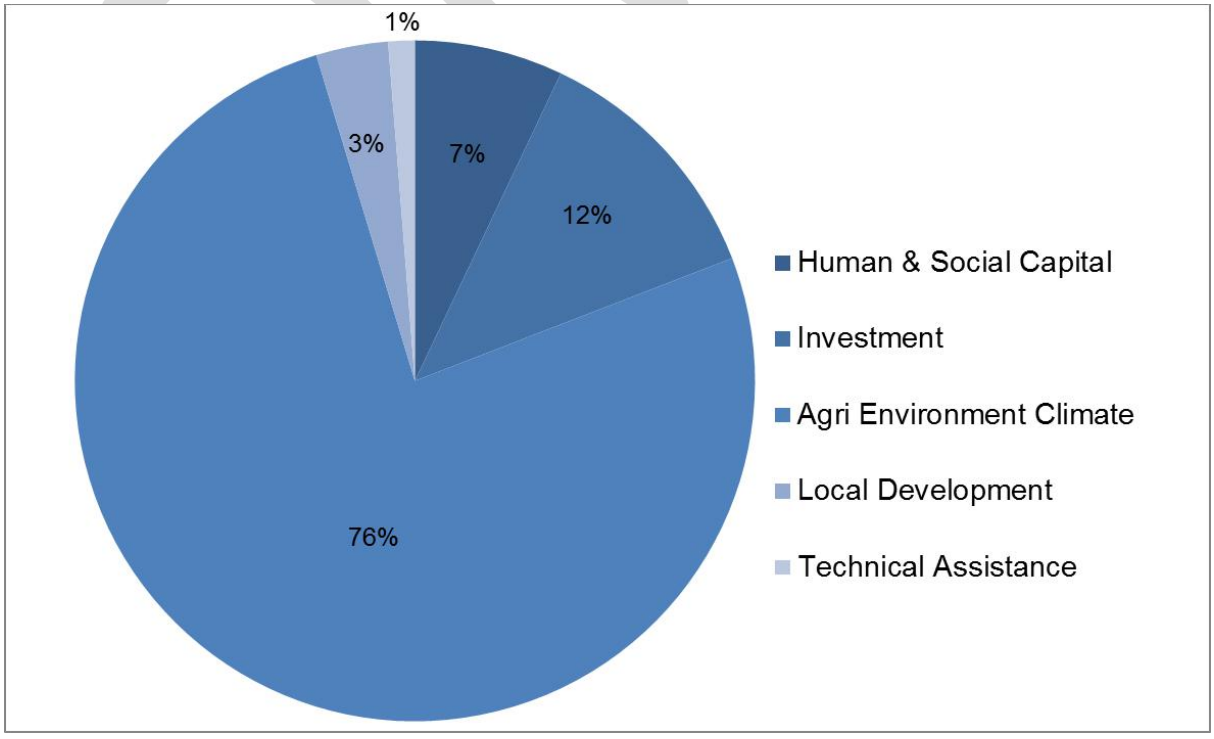
PROGRESS

Since late 2015 a **total of €163.1 million has been paid** out under the Programme, with €104.1 million paid during 2017 alone. €117.3 million of the total paid since the beginning of the programme has come from European funds. A majority of the funding (€124.7 million) paid relates to land-based (agri-environment / forestry) activities. Farmers and land owners also have the opportunity to apply for funding under other areas of the Programme, such as the Sustainable Production Grant and Timber Business Investment schemes, alongside the traditional agri-environment and forestry schemes available.

By the end of 2017 some of the key achievements to date include:

- a total of 5,021 participants had received training;
- 828 beneficiaries have received specialist advice;
- there has been 270 hectares of new woodland created;
- 499 contracts have been awarded under the Glastir Organics Scheme covering a total area of 62,141 hectares.

A breakdown of spend as the end of 2017 is shown below;



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Further information on the individual schemes delivered through the Programme can be found below and by following the web-links for each scheme.

HUMAN & SOCIAL CAPITAL SCHEMES

Training and advice delivery contracts (Knowledge Transfer and Rural Business Advisory Scheme) are delivered through **Farming Connect**. Farming Connect is central in supporting the delivery of other areas of the Programme. It forms the main mechanism for delivering an integrated package of knowledge transfer, advice and innovation support targeting rural communities within Wales. Click here for an example of how the e-learning training support available through Farming Connect has helped to develop a family farm near Abergavenny. Another initiative under Farming Connect, Venture, is designed to help match farmers and landowners who are looking to step back from the industry with new entrants looking for a way into farming. An example of a new joint trading Venture agreement in North Wales can be seen here.

Advisory services to aid Glastir delivery are also supported, along with other **Knowledge Transfer and Information Scheme** activities. These include grant-aided projects for sectorial and industry led, bottom-up initiatives targeting agriculture, forestry, food, other rural SMEs and land managers.

EIP Wales is the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity & Sustainability, which aims to bring a range of people and organisations together to develop innovative solutions, benefitting the wider industry in Wales and the EU. EIP is a new approach to support the development of research and innovation in agriculture and woodlands in Wales. 67 enquires were received from individuals interested in EIP during 2017. By December 2017 ten projects have been awarded funding.

The **Cooperation & Supply Chain Development ('C&SCD') scheme** supports collaboration and is designed to make new things happen. The scheme aims to achieve transformational change, supporting the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, forestry and food sectors. An example of the support available can be found here.

In addition the **Sustainable Management Scheme** ('SMS') provides support for a range of activities to improve the management of Wales' natural resources which will contribute to

the well-being of rural communities. During 2017 three application windows opened for SMS with further windows scheduled during 2018. Nine projects are currently underway with a further 27 projects under development. A new service to support farmers and farmers apply for SMS has been launched, more information can be found on the Farming Connect website.

There have been two windows for initial applications of the **Co-operative Forest Planning** ('CFP') scheme. This scheme provides financial support to encourage planning for the creation of broadleaved and conifer woodland, to improve the management of natural resources and contribute to the well-being of rural communities within Wales. Full applications are expected during 2018.

There are several Tourism related support schemes available through the Programme. The **Regional Tourism Engagement Fund** ('RTEF') and the **Tourism Product Innovation Fund** ('TPIF') are delivered through Visit Wales and were launched during 2017. The aim of the schemes is to encourage development of new practises and process in small businesses to develop local tourism opportunities. During 2017 a combined total of 67 applicants were invited to submit full applications under these funds.

INVESTMENT SCHEMES

The **Sustainable Production Grant** ('SPG') is a capital investment fund to help improve both the economic and environmental performance of farms. During 2017 a total of 54 applications have been approved. The **Farm Business Grant** ('FBG') provides a financial contribution towards capital investment in equipment and machinery that have been pre-identified as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to farm enterprises. Over 850 applications have been received through the first two rounds of FBG requesting £5.7m in grant.

The **Timber Business Investment Scheme** ('TBIS') provides funding for capital investments that add value to forests by enabling woodland management activities, timber harvesting and/or timber processing. 60 applicants have been requested to submit full applications from the first two application windows; a third window opened early 2018.

The **Food Business Investment Scheme** ('FBIS') is designed to help primary producers of agricultural products in Wales to add value to their outputs. The scheme provides

support to those businesses that do first and/or second stage processing activities. A total of 35 FBIS applications were approved by the end of 2017.

During 2017 the **Rural Business Investment Scheme - Food** ('RBISF') opened, complimenting other food and drink related interventions within the Programme. There have been two application windows under RBISF, with 36 initial applications received, of which nine have been successful to date.

The **Micro & Small Business Fund – Rural** ('MSBF') delivered by Visit Wales opened in May 2017. This scheme targets viable and sustainable private sector tourism capital projects that will support the development of priority tourism products, creating and safeguarding jobs in rural areas. By early 2018 some 204 enquires have been received with 36 invited to submit an application. 11 of these have received approval.

AGRI ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES

Glastir is a family of related schemes in Wales to support sustainable land management. Glastir is designed to deliver outcomes at a farm, forest and landscape level in a cost effective way.

Under the **Glastir Small Grants Scheme** land managers and farming businesses can benefit from maximum funding of up to £7,500 for capital works under three themes; Carbon, Water and Landscape & Pollinators. The **Glastir Advanced** Scheme delivers targeted financial support to farmers and land managers to deliver these objectives, delivering environmental improvements for a range of objectives including habitats, species, soil and water.

Glastir Woodland Creation ('GWC') supports land managers who wish to create new woodland and/or manage existing woodlands. The **Glastir Woodland Restoration** ('GWR') scheme has been developed to enable woodlands infected by Phytophthora ramorum to be replanted to help slow down the spread of the disease, providing the opportunity to diversify tree species to increase resilience to climate change and pests / diseases.

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The **Glastir Organic** Scheme provides support to new and existing organic farmers and producers, both to convert to and maintain organic production. Click here for an example of the support provided through the scheme.

During 2017 the final evaluation report from the independent Glastir Monitoring & Evaluation Programme ('GMEP') was published, a summary of findings can be found at; https://gmep.wales/resources

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

LEADER is a form of Community-Led Local Development ('CLLD'). There are 18 Local Action Groups ('LAGs') in Wales covering eligible wards in 21 Local Authority areas. For information on your Local Action Groups and for copies of the supporting Local Development Strategy for each area please visit the **Wales Rural Network** ('WRN') pages. You can also find examples of past LEADER projects such as the collaborative support provided to the Dyfi Biosphere Partnership.

The grants offered through the **Rural Community Development Fund** ('RCDF') provide investment funding for a wide range of activities to help meet local needs and strengthen communities so that they can grow and thrive. There were three funding windows during 2017. 138 first stage applications were received of which 86 moved to full application stage.

The **Tourism Amenity Investment Support Scheme** ('TAIS') opened in 2017, delivered by Visit Wales it compliments the other tourism support offered through the Programme. The scheme provides support for small-scale investment to improve signposting of tourism sites, construct and modernise tourism information centres and provide visitor information and guidance. The first funding window opened in May 2017 with 89 initial applications received of which 38 were invited to submit a full application. 26 of these have now been approved with a value of £2.47m.

WALES RURAL NETWORK

An essential part of the Programme is the **Wales Rural Network** ('WRN'). The WRN enables networking and the engagement of stakeholders, share information, best practice

and experience across Wales, UK and Europe. The Network makes a significant contribution to the Programme by helping to add value to the funding available.

During 2017 the WRN attended numerous events within Wales, the UK and Europe, such as the European seminar on Community Led Local Development ('CLLD') in Hungary and the UK National Rural Network Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland. They also hosted sharing events such as a Co-operative Forest Planning scheme event and a live periscope event for the Rural Community Development Fund ('RCDF').

The WRN publish a regular newsletter to stakeholders covering scheme activity along with wider UK and European rural events.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More information on the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme (WGRC-RDP) 2014-2020 and a list of approved projects can be found at: http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/cap/ruraldevelopment/wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020/?lang=en



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Annual and final implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014UK16RFOP005
Title	United Kingdom - ERDF West Wales and The Valleys
Version	2017.0
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	

Not validated

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

The West Wales and Valleys Programme during 2017 continued to make good progress with the programme committing 65% of available EU funds against 65 approved operations. These commitments reflect that the logic set out for each Specific Objective remains sound, as do the overall results. The focus for delivery of the programme during 2017 has been on contributing to the results, rather than solely focussing on outputs. This is particularly important to recognise for those areas where delivery approaches have changed such as the increased targeting via smart specialisation.

Commitment across the priorities varies as expected with Research and Innovation and SME Competitiveness performing very well. 81% of available funds for Research and Innovation and 82% of available funds for SME Competitiveness were committed by end 2017. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency is a very technical area of the programme and as such commitments have been slower to be made but some progress has been made and by the end of 2017 (33% of available resources had been committed). Connectivity has made good progress during 2017 with 58% of the funds committed. The programme's Technical Assistance priority has supported a number of regionally based operations to assist with the delivery and promotion of the programme. The small amount of uncommitted funds by end 2017 will be committed in 2018 to continue to support the delivery of the programme.

There is a healthy pipeline of potential proposals with interest in all areas of the programme being maintained. To maximise this interest a different delivery approach to complement the existing open programme model was introduced in 2017 for two of the programme priorities. For Research and Innovation 'Calls' were opened in the spring and autumn of 2017 to further enhance the commercialisation and capacity building aims of the priority. Also and building on regional stakeholder engagement workshops a 'Call' for Energy and Energy Efficiency, specifically for small scale community energy schemes was opened in the summer 2017. All three 'Calls' generated a considerable amount of interest that has resulted in funds being committed in 2017 with further commitments planned for 2018. This 'Call' approach has added value to the open programme model and for Research and Innovation in particularly where priority commitment is high the 'Call' was able to specifically focus the remaining resources on two key aims and associated indicators.

During 2017 the decision was taken that the Metro proposal, being a rail infrastructure development, was not a Major project and as such the JASPER approach, whilst very helpful and supportive, came to an end. Metro will be delivered via a number of individual discrete proposals with the first approvals expected first quarter of 2018. This decision will mean the programme will not be submitting for Commission consideration any Major projects.

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The Programme has invested in a Financial Instrument to provide finance to SMEs. The Business Wales Fund is part of the Business Wales family, a collection of strategic operations that complement one another to increase SME Competitiveness. During 2017 Finance Wales, the beneficiary for the Business Wales Fund, become the Development Bank for Wales. This change did not interrupt performance of the Fund which invested in 59 SMEs and raised £31m in private investment during 2017. The Fund also hit key performance milestones resulting in three draw-downs in 2017 being made. During 2018 an update of the ex-ante for the Financial Instruments will be undertaken to include an update of the analysis of the market to assess the gap or changes in provision for debt/mezzanine/equity investment and whether further finance needs to be made available to fill this gap.

Steady progress across the programme indicators was made during 2017. Due to the nature of the ERDF a number of the indicators will not be reported against until later in the programming period. During 2017 work was undertaken to review indicators across the programme. Some changes will need to be made to reflect where delivery approaches have changed significantly such as smaller scale operations that reflect evaluation findings of the 2007-2013 programming period, work to improve targeting approaches and operations commencing very much later in the programme period than originally planned for.

2017 N+3 target

The Programme met its N+3 target for 2017.

Programme amendments

In 2017 work commenced to review the delivery to date, including the implications of different targeting approaches and the changing socio-economic context in Wales. This review has highlighted challenges in some areas, in particular where Specific Objectives were reliant on fewer operations of a particular scale coming forward that have not materialised. Whilst the intervention logic set out for each Specific Objective remains sound, as do the expected results, some revisions to the programme will be required. Changes to the West Wales and the Valleys programme include:

- Reallocating funding between Thematic Objectives within Priority 2 (SME Competitiveness): moving €20,000,000 of EU funding from business advice and support to boost the equity finance for RD&I under the Financial Instrument managed by the Development Bank of Wales
- For the marine energy Specific Objective looking to add clarifications to the text on geographical coverage and make-up of demonstration zones
- Changes to the indicators and targets in different parts of the programme to reflect updated evidence and correcting incorrect assumptions at programme development stage
- Adjustments to the Performance Framework reflecting the above and to ensure

Not validated

indicators represent at least 50% of each Priority Axis.

The proposed modification was discussed at the December 2017 PMC meeting and subsequently approved. Discussions on the proposed changes with the Commission will commence in 2018 with a view of agreeing a modified programme by summer 2018.

E-cohesion

E-cohesion requires a system to allow the electronic transfer of data between beneficiaries and the Managing Authority. To manage Structural Funds WEFO uses an IT system called PPIMS, used by Managing Authority and Certifying Authority Officials. The externally facing system, used by beneficiaries to enter data, including everything from appraisal documentation to transaction lists and claims is called WEFO Online. By allowing the electronic transfer of data, WEFO Online meets the conditions of an Electronic Data Exchange System under the e-cohesion requirements and therefore WEFO has been compliant with e-cohesion as of November 2015.

Not validated

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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
1	Research and Innovation	By end of 2017 around 81% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 20 operations under the Priority. This included the first approval following the call for innovative proposals that can successfully translate research and innovation into new and improved commercial products, processes and services. The remaining proposals from the call are expected to be approved in the first quarter of 2018. With the key elements of the Priority in place there was an increasing focus on delivery this year but demand for R&I funding remains high and therefore it was decided to utilise the remaining funds strategically through another call, this time with the theme 'accelerating world-class collaboration in research and innovation'. The call was launched in December and demand is expected to be high. As previously reported the shift in the targeting approach for this Priority, compared with previous programmes, has the potential to have a greater economic impact but will mean less of a focus on volume of businesses supported. This has particularly affected the commercialisation part of the Priority. The first call for proposals looked to address this and the resulting bids appear to have the potential to make a significant contribution to the commercialisation targets. The second call for proposals has a greater focus on capacity building but also has a strong emphasis on industry pull and is therefore expected to make a further contribution to the commercialisation targets.
2	SME Competitiveness	By end of 2017 around 82% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 7 operations under the Priority. This includes the 2 operations of the Wales Business Fund, now being delivered by The development Bank of Wales, alongside the Business Wales suite of operations delivering business support across the sectors. The Wales Business Fund is performing extremely well and a refresh of the ex ante assessment is to be undertaken early in 2018 to test whether there is a real demand and need to extend the provision already signed up

Not validated

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
		to. The 2 operations under the Business Wales suite of operations that are run by the third sector organisations are looking to widen their activities, particularly around niche gaps that should address future demand and the emerging policy shift in Welsh strategy through the published "Prosperity for all: economic action plan".
3	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	By the end 2017 around 33% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 8 operations under the Priority. Marine energy is an innovative area of the Programme and progress has proved to be more challenging than expected. Discussions with developers continue to take place and there is a pipeline of potential operations within this part of the Priority. However uncertainty over the wave and tidal sector's capacity to bid successfully for Contracts for Difference revenue support is presenting a barrier. However good progress was made in the year around energy support site preparation schemes with the approval of the Morlais (North Wales) Demonstration Zone consenting operation, the feasibility study for the Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone and the Marine Energy Test Area (META) in Milford Haven. Workshops around the Programme area have taken place to raise the awareness of available funds for small scale community renewable energy schemes a call for such schemes closed in June. Over 40 expressions of interest were received of which 10 have progressed into the business planning phase and 2017 saw the approval of the Caerau Local Heat Scheme in Bridgend. With regard to energy efficiency in housing, the Arbed 3 strategic operation was approved during 2016. At this stage in the programming period it is too early to make any firm judgements on delivery against the indicator targets. Taking into account those operations under development, there are no immediate concerns about delivery. Given that the operations funded are capital builds, it is expected reporting on delivery will take place later on in the programming period.

Not validated

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
4	Connectivity and Urban Development	By the end 2017 around 58% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 23 operations under the Priority. Good progress has been made in 2017 with the approval of further improvements to the A40, which has seen SO 4.1 fully committed, and of 9 local authority regionally prioritised sites and premises operations. Discussions have continued with the EC, JASPERS and Welsh Government Transport over the development of proposals for the South Wales Metro with the decision now reached that this will not be progressed as a major project but as a number of individual discrete proposals. These are being worked up by Welsh Government and will be progressed during 2018. The Superfast and Ultrafast broadband operations have continued to deliver and further broadband projects aimed at achieving 100% coverage, and to fully utilise available resources under SO 4.3, have recently been submitted to WEFO. As well as the SO 4.4 local authority sites and premises operations mentioned above, good progress has been made with the regionally prioritised Tourism Attractor Destination operation with 8 of the proposed 13 projects approved by WEFO at the end of 2017. The remaining 5 will be approved during the first half of 2018. The Building for the Future operation was later in development but is now picking up momentum with 3 projects approved in 2017. The relatively long lead in time associated with infrastructure investments supported under P4 means that, with the exception of the broadband, many operations have yet to get firmly underway in terms of delivery against indicator targets. However, indications are that from what has been approved and what is the pipeline, achievement appears to be on track.
5	Technical Assistance	By the end of 2017 95% of the EU Grant allocation available had been committed to 7 operations in the Priority. This includes revenue support for WEFO in implementing the programme, the four 'Regional Engagement Teams' based in North Wales, Mid Wales, Swansea Bay and South East Wales, and Intermediary Body revenue support for the WCVA and Welsh Government department ESNR. Further commitment to existing operations may be allocated in 2018.

Not Validated

Not validated

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

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation
Investment Priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 1 / 1a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	Less developed	470.00			26.00			
S	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	Full time equivalents	Less developed	470.00			381.00			
F	CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	Full time equivalents	Less developed	200.00			7.00			
S	CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	Full time equivalents	Less developed	200.00			384.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	Less developed	160.00			30.00			
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	Less developed	160.00			344.00			
F	J2	Number of improved research infrastructure facilites	Number	Less developed	6.00			0.00			
S	J2	Number of improved research infrastructure facilites	Number	Less developed	6.00			8.00			
F	J3	Amount of research funding secured	GBP	Less developed	165,000,000.00			18,288,020.00			
S	J3	Amount of research funding secured	GBP	Less developed	165,000,000.00			136,610,005.00			

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO24	Research, innovation: Number of new researchers in supported entities	355.00			60.00			0.00		
F	CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO25	Research, Innovation: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities	338.00			75.00			45.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	104.00			337.00			0.00		
F	J2	Number of improved research infrastructure facilites	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J2	Number of improved research infrastructure facilites	5.00			3.00			1.00		
F	J3	Amount of research funding secured	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J3	Amount of research funding secured	88,350,016.00			42,500,000.00			23,000,000.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation
Investment Priority	1a - Enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest
Specific objective	1.1 - To increase the success of Welsh research institutions in attracting competitive and private research funding.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
1.1	Research income for Higher Education Institutions	£	Less developed	£82.4 Million	2011	10-15%		£86.8million	2015 total: £99million. Data for 2015 and 2016 are calculated differently to previous years which makes comparisons over time difficult. Transitional changes for 2015 make this year atypical. Data for 2016 onwards should be consistent from that point onwards.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1	Research income for Higher Education Institutions		£87.2million				

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Research and 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

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 1 / 1b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	4,300.00			179.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	4,300.00			1,230.00			
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	Less developed	520.00			0.00			
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	Less developed	520.00			330.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	Less developed	3,750.00			177.00			
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	Less developed	3,750.00			869.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	Less developed	30.00			2.00			
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	Less developed	30.00			31.00			
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	Less developed	1,125.00			2.00			
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	Less developed	1,125.00			381.00			
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	Less developed	1,212.00			162.00			
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	Enterprises	Less developed	1,212.00			349.00			
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	Less developed	42,840,000.00			330,490.00			
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	Less developed	42,840,000.00			43,625,916.00			
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	Less developed	490.00			8.00			
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Enterprises	Less developed	490.00			151.00			
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to	Enterprises	Less developed	725.00			43.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
		introduce new to the firm products									
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	Less developed	725.00			346.00			
F	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	956.00			0.00			
S	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	956.00			20.00			
F	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	956.00			0.00			
S	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	956.00			20.00			
F	J4	Number of patents registered for products	Number	Less developed	519.00			13.00			
S	J4	Number of patents registered for products	Number	Less developed	519.00			156.00			
F	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	Less developed	0.00			0.00			
S	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	Less developed	0.00			48.00			

Not validated

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	1,452.00			1,147.00			0.00		
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	342.00			342.00			0.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	1,081.00			795.00			0.00		
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	29.00			10.00			0.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	468.00			227.00			0.00		
F	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO26	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions	500.00			6.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	45,975,917.00			32,688,000.00			0.00		
F	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO28	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	167.00			74.00			0.00		
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	370.00			203.00			0.00		
F	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	1.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J4	Number of patents registered for products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J4	Number of patents registered for products	210.00			131.00			0.00		
F	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	48.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Research and 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
Specific objective	1.2 - To increase the successful translation of research and innovation processes into new and improved commercial products, processes and services, in particular through improved technology transfer from HEIs.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
1.3	Average share of total turnover from product innovation, and novel innovation: new to market, new to business and significantly improved	Percent	Less developed	22.4%	2010	24-27%			Data for 2016 not yet available. No data to report for 2017 as survey only takes place every 2 years.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.3	Average share of total turnover from product innovation, and novel innovation: new to market, new to business and significantly improved						

Not validated

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
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

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 2 / 1b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	90.00			13.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	90.00			49.00			
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	Less developed	90.00			13.00			
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	Less developed	90.00			49.00			
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	Less developed	23,760,000.00			6,014,218.00			
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private	EUR	Less developed	23,760,000.00			27,945,000.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
		investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)									
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	Less developed	490.00			2.00			
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	Less developed	490.00			265.00			
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	Less developed	20.00			1.00			
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	Less developed	20.00			24.00			
F	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	45.00			0.00			
S	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	45.00			1.00			
F	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	45.00			0.00			
S	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	45.00			1.00			
F	J8	Investment in enterprises	GBP	Less developed	26,536,773.00			8,250,697.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	J8	Investment in enterprises	GBP	Less developed	26,536,773.00			41,400,000.00			

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	49.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	49.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	27,945,000.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	265.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
		enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products									
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	24.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	18.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	15.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J8	Investment in enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J8	Investment in enterprises	41,400,000.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
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
Specific objective	2.5 - To address market failures in the availability of finance, in particular risk capital, for Welsh SMEs to undertake innovation and commercialise R&D.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.5	Early stage equity investment	£	Less developed	£9m	2012	£12.5m-£16m			Data not yet available for 2017.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.5	Early stage equity investment		9,000,000		9,000,000		12,000,000

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 2 / 3a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	5,820.00			327.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	5,820.00			6,228.00			
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	Less developed	160.00			0.00			
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	Less developed	160.00			0.00			
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	Less developed	235.00			52.00			
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	Less developed	235.00			228.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	Less developed	275.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	Less developed	275.00			0.00			
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	Less developed	5,150.00			275.00			
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	Enterprises	Less developed	5,150.00			6,000.00			
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	Less developed	132,000,000.00			25,739,833.00			
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	Less developed	132,000,000.00			100,980.00			
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	Less developed	11,100.00			608.00			
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	Less developed	11,100.00			12,204.00			
F	J10	Individuals receiving support - Female individuals	Number	Less developed	7,300.00			0.00			
S	J10	Individuals receiving support - Female individuals	Number	Less developed	7,300.00			0.00			
F	J11	Individuals receiving support - BME individuals	Number	Less developed	375.00			0.00			
S	J11	Individuals receiving support - BME individuals	Number	Less developed	375.00			0.00			
F	J12	Individuals receiving support - Disabled individuals	Number	Less developed	3,650.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	J12	Individuals receiving support - Disabled individuals	Number	Less developed	3,650.00			0.00			
F	J14	Investment in enterprises	GBP	Less developed	91,556,196.00			44,300,633.00			
S	J14	Investment in enterprises	GBP	Less developed	91,556,196.00			149,600,000.00			
F	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	2,900.00			35.00			
S	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	2,900.00			1,501.00			
F	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	2,900.00			28.00			
S	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	2,900.00			1,501.00			
F	J9	Individuals receiving support	Number	Less developed	14,350.00			0.00			
S	J9	Individuals receiving support	Number	Less developed	14,350.00			6,000.00			

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

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	6,228.00			6,000.00			0.00		
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	228.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO05	Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	6,000.00			6,000.00			0.00		
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	100,980,000.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	12,204.00			10,250.00			0.00		
F	J10	Individuals receiving support - Female individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J10	Individuals receiving support - Female individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J11	Individuals receiving support - BME individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J11	Individuals receiving support - BME individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J12	Individuals receiving support - Disabled individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J12	Individuals receiving support - Disabled individuals	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J14	Investment in enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J14	Investment in enterprises	149,600,000.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	1,694.00			1,500.00			0.00		
F	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and	1,667.00			1,500.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
		monitoring systems									
F	J9	Individuals receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J9	Individuals receiving support	6,000.00			171,000.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
Specific objective	2.1 - To increase the amount of finance available to SMEs for both business start-up and for business expansion.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.1	Amount invested in Venture Capital and Expansion Capital	£	Less developed	£18m	2012	£26m-£27m			Data not yet available for 2017. Latest data available for 2016: but expansion capital data for Wales combined with data for Northern Ireland. Venture capital - £9million, Wales, 2016; Expansion capital - £13million, Wales & Northern Ireland, 2016. Data for 2017 likely to be published in summer 2018.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1	Amount invested in Venture Capital and Expansion Capital				16,000,000		28,000,000

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3a - Promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators
Specific objective	2.2 - To increase the number of SME start-ups through the provision of information, advice and guidance and support for entrepreneurship.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.2	Count of birth of new enterprises	Number	Less developed	4,675	2012	8% increase in annual birth-rate			Data not yet available for 2017, likely to be published in November 2018. Data published in November 2017 was for 2016 (7,040 – West Wales and the Valleys ; 5,075 – East Wales).

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2	Count of birth of new enterprises		7,040		6,560		6,410

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 2 / 3d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	17,470.00			1,805.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	17,470.00			16,253.00			
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	Less developed	40.00			0.00			
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	Enterprises	Less developed	40.00			30.00			
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	Less developed	330.00			0.00			
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Enterprises	Less developed	330.00			0.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	Less developed	17,100.00			1,805.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	Less developed	17,100.00			16,223.00			
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	Less developed	4,320,000.00			0.00			
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	EUR	Less developed	4,320,000.00			300,000.00			
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	Less developed	6,600,000.00			0.00			
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	EUR	Less developed	6,600,000.00			0.00			
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	Less developed	6,450.00			1,986.00			
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	Full time equivalents	Less developed	6,450.00			7,215.00			
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	Less developed	1,480.00			0.00			
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	Less developed	1,480.00			1,480.00			
F	J15	Increase in level of export	GBP	Less developed	167,100,000.00			23,746,029.00			
S	J15	Increase in level of export	GBP	Less developed	167,100,000.00			130,000,000.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	8,700.00			145.00			
S	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	8,700.00			5,000.00			
F	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	8,700.00			109.00			
S	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	Number	Less developed	8,700.00			5,000.00			

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	16,253.00			16,223.00			0.00		
F	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO02	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	30.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO03	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	16,223.00			16,223.00			0.00		
F	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO06	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)	300,000.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO07	Productive investment: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO08	Productive investment: Employment increase in supported enterprises	7,215.00			7,200.00			0.00		
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to	1,480.00			1,480.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
		introduce new to the firm products									
F	J15	Increase in level of export	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J15	Increase in level of export	130,000,000.00			130,000,000.00			0.00		
F	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J28	Enterprises adopting or improving equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	5,000.00			5,000.00			0.00		
F	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J29	Enterprises adopting or improving sustainable development strategies and monitoring systems	5,000.00			5,000.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
Specific objective	2.3 - To increase the take-up and exploitation of NGA networks and ICT infrastructure by SMEs

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.3	SME use of fibre and cable broadband	% of SME's	Less developed	22%	2014	27%			Currently unable to access data for this indicator. Exploring options with Ofcom Wales, the data provider. This may require a programme modification. Most comparable data source available: SME receipt of fibre / superfast and cable fixed line broadband: 23% (2016).

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.3	SME use of fibre and cable broadband						22%

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness
Investment Priority	3d - Supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes
Specific objective	2.4 - To increase the growth of those SMEs with growth potential, in particular through accessing new markets (both domestic and international)

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
2.4	Employment within small (10-49 employees) and medium (50-249) SMEs	Percent	Less developed	169,100	2013	10% increase		187,400	

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.4	Employment within small (10-49 employees) and medium (50-249) SMEs		185,000		181,100		174,600

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment Priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 3 / 4a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	150.00			0.00			
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	Less developed	150.00			0.00			
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	Less developed	150.00			0.00			
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	Less developed	150.00			0.00			
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	Less developed	75.00			0.00			
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Enterprises	Less developed	75.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO30	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	Less developed	20.00			0.00			
S	CO30	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	Less developed	20.00			1.00			
F	J16	Community energy schemes	Number	Less developed	3.00			0.00			
S	J16	Community energy schemes	Number	Less developed	3.00			0.00			
F	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	Number	Less developed	2.00			0.00			
S	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	Number	Less developed	2.00			2.00			
F	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	Number	Less developed	8.00			0.00			
S	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	Number	Less developed	8.00			3.00			
F	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	Less developed	4.00			0.00			
S	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	Number	Less developed	4.00			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]

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0.00			0.00			0.00		

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO29	Research, Innovation: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO30	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO30	Renewables: Additional capacity of renewable energy production	1.00			1.00			0.00		
F	J16	Community energy schemes	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J16	Community energy schemes	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	1.00			1.00			0.00		
F	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	3.00			2.00			0.00		
F	J5	Number of pilot projects completed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J5	Number of pilot projects	0.00			1.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
		completed									

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment Priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources
Specific objective	3.1 - To increase the number of wave and tidal energy devices being tested in Welsh waters and off the Welsh coast, including multi-device array deployments, thereby establishing Wales as a centre for marine energy production

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
3.1	Installed capacity in wave and tidal.	MW	Less developed	7.00	2013	27.00			Data for 2017 not yet available

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.1	Installed capacity in wave and tidal.	13.00		9.00			

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment Priority	4a - Promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources
Specific objective	3.2 - To increase the number of small scale renewable energy schemes established

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
3.2	Number of sites generating electricity from renewable sources (excluding PV)	Number	Less developed	493.00	2012	530.00			Data for 2017 not yet available.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.2	Number of sites generating electricity from renewable sources (excluding PV)	834.00		812.00			

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment Priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 3 / 4c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	Less developed	5,500.00			0.00			
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	Less developed	5,500.00			3,060.00			
F	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	Less developed	10.00			0.00			
S	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	Less developed	10.00			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]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO34	GHG reduction: Estimated annual decrease of GHG	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Investment Priority	4c - Supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector
Specific objective	3.3 - To increase the energy efficiency of the existing Welsh housing stock, particularly in areas of fuel poverty

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
3.3	Energy efficiency rating of households facing severe fuel poverty	EPC ratings	Less developed	61,000	2010	Increase by 2 ratings for 10% baseline			Intervention not yet started.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.3	Energy efficiency rating of households facing severe fuel poverty						

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development
Investment Priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 4 / 2a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	Less developed	28,000.00			42,304.00			
S	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	Households	Less developed	28,000.00			69,524.00			
F	J27	Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbpsof higher networks	Number	Less developed	250.00			0.00			
S	J27	Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbpsof higher networks	Number	Less developed	250.00			250.00			
F	J31	Additional population covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband	Number	Less developed	0.00			68,751.00			
S	J31	Additional population covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband	Number	Less developed	0.00			91,053.00			

Not validated

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO10	ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	69,524.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J27	Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbpsof higher networks	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J27	Number of Enterprises supported to connect to 100Mbpsof higher networks	250.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J31	Additional population covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J31	Additional population covered by ultrafast broadband (>100Mbps) broadband	91,053.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development
Investment Priority	2a - Extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy
Specific objective	4.3 - To contribute to Digital Agenda for Europe targets in Wales for 100% access to next generation broadband (30Mbps and above) and 50% access to 100Mbps

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
4.3	Proportion of premises that are in postcodes served by NGA networks	%	Less developed	58%	2014	65%			Indicator has changed for 2016 so is not comparable with previous years. Unable to find equivalent indicator for 2017. Will explore with Ofcom Wales, the data provider. This may require a programme modification.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.3	Proportion of premises that are in postcodes served by NGA networks		85%		87%		58%

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development
Investment Priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 4 / 4e

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO11	Railway: Total length of new railway line	km	Less developed	15.00			0.00			
S	CO11	Railway: Total length of new railway line	km	Less developed	15.00			0.00			
F	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	Less developed	15.00			0.00			
S	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	km	Less developed	15.00			0.00			
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	Less developed	5.00			1.00			
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	Less developed	5.00			1.00			
F	J19	Public transport services created or improved	Vehicle km	Less developed	2,500,000.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	J19	Public transport services created or improved	Vehicle km	Less developed	2,500,000.00			0.00			
F	J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	Number	Less developed	25.00			6.00			
S	J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	Number	Less developed	25.00			6.00			
F	J22	Gross passenger kilometers on public transport	Passnger km	Less developed	400,000,000.00			0.00			
S	J22	Gross passenger kilometers on public transport	Passnger km	Less developed	400,000,000.00			1,790,041.00			
F	J30	Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	tCO2e	Less developed	10,700.00			0.00			
S	J30	Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	tCO2e	Less developed	10,700.00			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]

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO11	Railway: Total length of new railway line	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO11	Railway: Total length of new railway line	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO12	Railway: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	1.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J19	Public transport services created or improved	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J19	Public transport services created or improved	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J20	Intermodal facilities created or improved	6.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J22	Gross passenger kilometers on public transport	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J22	Gross passenger kilometers on public transport	1,790,041.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J30	Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J30	Reduction in CO2 equivalent emissions	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development
Investment Priority	4e - Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures
Specific objective	4.2 - To increase urban and labour mobility to and from key urban and employment centres.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
4.2	Number of people within 15, 30, 45 minute travel time threshold of a key urban employment centre between 7am and 9am on a Tuesday by public transport	Number	Less developed	0-15 Mins 636,562 0-30 mins 1,664,666	2012	5-10% increase in each time band			Data available on request only. As activity not sufficiently advanced have not yet asked for an update.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.2	Number of people within 15, 30, 45 minute travel time threshold of a key urban employment centre between 7am and 9am on a Tuesday by public transport						

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development
Investment Priority	7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 4 / 7a

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	Less developed	15.00			0.00			
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	Less developed	15.00			18.00			
F	J21	Footpath or cycleway created or reconstructed	km	Less developed	10.00			1.00			
S	J21	Footpath or cycleway created or reconstructed	km	Less developed	10.00			5.00			

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	7.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J21	Footpath or cycleway created or reconstructed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J21	Footpath or cycleway created or reconstructed	3.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development
Investment Priority	7a - Supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the TEN-T
Specific objective	4.1 - To address issues of peripherality and improve private investment in local areas through improvements to the functioning of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
4.1	Average speed on TEN-T road	Kmph	Less developed	A40:58 A55:86	2013	5-10% increase			Data available on request only. As works to A40 and A55 have not yet begun, data have not been requested.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.1	Average speed on TEN-T road						

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development
Investment Priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources

Not validated

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 4 / 8b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	J23	Land developed	Hectares	Less developed	50.00			0.00			
S	J23	Land developed	Hectares	Less developed	50.00			110.00			
F	J24	Premises created or refurbished	Metres squared	Less developed	56,430.00			0.00			
S	J24	Premises created or refurbished	Metres squared	Less developed	56,430.00			161,754.00			
F	J25	Jobs accommodated	Number	Less developed	1,770.00			0.00			
S	J25	Jobs accommodated	Number	Less developed	1,770.00			3,183.00			
F	J26	SMEs accommodated	Number	Less developed	235.00			0.00			
S	J26	SMEs accommodated	Number	Less developed	235.00			397.00			

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	J23	Land developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J23	Land developed	95.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J24	Premises created or refurbished	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J24	Premises created or refurbished	142,489.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J25	Jobs accommodated	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J25	Jobs accommodated	2,760.00			0.00			0.00		
F	J26	SMEs accommodated	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	J26	SMEs accommodated	237.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development
Investment Priority	8b - Supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to, and development of, specific natural and cultural resources
Specific objective	4.4 - To increase employment through investments in prioritised local or regional infrastructure supporting a regional or urban economic strategy

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
4.4	Claimant count rate in travel to work Areas	Number	Less developed	11,442	2013	8% decrease on average (value dependant on scheme)			Assessment of progress against result indicator involves considerable assumptions and calculations. It is too early to do this robustly at this stage.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.4	Claimant count rate in travel to work Areas						

Not validated

Priority axes for technical assistance

Table 3A: Common and programme specific output indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis, investment priority, broken down by category of region for the ERDF) - 5

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
F	TA10	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		0.00			10.00			
S	TA10	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		0.00			61.00			
F	TAO1	Number of training events held	Number		10.00			2.00			
S	TAO1	Number of training events held	Number		10.00			77.00			
F	TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	Number		72.00			24.00			
S	TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	Number		72.00			237.00			
F	TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	Percentage		75.00			0.00			
S	TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	Percentage		75.00			2,100.00			
F	TAO12	Number of audit visits	Number		50.00			0.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	TAO12	Number of audit visits	Number		50.00			183.00			
F	TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	Number		1.00			0.00			
S	TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	Number		1.00			1.00			
F	TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	Number		90.00			0.00			
S	TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	Number		90.00			183.00			
F	TAO4	Number of research reports published	Number		114.00			0.00			
S	TAO4	Number of research reports published	Number		114.00			91.00			
F	TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	Number		100.00			0.00			
S	TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	Number		100.00			0.00			
F	TAO6	Number of dissemination events	Number		6.00			13.00			
S	TAO6	Number of dissemination events	Number		6.00			33.00			
F	TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	Number		10.00			0.00			
S	TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	Number		10.00			0.00			
F	TAO8	Number of press releases issued	Number		150.00			2.00			

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Target value (2023) total	Target value (2023) men	Target value (2023) women	2017 Total	2017 Men	2017 Women	Observations
S	TAO8	Number of press releases issued	Number		150.00			332.00			
F	TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	Number		50.00			0.00			
S	TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	Number		50.00			242.00			

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

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	TA10	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TA10	Employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	56.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO1	Number of training events held	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO1	Number of training events held	40.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued	185.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days	75.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO12	Number of audit visits	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO12	Number of audit visits	145.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery	1.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration	145.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO4	Number of research reports published	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO4	Number of research reports published	74.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice	145.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO6	Number of dissemination events	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO6	Number of dissemination events	21.00			12.00			0.00		
F	TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO	0.00			0.00			0.00		
F	TAO8	Number of press releases issued	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO8	Number of press releases issued	215.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

(1)	ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Men	2016 Women	2015 Total	2015 Men	2015 Women	2014 Total	2014 Men	2014 Women
F	TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	0.00			0.00			0.00		
S	TAO9	Number of high profile project launches	125.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	5.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis - 5 / 5.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
TAR1	Irregularity rate	Percentage		0.53%	2013	Below 2%		1.00	
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate	percent		0.81%	2012	Below 2%		0.05	

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
TAR1	Irregularity rate		0.59				
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate						

Not validated

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	5.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis - 5 / 5.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
TAR3	Custome satisfaction	percent		45.00	2009	50.00			No customer satisfaction research undertaken to date.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
TAR3	Custome satisfaction						

Not validated

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	5.3 - To enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider Commission led and Sector based programmes.

Table 1: Result indicators for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to Technical Assistance priority axis - 5 / 5.3

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Category of region	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value 2023	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	Observations
TAR3	Custome satisfaction	percent		45.00	2009	50.00			No customer satisfaction research undertaken to date.

ID	Indicator	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
TAR3	Custome satisfaction						

Not validated

Table 3B: Number of enterprises supported by the operational programme net of multiple support to the same enterprises

Indicator	Number of enterprises supported by OP net of multiple support
CO01 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	2,733
CO02 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving grants	0
CO03 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	59
CO04 - Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	2,679
CO05 - Productive investment: Number of new enterprises supported	277

Not validated

Table 5: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2017 Cum men	2017 Cum women	2017 Annual total	2017 Annual total men	2017 Annual total women
1	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	33,411,343.53					
1	I	I1	% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	Percent	ERDF	Less developed	5.00					
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed	177.00					
2	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	112,746,102.24					
2	I	I1	% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	Percent	ERDF	Less developed	10.00					
2	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed	1,805.00					
3	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified	€	ERDF	Less developed	13,282,140.53					

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2017 Cum men	2017 Cum women	2017 Annual total	2017 Annual total men	2017 Annual total women
			by the authority									
3	I	I2	% of final target for households with improved energy efficiency consumption clasification has been achieved by partailly implemented/ implemented projects	percentage	ERDF	Less developed	0.00					
3	I	I5	X number of Energy support site preparation schemes that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	number	ERDF	Less developed	0.00					
3	I	I6	X number of renewable energy prototypes tested that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	number	ERDF	Less developed	0.00					
3	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	Less developed	0.00					
3	O	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	Number	ERDF	Less developed	0.00					
3	O	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	Number	ERDF	Less developed	0.00					
4	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	44,841,038.84					
4	I	I7	x% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractual agreements to deliver infrastructure works	Number	ERDF	Less developed	9.00					

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2017 Cum men	2017 Cum women	2017 Annual total	2017 Annual total men	2017 Annual total women
4	I	I8	X number of projects submitted to the Managing authority having undergone agreed prioritisation process	Number	ERDF	Less developed	21.00					
4	O	J22	Gross passenger kilometers on public transport	Passnger km	ERDF	Less developed	0.00					
4	O	J23	Land developed	Hectares	ERDF	Less developed	0.00					

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
1	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	4,639,255.55	0.00	0.00	
1	I	I1	% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	Percent	ERDF	Less developed	1.00	0.00	0.00	
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	58,729,568.17	0.00	0.00	
2	I	I1	% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been	Percent	ERDF	Less developed	5.00	0.00	0.00	

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
			achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations							
2	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	369,145.45	0.00	0.00	
3	I	I2	% of final target for households with improved energy efficiency consumption clasification has been achieved by partailly implemented/ implemented projects	percentage	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	I	I5	X number of Energy support site preparation schemes that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	number	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	I	I6	X number of renewable energy prototypes tested that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	number	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	O	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	Number	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	O	J18	Number of renewable energy	Number	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
			prototypes tested							
4	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	15,654,829.52	0.00	0.00	
4	I	I7	x% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractual agreements to deliver infrastructure works	Number	ERDF	Less developed	32.00	0.00	0.00	
4	I	I8	X number of projects submitted to the Managing authority having undergone agreed prioritisation process	Number	ERDF	Less developed	5.00	0.00	0.00	
4	O	J22	Gross passenger kilometers on public transport	Passnger km	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	O	J23	Land developed	Hectares	ERDF	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
1	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	115300000			454,809,287.00		
1	I	I1	% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	Percent	ERDF	Less developed	31			100.00		

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Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
1	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed	N/A			3,750.00		
2	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	85100000			333,200,000.00		
2	I	I1	% of final target for number of enterprises receiving non-financial support that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	Percent	ERDF	Less developed	44			100.00		
2	O	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	ERDF	Less developed	N/A			17,375.00		
3	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	62800000			246,000,000.00		
3	I	I2	% of final target for households with improved energy efficiency consumption clasification has been achieved by partailly implemented/ implemented projects	percentage	ERDF	Less developed	50			100.00		
3	I	I5	X number of Energy support site preparation schemes that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	number	ERDF	Less developed	1			2.00		

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Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
3	I	I6	X number of renewable energy prototypes tested that has been achieved by partially completed and fully completed operations	number	ERDF	Less developed	3			8.00		
3	O	CO31	Energy efficiency: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	Households	ERDF	Less developed	N/A			5,500.00		
3	O	J17	Energy support site preparation schemes	Number	ERDF	Less developed	N/A			2.00		
3	O	J18	Number of renewable energy prototypes tested	Number	ERDF	Less developed	N/A			8.00		
4	F	F2	Total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	€	ERDF	Less developed	194700000			763,500,000.00		
4	I	I7	x% of the priority financial allocation accounted by contractual agreements to deliver infrastructure works	Number	ERDF	Less developed	35%			0.00		
4	I	I8	X number of projects submitted to the Managing authority having undergone agreed prioritisation process	Number	ERDF	Less developed	3 and approval of at least 3 regionally significant schemes			5.00		
4	O	J22	Gross passenger kilometers on public transport	Passnger km	ERDF	Less developed	N/A			400,000,000.00		
4	O	J23	Land developed	Hectares	ERDF	Less developed	N/A			50.00		

Not validated

3.4 Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: 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 the transmission of financial data))

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Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis	Total fund	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
1	ERDF	Less developed	Total	454,809,287.00	66.38	419,154,269.49	92.16%	373,476,497.80	40,709,161.86	8.95%	20
2	ERDF	Less developed	Total	333,269,355.00	62.41	322,071,166.24	96.64%	208,725,050.38	116,227,291.96	34.87%	7
3	ERDF	Less developed	Total	246,036,999.00	69.43	92,603,476.70	37.64%	68,625,592.33	17,475,885.56	7.10%	8
4	ERDF	Less developed	Total	763,487,309.00	65.66	601,464,383.09	78.78%	518,240,576.86	50,257,190.09	6.58%	23
5	ERDF	Less developed	Total	32,257,048.00	74.62	30,854,269.36	95.65%	30,576,921.05	4,253,214.42	13.19%	7
Total	**ERDF**	**Less developed**		**1,829,859,998.00**	**65.91**	**1,466,147,564.88**	**80.12%**	**1,199,644,638.42**	**228,922,743.89**	**12.51%**	**65**
Grand total				**1,829,859,998.00**	**65.91**	**1,466,147,564.88**	**80.12%**	**1,199,644,638.42**	**228,922,743.89**	**12.51%**	**65**

Table 7: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention for the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

Priority axis	Characteristics of expenditure		Categorisation dimensions								Financial data			
	Fund	Category of region	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	Total elegibile expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	Less developed	058	01	07	07	01		08	UKL1	41,535,000.00	41,535,000.00	0.00	1
1	ERDF	Less developed	058	01	07	07	01		24	UKL1	71,129,470.51	71,104,954.13	4,287,184.83	2
1	ERDF	Less developed	059	01	07	07	01		08	UKL1	23,494,423.75	23,494,423.75	9,291,067.68	1
1	ERDF	Less developed	060	01	07	07	01		13	UKL1	9,378,676.96	9,378,676.96	615,768.26	1
1	ERDF	Less developed	060	01	07	07	01		24	UKL1	58,459,809.03	58,178,977.35	3,343,204.72	4
1	ERDF	Less developed	061	01	01	07	01		07	UKL1	15,078,595.97	8,773,297.88	665,469.24	1
1	ERDF	Less developed	062	01	01	07	01		24	UKL1	34,133,943.84	34,026,788.96	6,649,874.18	2
1	ERDF	Less developed	062	01	07	07	01		24	UKL1	73,441,050.69	71,322,014.92	13,141,959.65	5
1	ERDF	Less developed	064	01	07	07	01		24	UKL1	92,503,298.74	55,662,363.85	2,714,633.30	3
2	ERDF	Less developed	066	01	07	07	03		24	UKL1	38,636,062.67	38,636,062.67	15,647,265.96	1
2	ERDF	Less developed	066	03	07	07	01		16	UKL1	48,742,654.62	24,371,327.31	8,917,155.66	1
2	ERDF	Less developed	066	04	07	07	03		16	UKL1	174,767,203.65	87,196,415.12	71,326,396.83	1
2	ERDF	Less developed	067	01	07	07	03		24	UKL1	35,972,419.07	35,972,419.07	13,127,233.51	1
2	ERDF	Less developed	073	01	07	07	03		24	UKL1	10,479,670.18	10,479,670.16	4,240,401.84	1
2	ERDF	Less developed	073	02	07	07	03		24	UKL1	3,510,000.00	2,106,000.00	0.00	1
2	ERDF	Less developed	082	01	07	07	03		24	UKL1	9,963,156.05	9,963,156.05	2,968,838.16	1

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Priority axis	Characteristics of expenditure		Categorisation dimensions								Financial data			
	Fund	Category of region	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	Total elegibile expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
3	ERDF	Less developed	012	01	07	07	04		22	UKL1	41,106,231.86	22,641,465.31	15,251,252.75	4
3	ERDF	Less developed	012	01	07	07	04		24	UKL1	7,247,844.84	5,151,127.02	2,224,632.81	2
3	ERDF	Less developed	014	01	07	07	04		24	UKL1	33,228,000.00	33,228,000.00	0.00	1
3	ERDF	Less developed	015	01	02	07	04		22	UKL1	11,021,400.00	7,605,000.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF	Less developed	026	01	07	07	04		12	UKL1	26,003,578.19	24,658,489.84	22,710,711.24	1
4	ERDF	Less developed	033	01	03	07	07		12	UKL1	113,934,600.00	113,934,600.00	0.00	3
4	ERDF	Less developed	033	01	07	07	07		08	UKL1	57,037,500.00	57,037,500.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF	Less developed	036	01	07	07	04		12	UKL1	5,906,672.93	5,881,442.22	4,144,207.04	1
4	ERDF	Less developed	047	01	07	07	02		13	UKL1	34,960,275.59	34,960,275.59	18,565,970.08	2
4	ERDF	Less developed	072	01	02	07	08		24	UKL1	4,910,198.67	4,910,198.67	0.00	1
4	ERDF	Less developed	072	01	07	07	08		08	UKL1	4,706,968.50	4,706,968.50	0.00	2
4	ERDF	Less developed	072	01	07	07	08		17	UKL1	51,934,120.25	38,853,826.27	4,836,301.73	7
4	ERDF	Less developed	072	01	07	07	08		24	UKL1	71,134,195.86	55,924,195.86	0.00	3
4	ERDF	Less developed	094	01	07	07	08		08	UKL1	230,936,273.10	177,373,079.91	0.00	2
5	ERDF	Less developed	121	01	07	07			18	UKL1	28,712,333.40	28,434,985.09	3,852,360.69	3
5	ERDF	Less developed	123	01	07	07			24	UKL1	2,141,935.96	2,141,935.96	400,853.73	4

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Table 8: The use made of cross-financing

1	2	3	4	5	6
Use of cross-financing	**Priority axis**	**The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for cross financing based on selected operations (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (3/EU support to priority axis*100)**	**The amount of EU support used under cross financing based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (5/EU support to priority axis*100)**

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Table 9: Cost of operations implemented outside the programme area (the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal)

1	2	3	4	5
Priority axis	**The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for operations implemented outside the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (2/EU support to priority axis*100)**	**The amount of EU support in operations implemented outside the programme area based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (4/EU support to priority axis*100)**
1	3,125,405.79	1.10%	1,094,187.95	0.39%

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Table 10: Expenditure incurred outside the Union (ESF)

The amount of expenditure envisaged to be incurred outside the Union under thematic objectives 8 and 10 based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (1/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)	Eligible expenditure incurred outside the Union declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (3/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)

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4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, with reference of name and reference period of the evaluation reports used

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During 2017, WEFO published the Ex Post Evaluation of the 2007-2013 Programmes. A brief summary of findings is given below.

Programme Design

Overall, the evaluation concluded that the programmes consisted of a well-defined and rationally designed set of Priorities. OB3 judged that each Priority was based on a sound intervention logic apart from the 'Modernising and improving the quality of our public services' Priority where there was an insufficient consideration of issues in public service delivery in the socio-economic analysis underpinning the programmes.

The evaluation found that, despite the economic downturn and major policy changes (particularly the Economic Renewal Programme and the UK Government's Work Programme) which occurred during the programming period, the original programme intervention logic remained valid for the most part. The evaluation also concluded that there was an appropriate degree of flexibility built into the programmes which enabled WEFO and project sponsors to respond constructively to rapidly changing conditions and circumstances.

Cross Cutting Themes

The evaluation concluded that was a lack of evidence to suggest that the Cross Cutting Themes (CCTs) had been fully integrated into the delivery of project activity, though this was much more likely to occur in projects that had a direct focus on either equality or environmental sustainability. Despite this, the evaluation found very encouraging examples of good practice in relation to the CCTs.

Outcomes

The evaluation found evidence of improved turnover and jobs created for supported businesses as well as a positive influence on people's decision to start a business and improvements to the financial resilience, governance and sustainability of social enterprises. The evaluation found evidence that ERDF funded infrastructure has

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increased passenger capacity of public transport systems and helped businesses expand through creating new business premises. The evaluation also found evidence of improvements relating to 'sense of place' and confidence levels in the perceived prospects of towns and areas where physical regeneration took place.

Key recommendations

- Optimising the mix of universally available information (e.g. via on-line platforms) and more intensive and expensive forms of support should be a key strategic priority.

- Future business support should integrate information, advice and guidance with access to finance at the point of delivery.

- Capacity and expertise on the CCTs should be used in the design and delivery of future business support. Information on the CCTs should be presented using language that businesses understand and can relate to.

- Future infrastructure development should be underpinned by more robust pre-developmental market testing to explore market failure, latent demand levels.This should be accompanied by more realistic assessments of the potential social, economic and environmental benefits of infrastructure projects.

- Future infrastructure and public realm projects should invest in up-front and inclusive forms of public consultation to, amongst other things, consider any disruptive effects (e.g. to local small businesses) as a result of public realm / physical regeneration construction works taking place.

- Evaluation planning of future infrastructure projects should take into account the longer timespan over which any benefits of infrastructure are likely to be realised.WEFO will shortly be commissioning a dedicated evaluation of ERDF infrastructure to try and assess any longer term effects.

An account of how WEFO has addressed these recommendations in the design and delivery of the 2014-2020 programmes is provided in the WEFO note accompanying the report. Both the report and the accompanying note are available at http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?lang=en.

2014-2020 programmes

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There were no programme level evaluation reports for the 2014-2020 period published during 2017 but the report of the inception evaluation for the Sêr Cymru II operation was published at the end of 2017. Sêr Cymru II aims to strengthen Wales' research performance through investing in Wales' research capacity by funding research fellowships in universities across Wales. There are three categories of research fellowships: Rising Star Fellowships designed to attract the very best in up and coming research talent; Research Fellowships designed to attract stellar candidates; and Recapturing Talent Fellowships designed to attract stellar researchers that want to return to work following a career break.

The Ser Cymru II inception evaluation found that there is a very clear, detailed policy framework underpinning Sêr Cymru II and its objectives are well-aligned with Welsh Government policy, particularly the Welsh Government's national science strategy (Science for Wales). The evaluation also found widespread support amongst stakeholders around the need for Sêr Cymru II to build a critical mass in Wales' scientific research base. The evaluation found that there is scope for Sêr Cymru II to demonstrate how it can better reflect and contribute towards the objectives of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. A further key finding was that while match funding for research fellowships already approved was ring-fenced by participating universities, future uncertainties over university funding resulted in uncertainty amongst universities over whether they could apply for further fellowships. This was highlighted as a key risk in terms of the on-going sustainability of Sêr Cymru II and levels of research being undertaken in Wales' universities in the future. The early-stage involvement of universities in advertising, developing, scrutinising and prioritising fellowship proposals was found to have resulted in high quality submissions for Sêr Cymru II funding and a high approval rate. However, this was found to have been a resource-intensive process for central university support staff. In response, the Welsh Government awarded participating universities 'one-off' payments in recognition of the development and on-going support to Sêr Cymru II funded researchers not directly covered by the grant awards. Progress to date has been positive in relation to appointing Research Fellows but interest and demand in Recapturing Talent fellowships has been more limited to date, due to difficulties in identifying and targeting this cohort. The evaluation found that the Cross Cutting Themes (CCTs) have been adequately considered in the design and development of Sêr Cymru II and the actions proposed in terms of implementing CCT activity via the ERDF funded operation are reasonable and logical. For example, it is reasonable to expect that Sêr Cymru II operations should make a positive contribution to a more gender-balanced research workforce in Wales. However, the lack of interest to date in the Recapturing Talent fellowships is a concern in this respect and needs to be a key consideration for the delivery team.

The report of the evaluation is available at: http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-ser-cymru-II-programme/?lang=en.

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6. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

The programme continued to perform well during 2017. No issues to report.

During 2017 WEFO have continued to monitor the impact of the UK referendum on membership of the European Union. Interest in the European Regional Development Fund does not seem to have been impacted by the decision to leave the EU. During this time WEFO have continued to undertake regular communications with stakeholders to promote the benefits of the European funding and to address any potential concerns raised by beneficiaries.

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(b) An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

In 2017 work commenced to review the delivery to date, including the implications of different targeting approaches and the changing socio-economic context in Wales. This review has highlighted challenges in some areas, in particular where Specific Objectives were reliant on fewer operations of a particular scale coming forward that have not materialised. Whilst the intervention logic set for each Specific Objectives remains sound, as do the expected results some revisions to the programme will be required. These will include:

- The Reallocation of funds between Thematic Objectives within Priority 2 (SME Competitiveness) : moving €20,000,000 of EU funding from business advice and support to boost the equity finance for RD&I under the Financial Instrument managed by the Development Bank of Wales;

- For the Marine Energy Specific Objective looking to add clarifications to the text on geographical coverage and make-up of demonstration zones;

- Changes to the indicators and targets in different parts of the programme to reflect updated evidence and correcting incorrect assumptions at programme development stage; and

- Adjustment to the Performance Framework reflecting the above and to ensure indicators represent at least 50% of each Priority Axis.

These changes will be part of a programme modification to be discussed and agreed with the Commission by summer 2018.

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7. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

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 in the SFC2014 application

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8. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

I. Identification of the programme and priority or measure from which support from the ESI Funds is provided (Article 46(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
1. Priority axes or measures supporting the financial instrument, including fund of funds, under the ESI Fund programme.	
1.1. Priority axis supporting the financial instrument under the ESI Fund programme	2 - SME Competitiveness
2. Name of ESI Fund(s) supporting the financial instrument under the priority axis or measure	ERDF
3. Thematic objective(s) referred to in the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 supported by the financial instrument	***03 - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)***
3.1. Amount of ESI Funds committed in funding agreements from the individual thematic objective chosen in field 3 (optional)	
4. other ESI Fund programmes providing contribution to the financial instrument	
4.1. CCI number of each other ESI Fund programme providing contributions to the financial instrument	2014UK16RFOP006
30. Date of completion of the ex ante assessment	30-Sep-2015
31. Selection of bodies implementing financial instrument	
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched	
II. Description of the financial instrument and implementation arrangements (Article 46(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
5. Name of the financial instrument	The Wales Business Fund

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	(supported by ERDF) SO2.1 WWV
6. Official address/place of business of the financial instrument (name of the country and city)	Wales, United Kingdom, Cardiff
7. Implementation arrangements	
7.1. Financial instruments set up at Union level, managed directly or indirectly by the Commission referred to in Article 38(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, supported from ESI Fund programme contributions	No
7.1.1. Name of the Union-level financial instrument	
7.2. Financial instrument set up at national, regional, transnational or cross-border level, managed by or under the responsibility of the managing authority referred to in Article 38(1)(b), supported from ESI Fund programme contributions under point (a), (b) and (c) of Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Entrustment of implementation
8. Type of the financial instrument	Fund of funds
10. Legal status of the financial instrument, pursuant to Article 38(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (for financial instruments referred to in Article 38(4)(b) only): fiduciary account opened in the name of the implementing body and on behalf of the managing authority or separate block of finance within a financial institution	Separate block of finance
III. Identification of the body implementing the financial instrument as referred to in Articles 38(1)(a), 38(4)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, and the financial intermediaries referred to in Article 38(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Article 46(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
11. Body implementing the financial instrument	
11.1. Type of implementing body pursuant to Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (a) existing or newly created legal entity dedicated to implementing financial instruments; (b) a body entrusted with the implementation task or (c) managing authority underatking implementation task directly (for loans or guarantees only)	Existing or newly created legal entity
11.1.1. Name of the body implementing the financial	Finance Wales Investments

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instrument	Ltd
11.1.2. Official address/place of business (country and town name) of the body implementing the financial instrument	Wales, United Kingdom, Cardiff
12. Procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument: award of a public contract; other procedure	Selection in accordance with the provisions of the public procurement directive
12.1. Description of the other procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument	
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	15-Dec-2016
IV. Total amount of programme contributions, by priority or measure, paid to the financial instrument and management costs incurred or management fees paid (Article 46(2)(d) and (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
14. Total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement (in EUR)	121,625,000.00
14.1. out of which ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	93,500,000.00
14.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR) (optional)	
15. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	71,326,396.83
15.1. out of which amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	32,716,435.47
15.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR)	32,716,435.47
15.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR)	0.00

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15.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR)	0.00
15.2. out of which total amount of national co-financing (in EUR)	38,609,961.36
15.2.1. out of which total amount of national public funding (in EUR)	38,609,961.36
15.2.2. out of which total amount of national private funding (in EUR)	0.00
16. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument under Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) (in EUR)	0.00
17. Total amount of management costs and fees paid out of programme contributions (in EUR)	0.00
17.1. out of which base remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
17.2. out of which performance-based remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
18. Capitalised management costs or fees pursuant to Article 42(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant only for final report) (in EUR)	
19. Capitalised interest rate subsidies or guarantee fee subsidies pursuant to Article 42(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant to final report only) (in EUR)	
20. Amount of programme contributions for follow-on investments in final recipients pursuant to Article 42(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
21. Contributions of land and/or real estate in the financial instrument pursuant to Article 37(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
VI. The performance of the financial instrument, including progress in its set-up and in selection of bodies implementing the financial instrument (including the body implementing a fund of funds) (Article 46(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	

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32. Information whether the financial instrument was still operational at the end of the reporting year	Yes
32.1. If the financial instrument was not operational at the end of the reporting year, date of the winding-up	
VII. Interest and other gains generated by support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument, programme resources paid back to financial instrument from investments as referred to in Articles 43 and 44, and the value of equity investments with respect to previous years (Article 46(2)(g) and (i) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
35. Interest and other gains generated by payments from ESI Funds to the financial instrument (in EUR)	8,038.47
37. Amounts of resources reused which were paid back to the financial instrument and are attributable to ESI Funds	0.00
37.1. out of which amounts paid for preferential remuneration of private investors operating under the market economy principle who provide counterpart resources to the support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument or who co-invest at the level of final recipient (in EUR)	0.00
37.2. out of which amounts paid for the reimbursement of management costs incurred and payment of management fees of the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
VIII. Progress in achieving the expected leverage effect of investments made by the financial instrument and value of investments and participations (Article 46(2)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
38. Total amount of other contributions, outside ESI Funds, raised by the financial instrument (EUR)	
38.1. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (in EUR)	28,125,000.00
38.2. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	9,375,000.00
38.2.1. out of which public contributions (EUR)	9,375,000.00
38.2.2. out of which private contributions (EUR)	0.00

Not validated

I. Identification of the programme and priority or measure from which support from the ESI Funds is provided (Article 46(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
1. Priority axes or measures supporting the financial instrument, including fund of funds, under the ESI Fund programme.	
1.1. Priority axis supporting the financial instrument under the ESI Fund programme	2 - SME Competitiveness
2. Name of ESI Fund(s) supporting the financial instrument under the priority axis or measure	ERDF
3. Thematic objective(s) referred to in the first paragraph of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 supported by the financial instrument	***01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation***
3.1. Amount of ESI Funds committed in funding agreements from the individual thematic objective chosen in field 3 (optional)	
4. other ESI Fund programmes providing contribution to the financial instrument	
4.1. CCI number of each other ESI Fund programme providing contributions to the financial instrument	2014UK16RFOP006
30. Date of completion of the ex ante assessment	30-Sep-2015
31. Selection of bodies implementing financial instrument	
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched	
II. Description of the financial instrument and implementation arrangements (Article 46(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
5. Name of the financial instrument	The Wales Business Fund (supported by ERDF) SO2.5 WWV
6. Official address/place of business of the financial instrument (name of the country and city)	Wales, United Kingdom, Cardiff
7. Implementation arrangements	
7.1. Financial instruments set up at Union level, managed	No

Not validated

directly or indirectly by the Commission referred to in Article 38(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, supported from ESI Fund programme contributions	
7.1.1. Name of the Union-level financial instrument	
7.2. Financial instrument set up at national, regional, transnational or cross-border level, managed by or under the responsibility of the managing authority referred to in Article 38(1)(b), supported from ESI Fund programme contributions under point (a), (b) and (c) of Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Entrustment of implementation
8. Type of the financial instrument	Fund of funds
10. Legal status of the financial instrument, pursuant to Article 38(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (for financial instruments referred to in Article 38(4)(b) only): fiduciary account opened in the name of the implementing body and on behalf of the managing authority or separate block of finance within a financial institution	Separate block of finance
III. Identification of the body implementing the financial instrument as referred to in Articles 38(1)(a), 38(4)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, and the financial intermediaries referred to in Article 38(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Article 46(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
11. Body implementing the financial instrument	
11.1. Type of implementing body pursuant to Article 38(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (a) existing or newly created legal entity dedicated to implementing financial instruments; (b) a body entrusted with the implementation task or (c) managing authority underatking implementation task directly (for loans or guarantees only)	Existing or newly created legal entity
11.1.1. Name of the body implementing the financial instrument	Finance Wales Investments Ltd
11.1.2. Official address/place of business (country and town name) of the body implementing the financial instrument	Wales, United Kingdom, Cardiff
12. Procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument: award of a public contract; other	Selection in accordance with the provisions of the public procurement

Not validated

procedure	directive
12.1. Description of the other procedure of selecting the body implementing the financial instrument	
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	15-Dec-2016
IV. Total amount of programme contributions, by priority or measure, paid to the financial instrument and management costs incurred or management fees paid (Article 46(2)(d) and (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
14. Total amount of programme contributions committed in the funding agreement (in EUR)	35,250,000.00
14.1. out of which ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	25,875,000.00
14.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR) (optional)	
14.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR) (optional)	
15. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	4,458,577.83
15.1. out of which amount of ESI Funds contributions (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.1. out of which ERDF (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.2. out of which Cohesion Fund (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.3. out of which ESF (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.4. out of which EAFRD (in EUR)	0.00
15.1.5. out of which EMFF (in EUR)	0.00
15.2. out of which total amount of national co-financing (in EUR)	4,458,577.83
15.2.1. out of which total amount of national public funding (in EUR)	4,458,577.83

Not validated

15.2.2. out of which total amount of national private funding (in EUR)	0.00
16. Total amount of programme contributions paid to the financial instrument under Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) (in EUR)	0.00
17. Total amount of management costs and fees paid out of programme contributions (in EUR)	0.00
17.1. out of which base remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
17.2. out of which performance-based remuneration (in EUR)	0.00
18. Capitalised management costs or fees pursuant to Article 42(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant only for final report) (in EUR)	
19. Capitalised interest rate subsidies or guarantee fee subsidies pursuant to Article 42(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant to final report only) (in EUR)	
20. Amount of programme contributions for follow-on investments in final recipients pursuant to Article 42(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
21. Contributions of land and/or real estate in the financial instrument pursuant to Article 37(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (relevant for final report only) (in EUR)	
VI. The performance of the financial instrument, including progress in its set-up and in selection of bodies implementing the financial instrument (including the body implementing a fund of funds) (Article 46(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
32. Information whether the financial instrument was still operational at the end of the reporting year	Yes
32.1. If the financial instrument was not operational at the end of the reporting year, date of the winding-up	
VII. Interest and other gains generated by support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument, programme resources paid back to financial instrument from investments as referred to in Articles 43 and 44, and the value of equity investments with respect to previous years (Article 46(2)(g) and (i) of Regulation	

Not validated

(EU) No 1303/2013)	
35. Interest and other gains generated by payments from ESI Funds to the financial instrument (in EUR)	1,048.26
37. Amounts of resources reused which were paid back to the financial instrument and are attributable to ESI Funds	0.00
37.1. out of which amounts paid for preferential remuneration of private investors operating under the market economy principle who provide counterpart resources to the support from the ESI Funds to the financial instrument or who co-invest at the level of final recipient (in EUR)	0.00
37.2. out of which amounts paid for the reimbursement of management costs incurred and payment of management fees of the financial instrument (in EUR)	0.00
VIII. Progress in achieving the expected leverage effect of investments made by the financial instrument and value of investments and participations (Article 46(2)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	
38. Total amount of other contributions, outside ESI Funds, raised by the financial instrument (EUR)	
38.1. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds committed in the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument (in EUR)	9,375,000.00
38.2. Total amount of other contributions, outside the ESI Funds paid to the financial instrument (in EUR)	3,125,000.00
38.2.1. out of which public contributions (EUR)	3,125,000.00
38.2.2. out of which private contributions (EUR)	0.00

Not validated

9. OPTIONAL FOR THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016, NOT APPLICABLE TO OTHER LIGHT REPORTS: ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

Table 14: Actions taken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary

Not validated

Table 15: Actions taken to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary

Not validated

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

10.1. Major projects

Table 12: 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 (year, quarter)	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	Observations
Cardiff Capital Region Metro					2016, Q2		2017, Q2	2020, Q4	4 - 4e					

Not validated

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

No Major projects have been approved under the Programme.

Not validated

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the operational programme

Following discussions with the EC, JASPERS and Welsh Government Transport it has been agreed that the Metro proposals don't constitute a major project and that this approach will be abandoned. The proposals will therefore be taken forward as number of individual discrete projects to be approved by WEFO.

Not validated

10.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable to the Programme.

Not validated

Table 13: 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

Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Not applicable to the Programme.

Not validated

PART B

REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

(Article 50(4), 111(3) and (4) of regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

11. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLES 50(4) AND 111(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

Priority axis	1 - Research and Innovation

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	2 - SME Competitiveness

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	3 - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	4 - Connectivity and Urban Development

Not validated

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	5 - Technical Assistance

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to prevent discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the operational programme and operations (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.3. Sustainable development (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable to the reporting year.

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

Priority axis	**Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)**	**Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)**
3	64,294,593.72	37.64%
4	8,380,908.35	1.67%
Total	**72,675,502.07**	**6.03%**

Not validated

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.5. Role of partners in the implementation of the programme

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

12. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 111(4), FIRST SUBPARAGRAPH, (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013

12.1. Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

Not applicable to the reporting year.

12.2. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

13. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) (MAY BE INCLUDED IN REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016 (SEE POINT 9 ABOVE). REQUIRED IN REPORT SUBMITTED IN 2017) OPTION: PROGRESS REPORT

Not validated

14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 111(4), SECOND SUBPARAGRAPH, (A), (B), (C), (D), (G) AND (H), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

14.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including development of regions facing demographic challenges and permanent or natural handicaps, integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the operational programme

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.2. Progress in the implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the Funds

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.3. Progress in the implementation of any interregional and transnational actions

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.4. Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

☐ 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)

Not validated

14.5. Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation, where appropriate

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.6. Progress in the implementation of measures to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of poverty discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities and persons with disabilities, long term unemployment and young people not in employment including, where appropriate, the financial resources used

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

PART C REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

15. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (ARTICLES 21(2) AND 22(7) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Not validated

16. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH (OPTION PROGRESS REPORT)

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

17. 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).

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By

Not validated

Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message

Not validated

European Structural Fund Programmes 2014-2020

West Wales and the Valleys ERDF

2017 Annual Implementation Report – Summary

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1. Introduction

This is the third Annual Implementation Report for the West Wales and the Valleys ERDF Programme, covering the reporting year of 2017.

Wales benefits from around €2.4bn of EU Funds through the four Structural Funds programmes 2014-2020. This includes around €1.2bn through the West Wales and the Valleys European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme to help deliver economic growth by promoting high levels of sustainable employment, developing a skilled and responsive Welsh workforce now and for the future.

About the Programme

The West Wales and the Valleys ERDF Programme is focused on investments which can help create sustainable jobs and economic growth, concentrating resources in areas where the greatest impact can be made. In delivering its objectives, the programme that properly considers and incorporates social and environmental opportunities, fully reflecting the Welsh Government's central organising principle of Sustainable Development.

The Programme is split into five priority areas:

Priority 1: Research and Innovation

- Increase research funding (private and competitive) attracted to Wales' research institutions.
- Increase commercialisation of RD&I by Welsh businesses within the programme area.

Priority 2: SME Competitiveness

- Address market failures in the provision of loan and equity finance to SMEs, including risk capital.
- Increase number and survival of SMEs, particularly high growth SMEs (including Social Enterprises).
- Increase employment growth in SMEs with growth potential by addressing barriers at key stages of growth.
- Increase the take-up and exploitation of Superfast and Ultrafast Broadband by SMEs in Wales.

Priority 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

- Increasing the number of commercially viable small scale renewable energy schemes.
- Contribute to development of marine energy sector.
- Improve energy efficiency in those households facing the highest levels of fuel poverty.

Priority 4: Connectivity and Urban Development

- Improve connectivity by addressing specific congestion bottlenecks affecting the A40 and A55.
- Improving access to key urban and employment centres by public transport.
- Completion of Superfast ICT broadband networks.
- Increases in local employment through carefully targeted urban infrastructure investments.

Priority 5: Technical Assistance

- Ensure the efficient and effective management of the Programme.
- Provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of projects.
- Enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider European Commission-led and Sector based programmes.

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Budget available under each of the Programme's Priorities:

Priority	EU Budget	Total Budget[1]
Priority 1: Research and Innovation	€302m	€455m
Priority 2: SME Competitiveness	€208m	€333m
Priority 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	€171m	€246m
Priority 4: Connectivity and Urban Development	€501m	€763m
Priority 5: Technical Assistance	€24m	€32m
Total available under the Programme	**€1,206m**	**€1,830m**

[1] The amount from the EU Budget combined with match funding

The Managing Authority for the Programme is the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), within the Welsh Government.

More information on the programmes' aims and objectives can be found in the West Wales and the Valleys ERDF Programme document and summary on the Welsh Government website at http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/2014-2020/west-wales/?lang=en

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2. Programme progress

Overview

By the end of 2017, the Welsh Government had invested €786m of EU funds to 65 projects, driving a total investment of €1,466m in West Wales and the Valleys.

Good progress was made across a number of the Programme indicators during 2017, including:

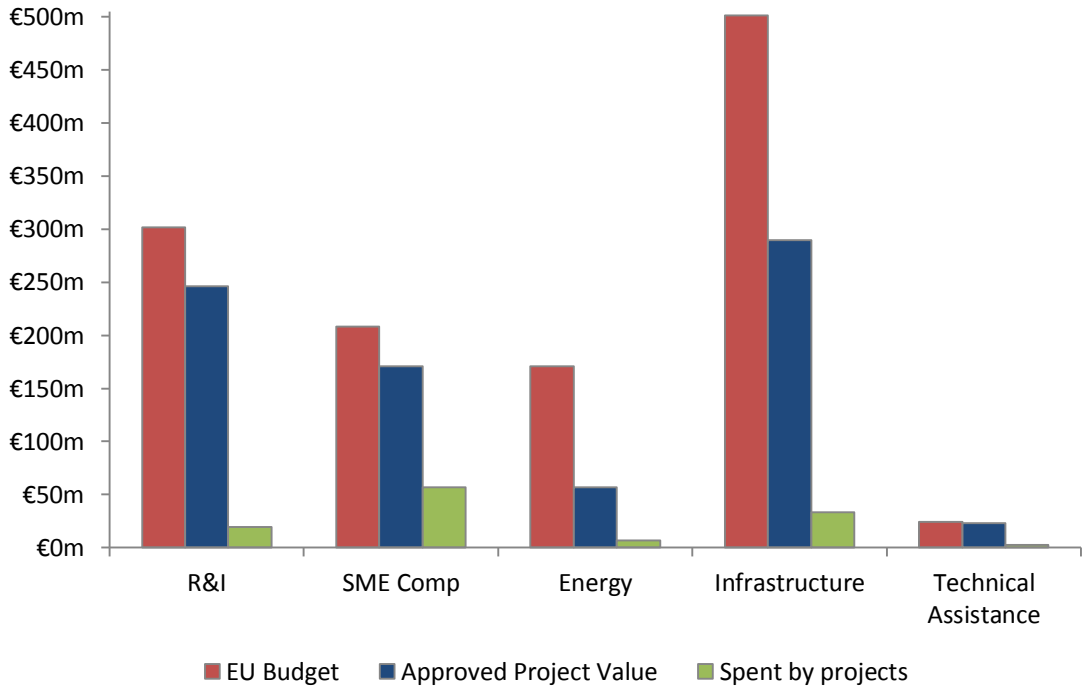
- Over 2,300 businesses supported and over 2,500 jobs created.
- £18m of research income generated through EU projects.
- The Wales Business Fund, delivered by the Development Bank of Wales, had invested £33m in Welsh SMEs.
- 42,300 additional premises given broadband access of at least 30 Mbps and over 68,700 additional people given ultrafast broadband coverage of over 100Mbps.

Progress against a number of other Programme indicators, for example land developed or premises created or refurbished, will be reported later in the programming period due to the nature of the activity funded through this Programme.

Financial progress

The following chart shows, at Priority level, the total allocation of EU funds, and how much funds has been invested in and spent by projects.

Chart 1: EU Funds: Budget, Approved and Spent



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3. Progress by Priority

Priority 1: Research and Innovation

Investing in innovation and research is helping to drive forward Wales' global competitiveness and productivity. EU funds are supporting the development of world class research capacity in Wales, building on existing strengths to attract further private and competitive research funding. EU funds are also supporting businesses to develop, test and launch new and improved commercial products, processes and services, including those relating to low carbon.

By the end of the year, around 81% (€246m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested in 20 projects. This included the first project approval, 'SMARTAQUA', submitted through WEFO's funding call in 2016 for innovative proposals which can successfully translate research and innovation into new and improved commercial products, processes and services. WEFO will be making approval decisions on the remaining proposals submitted through this call in 2018. As demand for Research and Innovation funding continues to be high, another call, focussed on 'accelerating world-class collaboration in research and innovation', was launched in December and has attracted significant interest.

CUBRIC, Cardiff University's Brain Research Imaging Centre

The £44m centre in Cardiff backed by £4.6m of EU funds is set to become one of Europe's top facilities for brain imaging.



This investment brings together world-leading expertise in brain mapping with the very latest in brain imaging and brain stimulation. The centre is playing a pivotal role in the global endeavour to better understand the causes of neurological and

psychiatric conditions such as dementia, schizophrenia and multiple sclerosis, seeking long term solutions that inform brain function and prevention of diseases. It also supports the creation of highly skilled research jobs in Wales.

The building has won and been shortlisted for many UK and national awards including:

- Constructing Excellence in Wales 2017 Awards: Chairman's Special Award Winner
- National Eisteddfod Gold Medal for Architecture 2017 – Shortlist
- Life Science Research Building Award winner
- RICS Wales Project of the Year award – winner
- Buildings that Inspire category, 2017 Guardian University Awards – runner up

In May 2017 CUBRIC celebrated its first clinical trial involvement for the treatment of Huntington's Disease. The trial is working with patients with very early symptoms of the disease, and CUBRIC is one of several MRI sites across the UK and Europe which are involved.

CUBRIC's MRI machine has produced the world's most detailed scan of the brain's internal wiring by revealing the fibres which carry the brain's thought processes. Doctors hope it will help increase understanding of a range of neurological disorders and could be used instead of invasive biopsies.

The state-of-the-art building is integrated both in its city centre community and in networks of wider collaborations across Wales and the world.

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Priority 2: SME Competitiveness

Supporting the creation and growth of business is helping to build a strong and competitive Welsh economy. EU funds are providing finance and support to help start up ventures, supporting small and medium-sized companies (including social enterprises) to expand and access new markets, and addressing market failures in the provision of repayable finance to those businesses. EU funds are also helping businesses to realise the competitive advantage offered by the availability of superfast broadband across Wales.

By the end of the year, the Welsh Government had invested 82% (€171m) of the EU funds available within this Priority to seven projects. Investments within this Priority form an integrated suite of initiatives led by the Welsh Government, Wales Co-Operative Centre, the Development Bank of Wales and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, known as the 'Business Wales Family'. The Wales Business Fund, led by the Development Bank of Wales, is performing well and in early 2018 an assessment will identify whether there is further demand and scope to extend the provision of this fund.

Cover To Cover, Mumbles (Business Wales)

EU-funded services through the Welsh Government's Business Wales scheme is supporting sustainable business start ups and development initiatives leading to increased job creation and business growth. A case study of a business start-up is described below.

The entrepreneur approached Business Wales for help with taking over an established bookshop on the Mumbles, Swansea.

After attending a start-up workshop, where they gained understanding of the main aspects of setting up and running their own business, the owner was further supported by a Business Wales adviser who provided general business advice, including book-keeping, business, marketing and financial planning. They also assisted the owner with sourcing finance for the venture, helping him secure a £14,000 start-up loan.

As a result of the support provided by Business Wales, the owner was able to successfully reopen the shop in August 2017, and Cover to Cover has since taken on 2 members of staff. The shop has expanded into selling gifts and greeting cards, it organises events, including readings, signings and literary festivals. It is the only independent bookshop in the Swansea area.

The owner commented: "I've had wonderful support from the team, which has proved invaluable. From initial planning and general advice, to cash projections, and of course loan advice, I literally would have struggled without it."

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Priority 3: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

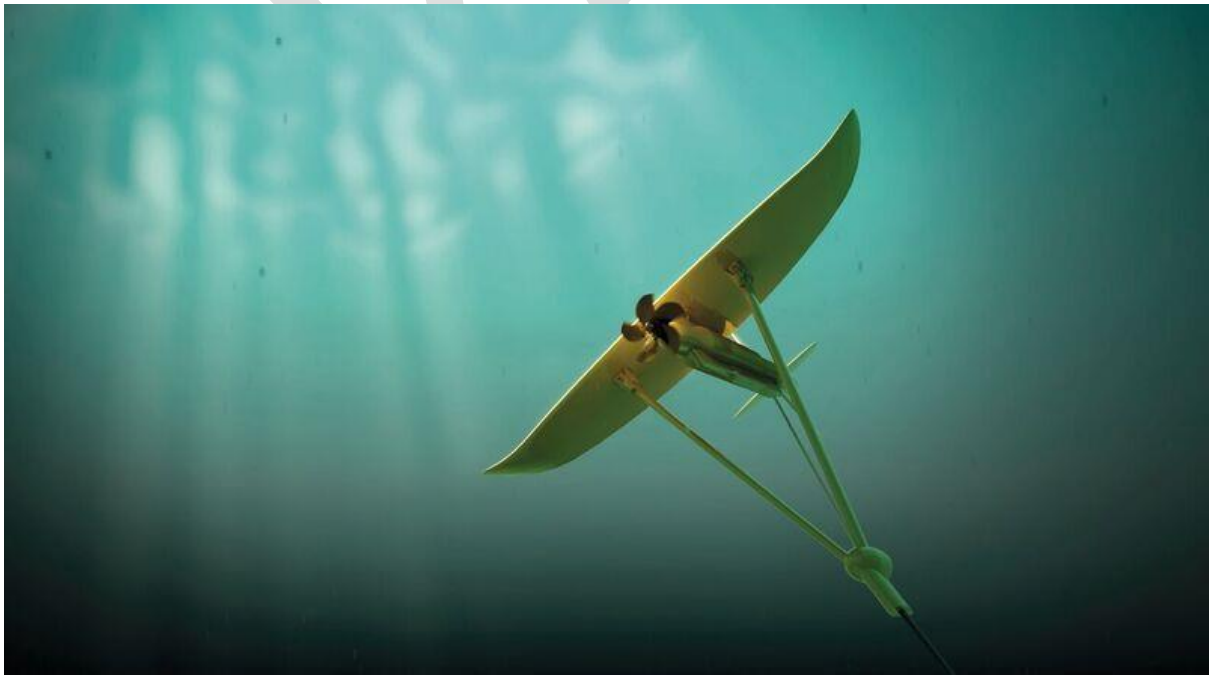
EU funds invested through the increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency priority are helping to reduce the impact of carbon emissions on the environment and tackle fuel poverty. They are helping to address barriers to the development of small scale energy schemes, improve energy efficiency in housing for the most fuel poor, and grow a strong and sustainable marine energy sector in Wales.

By the end of 2017, 33% (€57m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested in eight projects. Marine energy continues to be a very innovative and challenging area of the programme, and WEFO is working closely with marine energy developers to help maximse the opportunities of Wales' tidal and wave resources; this has led to a pipeline of project proposals being considered for EU funds.

Good progress also continued in 2017 with the approval of energy support site preparation schemes, including the feasibility study for the Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone. A call for small scale renewable energy schemes took place in the summer, supported by workshops to raise awareness of the availability of EU funds for this type of activity.

Minesto - Deep Green

Backed by £10m of EU funds, ground-breaking tidal energy technology, Deep Green, is set to be installed off the coast of Anglesey, helping to establish the region as a global centre of excellence for marine energy and create new job opportunities.



The unique technology has been developed by Swedish company, Minesto, which set up its headquarters in Wales due to its excellent tidal resources and growing marine energy sector. Weighing seven tonnes and positioned at least 15 metres below the water surface, the underwater 'kite' technology will operate in waters

where no other known technology can perform as cost effectively due to its unique ability to run in low velocity areas.

Minesto has already received a marine license from Natural Resources Wales to install Deep Green at Holyhead Deep, with plans to expand future capacity, subject to licencing. Recently, a bespoke concrete base has been constructed and will be submerged to support the installation of the Deep Green device.

The company has also created 13 jobs so far with plans to develop an assembly plant in Anglesey to produce more devices for export around the world, paving the way for the creation of more jobs and prosperity in North Wales.

Overall, the programme has an allocation of around £85 million EU funds to drive the development of the marine energy sector in Wales, which includes support for tidal and wave energy technologies to be tested along the West and North Wales' coastline. Investments already include £0.26m EU funds for a feasibility study at Pembrokeshire's wave energy demonstration zone led by WaveHub. The study is a vital first step towards realising the opportunity that the Crown Estate has offered to West Wales by agreeing to lease this site for the deployment of wave energy technology, helping to fulfil Wales' ambition to become a world leader in marine energy.

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Priority 4: Connectivity and Urban Development

Developing transport solutions and improving digital connectivity are helping to build thriving businesses and communities, and boost employment across Wales. EU funds are addressing specific transport bottlenecks, improving public transport in urban areas, and helping to complete superfast digital networks in Wales. Further infrastructure investment in West Wales and the Valleys are being targeted where they can deliver the greatest impact on local jobs and support wider regional economic opportunities to help boost private investment.

By the end of 2017, EU funds of €290m (58% of the Priority's allocation) had been invested in 23 projects. This includes approval in 2017 of funds to support A40 improvements and several Local Authority regionally prioritised sites and premises. Work continued on the development of the South Wales Metro proposals. Delivery of the Superfast and Ultrafast broadband projects continues at pace and WEFO is considering proposals to achieve 100% coverage across Wales. The umbrella project, Tourism Attractor Destination, is making good progress; by the end of 2017, WEFO had approved eight of the proposed 13 projects, including The Rock UK Climbing Centre in Merthyr Tydfil and the Colwyn Bay Waterfront.

Port Talbot Transport Hub

Supported by Welsh Government (£2.7m) and EU funds (£2.5m), the new hub, based in the centre of Port Talbot centralises main transport links to improve connectivity and boost economic growth for the local community.

The hub became operational during 2017, followed by an official opening in March 2018.



Positioned next to the newly redeveloped Port Talbot Parkway Station, it enables people to travel more easily and conveniently across the region for both employment and leisure purposes, and has been welcomed by local residents and businesses alike.

The benefits to passengers include six bus bays, interactive timetable displays, combined bus shelter to complement the station design, upgraded lighting, café areas and safe crossing points.

The hub is a key route for older and disabled people and local groups were consulted to influence its design which is inclusive throughout. Footpaths and circulation spaces have been designed to an appropriate width, gradient and with material to ensure easy access. Pedestrian crossing points over highways have drop kerbs, meaning no step change in levels is experienced.

Priority 5: Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance is an essential resource, utilised by WEFO and other partners, for supporting the effective delivery of the Programme.

By the end of 2017 U funds worth €23m (95% of the Priority's allocation) had been invested in seven projects. This includes revenue support for WEFO to deliver the programme effectively, the four 'Regional Engagement Teams' based in North Wales, Mid Wales, Swansea Bay and South East Wales, and Intermediary Body revenue support for the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and Welsh Government. Further investment to existing projects may be made in 2018.

DRAFT

Annual and final implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014UK05SFOP001
Title	United Kingdom - ESF West Wales and the Valleys
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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) AND 111(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

By the end of December 2017 the Programme had made good progress with a total of 47 operations approved. Some €984m of total eligible costs has been committed; of which just over €637m of EU Grant has been awarded (around 79% of the EU funds available under the Programme). All of the 'backbone' operations were already in place and a number of extensions were made to existing operations to award additional funding. This increase in the pace of commitment reflected WEFO's own internal target to meet 80% EU Grant commitment of the four main regional Structural Funds Programmes by the end of December 2017.

In terms of progress at Priority-level, EU Grant commitment stood at 70% of the EU funds available under Priority 1 (Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment) by the end of December 2017, where 10 operations have been approved. For Priority 2 (Skills for Growth), EU Grant commitment stood at 87% of the EU funds available by the end of December 2017, where 16 operations have been approved. EU Grant commitment stood at 74% of the EU funds available under Priority 3 (Youth Employment and Attainment) by the end of December 2017, where 15 operations have been approved, including 2 operations during 2017. These are the Grwp Llandrillo Coleg Menai-led ***ADTRAC*** operation and the Pembrokeshire County Council-led ***Cam Nesa*** operation. EU Grant commitment stood at over 100% of the funds available under Priority 5 (Technical Assistance) by the end of December 2017, where all of the Technical Assistance operations have now been approved.

By the end of December 2017 just over €249m had been declared by beneficiaries to WEFO. Section 3.2 shows achievements by operations. Delivery has already begun to be reported with around 89,000 participants assisted across the Programme by the end of 2017. This is expected to increase in 2018 and beyond as operations continue to incur expenditure and submit claims.

Clear progress was made in 2017 towards achieving the milestones and targets for the Performance Framework. However, achievement of the 2018 milestones in relation to targets for participants with no formal qualifications in Priority 2 proved to be more of a challenge because of difficulties in defining precisely what is meant by 'no formal qualifications'. Some operations are reporting that even very low skilled individuals are often presenting with at least some level of prior qualification. A detailed examination of progress against indicator targets took place in 2017, including those that contribute to the Performance Framework, and agreement has been reached with the Programme Monitoring Committee to support a modification to the Operational Programme in 2018.

E-cohesion requires a system to allow the electronic transfer of data between

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beneficiaries and the Managing Authority. To manage Structural Funds WEFO uses an IT system called PPIMS, used by Managing Authority and Certifying Authority Officials. The externally facing system, used by beneficiaries to enter data, including everything from appraisal documentation to transaction lists and claims is called WEFO Online. By allowing the electronic transfer of data, WEFO Online meets the conditions of an Electronic Data Exchange System under the e-cohesion requirements and therefore WEFO has been compliant with e-cohesion as of November 2015.

Not validated

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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
1	Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	By the end of 2017 70% of the EU funds available had been committed to 10 operations under this Priority. Whilst no new operations were approved in 2017, the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council-led Workways II was awarded additional funding to expand delivery. WEFO continued to engage with stakeholders to help deliver against the targets for Underemployed participants and launched a call for proposals in 2017 that resulted in new proposals seeking €22m of additional ESF investment. Over 15,900 participants were supported across the priority by the end of 2017. At 74% of the anticipated level of participants this is slightly lower than expected but reflects the more challenging nature of engaging the harder to reach target groups which underpin the Programme objectives. Many of the operations approved underestimated the time taken to get their delivery systems and personnel up and running and delivery underway set within the context of the harder to reach groups and a rapidly improving labour market. This is further reflected in the result indicators in that more intensive and longer term interventions are needed with the harder to reach cohort and so the anticipated results are realised later than planned. Delivery is beginning to be seen in some of the intermediate result indicators achieved.
2	Skills for Growth	By the end 2017, 87% of the EU funds available had been committed to 16 operations under the Priority. Whilst no new operations were approved in 2017, there were extensions to award additional funding to the Torfaen County Borough Council led Working Skills for Adults II and the Swansea University led Materials and Manufacturing Academy. Good progress was made during 2017 against the indicator targets, with over 47,500 participants assisted by approved operations under this Priority. Qualification results were also encouraging, with the numbers of participants gaining qualifications running close to the proportions required by the Operational Programme in most areas of the Priority. The data shows some shortfalls in participants with no formal qualifications. This is because it is proving difficult

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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
		to define what is meant by 'no formal qualifications', with some operations reporting that even very low skilled individuals are often presenting with at least some level of prior qualification. Also, numbers of participants with graduate degrees enrolling on post-graduate research are lower than expected. This may reflect the more novel nature of this objective and a lack of historical data on which to set targets. This target now appears too high given that activity in this area is limited to the 'grand challenge' areas of 'Science for Wales' and that the intermediate results (for example, doctorates) take a number of years to achieve.
3	Youth Employment and Attainment	By the end of 2017 74% of the EU Funds available had been committed to 15 operations in this Priority. Two operations were approved during 2017, building on the backbone operations approved in 2015. These were the Grwp Llandrillo Coleg Menai-led ADTRAC operation and the Pembrokeshire County Council-led Cam Nesa operation, both under Specific Objective 3.1. Achievements by the end 2017 shows strong progress towards targets for reducing numbers of NEETs or at risk of becoming NEET, with over 20,000 young people supported by the end of the year. Forecast data is high and should allow for remaining operations to target niche areas and specific issues. Targeting those at risk of NEET is a new area of intervention with more innovative activity with limited historical data to underpin indicator targets. Achievements by end 2017 reflect the timescales in getting delivery systems in place and the more innovative nature of the interventions required. Take-up of STEM subjects show engagement of participants is progressing well however, the intermediate results are lagging behind, reflecting greater focus on recruitment which has led to a lag in delivery. Delivery in respect of the early-years childcare workforce has been slow to start because of the late procurement of training providers to deliver support to participants. This continues to be a challenging area to target with many single operator providers where releasing time for training is problematic.
4	Technical Assistance	By the end of 2017 100% of the EU funds available had been committed to 6 operations in the Priority. This includes revenue support for WEFO in implementing the programme, the four 'Regional Engagement Teams' based in North Wales, Mid Wales, Swansea Bay and South East Wales, and Intermediary Body revenue support for the WCVA. No further commitment is anticipated.

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

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
Investment Priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 1 / 9i

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed						656.00	210.00	446.00				93.00	160.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed						323.00	164.00	159.00				90.00	90.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed						2,029.00	1,365.00	664.00				442.00	249.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed						2,506.00	1,065.00	1,441.00				470.00	640.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a	Less developed						4,701.00	2,379.00	2,322.00				944.00	996.00

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ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
	qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving														
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed	97.00	232.00	20.00	54.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed	70.00	61.00	4.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	736.00	338.00	187.00	77.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed	519.00	710.00	76.00	91.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	Less developed	1,198.00	1,140.00	237.00	186.00	0.00	0.00

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ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
Investment Priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1110A	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability in employment upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	33.00%						%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1101B	Individuals impacted by redundancy in employment upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	55.00%			42.47			23.36%	18.64%	33.36%	26.00%	19.00%	42.00%	
1112	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	50.00%						%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1113	Individuals impacted by redundancy gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	70.00%			99.04			69.33%	72.04%	63.80%	66.00%	70.00%	59.00%	
110A6	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	45.00%						%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

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ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	disability in employment 6 months after leaving																	
110B6	Individuals impacted by redundancy in employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	60.00%			0.00			0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1110	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	50.00%			20.22			10.11%	11.60%	8.61%	16.00%	16.00%	15.00%	
1100A	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	50.00%			20.42			10.21%	10.15%	10.38%	18.00%	18.00%	17.00%	
1102A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	20.00%			85.85			17.17%	12.56%	19.21%	20.00%	14.00%	24.00%	
1102B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self employment, upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	25.00%			43.96			10.99%	11.65%	9.40%	12.00%	12.00%	11.00%	
1103	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment engaged	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	25.00%			30.32			7.58%	6.69%	7.87%	7.00%	6.00%	8.00%	

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ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	in job search upon leaving																	
1104A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	54.00%			15.52			8.38%	8.22%	8.25%	13.00%	12.00%	14.00%	
1104B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	54.00%			15.28			8.25%	8.06%	8.86%	12.00%	13.00%	12.00%	
102A6	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment in employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	45.00%			0.00			0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
102B6	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment in employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	45.00%			0.00			0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1118	Supported enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Less developed	Ratio	CO23 number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Ratio	50.00%			0.00			0.00%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1171	Employed, including self employed	Less	Ratio		Ratio	50.00%			1.98			0.99%	0.39%	1.59%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	participants with work limiting health condition or disability returning to work after a period of absence	developed																
1120	Employed, including self employed participants with work limiting health condition or disability with an improved labour market situation upon leaving such as increased hours, permanent contract	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	50.00%			107.22			53.61%	54.85%	52.47%	54.00%	62.00%	48.00%	
1170	Underemployed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving, such as increased hours, permanent contract	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	40.00%						%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1110A	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability in employment upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1101B	Individuals impacted by redundancy in employment upon leaving	Less developed	22.34%	18.51%	29.76%	24.00%	19.00%	36.00%		18.00%	17.00%	18.00%	18.00%	17.00%	18.00%	
1112	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	disability gaining a qualification upon leaving															
1113	Individuals impacted by redundancy gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	70.62%	72.80%	65.79%	77.00%	76.00%	80.00%		54.00%	63.00%	39.00%	54.00%	63.00%	39.00%	
110A6	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability in employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
110B6	Individuals impacted by redundancy in employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1110	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	Less developed	5.88%	7.09%	4.94%	7.00%	8.00%	6.00%		1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	
1100A	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	Less developed	4.49%	4.51%	5.31%	5.00%	5.00%	6.00%		1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	
1102A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon leaving	Less developed	15.14%	11.09%	16.45%	17.00%	12.00%	19.00%		7.00%	5.00%	7.00%	7.00%	5.00%	7.00%	
1102B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to	Less developed	10.24%	11.39%	8.18%	11.00%	12.00%	9.00%		5.00%	7.00%	3.00%	5.00%	7.00%	3.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	employment entering employment, including self employment, upon leaving															
1103	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment engaged in job search upon leaving	Less developed	8.00%	7.39%	7.79%	8.00%	7.00%	8.00%		8.00%	10.00%	7.00%	8.00%	10.00%	7.00%	
1104A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	Less developed	5.07%	4.35%	4.94%	6.00%	5.00%	6.00%		1.00%	0.00%	1.00%	1.00%	0.00%	1.00%	
1104B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	Less developed	5.49%	4.51%	6.45%	6.00%	5.00%	7.00%		2.00%	1.00%	3.00%	2.00%	1.00%	3.00%	
102A6	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment in employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
102B6	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment in employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1118	Supported enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Less developed	0.00%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1171	Employed, including self employed participants with work limiting health condition or disability returning to work after a period of absence	Less developed	0.99%	0.00%	1.98%	1.00%	0.00%	2.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1120	Employed, including self employed participants with work limiting health condition or disability with an improved labour market situation upon leaving such as increased hours, permanent contract	Less developed	53.36%	50.35%	55.37%	54.00%	51.00%	56.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1170	Underemployed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving, such as increased hours, permanent contract	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1110 A	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability in employment upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1101 B	Individuals impacted by redundancy in employment upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1112	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1113	Individuals impacted by redundancy gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
110A6	Short term unemployed participants with low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability in employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
110B6	Individuals impacted by redundancy in employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1110	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1100A	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment gaining a qualification or work relevant certification upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1102A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment entering employment including self employment upon	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	leaving								
1102 B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment entering employment, including self employment, upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1103	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment engaged in job search upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1104 A	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1104 B	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment increasing employability through completing work experience placement or volunteering opportunity	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
102A 6	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment in employment including self employment 6 months after leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
102B 6	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	employment in employment including self employment 6 months after leaving								
1118	Supported enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1171	Employed, including self employed participants with work limiting health condition or disability returning to work after a period of absence	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1120	Employed, including self employed participants with work limiting health condition or disability with an improved labour market situation upon leaving such as increased hours, permanent contract	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1170	Underemployed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving, such as increased hours, permanent contract	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
Investment Priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **1 / 9i**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed				6,670.00	4,505.00	2,165.00				2,481.00	1,647.00	834.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed				4,287.00	2,874.00	1,413.00				1,815.00	1,202.00	613.00
CO03	inactive	Less developed				8,733.00	3,263.00	5,470.00				3,650.00	1,652.00	1,998.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed				8,733.00	3,263.00	5,470.00				3,650.00	1,652.00	1,998.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed				1,521.00	637.00	884.00				594.00	246.00	348.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed				95.00	41.00	54.00				36.00	16.00	20.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed				2,759.00	1,613.00	1,146.00				1,155.00	679.00	476.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed				2,424.00	1,456.00	968.00				1,031.00	623.00	408.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed				3,552.00	1,918.00	1,634.00				1,308.00	765.00	543.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed				5,995.00	2,615.00	3,380.00				2,346.00	1,134.00	1,212.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed				2,170.00	971.00	1,199.00				860.00	383.00	477.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	Less developed				8,779.00	4,147.00	4,632.00				3,579.00	1,926.00	1,653.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed				3,977.00	896.00	3,081.00				1,250.00	345.00	905.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed				2,705.00	440.00	2,265.00				1,164.00	237.00	927.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed				649.00	278.00	371.00				288.00	139.00	149.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed				2,014.00	1,038.00	976.00				774.00	413.00	361.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed				10,237.00	4,264.00	5,973.00				3,975.00	1,872.00	2,103.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed				756.00	432.00	324.00				351.00	201.00	150.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed				682.00	430.00	252.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed				132.00						63.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Less developed				184.00						57.00		
	Grand total of participants					16,924.00						6,725.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed	3,400.00	2,363.00	1,037.00	789.00	495.00	294.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed	2,159.00	1,469.00	690.00	313.00	203.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

CO03	inactive	Less developed	4,137.00	1,402.00	2,735.00	946.00	209.00	737.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed	4,137.00	1,402.00	2,735.00	946.00	209.00	737.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed	916.00	386.00	530.00	11.00	5.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed	58.00	25.00	33.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed	1,379.00	813.00	566.00	225.00	121.00	104.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed	1,171.00	713.00	458.00	222.00	120.00	102.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed	1,863.00	996.00	867.00	381.00	157.00	224.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed	2,970.00	1,272.00	1,698.00	679.00	209.00	470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed	1,160.00	528.00	632.00	150.00	60.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	Less developed	4,071.00	1,839.00	2,232.00	1,129.00	382.00	747.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed	2,044.00	453.00	1,591.00	683.00	98.00	585.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed	971.00	173.00	798.00	570.00	30.00	540.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed	318.00	125.00	193.00	43.00	14.00	29.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed	954.00	496.00	458.00	286.00	129.00	157.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed	5,019.00	2,005.00	3,014.00	1,243.00	387.00	856.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed	398.00	226.00	172.00	7.00	5.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed	581.00	369.00	212.00	101.00	61.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed	36.00			33.00			0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the	Less developed	97.00			30.00			0.00		

Not validated

	social economy)										
	Grand total of participants		8,453.00			1,746.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment
Investment Priority	9i - Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **1**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Less developed	Number	36,000.00			8,733.00	3,263.00	5,470.00	0.24			3,650.00	1,652.00	1,998.00
1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability ; are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; from a jobless household)	Less developed	Number	10,800.00			4,287.00	2,874.00	1,413.00	0.40			1,815.00	1,202.00	613.00
1013A	Short term unemployed with no / low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability	Less developed	Number	5,999.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
1013B	Individuals impacted by redundancy	Less developed	Number	12,001.00			2,383.00	1,631.00	752.00	0.20			666.00	445.00	221.00
1022	Participants Employed, including self-employed with work-limiting health condition or disability	Less developed	Number	4,000.00			1,521.00	637.00	884.00	0.38			594.00	246.00	348.00
1023	Underemployed participants with barriers to full employment	Less developed	Number	4,000.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
1025	Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises supported	Less developed	Number	2,000.00			127.00	64.00	63.00	0.06			0.00	0.00	0.00
1026	Workplace health programmes	Less developed	Number	300.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016	2015	2014

Not validated

			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Less developed	4,137.00	1,402.00	2,735.00	946.00	209.00	737.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability ; are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; from a jobless household)	Less developed	2,159.00	1,469.00	690.00	313.00	203.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1013A	Short term unemployed with no / low skills or a work limiting health condition or disability	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1013B	Individuals impacted by redundancy	Less developed	1,241.00	894.00	347.00	476.00	292.00	184.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1022	Participants Employed, including self-employed with work-limiting health condition or disability	Less developed	916.00	386.00	530.00	11.00	5.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1023	Underemployed participants with barriers to full employment	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1025	Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises supported	Less developed	97.00	49.00	48.00	30.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1026	Workplace health programmes	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 2 / 8iv

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	CO05 employed, including self-employed	Ratio	75.00%	%	%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1109	Supported Enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Less developed	Ratio	CO23 number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Ratio	50.00%			6.10			3.05%	%	%	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1101	Employed, including self-employed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio	CO05 employed, including self-employed	Ratio	40.00%			0.00			0.00%	%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1109	Supported Enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Less developed	0.91%	%	%	1.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1101	Employed, including self-employed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	Less developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1109	Supported Enterprises having adopted or improved equality and diversity strategies and monitoring systems	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1101	Employed, including self-employed participants with an improved labour market situation upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **2 / 8iv**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed	4,400.00	0.00	4,400.00	839.00	0.00	839.00	0.19		0.19	386.00	0.00	386.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed				149.00	0.00	149.00				66.00	0.00	66.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed				14.00	0.00	14.00				5.00	0.00	5.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed				19.00	0.00	19.00				10.00	0.00	10.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed				313.00	0.00	313.00				138.00	0.00	138.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed				492.00	0.00	492.00				230.00	0.00	230.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
	households													
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed				63.00	0.00	63.00				28.00	0.00	28.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed				29.00	0.00	29.00				16.00	0.00	16.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed				27.00	0.00	27.00				13.00	0.00	13.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed				645.00	0.00	645.00				297.00	0.00	297.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed				1.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Less developed	800.00	0.00	0.00	238.00			0.30			100.00		
	Grand total of participants					839.00						386.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed	309.00	0.00	309.00	144.00	0.00	144.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed	50.00	0.00	50.00	33.00	0.00	33.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed	7.00	0.00	7.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed	6.00	0.00	6.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed	116.00	0.00	116.00	59.00	0.00	59.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed	184.00	0.00	184.00	78.00	0.00	78.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed	26.00	0.00	26.00	9.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed	6.00	0.00	6.00	7.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed	8.00	0.00	8.00	6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed	308.00	0.00	308.00	40.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed	0.00			1.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Less developed	126.00			12.00			0.00		
	Grand total of participants		309.00			144.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	8iv - Equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **2**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 2 / 10iii

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed						4.00	4.00	0.00				1.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed						1,450.00	775.00	675.00				184.00	166.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed						16,099.00	7,119.00	8,980.00				1,817.00	2,332.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed						9,750.00	3,887.00	5,863.00				1,096.00	1,687.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	Less developed						19,509.00	8,550.00	10,959.00				2,254.00	2,988.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
	months after leaving														
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed	177.00	176.00	414.00	333.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	2,213.00	2,755.00	3,089.00	3,893.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed	780.00	1,196.00	2,011.00	2,980.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	Less developed	2,605.00	3,348.00	3,691.00	4,623.00	0.00	0.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
	months after leaving							
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1174M	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	72.00%			36.26			26.11%	26.11%	%	39.00%	39.00%	0.00%	
1174F	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - female	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	72.00%			36.99			26.63%	%	26.63%	36.00%	0.00%	36.00%	
1175M	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - Male	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	72.00%			55.85			40.21%	40.21%	%	84.00%	84.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1175F	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - female	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	72.00%			50.93			36.67%	%	36.67%	48.00%	0.00%	48.00%	
1180M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - Male	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	60.00%			60.90			36.54%	36.54%	%	85.00%	85.00%	0.00%	
1180F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - female	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	60.00%			58.30			34.98%	%	34.98%	62.00%	0.00%	62.00%	
1181M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - male	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	60.00%			45.05			27.03%	27.03%	%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	
1181F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	60.00%			42.52			25.51%	%	25.51%	47.00%	0.00%	47.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - female																	
1177M	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (ISCED 7) or Doctoral (ISCED 8) level - male	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	63.00%			6.13			3.86%	3.86%	%	5.00%	5.00%	0.00%	
1177F	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (ISCED 7) or Doctoral (ISCED 8) level - female	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	63.00%			0.00			0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1108M	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - male	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	52.00%			9.58			4.98%	4.98%	%	5.00%	5.00%	%	
1108F	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - female	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	52.00%			0.00			0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1174M	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	Less developed	15.47%	15.47%	%	16.00%	16.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1174F	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - female	Less developed	17.53%	%	17.53%	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%		0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1175M	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - Male	Less developed	34.70%	34.70%	%	34.00%	34.00%	0.00%		35.10%	35.10%	%	66.00%	66.00%	0.00%	
1175F	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - female	Less developed	34.29%	%	34.29%	32.00%	0.00%	32.00%		35.75%	%	35.75%	64.00%	0.00%	64.00%	
1180M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - Male	Less developed	30.98%	30.98%	%	31.00%	31.00%	0.00%		30.96%	30.96%	%	55.00%	55.00%	0.00%	
1180F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - female	Less developed	30.86%	%	30.86%	27.00%	0.00%	27.00%		33.91%	%	33.91%	63.00%	0.00%	63.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1181M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - male	Less developed	23.36%	23.36%	%	27.00%	27.00%	0.00%		20.35%	20.35%	%	33.00%	33.00%	0.00%	
1181F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - female	Less developed	21.77%	%	21.77%	26.00%	0.00%	26.00%		18.94%	%	18.94%	30.00%	0.00%	30.00%	
1177M	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (ISCED 7) or Doctoral (ISCED 8) level - male	Less developed	3.72%	3.72%	%	3.00%	3.00%	0.00%		4.95%	4.95%	%	8.00%	8.00%	0.00%	
1177F	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (ISCED 7) or Doctoral (ISCED 8) level - female	Less developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1108M	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - male	Less developed	4.98%	4.98%	%	5.00%	5.00%	0.00%		4.95%	4.95%	%	8.00%	8.00%	0.00%	
1108F	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - female	Less developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1174 M	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - Male	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1174F	Employed, including self employed participants with no formal qualifications gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification upon leaving - female	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1175 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - Male	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1175F	Employed, including self-employed participants with up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining an essential skills or technical or job specific qualification at lower secondary (ISCED 2) level upon leaving - female	Less developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1180 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - Male	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1180F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification upon leaving at upper secondary (ISCED 3) level or above - female								
1181 M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - male	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1181F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above gaining a technical or job specific vocational qualification at or above upper secondary (ISCED3) level upon leaving - female	Less developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1177 M	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (ISCED 7) or Doctoral (ISCED 8) level - male	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1177F	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent gaining a qualification upon leaving at Masters (ISCED 7) or Doctoral (ISCED 8) level - female	Less developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1108 M	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon leaving - male	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1108F	Participants with graduate degree or equivalent in employment upon	Less developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	leaving - female								

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **2 / 10iii**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed				12.00	8.00	4.00				1.00	1.00	0.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	Less developed				194.00	121.00	73.00				21.00	12.00	9.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed				153.00	102.00	51.00				11.00	8.00	3.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed				42,564.00	18,244.00	24,320.00				6,239.00	2,338.00	3,901.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed				21,153.00	11,012.00	10,141.00				1,843.00	749.00	1,094.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed				1,234.00	372.00	862.00				313.00	111.00	202.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed				6,569.00	3,226.00	3,343.00				959.00	343.00	616.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed				28,473.00	12,350.00	16,123.00				3,666.00	1,393.00	2,273.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed				6,694.00	2,242.00	4,452.00				1,149.00	364.00	785.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	Less developed				74.00	48.00	26.00				28.00	20.00	8.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed				21.00	14.00	7.00				10.00	9.00	1.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed				853.00	97.00	756.00				295.00	27.00	268.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed				1,289.00	571.00	718.00				250.00	103.00	147.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed				2,023.00	997.00	1,026.00				299.00	122.00	177.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed				8,506.00	2,633.00	5,873.00				2,173.00	649.00	1,524.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed				23.00	10.00	13.00				11.00	2.00	9.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed				7,704.00	3,339.00	4,365.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Less developed				658.00						240.00		
	Grand total of participants					42,770.00						6,261.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

Not validated

CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed	9.00	6.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	Less developed	95.00	56.00	39.00	51.00	30.00	21.00	27.00	23.00	4.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed	71.00	44.00	27.00	44.00	27.00	17.00	27.00	23.00	4.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed	15,006.00	6,590.00	8,416.00	12,341.00	5,267.00	7,074.00	8,978.00	4,049.00	4,929.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed	6,766.00	3,695.00	3,071.00	7,427.00	3,770.00	3,657.00	5,117.00	2,798.00	2,319.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed	449.00	141.00	308.00	259.00	57.00	202.00	213.00	63.00	150.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed	2,214.00	1,026.00	1,188.00	1,886.00	1,007.00	879.00	1,510.00	850.00	660.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed	9,915.00	4,411.00	5,504.00	8,543.00	3,696.00	4,847.00	6,349.00	2,850.00	3,499.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed	2,474.00	921.00	1,553.00	1,924.00	585.00	1,339.00	1,147.00	372.00	775.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	Less developed	27.00	17.00	10.00	14.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	3.00	2.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed	10.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed	475.00	58.00	417.00	61.00	9.00	52.00	22.00	3.00	19.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed	496.00	226.00	270.00	307.00	131.00	176.00	236.00	111.00	125.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed	754.00	387.00	367.00	600.00	296.00	304.00	370.00	192.00	178.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed	3,735.00	1,112.00	2,623.00	1,838.00	544.00	1,294.00	760.00	328.00	432.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed	5.00	3.00	2.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed	2,491.00	1,049.00	1,442.00	2,965.00	1,228.00	1,737.00	2,248.00	1,062.00	1,186.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

	national, regional or local level										
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Less developed	377.00			41.00			0.00		
	Grand total of participants		15,110.00			12,393.00			9,006.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth
Investment Priority	10iii - Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **2**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1008	Number of enterprises collaborating with learning providers in Research and Innovation activities	Less developed	Number	754.00			15.00	0.00	0.00	0.02			10.00	0.00	0.00
1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - female	Less developed	Number	12,836.00			479.00	0.00	479.00	0.04			236.00	0.00	236.00
1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - male	Less developed	Number	14,100.00			555.00	555.00	0.00	0.04			251.00	251.00	0.00
1173F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Less developed	Number	21,840.00			7,830.00	0.00	7,830.00	0.36			1,359.00	0.00	1,359.00
1173M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Less developed	Number	23,991.00			7,366.00	7,366.00	0.00	0.31			823.00	823.00	0.00
1176F	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent – female	Less developed	Number	724.00			139.00	0.00	139.00	0.19			32.00	0.00	32.00
1176M	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent – male	Less developed	Number	784.00			192.00	192.00	0.00	0.24			21.00	21.00	0.00
1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Less developed	Number	14,697.00			5,082.00	0.00	5,082.00	0.35			673.00	0.00	673.00
1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Less developed	Number	16,144.00			4,506.00	4,506.00	0.00	0.28			464.00	464.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1179F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - female	Less developed	Number	9,814.00			10,867.00	0.00	10,867.00	1.11			1,610.00	0.00	1,610.00
1179M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - male	Less developed	Number	10,780.00			5,754.00	5,754.00	0.00	0.53			792.00	792.00	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1008	Number of enterprises collaborating with learning providers in Research and Innovation activities	Less developed	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - female	Less developed	213.00	0.00	213.00	30.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - male	Less developed	294.00	294.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1173F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Less developed	2,509.00	0.00	2,509.00	2,213.00	0.00	2,213.00	1,749.00	0.00	1,749.00
1173M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Less developed	2,372.00	2,372.00	0.00	2,218.00	2,218.00	0.00	1,953.00	1,953.00	0.00
1176F	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent – female	Less developed	69.00	0.00	69.00	32.00	0.00	32.00	6.00	0.00	6.00
1176M	Participants with a graduate degree or equivalent – male	Less developed	108.00	108.00	0.00	39.00	39.00	0.00	24.00	24.00	0.00
1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Less developed	1,947.00	0.00	1,947.00	1,325.00	0.00	1,325.00	1,137.00	0.00	1,137.00
1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Less developed	1,628.00	1,628.00	0.00	1,359.00	1,359.00	0.00	1,055.00	1,055.00	0.00
1179F	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - female	Less developed	3,720.00	0.00	3,720.00	3,495.00	0.00	3,495.00	2,042.00	0.00	2,042.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1179M	Employed, including self employed participants with upper secondary (ISCED 3) education or above - male	Less developed	2,250.00	2,250.00	0.00	1,672.00	1,672.00	0.00	1,040.00	1,040.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
Investment Priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 3 / 8ii

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed						174.00	51.00	123.00				21.00	26.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed						2,670.00	1,466.00	1,204.00				450.00	339.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed						3,409.00	1,852.00	1,557.00				471.00	403.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed						2,283.00	1,158.00	1,125.00				328.00	320.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	Less developed						6,674.00	3,530.00	3,144.00				964.00	838.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
	months after leaving														
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed	22.00	75.00	8.00	22.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed	489.00	437.00	527.00	428.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	553.00	466.00	828.00	688.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed	512.00	546.00	318.00	259.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	Less developed	1,334.00	1,294.00	1,232.00	1,012.00	0.00	0.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
	months after leaving							
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
Investment Priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1123	NEET participants (16-24 years of age) in education / training upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	17.00%			117.76			20.02%	21.16%	19.33%	35.00%	37.00%	34.00%	
1183	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	20.00%			134.95			26.99%	27.99%	33.58%	46.00%	46.00%	45.00%	
1124	NEET participants (16-24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	28.00%			62.07			17.38%	16.60%	17.93%	29.00%	27.00%	32.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1123	NEET participants (16-24 years of age) in education /	Less developed	16.99%	17.81%	16.52%	18.00%	19.00%	17.00%		16.11%	16.83%	16.08%	23.00%	24.00%	23.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	training upon leaving															
1183	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving	Less developed	23.15%	24.18%	31.40%	20.00%	22.00%	38.00%		25.91%	25.95%	25.16%	37.00%	37.00%	36.00%	
1124	NEET participants (16-24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	Less developed	15.03%	14.39%	15.23%	21.00%	20.00%	21.00%		9.80%	9.82%	9.79%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1123	NEET participants (16-24 years of age) in education / training upon leaving	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1183	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age) gaining qualifications upon leaving	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1124	NEET participants (16-24 years of age) entering employment upon leaving	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
Investment Priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **3 / 8ii**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed				11,121.00	6,222.00	4,899.00				1,295.00	757.00	538.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed				1,336.00	837.00	499.00				515.00	328.00	187.00
CO03	inactive	Less developed				2,104.00	739.00	1,365.00				929.00	461.00	468.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed				2,067.00	714.00	1,353.00				929.00	461.00	468.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed				13,225.00	6,961.00	6,264.00				2,224.00	1,218.00	1,006.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed				6,063.00	3,063.00	3,000.00				754.00	447.00	307.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed				6,443.00	3,397.00	3,046.00				923.00	440.00	483.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed				476.00	277.00	199.00				53.00	24.00	29.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	Less developed				3,052.00	1,556.00	1,496.00				645.00	270.00	375.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed				1,356.00	617.00	739.00				240.00	34.00	206.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed				1,254.00	544.00	710.00				260.00	43.00	217.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed				376.00	216.00	160.00				38.00	15.00	23.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed				1,897.00	965.00	932.00				220.00	115.00	105.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed				5,237.00	2,612.00	2,625.00				981.00	491.00	490.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed				228.00	134.00	94.00				125.00	72.00	53.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed				1,553.00	871.00	682.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed				70.00						35.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
	Grand total of participants					13,225.00						2,224.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

Not validated

CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed	4,277.00	2,365.00	1,912.00	3,790.00	2,155.00	1,635.00	1,759.00	945.00	814.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed	607.00	383.00	224.00	214.00	126.00	88.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	Less developed	856.00	214.00	642.00	319.00	64.00	255.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed	819.00	189.00	630.00	319.00	64.00	255.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed	5,133.00	2,579.00	2,554.00	4,109.00	2,219.00	1,890.00	1,759.00	945.00	814.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed	2,029.00	1,116.00	913.00	2,193.00	909.00	1,284.00	1,087.00	591.00	496.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed	2,607.00	1,230.00	1,377.00	2,242.00	1,374.00	868.00	671.00	353.00	318.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed	252.00	118.00	134.00	170.00	134.00	36.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	Less developed	1,282.00	455.00	827.00	1,107.00	821.00	286.00	18.00	10.00	8.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed	583.00	63.00	520.00	532.00	520.00	12.00	1.00	0.00	1.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed	501.00	11.00	490.00	493.00	490.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed	186.00	105.00	81.00	128.00	81.00	47.00	24.00	15.00	9.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed	674.00	413.00	261.00	718.00	261.00	457.00	285.00	176.00	109.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed	1,803.00	759.00	1,044.00	1,899.00	1,036.00	863.00	554.00	326.00	228.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed	63.00	33.00	30.00	39.00	28.00	11.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed	683.00	381.00	302.00	617.00	366.00	251.00	253.00	124.00	129.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed	35.00			0.00			0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

	national, regional or local level										
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
	Grand total of participants		5,133.00			4,109.00			1,759.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
Investment Priority	8ii - Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people (ESF), in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **3**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Less developed	Number	42,700.00			13,225.00	6,961.00	6,264.00	0.31			2,224.00	1,218.00	1,006.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Less developed	5,133.00	2,579.00	2,554.00	4,109.00	2,219.00	1,890.00	1,759.00	945.00	814.00

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
Investment Priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Table 2A : Common result indicators for ESF (by priority axis, investment priority, and by category of region). Data on all common ESF result indicators (with and without target) shall be reported broken down by gender. For a Technical Assistance priority axis only those common indicators shall be reported for which a target has been set - 3 / 10i

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed						408.00	225.00	183.00				129.00	96.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed						323.00	178.00	145.00				115.00	94.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed						26.00	2.00	24.00				2.00	22.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	Less developed						715.00	382.00	333.00				235.00	198.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Common output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017	
					Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed						0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR01	inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR02	participants in education/training upon leaving	Less developed	96.00	86.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
CR03	participants gaining a qualification upon leaving	Less developed	61.00	48.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
CR04	participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving	Less developed	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR05	disadvantaged participants engaged in job searching, education/ training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment , upon leaving	Less developed	145.00	131.00	2.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
CR06	participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR07	participants with an improved labour market situation six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016		2015		2014	
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CR08	participants above 54 years of age in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR09	disadvantaged participants in employment, including self-employment, six months after leaving	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
Investment Priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1125	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) gaining qualifications upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	7.00%			79.14			5.54%	5.31%	5.58%	8.00%	9.00%	8.00%	
1129M	Young People 11-19 receiving completing training in maths, Science Engineering and Technology - male	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	55.00%			52.44			28.84%	28.84%	%	31.00%	31.00%	0.00%	
1129F	Young People 11-19 completing training in maths, Science Engineering and Technology - female	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	55.00%			22.24			12.23%	%	12.23%	11.00%	0.00%	11.00%	
1130M	Young People 11-19 who continue to study a Maths, Science, Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - male	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	45.00%			0.00			0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1127	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) into education or training upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	19.00%			38.63			7.34%	6.76%	7.54%	10.00%	10.00%	9.00%	
1130F	Young People 11-19 who continue to study a Maths,	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	45.00%			0.00			0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	Science, Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - female																	
1128	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	0.00%						15.14%	14.52%	15.81%	21.00%	21.00%	21.00%	
1184M	Employed including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - male	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	77.00%			0.00			0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1184F	Employed including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - female	Less developed	Ratio		Ratio	77.00%			4.66			3.59%	%	3.59%	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1125	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) gaining qualifications upon leaving	Less developed	3.83%	2.84%	3.83%	4.00%	3.00%	4.00%		2.00%	1.00%	2.00%	2.00%	1.00%	2.00%	
1129M	Young People 11-19 receiving completing training in maths, Science Engineering and Technology - male	Less developed	28.38%	28.38%	%	33.00%	33.00%	0.00%		8.00%	8.00%	%	8.00%	8.00%	0.00%	
1129F	Young People 11-19 completing training in maths, Science Engineering and Technology - female	Less developed	12.68%	%	12.68%	14.00%	0.00%	14.00%		1.00%	%	1.00%	1.00%	0.00%	1.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1130M	Young People 11-19 who continue to study a Maths, Science, Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - male	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1127	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) into education or training upon leaving	Less developed	5.50%	4.60%	6.48%	6.00%	5.00%	7.00%		0.00%	0.00%	1.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%	
1130F	Young People 11-19 who continue to study a Maths, Science, Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - female	Less developed	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1128	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	Less developed	11.09%	10.19%	12.05%	12.00%	11.00%	13.00%		1.00%	1.00%	2.00%	1.00%	1.00%	2.00%	
1184M	Employed including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - male	Less developed	0.00%	0.00%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1184F	Employed including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - female	Less developed	1.00%	%	1.00%	1.00%	0.00%	1.00%		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1125	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) gaining qualifications upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
1129 M	Young People 11-19 receiving completing training in maths, Science Engineering and Technology - male	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1129F	Young People 11-19 completing training in maths, Science Engineering and Technology - female	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1130 M	Young People 11-19 who continue to study a Maths, Science, Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - male	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1127	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) into education or training upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1130F	Young People 11-19 who continue to study a Maths, Science, Engineering and Technology subject post 16 - female	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1128	Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11-24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1184 M	Employed including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - male	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1184F	Employed including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector gaining qualifications upon leaving - female	Less developed	%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
Investment Priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **3 / 10i**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	Less developed				10,392.00	5,203.00	5,189.00				3,399.00	1,633.00	1,766.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed				10,392.00	5,203.00	5,189.00				3,399.00	1,633.00	1,766.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed				456.00	15.00	441.00				293.00	8.00	285.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed				10,392.00	5,203.00	5,189.00				3,399.00	1,633.00	1,766.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed				21.00	1.00	20.00				14.00	0.00	14.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed				0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed				984.00	500.00	484.00				335.00	169.00	166.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed				1,977.00	828.00	1,149.00				763.00	241.00	522.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed				159.00	27.00	132.00				107.00	15.00	92.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless	Less developed				2,191.00	1,155.00	1,036.00				734.00	386.00	348.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
	households													
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed				1,198.00	637.00	561.00				418.00	225.00	193.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed				1,727.00	865.00	862.00				582.00	272.00	310.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed				608.00	309.00	299.00				214.00	104.00	110.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed				836.00	434.00	402.00				324.00	158.00	166.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed				8,391.00	4,060.00	4,331.00				2,780.00	1,272.00	1,508.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed				106.00	38.00	68.00				51.00	16.00	35.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed				595.00	330.00	265.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Less developed				0.00						0.00		
	Grand total of participants					10,848.00						3,692.00		

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
CO01	unemployed, including long-term unemployed	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

CO02	long-term unemployed	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO03	inactive	Less developed	6,207.00	3,109.00	3,098.00	786.00	461.00	325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO04	inactive, not in education or training	Less developed	6,207.00	3,109.00	3,098.00	786.00	461.00	325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO05	employed, including self-employed	Less developed	163.00	7.00	156.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO06	below 25 years of age	Less developed	6,207.00	3,109.00	3,098.00	786.00	461.00	325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO07	above 54 years of age	Less developed	7.00	1.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO08	above 54 years of age who are unemployed, including long term unemployed, or inactive not in education or training	Less developed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO09	with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)	Less developed	570.00	292.00	278.00	79.00	39.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO10	with upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)	Less developed	904.00	373.00	531.00	310.00	214.00	96.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO11	with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)	Less developed	52.00	12.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO12	participants who live in jobless households	Less developed	1,342.00	708.00	634.00	115.00	61.00	54.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO13	participants who live in jobless households with dependent children	Less developed	707.00	366.00	341.00	73.00	46.00	27.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO14	participants who live in a single adult household with dependent children	Less developed	1,011.00	512.00	499.00	134.00	81.00	53.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO15	migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities such as the Roma)	Less developed	334.00	168.00	166.00	60.00	37.00	23.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO16	participants with disabilities	Less developed	478.00	255.00	223.00	34.00	21.00	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO17	other disadvantaged	Less developed	5,182.00	2,563.00	2,619.00	429.00	225.00	204.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO18	homeless or affected by housing exclusion	Less developed	55.00	22.00	33.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO19	from rural areas	Less developed	548.00	297.00	251.00	47.00	33.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CO20	number of projects fully or partially implemented by social partners or non-governmental organisations	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO21	number of projects dedicated at sustainable participation and progress of women in employment	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
CO22	number of projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		

Not validated

CO23	number of supported micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperative enterprises, enterprises of the social economy)	Less developed	0.00			0.00			0.00		
	Grand total of participants		6,370.00			786.00			0.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
Investment Priority	10i - Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - **3**

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1028	Participants at Risk of becoming NEET (11-24 years of age)	Less developed	Number	49,700.00			5,681.00	3,195.00	2,486.00	0.11			2,325.00	1,281.00	1,044.00
1030M	Young people 11-19 years of age - Male	Less developed	Number	8,400.00			2,008.00	2,008.00	0.00	0.24			352.00	352.00	0.00
1031	Young People 11-19 years of age – Female	Less developed	Number	15,000.00			2,703.00	0.00	2,703.00	0.18			722.00	0.00	722.00
1032F	Employed, including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector - Female	Less developed	Number	2,700.00			441.00	0.00	441.00	0.16			285.00	0.00	285.00
1032M	Employed, including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector - Male	Less developed	Number	300.00			15.00	15.00	0.00	0.05			8.00	8.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1028	Participants at Risk of becoming NEET (11-24 years of age)	Less developed	3,077.00	1,759.00	1,318.00	279.00	155.00	124.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1030M	Young people 11-19 years of age - Male	Less developed	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00	306.00	306.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1031	Young People 11-19 years of age – Female	Less developed	1,780.00	0.00	1,780.00	201.00	0.00	201.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1032F	Employed, including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector - Female	Less developed	156.00	0.00	156.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1032M	Employed, including self employed participants from the early years and childcare sector - Male	Less developed	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

Table 4A : Common output indicators for the ESF and YEI - 4

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016			2015			2014		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

Table 4B: Programme specific output indicators for the ESF and YEI - 4

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)			Cumulative value			Achievement ratio			2017		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
TAO1	Number of training events held		Number	10.00			2.00	0.00	0.00	0.20			2.00	0.00	0.00
TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued		Number	72.00			158.00	0.00	0.00	2.19			158.00	0.00	0.00
TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days		Ratio	75.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO12	Number of audit vists		Ratio	50.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery		Number	1.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration		Ratio	90.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO4	Number of research reports published		Number	20.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice		Ratio	100.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO6	Number of dissemination events		Number	6.00			1.00	0.00	0.00	0.17			1.00	0.00	0.00
TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO		Number	10.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO8	Number of press releases issued		Number	150.00			8.00	0.00	0.00	0.05			7.00	0.00	0.00
TAO9	Number of high profile project launches		Ratio	50.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016	2015	2014

Not validated

			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
TAO1	Number of training events held		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO10	Number of e-newsletters issued		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO11	Percentage of enquiries resolved within 5 working days		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO12	Number of audit vists		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO2	Framework Contract for Specialist Expertise in place for project delivery		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO3	Number of projects undergoing a formal assessment for their cross cutting themes integration		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO4	Number of research reports published		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO5	Number of projects given Monitoring and Evaluation advice		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO6	Number of dissemination events		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO7	Number of events organised by WEFO		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO8	Number of press releases issued		1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TAO9	Number of high profile project launches		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	4.1 - To ensure the efficient and effective management of the 2014-2020 programmes.

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI - 4 / 4.1

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR1	Management Authority Irregularity Rate					Below 2%												0.16%
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate					Below 2%												0.05%

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR1	Management Authority Irregularity Rate								0.59%							
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate															

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR1	Management Authority Irregularity Rate								
TAR2	WEFO Error Rate								

Not validated

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	4.2 - To provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of operations.

Table 2C : Programme specific result indicators for ESF and YEI - 4 / 4.2

ID	Indicator	Category of region	Measurement unit for indicator	Output indicator used as basis for target setting	Measurement unit for baseline and target	Target value (2023)			Achievement ratio			2017						
												Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
						Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR3	Customer Satisfaction		Ratio		Ratio	50.00%			0.00%			0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2016							2015						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative	Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR3	Customer Satisfaction		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	

Not validated

ID	Indicator	Category of region	2014						
			Cumulative			Annual total			Qualitative
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
TAR3	Customer Satisfaction		%	%	%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Not validated

Table 3B: Number of enterprises supported by the operational programme net of multiple support to the same enterprises

Indicator	Number of enterprises supported by OP net of multiple support

Not validated

Table 5: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2017 Cum men	2017 Cum women	2017 Annual total	2017 Annual total men	2017 Annual total women
1	F	P1F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed	22,845,263.49					
1	O	1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	Less developed	8,733.00	3,263.00	5,470.00	3,650.00	1,652.00	1,998.00
1	O	1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability ; are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	Less developed	4,287.00	2,874.00	1,413.00	1,815.00	1,202.00	613.00
2	F	P2F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed	181,904,525.77					
2	O	1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - female	Number	ESF	Less developed	479.00	0.00	479.00	236.00	0.00	236.00
2	O	1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - male	Number	ESF	Less developed	555.00	555.00	0.00	251.00	251.00	0.00
2	O	1173F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number	ESF	Less developed	7,830.00	0.00	7,830.00	1,359.00	0.00	1,359.00

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2017 Cum total	2017 Cum men	2017 Cum women	2017 Annual total	2017 Annual total men	2017 Annual total women
2	O	1173M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number	ESF	Less developed	7,366.00	7,366.00	0.00	823.00	823.00	0.00
2	O	1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number	ESF	Less developed	5,082.00	0.00	5,082.00	673.00	0.00	673.00
2	O	1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number	ESF	Less developed	4,506.00	4,506.00	0.00	464.00	464.00	0.00
3	F	P3F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed	39,547,957.50					
3	O	1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	Less developed	13,225.00	6,961.00	6,264.00	2,224.00	1,218.00	1,006.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
1	F	P1F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed	4,351,627.37	0.00	0.00	
1	O	1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	Less developed	5,083.00	946.00	0.00	
1	O	1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or	Number	ESF	Less developed	2,472.00	313.00	0.00	

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
			no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability ; are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; from a jobless household)							
2	F	P2F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed	9,190,476.10	0.00	0.00	
2	O	1172 F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - female	Number	ESF	Less developed	243.00	30.00	0.00	
2	O	1172 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - male	Number	ESF	Less developed	304.00	10.00	0.00	
2	O	1173 F	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number	ESF	Less developed	6,471.00	3,962.00	1,749.00	
2	O	1173 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number	ESF	Less developed	6,543.00	4,171.00	1,953.00	
2	O	1178 F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number	ESF	Less developed	4,409.00	2,462.00	1,137.00	
2	O	1178 M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number	ESF	Less developed	4,042.00	2,414.00	1,055.00	
3	F	P3F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed	4,802,480.48	0.00	0.00	

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	2016 Cum total	2015 Cum total	2014 Cum total	Observations
3	O	1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	Less developed	11,001.00	5,868.00	1,759.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
1	F	P1F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed	63,300,209			248,169,000.00		
1	O	1002	Economically inactive (aged 25 and over), not in education or training, who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability; care or childcare responsibilities; over 54; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	Less developed	9,182			36,000.00		
1	O	1003	Long-term unemployed (aged 25 and over) who have complex barriers to employment (low or no skills; a work limiting health condition or disability ; are from a BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) group; from a jobless household)	Number	ESF	Less developed	2,755			10,800.00		
2	F	P2F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed	122,472,128			482,367,489.00		
2	O	1172F	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - female	Number	ESF	Less developed	3,258			12,836.00		
2	O	1172M	Employed, including self-employed participants with no formal qualifications - male	Number	ESF	Less developed	3,578			14,100.00		
2	O	1173F	Employed, including self-employed	Number	ESF	Less developed	5,543			21,840.00		

Not validated

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Fund	Category of region	Milestone for 2018 total	Milestone for 2018 men	Milestone for 2018 women	Final target (2023) total	Final target (2023) men	Final target (2023) women
			participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female									
2	O	1173M	Employed, including self-employed participants with qualifications up to and including a lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number	ESF	Less developed	6,088			23,991.00		
2	O	1178F	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - female	Number	ESF	Less developed	3,732			14,697.00		
2	O	1178M	Employed, including self-employed participants with lower secondary education (ISCED 2) - male	Number	ESF	Less developed	4,099			16,144.00		
3	F	P3F	Eligible Expenditure	Euros	ESF	Less developed	83,941,491			329,093,318.00		
3	O	1027	NEET Participants (16 - 24 years of age)	Number	ESF	Less developed	10,891			42,700.00		

Not validated

3.4 Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Table 6: 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 the transmission of financial data))

Not validated

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Calculation basis	Total fund	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
1	ESF	Less developed	Total	248,169,000.00	78.96	185,877,506.42	74.90%	176,945,257.46	31,893,227.10	12.85%	10
2	ESF	Less developed	Total	482,367,489.00	72.11	493,907,054.23	102.39%	471,440,998.35	187,450,564.52	38.86%	16
3	ESF	Less developed	Total	329,093,318.00	74.36	274,705,698.91	83.47%	269,252,172.70	71,968,225.83	21.87%	15
4	ESF	Less developed	Total	21,579,890.00	74.36	28,866,354.26	133.77%	28,795,765.59	5,464,927.38	25.32%	6
Total	**ESF**	**Less developed**		**1,081,209,697.00**	**74.41**	**983,356,613.82**	**90.95%**	**946,434,194.10**	**296,776,944.83**	**27.45%**	**47**
Grand total				**1,081,209,697.00**	**74.41**	**983,356,613.82**	**90.95%**	**946,434,194.10**	**296,776,944.83**	**27.45%**	**47**

Table 7: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention for the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)

Priority axis	Characteristics of expenditure		Categorisation dimensions								Financial data			
	Fund	Category of region	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	Total elegibile expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ESF	Less developed	109	01	01	07		08	24	UKL1	53,283,283.84	49,175,400.62	5,471,673.88	1
1	ESF	Less developed	109	01	07	07		02	20	UKL1	5,611,164.97	5,386,428.21	1,737,608.69	1
1	ESF	Less developed	109	01	07	07		08	20	UKL1	10,378,761.05	10,378,680.88	1,488,636.99	1
1	ESF	Less developed	109	01	07	07		02	21	UKL1	72,252,620.43	68,068,516.83	13,731,118.38	4
1	ESF	Less developed	109	01	07	07		08	24	UKL1	44,351,676.13	43,936,230.92	9,464,189.16	3
2	ESF	Less developed	105	01	07	07		07	24	UKL1	8,859,061.94	8,162,415.78	6,684,379.80	1
2	ESF	Less developed	117	01	07	07		04	19	UKL1	66,289,111.45	53,724,804.35	14,275,108.95	2
2	ESF	Less developed	117	01	07	07		05	19	UKL1	5,408,749.08	4,916,590.39	3,068,467.17	2
2	ESF	Less developed	117	01	07	07		08	19	UKL1	413,350,131.76	404,637,187.83	163,422,608.60	11
3	ESF	Less developed	103	01	07	07		02	21	UKL1	23,851,331.22	21,857,679.54	3,537,693.50	2
3	ESF	Less developed	103	01	07	07		08	21	UKL1	18,523,553.16	18,523,553.16	1,777,153.55	3
3	ESF	Less developed	103	01	07	07		08	24	UKL1	156,978,471.24	154,226,401.45	43,725,521.05	4
3	ESF	Less developed	115	01	07	07		08	19	UKL1	45,865,021.70	45,157,216.96	13,317,743.19	4
3	ESF	Less developed	115	01	07	07		02	21	UKL1	7,439,081.86	7,439,081.86	911,641.42	1
3	ESF	Less developed	115	01	07	07		08	21	UKL1	22,048,239.73	22,048,239.73	8,698,473.12	1
4	ESF	Less developed	121	01	07	07		08	18	UKL1	27,338,423.99	27,267,835.32	5,179,689.46	2

Not validated

Priority axis	Characteristics of expenditure		Categorisation dimensions								Financial data			
	Fund	Category of region	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	Total elegibile expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
4	ESF	Less developed	123	01	07	07		08	24	UKL1	1,527,930.27	1,527,930.27	285,237.92	4

Not validated

Table 8: The use made of cross-financing

1	2	3	4	5	6
Use of cross-financing	**Priority axis**	**The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for cross financing based on selected operations (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (3/EU support to priority axis*100)**	**The amount of EU support used under cross financing based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (5/EU support to priority axis*100)**
Costs eligible for support under the ERDF, but supported from the ESF	2	2,167,648.47	0.66%	0.00	

Not validated

Table 9: Cost of operations implemented outside the programme area (the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal)

1	2	3	4	5
Priority axis	**The amount of EU support envisaged to be used for operations implemented outside the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (2/EU support to priority axis*100)**	**The amount of EU support in operations implemented outside the programme area based on eligible expenditure declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)**	**As a share of the EU support to the priority axis (%) (4/EU support to priority axis*100)**

Not validated

Table 10: Expenditure incurred outside the Union (ESF)

The amount of expenditure envisaged to be incurred outside the Union under thematic objectives 8 and 10 based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (1/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)	Eligible expenditure incurred outside the Union declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme (%) (3/total financial allocation (Union and national contribution) to the ESF programme or the ESF part of a multi-fund programme*100)

Not validated

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, with reference of name and reference period of the evaluation reports used

T

During 2017, WEFO published the Ex Post Evaluation of the 2007-2013 Programmes. A brief summary of findings is given below.

Programme Design

Overall, the evaluation concluded that the programmes consisted of a well-defined and rationally designed set of Priorities. OB3 judged that each Priority was based on a sound intervention logic apart from the 'Modernising and improving the quality of our public services' Priority where there was an insufficient consideration of issues in public service delivery in the socio-economic analysis underpinning the programmes.

The evaluation found that, despite the economic downturn and major policy changes (particularly the Economic Renewal Programme and the UK Government's Work Programme) which occurred during the programming period, the original programme intervention logic remained valid for the most part. The evaluation also concluded that there was an appropriate degree of flexibility built into the programmes which enabled WEFO and project sponsors to respond constructively to rapidly changing conditions and circumstances.

Cross Cutting Themes

The evaluation concluded that was a lack of evidence to suggest that the Cross Cutting Themes (CCTs) had been fully integrated into the delivery of project activity, though this was much more likely to occur in projects that had a direct focus on either equality or environmental sustainability. Despite this, the evaluation found very encouraging examples of good practice in relation to the CCTs.

Outcomes

The evaluation found evidence of positive employment outcomes, improvements in skills and soft outcomes such as increased confidence.

Not validated

Key recommendations

- Future interventions targeting young people should adopt individualised and holistic approaches which combine emotional as well as skills development components.These interventions are most effective when delivered by experienced staff that have the ability to develop positive relationships with young people.

- Interventions supporting people into work should prioritise those that are furthest away from the labour market as this is likely to generate the least amount of deadweight (i.e. people finding work who would not otherwise have done so in the absence of the support).Furthermore, future programmes should have a clearly defined focus on high quality, client-led services that can be flexibly delivered and co-located with complementary services at the point of delivery.

- Future programmes focussed on those already in the workforce should focus on the lower skilled and those least likely to access training.Furthermore, a more coherent approach to employer engagement should be followed so that employers in Wales are clear on what support is available for skills development of their staff.The Welsh Government Skills Gateway should help with this.

An account of how WEFO has addressed these recommendations in the design and delivery of the 2014-2020 programmes is provided in the WEFO note accompanying the report. Both the report and the accompanying note are available at http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?lang=en.

2014-2020 programmes

There were no programme level evaluation reports for the 2014-2020 period published during 2017 but two reports were published as part of the evaluation of the Communities for Work (CfW) operations.

The first report examined the theory of change of CfW. This report concluded that CfW aligns well with the Welsh Government's tackling poverty ambitions and that there is strong evidence and a sound rationale for many features of CfW (e.g. providing continuity of support through a trusted adviser). The report highlighted potential uncertainties over whether the Triage approach can work as planned, given this is a novel characteristic of CfW. The report also highlighted potential uncertainties over whether the referral mechanisms can generate the planned level of demand and over the

Not validated

degree to which local contexts will affect delivery.

The second report assessed how CfW has been set up and how it is being operated. This report noted that the development of CfW broke new ground in that it brought together diverse organisations in ways and on a scale not previously seen. Whilst this allowed the leverage of a significant level of ESF support, the ambition and magnitude of CfW has made integration challenging and it took longer to implement than envisaged. Delivery staff found key CfW documentation, i.e. the Operational Guidance and participant portfolio to be clear, comprehensive and useful. There was some concern amongst those interviewed for the evaluation that the closure of Communities First could compromise the implementation of CfW, as a result of the erosion of connections and local knowledge, the loss of premises in target communities, the loss of accessible training provision and other support services and the loss of a key referral route into CfW. The evaluation found that the routes by which participants most commonly came to be involved with CfW are referrals from Jobcentre Plus (JCP), engagement work done by CfW staff, word of mouth from other clients and referrals from CF. Referrals from other local sources have been fewer than had been anticipated so the evaluation recommends a number of actions to increase engagement with other partners and referral sources. In line with the design of the CfW programme, services have been delivered in less formal settings which are accessible and well used for a broad range of activities within the communities where target participants live. However, the facilities available to CfW staff have been better in some areas than others, with a lack of private meeting spaces within community venues being a recurring theme. Whilst there are examples of close cooperation between mentors and advisers, one of the main factors making it difficult for them to work well together was the fact that they had separate targets for participant engagement and outcomes. The evaluation therefore recommends that Welsh Government and the DWP should continue to encourage the adoption of targets for each cluster area instead. The evaluation found some confusion surrounding the first contract triage process and the role of the triage worker although the majority of front line delivery staff interviewed felt that the triage process is effective in allocating individuals to the optimal form of support for them. The evaluation found that the sheer range and complexity of the barriers faced by many participants suggests that the programme is reaching those it was intended to help. Participants were overwhelmingly positive about their advisers/mentors and it was clear that the continuity of support possible under CfW allowed high levels of trust to develop between participants and their advisers/mentors. The take up of Barriers Fund support has been lower than expected, partly due to a perception among front line delivery staff that the Fund is difficult to access. However, where the Barriers Fund is accessed, it is generally considered essential to helping participants get over the final hurdle(s) to work.

The two evaluation reports are available at: http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-communities-Work/?lang=en.

Not Validated

Not validated

6. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

In 2017 the primary focus has been on further developing the remaining backbone operations and the regional and local gap fillers within all programme areas. The backbone operation approach within the delivery of the programmes has allowed WEFO to focus on smaller more focused activity over the past year to ensure the more marginalised and harder to reach groups are able to acces ESF support. Alongside continuing to approve new operations, WEFO have been managing and supporting the mobilisation phases of approved operations this has included; supporting efforts on procurement and ensuring access by the third and private sector to delivery opportunities; helping operations to develop compliant data capture and reporting systems; and, monitoring staff recruitment and implementation of operations.

During 2017 WEFO reduced its euro/sterling planning rate which had the effect of reducing the euro value of commitments made to beneficiaries in sterling. However, the ongoing good progress of implementation meant that commitment levels across the programme nevertheless still increased during the year. Commitment levels against the performance framework targets are also encouraging. WEFO have continued to increase claims processing. payments to beneficiaries and to embed Monitoring and Verification procedures. WEFO continue to hold regular stakeholder / beneficiary events to promote issues of best practice and communicate issues of eligibility and compliance, helping to reduce potential errors and encourage collaborative working.

During 2017 WEFO have continued to monitor the impact of the UK referendum on membership of the European Union. Interest in the European Social Fund does not seem to have been impacted by the decision to leave the EU. During this time WEFO have continued to undertake regular communications with stakeholders to promote the benefits of the European funding and to address any potential concerns raised by beneficiaries.

Not validated

(b) An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

Not validated

7. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

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 in the SFC2014 application

Not validated

8. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Not validated

9. OPTIONAL FOR THE REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016, NOT APPLICABLE TO OTHER LIGHT REPORTS: ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

Table 14: Actions taken to fulfil applicable general ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary

Not validated

Table 15: Actions taken to fulfil applicable thematic ex-ante conditionalities

General ex-ante conditionality	Criteria not fulfilled	Actions taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible	Action completed by the deadline	Criteria fulfilled	Expected date for full implementation of remaining actions	Commentary

Not validated

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

10.1. Major projects

Table 12: 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 (year, quarter)	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	Observations

Not validated

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

Not validated

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the operational programme

Not validated

10.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

Not applicable to this Programme.

Not validated

Table 13: 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

Not validated

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Not applicable to this Programme.

Not validated

PART B

REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

(Article 50(4), 111(3) and (4) of regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

11. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLES 50(4) AND 111(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

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

Priority axis	1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	2 - Skills for Growth

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	3 - Youth Employment and Attainment

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

11.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to prevent discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the operational programme and operations (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.3. Sustainable development (Articles 50(4) and 111(4), second subparagraph, (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Not applicable to the reporting year.

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

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
Total	**0.00**	**0.00%**

Not applicable to the reporting year.

11.5. Role of partners in the implementation of the programme

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

12. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 111(4), FIRST SUBPARAGRAPH, (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013

12.1. Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

Not applicable to the reporting year.

12.2. The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

13. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFILL EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013) (MAY BE INCLUDED IN REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED IN 2016 (SEE POINT 9 ABOVE). REQUIRED IN REPORT SUBMITTED IN 2017) OPTION: PROGRESS REPORT

Not validated

14. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 111(4), SECOND SUBPARAGRAPH, (A), (B), (C), (D), (G) AND (H), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

14.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including development of regions facing demographic challenges and permanent or natural handicaps, integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the operational programme

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.2. Progress in the implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the Funds

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.3. Progress in the implementation of any interregional and transnational actions

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.4. Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

☐ 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)

Not validated

14.5. Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation, where appropriate

Not applicable to the reporting year.

14.6. Progress in the implementation of measures to address the specific needs of geographical areas most affected by poverty or of target groups at highest risk of poverty discrimination or social exclusion, with special regard to marginalised communities and persons with disabilities, long term unemployment and young people not in employment including, where appropriate, the financial resources used

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

PART C REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEAR 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

15. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (ARTICLES 21(2) AND 22(7) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

Not validated

16. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH (OPTION PROGRESS REPORT)

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

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

17. 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).

Not applicable to the reporting year.

Not validated

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By

Not validated

Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message

Not validated

European Structural Fund Programmes 2014-2020

West Wales and the Valleys ESF

2017 Annual Implementation Report – Summary

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1. Introduction

This is the third Annual Implementation Report for the West Wales and the Valleys ESF Programme, covering the reporting year of 2017.

Wales benefits from around €2.4bn of EU Funds through the four Structural Funds programmes 2014-2020. This includes around €800m through the West Wales and the Valleys European Social Fund (ESF) Programme to help deliver economic growth by promoting high levels of sustainable employment, developing a skilled and responsive Welsh workforce now and for the future.

About the Programme

The West Wales and the Valleys ESF Programme is focused on three key areas: targeting poverty and social exclusion through promoting sustainable employment; investing in a skilled workforce; and investing in our young people to ensure the best start in life. The Programme facilitates the development of a balanced portfolio of investments, supporting short-term outcomes involving employment and qualifications and more long-term outcomes such as addressing structural issues on youth unemployment and NEETs and increasing the quality of childcare.

The Programme is split into four priority areas:

Priority 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

- Increase the employability of those closest to the Labour Market at most risk of poverty.
- Increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment.
- Reduce under-employment or absence rates for employed individuals with work limiting health conditions and / or other barriers to sustainable engagement with the Labour Market.

Priority 2: Skills for Growth

- Increase the skills levels, including work relevant skills, of those in the workforce with no or low skills.
- Increase the number of people in the workforce with technical and job specific skills at an intermediate and higher level.
- increase the number of people with graduate degrees or equivalent undertaking research and innovation activities with enterprises.
- Improve the position of women in the workforce.

Priority 3: Youth Employment and Attainment

- Reduce the number of 16-24 year olds who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- Reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET, amongst 11-24 year olds.
- Increase the take up of and attainment levels in STEM subjects amongst 11-19 year olds.
- Increase the skills of the Early Years and Childcare workforce.

Priority 4: Technical Assistance

- Ensure the efficient and effectitive management of the Programme.
- Provide high quality advice to key partners involved in the design and delivery of projects.
- Enhance the integration and the complementarity of investments with other ESI funds and wider European Commission-led and Sector based programmes.

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Budget available under each of the Programme's Priorities:

Priority	EU Budget	Total Budget[1]
Priority 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment	€196m	€248m
Priority 2: Skills for Growth	€348m	€482m
Priority 3: Youth Employment and Attainment	€245m	€329m
Priority 4: Technical Assistance	€16m	€22m
Total available under the Programme	**€805m**	**€1,081m**

[1] The amount from the EU Budget combined with match funding

The Managing Authority for the Programme is the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), within the Welsh Government.

More information on the programmes' aims and objectives can be found in the West Wales and the Valleys ESF Programme document and summary on the Welsh Government website at http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/2014-2020/west-wales/?lang=en

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2. Programme progress

Overview

By the end of 2017, the Welsh Government had invested €637m of EU funds to 47 projects, driving a total investment of €984m in West Wales and the Valleys.

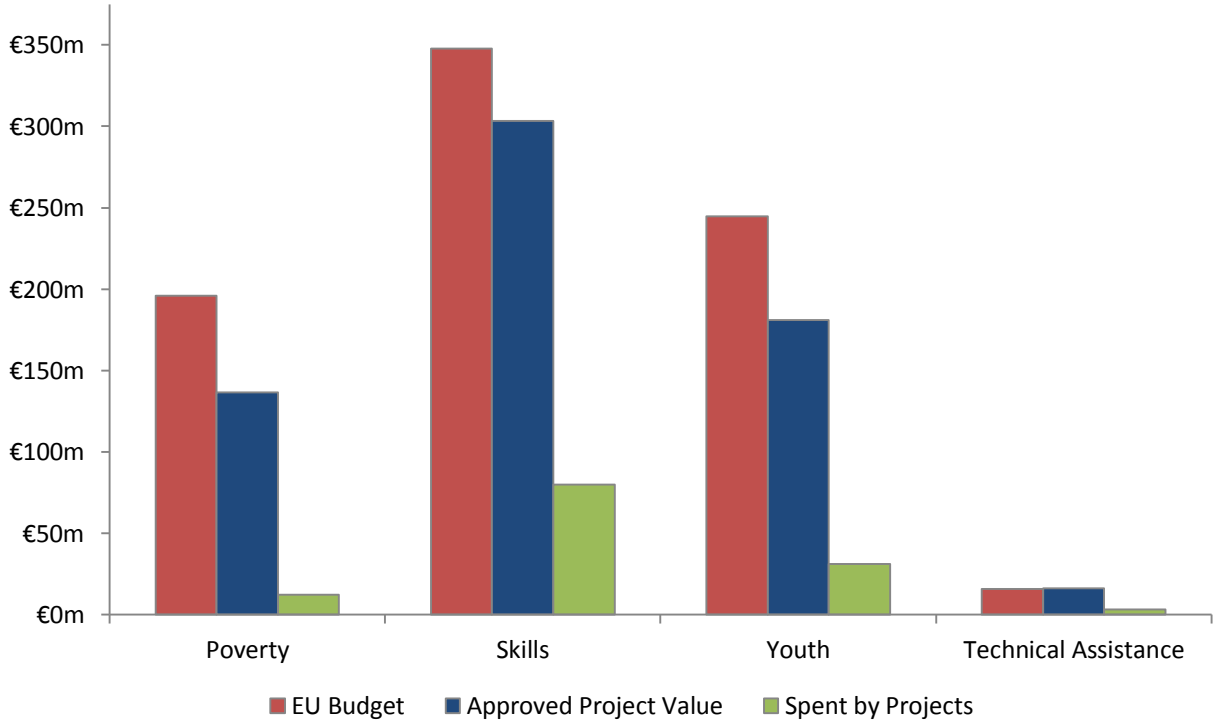
Good progress was made across a number of the Programme indicators during 2017, including:

- around 89,000 people supported, of which over 25,000 are young people
- over 26,500 qualifications gained
- around 5,300 people supported into employment
- almost 3,900 people entered into further learning

Financial progress

The following chart shows, at Priority level, the total allocation of EU funds, and how much funds has been invested in and spent by projects.

Chart 1: EU Funds: Budget, Approved and Spent



3. Progress by Priority

Priority 1: Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment

Helping people into sustainable employment is key to reducing levels of poverty and increasing social inclusion. EU funds are helping to tackle the barriers that prevent people from finding work and are focused on increasing employment and economic activity across Wales.

By the end of year, 70% (€137m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested in ten projects. Most of the investments made throughout the year were for existing beneficiaries to expand the activities and/or extend the lifecycle of schemes. The employment scheme Workways II, which was already supporting long-term unemployed people and economically inactive into work throughout south west Wales, was awarded further EU funds to increase the scale of the project to help a further 2,000 people. To help achieve programme targets for underemployed participants, WEFO launched a call in summer 2017 to encourage more project proposals to come forward. This has resulted in a good number of proposals currently being appraised and funding has already been awarded to the Better Jobs Better Futures for the over 25s project, led by Gower College Swansea, that provides tailored support to help 600 people into work or to increase their employability ready for work at a later stage.

Projects benefiting from EU funds within this priority reported they had supported over 15,900 participants, of which over 2,400 participants entered employment.

Workways II

Backed by £17.5m of EU funds, the Workways ll scheme is helping long-term unemployed people in South West Wales into work by providing training and paid work experience opportunities.

The scheme offers one-to-one mentoring, support with job-seeking and interview skills, and the chance to gain new qualifications.

Workways II aims to support 6,000 people across South West Wales by 2020. One participant who has benefited from the support was unemployed for 20 years after suffering from severe anxiety and depression while at university. They wanted to improve their situation and self taught themselves computer programming, hardware installation and troubleshooting before being referred to Workways II.

Their Workways personal mentor arranged some work placements, which led to a three-month paid work opportunity with a digital printing specialist.

The participant flourished in their new role, learnt new workplace skills and used their programming skills to help expand the company's products and services. A vacancy

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became available after completion of the work experience placement and they secured full time employment.

The participant said: "Having a job has made a big difference. I've got more confidence and enjoy getting up and going to work doing something I love. I am using my programming skills to develop new products in the company. If I hadn't had help from Workways, I wouldn't have had this opportunity. I am so much happier now and my anxiety levels have reduced considerably."

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Priority 2: Skills for Growth

Raising skills and access to training is helping create a strong and diverse workforce capable of addressing labour market challenges and driving economic productivity and business growth. EU funds are helping to increase vocational skills and higher level skills, including those relating to research and innovation. EU funds are also helping to reduce gender inequalities, increase workforce diversity, and are supporting the progression of women in the workforce.

By the end of 2017, around 87% (€303m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested in 16 projects, including the Welsh Government-led Apprenticeships programme and the Bangor University-led Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS 2). Investments throughout the year focused on expanding the activities and / or extending the lifecycle of schemes. Additional funds were awarded to extend Working Skills for Adults II, led by Torfaen County Borough Council, and the Materials and Manufacturing Academy, led by Swansea University.

Good progress was made against the Priority's targets, with projects reporting the assistance of over 47,500 participants, of which over 18,300 participants achieved qualifications.

Agile Nation 2

Supported by £5.6m of EU funds, Chwarae Teg's Agile Nation 2 project is helping women in work develop their careers through accredited leadership qualifications and mentoring. It is also supporting businesses to implement equality strategies and modern working practices.

More than 1,400 women will benefit from the scheme. One participant said: "With the support from Chwarae Teg, I took the plunge to apply for a new role. I used evidence from my Chwarae Teg journey within the interview process, which I believe helped me get the job.

"Since the course, my annual salary has increased by over £5,000 and will continue to do so by 5% each year for the next 3 years. Not only did Chwarae Teg help me increase my salary but I also moved from a company and position at risk to a permanent contract within a stable organisation.

"I am now in a management role, where I manage myself, working with people from all different backgrounds and coaching them into taking steps to move them closer to employment.

"In the near future I will be working towards managing a team using all this experience. Now I will always be looking to progress and develop myself as much as possible. A new, happier me!"

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Priority 3: Youth Employment and Attainment

Supporting young people who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) will help reduce youth unemployment and improve their career and life prospects. EU funds are focused on raising achievement levels, reducing early school leaving and supporting those most at risk of becoming NEET. EU funds are also helping to increase the skills of those working in the early years and childcare fields so that children receive quality support to enhance their development and achievements at school.

By the end of the year, 74% (€181m) of the EU funds available within this Priority had been invested in 15 projects, including the two EU investments made during 2017 for NEET projects ADTRAC, led by Grwp Llandrillo Coleg Menai, and Cam Nesa, led by Pembrokeshire County Council.

By the end of the year, projects had supported over 20,000 young people demonstrating significant progress against targets for reducing numbers of NEETs or at risk of becoming NEET. Project performance forecasts are encouraging, which will allow remaining funds to be invested in important niche areas, such as improving the take-up of STEM subjects, especially for young women and girls, and preventing young adults already in further education but at risk of dropping out and becoming NEET.

TRAC 11-24 (West Wales and the Valleys)

TRAC 11-24 in North Wales is helping to reduce the number of young people aged 11-24 at risk of becoming NEET (not in Education, Employment or Training).

The scheme, led by Denbighshire County Council, is supported by £9m from the European Social Fund and is being delivered in partnership with Local Authorities and Further Education colleges. It works closely with schools to identify and support young people at risk of becoming disengaged from education and training.

TRAC 11-24 provides a range of health and well-being support that compliments, but does not duplicates mainstream services. These include counselling, wellbeing and attendance advice, courses and work placements and bespoke advice from Careers Wales.

Students who experience learning difficulties are given mentors with expertise in a variety of issues including housing, welfare and health and wellbeing so that students can focus on their learning and ensure their continued engagement in education.

The project aims to support over 9,000 young people and has already seen many excellent outcomes including:

- work placements offering permanent roles

- colleges offering unconditional places
- improved wellbeing scores
- qualifications in a variety of vocations
- hundreds of young people developing new skills to help shape their future
- stronger family relationships and many new found friendships and connections.

Priority 4: Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance is an essential resource, utilised by WEFO and other partners, for supporting the effective delivery of the Programme.

By the end of 2017, EU funds worth €16m (100% of the Priority's allocation) had been invested in six projects. This includes revenue support for WEFO to effectively deliver the programme, the four 'Regional Engagement Teams' based in North Wales, Mid Wales, Swansea Bay and South East Wales, and Intermediary Body revenue support for the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. No further investment is expected.

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PWYLLGOR MONITRO RHAGLENNI CYMRU, CRONFEYDD STRWYTHUROL A BUDDSODDI EWROP 2014 – 2020:

Crynodebau Ymchwil – Papur er Gwybodaeth

Mater

1. Diben y papur hwn yw rhannu ymchwil ddiweddar ag aelodau'r Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni sy'n berthnasol i raglenni'r Cronfeydd Strwythurol.

Argymhelliad

2. Gofynnir i'r aelodau nodi'r Crynodebau Ymchwil (Hydref – Rhagfyr 2017), gwneud unrhyw awgrymiadau ar gyfer eu gwella (ee ffurf, ffynonellau eraill), a rhoi gwybod i WEFO os byddai diddordeb mewn rhannu'r rhain yn ehangach.

Cefndir

3. Mae Tîm Strategaeth WEFO wedi bod yn llunio Crynodebau Ymchwil ers 2010. Mae'r Crynodebau Ymchwil yn rhoi crynodeb o adroddiadau ymchwil cyhoeddedig sy'n berthnasol i raglenni Strwythurol a Buddsoddi Ewrop yng Nghymru. Ar hyn o bryd, rydym yn paratoi crynodebau ar wahân sy'n berthnasol i'r Cronfeydd Strwythurol a'r Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig.

4. Crynodebau'r Cronfeydd Strwythurol yw'r papur a rennir ag aelodau'r Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni, ac mae wedi'i drefnu yn ôl Blaenoriaeth pob rhaglen ac yn ôl pob Thema Drawsbynciol. Mae crynodebau yn cael eu paratoi ar gyfer y Cynllun Datblygu Gwledig hefyd a gellid rhyddhau'r rheini yn fwy eang hefyd pe byddai galw am wneud hynny.

5. Dim ond adroddiadau ymchwil o ffynonellau credadwy (ee adrannau'r llywodraeth) sy'n cael eu cynnwys yn y Crynodebau Ymchwil. Mae'r crynodebau yn cael eu cyflwyno yn eu trefn yn ôl dyddiad o fewn pob Blaenoriaeth / Thema Drawsbynciol, gyda'r mwyaf diweddar yn ymddangos gyntaf. Mae'r Crynodebau Ymchwil yn y papur hwn yn cynnwys ymchwil berthnasol a gyhoeddwyd yn ystod y cyfnod mis Hydref - Rhagfyr 2017.

6. Mae'r Crynodebau Ymchwil yn adnodd mewnol a ddefnyddir ar draws WEFO a'r Is-adran Datblygu Gwledig i sicrhau bod y dystiolaeth ddiweddaraf yn cael ei defnyddio i lywio rhaglenni a gweithgareddau datblygu prosiect. Rydym hefyd wedi rhannu'r rhain ar hap â phartneriaid. Gan fod y Crynodebau Ymchwil wedi bod o ddefnydd i'r partneriaid hynny, rydym yn ceisio barn a fyddai cynulleidfa ehangach yn elwa ar yr wybodaeth hon. Rydym yn croesawu sylwadau gan aelodau'r Pwyllgor Monitro Rhaglenni.

Swyddog Arweiniol WEFO: Kathryn Helliwell
Cymeradwywyd gan: Rob Halford

Crynodebau Ymchwil Hydref - Rhagfyr 2017

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Cyflwyniad

Mae Crynodebau Ymchwil Hydref - Rhagfyr 2017 yn rhoi crynodeb o adroddiadau ymchwil a gyhoeddwyd yn ystod Hydref - Rhagfyr 2017 sy'n berthnasol i raglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol yng Nghymru 2014-2020. Caiff y crynodebau eu trefnu yn ôl pob Blaenoriaeth y rhaglenni ac yn ôl pob Thema Drawsbynciol. Dim ond adroddiadau ymchwil o ffynonellau dibynadwy (ee adrannau'r llywodraeth) sy'n cael eu cynnwys yn y Crynodebau Ymchwil. Cyflwynir y crynodebau yn nhrefn dyddiad o fewn pob Blaenoriaeth/Thema Drawsbynciol, gyda'r diweddaraf yn ymddangos yn gyntaf.

Blaenoriaeth 1 Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop: Trechu tlodi trwy gyflogaeth gynaliadwy

Gwerthuso Cymunedau am Waith

http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-communities-Work/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 7 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Mae Cymunedau am Waith (CaW) yn derbyn cyllid o dan Amcan Penodol 1.2 Blaenoriaeth 1 Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop (ESF) i gyflwyno modelau creadigol ac arloesol o gymorth cyflogaeth a mentora dwys, gan ymgysylltu â grwpiau di-waith am gyfnod hir ac economaidd anweithgar 'anodd eu cyrraedd', a'u cefnogi i fyd gwaith.

Crynodeb:
Canfu'r gwerthusiad fod CaW yn dwyn amryw o sefydliadau ynghyd mewn ffyrdd ac ar raddfa na welwyd o'r blaen. Er bod hyn wedi caniatáu ar gyfer denu lefel sylweddol o gymorth yr ESF, mae uchelgais a maint CaW wedi golygu bod integreiddio'n her, a chymerodd y rhaglen fwy o amser nag a ragwelwyd i'w rhoi ar waith. Roedd y staff cyflawni'n teimlo bod dogfennau allweddol CaW yn glir, yn gynhwysfawr ac yn ddefnyddiol. Roedd yna rywfaint o bryder ymhlith y rhai a gafodd eu cyfweld, y gallai cau Cymunedau yn Gyntaf (CG) gael effaith niweidiol ar CaW o ganlyniad i golli cysylltiadau a gwybodaeth leol; colli canolfannau mewn cymunedau targed; colli darpariaeth hyfforddiant a gwasanaethau cymorth hygyrch eraill; a cholli llwybr cyfeirio allweddol i mewn i CaW. Y llwybrau mwyaf cyffredin i gyfranogwyr i mewn i CaW yw cyfeiriadau gan y Ganolfan Byd Gwaith (CBG), gwaith ymgysylltu gan staff CaW, cleientiaid eraill yn lledu'r gair, a chyfeiriadau gan CG. Mae nifer y cyfeiriadau o ffynonellau lleol eraill wedi bod yn is na'r disgwyl, felly mae'r gwerthusiad yn argymell nifer o gamau gweithredu i gryfhau ymgysylltiad â ffynonellau cyfeirio a phartneriaid eraill. Mae gwasanaethau wedi bod yn cael eu cyflwyno mewn lleoliadau llai ffurfiol sy'n hygyrch ac sy'n cael eu defnyddio'n helaeth ar gyfer amrywiaeth eang o weithgareddau yn y cymunedau lle mae'r cyfranogwyr targed yn byw. Fodd bynnag, mae'r cyfleusterau sydd ar gael i staff CaW wedi bod yn well mewn rhai ardaloedd nag eraill. Roedd diffyg mannau preifat i gyfarfod mewn lleoliadau yn y gymuned yn thema a gododd dro ar ôl tro. Er bod yna esiamplau o gydweithredu agos rhwng mentoriaid a chynghorwyr, roedd y ffaith fod ganddynt dargedau ar wahân yn golygu ei bod yn anodd iddynt gydweithio. Felly, mae'r gwerthusiad yn argymell y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau barhau i annog mabwysiadu targedau ar gyfer pob ardal glwstwr. Roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r staff cyflawni rheng flaen a gafodd eu cyfweld yn teimlo bod y broses brysbennu yn effeithiol o ran dyrannu pobl at y math o gymorth sydd fwyaf priodol ar eu cyfer. Mae cwmpas a chymhlethdod y rhwystrau y mae llawer o gyfranogwyr yn eu hwynebu yn awgrymu bod y rhaglen yn cyrraedd y bobl hynny y bwriadwyd iddi

eu cynorthwyo i bob pwrpas. Roedd safbwyntiau'r cyfranogwyr yn arbennig iawn o gadarnhaol am eu cynghorwyr/mentoriaid. Hefyd, roedd hi'n glir bod parhad y cymorth y gellir ei gael o dan CaW yn caniatáu ar gyfer meithrin lefelau uchel o ymddiriedaeth rhwng y cyfranogwyr a'u cynghorwyr/mentoriaid. Mae'r defnydd o gymorth y Gronfa Rwystrau wedi bod yn is na'r disgwyl. Fodd bynnag, lle defnyddiwyd y Gronfa Rwystrau, ystyriwyd ei bod yn hanfodol wrth helpu'r cyfranogwyr i oresgyn y rhwystr(au) olaf i waith.

Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen - Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol 2007-2013 yng Nghymru

http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Caiff canfyddiadau Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen 2007-2013 eu trefnu yn ôl Blaenoriaeth, sy'n cyd-fynd yn fras â'r Blaenoriaethau hynny sydd yn Rhaglenni 2014-2020.

Crynodeb:
Mae angen sicrhau bod y ddarpariaeth a gyllidir yn ategu'r ddarpariaeth arall a gyllidir gan ESF a'r ddarpariaeth prif ffrwd yn hytrach na'i dyblygu ac nad oes unrhyw ddeilliannau a chanlyniadau sy'n gwrthdaro â'i gilydd i'w cyflawni. Dylai WEFO flaenoriaethu adnoddau a chanolbwyntio ar ddulliau sy'n debygol o greu'r lefelau mwyaf o ychwaneged, hy cefnogi'r rheini sydd bellaf o'r farchnad lafur. Dylai gweithrediadau ESF ganolbwyntio ar gyflawni gwasanaethau o'r ansawdd gorau, sy'n cael eu harwain gan gleientiaid, sy'n hyblyg ac y gellir eu cydleoli â gwasanaethau yn y man y cânt eu darparu, gan barhau i ddatblygu'r dull darpariaethau a dargedir sydd wedi bod yn effeithiol o ran ymgysylltu drwy weithgareddau allgymorth â grwpiau targed penodol. Dylai WEFO sicrhau bod mecanweithiau priodol ar gael i reoli'r gwaith o gyflawni prosiectau cymhleth, mawr sy'n dibynnu ar lu o isgontractwyr, er mwyn sicrhau y gellir mynd i'r afael yn effeithlon ag unrhyw broblemau'n ymwneud â thanberfformiad.

Blaenoriaeth 2 Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop: Sgiliau ar gyfer Twf

Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen - Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol 2007-2013 yng Nghymru

http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Caiff canfyddiadau Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen 2007-2013 eu trefnu yn ôl Blaenoriaeth, sy'n cyd-fynd yn fras â'r Blaenoriaethau hynny sydd yn Rhaglenni 2014-2020.

Crynodeb:
Dylai gosod targedau a monitro adlewyrchu'r effeithiau ar berfformiad busnes yn ogystal ag ar sefyllfa cyfranogwyr unigol yn y farchnad lafur. Mae angen realaeth a blaenoriaethu o ran yr amrywiaeth o ymyriadau sydd i'w cyllido, yn arbennig lle mae llai o gyllid, er enghraifft yn Nwyrain Cymru. Mae gofyn bod yn fwy trwyadl wrth ganolbwyntio ar y rhai sydd â sgiliau is a'r rheini sydd leiaf tebygol o gael gafael ar hyfforddiant yn absenoldeb ESF. Dylid talu sylw agosach at i ba raddau y mae'r ymyriadau'n arwain at wella sgiliau ac ail sgilio, gan flaenoriaethu ymyriadau a fydd yn gwella lefel y cymwysterau sydd gan gyfranogwyr. Dylid canolbwyntio mwy ar grwpiau sydd wedi'u heithrio, yn arbennig pobl anabl a gweithwyr hŷn. Dylai llunwyr polisïau a rheolwyr rhaglenni gydnabod pwysigrwydd cymwysterau o ran - fan leiaf - safbwyntiau gwrthrychol cyfranogwyr ynghylch perthnasedd cymryd rhan yng nghyswllt eu cynnydd yn y farchnad lafur. Mae angen cael dull mwy cydlynol a difrifol ar gyfer ymgysylltu â chyflogwyr, a hynny gan ymyriadau unigol a'r Rhaglen gyfan: yn y cyd-destun hwn, mae sicrhau bod dull y Porth yn llwyddiannus yn hanfodol. Hefyd, mae angen cael dull mwy cydlynol a chyson o ran cydgyllido â chyflogwyr er mwyn meithrin cynaliadwyedd yn y dyfodol.

Blaenoriaeth 3 Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop: Cyflogaeth a chyrhaeddiad pobl ifanc

Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen - Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol 2007-2013 yng Nghymru

http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Caiff canfyddiadau Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen 2007-2013 eu trefnu yn ôl Blaenoriaeth, sy'n cyd-fynd yn fras â'r Blaenoriaethau hynny sydd yn Rhaglenni 2014-2020.

Crynodeb:
Mae darpariaethau effeithiol sy'n cael eu targedu at bobl ifanc yn mabwysiadu dull gweithredu personol, cyfannol sy'n cynnig darpariaethau emosiynol ac addysgol drwy gynghorwyr sy'n gallu datblygu cysylltiadau cadarnhaol â phobl ifanc. Mae cyfleoedd i gael profiad gwaith yn bwysig ac yn ychwanegu gwerth at y darpariaethau sydd wedi'u targedu at bobl ifanc. Gall perfformiad amrywiol amryfal bartneriaid mewn un prosiect effeithio ar berfformiad cyffredinol prosiect strategol ar raddfa fawr. Mae angen mabwysiadu dangosyddion sy'n adlewyrchu effaith uniongyrchol ymyriadau sydd wedi'u hanelu at bobl ifanc ym myd addysg (ee yn ymwneud ag absenoliaeth, presenoldeb a chyfraddau cadw). Mae angen ystyried gwella sut mae casglu ac adrodd am allbynnau a chanlyniadau cyfranogwyr, yn arbennig er mwyn lleihau achosion o ddiffyg adroddiadau neu adroddiadau anghywir am allbynnau, yn ogystal ag er mwyn gallu adnabod a dadansoddi unrhyw newidiadau a chanlyniadau tymor hwy ar ôl ymyrryd. Mae angen parhau i edrych ar ddulliau Gwerthuso Effeithiau Gwrthffeithiol i fesur y gwahaniaeth i gyfranogwyr yn ystod y tymor canolig i'r tymor hir. Yn hyn o beth, byddai'n werth ymchwilio ymhellach i'r posibilrwydd o gyfateb cronfa ddata ganolog WEFO o gyfranogwyr â data sydd ar gael yng nghronfa ddata Cofnod Dysgu Gydol Oes Cymru.

Blaenoriaeth 1 ERDF: Ymchwil ac Arloesi

Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen - Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol 2007-2013 yng Nghymru

http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Caiff canfyddiadau Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen 2007-2013 eu trefnu yn ôl Blaenoriaeth, sy'n cyd-fynd yn fras â'r Blaenoriaethau hynny sydd yn Rhaglenni 2014-2020.

Crynodeb:
Mae angen pennu targedau rhaglenni ar lefel sy'n realistig yng ngoleuni natur y gweithgareddau y mae disgwyl i'r Blaenoriaethau eu cefnogi. Dylid pennu targedau i adlewyrchu cydbwysedd gwahanol fathau o weithgareddau, gan eu profi'n ofalus yn erbyn yr hyn y mae Rhaglenni blaenorol wedi'u cyflawni. Dylai'r fframwaith dangosyddion hefyd gynnwys set briodol o fesurau effeithiau meintiol, hyd yn oed os mai dim ond rhai o gategorïau gweithgaredd o fewn Blaenoriaeth y mae'r mesurau hyn yn eu cynnwys. Dylid comisiynu gwerthusiadau a'u rheoli mewn ffordd sy'n sicrhau sylfaen dystiolaeth gadarn, feintiol a chyson yn ddelfrydol (gan gynnwys Gwerthuso Effaith Gwrthffeithiol) yng nghyswllt effaith, yn arbennig ar gyfer prosiectau mwy. Mae modd defnyddio ERDF yn effeithiol ochr yn ochr ag adnoddau Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau darpariaeth gyffredinol o fathau eang o waith Ymchwil a Datblygu a chymorth arloesol i fusnesau bach a chanolig. Ar gyfer prosiectau mwy, mae staff themâu trawsbynciol arbenigol mewnol yn helpu i ymgorffori themâu trawsbynciol yng ngweithgareddau'r prosiect, ac efallai y byddai prosiectau llai yn dymuno ystyried mabwysiadu dull gweithredu ar sail atgyfeirio i sicrhau bod gweithgareddau'r themâu trawsbynciol yn gymesur.

Rhaglen Fframwaith Ymchwil yr UE: gwerthuso rhan y DU

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-research-framework-programme-evaluation-of-uk-involvement

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol

Dyddiad: 6 Tachwedd 2017

Perthnasedd: Nod Amcan Penodol 1.1 Blaenoriaeth 1 ERDF yw cynyddu llwyddiant sefydliadau ymchwil yng Nghymru i ddenu cyllid ymchwil cystadleuol a phreifat, gan gynnwys Horizon 2020, sy'n olynu Rhaglen Fframwaith 7.

Crynodeb:
Mae perfformiad y DU wedi bod yn gryf yn Rhaglen Fframwaith 7 (FP7), a hynny o ran lefelau cyfranogi cyffredinol a gwerth cyllid yr UE a gafwyd. Roedd prifysgolion yn cynrychioli 60% o holl gyfranogwyr y DU, ac fe wnaethant lwyddo i dderbyn 70% o'r holl gyllid a oedd yn cael ei ddyrannu i'r DU - llawer mwy nag mewn aelod-wladwriaethau eraill yn yr UE. Mae hyn yn adlewyrchu presenoldeb amlwg y sector addysg uwch yn system ymchwil ac arloesi'r DU, yn wahanol i bresenoldeb cryf sefydliadau ymchwil eraill mewn gwledydd mawr eraill fel yr Almaen a Ffrainc. Y prif gymhellion ar gyfer cymryd rhan yn FP7 oedd mynediad at gyllid ymchwil (72%) yn ogystal â datblygu rhwydweithiau neu gysylltiadau newydd neu well (55%), yr awydd i fynd i'r afael â materion neu gwestiynau technegol neu wyddonol penodol (54%) a datblygu ac ehangu gallu a gwybodaeth fewnol (53%). Dywedodd tri chwarter (75%) yr ymatebwyr fod perthnasedd y pynciau ac offerynnau FP7 yn uchel neu'n uchel iawn ar gyfer yr ymchwil roeddent yn dymuno ei chynnal.

Gwerthusiad o'r rhaglen Arbenigedd Academaidd i Fusnesau

http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-academic-expertise-business-programme/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 2 Tachwedd 2017

Perthnasedd: Derbyniodd y rhaglen Arbenigedd Academaidd i Fusnesau (A4B) gyllid ERDF yn ystod 2007-2013 i ddatblygu gallu sefydliadau addysg uwch i weithio gyda busnesau ar y canlynol: trosglwyddo gwybodaeth; masnacheiddio ymchwil; ac annog datblygu technolegau arloesol.

Crynodeb:
Dangosodd y gwerthusiad fod busnesau ac academia eisoes wedi bod yn cydweithredu'n gryf ar waith Ymchwil a Datblygu yn A4B. Yn hyn o beth roedd llawer o'r prosiectau A4B wedi helpu i adeiladu ar gapasiti staff oedd eisoes yn bodoli. Roedd manteision i bartneriaid academaidd a'r diwydiant. Roedd y manteision i fusnesau'n cynnwys datblygu cynhyrchion, prosesau a gwasanaethau, swyddi a gwerthiannau newydd, a phrosiectau cydweithredol newydd. Roedd y manteision i sefydliadau addysg uwch yn cynnwys sgiliau gwell, cysylltiadau gwell ag anghenion diwydiant a dealltwriaeth well o'r anghenion hynny. Roedd llawer o'r cynhyrchion, y prosesau a'r gwasanaethau newydd a ddatblygwyd gyda chymorth A4B yn dal i fod ar y gweill adeg y gwerthuso, gyda phartneriaid yn rhagweld y bydd cydweithredu ar Ymchwil a Datblygu yn helpu i arwain at fasnacheiddio mewn blynyddoedd i ddod. Felly, mae amrediad llawn effeithiau'r rhaglen yn dibynnu'n rhannol ar allu'r sefydliadau i gynnal y cydweithrediad ar Ymchwil a Datblygu a'r capasiti i fasnacheiddio (gan gynnwys y canolfannau a'r partneriaethau busnes ac ati), ac a fydd canlyniadau'r gwaith yn cael eu masnacheiddio'n llwyddiannus Roedd effeithlonrwydd darparu'r rhaglen wedi'i ddylanwadu'n gryf gan newidiadau i gyd-destun economaidd a pholisi allanol. O ganlyniad bu'n rhaid iddi esblygu ei dull o ddarparu ac ymateb i anghenion cyfarwyddiadau a gwersi a ddysgwyd. Roedd heriau allweddol yr oedd y rhaglen wedi eu hwynebu, ac a nodwyd gan staff a chyfranogwyr y rhaglen, yn ymwneud ag elfennau gweinyddol a monitro'r rhaglen. At ei gilydd cafodd yr agweddau hyn ar y rhaglen eu cydnabod i fod wedi cael eu dylanwadu gan faint y rhaglen, ei chymhlethdod a gofynion y cyllid Ewropeaidd.

Gwerthusiad Cychwynnol o'r rhaglen Sêr Cymru II

http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-ser-cymru-II-programme/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 2 Tachwedd 2017

Perthnasedd: Mae Sêr Cymru II yn derbyn cyllid o dan Amcan Penodol 1.1 Blaenoriaeth 1 ERDF i gefnogi cymrodoriaethau mewn unrhyw faes ymchwil sy'n berthnasol i dair colofn strategaeth Gwyddoniaeth i Gymru, sy'n canolbwyntio'n benodol ar arbenigo craff ac arloesi.

Crynodeb:
Canfu'r gwerthusiad fod fframwaith polisi manwl, clir iawn yn sail ar gyfer y rhaglen Sêr Cymru II, ac mae ei hamcanion wedi'u cysoni'n dda â pholisi Llywodraeth Cymru, yn arbennig strategaeth genedlaethol Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer gwyddoniaeth (Gwyddoniaeth i Gymru). Hefyd, canfu'r gwerthusiad fod cefnogaeth eang ymhlith rhanddeiliaid ynghylch yr angen i Sêr Cymru II greu màs critigol ar gyfer sylfaen ymchwil wyddonol Cymru. Mae lle i Sêr Cymru II ddangos sut y gall adlewyrchu a chyfrannu'n well tuag at amcanion Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru). Roedd ansicrwydd ynghylch cyllid i brifysgolion yn y dyfodol yn arwain at ansicrwydd ynghylch a ellid gwneud cais am gymrodoriaethau pellach yn y dyfodol, er bod prifysgolion sy'n cymryd rhan wedi clustnodi arian cyfatebol ar gyfer cymrodorion a gymeradwywyd yn barod. Amlygwyd hyn fel risg allweddol o ran cynaliadwyedd parhaus Sêr Cymru II a lefelau ymchwil a gynhelir ym mhrifysgolion Cymru yn y dyfodol. Canfuwyd i'r cyfranogiad cynnar hwn o du'r prifysgolion o ran hysbysebu, datblygu, blaenoriaethu a chraffu ar gynigion am gymrodoriaeth arwain at geisiadau o'r radd flaenaf ar gyfer cyllid Sêr Cymru II, ynghyd â chyfradd uchel o gymeradwyaeth. Fodd bynnag, bu hon yn broses a oedd yn drwm ar adnoddau ar gyfer staff cymorth canolog y prifysgolion. Mewn ymateb i hyn, dyrannodd Llywodraeth Cymru daliadau 'untro' i brifysgolion a oedd yn cymryd rhan fel cydnabyddiaeth am waith datblygu a chymorth parhaus i ymchwilwyr Sêr Cymru II a gyllidir, nad oeddent wedi'u cynnwys o dan y dyfarniad grant. Hyd yma, gwelwyd cynnydd cadarnhaol o safbwynt penodi Cymrodorion Ymchwil. Ond mae'r diddordeb a'r galw mewn cymrodoriaethau Adennill Talent wedi bod yn fwy cyfyngedig hyd yma, oherwydd anawsterau adnabod a thargedu'r garfan hon. Canfu'r gwerthusiad fod y themâu trawsbynciol wedi'u hystyried yn ddigonol wrth gynllunio a datblygu Sêr Cymru II a bod y camau a gynigiwyd o ran gweithredu gweithgareddau trawsbynciol drwy gyfrwng y rhaglen a ariennir drwy ERDF yn rhesymol ac yn rhesymegol. Er enghraifft, mae'n rhesymol i ddisgwyl y bydd gweithrediadau Sêr Cymru II yn gwneud cyfraniad cadarnhaol i weithlu ymchwil a fydd yn fwy cytbwys o ran y rhywiau yng Nghymru. Serch hynny, mae'r diffyg diddordeb mewn cymrodoriaethau Adennill Talent hyd yma yn bryder yn y cyd-destun hwn ac mae angen i hyn fod yn ystyriaeth allweddol i'r tîm cyflawni.

Blaenoriaeth 2 ERDF: Cystadleurwydd Busnesau Bach a Chanolig

Cyllid arloesi: taith y cwmni arloesol at gyllid

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovation-finance-the-innovative-firms-journey-to-finance

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol

Dyddiad: 8 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Nod Amcan Penodol 2.5 Blaenoriaeth 2 ERDF yw mynd i'r afael â diffyg yn y farchnad o ran y cyllid sydd ar gael, yn arbennig cyfalaf risg, er mwyn i fusnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru arloesi a masnacheiddio gwaith Ymchwil a Datblygu.

Crynodeb:
Mae llwybrau at gyllid i gwmnïau arloesol yn amrywiol ac yn gymhleth. Yn aml, mae angen lefelau buddsoddi uwch o lawer ar gylchoedd arloesi sy'n para hwy ac sy'n gofyn am lawer o ymchwil a datblygu. Nid oes modd diffinio cwmnïau arloesol yn glir naill ai fel rhai seiliedig ar asedau gwybodaeth neu seiliedig ar asedau cyfalaf, ac mae sawl cwmni a holwyd wedi chwilio am atebion cyllido allanol sydd wedi arwain at gymysgedd o ddau fath o asedau. Mae sefydlu rhwydweithiau'n gynnar drwy rôl a phrofiad yr entrepreneur arloesol (a'r tîm craidd) yn ffactor pwysig er mwyn llwyddo. Roedd busnesau gyda chysylltiadau a rhwydweithiau da (yn hytrach na busnesau a oedd yn gweithredu ar eu pen eu hunain) yn llwyddo i godi rhagor o ecwiti a sicrhau'r newid sylweddol o gyllid cyfnod cynnar a busnes newydd i gyllid twf cyfnod cynnar. Bydd entrepreneuriaid yn ymgysylltu ag amrywiaeth o weithgareddau busnes nad ydynt yn rhai craidd er mwyn sicrhau cyllid ar gyfer datblygu eu busnes arloesol yn ganolog. Ar un lefel, gall hyn olygu ymgymryd ag ymgynghoriaeth er mwyn cynnal refeniw yn y cyfnod cyn bydd modd marchnata'r gweithgareddau arloesol. Ar lefel arall, gall olygu sefydlu busnes fel modd o ymgeisio am gyllid; ac ar lefel arall, chwilio am ffynhonnell cyllid allanol sy'n dargyfeirio gweithgareddau o'r busnes craidd. Gall y broses o chwilio am gyllid fod yn gymhleth. Mae tystiolaeth yn awgrymu y caiff busnesau arloesol dalu am gynghorwyr allanol, rhywun i baratoi ceisiadau am grant a darganfyddwyr/ymgynghorwyr. Mae cynghorwyr allanol yn ffynhonnell bwysig o wybodaeth, ond mae angen i fusnes arloesol wybod sut mae eu defnyddio a gallu gofyn y cwestiynau iawn. Mae entrepreneuriaid cyfresol yn bwysig yn ystod y cyfnod cyntaf a'r cyfnod cynnar er mwyn datgloi ffynonellau o gyllid allanol. Yn aml iawn, roedd cysylltiadau personol, rhwydweithiau, personoliaethau a nodweddion rheoli yn bwysicach na'r wybodaeth a oedd wedi'i chynnwys yn y cynlluniau busnes ffurfiol a'r rhagolygon ariannol (yn arbennig er mwyn canfod a chael gafael ar gyllid ecwiti). Hanes ariannol y busnes oedd y peth pwysicaf yn achos cyllid banc. O ran ecwiti preifat a chyllid cyfalaf menter, deall natur y busnes a'r farchnad a chytundeb ar y cyd oedd yn angenrheidiol yn hytrach na chynnwys cynllun busnes ffurfiol. Roedd busnesau a gafodd eu holi yn teimlo bod grantiau'r sector cyhoeddus yn ffafriol. Roedd y telerau a'r amodau'n cael eu hystyried yn dderbyniol, ond gallai gofynion arian cyfatebol fod yn broblem i rai busnesau. Roedd

rhai busnesau a holwyd yn y cam twf yn teimlo bod cyllid grant yn canolbwyntio gormod ar arloesi yn y camau cynnar, yn hytrach nag edrych ar arloesi yn y tymor hir.

Cyllid arloesi: cynhyrchion cyllid arloesi newydd: ymchwil feintiol

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovation-finance-new-innovation-finance-products-qualitative-research

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol

Dyddiad: 18 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Nod Amcan Penodol 2.5 Blaenoriaeth 2 ERDF yw mynd i'r afael â diffyg yn y farchnad o ran y cyllid sydd ar gael, yn arbennig cyfalaf risg, er mwyn i fusnesau bach a chanolig yng Nghymru arloesi a masnacheiddio gwaith Ymchwil a Datblygu.

Crynodeb:
Efallai nad yw cymorthdaliadau cyfraddau llog yn bwysig iawn wrth bennu'r awydd am gynhyrchion cyllid arloesi. Roedd rhai cyllidwyr yn awgrymu bod y nodwedd hon yn fwyaf tebygol o arwain at gystadleuaeth â'r ddarpariaeth sector preifat. I'r gwrthwyneb, mae'n ymddangos mai trefniadau sicrwydd a sicrwydd cyfochrog yw'r prif ystyriaethau, yn arbennig ar gyfer cwmnïau llai gydag asedau cyfyngedig. Yn yr un modd, roedd y cyfnod gras yn cael ei ystyried yn nodwedd neilltuol a oedd yn pennu addasrwydd ar gyfer prosiectau yn ystod camau penodol datblygu a lleoliad yn y sector. Roedd cwmnïau'n awgrymu y byddai gofyn sicrhau bod y cyfnod gras yn gydnaws â'r prosiect penodol, gan ganiatáu dechrau ad-dalu benthyciadau pan fydd y prosiect arloesol yn cynhyrchu refeniw.

Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen - Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol 2007-2013 yng Nghymru

http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Caiff canfyddiadau Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen 2007-2013 eu trefnu yn ôl Blaenoriaeth, sy'n cyd-fynd yn fras â'r Blaenoriaethau hynny sydd yn Rhaglenni 2014-2020.

Crynodeb:
Mae targedu mathau penodol o fentrau (ee y rhai sydd â'r potensial i dyfu neu sy'n benodol i sector) drwy ymyriadau cymorth i fusnesau yn gymhleth. Awgryma tystiolaeth werthuso y gall dull cyflawn fod yn arbennig o effeithiol, lle mae nifer o ffactorau'n cael eu hystyried (nid dim ond potensial ar gyfer twf cyflogaeth), gan gynnwys digwyddiadau allweddol sy'n datgloi twf, sgiliau a gallu'r bobl sy'n rhedeg y busnes a gwybodaeth y cynghorwyr sy'n gwybod ac sy'n deall y busnes. Mae targedu gwasanaethau cyngor a chyfarwyddyd mwy dwys a drutach ar fusnesau sydd â'r potensial i dyfu yn gwneud synnwyr, a hynny wrth sicrhau bod gwybodaeth gyffredinol ar gael ar lwyfannau ar-lein. Mae gwasanaethau cymorth i fusnesau sy'n cynnwys cymorth ariannol a gwybodaeth, cyngor ac arweiniad yn arwain at y canlyniadau gorau pan fyddant wedi'u cysylltu â'i gilydd a'u hintegreiddio'n effeithiol yn y man darparu. Mae ymyriadau cymorth i fusnesau effeithiol yn seiliedig ar nodau ac amcanion tymor hir, sydd wedi'u diffinio'n dda, sy'n cael eu cydnabod gan fusnesau, ac sydd wedi'u cysylltu'n glir â'u hanghenion. Mae cysondeb o ran brandio a hyrwyddo gwasanaeth cymorth i fusnesau yn bwysig iawn hefyd. Er bod cynnydd wedi bod yng nghyswllt themâu trawsbynciol, gellid gwneud mwy i hyrwyddo integreiddio. Mae tystiolaeth yn awgrymu bod angen arbenigedd a chapasiti penodol sy'n ymwneud â'r themâu trawsbynciol a bod angen cyflwyno cyngor sy'n ymwneud â'r themâu hyn mewn iaith sy'n gyfarwydd i fusnesau. Mae gofyn i werthuswyr fod yn ymwybodol o'r iaith hon a'i defnyddio mewn gwaith ymchwil sy'n anelu at gasglu adborth a thystiolaeth gan fentrau sy'n cael eu cefnogi. O safbwynt gwerthuso, mae rhai dulliau diddorol o archwilio effaith gwrthffeithiol wedi cael eu profi, ond mae rhywfaint o gyfyngiadau methodolegol allweddol o hyd. Agwedd allweddol o ddatblygu dulliau gweithredu CIE yw'r angen i gryfhau ansawdd a dyfnder gwybodaeth fonitro lefel prosiect i wella rhagolygon 'cyfateb' busnesau sydd wedi cael eu trin â 'data mawr' ar gyfer dadansoddi gwrthffeithiol.

Buddsoddi mewn effeithlonrwydd ynni: ymchwilio i gyfanswm y costau i fusnesau

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investing-in-energy-efficiency-investigating-the-total-costs-to-business

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol

Dyddiad: 21 Tachwedd 2017

Perthnasedd: Mae Amcan Penodol 2.4 Blaenoriaeth 2 ERDF yn gallu cefnogi mesurau effeithlonrwydd adnoddau ac effeithlonrwydd ynni mewn busnesau bach a chanolig.

Crynodeb:
Roedd agweddau sy'n ymwneud â buddsoddi mewn mesurau effeithlonrwydd ynni yn amrywio ar draws y 30 o gwmnïau a gafodd eu holi, yn ôl eu maint a'u strwythur corfforaethol. Fodd bynnag, mewn sawl achos, roedd y broses fuddsoddi'n cael ei disgrifio'n syml fel 'cais am gyfalaf' yn seiliedig ar gymeradwyo gwariant sy'n gysylltiedig â mesurau effeithlonrwydd ynni a darparu cyfrifiad talu'n ôl syml. Y ffurflenni a'r bobl sy'n eu llenwi sy'n rheoli graddau meintioliad y costau a'r manteision. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r rhain yn cynnwys gwybodaeth gyfyngedig, sy'n canolbwyntio bron yn gyffredinol ar gostau cyfalaf. Roedd nifer o gyfranogion yn talu am brosiectau effeithlonrwydd ynni a charbon isel â'u cyfalaf eu hunain. Roedd nifer bach iawn o enghreifftiau o gyfranogwyr yn defnyddio cyllid trydydd parti, ond roedd hyn ar gyfer buddsoddiadau mawr iawn fel rheol, fel boeleri biomas ar raddfa fawr a gorsafoedd pŵer gwres a phŵer cyfunedig newydd. O ran y technolegau dan sylw, roedd sefydliadau'n nodweddiadol agnostig o ran technoleg ond roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r cyfranogwyr yn ffafrio mesurau na fyddai'n amharu ar gynhyrchu.

Ymwybyddiaeth busnesau a'r defnydd o ymchwil archwiliadau ynni

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-awareness-and-uptake-of-energy-audits-research

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol

Dyddiad: 12 Hydref 2017

Perthnasedd: Mae Amcan Penodol 2.4 Blaenoriaeth 2 ERDF yn gallu cefnogi mesurau effeithlonrwydd adnoddau ac effeithlonrwydd ynni mewn busnesau bach a chanolig.

Crynodeb:
Dim ond 9% o'r busnesau bach a chanolig a holwyd ddywedodd eu bod erioed wedi cynnal archwiliad ynni, o'i gymharu â 69% o fusnesau nad oeddent yn rhai bach a chanolig. Hefyd, dim ond 4% o'r busnesau bach a chanolig nad oeddent wedi cynnal archwiliad oedd wedi ystyried gwneud hynny. Roedd tua phedwar o bob pum busnes bach a chanolig (81%) a oedd wedi cynnal archwiliad ynni wedi cymryd camau o ganlyniad i hynny, ac roedd dwy ran o dair wedi rhoi technoleg neu fesur effeithlonrwydd ynni ar waith. Golau mwy effeithlon (58%) oedd y mesur a oedd yn cael ei roi ar waith yn fwyaf cyffredin, yna gwres mwy effeithlon (50%) a gwella mesurau inswleiddio adeiladau (46%). Roedd dros hanner y busnesau bach a chanolig a oedd wedi cynnal archwiliad ynni yn dweud eu bod wedi gwneud arbedion ariannol o ganlyniad i hynny (52%).

Blaenoriaeth 3 ERDF: Ynni adnewyddadwy ac effeithlonrwydd ynni

Ffigurau cyflenwi a chynhyrchu trydan ar gyfer Cymru, yr Alban, Gogledd Iwerddon a Lloegr, 2013 - 2016

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-trends-december-2017-special-feature-articles

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol

Dyddiad: 21 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Nod Blaenoriaeth 3 ERDF yw cynyddu capasiti ynni'r môr ac ynni'r llanw yng Nghymru a chynyddu nifer y safleoedd sy'n cynhyrchu trydan o adnoddau adnewyddadwy.

Crynodeb:
Roedd y gyfran cynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy yn 2016 yn sefydlog ar 25 y cant (i lawr 0.1 pwynt canran o 2015). Yr Alban wnaeth gynnal y gyfran uchaf, sef 43 y cant, y lefel uchaf erioed (i fyny 0.5 pwynt canran), a Lloegr wnaeth gynyddu'r gyfran fwyaf, i 23 y cant (i fyny 0.6 pwynt canran). Yng Nghymru a Gogledd Iwerddon, gostwng rhywfaint wnaeth cyfran y cynhyrchu trydan o ynni adnewyddadwy yn 2016 o'r lefelau uchaf erioed yn 2015 i 12 y cant (i lawr 1.4 pwynt canran), a 25 y cant (i lawr 0.2 pwynt canran) yn y drefn honno. Roedd y symudiadau bach hyn o ganlyniad i dywydd gwael ar gyfer cynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy er gwaethaf y cynnydd mewn capasiti.

Y defnydd domestig o ynni yn ôl effeithlonrwydd ynni ac effaith amgylcheddol, 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-trends-december-2017-special-feature-articles

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol

Dyddiad: 21 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Nod Amcan Penodol 3.3 Blaenoriaeth 3 ERDF yw cynyddu effeithlonrwydd ynni'r stoc dai bresennol yng Nghymru, yn arbennig o ran tlodi tanwydd.

Crynodeb:
Mae sgoriau effeithlonrwydd ynni Tystysgrifau Perfformiad Ynni (EPCs) yn cael eu grwpio mewn bandiau o A (y mwyaf effeithlon gyda chostau rhedeg is) i G (y lleiaf effeithlon gyda chostau rhedeg uwch). Roedd EPCs ar gyfer ychydig llai na 60% o eiddo domestig yng Nghymru a Lloegr yn 2015. Y band effeithlonrwydd ynni mwyaf cyffredin ar gyfer data hyd at ddiwedd 2015 yw D, gyda 39 y cant o aelwydydd yng Nghymru a Lloegr yn y band hwn. Ychydig o eiddo sydd ym mandiau A a G - yn gyffredinol mae aelwydydd sy'n defnyddio ynni'n llai effeithlon ac sy'n llai ecogyfeillgar yn tueddu i ddefnyddio mwy o nwy a thrydan. Fodd bynnag, nid dyma'r achos bob amser gydag eiddo 'Band G' (y rhai sy'n defnyddio ynni'n lleiaf effeithlon ac sydd leiaf ecogyfeillgar) yn tueddu i ddefnyddio llai o ynni nag eiddo bandiau D-F. Mae modd esbonio'r canlyniadau llai greddfol hyn â'r ffaith mai ychydig iawn o'r eiddo hyn sy'n defnyddio nwy fel y prif danwydd gwresogi, ond gall fod ffactorau eraill yn berthnasol. Yn groes i ganfyddiadau data 2012, nid yw'n debygol bod ymddygiad preswylwyr yn cyfrif am y gwahaniaeth yn y defnydd o ynni ar draws bandiau EPC yn 2015. Nid yw'n debygol bod math o eiddo'n cyfrannu at y gwahaniaethau o ran defnydd o nwy neu drydan chwaith.

Ymchwil i ymddygiad ac agwedd pobl sy'n dlawd o ran tanwydd yn Lloegr

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-into-the-behaviours-and-attitudes-of-the-fuel-poor-in-england

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol

Dyddiad: 9 Tachwedd 2017

Perthnasedd: Nod Amcan Penodol 3.3 Blaenoriaeth 3 ERDF yw cynyddu effeithlonrwydd ynni'r stoc dai bresennol yng Nghymru, yn arbennig o ran tlodi tanwydd.

Crynodeb:
Roedd gwres canolog yn llai cyffredin yn aelwydydd y rheini a oedd yn fwy tebygol o fod mewn tlodi o ran tanwydd nag aelwydydd eraill. Roedd gwresogydd symudol neu wres mewn un ystafell yn fwy tebygol mewn aelwydydd sydd â thebygoliaeth uwch, ac roedd hyn yn arbennig o gyffredin ymhlith pobl hŷn. Er nad cardiau talu ymlaen llaw yw'r ffordd rataf o dalu am ynni, roedd yn well gan rai hynny, gan ei fod yn rhoi mwy o gyfle iddynt fod mewn rheolaeth a gallu cyllidebu. Mae'n bosibl y bydd hyn yn arwain at rwystrau ychwanegol o ran lleihau costau ynni ar gyfer aelwydydd tlawd o ran tanwydd, er enghraifft, drwy geisio hyrwyddo tariffau debyd uniongyrchol. Nid oedd hi'n fwy tebygol y byddai aelwydydd tebygoliaeth uwch yn disgyn i ddyled o ran talu biliau tanwydd. Ond roedd y gallu i ad-dalu a gwneud hynny'n brydlon yn amrywio'n sylweddol. Yma, efallai fod diffyg gallu gwrthsefyll dyledion yn dwysáu effaith pobl sy'n dlawd o ran tanwydd yn mynd i ddyled. Roedd aelwydydd tebygoliaeth uwch yn llawer llai tebygol o fod wedi newid cyflenwyr ynni, ac yn gwybod llawer iawn llai am y broses o newid. Mae hyn yn arwydd bod llai o ymgysylltu rhwng y farchnad ynni adwerthol â phobl sy'n dlawd o ran tanwydd. Efallai fod hyn oherwydd bod nifer anghymesur o bobl sy'n dlawd o ran tanwydd yn rhentwyr preifat, a bod rhentwyr yn teimlo'n llai grymus i wneud newidiadau i'r cartref. Ar gyfer aelwydydd tebygoliaeth uwch, roedd gwybodaeth am gyflenwyr ynni'n fwy tebygol o ddod gan gyfeillion ac yn llai tebygol o ddod gan ffynonellau ar-lein. Cyfeillion a theulu oedd y ffynonellau cyngor yr oedd pobl yn ymddiried fwyaf ynddynt wrth gael cyngor am leihau biliau ynni, yn ogystal â sefydliadau fel Cyngor ar Bopeth. Roedd aelwydydd tebygoliaeth uwch yn llai tebygol o fod yn ymwybodol o'r hyn y gellir ei wneud i sicrhau bod eu cartref yn fwy effeithlon. Efallai fod hyn yn rhannol oherwydd roedd nifer yn rhentu, ac yn gweld hyn fel cyfrifoldeb y landlord yn hytrach na'u cyfrifoldeb nhw. Roedd tenantiaid preifat yn fwy tebygol o fod wedi cael atgyweirio namau, ond yn llawer llai tebygol na thenantiaid cymdeithasol i fod wedi cael gwneud gwelliannau arbed ynni sylweddol.

Colli gwres trwy waliau solet a'r posibilrwydd i arbed ynni

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/solid-wall-heat-losses-and-the-potential-for-energy-saving

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Busnes, Ynni a Strategaeth Ddiwydiannol

Dyddiad: 9 Tachwedd 2017

Perthnasedd: Nod Amcan Penodol 3.3 Blaenoriaeth 3 ERDF yw cynyddu effeithlonrwydd ynni'r stoc dai bresennol yng Nghymru, yn arbennig o ran tlodi tanwydd.

Crynodeb:
Adolygiad Llenyddiaeth: Gall fod yn anodd meintioli'r arbedion a ddaw yn sgil inswleiddio waliau solet. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r astudiaethau diweddar wedi tueddu i ymchwilio i ganlyniadau cyfun cyfuniad o strategaethau ôl-osod, a gallai inswleiddio waliau fod yn un o'r rhain. Ond nid yw'r rhan fwyaf wedi edrych ar eiddo waliau solet. Fodd bynnag, mae'r ymchwil sydd ar gael yn dangos yn gyson bod yr arbedion gwirioneddol yn is na'r arbedion a ragwelwyd. Y prif reswm am y bwlch rhwng yr arbedion a ragwelwyd a'r arbedion gwirioneddol, yn ôl yr adolygiad yw: rhagdybiaethau anghywir ynghylch perfformiad sylfaenol yr amlen adeiladu a'r tymheredd yn y cartrefi cyn inswleiddio; camgymeriadau wrth inswleiddio a chrefftwaith gwael; a newidiadau o ran ymddygiad y rhai sy'n byw yno o ran defnyddio ynni ar ôl inswleiddio'r eiddo. Prif ganlyniad anfwriadol inswleiddio waliau solet yw: y risg o orgynhesu adeiladau; a newidiadau i ddosbarthiad lleithder mewn adeilad ar ôl inswleiddio waliau solet. **Prosiect Ymchwil BEIS:** Ar ôl inswleiddio, gwelodd cartrefi ostyngiad o ran y defnydd o ynni a gostyngiad yn y biliau, o tua £180, o gymharu â grŵp rheoli.

Blaenoriaeth 4 ERDF: Cysylltedd a Datblygu Trefol

Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen - Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol 2007-2013 yng Nghymru

http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Caiff canfyddiadau Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen 2007-2013 eu trefnu yn ôl Blaenoriaeth, sy'n cyd-fynd yn fras â'r Blaenoriaethau hynny sydd yn Rhaglenni 2014-2020.

Crynodeb:
Mae angen i ddangosyddion canlyniadau adlewyrchu'n well yr ystod o weithgareddau a all gyfrannu at amcanion trafnidiaeth. Ar gyfer y Flaenoriaeth hon, roedd ffocws cul ar deithwyr ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus ac nid oedd hyn yn gwneud cyfiawnder â chwmpas y gweithgaredd y gellid ei gyllido. Mae'r nifer cyfyngedig o brosiectau rheilffyrdd mawr a diffyg unrhyw gyfleusterau cyfnewidfa nwyddau yn awgrymu bod angen i raglenni yn y dyfodol ymgymryd â gwaith rhagarweiniol pellach er mwyn ymchwilio i a oes modd cyflwyno prosiectau mor fawr a chymhleth - prosiectau y mae tystiolaeth werthuso yn awgrymu y gallant greu rhagor o fanteision na buddsoddiadau mewn ffyrdd. Cyllidodd y Flaenoriaeth hon nifer mawr o welliannau i ffyrdd, sy'n aml yn cael eu cyllido gan ERDF oherwydd eu bod yn haws eu rhoi ar waith na gwelliannau i'r rheilffyrdd. Hefyd, mae angen craffu'n llawer manylach ar y dystiolaeth o fethiant yn y farchnad sy'n sail i ymyriadau tir ac eiddo yn ystod cyfnod cymeradwyo prosiectau. Yn benodol, mae angen i hyn ddangos tystiolaeth glir o alw cudd am dir neu eiddo y mae'r prosiectau yn bwriadu mynd i'r afael ag ef. Mae'n fuddiol cadw hyblygrwydd yn y Rhaglen i ganiatáu i'r Blaenoriaethau ymateb i newidiadau yn yr amgylchedd allanol. Ond, dylai unrhyw newidiadau yng nghydbwysedd y gweithgaredd disgwyliedig gynnwys targedau wedi'u diweddaru sy'n adlewyrchu unrhyw newidiadau yn y gweithgaredd comisiynu disgwyliedig neu berfformiad prosiectau. Mae'r blaenoriaethau wedi cyllido nifer o brosiectau a dulliau gweithredu arloesol, ac mae modd dysgu gwersi o'r rhain. Er enghraifft, mae'r prosiectau Twristiaeth Gynaliadwy ac Arfordirol wedi chwarae rhan bwysig yn cefnogi buddsoddiadau strategol ac wedi'u targedu mewn ardaloedd lle mae twristiaeth yn flaenoriaeth. Er ein bod wedi gweld enghreifftiau nodedig o fodelau arloesol (ee partneriaeth cyhoeddus-preifat Bike Park Wales) mae hefyd angen osgoi cyllido buddsoddiadau tameidiog ac effaith isel. Nid yw targedau creu swyddi newydd, uniongyrchol, yn cydweddu'n arbennig o dda â phrosiectau adfywio ffisegol a'r rhai'n ymwneud ag adeiladau ac adnoddau cyhoeddus. Mae ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus cynhwysol (yn ystod dylunio a gweithredu) wedi bod yn elfen bwysig o ran sicrhau prosiectau llwyddiannus yn ymwneud ag adfywio ffisegol ac adeiladau ac adnoddau cyhoeddus. Roedd y ffaith bod dangosyddion y Themâu

Trawsbynciol yn canolbwyntio ar allbwn yn golygu eu bod yn llai addas ar gyfer prosiectau adfywio ffisegol a phrosiectau'n ymwneud ag adeiladau ac adnoddau cyhoeddus lle y gwelwyd camau cadarnhaol ac arferion da ond nad oedd y system fonitro wedi cofnodi'r rhain o anghenraid.

Baromedr Twristiaeth 2017

http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/tourism-barometer/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Mae Amcan Penodol 4.4, Blaenoriaeth 4 Rhaglen ERDF Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn gallu cyllido buddsoddiadau economaidd sylweddol yn seilwaith ffisegol Cymru (adeiledig a naturiol / gwyrdd), gan gynnwys asedau twristiaeth.

Crynodeb:
Roedd tua dau o bob pump (42%) o weithredwyr twristiaeth[1] a holwyd yn dweud eu bod wedi cael mwy o ymwelwyr yn 2017 nag yn 2016, ac roedd cyfran debyg (39%) wedi adrodd ar yr un lefel. Roedd un o bob pump (20%) wedi dweud bod llai o ymwelwyr nag yn 2016. Y sectorau cryfaf yw tai bwyta, tafarndai a chaffis (54% yn dweud eu bod wedi gweld mwy o ymwelwyr nag yn 2016), hostelau (52%) ac atyniadau a darparwyr gweithgareddau (50%). Ychydig iawn o wahaniaeth oedd yna ar draws pedwar rhanbarth Cymru. Mae tua dau o bob pump (39%) o weithredwyr yn dweud eu bod wedi cael rhagor o ymwelwyr o'r tu allan i Gymru eleni, ac mae hanner (49%) wedi cael yr un lefel. Credir bod gwerth isel y bunt yn ffactor gan fod gwyliau dramor wedi dod yn ddrutach i bobl sy'n mynd ar eu gwyliau o Brydain. 'Costau cynyddol cyfleustodau' yw'r rhwystr mwyaf i dwf a llwyddiant busnesau. Mae gweithredwyr yn ei sgorio 3.5 allan o 5 ar gyfartaledd, gyda 5 y sgôr uchaf fel rhwystr. Cwmnïau hunanarlwyo sydd fwyaf pryderus am y cynnydd mewn cystadleuaeth (3.6 ar gyfartaledd). Ar gyfer tai bwyta, tafarndai a chaffis, costau cynyddol bwyd a diod yw'r rhwystr mwyaf (4.1 ar gyfartaledd). Mae atyniadau'n arbennig o bryderus oherwydd adnoddau prin y sector cyhoeddus os ydynt yn derbyn arian cyhoeddus, fel y mae rhai.

[1] Diffinnir gweithredwyr twristiaeth fel llety â gwasanaeth; hunan-arlwyo; carafannau a safleoedd gwersylla; hostelau; atyniadau; gweithredwyr gweithgareddau; a thai bwyta, tafarndai a chaffis mewn ardaloedd lle ceir nifer mawr o ymwelwyr. Gofynnir i weithredwyr yn y categori olaf i ateb cwestiynau yng nghyd-destun eu cwsmeriaid twristiaeth (hy nad ydynt yn lleol).

Gwerthusiad o'r Gronfa Isadeiledd Safleoedd Cyflogaeth Strategol

http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-strategic-employment-sites-infrastructure-fund/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 26 Hydref 2017

Perthnasedd: Derbyniodd y Gronfa Isadeiledd Safleoedd Cyflogaeth Strategol (SESIF) gyllid ERDF yn ystod 2007-2013 i hwyluso'r broses o ddatblygu safleoedd cyflogaeth strategol drwy fuddsoddi mewn gwaith seilwaith uwch.

Crynodeb:
Canfu'r gwerthusiad, ar y cyfan, bod gwaith rheoli, monitro a systemau cydymffurfio SESIF wedi bod yn dda. Er bod oedi wedi codi o ran rhoi prosiectau ar waith, sydd yn eu tro wedi arwain at fethu â chwblhau gwaith yn ffisegol o fewn yr amserlen a oedd yn ofynnol, mae hyn yn adlewyrchu cymhlethdod y prosiect i raddau, a'r materion penodol i safle a wynebwyd. Serch hynny, byddai'r prosiect wedi elwa o ddull rheoli strategol mwy llym a rhagweithiol, yn ogystal â dull mwy rhagweithiol o reoli risg yn ystod camau datblygu a gwerthuso'r prosiect. Er nad yw SESIF wedi bodloni ei darged allbwn allweddol o ran datblygu tir, mae'r gwerthusiad yn dod i'r casgliad bod prosiect SESIF mewn sefyllfa gymharol gryf o ran cyflawni rhai o'r canlyniadau economaidd a'r effeithiau cysylltiedig eraill yn y blynyddoedd sydd i ddod. Er na wnaeth prosiect Rhyd y Blew, Glynebwy gwblhau ar amser, cafodd cyfran helaeth o'r gwaith gofynnol ei wneud yn ôl y bwriad, gan gynnwys y mesurau lliniaru ecolegol. Bydd ymrwymo rhagor o adnoddau gan Lywodraeth Cymru'n sicrhau bod y gwaith i gyd yn cael ei gwblhau yn y dyfodol agos. Mae'r safle nawr mewn sefyllfa dda iawn i ddenu meddianwyr ar gyfer y dyfodol. Mae safle Parc Bryn Cegin yng Ngogledd Cymru'n dal i fod yn wag adeg y gwerthuso, a daeth y gwerthuswyr i'r casgliad mai prin fydd y cyfleoedd datblygu ar y safle hwn yn y tymor byr i ganolig, oherwydd yr amgylchiadau economaidd anodd a'r cyflenwad da o dir a safleoedd eraill sydd ar gael a'r galw cymedrol. Er hynny, o ganlyniad i'r buddsoddiad, mae gan Fangor safle cyflogaeth bellach sy'n barod i groesawu datblygwyr mawr yn ei phortffolio o safleoedd. Daeth y gwerthusiad hefyd i'r casgliad fod datblygu'r darn ffordd 1.5km yn Ffordd Amazon Cyfnod 2 yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot yn gam nesaf pwysig i ddarparu amcanion adfywio a datblygu economaidd Llywodraeth Cymru a rhai ei phartneriaid ar gyfer ardal Coridor Ffordd Fabian / Jersey Marine.

Themâu trawsbynciol: Cyfle cyfartal a phrif ffrydio rhywedd

Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen - Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol 2007-2013 yng Nghymru

http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Roedd Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen 2007-2013 yn cynnwys holl agweddau rhaglenni 2007-2013, gan gynnwys y Themâu Trawsbynciol.

Crynodeb:
Er bod cefnogaeth dda i egwyddorion ac amcanion y Themâu Trawsbynciol, roedd y perfformiad o ran targedau a chyflawni amcanion y Themâu Trawsbynciol yn wael iawn. Canfyddiad allweddol yn hyn o beth yw bod targedau'r Themâu Trawsbynciol yn canolbwyntio'n ormodol ar allbwn ac yn annigonol o ran crynhoi rhai o fanteision mwy cynnil, ond sylweddol, gweithgaredd yn ymwneud â'r Themâu Trawsbynciol. Mae hwn yn bwynt dysgu allweddol a ddylai fod yn sail i ymgorffori Themâu Trawsbynciol ac yn benodol, ddangosyddion y Themâu Trawsbynciol mewn unrhyw raglenni yn y dyfodol. Hefyd, roedd diffyg tystiolaeth gyffredinol i awgrymu bod y Themâu Trawsbynciol wedi'u hintegreiddio yn y broses o gyflawni gweithgaredd prosiectau, ond roedd hyn yn llawer mwy tebygol o ddigwydd mewn prosiectau a oedd â ffocws cynhenid ar gydraddoldeb neu gynaliadwyedd amgylcheddol. Er gwaethaf hyn, gwelwyd enghreifftiau calonogol iawn o arfer da mewn perthynas â'r Themâu Trawsbynciol. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys arferion arloesol o ran gwella cyfle cyfartal yn y gweithle, ymgynghoriad cynhwysol gyda'r gymuned, gwelliannau o ran hygyrchedd i adeiladu ac adnoddau cyhoeddus a datblygu a chymhwyso deunyddiau adnewyddadwy a ffynonellau ynni. Un pwynt dysgu allweddol sy'n ymwneud â gweithredu Themâu Trawsbynciol yw'r angen i sicrhau bod adnoddau'n cael eu neilltuo i sicrhau bod capasiti ac arbenigedd priodol ar gael ar lefel prosiectau i hyrwyddo integreiddio a chyflawni prosiectau'n ystyrlon.

Pobl anabl: agweddau tuag at deithio

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disabled-people-attitudes-towards-travel

Sefydliad: Yr Adran Drafnidiaeth

Dyddiad: 13 Tachwedd 2017

Perthnasedd: Un o amcanion cydraddoldeb y rhaglenni yw cefnogi mynediad i bobl anabl a phobl ddu a lleiafrifoedd ethnig i gyfleoedd hyfforddiant a chyflogaeth, gan gynnwys drwy ddatrysiadau cludiant cynaliadwy.

Crynodeb:
Mae anabledd yn ffactor pwysig i esbonio ymddygiad teithio unigolion a newidiadau mewn ymddygiad dros amser. Ni ddylid ystyried pobl anabl fel grŵp unffurf, gan fod ymddygiad ac agweddau teithio'n amrywio yn ôl nodweddion unigol, fel oedran yr unigolyn a lefel a math yr anabledd. Mae ymddygiad a phrofiadau pobl anabl yn amrywio ar draws gwahanol ddulliau o deithio, ac mae gwahanol anableddau'n gysylltiedig â defnyddio gwahanol ddulliau o deithio.

Themâu trawsbynciol: Datblygu cynaliadwy

Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen - Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol 2007-2013 yng Nghymru

http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Roedd Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen 2007-2013 yn cynnwys holl agweddau rhaglenni 2007-2013, gan gynnwys y Themâu Trawsbynciol.

Crynodeb:
Er bod cefnogaeth dda i egwyddorion ac amcanion y Themâu Trawsbynciol, roedd y perfformiad o ran targedau a chyflawni amcanion y Themâu Trawsbynciol yn wael iawn. Canfyddiad allweddol yn hyn o beth yw bod targedau'r Themâu Trawsbynciol yn canolbwyntio'n ormodol ar allbwn ac yn annigonol o ran crynhoi rhai o fanteision mwy cynnil, ond sylweddol, gweithgaredd yn ymwneud â'r Themâu Trawsbynciol. Mae hwn yn bwynt dysgu allweddol a ddylai fod yn sail i ymgorffori Themâu Trawsbynciol ac yn benodol, ddangosyddion y Themâu Trawsbynciol mewn unrhyw raglenni yn y dyfodol. Hefyd, roedd diffyg tystiolaeth gyffredinol i awgrymu bod y Themâu Trawsbynciol wedi'u hintegreiddio yn y broses o gyflawni gweithgaredd prosiectau, ond roedd hyn yn llawer mwy tebygol o ddigwydd mewn prosiectau a oedd â ffocws cynhenid ar gydraddoldeb neu gynaliadwyedd amgylcheddol. Er gwaethaf hyn, gwelwyd enghreifftiau calonogol iawn o arfer da mewn perthynas â'r Themâu Trawsbynciol. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys arferion arloesol i wella cyfle cyfartal yn y gweithle, gweithgaredd ymgynghori cymunedol cynhwysol, gwelliannau mewn hygyrchedd i adeiladau ac adnoddau cyhoeddus a datblygu a defnyddio deunyddiau a ffynonellau ynni adnewyddadwy. Un pwynt dysgu allweddol sy'n ymwneud â gweithredu Themâu Trawsbynciol yw'r angen i sicrhau bod adnoddau'n cael eu neilltuo i sicrhau bod capasiti ac arbenigedd priodol ar gael ar lefel prosiectau i hyrwyddo integreiddio a chyflawni prosiectau'n ystyrlon.

Themâu trawsbynciol: Trechu tlodi ac allgáu cymdeithasol

Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen - Rhaglenni Cronfeydd Strwythurol 2007-2013 yng Nghymru

http://gov.wales/funding/eu-funds/previous/programme-evaluation/59394125/?skip=1&lang=cy

Sefydliad: Llywodraeth Cymru

Dyddiad: 5 Rhagfyr 2017

Perthnasedd: Roedd Gwerthusiad Terfyn Rhaglen 2007-2013 yn cynnwys holl agweddau rhaglenni 2007-2013, gan gynnwys y Themâu Trawsbynciol.

Crynodeb:
Er bod cefnogaeth dda i egwyddorion ac amcanion y Themâu Trawsbynciol, roedd y perfformiad o ran targedau a chyflawni amcanion y Themâu Trawsbynciol yn wael iawn. Canfyddiad allweddol yn hyn o beth yw bod targedau'r Themâu Trawsbynciol yn canolbwyntio'n ormodol ar allbwn ac yn annigonol o ran crynhoi rhai o fanteision mwy cynnil, ond sylweddol, gweithgaredd yn ymwneud â'r Themâu Trawsbynciol. Mae hwn yn bwynt dysgu allweddol a ddylai fod yn sail i ymgorffori Themâu Trawsbynciol ac yn benodol, ddangosyddion y Themâu Trawsbynciol mewn unrhyw raglenni yn y dyfodol. Hefyd, roedd diffyg tystiolaeth gyffredinol i awgrymu bod y Themâu Trawsbynciol wedi'u hintegreiddio yn y broses o gyflawni gweithgaredd prosiectau, ond roedd hyn yn llawer mwy tebygol o ddigwydd mewn prosiectau a oedd â ffocws cynhenid ar gydraddoldeb neu gynaliadwyedd amgylcheddol. Er gwaethaf hyn, gwelwyd enghreifftiau calonogol iawn o arfer da mewn perthynas â'r Themâu Trawsbynciol. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys arferion arloesol i wella cyfle cyfartal yn y gweithle, gweithgaredd ymgynghori cymunedol cynhwysol, gwelliannau mewn hygyrchedd i adeiladau ac adnoddau cyhoeddus a datblygu a defnyddio deunyddiau a ffynonellau ynni adnewyddadwy. Un pwynt dysgu allweddol sy'n ymwneud â gweithredu Themâu Trawsbynciol yw'r angen i sicrhau bod adnoddau'n cael eu neilltuo i sicrhau bod capasiti ac arbenigedd priodol ar gael ar lefel prosiectau i hyrwyddo integreiddio a chyflawni prosiectau'n ystyrlon.