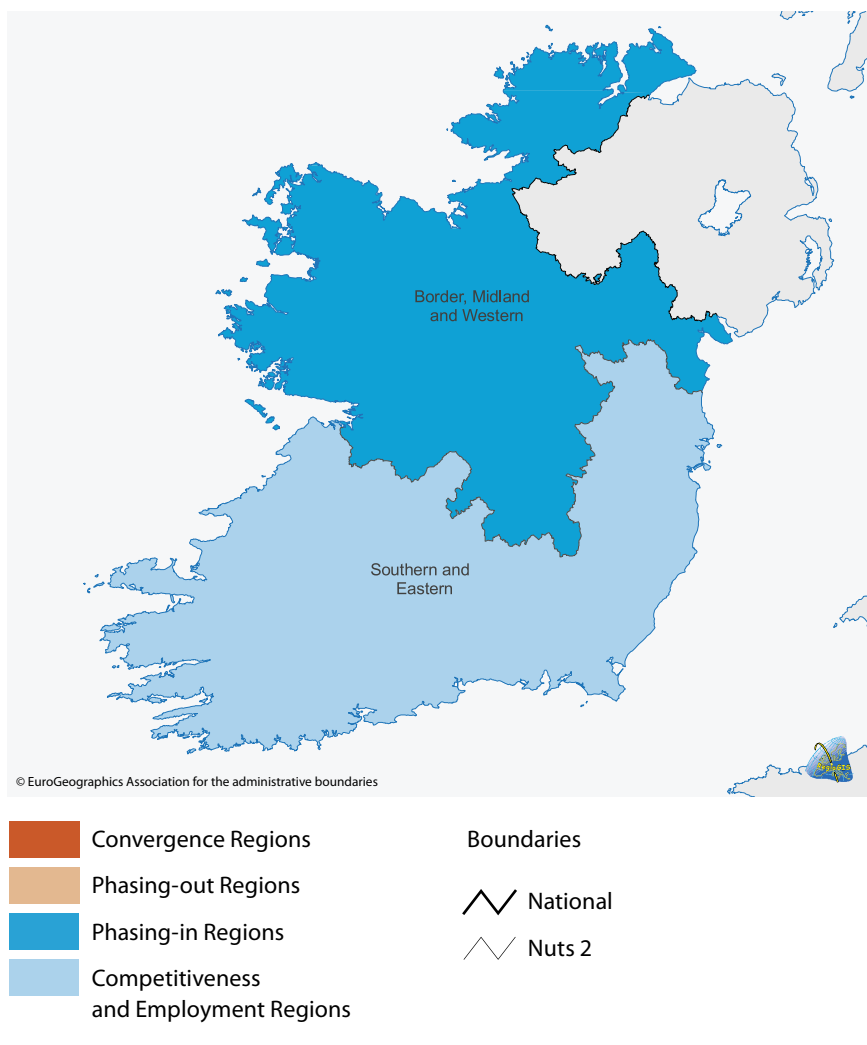


Cohesion Policy 2007-13

Competitiveness and Employment Objective 2007-13



Strategic objectives

The strategic focus of National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) actions is on the following themes and priorities:

- **Promoting human capital investment by upskilling the workforce and increasing the participation and setting up of groups outside the workforce** – the authorities will focus on women, people with disabilities, single parents, travellers and ex-offenders. A special programme will target migrants given their significant contribution to the economy.
- **Supporting innovation, knowledge and entrepreneurship in the regions** – the objective is to boost Research and Development (R&D) in areas and institutions (institutes of technology mainly) where this has been lacking in the past. The aim is to double the number of PhD graduates over the period. Ireland will also continue to develop foreign direct investment, one of the competitive characteristics of the economy.
- **Strengthening the competitiveness, attractiveness and connectivity of the National Spatial Strategy defined by the government** – this will take place by improving access to quality infrastructure and promoting environmental and sustainable development. Gateways and hubs will connect urban areas, and there will be a special focus on public transport and innovative environmental solutions.

The investment

The Fund contribution for Ireland is set at €750.72 million for the 2007-13 period. The breakdown among the Funds is €375.36 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and €375.36 million from the European Social Fund (ESF).

ERDF is set at €228.7 million (these areas are subject to special financial allocations due to their former status of Objective 1 regions).

- Regional Competitiveness and Employment objective: Southern and Eastern region. Funding from the ERDF is set at €146.6 million.

Regions to receive investment

- Phasing-in: Border, Midland and Western region. The funding from the

In addition, a Human Capital Investment Operational Programme is to receive funding from the ESF, as specified above.

The expected impact of the new Cohesion Policy

Cohesion policy has played a significant role in the development and revival of Ireland's economy. The Economic and Social Research Institute has estimated that Structural Fund actions over the first two programming periods combined (1989-93 and 1994-99) will lead to a permanent increase in GNP of 2%.

NSRF Financial Table

Operational Programme	Fund	Total
Regional Competitiveness and Employment	Community Contribution	
Southern & Eastern Regional	ERDF	146 603 534
Border Midlands & Western Regional	ERDF	228 758 838
Total ERDF		375 362 372
Human Capital Investment	ESF	375 362 370
Total all Funds - NSRF 2007-13		750 724 742
Total ERDF		375 362 372
Total ESF		375 362 370

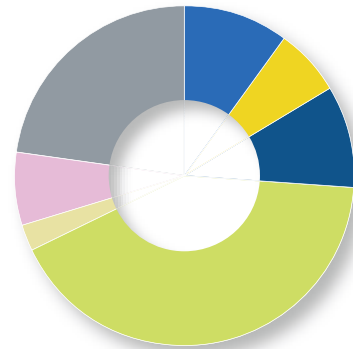
The Irish authorities have set up the following outputs and results indicators for the period 2007-13 (a selection from the programmes):

Border, Midland and Western Region	
Number of training days provided to micro-enterprises	119 570
Number of micro-enterprises supported	5 011
Number of researchers engaged in the approved projects	100
Number of recipients of training	61 550
Number of jobs created in assisted micro-enterprises	20 880
Number of energy schemes introduced	8
Population equivalent served by innovative sewage treatment schemes	2 800
Number of Sustainable Development Zones	4
Southern and Eastern region	
Number of Enterprises in Incubation Centres	16
Number of training days provided to SMEs	249 290
Number of enterprises supported	8 030
Number of additional researchers employed in the region's HEIs	560
No of recipients of training	141 160
Population equivalent served by innovative sewage treatment schemes	4 200
Additional businesses with broadband available	23 125
Number of integrated growth centre strategies approved	10
Number of public transport projects supported	5
Increased public transport usage in Gateways	20%
Number of jobs created (estimate from baseline)	7 500

Breakdown by theme as proposed by Ireland in its draft operational programmes

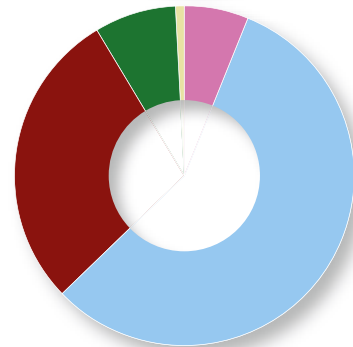
European Regional Development Fund 2007-13

Energy	10.1%
Environmental protection and risk prevention	6.5%
Information society	9.6%
Research and technological development (R&TD), innovation and entrepreneurship	41.7%
Technical assistance	2.4%
Transport	7.0%
Urban and rural regeneration	22.6%



European Social Fund 2007-13

Improving access to employment and sustainability	6.3%
Improving human capital	56.6%
Improving the social inclusion of less-favoured persons	28.6%
Increasing the adaptability of workers and firms, enterprises and entrepreneurs	7.6%
Technical assistance	0.8%



They have also estimated that funding for the first three years of the 2000-06 period will add a further 0.7% to GNP. The funding for Ireland in 2007-13 has decreased significantly as a result of the country's economic development. The expected macroeconomic impact of the new programmes will therefore be significantly lower. In view of this, the Irish authorities have opted for a niche approach. The ERDF actions will therefore target niche areas that generate high levels of EU added value e.g. supporting the Research and Development (R&D) work of institutes of technology in

the Border Midland and Western region, environmental flagship projects, small business development schemes and specific public transport projects.

An investment for growth and jobs

Ireland's NSRF is almost exclusively geared towards the Lisbon Strategy for jobs and growth. Indeed, the share of investment earmarked for the Lisbon Strategy is close to 85%.

Operational programmes

Ireland's strategic planning for the 2007-13 period will be implemented through **three operational programmes (OPs)**: two regional programmes and one human resources sectoral programme. The three OPs and their priorities are as follows:

- The Border, Midland and Western Region OP: innovation and knowledge economy, environment and risk prevention, access to transport and telecommunications, and urban development.
- The Southern & Eastern Regional OP: innovation and knowledge economy, environment and accessibility, sustainable urban development and technical assistance.
- The Human Capital Investment OP: increased skill levels and enhanced workforce productivity, the set up and participation of groups outside the workforce.

Contact points in Ireland

Irish authorities with overall responsibility for Cohesion policy 2007-13:

BMW Programme

Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly
The Square, Ballaghaderreen
Co. Roscommon

S&E Programme

Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly
Assembly House
O'Connell Street
Waterford

The full text of the NSRF and programmes are available at:

> www.ndp.ie/docs/NDP_Homepage/1131.htm

