



**Expert evaluation network
delivering policy analysis on the
performance of Cohesion policy 2007-2013
Year 2 – 2012**

**Task 2: Country Report on Achievements of
Cohesion policy**

Ireland

Version: Final

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**A report to the European Commission
Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy**

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List of abbreviations

- AIR Annual Implementation Report
- BMW Border, Midlands and West
- CEBs City and County Enterprise Boards
- EC European Commission
- ECB European Central Bank
- IMF International Monetary Fund
- NSS National Spatial Strategy
- OP Operational Programme
- PRTL I Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions
- SILC Survey of Income and Living Conditions
- S&E Southern and Eastern

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The “regional problem” has been a persistent reality in Ireland for many years and since the 1950s successive governments have stated a commitment to achieve “balanced regional development”. Since the 1970s membership of the European Union and subsequent access to the ERDF and Cohesion Funds influenced and gave a strong impetus to Irish regional policy. Eight Regional Authority (NUTS III) regions were established in 1994. These still remain and play important co-ordinating roles. Two new regional bodies – the Border, Midlands and Western (BMW) Assembly and the Southern and Eastern (S&E) Assembly were also established in 1999 to manage EU Structural Funds in two larger NUTS II regions. A Western Development Commission was also established in 2000 in the BMW region.

Current regional policy is pursued in a difficult environment. Following a decade of relative prosperity Ireland experienced a severe economic downturn since 2007. Gross Domestic Product and employment fell significantly and unemployment escalated. Tax revenue fell far behind government expenditure. A succession of “austerity” Budgets since 2008 have imposed large expenditure cuts and tax increases. In December 2010 special loan assistance was agreed with the European Commission (EC), European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but the conditions associated with these loans have further reduced the potential for sustainable regional development.

Regional policy in Ireland is carried out in collaboration with the EC Directorate General for Regional Policy (operating under the “Competitiveness and Employment Objective” and in line with two Regional Operational Programmes (OPs)). The central areas of policy have been and remain the support of innovation, enterprise, including RTDI, investment, urban development, transport infrastructure, environmental and energy infrastructure and a number of “territorial development” programmes. During the 2007-13 programming period and during the recent past ERDF expenditure on most of these policy areas has been “matched” in a satisfactory manner by the Irish government. However, the budgetary constraints have resulted in the deferral of additional expenditure on a range of regional projects planned by the Government. If this persists the OP targets up to 2013 are unlikely to be achieved.

Some positive achievements have been recorded since the last Cohesion policy Report (Drudy, 2011). Progress has been made in both NUTS II regions, especially in the Enterprise/Innovation policy area in relation to research, training and the maintenance of employment in micro-enterprises, SME finance and broadband provision. Important urban regeneration projects have been completed and further progress has been made in relation to territorial co-operation e.g. in the Ireland Wales Programme. However, some key objectives of Cohesion policy have not been achieved. Regional disparities persist, and unemployment remains unacceptably high in a number of regions. This is particularly the case in the largely agricultural and rural regions.

A number of completed evaluations were examined in the 2011 Report. In general it can be concluded from these that the expenditure to date on Cohesion policy had many positive outcomes. While no new evaluations were carried out during the last year, a Gateway Development Index for the BMW and S&E regions (constructed in 1999) forms a useful basis for further evaluation and is currently being updated.

Significant challenges persist in the Irish regions. A strong re-invigorated regional and cohesion policy with adequate funding, pursued vigorously by the Irish government and the Commission, is now more critical than ever.

1. THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The serious difficulties in the Irish economy which became particularly clear from 2007 resulted in the need for a programme of significant financial assistance from the IMF, the EC and the ECB. This assistance was agreed with the Irish government. However, the conditions, including the time-scale of repayments associated with this assistance, inevitably resulted in additional challenges for Ireland. The socio-economic situation in Ireland must be viewed in this context as well as in the light of continuing difficulties being experienced throughout much of the rest of Europe.

Main points from previous country report:

- The collapse of major lending institutions due to excessive lending of funds and ongoing government action to rescue them;
- The collapse of large property firms due to excessive borrowing of funds and government action to deal with this;
- Further increase in national debt, including loans from the IMF, EC and ECB;
- Continuing decline in overall GDP and GDP per head since 2007;
- Tax revenue still inadequate to meet government expenditure;
- A series of harsh budgets initiated in 2008 with significant tax increases and cuts in public expenditure;
- Reduction in government investment as a % of GDP;
- Deterioration in public services;
- Significant declines in employment in all sectors and especially in industry and agriculture;
- Particular contraction in construction employment;
- Significant increase in unemployment;
- Particular concerns regarding youth unemployment and long-term unemployment;
- Continuing decline in house prices;
- Large numbers in negative equity and in mortgage arrears;
- Significant numbers of vacant houses and apartments as well as “ghost estates” arising from over-supply;

Ireland recorded an average GDP per capita growth rate of 3.6% per annum over the period 2000-2006– almost treble the EU27 growth rate. However, Eurostat data suggests that Ireland’s GDP per capita declined by 7.6% between 2008 and 2009 – well in excess of the EU27 average decline. The declines for the BMW and S&E regions for this period were 9.6% and 6.2% respectively (Excel Table 1). The country’s GDP per capita continued to decline through 2010 but recorded a modest growth rate of 1.3% in 2011. The most recent available estimates indicate that total GDP declined by 1.1% during the first quarter of 2012 (Central Statistics Office, 2012; Central Statistics Office, 2012a). The Balance of Payments current account changed from a deficit of EUR 3,800 million in 2009 to a surplus of EUR 1,800 million in both 2010 and 2011 and an estimated EUR 4,200 million in 2012 (Central Bank of Ireland, 2012). This reflects an impressive export record over the last few years, much of it attributable to multinational firms based in Ireland. On the other hand, the budget remains in significant deficit and public sector debt is substantial.

Employment change and unemployment are further important indicators. During the four years between December 2007 and December 2011 overall employment fell by 331,000 including a fall of 15,600 over the twelve month period since December 2010. See Table 1. Male and female employment fell by 20.3% and 9.1% respectively. Agricultural employment has been in long-term decline but service jobs, which had been increasing consistently over several decades, fell by 97,000 during the four year period. The industrial sector is particularly problematic largely due to the decline in employment in construction. During the above period male employment in construction alone fell by 150,000 or 60%. These losses had adverse knock-on effects on employment in a range of secondary activities reliant on construction, such as finance, insurance and real estate activities as well as accommodation and food services. (Drudy and Collins, 2011; Central Statistics Office, 2012b).

Table 1 - Employment and Unemployment in Ireland, 2007-2011

	2007	2010	2011	% Change 2007/11
Employment by main sector (thousand)				
Agriculture	113.8	85.0	80.4	-29.3
Industry	548.0	348.4	347.3	-36.6
Services	1,477.0	1,389.9	1,380.0	-6.6
Total	2,138.8	1,823.3	1,807.7	-15.5
Construction Employment (thousand)				
Male	250.2	102.9	100.3	-59.9
Female	13.5	7.0	7.2	-46.7
Total	263.7	109.9	107.5	-59.2
Unemployment (%)				
Male	4.8	17.3	17.5	
Female	4.0	10.5	10.9	
Total	4.5	14.1	14.5	
Long-Term Unemployment (thousand)				
Male	21.9	115.7	135.5	518.7
Female	7.5	38.3	46.6	521.3
Total	29.4	153.9	182.1	519.4
Rate	1.3	7.3	8.6	
Youth Unemployment Rates				
Male 15-19 years	13.3	43.1	45.0	238.3
Male 20-24 years	8.3	31.3	32.4	291.6
Female 15-19 years	9.9	31.3	34.9	252.5
Female 20-24 years	6.3	21.0	20.1	219.0
Total 15-19 years	11.7	37.1	40.3	244.4
Total 20-24 years	7.4	26.6	26.5	258.1

Note: Table compares Q4 2007 to Q4 2011. Source: CSO QNHS on-line database

It is clear that in a period of four years there were significant losses in employment and increases in unemployment. The total unemployment rate had been a mere 4.3% in April 2002 and only 4.5% in December 2007 immediately before the economic crisis. By December 2011 it had increased to 14.5%. Male unemployment reached 17.5% compared to 10.9% for females.

Long-term unemployment (unemployed for more than one year) is now severe and in December 2011 accounted for 60.3% of total unemployment. Within four years both male and female numbers increased fivefold and the long-term rate rose from 1.3% to 8.6%. Youth unemployment is a matter of particular concern and this has increased significantly in recent

years. By the end of 2011, the unemployment rates for males in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups ranged from 32 to 45% while rates for females ranged from 20 to 35% (see Table 1).

Reflecting the increasing problem of unemployment, net out-migration re-commenced in early 2009 after a period of significant net in-migration since 1996. In the year ending April 2011 net migration amounted to 27,400 and by April 2012 this had increased further to 34,400. Irish nationals represented the vast majority of those emigrating; the number of these increased from 19,200 in 2009 to 46,500 in 2012 with considerable numbers leaving the European Union (Central Statistics Office, 2012c). This represents a considerable “brain drain” to Ireland and the wider European Union. In the absence of this out-migration from the country, the unemployment rates above would be much higher.

The annual *EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC)* provides details of the extent of poverty and social exclusion in Ireland and shows that these are closely associated with high unemployment. The most recent survey estimated that 15.8% of the population (706,500 people) were “at risk of poverty” (having less than 60% of median equivalised disposable income) in 2010. This had increased from 14.1% in 2009 and marked the end of a downward trend since 2001. Ireland ranked 12th highest at risk of poverty in the EU-27. Rural areas recorded significantly higher rates than urban areas (20% compared to 13%). A further measure, the deprivation rate, showed that 22.5% of the population (over 1 million people) experienced two or more types of enforced deprivation in 2010. This rate has also deteriorated significantly since 2007 when it was 11.8% (Central Statistics Office, 2012d). These challenges underline further the case for a strong Cohesion policy.

Regional Disparities since 2007

As illustrated in the 2011 Cohesion policy Report, both the BMW and S&E regions face a number of significant challenges. The BMW region, in particular, has lagged behind the S&E region on a range of indicators for many years. Interviews carried out and questionnaires completed in the BMW and S&E regions and in selected Regional Authorities confirm this, although the S&E region also faces significant difficulties. See Annex 2.

Since 2007 the challenges experienced in the BMW region have been as follows:

- Falling GDP per capita. In 2009 this was 89% of the EU27 average compared to 103% in 2007 (CSO, 2012d);
- Depressed productivity;
- Heavy reliance on traditional sources of employment;
- Undue reliance on construction employment;
- Low proportion of professionals, employers and managers;
- Slow transition to high value economic activities;
- Cancellation of infrastructure and stimulus projects due to economic crisis
- Strict restrictions on recruitment to the public sector;
- High Unemployment.

The S&E region, despite a range of advantages, had similar characteristics:

- While GDP per capita in 2009 was well above the EU27 average at 143%, it has fallen from 165% in 2007 (CSO, 2012e);

- A diverse set of NUTS III regions, some with high dependence on traditional sources of employment;
- Undue reliance on construction employment;
- Increasing unemployment;
- Unemployment black spots in the main urban centres;
- Traffic congestion especially in the Dublin area;
- Inflationary tendencies in the Dublin area.

Table 2 provides data on regional employment change over the five year period since June 2007. The disparities in employment are most obvious when data is examined at NUTS III (Regional Authority) level. For example, the heavily agricultural and rural Border and Midlands regions within the BMW each suffered employment losses of almost 22% and 17% respectively during this period, while within the S&E region, the most urbanised Dublin region and the more diverse agricultural and rural South East lost 18.3% and 15.5% respectively.

Employment losses continued throughout 2010 and 2011 and into 2012 in both BMW and S&E NUTS II regions. Table 2 shows that in the brief one-year period up to June 2012 employment in the BMW region contracted by 3% and in the S&E region by 1.2%. At NUTS III level the mostly rural Border and Midlands in BMW lost jobs while the West remained static. Within the S&E region the Mid East, South East and South West registered modest gains but these were more than cancelled out by significant losses in Dublin and the Mid West. Therefore, using employment change as an indicator the BMW region continues to under-perform.

Table 2 - Regional Employment Change in Ireland, 2007-2012 (thousands)

	June 2007	June 2011	June 2012	% change 2007-12	% change 2011-12
NUTS II					
BMW Region	544.9	466.1	452.0	-17.0	-3.0
NUTS III					
Border	221.1	184.0	172.7	-21.9	-6.1
Midlands	122.9	104.9	102.2	-16.8	-2.6
West	200.8	177.1	177.1	-11.8	-
NUTS II					
S&E Region	1,569.0	1,355.3	1,335.9	-14.9	-1.2
NUTS III					
Dublin	616.0	520.5	503.0	-18.3	-3.4
Mid East	251.1	231.8	232.0	-7.6	0.1
Mid West	173.9	154.8	148.9	-14.4	-3.8
South East	223.4	187.4	188.7	-15.5	0.7
South West	304.6	260.7	263.4	-13.5	1.0
National Total	2,113.9	1,821.3	1,787.9	-15.4	-1.8

Source: Central Statistics Office QNHS on-line database

Table 3 - Regional Unemployment Rates in Ireland, 2007-2012 (%)

	June 2007	June 2011	June 2012
NUTS II			
BMW Region	5.0	16.0	16.5
NUTS III			
Border	5.7	15.0	16.3
Midlands	4.3	16.8	17.9
West	4.5	16.6	15.8
NUTS II			
S&E Region	4.5	13.7	14.1
NUTS III			
Dublin	4.8	12.1	12.1
Mid East	4.0	12.2	13.6
Mid West	5.3	15.8	15.8
South East	4.9	18.2	18.7
South West	3.7	13.5	13.8
National Total	4.6	14.3	14.7

Source: Central Statistics Office QNHS on-line database

These employment losses resulted in a dramatic increase in unemployment as shown in Table 3. Again, the BMW region fared worst. During the last year the unemployment problem has deteriorated or remained static in all areas of the country apart from the West NUTS III region which registered a modest improvement. At a NUTS II level the BMW region increased to 16.5% and the S&E region to 14.1%. At the lower NUTS III level the largely rural Midlands and Border in BMW have rates of 17.9% and 16.3% respectively while the peripheral South East in the S&E region deteriorated further during the twelve month period, and this region has still the highest rate of unemployment in the country (18.7%).

It is clear therefore that the serious regional challenges since 2007 outlined earlier have persisted throughout 2011 and into 2012. The problems are especially obvious in the BMW region and in particular in the rural and least urbanised areas. The S&E region, despite its more favourable position, still contains areas of persistently high unemployment and the South East Regional Authority area is particularly problematic. Interviews with and submissions by key personnel in the various regions confirm these findings. See Annex 2 for further details. The general consensus is that retrenchment policies, including cutbacks in infrastructure, other services and a moratorium on public sector recruitment, being pursued by the government and heavily influenced by the EC, ECB and IMF, are having serious economic and social effects, despite the undoubted potential for regional development (see also Social Justice Ireland, 2012).

2. THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUED, THE EU CONTRIBUTION TO THIS AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PERIOD

THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUED

Main points from previous country report:

- Regional policy in Ireland is initiated and framed in a national context and is heavily centralised in Central Government Departments.

- Consultation does take place with a range of regional institutions and agencies. However, these lack significant executive and financial power.
- EU policies, and in particular ERDF support, has facilitated and encouraged a number of important changes in approach, emphasising key elements of development as outlined below.
- Since 2002 one key element of regional policy has been the development of a *National Spatial Strategy (NSS)* designed to develop nine “Gateways” and nine “Hubs” in the main urban centres (Government of Ireland, 2002).
- In 2007 the “urban” focus of the policy was reflected in the BMW and S&E *Regional OPs* and the *National Development Plan 2007-13* which gave a specific commitment to invest EUR 300 million in the Gateways and Hubs (Government of Ireland, 2007).
- An up-date of the NSS in 2010 again stressed the need to develop selected urban centres as well as rural regions.
- This also proposed that new Regional Planning Guidelines for the period 2010-2022 would be “utilised as the framework for monitoring the integration of national, regional and local planning” - a recognition of the long-standing and heavily centralized system in Ireland (Government of Ireland, 2010)

Operating under the “Competitiveness and Employment Objective” and in line with the two OPs the central areas of policy continue to be the support of enterprise, including RTDI, innovation and investment, urban development, transport infrastructure, environmental and energy infrastructure and a number of “territorial development” programmes. Up to December 2011 the enterprise and innovation policy area had been allocated EUR 196 million in ERDF or 52% of the total (see Excel Table 3). Transport received an allocation of EUR 80.3 million while energy and environmental infrastructure procured EUR 19 million and EUR 27 million respectively. An allocation of EUR 46.5 million went to territorial development, including tourism, planning, rehabilitation and social regeneration. However, overall investment in these policy areas has been seriously restricted since the economic downturn in 2007. First, Ireland has not been eligible for support from the Cohesion Fund since 2003 due to the apparent success during the previous years in comparison with other member states. Second, the ERDF allocation of EUR 375 million to the two NUTS II regions over the seven year period from 2007 is modest in contrast to previous periods. Third, while the Government has been able to match the ERDF allocation to date as required, severe cutbacks in expenditure mean that the additional expenditure proposed in the National Development Plan 2007-2013 has been deferred for the foreseeable future. As an example, the EUR 300 million earmarked for the Gateways in the 2007 *National Development Plan* was deferred and replaced by a more modest Gateway Challenge Fund supported by the ERDF in both NUTS II regions. A “Capital Review” in 2010 made provision for a revised Gateway Fund of EUR 200 million but this is not yet available (Government of Ireland, 2010).

In the BMW region there have been no shifts in strategic priorities. However, amendments to the Priority allocations were agreed with the EU Commission in 2011. The reduction in the Irish matched allocation to 50% from 60% previously agreed was due to the changed economic environment and constraints on public finance. See Annex Table A. In December 2011, an amendment to the General Structural Funds Regulation 1083/2006 was approved to enable certain Member States that were experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with

respect to their financial stability, to apply for a derogation allowing a temporary increase of 10% in the EU co-financing rate for interim payments from Structural Funds, without requiring a formal change to the financial plan of the OPs. Ireland formally applied for the derogation in respect of the BMW Regional OP on 20 December 2011 and this was deemed eligible for the application of the derogation on 22 December 2011. This had the effect of significantly reducing the funding commitment by the Irish government from EUR 343.1 million in the BMW Operational Programme to EUR 228.8 million. Furthermore, no new policy initiatives relating to the OP took place in the BMW during 2011 and the deterioration in the Irish public finances has resulted in the reduction, deferral or cancellation of much planned investment. See Annex 2 and BMW, *Annual Implementation Report, 2011*.

In the S&E region there have been no shifts in strategic priorities set out in the OP. However, the Managing Authority has submitted a programme modification proposal to the EC arising out of recommendations from the Mid Term Evaluation examined in the 2011 Report. If agreed, this would result in a reallocation of resources from Priority 2, 3 and 4 to Priority 1 (Enterprise and Innovation) as follows:

- Enterprise/Innovation + EUR 15.2 million
- Environment/Accessibility - EUR 4 million
- Transport/Urban - EUR 8 million
- Technical Assistance - EUR 3.2 million

This is in line with the Lisbon and EU 2020 strategy. In addition to this and in view of the changed economic climate no significant new state-funded policy initiatives have been taken place during 2011 and, as in the BMW, much planned investment has been deferred. Again, the budget reductions in government departments and state agencies have adversely affected the ability in this region to provide the necessary funding.

Youth Unemployment

The problem of increasing youth unemployment was mentioned above. As illustrated earlier in Table 1 this is now a major issue compared to the situation in 2007 when the OPs commenced. A number of recent policy initiatives at national level have been taken. These include the *Jobs Initiative Scheme* launched in May 2011 as well as the *Pathways to Work Scheme* and the *Action Plan for Jobs of February 2012* (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, 2012). The latter *Action Plan* proposed a wide range of initiatives to be taken in 2012 across all Government Departments and 36 agencies. One proposal is to replace the existing City and County Enterprise Boards (CEBs) with a new Micro-Enterprise and Small Business Unit in Enterprise Ireland and Local Enterprise Offices in each Local Authority. While not designed specifically for youth unemployment, any support for micro-enterprises and incubation centres provided in the past by the CEBs which continues nowadays is likely to make an important contribution to resolving this problem. In the absence of this support, youth unemployment could be much worse. A network of 35 CEBs co-financed by ERDF provided a total of EUR 105.2 million in grants and training supports over the period from 2007 to 2011 (EUR 34.4 million in BMW and EUR 70.8 million in S&E). The main funding was provided under Ireland's National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 through the Innovation ICT & Knowledge Economy Priorities of the Micro-Enterprise, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Themes of the two Irish Regional Operational Programmes. See Drudy, 2012.

SME Finance

A further problem at both national and regional levels has been the difficulty experienced by SMEs in obtaining finance due to the collapse of several major lending institutions and, despite state support, their subsequent reluctance to lend to small business. In view of this the CEBs took action to fill this gap and again played a key role in recent years in financing, mentoring and supporting micro-enterprise throughout the country in both BMW and S&E regions.

The principal SME financial supports co-funded by ERDF and the Irish government during the present programming period were refundable aid/grants (for capital, employment or feasibility studies) given to or shares taken in micro-enterprises. An estimated EUR 7 million was received from ERDF for distribution as refundable aid and shares over the 2007-2011 period. While modest, these have filled an important gap in relation to SME finance. Because of their extensive spread throughout the country they also have the potential to impact most favourably on local, rural and regional development and to further cohesion (Drudy, 2012).

A number of other schemes designed to provide finance to SMEs were recently introduced under the *Action Plan for Jobs* mentioned above. For example, a new Micro-Finance Fund with allocated funding of EUR 10 million was established in early 2012 to assist start-up, newly-established or growing micro-enterprises. In addition, the Credit Guarantee Act was passed in July 2012 to allow the government to guarantee a range of loans for enterprise development.

Territorial Co-operation

The 2011 country report provided details of the Programmes in which Ireland was involved as well as their policy objectives. These were:

- PEACE III Programme;
- INTERREG IVA (Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland Programme);
- Ireland Wales Programme;
- Atlantic Area Programme;
- North-West Europe Programme;
- Northern Periphery Programme.

A number of evaluations had been carried out and these were assessed. The conclusion was that, in the main, the Programme objectives were being met and the implementation was of a high quality. The Mid-Term Evaluation of the Ireland Wales Programme (which covered the period from 2007 to 2010) was considered to be an example of “good practice”. The more recent achievements of this Programme are examined below.

Conclusion

Irish regional policy priorities in 2011 remained similar to those existing prior to 2009. As shown below expenditure co-financed by the Irish government and ERDF has taken place in a number of policy areas. However, the significant deterioration in government finances and the significant constraints associated with the loans from the EC, the ECB and IMF have resulted in a deferral or abandonment of proposed regional initiatives. In this context, ERDF support, although currently too small to make a major impact, has been, and will remain, critical in influencing and enabling some important regional policy initiatives.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION¹

Main points from previous country report:

- By the end of 2010 the main ERDF allocation went to Enterprise and Innovation (54%) while Transport, Environment/Energy and Territorial Development were each allocated 14-16%.
- Actual expenditure up to 2010 as a proportion of that planned for the programme period was high in both regions - 84% in the case of the S&E region and 77% for BMW.
- The main expenditure in the S&E was in the Enterprise/Innovation policy area while the focus in BMW was on transport and urban development.

The total allocated/planned expenditure of ERDF in both regions for the entire programme period is compared to actual expenditure up to December 2011 in Table 4. In the S&E region the actual expenditure up to 2011 (EUR 130.3 million) as a proportion of that planned for the Programme period is 88.9% (84.4% by 2010). The steady progress in implementation reported up to 2010 has continued and it seems clear that the entire ERDF allocation will be used within the OP period. The vast brunt of expenditure in the S&E was in the Enterprise and Innovation policy area with particular reference to investment in the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLTI) which is examined below.

Table 4 - The ERDF: Planned Expenditure 2007-13 and Actual Expenditure 2007-11 in the S&E and BMW Regions (EUR million)

	S&E Region		BMW Region	
	Planned 2007-13	Actual 2007-11	Planned 2007-13	Actual 2007-11
Ent/Innov	96.0	96.0	100.0	71.1
Environment/Access	26.0	26.0	37.5	25.3
Transport/Urban	20.0	7.8	89.0	106.4
Technical assistance	4.6	0.5	2.2	1.5
Total	146.6	130.3	228.8	204.3

Note: In the S&E region ERDF "eligible expenditure" in the Enterprise/ Innovation policy area of the OP has reached EUR 199.7 million and the Environment/Accessibility policy area has reached EUR 29.4 million. Combined with the other Priorities it is clear this is well ahead of the allocation. Since there is surplus expenditure within the PRTLTI scheme, the Managing Authority has made a strategic decision to only include capital expenditure in its initial declarations for ERDF co-financing. This does not in any way affect the eligibility of the remaining schemes or indicate that they may not be included in further declarations. Likewise within the energy schemes the Managing Authority will only include some of the operations in declarations for ERDF co-financing. Again this does not in any way affect the eligibility of the remaining schemes or indicate that they may not be included in further declarations.

Source: S&E and BMW Regional Assembly Operational Programmes, 2007-13 and Regional Assembly data.

In the BMW region the actual expenditure of ERDF up to 2011 (EUR 204.3 million) as a proportion of that planned for the Programme period is 89.3% (76.9% up to 2010). Again, the implementation rate is satisfactory and it is most likely that the entire ERDF allocation will be used within the OP period. In this region most of the expenditure took place in the

¹ The indicators used in this section come mainly from the AIR for 2011, which relate to the situation up to the end of 2011. A more up-to-date view of the aggregate position (though not of the situation in the different policy areas) is presented in the Synthesis Report for 2012 of the Expert evaluation network delivering policy analysis on the performance of Cohesion policy 2007-2013 which is based on data for payments from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund up to the end of 2012, i.e. after the present report was completed.

Transport/Urban policy area, followed by Enterprise and Innovation, reflecting the recent road and rail infrastructural improvements and the fact that this region has fewer Third Level Institutions availing of PRTLTI.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMMES SO FAR

Main points from previous country report:

- The strong emphasis on innovation policy has resulted in significant improvements to research and innovation infrastructure, post-graduate education and inter-institutional collaboration between third level institutions via the PRTLTI;
- An “Impact” study of PRTLTI carried out in 2011 estimated a “commercial impact” of EUR 753.7 million, an “employment impact” of 1,255 jobs and an estimated future “commercial impact” of EUR 1,100 million.
- A modest increase in employment in micro-enterprises in the BMW region, but a significant decrease in the S&E region. Increased support for micro-enterprise in both regions;
- Significant improvement in broadband provision to residences and businesses in both regions;
- Improvements in selected “Gateways” and “Hubs” with a new ERDF-supported scheme;
- Positive impacts identified in relation to a number of Territorial Co-operation programmes.

Selected achievements up to December 2011 are examined for the BMW region under a number of sub-headings set out in Table 5. A total of 14,740 jobs in the “Enterprise/Innovation” policy area were recorded in 2011 in assisted micro-enterprises. However, this was a decrease on the 14,919 already achieved by 2010 and was still much less than the baseline of 16,684 in 2007. It is also well short of the target of 20,884 for 2013. While this result is far from ideal, the employment losses in ERDF-supported micro-enterprises since 2007 (11.6%) are much less than the overall losses for Irish industry as a whole (36.6%) recorded earlier in Table 1.

The number of micro-enterprises supported by CEBs in the BMW region increased by over 200 during 2011 and the number of funded researchers exceeds target. Co-financed refundable aid provided by CEBs to SMEs increased slightly in 2011. While this aid has been modest, it has filled a critical gap and has been allocated quite extensively throughout the region over the entire period since 2007. As a result it assists SMEs in a range of areas outside the main urban centres. In the Human Resources policy area, the number of those receiving micro-enterprise training with ERDF support increased significantly to 60,456 in 2011 and is now close to target. The numbers employed in Incubation Centres has also increased from its 2010 position and now also exceeds the target for 2013. There were no new achievements in transport infrastructure but the broadband target has been exceeded and a number of urban regeneration and environmental projects have been completed. Overall therefore and despite an unfavourable economic environment, a number of positive achievements have been recorded in the BMW region during 2011.

Table 5 - Selected Indicators and Outcomes in BMW Region up to 2011

Policy area	Main indicators	Outcomes/results up to:			
		Baseline	2010	2011	Target 2013
Enterprise Support – RTDI Innovation	No. of jobs created in micro-enterprises supported by CEBs	16,684	14,919	14,740	20,884
	No. of micro-enterprises supported by CEBs	2,511	3,675	3,878	5,011
	Increased access to finance by SMEs (refundable aid - EUR million)	1.2	1.0	1.1	-
	PRTL Building Programme and Research Projects	BMW and S&E regions: Approx. 90,000 sq. m. of research and library space over 4 Cycles. Significant increase in researchers and post-graduate students. BMW and S&E regions Cycle 5 awards in 2011. See Annex 3 Trinity College Biomedical Sciences: 20,742 sq. m. including 3,000 sq. m. of industrial space Irish Transgenic Network: 361 sq. m. in four Universities(Galway, Cork and 2 in Dublin)			
	No. of Researchers in Supported Projects	47	98	98	70
Human Resources (ERDF) Youth Unemployment (ERDF only)	No. of recipients of training in micro-enterprises	26,550	53,013	60,456	61,530
	Total employed in Incubation Centres	168	189	258	218
Transport and telecommunications	Km of new/improved inter-urban linking routes	-	33	33	33
	No. of new railcars serving destinations in the BMW region	-	24	24	24
	No. of additional businesses with broadband available	-	33,900	33,990	33,609
Urban Regeneration	public space regenerated in urban centres (sq. m.)	-	-	25,800	29,400.
	Km of new cycle ways	-	-	22.5	22.5
Environment and energy	No. of people served by new water treatment plants	-	-	19,000	27,327
	No. of exemplar energy savings actions supported	-	31	55	60
	Cumulative energy savings (EUR million)	-	225	238	306

Source : BMW Regional Assembly, and BMW Annual Implementation Report 2011, Ballaghaderreen

Selected outcomes in the S&E region are given in Table 6 and compared to the situation in 2010. The number of supported micro-enterprises increased by over 500. The number of jobs created in these enterprises also increased by 475 in the twelve month period. However, this latter indicator is well below both the baseline and the target. Co-financed refundable aid provided by CEBs to SMEs almost doubled in 2011. While the total has been modest, it has again filled a critical regional credit gap and has been allocated quite extensively throughout the region over the entire period since 2007. As in the BMW region, it assists SMEs in a range of areas outside the main urban centres. The number of researchers in Higher Level Institutions, which had fallen in 2010, recovered to 708 in 2011 and is now above the target. Under the Human

Resources heading the numbers being trained in micro-enterprises or employed in incubation centres increased and both are well ahead of the target. No new transport initiatives were completed in the S&E region, but broadband connections to business users are now ahead of the target. The S&E Regional Assembly manages the Ireland Wales Programme and a number of achievements have also been recorded (see below).

Table 6- Selected Indicators and Outcomes in S&E Region up to 2011

Policy area	Main indicators	Outcomes/results up to:			
		Baseline	2010	2011	Target
Enterprise Support – RTDI Innovation	No. of jobs created in micro-enterprises supported by CEBs	24,858	23,682	24,157	32,558
	No. of micro-enterprises supported by CEBs	4,029	5,984	6,489	8,029
	Increased access to finance by SMEs (refundable aid – EUR million)	2.0	1.4	2.3	-
	PRTL I Programme and Research Projects	BMW and S&E regions: Approx. 90,000 sq. m. of research and library space over 4 Cycles. Significant increase in researchers, post-graduate students and inter-institutional collaboration. BMW and S&E regions Cycle 5 awards in 2011. See Annex 3. Trinity College Biomedical Sciences: 20,742 sq. m. including 3,000 sq. m.- of industrial space Irish Transgenic Network: 361 sq. m. in four Universities (Galway, Cork and 2 in Dublin)			
	No. of additional Researchers employed in the region's HEI	-	457	708	560
Human Resources (only ERDF) – Youth Unemployment (ERDF)	No. of recipients of training in micro-enterprises	57,159	126,360	145,628	141,159
	Total employed in Incubation Centres	284	511	653	434
Transport and telecommunications	Additional businesses with broadband available	-	25,991	25,991	23,125
Territorial Co-operation : Ireland Wales Programme (see further details below)	No. of SMEs assisted	-	-	386	300
	No. of SMEs created	-	-	17	10
	New products/processes	-	-	61	15
	Cross-border projects on climate change	-	-	4	9

Source: S&E Regional Assembly and Annual Implementation Report 2012, Waterford

The PRTL I continues to be one of the most important initiatives co-funded by ERDF and considerable detail of space created and research carried out was provided over 4 Cycles in the 2010 and 2011 Reports to the Commission. Various projects from Cycle 4 were also completed in 2011 with all remaining projects due to complete by the end of 2013. Cycle 5 of PRTL I was agreed in July 2010 and awards amounting to EUR 347 million cover the period from early 2011 to 2016. Details are provided in Annex 3. From this it will be obvious that it is difficult to divide all PRTL I projects or achievements by region since most awards involve co-operation between several institutions in each region as well as in Northern Ireland. However, in relation to capital

funding awards have been made to eight higher education institutions covering 16 projects in the S&E region, although budgetary constraints deferred a number of recurrent projects in 2011 (S&E Assembly, *Annual Implementation Report*, 2011). In the BMW region Cycle 5 has funded 2 large-scale projects in NUI Galway during 2011, but they are not yet completed (BMW Assembly, *Annual Implementation Report*, 2011). These projects comprise new buildings, equipment and the recurrent cost associated with their operations and management.

- *Advancing Medicine Through Discovery (Advancing Med)* – A capital award of EUR 23.8 million and a recurrent award of EUR 1.9 million; and
- *Arts Humanities & Social Sciences Research Building (AHSSRB)* – A capital award of EUR 12 million and a recurrent element of EUR 636,000.

In addition to the “commercial” and “employment” impacts mentioned above, an important outcome of the PRTLTI has been and will continue to be the highly skilled post-graduates critical for all sectors of the economy and for international investors. Perhaps uniquely, the Programme has put in place a number of structured PhD programmes, moving from the traditional apprentice-type PhD model to a more structured approach to graduate education. This ensures that PhD students graduate with a depth of discipline knowledge but also a broader range of generic skills. To address concerns from industry in relation to the development of transferable, enterprise-relevant skills at postgraduate level, structured PhD programmes are designed at the outset to meet the needs of an employment market that is wider than academia.

Cycle 5 initiatives have been specifically structured as ‘pump primers’ in the system in order to enhance the embedding of, mainstreaming of, and sustainability of structured PhD education. In essence, whilst PRTLTI funds some students, PhD students funded by all sources (Exchequer or non-Exchequer) can benefit from participation in the programme. This allows for the design of programmes of national scale and scope that would not be possible at an individual higher education institutional level. In a national context, this represents a step forward in meeting the national objective to enhance the very nature of doctoral education in Ireland, which is a key deliverable of the *National Strategy for Higher Education*.

At its core, the PRTLTI also promotes knowledge transfer from research centres into industry and alliances involving higher education, business and social partners. Sustained economic development will depend on the attraction of highly-skilled researchers from overseas combined with the on-going development of a vibrant Irish innovation system and there is evidence that such researchers are in fact being attracted under the PRTLTI. The creation of an environment and facilities capable of developing, attracting and retaining high quality researchers is a key goal of the PRTLTI, in line with national and EU research policy (S&E, *Annual Implementation Report*, 2011). In addition, the research capacity put in place under PRTLTI has not only enhanced the reputation of the corresponding higher education institutions, but has also played a part in leveraging further funding from sources such as the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) thereby ensuring that Ireland’s infrastructure is coherently linked into large-scale initiatives at European level.

The *National Spatial Strategy* (NSS) of 2002 was updated in 2010 and this confirmed that the main policy aim is to build up a range of “Gateways” and “Hubs” in key urban centres throughout the country. Despite the deferment of the EUR 300 million expenditure originally earmarked for this scheme in the *National Development Plan, 2007-2013*, the S&E and BMW

Regional Assemblies, with financial support from the ERDF, have proceeded with economic, social, environmental and cultural initiatives in a range of urban centres. In the S&E Region a total of EUR 13.7 million was allocated by December 2010 to the main Gateways of Dublin, Cork, Limerick/Shannon and Waterford. The Cork and Waterford schemes have been completed but the Dublin and Limerick schemes, expected to be completed by December 2011, are still ongoing (S&E Regional Assembly, *Annual Implementation Report*, 2011, p. 16). In the BMW region a total of EUR 22.9 million had been spent by December 2011 (an increase of EUR 10.6 million on 2010) in 12 Gateways/Hubs. These were Dundalk, Galway, Tuam, Sligo, Mullingar, Athlone, Tullamore, Letterkenny, Ballina, Castlebar, Monaghan and Cavan). These initiatives have resulted in substantial improvements in the various urban centres, including more than 25,800 sq. m. of urban space regenerated and 22.5 km of new cycle ways (BMW Regional Assembly, *Annual Implementation Report*, 2011, p. 179).

In summary, the achievements outlined in the 2011 Report have continued on a modest scale. There has been a strong emphasis on support for and training in micro-enterprises and broadband provision is now ahead of target in both regions. In the light of the positive findings in relation to the PRTLI, it seems clear that the further investment in Cycle 5 is justified on various grounds. The support in terms of grants provided by the CEBs helps to at least maintain employment in micro-enterprises. The finance to SMEs in term of refundable aid from these bodies also fills a critical gap left by the other lending institutions. In the light of the significant cutbacks in government public expenditure and modest support from the ERDF for the two OPs for this Programme period, the above achievements are as much as could be expected.

Territorial Co-operation Achievements

In order to provide an indication of achievements under this heading, the Ireland Wales Operational Programme is taken as an example. The key policy areas for support and budgets in Programme are as follows:

- Knowledge, Innovation and Skills for Growth (budget EUR 39.6 million)
- Climate Change and Sustainable Development (budget EUR 26.4 million)
- Technical Assistance (budget EUR 4.2 million)

Included in the above budgets is a total of EUR 52.7 million from the ERDF.

The 2011 Cohesion policy Report included an assessment of the *Mid-Term Evaluation of the Ireland Wales Operational Programme* over the period 2007 to 2010 (SQW, 2011). This evaluation concluded that the emphasis on knowledge, innovation and skills in the Programme was relevant and well-founded and critical for economic revival. At the time of the evaluation a total of 24 projects of “high quality” had been funded. Overall the Programme was found to have performed well in terms of contracted expenditure but less so in the case of actual expenditure due to administrative difficulties in implementing claims and lack of matching funding. The quality of projects was good in terms of clearly contributing to the Programme goals with the majority focussed on support for SMEs, sustainable community development and research with practical applications e.g. marine-related activities. In view of the low expenditure mentioned above, the delivery of outputs/results was relatively modest with the exception of the number of “enhancements” undertaken (well in excess of 2013 target) and the SMEs created (60% of target). Monitoring and reporting on a much more regular basis was one of the resulting

recommendations. The 2011 Report concluded that this evaluation was an example of “best practice”.

In relation to recent achievements of the Ireland Wales Programme it must be emphasised that, as in the case of Ireland, the changed economic environment has posed major challenges. However, the Programme continued to make progress in 2011 in the face of extremely challenging economic conditions. Interest remains strong and this was demonstrated in the final call for proposals being subject to competitive bidding. A total of 17 applications were made in 2011 and 8 were approved in the Knowledge, Innovation and Skills policy area. By December 2011 the Programme had reached an overall 97% commitment level and had allocated funding to 41 joint co-operation projects. The total allocation, commitment and expenditure is set out in Table 7. This shows a significant improvement in expenditure since the Mid-Term Evaluation.

Table 7 - Allocation, Commitments and Expenditure on Ireland Wales OP to December 2011 (EUR million)

	Programme Allocation		Total Commitment			Total Expenditure		
	Total cost	ERDF	Total Cost	ERDF	% overall allocation	Total Cost	ERDF	% overall allocation
Priority 1	39.6	29.7	41.8	29.6	99.7	8.5	6.4	21.4
Priority 2	26.4	19.8	26.0	19.3	97.3	6.3	4.7	23.9
Priority 3	4.2	3.2	3.0	2.3	71.9	3.0	2.3	71.9
Programme Total	70.3	52.7	70.8	51.2	97.1	17.8	13.4	25.4

Source: Ireland Wales Operational Programme AIR, 2011

By the end of 2011 a total of 386 SMEs had been assisted, and 17 SMEs had been created, both indicators exceeding the targets for the entire programme. New products or processes also exceeded the target (61 compared to 15) as did the gross direct jobs created (30 compared to 20). Considerable progress was also made in relation to training projects for SMEs, disadvantaged groups and cross-border initiatives. The output indicators for Climate Change and Sustainable Development indicate similar progress by 2011 with reasonable improvement on baselines and in several cases targets being exceeded (S&E Regional Assembly, 2012).

In summary it seems clear that, despite difficult economic circumstances over the last few years, satisfactory progress continues to be made in implementing the Ireland Wales Operational Programme. Expenditure and outputs have improved since the Mid-Term Evaluation and the key recommendations for improvement are being implemented.

3. EFFECTS OF INTERVENTION

Main points from previous country report:

- In the Enterprise/Innovation policy area, the PRTLTI has been successful in furthering a range of research initiatives and inter-institutional collaboration and in providing the basis for sustainable high-value development activities.
- Progress was made in relation to additional training in both NUTS II regions
- While the various interventions are strengthening the capacity of the regions and to improve the quality of life, the interventions have been too modest to influence major change.

- Cohesion policy, although too weak to effect major change, has undoubtedly influenced the philosophy and orientation of Irish Government regional policy.

The available evidence on recent regional policy intervention in Ireland suggests a continuation of the above. The continuing emphasis on innovation and enterprise is well founded, although questions arise as to whether the high-value orientation has a sufficiently broad impact. Progress is being made in relation to additional training in both NUTS II regions and this has positive long-term implications. County Enterprise Boards have made a useful contribution to micro-enterprise development and in providing finance not available from traditional lending institutions. Regeneration programmes contributing to quality of life, though on a reduced scale to that originally planned, have been completed in a range of urban centres. Important territorial co-operation initiatives continue to take place and in the Ireland Wales Programme, for example, a range of achievements have been identified. However, significant regional disparities remain and have been obvious for many years. This is particularly clear at a NUTS III level in relation to unemployment. In effect, the ultimate objective of Cohesion policy – strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion – has not been fully resolved. The key objective and outcomes for new employment creation – a key element in furthering cohesion – have not yet been achieved.

4. EVALUATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICE IN EVALUATION

A number of evaluations were examined in the 2011 Cohesion Policy Report. However, no new evaluations have been carried out since then.

The *Annual Implementation Reports* of the Regional Assemblies provide considerable administrative detail in accordance with Commission requirements as well as information on Government and ERDF receipts and expenditure. The AIRs are not currently designed to focus on evaluation, but they do provide a range of helpful indicators. In order to allow a more critical appraisal of the success or otherwise in the various policy areas, it would be desirable that each AIR should adopt the same format, reduce the administrative detail and focus further on programme outcomes.

Two studies, currently being carried out, will be of interest in the future. As outlined earlier the Irish Government published a *National Spatial Strategy in 2002* which identified nine key urban centres (called “Gateways”) and nine other urban centres (called “Hubs”). It was proposed that these should receive priority in relation to investment and economic activity. These Gateways and Hubs were also a critical element in the Irish *National Development Plan* of 2007 and the two *Regional Operational Programmes* in the S&E Region and the BMW Region.

The S&E and BMW Regional Assemblies commissioned Fitzpatrick Associates to carry out a study of the Gateways in 2009 (Fitzpatrick Associates, 2009). The Report established a baseline for the performance of the Gateways across a range of indicators including population, extent of enterprise, quality of the environment, economic growth, employment and social provision. A public awareness survey was also conducted in each Gateway to capture residents' views of the quality of life and the impact of Gateway designation. The first findings of the index study broadly correlated with expectations as to how each Gateway and its commuting catchment was performing across the range of selected indicators.

This was strictly not an evaluation of the way Irish government investment, ERDF or Cohesion policy impacted on the Gateways. Rather it established a “baseline” from which it will be possible to judge the future success or otherwise of investment in the Gateways. The Downey Hynes Partnership was commissioned in May 2012 to up-date this work. This up-date should be useful in evaluating whether or not the Gateways have made progress on various indicators since 2009.

A second study, commissioned by DG Regio, is currently being carried out under the auspices of the European Policy Research Centre at the University of Strathclyde. Ireland is one of the case studies. This is an evaluation of the main achievements of Cohesion policy from 1989 to the present in a range of EU countries.

5. FURTHER REMARKS - NEW CHALLENGES FOR POLICY

Main points from previous country report:

- Regional disparities persisted in Ireland and little had changed over a long period of time.
- Without ERDF support, the situation would be even more problematic.
- Cuts in public expenditure, influenced by bank rescues and the strict conditions associated with loan assistance from the EC, ECB and IMF, were likely to reduce demand and employment in the Irish economy and regions further.
- A strong re-invigorated cohesion, urban and regional policy, with adequate funding, is essential.

Despite continuing cuts in Irish government expenditure and a small ERDF, a range of achievements during 2011 have been identified in this Report.

The loan assistance programme mentioned above entails a reduction in the government deficit to 3% of GDP by 2015 as well as a whole range of economy-wide adjustments, expenditure cuts and tax increases. If the planned cuts in public expenditure continue (as they did in December 2012), together with a modest ERDF, there will be little prospect of further achievements or sustainable national and regional development in the foreseeable future.

Arising from this and previous Reports (Drudy 2011a and 2012) a number of conclusions can be drawn.

- Significant challenges persist in the Irish regions. In particular, dealing with unacceptably high long-term and youth unemployment as well as social exclusion must be top priorities.
- In the absence of the ERDF together with Irish government support these difficulties would be much worse.
- The focus on research, innovation, the knowledge economy and enterprise supported by the Irish government and ERDF to date has been justified but continuing cuts in public expenditure could act as a counteract to positive outcomes identified.
- In the light of poor loan assistance from private lending institutions the repayable aid to SMEs by CEBs throughout the Irish regions, though modest, has played an important

role. There is a strong regional development case for a significant extension of loan and share instruments in the future.

- One of the key challenges facing Ireland is to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. There should be further emphasis on increasing the share of renewable energy via marine, wind, biomass and solar. Improving energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings is also a priority. These initiatives could generate significant new employment.
- What is required is a fundamental change in philosophy which gives much more serious attention and funding to Cohesion policy than it has so far received, both in Ireland and throughout the European Union.

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INTERVIEWS

The following either gave interviews or provided helpful information, including completed questionnaires. While this assistance is much appreciated none of these are of course responsible for the conclusions reached or remaining inadequacies.

Mr Gerry Finn, Director, BMW Regional Assembly, Ballaghaderreen.

Dr Kieran Moylan, Assistant Director, BMW Regional Assembly, Ballaghaderreen. Mr Adrian O'Donoghue, Policy Analyst, BMW Regional Assembly, Ballaghaderreen,

Mr David Kelly, Assistant Director, Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly, Waterford

Mr Jim Fitzpatrick, Managing Director, Fitzpatrick Associates, Dublin

Ms Sarah Dunne, EU Research Programmes, Higher Education Authority, Dublin

Mr Michael Moroney, Assistant Director, South-East Regional Authority, Clonmel.

Mr Mark O'Donnell, Director, West Regional Authority, Galway.

Mr Jim Deane, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Government Buildings, Dublin

ANNEX 1 – TABLES

See Excel Tables 1 -4:

Excel Table 1 – Regional disparities and trends

Excel Table 2 – Macro-economic developments

Excel Table 3 - Financial allocation by main policy area

Excel Table 3cbc - Financial allocation by main policy area – cross border cooperation

Excel Table 4 - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2011)

Excel Table 4cbc - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2011) – cross border cooperation

Annex Table A -BMW Region 2011: Revised operational programme reference (CCI no. 2007IE162PO001) (EUR million)

	Community Funding	National Counterpart	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding	Co-financing rate (%)	For information	
	(a)	(b) = (c) + (d)	National Public Funding (c)	National Private Funding (d)	(e) = (a) + (b)	(f) = (a)/(e)	EIB contributions	Other Funding
Priority 1: Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy(ERDF)	102.5	102.5	102.5	0.0	205.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Priority 2: Environment and Risk Prevention (ERDF)	30.0	30.0	30.0	0.0	60.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Priority 3: Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks (ERDF)	94.3	94.3	94.3	0.0	188.5	50.0	0.0	0.0
Priority 4: Technical Assistance (ERDF)	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	4.0	50.0	0.0	0.0
Total	228.8	228.8	228.8	0.0	457.5	50.0	0.0	0.0

Annex Table B - Broad policy areas and correspondence with fields of intervention (FOI)

Policy area		Code	Priority themes
1. Enterprise environment	RTDI and linked activities	01	R&TD activities in research centres
		02	R&TD infrastructure and centres of competence in a specific technology
		05	Advanced support services for firms and groups of firms
		07	Investment in firms directly linked to research and innovation (...)
		74	Developing human potential in the field of research and innovation, in particular through post-graduate studies ...
	Innovation support for SMEs	03	Technology transfer and improvement of cooperation networks ...
		04	Assistance to R&TD, particularly in SMEs (including access to R&TD services in research centres)
		06	Assistance to SMEs for the promotion of environmentally-friendly products and production processes (...)
		09	Other measures to stimulate research and innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs
		14	Services and applications for SMEs (e-commerce, education and training, networking, etc.)
		15	Other measures for improving access to and efficient use of ICT by SMEs
	ICT and related services	11	Information and communication technologies (...)
		12	Information and communication technologies (TEN-ICT)
		13	Services and applications for citizens (e-health, e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, etc.)
	Other investment in firms	08	Other investment in firms
2. Human resources	Education and training	62	Development of life-long learning systems and strategies in firms; training and services for employees ...
		63	Design and dissemination of innovative and more productive ways of organising work
		64	Development of special services for employment, training and support in connection with restructuring of sectors ...
		72	Design, introduction and implementing of reforms in education and training systems ...
		73	Measures to increase participation in education and training throughout the life-cycle ...
	Labour market policies	65	Modernisation and strengthening labour market institutions
		66	Implementing active and preventive measures on the labour market
		67	Measures encouraging active ageing and prolonging working lives
		68	Support for self-employment and business start-up
		69	Measures to improve access to employment and increase sustainable participation and progress of women ...
		70	Specific action to increase migrants' participation in employment ...
		71	Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people ...

Policy area		Code	Priority themes
		80	Promoting the partnerships, pacts and initiatives through the networking of relevant stakeholders
3. Transport	Rail	16	Railways
		17	Railways (TEN-T)
		18	Mobile rail assets
		19	Mobile rail assets (TEN-T)
	Road	20	Motorways
		21	Motorways (TEN-T)
		22	National roads
		23	Regional/local roads
	Other transport	24	Cycle tracks
		25	Urban transport
		26	Multimodal transport
		27	Multimodal transport (TEN-T)
		28	Intelligent transport systems
		29	Airports
		30	Ports
31		Inland waterways (regional and local)	
32		Inland waterways (TEN-T)	
4. Environment and energy	Energy infrastructure	33	Electricity
		34	Electricity (TEN-E)
		35	Natural gas
		36	Natural gas (TEN-E)
		37	Petroleum products
		38	Petroleum products (TEN-E)
		39	Renewable energy: wind
		40	Renewable energy: solar
		41	Renewable energy: biomass
		42	Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other
		43	Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management
	Environment and risk prevention	44	Management of household and industrial waste
		45	Management and distribution of water (drink water)
		46	Water treatment (waste water)
		47	Air quality
		48	Integrated prevention and pollution control
		49	Mitigation and adaptation to climate change
		50	Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land
		51	Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (including Natura 2000)
		52	Promotion of clean urban transport
53	Risk prevention (...)		
54	Other measures to preserve the environment and prevent risks		
5. Territorial development	Social Infrastructure	10	Telephone infrastructure (including broadband networks)
		75	Education infrastructure
		76	Health infrastructure
		77	Childcare infrastructure

Policy area		Code	Priority themes
		78	Housing infrastructure
		79	Other social infrastructure
	Tourism and culture	55	Promotion of natural assets
		56	Protection and development of natural heritage
		57	Other assistance to improve tourist services
		58	Protection and preservation of the cultural heritage
		59	Development of cultural infrastructure
		60	Other assistance to improve cultural services
	Planning and rehabilitation	61	Integrated projects for urban and rural regeneration
	Other	82	Compensation of any additional costs due to accessibility deficit and territorial fragmentation
		83	Specific action addressed to compensate additional costs due to size market factors
6. Technical assistance		84	Support to compensate additional costs due to climate conditions and relief difficulties
		81	Mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation ...
		85	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection
		86	Evaluation and studies; information and communication

ANNEX 2 - PERSPECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES (NUTS II), REGIONAL AUTHORITIES (NUTS III) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND REFORM

This Annex provides perspectives and information kindly provided in response to questionnaires circulated to the Regional Assemblies, Regional Authorities and the Central Government Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Name of Region: Border, Midland and Western Region (NUTS II Ireland)

Socio-Economic Position of the Region

1. *What are the particular social and economic difficulties in your region? Please list in order of importance.*

- a) **Unemployment:** Increasing levels of unemployment to 16.1% in the first quarter of 2012 from close to full employment levels in 2008. Each NUTS III Region within the BMW Region is ahead of the average employment figure for the state of 14.7% - Border Region 15%, Midland Region 18.1% and the Western Region 15.9%. An evident employment gap is beginning to re-emerge between the S&E Region (14.3%) and the BMW Region;
- b) **Declining output levels:** Stagnant economic activity has contributed to a decline in GDP since 2008 and a consequent slow down in new firm formation due to weaker domestic and international market conditions. The Region produced output levels equivalent to just 89% of the EU27 average in 2009, demonstrating a rapid decline of 11.5 percentage points since 2007;
- c) **Low Value-Added Activity:** Depressed productivity – the region contributes just 18.9% of national output despite employing 25.7% of Ireland’s workers in 2012;

- d) **Slow Transition to High Value Economic Activities:** Structural difficulties following the 'collapse' of the construction sector, which accounted for more than 15% of the regional economy in 2007 have been exacerbated by a slow transition to high value-added economic activities and a less developed R&D sector;
- e) **Up-skilling is the key challenge for developing the BMW Region:** The S&E Region still has a higher proportion of professionals, higher professionals, employers and managers. This implies that one of the key challenges facing the BMW Region is to up-skill existing employees and attract and develop more professionals and managers;
- f) **Decline in Public Sector Funded Programmes and Employment Levels:** Austerity measures imposed in response to the economic crisis facing the Government have led to the cancellation of important infrastructure and economic stimulus projects in the Region. In addition, strict restrictions have been imposed upon recruitment to the public sector;
- g) **Population increases led by the proximity to national capital:** Between 2002 and 2011 Ireland's population has grown by 17.0% and by 19.6% in the BMW Region. However this pattern of growth has been concentrated upon the Dublin Commuter belt areas, Meath (37.3%), Kildare (28.1%), Wicklow (19.0%) and by the wider commuting counties which are part of the BMW Region including, Laois (36.9%), Louth (20.65), Westmeath (19.6%), Longford (20.6%), Cavan (28.9%) and Offaly (20.6%). However, while high growth levels were experienced in the Midlands, this has not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in economic activity. In comparison, counties in the BMW Region such as Mayo (11.2%), Sligo (12.1%), Monaghan (15%) and Donegal (17.0%) experienced growth on or below the national average. Strong growth was experienced in Galway (19.8%) reflecting its comparatively strong economic performance in a range of sectors, (e.g., Medical Devices/Software Sectors) which has attracted workers who also enjoy the quality of life that can be experienced in Galway. While population growth was also strong in Leitrim (23.2%), it remains the least populated in Ireland.

2. *Have these difficulties in your region improved or worsened since 2011? Please specify which ones.*

The above difficulties have persisted since 2011 and unemployment levels in particular have worsened marginally, without any imminent signs of improvement.

3. *Key factors affecting your region (e.g. economic downturn, government policies)?*

- a) Economic downturn – both scale and duration (mid-2008 onwards);
- b) Declining public sector activity with little prospect of reversal;
- c) Low incidence of high value added activities; and
- d) Weak demand and consumer spending.

4. *With regard to your region, do you detect any shift in concern away from regional disparities towards national concerns such as low growth or unemployment?*

Regional disparities have emerged in terms of employment levels, rates of emigration, ability to attract foreign direct investment and the ability of regions to maximise their economic endowments. Naturally there has been a focus upon the national agenda and the challenges that it faces in the prevailing economic crisis. However a number of national initiatives have demonstrated a regional focus.

The Hunt Report – the National Strategy for Higher Education for 2030 for Ireland – advocated a regional cluster approach whereby third level colleges will be required to develop joint programme planning, collaborative research and outreach initiatives, agreements on mutual recognition and progression, and joint strategies for advancing regional economic and social development. As a result, in 2011 Institutes of Technology (IoTs) were required to develop strategic alliances or put in place an application to become a Technological University (TU) in collaboration with other IoTs. For example in the BMW Region, the Sligo, Letterkenny and Galway/Mayo IoTs have come together to form a strategic alliance with a view to potentially submitting a TU proposal as a merged entity in the future.

The Government in response to the employment crisis in the South East established the South East Employment Action Plan. Implemented by the South East Employment Forum, which brings together all State bodies with an interest in employment development in the region, it has sought to take coordinated action in sectors where the region has a competitive edge. To-date this is the only regionally focused response driven by a national response to the economic climate.

The Government has agreed to a target of providing universal high speed broadband (at least 30Mbps) to all households and premises by 2015. This will mean that the digital divide emerging between highly populated centres and more dispersed centres of population will be narrowed and the market failure in the provision of high speed broadband, will be addressed using public funds.

The publication of the review of local and regional government is imminent and will have implications for regional policy once published.

Regional Policy Pursued

5. (a) *What policy initiatives co-financed by ERDF were implemented to date in your region during the 2007-2013 Operational Programme?*

The following policy initiatives have been pursued

- Innovation, ICT & Knowledge Economy
 - *Building research capacity in key sectors such as biotechnology, marine*
 - *Applied Research, Incubation and Commercialisation Schemes*
 - *Entrepreneurship Development – SME Support programmes*
 - *National Broadband Scheme*
- Environment and Renewable Energy
 - *Water Services investment and conservation programme*
 - *Natural and Built Heritage*
 - *Waste management*
 - *Energy for Business Programme*
 - *Renewable Energy Deployment and Ocean Energy Development*

- *CHP and BioHeat Programme*
- *Sustainable Energy Zones*
- **Urban Development and Transport**
 - *Gateways and Hubs Scheme*
 - *Key Linking Routes*
 - *Public Transport – accessibility and services improvements*

(b) What policy initiatives were implemented to date under the Territorial Co-operation Programme?

Ireland is participating in 6 INTERREG Programmes along with the Cross-Border PEACE Programme. These programmes are:

- Ireland/N Ireland/Scotland (A strand)
- Ireland/Wales (A Strand)
- Atlantic Area (B strand)
- North West Europe (B strand)
- Northern Periphery (B strand)
- IVC Programme (C strand)

Each programme has an agreed set of priority areas. For example, the Atlantic Area Programme has 4 defined priorities:

1. Promote Transnational Entrepreneurial and Innovation Networks.
2. Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal Environment sustainability.
3. Improve accessibility and internal links.
4. Promote transnational synergies in sustainable urban and regional development

The Atlantic Area programme has approved 63 transnational projects, of which 48 have at least 1 Irish partner. The total no. of Irish partners is 74, with a total of EUR 11.7 million allocated to Irish organizations.

(c) Have there been shifts in priorities or allocation of ERDF?

None since the programme amendments approved in 2009

(d) To what extent, if any, has ERDF support helped to maintain public investment in the present difficult economic circumstances?

It is difficult to directly link continued public investment to a need to fulfil ERDF commitments – to a large extent programmes that the Government have determined to be key to Ireland's recovery, such as R&D provision, business supports, broadband provision all of which are central to the region's operational programme.

6. *(a) What new initiatives, if any, were implemented in the OP since 2011?*

None

(b) What new initiatives, if any, were implemented in the Territorial Co-operation Programme since 2011?

None

7. *What expenditure took place on these new initiatives since 2011?*

None

8. Were any specific measures co-financed by ERDF taken over the past few years to tackle

a) problems of youth unemployment : None

b) SME difficulties in obtaining finance?

SMEs in the region have through County Enterprise Board support programmes co-funded under ERDF received support for training, access to energy programmes and start-ups have been supported in incubation centres.

9. *Did implementation of OPs accelerate or slow down during or after 2011?*

To the year end 2011 expenditure had reached 89% of the BMW Region's Operational Programme allocation. Implementation of the programme has been maintained at a successful level.

10. *Were projects planned which failed to be implemented? If yes, which ones?*

None

11. *The main reasons for delays or non-implementation?*

12. *Any new initiatives to accelerate implementation?*

Achievements of Policy

13. Could you give **1-2** concrete examples of important initiatives co-financed by ERDF implemented in your region and their **achievements** to date under the following headings ?

Policy area	Main indicators	Outcomes/results in relation to baseline and targets
Enterprise support and RTDI including ICT Increase SME innovation or access to finance by SMEs	No. of jobs created in assisted enterprises supported by CEBs No. of additional users with broadband available No. of Researchers in Supported Projects	14,470 33,990 98
Human Resources (ERDF only) Youth unemployment (ERDF only)	No. of recipients of CEB training Total Employed in Incubation Centres	28,540 (male) 31,916 (female) 258
Transport & telecommunications	Kms of new/improved inter-urban linking routes No. of new railcars serving destinations in the BMW region	33 24
Environment and energy	No. of organizations engaged in energy-related projects Water treatment plants	53 large industries 1,483 SMEs 18
Territorial development (urban areas, tourism, rural development, cultural heritage, health, public security, local development)	No. Strategic Urban Development projects No. of national park visitor centres opened	12 2

14. Are the indicator "targets" meaningful in relation to the funding allocated to each policy area?

Yes, they are a very important barometer of achievement.

15. If the objectives or "targets" are not being achieved, what are the main reasons for this?

Departments may have committed to certain levels of expenditure which due to the economic downturn and restricted budget have become more difficult to attain.

16. (a) To what extent have ERDF-supported projects strengthened the capacity of your region to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life?

See 16b

(b) Is there evidence that ERDF support is helping your region to respond to major long-term challenges (e.g. globalisation, demographic change, energy security)?

The areas of investment supported by the ERDF are contributing to building upon the region's key assets for economic development, such as:

- a) Regional research and innovation infrastructure and competencies
- b) SME establishment and growth capabilities
- c) Universal broadband availability
- d) Energy efficiency in firms and renewable energy capacity
- e) Environmental infrastructure - water services, waste etc.
- f) Tourism infrastructure – natural and built heritage
- g) Urban regeneration and enhancement
- h) Transport infrastructure and services

Evaluations of Policy

17. Have any evaluations of ERDF or cohesion policy achievements been carried out by your organisation or others in your region since 2011? Please list the evaluations.

A Gateway Development Index has been constructed to assess the impact of EU-co-financed and exchequer investment in the designated Gateways in the BMW and S&E Regions in 2009. During 2012 this will be updated and the second Gateway Development Index (to include an analysis of the performance of the hubs) will be published.

A Mid-Term Evaluation of the BMW Regional OP 2007-13 was completed in 2010, conducted independently by the Central Expenditure Evaluation Unit, Department of Finance.

An ex-post evaluation of the long-term impact of EU Regional Policy in Ireland is currently being conducted by Fitzpatrick Associates as part of the EPRC consortium.

18. Is evaluation a key part of your policy – do results of evaluations feed into your policy?

The results of the Mid-Term Evaluation were considered and approved by the Operational Programme Monitoring Committee. Arising from this, new performance indicators have been defined for some co-financed investment schemes and a revised financial plan for the OP was adopted, and subsequently approved by the EU Commission.

The Gateway and Hubs Development Index will aid national, regional and local policy decisions and will be a key indicator of both social and economic progress of the regions's designated growth centres.

19. Do you have the resources and capacity to undertake evaluations of ERDF –supported initiatives?

Funding is available under the Technical Assistance Priority of the OP to undertake evaluations, where required. In addition, the capacity exists within the Regional Assembly (Managing Authority) to manage and oversee these evaluations. Capacity exists in areas such as drafting

terms of reference, project management, indicator development, procurement procedures etc based upon several years of extensive experience in this area.

20. Do the 2011 Annual Implementation Reports provide sufficient information to more easily assess Programme outcomes?

The 2011 annual implementation reports have followed the same format as those used in the 2010 evaluation which were largely determined to be satisfactory in presenting outputs and results of the co-financed measures. New performance indicators where required were integrated to the reports, following the 2010 performance (mid-term) evaluation.

21. Are any other evaluations planned? If so, please list. Any gaps in evaluation?

The following evaluations will take place

- Ex-post evaluation of the operational programme, at the discretion of DG REGIO
- A separate evaluation of the impact of the research programmes under the Innovation, ICT and Knowledge Economy Priority
- Third iteration of the GDI in 2015 (see response to Q. 17 above)

Challenges for the Future

22. Please outline the main challenges currently facing Cohesion Policy in your region

In terms of maximising Cohesion Funding in the next programming period and to reflect the economic downturn – one of the challenges that remains is the reference period to determine the BMW region's status. Currently this is envisaged to be based on the 2006-2008 period taking account of GVA output levels by region – this does not take due account of the economic downturn (beginning to be reflected in our output levels see q.1) which took hold in 2008. This is a key concern as Operational programme funding will be significantly impacted and has been raised by the BMW Regional Assembly and other similarly positioned regions.

23. What, in your view, are the Irish or EU policy changes needed to meet these challenges.

The Commission needs to amend the reference years or put in place an alternative methodology for allocating resources to allow for the challenges faced by regions in similar positions as the BMW Region. Challenges will exist for more developed regions in terms of the pressure on the budget from 2014 – whereby they are most likely to take the financial 'hit'. This is a serious concern for the BMW Region – as the definition of the status of the region will categorise how much we can benefit in the future from Cohesion Policy.

Name of Region: Southern & Eastern Region

Socio-Economic Position of the Region

1. What are the particular social and economic difficulties in your region? Please list in order of importance.

The key weaknesses identified at the outset of the 2007-2013 OP were, in no particular order of importance:

- a) Relatively weak RTDI base, compared to other mature economies;
- b) Relatively weak indigenous industry base;

- c) Infrastructural inadequacies in areas such as road and public transport
- d) Infrastructural gaps in energy and broadband
- e) Growing environmental pressures, particularly on ground and surface water
- f) Unbalanced urban structure – Dublin predominating, with other gateway cities lacking critical mass.

With the economic downturn over the last number of years other difficulties have arisen such as:

- a) Rising unemployment;
- b) Reduced budgets for Government departments and state agencies affecting matched funding for ERDF funded schemes
- c) Growing disparities emerging at NUTS 111 level pointing in many respects to a maintenance of the historic imbalances between the regions.

2. *Have these difficulties in your region improved or worsened since 2011? Please specify which ones.*

Unemployment increased to over 14.4% during 2011 and some investments have been reduced or deferred due to tightening public finances. At a NUTS 11 level the 4th quarter 2011 reported unemployment rate for the S&E region is 14.0%. This masks some significant regional differences with the South East NUTS III unemployment rate of 18.9% contrasting with the Mid-East region's 12.3%.

On the positive side the Investment under the National Broadband scheme has been completed with Broadband services under the NBS available throughout each of the 1,028 designated Electoral Divisions within the NBS Coverage Area, of which 47% are located within the S&E Region.

3. *Key factors affecting your region (e.g. economic downturn, government policies)?*

- Current economic climate and cuts in budgets affect the delivery of the various schemes to support innovation;
- Initiatives that could support and strengthen the Gateways and give animation to the NSS are severely curtailed by budget cuts.
- Uncertainty and lack of funding has hampered further development of public transport systems. While major progress was achieved under the 2000-2006 NDP in Dublin there is a deficit in other Gateway cities and interconnections between cities.
- Innovation policy development tends to be written at National Level and tends not to take into account the various issues at local and regional level which need to be overcome;

4. *With regard to your region, do you detect any shift in concern away from regional disparities towards national concerns such as low growth or unemployment?*

Generally policy in Ireland is drafted at national level with very little attention paid to the Regions or regional disparities. During the 2000-2006 programming period there was an effort to redress this somewhat in that the National Development Plan and the constituent

Operational Programmes, co-funded by the EU had specific regional targets. Since then, apart from the targets as set out in the 2 ERDF Regional OP's, the concept of regional targets more or less evaporated. With the onset of the economic crisis the focus is very much on the national scene.

Regional Policy Pursued

5. (a) *What policy initiatives co-financed by ERDF were implemented to date in your region during the 2007-2013 Operational Programme?*

PRTL

NBS

Renewable Energy Schemes

Strands of the SSTI – Development of the RTDI

Smarter Travel

(b) *What policy initiatives were implemented to date under the Territorial Co-operation Programme?*

Under the Ireland Wales Territorial Co-operation Programme joint projects between partners in Ireland and Wales are co-funded with the following thematic areas:

Priority 1 – Knowledge, Innovation and Skills for growth

- Innovation and competitiveness
- Skills for competitiveness and employment integration

Priority 2 – Climate Change and Sustainable Regeneration

- Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Regeneration of Communities

Two strategic projects have also been funded:

- a) Winning in Tendering is aimed at transforming the public tendering experience of Small Indigenous Suppliers (SIS) in the INTERREG Ireland Wales cross-border area. The project will address skill gaps of SIS and procurers through unique, innovative and complementary targeted interventions. It aims to tackle SIS-public buyer skills gaps in the cross-border region so that these enterprises can realistically compete for public work.
- b) Smart Coasts aims to equip Irish and Welsh communities to maintain the economic and strategic value of their near-shore waters. This will be done by facilitating application of new real-time management systems, first suggested by the World Health Organisation and soon to be allowed (but not a regulatory requirement) in the 2006 Bathing Water Directive. This will ensure no adverse loss of beach awards (e.g. blue flags) and the maintenance of public health through deployment of ICT tools and real-time public information systems.

(c) *Have there been shifts in priorities or allocation of ERDF?*

In the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme the Managing Authority has submitted a proposal to the EU Commission for a programme modification to re-prioritise ERDF as follows:

	Re- Profile	Change
Ent/Innov	111.2	15.2
Environment/Acess	22.0	-4.0
Transport/Urban	12.0	-8.0
Technical assistance	1.4	-3.2
Total	146.6	0.0

Reasons for such shifts?

This is on foot of recommendations from the Mid Term Evaluation to reprioritize expenditure in the Enterprise / Innovation policy area.

(d) To what extent, if any, has ERDF support helped to maintain public investment in the present difficult economic circumstances?

ERDF support has helped to maintain public investment in the S&E Region although this is difficult to quantify. This is due to the fact that in the early years of the programme there were almost sufficient levels of commitments, particularly in Priority 1, to draw down the full allocation. Other areas have suffered somewhat due to reduced public investment and this is reflected in the reallocation as part of the modification proposal.

6. (a) *What new initiatives, if any, were implemented in the OP since 2011?*

Smarter Travel: Project in Limerick has been approved funding of EUR 9 million (EUR 3.6 million ERDF)

(b) What new initiatives, if any, were implemented in the Territorial Co-operation Programme since 2011?

An extensions call for existing projects took place in 2012.

7. *What expenditure took place on these new initiatives since 2011?*

None

8. *Were any specific measures co-financed by ERDF taken over the past few years to tackle (a) problems of youth unemployment*

- CEB support for entrepreneurship, school enterprise programmes, start your own business
- Applied research enhancement scheme; research teams in Irish Institutes of Technology are assisting companies to identify and develop new products, services and market opportunities through research and innovation.
- Commercialization Fund: Turn research into a commercial proposition
- Incubation Centre's in IoT's provide incubation space for young companies.

(b) SME difficulties in obtaining finance?

Under the micro-enterprises theme the County Enterprise Boards allocate at least 30% of the measure 1 activity in a repayable form. However, this is only to client projects which are eligible for ERDF. It cannot be equated to access to finance from financial institutions.

9. *Did implementation of OPs accelerate or slow down during or after 2011?*

Maintained its progress throughout 2011

10. *Were projects planned which failed to be implemented? If yes, which ones?*

Some aspects of the Sustainable Urban Development Priority did not progress such as the Gateway and Hubs Challenge funds.

11. *The main reasons for delays or non-implementation?*

Cuts in public expenditure

12. *Any new initiatives to accelerate implementation?*

In 2009 the MA introduced an ERDF Gateway Grants scheme for the 4 designated Gateways in the Region.

Achievements of Policy

13. *Could you give 1-2 concrete examples of important initiatives co-financed by ERDF implemented in your region and their achievements to date under the following headings ?*

See Table 6 in text.

14. *Are the indicator "targets" meaningful in relation to the funding allocated to each policy area?*

It is difficult to quantify or align fully the 'access to finance by SMEs' policy area with any direct indicator in the S&E OP. Under the micro-enterprises theme the County Enterprise Boards allocate at least 30% of Measure 1 activity in a repayable form. However this is only to client projects which are eligible for ERDF.

15. *If the objectives or "targets" are not being achieved, what are the main reasons for this?*

(a) To what extent have ERDF-supported projects strengthened the capacity of your region to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life?

ERDF support has been critical for the region over successive programming periods, and this is evident in much of the physical, institutional and research infrastructure, amongst others, which now exists across the region. It is difficult however to quantify this to any real extent from the ERDF support directly attributable the Regional Operational Programme due to the relatively small size of the programme.

(b) Is there evidence that ERDF support is helping your region to respond to major long-term challenges (e.g. globalisation, demographic change, energy security)?

Again, ERDF support is a contributing factor in helping the region respond to the many challenges, in a very small but positive manner. As mentioned above the overall level of funding in the programme is relatively small. However, some very positive projects have been funded in the areas of renewable energy which will have a long term positive impact. Details on these are available in the AIR. By virtue of having ERDF allocated to certain schemes ensures, even in this difficult economic climate, that national public matched funding is ring fenced resulting in an

element of certainty for the delivery of the schemes. This is particularly important in areas like enterprise development (Micro Enterprises) and enabling measures for RTDI (PRTLJ).

Evaluations of Policy

16. Have any evaluations of ERDF or cohesion policy achievements been carried out by your organisation or others in your region since 2011? Please list the evaluations.

No

17. Is evaluation a key part of your policy – do results of evaluations feed into your policy?

Yes, the Mid-Term Evaluation was a central tool in setting the direction of the programme towards the end of the programming period and as mentioned previously it informed the proposed programme modification which has been submitted to the EU Commission. In addition the annual reports which are submitted from each of the implementing agencies, and is the basis of the AIR, are an important tool as part of an on-going monitoring/evaluation process.

18. Do you have the resources and capacity to undertake evaluations of ERDF –supported initiatives?

Resources are not available to carry out evaluations in-house but some financial resources may be available depending on the scale and nature of evaluations.

19. Do the 2011 Annual Implementation Reports provide sufficient information to more easily assess Programme outcomes?

Yes

20. Are any other evaluations planned? If so, please list. Any gaps in evaluation?

No

Challenges for the Future

21. Please outline the main challenges currently facing Cohesion Policy in your region

- Current economic climate and cuts in budgets affect the delivery of the various schemes to support innovation;
- Innovation policy development tends to be written at National Level and tends not to take into account the various issues at local and regional level which need to be overcome;
- Creating and maintaining a link between the various third level institutes and industry to drive industry specific research and innovation beneficial for the regions;
- Creating alliances between the third level institutes, specifically Institutes of Technology which are located in the regions, to create a critical mass to bid successfully for research grants.

22. What, in your view, are the Irish or EU policy changes needed to meet these challenges.

- At EU level a concerted effort to address the economic challenge that the EU is facing
- At national level a re-focusing of effort on the regional level – the recent publication (16/10/2012) of the reform of local and Regional structures ‘Putting people first’ is a first step along this process as it recognises the importance of the regional level.

Name of Region : West Regional Authority**Socio-Economic Position of your Region**

1. *What are the particular social and economic difficulties in your region? Please list in order of importance.*

- Unemployment generally, but particularly in rural areas and smaller towns.
- Consequent social/health impacts of the economic downturn, particularly in rural/remote areas where services may not be readily available.
- Severe pressure on public services due to funding and resource issues in local authorities.
- Infrastructure deficit – Water/Waste Water as well as access to region by air/road/rail .
- Adverse impact on Enterprise (particularly the SME Sector) due to the overall economic downturn and difficulty accessing credit.
- Lack of comprehensive high-speed broadband access across the region, particularly as much of the region is rural in nature with low population densities.
- Decline of agriculture and fishing sectors.
- Narrow enterprise base in general terms, with some exceptions, or pockets of knowledge based, high-value services in some larger urban centres.
- Lack of co-ordinated public transport service in most of the region.

2. *Have these difficulties in your region improved or worsened since 2011? Please specify which ones.*

In terms of unemployment, while the CSO figures for numbers on the live register in the West Region showed an improvement, reducing from a peak in that year of 43,560, through the latter part of 2011 and into 2012, the numbers have increased from May to August this year with a figure of 41,882 recorded for August 2012.

It is arguable that the impact of the economic downturn on individual physical/mental health and the resultant cumulative societal impact will be a critical issue in the next number of years and a key consideration in terms of providing the relevant services.

The local authority funding/service delivery area has significantly worsened, with an already reduced allocation from central government on 2011 levels, at the beginning of 2012, being cut back further with recent notification of reductions due to levels of Household Charge collections. This will have a significant impact on service delivery.

While the National Broadband Plan was recently launched, and is to be welcomed, the success or otherwise of this initiative can only be evaluated in terms of its implementation, and the resultant outcomes.

3. *Key factors affecting your region (e.g. economic downturn, government policies)?*

As was noted in the 2011 Country Report for Ireland on Cohesion Policy, the economic downturn is the most important factor impacting the region and the country. The historically highly centralised nature of governance in Ireland, and consequently weak regional tier, leads to insufficient consideration of regional issues with regard to policy formation, particularly by comparison with regional structures in other member states.

The rural, low-population-density, nature of much of the West Region and small number of urban centres is also a key factor, and, if not sufficiently factored into policy formulation, will lead to further decline in much of the region.

4. *With regard to your region, do you detect any shift in concern away from regional disparities towards national concerns such as low growth or unemployment?*

As with Q3 above, while limited consideration has been given to regional balance in some policy documents, the focus at present is clearly on the national level. This is understandable to a degree given the financial position nationally arising from the gap in funding current expenditure etc. However, a lack of sufficient focus on the regional dimension is likely to increase regional disparities in the future.

Regional Policy Pursued

5. *(a) What policy initiatives co-financed by ERDF were implemented to date in your region during the 2007-2013 Operational Programme?*

Specific Priorities for the West Region under the OP included:

- Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy
- Environment and Risk Prevention
- Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks

In terms of policy initiatives,

- Road transport linkages have been improved.
- Water/Waste water services in many areas have been upgraded.
- Broadband infrastructure has been improved, but more remains to be done.
- Investment in Gateway and Hub towns
- Increased research and development capacity in key areas e.g. Marine.
- Sustainable Energy initiatives.

(b) What policy initiatives were implemented to date under the Territorial Cooperation Programme?

The West Regional Authority has been a project partner in a number of INTERREG Projects during the period, including:

Northern Periphery Programme:

MICRE	SME & Deployment of Renewables
TG4NP	Tourist Guide leading to launch of Mobile Tourism App Platform
SECRE	Sustainable Enterprises in Community Renewable Energy

IVC Programme:

DART	Addresses declining & ageing populations in peripheral regions
LAKEADMIN	Transfer of good water management practices
TOURAGE	Developing the senior tourism market in more remote regions
GRISI+	Use of ICT/GIS to improve and modernise economic development policies of rural areas.

(c) Have there been shifts in priorities or allocation of ERDF? Reasons for such shifts?

Not since programme amendments approved in 2009

(d) To what extent, if any, has ERDF support helped to maintain public investment in the present difficult economic circumstances?

There is a common strand between investment priorities identified by Government to address the economic downturn and the key priorities for the region under the OP.

6. *(a) What new initiatives, if any, were implemented in the OP since 2011?*

None

(b) What new initiatives, if any, were implemented in the Territorial Co-operation Programme since 2011?

None

7. *What expenditure took place on these new initiatives since 2011?*

None

8. *Were any specific measures co-financed by ERDF taken over the past few years to tackle*

(a) problems of youth unemployment None

(b) SME difficulties in obtaining finance?

SMEs in the region have received support through ERDF co-funded County Enterprise Board support programmes. However, access to finance for general trading purposes remains a major problem.

9. *Did implementation of OPs accelerate or slow down during or after 2011?*

Implementation is on-schedule in terms of % spent on OP to date.

10. *Were projects planned which failed to be implemented? If yes, which ones?*

No

11. *The main reasons for delays or non-implementation?*

N/A

12. *Any new initiatives to accelerate implementation?*

N/A

Achievements of Policy

13. *Could you give 1-2 concrete examples of important initiatives co-financed by ERDF implemented in your region and their **achievements** to date under the following headings ?*

See Table 5.

14. *Are the indicator "targets" meaningful in relation to the funding allocated to each policy area?*

Yes.

15. *If the objectives or "targets" are not being achieved, what are the main reasons for this?*

Domestic budgetary restrictions would have had an impact on delivery of certain projects.

16. (a) *To what extent have ERDF-supported projects strengthened the capacity of your region to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life?*

See 16b

(b) *Is there evidence that ERDF support is helping your region to respond to major long-term challenges (e.g. globalisation, demographic change, energy security)?*

The areas of investment supported by the ERDF are contributing to building upon the region's key assets for economic development, such as:

- a) Regional research and innovation infrastructure and competencies
- b) SME establishment and growth capabilities
- c) Universal broadband availability
- d) Energy efficiency in firms and renewable energy capacity
- e) Environmental infrastructure - water services, waste etc.
- f) Tourism infrastructure – natural and built heritage
- g) Urban regeneration and enhancement
- h) Transport infrastructure and services

Evaluations of Policy

17. *Have any evaluations of ERDF or Cohesion policy achievements been carried out by your organisation or others in your region since 2011? Please list the evaluations.*

Annual Implementation Report published by BMW Regional Assembly. Formal evaluation not carried out by the Regional Authority.

18. *Is evaluation a key part of your policy – do results of evaluations feed into your policy?*

The Regional Planning Guidelines Indicators currently under development will assist in evaluating regional progress under similar headings to the key priorities of the OP. In addition, the Gateways & Hubs Development Index will be a useful tool to evaluate progress in the relevant areas of the region.

19. *Do you have the resources and capacity to undertake evaluations of ERDF –supported initiatives?*

Currently under review, see 18 above.

20. *Do the 2011 Annual Implementation Reports provide sufficient information to more easily assess Programme outcomes?*

Yes, but it would be useful for the West Regional Authority to carry out an evaluation on our own specific activities/projects.

21. *Are any other evaluations planned? If so, please list. Any gaps in evaluation?*

See No. 18 above. This will assist in evaluation at a Regional Authority level.

Challenges for the Future

24. Please outline the main challenges currently facing Cohesion Policy in your region

For the next phase, from 2014, an approach is needed which takes into account regional characteristics, current position, and disparities with other regions.

25. What, in your view, are the Irish or EU policy changes needed to meet these challenges.

See Q 3 above.

Name of Region – South-East Regional Authority

Socio-Economic Position of your Region

1. What are the particular social and economic difficulties in your region? Please list in order of importance.

There has been, and in some sections there still continues, a misconception that the South-East region is wealthy and that it is performing well economically. This has manifested itself in recent times because the NUTS 3 South-East region is included with the other, more wealthy regions, in the NUTS II Southern & Eastern Region (S&E). This underperformance is borne out when the performance of the South-East is viewed across a range of socio-economic indicators, such as unemployment, output, disposable income, higher education levels, etc. The following table provides a comparison between the NUTS III South-East Region, the NUTS II S&E Region and the State under some key socio-economic indicators from before the start of the current NDP to the most recently available figures. These show that the South-East Region has further lagged since 2007 and is still considerably off the averages for the State and the S&E region.

Indicator		State	South-East	Southern & Eastern	South-East (% of S&E)
Indices of GVA Per person (%)	2007	100	74.5	111.1	67
	2009	100	68.3	111.3	61
Indices of Disposable Income Per Person (%)	2007	100	95.7	103.1	92
	2009	100	92.9	102.9	90
Unemployment Rate (%) (Jan-Mar)	2007	4.5	5.0	4.4	113
	2012	14.7	19.7	14.3	138

2. Have these difficulties in your region improved or worsened since 2011? Please specify which ones.

The South-East region's socio-economic position, like all other parts of Ireland, has been negatively impacted, naturally enough, by national and global economic factors, such as the banking collapse, increased unemployment, reduced consumer spending, very weak Exchequer tax receipts and reductions in Government revenue and capital spending programmes. Nevertheless, unemployment in particular, in the NUTS III South-east Region, in 2012 is considerably much worse and more deeper than it was in 2007 and is well above the national average. Large-scale company lay-offs have unfortunately become a frequent occurrence in the region.

A South-East Employment Action Plan was published by Forfás in December 2011 at the request of Mr. Richard Bruton, T.D., Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, in response to the sudden closure of the Talk-Talk company and the on-going concerns about the persistently above average rates of unemployment in the South-East Region. The Plan sets out key actions that are required as follows:

- a) Development of the Regional Gateway and effective promotion of the region;
- b) Upgrading the regional enterprise mix;
- c) Measures relating to developing Contact Centre Management And Business Process Outsourcing related activities in the South-East;
- d) Measures to support the recently unemployed;
- e) Progressing regional Infrastructural Priorities.

3. *Key factors affecting your region (e.g. economic downturn, government policies)?*

Some regional-specific factors affecting the region include:

- Dispersed settlement pattern (region has five major centres of population distributed across the region) and competitive dynamics within the region have limited the realisation of the potential of Waterford City as a driver for regional development;
- Absence of a university in the region (although a process has been announced by the Government for designation of Technological Universities and an application in this regard is being jointly prepared by the Institutes of Technology in Waterford and Carlow);
- The region has a more traditional-type industry structure (which has suffered very significantly in the economic downturn as evidenced by the unemployment figures) and a marked absence of any concentrated presence of the high-tech sector enterprises;
- A significant portion of the region's young adult population migrates from the region as this cohort passes in age from late teens to early twenties (one of the main reasons being the lack of a university in the region); a majority of these do not return to the region;
- The region is still characterised by a higher than average level of early school leaving and the proportion of the population with a third-level qualification continues to lag behind many other regions in Ireland;
- Despite significant road construction, such as M9 Waterford-Dublin, the M11/N11 Dublin-Wexford, M8 Dublin-Cork and the N25 Waterford Bypass, there still remain a number of key access corridors in need of substantial improvement, such as N24 Waterford-Limerick, remaining sections of the M11/N11 Wexford-Dublin and the N25 Rosslare-Cork;
- Despite an extensive rail infrastructure in the region, rail services are limited with the exception of the Waterford-Dublin service;
- Broadband has not reached pervasive usage levels;
- A key challenge for the region is to realise the potential to be gained from considering the wealth of quality of life separate ingredients in a collective and mutually reinforcing way.

4. *With regard to your region, do you detect any shift in concern away from regional disparities towards national concerns such as low growth or unemployment?*

Notwithstanding the South-East Employment Action Plan, national concerns take the focus. The upcoming reform proposals for the local government sector, which include the regional tier, affords the Government an ideal opportunity to provide for a strengthened regional tier that can

contribute to the national goals of economic recovery and job creation (submission made by the Association of Irish Regions to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government in February 2012).

Regional Policy Pursued

5. *(a) What policy initiatives co-financed by ERDF were implemented to date in your region during the 2007-2013 Operational Programme?*

Initiatives have been implemented across the priorities of the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme (S&E OP) within the region. See Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly for specific details.

(b) What policy initiatives were implemented to date under the Territorial Cooperation Programme?

The South-East Regional Authority has implemented activities, through funding secured from the ERDF INTERREG programmes, in areas such as entrepreneurship education, creativity and innovation by micro-enterprises, business and social media/communications, bio-energy and climate change. The Regional Authority is aware that there are other organisations throughout the region (e.g. Institutes of Technology, Local Authorities, etc) involved in initiatives funded by the Territorial Co-operation Programmes.

(c) Have there been shifts in priorities or allocation of ERDF? Reasons for such shifts?

This is not information that the South-East Regional Authority has available to it.

(d) To what extent, if any, has ERDF support helped to maintain public investment in the present difficult economic circumstances?

6. *(a) What new initiatives, if any, were implemented in the OP since 2011?*

This is not information that the South-East Regional Authority has available to it. However, the Regional Authority is aware that, for example, the new Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre in Waterford City was completed with financial assistance from the ERDF Gateway Grant Scheme.

(b) What new initiatives, if any, were implemented in the Territorial Co-operation Programme since 2011?

The South-East Regional Authority has commenced, from 2012, one Ireland-Wales INTERREG and two INTERREG IVC part-funded projects.

7. *What expenditure took place on these new initiatives since 2011?*

N/A at NUTS III level.

8. *Were any specific measures co-financed by ERDF taken over the past few years to tackle*

(a) problems of youth unemployment

(b) SME difficulties in obtaining finance?

See Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly AIR for details.

9. *Did implementation of OPs accelerate or slow down during or after 2011?*

See S&E AIR.

10. *Were projects planned which failed to be implemented? If yes, which ones?*

the Regional Authority is aware that, for example, the National Broadband Programme has not proceeded in a number of key regional urban centres; also the capital funding announced some years ago for Waterford Regional Airport for major infrastructural works at the airport has not materialised.

11. The main reasons for delays or non-implementation?

The Regional Authority would suggest that the main reason is that sufficient exchequer match-funding has not been made available.

12. Any new initiatives to accelerate implementation?

Refer to the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly AIR.

Achievements of Policy

13. Could you give 1-2 concrete examples of important initiatives co-financed by ERDF

See Regional Assembly.

14. Are the indicator "targets" meaningful in relation to the funding allocated to each policy area?

See Regional Assembly.

15. If the objectives or "targets" are not being achieved, what are the main reasons for this?

See Regional Assembly.

16. (a) To what extent have ERDF-supported projects strengthened the capacity of your region to achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life?

ERDF supported projects have certainly strengthened the region's key infrastructure (e.g. water, waste water, tourism, transport, broadband) with positive resulting impacts on sustainable development and quality of life issues.

(b) Is there evidence that ERDF support is helping your region to respond to major long-term challenges (e.g. globalisation, demographic change, energy security)?

The Regional Authority's participation in ERDF funded INTERREG programmes does allow for responses to local/regional challenges. For example the Ireland-Wales INTERREG funded project "Creativity & Innovation in Micro-Enterprises" (www.cimeproject.com) is allowing the Regional Authority to expose the region's small businesses to new creativity & innovation techniques to sustain and grow their business models.

In terms of the S&E OP, the lack of adequate and worthwhile reporting of information at a NUTS III level makes it difficult to accurately evaluate outcomes/effects at this level.

Evaluations of Policy

17. Have any evaluations of ERDF or cohesion policy achievements been carried out by your organisation or others in your region since 2011? Please list the evaluations.

N/A

18. Is evaluation a key part of your policy – do results of evaluations feed into your policy?

The primary policy influencing instrument available to the Regional Authority is the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) which constitute the back-drop for socio-economic planning by

national and regional agencies and the policy framework within which county, city, town and local area development plans are made. Implementation structures have been put in place to achieve a high level of partnership and cooperation between regional, local and public authorities in the region.

19. Do you have the resources and capacity to undertake evaluations of ERDF –supported initiatives?

No, the Regional Authority has not carried out any such formal evaluation. It is not responsible for doing these nor does it have the resources to undertake these. Various types of evaluations (mid-term, ex-ante, ex-post) are carried out periodically by the European Commission, Department of Finance and the NUTS II Regional Assemblies. However, the focus of these is not specific or dis-aggregated to a NUTS III regional level and it is difficult to obtain real, meaningful and timely statistics on EU Programme expenditure and impact at this territorial level.

20. Do the 2011 Annual Implementation Reports provide sufficient information to more easily assess Programme outcomes?

Not at a NUTS III level.

21. Are any other evaluations planned? If so, please list. Any gaps in evaluation?

None by the Regional Authority.

Challenges for the Future

22. Please outline the main challenges currently facing Cohesion Policy in your region

Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) for the South-East Region 2010-2022 were made by the South-East Regional Authority on 26th July 2010 and identify four strategic goals for the region. The challenge is to ensure that the relevant stakeholders work and collaborate together and use the limited financial resources that will be available for the foreseeable future to maximum effect in achieving these:

- a) To broaden and strengthen the economic base of the region and seek to achieve greater economic competitiveness and growth with associated social progress;
- b) To support the development of the Gateway (Waterford City) and combine the strengths of the cities and towns in the region, as envisaged in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), to achieve sufficient critical mass to compete with larger centres in other regions;
- c) To progress towards an accessible region with efficient and fully integrated transport systems;
- d) To maintain the character and vitality of rural areas, promote rural sustainability and conserve the region's characteristic environment, landscape and heritage assets.

Regional Authorities, in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, are currently developing RPG Regional Indicators that will measure progress or lack of it across a wide range of sectors in the context of RPG implementation.

23. What, in your view, are the Irish or EU policy changes needed to meet these challenges.

A core Government objective is that of promoting 'balanced regional development'. The NSS represents the Government's roadmap for achieving this objective. Regional Authorities have been given an important role in the implementation and delivery of the NSS in the preparation of a Regional Socio-economic Strategy and RPGs. For this reason cohesion policy should have a stronger spatial dimension to its programmes. Sectoral programming, by its nature, will not allow for a meaningful evaluation of the achievement of balanced regional development. Also, since one aspect of development affects another, development must be managed spatially as well as on a programme-by-programme basis. The established NUTS III Regional Authority functional areas provide the natural regional level to accomplish this. There is a need for a clear, unambiguous designation of the NUTS III Regions as the practical level for spatial programming. The past/current emphasis on the NUTS II "regions" (which were conceived on an artificial basis to maximise drawdown of EU funds rather than on a strategic spatial planning basis) does not provide a satisfactory or effective framework or mechanism to achieve balanced regional development and the system masks the inherent differences in profile and in the performance of the NUTS 3 regions within them.

As a further guarantee of a spatial dimension to current and future round of cohesion programmes, explicit targets for each NUTS III region should be developed and incorporated into the National Development Plan, Regional Operational Programmes and other relevant programmes and policies (in tandem with sectoral specific indicators). The spatial indicators themselves should have the flexibility to incorporate diverse approaches to the specific needs of different territories and the integrative needs of specific target groups.

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Socio-Economic Position

The Irish economy is expected to expand modestly this year, and progress is being made in reducing the budgetary deficit. While imbalances in the domestic economy are still being unwound, the sustained growth in exports is encouraging and there is evidence of competitiveness improvements in recent years.

Strong implementation of policies under the EU-IMF financial assistance programme, and, in particular, the achievement of various budgetary targets, has boosted market sentiment towards Ireland, and the return to the bond markets by the NTMA over the summer has been welcome.

It is crucial that momentum is maintained and that budgetary targets in Ireland continue to be achieved. Unfortunately, growth in our trading partners is forecast to be weaker than expected in 2013, as highlighted by the IMF in its recent World Economic Outlook. Downside risks to the 2013 2.2% GDP growth forecast by the Department of Finance in April are predominantly due to this weaker external outlook. The Department of Finance will publish revised forecasts for 2012 and later years in the coming weeks and these will take account of more recent information and the outlook for the international economy.

Regional Policy Pursued

The programmes have been amended to take account of the economic downturn and the recommendations of the mid-term evaluations. They have been re-orientated to meet the

challenges of the financial crisis. The most significant initiative was the introduction of the Gateway and Hub investment scheme.

Regional OP Activities supportive of Youth Employment

A primary focus of Priority 1 of the ERDF co-financed Regional OPs is to promote entrepreneurship and enterprise development and improve the quality of interactions between the region's business community and knowledge institutions in order to promote innovation and employment creation, particularly in the knowledge economy sectors. A recent report published by the BMW Regional Assembly 'Audit of the Innovation System in the BMW Region' highlights the emergence of knowledge-intensive services enterprises, totalling 1,500, with a largely graduate-level workforce and the presence of six technology-based clusters in the region.

The primary direct support for young entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises (less than 10 employees) in Ireland has been provided up to now by the City and County Enterprise Boards (CEBs). The EU co-funded support provided aims to increase rates of business start-up and expansion, and increased competitiveness, innovation and technological adaptation by micro-enterprises. The CEBs:

- promote a local enterprise culture and entrepreneurship by means of initiatives such as 'Start-Your-Own-Business' Programmes, Provision of Business Information, Schools Enterprise Programmes, Awards schemes, thematic networks based on identified sectoral and enterprise-requirements, to include addressing specific needs under networks such as 'Women-in-Business', 'Plato' and cross-Border cooperation as appropriate.
- support business start-ups and expansions through financial grants;
- encourage and facilitate greater innovation and effective ICT usage and adaptation and export output and sales within small businesses;
- build the capacity of owner/managers of micro-enterprises through general business training, tailored mentoring Programmes and business networks.

Since their establishment, the CEBs have supported the creation of 37,601 jobs in grant-assisted enterprises (22,682 S&E Region, 14,919 BMW Region), while 179,656 (126,360 S&E Region, 53,296 BMW Region) have participated in CEB-sponsored training programmes. Examples of supports targeted at young entrepreneurs are given below.

With the support of the ERDF under the Regional OPs, research teams in Irish Institutes of Technology are assisting companies to identify and develop new products, services and market opportunities through research and innovation. The Applied Research Centres are currently engaged in 117 collaborative projects across Ireland, of which 60 are with SMEs.

The EU co-funded Campus Incubation Centres support entrepreneurship and campus enterprise activity by providing a supportive environment in which to develop a technology-intensive start-up, business mentoring; leveraging R&D expertise, access to campus facilities, and student placements and recruitment. There are currently 196 companies in these units across Ireland, employing 700 personnel (511 in the S&E Region, 159 in the BMW Region). Enterprise Ireland has also supported 11 ERDF co-funded collaborative technology development projects, with 6 start-up enterprises created to date.

The EU co-funded Programme PRTL I enables Irish institutions to produce world class research in humanities, science, technology and the social sciences, including business and law. PRTL I also enhances the quality and relevance of graduate output and skills and encourages co-operation between researchers within and between institutions. Funding through PRTL I Cycle 5 supports key areas of economic development such as services innovation, food and drink, pharmaceuticals/biopharmaceuticals, medical technologies, ICT, culture and creative sectors, and energy and environment and 79 PhD/Post-Doctoral research places have been created in the BMW Region, thus far and 294 PhD/post-Doctoral research places in the S&E Region.

The Technological Sector Research Programme supports postgraduate R&D skills (TSR I), preparing them for careers as professional researchers in the public and private sector, while the Core Research Skills Enhancement (TSR III) funds the development of expertise of existing researchers within institutions to enable a strategic and planned long-term development of research capabilities in the institutes.

The Enterprise Platform Programme (New Frontiers, formerly TSR II) provides funding to the Institutes of Technology to equip graduate entrepreneurs with the skills necessary to bring a business/enterprise idea to a sufficient stage of development to be either launched in the market place, or, in the case of businesses which have recently commenced trading, to strengthen their market/trading position. Forty entrepreneurs per annum are supported under this programme.

Co-funded Science Foundation Ireland provides for the development of human capital in research excellence in strategic areas, particularly in the areas of Biotechnology, ICT and Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficient Technologies. SFI funded research programmes are assisting in the enhancement of the innovation and ICT infrastructure and capacity of the BMW region and nationally, with 98 researchers currently engaged in funded projects

Outside of priority 1 of the Regional OPs, there have been increased employment opportunities created through the ERDF co-financed energy for business initiatives (with 1,919 SMEs across Ireland, engaged to date) and through the installation of new energy generation systems such as small-scale (<1MWe) fossil fired Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and biomass (anaerobic digestion (AD) and wood residue) systems.

CEBs Supports towards young entrepreneurs

The City and County Enterprise Boards with the support of ERDF funding have undertaken a wide range of initiatives to support young entrepreneurs and to generate employment in the micro-enterprise sector. The following sets out examples of the range of activities supported.

Many of the Boards engage directly with the third level sector in their cities/counties. For example Louth CEB has supported (in 2009 and 2010) Dundalk IT's programme for their postgraduates students to encourage them to start their own businesses. An intern was appointed to animate the programme working for 2 to 3 days a week. The CEB was actively involved with some of the projects, acting as mentors and also adjudicators for the competitive elements within the programme.

Another example is the Cork Institute of Technology's (CIT) Accelerating Campus Entrepreneurship Programme where Masters Students are part-funded to run entrepreneurship competitions and initiatives to engender a culture of entrepreneurship among

the third level student population at CIT. An IGNITE programme for University College Cork (UCC) graduates with business ideas has been supported and an Entrepreneurial Society has been established within UCC to promote entrepreneurship among students.

The CEBs also support a wide range of accredited training and enterprise start-up initiatives, including initiatives in support of unemployed construction/manufacturing workers and female entrepreneurs (Cavan).

Sligo CEB supports an annual enterprise promotion competition with Sligo VEC targeting Youth reach participants (15-20 year olds) and also participates annually in the graduate careers fair to promote entrepreneurship as a career option. The Board provides information sessions regularly throughout the academic year to non-business students on funding supports available and entrepreneurship and liaises with Sligo Institute of Technology in preparing and submitting joint applications to funding bodies for programmes designed to encourage entrepreneurship.

South Dublin County Enterprise Board has been sponsoring the Student Synergy Awards in conjunction with the Synergy Enterprise Centre in the Institute of Technology Tallaght since 2008. This is a student enterprise competition open to all full time undergraduate and post graduate students at Institute of Technology, Tallaght. Its aim is to foster entrepreneurship and creativity among third level students and encourages innovation and cross fertilisation of ideas between schools. Students from a number of Schools and Departments participate and projects have been in the following areas: web, media, pharma, health, food, tourism, leisure, environmental engineering and general manufacturing and sales. One of the winning businesses from the 2009/10 programme went on to become a client of South Dublin County Enterprise Board in 2010 after graduation with a modified version of his business idea. This is the fourth year of the programme and to date approximately 400 students have participated in the competition.

Other activities supported include information briefings to MBA classes, general student body and other Masters Programmes and Mentoring students in Enterprise Competitions (e.g. Third Level Entrepreneur Programmes) (Kerry CEB); Partaking in 'Dragon's Den' panel in third level colleges (Limerick CEB).

Limerick City Enterprise Board actively engages with community organisations in Limerick City via a comprehensive programme run jointly with the Paul Partnership. Limerick City Enterprise Board and PAUL Partnership has a long and fruitful partnership in assisting small business start-ups in Limerick City. Working with clients who have often been referred by the Department of Social Protection the agencies have developed a number of initiatives to assist those interested in starting a business to acquire and develop the key skills essential for starting a successful sustainable business. These programmes form a large part of the Training & Development Programme for 'Start Your Own Business' and associated courses. Limerick CEB delivers presentations to targeted groups of unemployed people such as the participants on the 'FAST' programme and is currently in the planning stage of a comprehensive enterprise programme which will be provided with Limerick Regeneration, targeting the unemployed in the regeneration 'blackspots' in Limerick City.

Limerick County Enterprise Board supports a Market Link programme which is an eight week multidisciplinary careers, innovation and entrepreneurship programme for third Level

undergraduate students studying in Limerick Institute of Technology, while a Professional Practice Programme was run by LCOEB in the Limerick College of Art and design (LCAD) with over 90 third level students participating. The hands-on programme assisted students in researching, preparing for and approaching marketing and sales avenues for their product and showed students how to maximise their product attractiveness at trade shows. In addition Start Your Own Business programmes were also run on site in LCAD. Limerick County Enterprise Board are also involved with the food development programme final year project at UCC where students develop a food product and associated marketing and branding, and deliver their findings to a “Dragons Den” style panel.

County Limerick CEB has run a project with Limerick Youth Service called “Doing the Biz”, to promote the idea of business as a career option through the Youth Service Network in County Limerick. Groups from youth centres work on a 6 week programme to generate ideas for running an event and raising funds for the local youth centre. Over 40 teenagers were involved. The groups had to come up with branding and marketing for their local youth service. A number of Starting a Business sessions were also run for the Youth Traveller Initiative in Rathkeale and Abbeyfeale.

Waterford City CEB engaged with the Careers Development Office and the Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy in Waterford Institute of Technology to develop and promote the 'Create Your Career' project which is a series of workshops on self employment/entrepreneurship aimed at students in the final year of their course at undergraduate and post graduate level. The CEB have also facilitated Business degree students taking the 'Venture' programme. As part of these encounters the students work with and solve problems for some clients. They then present the solutions to the clients. It gives the students an experience of working with very small micro-enterprises and real world problem-solving.

Wexford CEB (WCEB) assesses the business plans developed by Third year business studies students and provides direct feedback to students following their presentation of projects. It also provides awards to the best business plan and runner-ups.

The Irish Authorities have worked with the Commission Task Force under the Barroso initiative to re-direct unallocated Structural Funds towards SMEs and youth unemployment. However, since all Structural Funds had been allocated, the scope for manouvere was limited.

Challenges for the Future

Ireland agrees that EU Cohesion Policy will be a key policy instrument in achieving the EU 2020 Strategy Priorities for SMART, SUSTAINABLE and INCLUSIVE Growth. Cohesion policy is an important instrument in addressing the economic and social disparities among 27 Member States and their 271 regions; with one in four regions having a GDP per capita less than 75% of the EU average. The Irish experience of Structural and Cohesion Funds has been very positive and Cohesion Policy has played an important role in the development of Ireland’s economy. The financial transfers from the EU Budget are important levers available to member states to bring about change and encourage development in the regions.

The future of cohesion policy is being framed in the context of the current economic downturn and the challenge of an integrated cohesion policy is to address this. The strategic direction for the future policy will be framed by the EU 2020 Strategy and the EU Budget review. Ireland

supports the goals of the EU 2020 Strategy. Cohesion policy will be a key tool in the achievement of these goals. The challenge for an integrated cohesion policy, indeed for all EU policy interventions, must be to deal with the current crisis as a matter of urgency. We are happy with the progress being made on the text on the Cohesion and the approach adopted by the Danish and Cypriot Presidencies. However, we have a number of concerns in relation to the proposals. These are as follows:

Irish Allocation

We have concerns about the criteria for allocations to the more developed regions which may not reflect the seriousness of the economic downturn since 2008 and its effect on employment. Our preference is for increased weighting to be given to labour market criteria.

Macro-economic conditionality

Ireland understands the need to maintain fiscal and macroeconomic discipline, but we have reservations about the modalities for implementation to the Cohesion and Structural Funds. We suggest that the approach should be rational, appropriate and balanced, with safeguards against unforeseen circumstances. The application of conditionality should not undermine the key aim of promoting growth, which is the best way of reducing fiscal deficits.

Administrative Burden

In common with a number of other Member States, we continue to believe that proposals will give rise to a greater administrative burden on Member States. They will also reduce flexibility allowed in the current round and be contrary to the simplification agenda and the principle of proportionality. In this context, the level of funding allocated to Member States should be a key consideration.

Thematic Concentration

We believe that the proposals in this regard are too prescriptive. We agree that interventions must be focused on creating employment, research and innovation, SMEs, education, combating poverty and climate change and energy. However, we consider that Member states and regions should be enabled to prioritise actions based on regional specificities, consistent with the agreed Common Strategic Framework, the National Reform Programmes and pursue their strategies within a broad EU and national framework. This approach would also reflect the regional diversity in the EU, where regions have vastly different characteristics, opportunities and needs.

Performance review/milestones/targets

We welcome the focus on results but again we have a concern about the practical application. Care must be taken to avoid a focus on easy to measure indicators and outcomes rather than more innovative investments. We would stress that any measurement tools should be rigorously tested to avoid perverse outcomes and performance measurement diseases.

Irish Presidency – The Cohesion Legislative Package

Progress on the dossier will be dependent on the outcome of the MFF negotiations. Assuming agreement on the MFF at the November European Council, the task facing us will be to:

- take the elements of the overall MFF agreement that relate to Cohesion policy and incorporate them into the overall Cohesion legislative package and then guide the discussion of these issues to conclusion, along with any outstanding legislative issues left over from the Cypriot Presidency;
- conclude agreement with the Parliament on the legislative package; and
- oversee the promulgation of the regulations so that Member States can have new Operational Programmes in place for the start of the new programming period in 2014.

ANNEX 3 - PRTL I CYCLE 5 PROJECTS

Biosciences and Biomedical Projects

Project Details:

CREATE: Centre for Research in Advanced Therapeutic Engineering	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: CIT	Partners: UCC, Moorepark Food Research Centre, WIT
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
3,297	0		3,297

The CREATE Research Centre aims to address the significant infrastructural deficit in CIT which is inhibiting the further development of the prioritised research areas in the Institute. It will deliver a multidisciplinary research facility which aligns with national priorities and regional industry needs. The Centre will accommodate complementary research strands providing convergence on translational health research across the spectrum from patient care to product development. The three strategic strands cover: bio-molecule discovery, biomedical engineering and advanced optical imaging. Co-locating these interdisciplinary research groups will provide shared infrastructure for research, teaching and knowledge transfer. It will play an important role in supporting and enhancing key regional industries, specifically the bio-pharma and bio-medical device industries which rely on innovative ideas and highly skilled graduates

Project Details:

EHSI: Environmental Health Sciences Institute	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: DIT	Partners: HSE, Dublin City Council, UU, DCU
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
10,448	1,142		11,590

The Environmental Health Sciences Institute (EHSI) will be a dedicated national translational research platform, uniquely based on collaboration between DIT, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and Dublin City Council (DCC), with the active participation of other academic institutions (initially Ulster and DCU), professional (e.g. Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH)), community and industry stakeholders. It will integrate scientific and technical expertise with planning, policy and regulatory capability and relevant industry partners to bridge the science-policy-innovation gap. The *Strategy for Science Technology and Innovation* (SSTI) highlighted the need to 'build the R&D potential within the health service and link this to investment in basic sciences'. EHSI will develop interventions that can assess, correct, control and prevent those factors (chemical, biological, physical, social and psycho-social) in the living environment that can potentially adversely affect human health. The overarching mission and vision is to achieve 'Healthier Lives for Children, the Elderly and Vulnerable Populations'. By removing boundaries

between academia, policy makers, practitioners and industry, EHSI represents a radical new approach to the provision of R&D, education and skills that will help drive economic and social regeneration for the benefit of Ireland and be internationally recognised as a model for an effective research platform.

Project Details:

Food and Health: Generating wealth through innovative and collaborative research	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: UCC	Partners: CIT, The Irish Food and Health Research Alliance (IFHRA), NIBRT
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
2,900	496		3,396

This project will address key infrastructural deficits of regional and national importance to the field of Food and Health research that will allow UCC and Ireland to compete internationally and to realise the full economic potential of this sector. The two capital elements of the project are: 1. Implementation of Phase II (equipping and finishes) of the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Bioprocessing Facility, the first such facility in Ireland, and 2) Phase II (equipping) of the Human Dietary Intervention Studies Facility. Phase I of both facilities were funded under PRTL Cycle 4. This project will provide new and additional research spaces for Food and Health research. It will assist in formulating complementary research programmes (avoiding damaging competition), will coordinate postgraduate training to enhance the postgraduate experience and will deal with state agencies to provide advice and views on policy matters relating to Food and Health.

Project Details:

ScienceCntr: TCD/UCD Innovation Alliance: UCD Science Centre – Systems Biology Ireland	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD, Fannin, St. Vincent’s University Hospital
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
4,919	382		5,301

The UCD PRTL 5 proposal provides critical investment to further develop the UCD Science Centre as an infrastructure for major national investments, such as the CSETs and SRCs. In so doing, it will support pioneering programmes in systems biology, stem cell biology, translational medicine, experimental atmospheres and emerging pathogens. The proposal consolidates existing resources in the UCD Science Centre and TCD’s Pearse St. development in order to create a life science platform of international scale. Consequently, it will enable Ireland to reap the extraordinary benefits of life science discoveries and their applications. The potential impact for Ireland and for our international reputation is immense. For example, systems biology has untapped applications in areas where Ireland is striving to achieve a global presence, such as bioprocessing, nanobiology and biomarker discovery.

Project Details:

TCDBiomed: TCD-UCD Innovation Alliance – City of Science – TCD Biomedical Sciences Development	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: TCD	Partners: UCD, QUB
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000

75,165	659	75,824
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The Trinity Biomedical Sciences Development will consolidate and co-locate pre-clinical bioscience research across five hitherto geographically dispersed schools: Chemistry; Engineering; Biochemistry & Immunology; Medicine; Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences- within an environment mapped to convergence, interdisciplinarity and thematic strength. The purpose of the proposed development is to generate a meaningful consolidation of TCD's expanding complementary activities under the one roof, in "fit for purpose" facilities appropriate to a research intensive leading university, driving undergraduate and postgraduate education and linking to enterprise and innovation through provision of collaborative industry space. The proposal will integrate and scale interlinked proven quality research themes in Immunology, Cancer and Medical Devices. Improved biomedical research capacity of quality, particularly capacity linked to industrial collaborative space will greatly enhance the attractiveness of Ireland as an investment location. The Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute adds value spanning these strategic sectors of Ireland's economic growth, to underpin future employment through world class research capabilities.

Project Details:

ITN: Irish Transgenic Network	Strand 1b: National Shared Facility	Lead: TCD	Partners: UCD, NUI Galway, UCC
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
2,558	2,611		5,169

The ITN is a collaborative effort by four Universities, TCD, UCD, UCC and NUIG, to bring a full range of knockout and transgenic mouse technologies to Irish researchers. In addition, cryopreservation, re-derivation and health screening will be introduced by the lead institution (TCD) to service the growing need for flexible exchange of animal models between institutes and the safe storage of unique lines. The use of sophisticated animal models is a universal feature of high quality biomedical research internationally. Ireland is deficient in this area because of an historical lack of funding and expertise and the inconvenience in accessing these services from abroad: a deficit that impacts on the recruitment of high quality researchers here. The proposed ITN will address these issues by providing transgenic and ancillary services and enhancing access of Irish researchers to customised information and training programs.

Project Details:

ED4LIFE: ED4LIFE – Structured PhD Education for Life Sciences	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education Programme	Lead: CIT	Partners: UCC, Teagasc
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	293		293

ED4LIFE will create to student-centric curriculum for a structured PhD in the life sciences. This programme will support the existing and future research students, empowering them to engage in lifelong learning and contribute significantly to a Fourth Level Ireland. Specifically, this proposal will develop specific learning modules, both generic and subject-specific aligned to the research and teaching and learning principles of the partner institutes. It is anticipated that this programme will impact significantly on education, training and employability and will help to

sustain and develop further industrial interaction and collaboration which will be especially relevant for the biomedical device and bio-pharmaceutical industries. The programme has the potential to generate and stimulate jobs and economic and regional outputs.

Project Details:

MolCellBiol: Molecular and Cellular mechanisms underlying inflammatory processes	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: TCD	Partners: UCD, UCC, NUI Galway
Capital	Recurrent	Total	
EUR 000	EUR 000	EUR 000	EUR 000
0	7,301	7,301	7,301

This programme will develop a Structured PhD Programme (SPP), which has a strong inter-institutional and interdisciplinary component and exploit existing strategic research strengths in cell and molecular biology of inflammation that transcends Immunology, Neuroscience and Cancer. Students will benefit from high quality training providing excellent preparation for varied and flexible careers in the pharmaceutical industry and beyond. It is acknowledged that an understanding of the cell and molecular mechanisms underlying the biology of the inflammatory process will contribute to the development of new therapies and it is significant that major multinational companies manufacturing anti-inflammatory drugs (for which a global market of EUR16bn exists) have a presence in Ireland. PhD graduates from the SPP will be ideally placed to make a significant impact in this area.

Translational Biosciences and Biomedical Research Projects

Project Details:

AdvancingMed: Advancing Medicine through Discovery	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: NUI Galway	Partners: UCC, UL, UU
Capital	Recurrent	Total	Capital
EUR 000	EUR 000	EUR 000	EUR 000
30,089	1,870	31,959	30,089

The infrastructural capacity sought in this proposal, consisting of a Biosciences Research Building and a Translational Research Facility, will enable NUI Galway to achieve the next phase of its planned development in Biomedical Science and Engineering. This will allow: (i) the further extension of fundamental research to be undertaken in a highly collaborative environment; (ii) the consolidation of investments in specific targeted areas of biomedical research through the concentration of researchers across the Colleges of Science, Engineering and Medicine, and in state-of-the-art facilities; (iii) the exploitation of scientific outputs through the process of translational research for ultimate clinical applications. The aim of the proposal is to develop an environment of cross-fertilisation where basic, translational, and clinical researchers interact effectively, so that fundamental scientific expertise and insight is translated efficiently into novel therapies and modalities of treatment. Complementing this aim, and a key consideration for future development, is the retention and attraction of world-class faculty, sustained research funding, and intensive interaction with leading national and international academic and industrial partners, all of which will be enabled by the capacity enhancement contained in this proposal.

Project Details:

BSI West: Translating Biosciences into Health	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: UCC	Partners: NUIG, DCU, TCD, RCSI, CIT, ESRI
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
19,097	0		19,097

The aim of this proposal is to complete the translational research continuum by bringing together research teams from key areas spanning 'bench to bedside' (T1) and 'bedside to health system and population' (T2) translational research. The creation of additional space (research, laboratory, animal facility and office/IT) will realise the full potential of these initiatives in the areas of molecular biosciences, translational health and HSR. Providing this infrastructure will also allow significant cross pollination between different research themes, creating a critical mass and generating the synergies essential for attracting the best researchers. This will be crucial for sustaining the national economy through high-level skills development and internationally competitive R&D and innovation. Although the different research strands use different methodologies, there is considerable common ground and potential for the sharing of platform technologies, services, resources and expertise. This sharing of expertise will also provide the critical mass required to underpin structured training programmes in these fundamental methods as a resource for Irish researchers.

Project Details:

NRF-TRH: Nano-BioAnalytical Research Facility	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: DCU	Partners: RCSI, NUIM, IT Tallaght
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
14,489	1,491		15,980

DCU proposes to establish a Nano-Bioanalytical Research Facility that has a primary focus on Translational Nanomedicine. The strategic rationale is to leverage key areas of established research excellence at DCU (e.g. 2 Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Centres for Science Engineering and Technology (CSETs), 3 SFI Science Research Clusters (SRCs), 4 PRTLII Centres), and to consolidate advanced facilities and instrumentation, serviced by technical specialists, in order to create an enhanced environment that promotes convergent research that is aligned with the European Strategic Research Agenda on Nanomedicine. Research will focus on the development of novel nanomaterials and bioanalytical methodologies that will lead to breakthroughs in diagnostics, biomedical imaging and targeted drug delivery. The proposed Facility will not only play a critical role in advancing DCU-based research, but will also deliver key innovations to the Healthcare Industry Sector which is of critical importance to our economy.

Project Details:

ScienceCntr: TCD/UCD Innovation Alliance: UCD Science Centre – Radiopharmaceutical Research and Service Centre	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD, Fannin, St. Vincent’s University Hospital
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
6,727	382		7,109

The UCD PRTL 5 proposal provides critical investment to further develop the UCD Science Centre as an infrastructure for major national investments, such as the CSETs and SRCs. In so doing, it will support pioneering programmes in systems biology, stem cell biology, translational medicine, experimental atmospheres and emerging pathogens. The proposal consolidates existing resources in the UCD Science Centre and TCD’s Pearse St. development in order to create a life science platform of international scale. Consequently, it will enable Ireland to reap the extraordinary benefits of life science discoveries and their applications. The potential impact for Ireland and for our international reputation is immense. The PRTL 5 bid will provide a Radiopharmaceutical Research and Service Centre that will consolidate Ireland’s leading position in translational medicine and attract international investment in clinical trials.

Project Details:

BME&RM: Structured PhD Programme in Biomedical Engineering and Regenerative Medicine	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: NUI Galway	Partners: UL, UCC, GMIT, IT Sligo, UU, QUB, IMDA
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	2,764		2,764

This proposed Structured PhD Programme spans the Biomedical Engineering and Regenerative Medicine domains and aims to become a leading international graduate education programme in the field, in which Ireland is already taking a strong international role. The overall objective is to develop PhD graduates who will produce ground-breaking scientific results, benefiting human health and contributing to economic growth, and who will, in turn, lead research and development in these fields in industry and academia. The Programme is focused on the medical technologies industrial sector, the growing importance of which has been recognised by the Irish Government in the SSTI, and most recently by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs and Forfás. The specific research outputs of the Programme will be of international scientific importance and will also readily find commercial implementation within this industrial sector. The IMDA, the most significant end-user/stakeholder industrial representative group in the country, is included as an active partner in the Programme. Furthermore, many individual multi-national and indigenous companies in the sector, of which there is a concentration on the Atlantic seaboard, have been individually consulted on the Programme, and are giving their full support to it.

Project Details:

Bio-AT: Bio-Analysis and Therapeutics Structured PhD Programme	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: DCU	Partners: RCSI, NUIM, IT Tallaght
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	5,640		5,640

The Bio-Analysis and Therapeutics Structured PhD Programme (Bio-AT) addresses the challenge of increasing quality, quantity and entrepreneurial skills of graduate researchers in the critical areas of biopharmaceutical and biomedical device industries, which are integral to Ireland's economy. It supports bioanalytical developments in industry, drives interdisciplinary research and enhances quality and volume of doctoral graduates. The overall objective of Bio-AT is to train students to become leaders and innovators with the requisite skills that underpin continued growth and sustainability of these industries in Ireland. Research projects underpinning Bio-AT training will lead to developments in bioanalytical methodology and technology applied to disease, diagnosis and treatment. Furthermore, they will have significant potential for commercialisation; a major strength of the programme.

Project Details:

MMI CCRSP: Molecular Medicine Ireland Clinical & Translational Research Scholars Programme	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: NUI Galway	Partners: TCD, UCC, UCD, Molecular Medicine Ireland
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	4,317		4,317

There is a shortage of scientists in Ireland undertaking innovative patient- and disease-focused research and with an understanding of how to bring research results to the clinic. The MMI partner universities propose to address this deficit by developing a structured PhD programme in clinical and translational research to produce scientists trained to generate innovative discoveries and translate them to the clinical and commercial arena. This proposal leverages the teaching, research and clinical expertise and resources of the MMI partner universities, their affiliated hospitals and clinical research facilities. In conjunction with industry collaborators, this structured PhD programme will provide the Scholars with research training of the highest quality and an in-depth understanding of the clinical and regulatory environment essential for careers in academic or commercial healthcare research.

Materials and Technology Projects**Project Details:**

NCAMR: National Centre for Applied Materials Research	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: UL	Partners: UCC, NUI Galway, Analog Devices
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
11,855	261		12,116

The overall aim of the National Centre for Applied Materials Research (NCAMR) is to develop research programmes, specifically in pharmaceutical and composite materials, which will assist in future knowledge transfer and position Ireland as a preferred location for further investment

and employment. NCAMR will support the expansion of the SFI-SRC in Solid State Pharmaceuticals to form an internationally established centre of excellence on all aspects of the formation of pharmaceutical materials; develop an All-Island composites research cluster led by UL and house the EI/IDA funded Competence Centre in Composite Materials; produce the highly skilled scientists and engineers who will sustain the development of Irish high technology industry; incubate the commercialisation of new research by allowing rapid prototyping of new materials and applications; and fill national gaps in instrumentation through the provision of facilities for solid state nuclear magnetic resonance and time of flight secondary ion mass spectrometry.

Project Details:

NUIM ICT: NUI Maynooth ICT Infrastructure Development	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: NUI Maynooth
Capital	Recurrent	Total
EUR 000	EUR 000	EUR 000
4,270	0	4,270

This project will create 1,800 sq. m. of high-quality dedicated research space to underpin future development of the Hamilton and Microelectronics and Wireless Systems Institutes at NUI Maynooth with a view to encouraging synergies and increasing critical mass in the networking area. Importantly, this will also consolidate the IMWS, which is currently distributed across a number of locations on campus due to space constraints. In addition to enhancing research output, this will maintain the Institute's competitiveness in recruitment of leading international researchers (helping sustain the University's existing success in recruitment of leading researchers) and allow larger scale engagement with industry partners. The proposed new research space will provide accommodation for the development of new research groups by recent SFI Stokes appointees and provide space to support industry-facing initiatives. The present proposal will provide essential workspace to support industry interaction, including offices for seconded industry staff. The proposal will support the future development of current research strengths in areas of national importance (consistent with "Smart Economy" objectives and addressing of identified graduate skills shortages in Ireland). This includes enhancement of critical mass and concentration of activity for improved efficiency and realisation of potential synergies.

Project Details:

ScienceCntr: TCD-UCD Innovation Alliance: UCD Science Centre – CASL and CLARITY	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD
Capital	Recurrent	Total	
EUR 000	EUR 000	EUR 000	
11,707	944	12,651	

The UCD PRTL 5 proposal provides critical investment to further develop the UCD Science Centre as an infrastructure for major national investments. Life science research is critically dependent on computation and informatics. Moreover, advances in mathematical modelling, computational algorithms, the speed of computers and data-intensive computing have enabled realistic and tractable simulation. The proposal will consolidate national research investments in ICT into a high quality research and education base that places science at the centre of

Ireland's economic, cultural and social development. It will provide quality facilities that attract and retain top researchers and students and accommodate funded flagship programmes including the SFI funded CSET, CLARITY and the UCD initiated Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory. CLARITY is developing novel sensing technology together with the necessary software infrastructure to manage large-scale ubiquitous sensing challenges in collaboration with key industry partners IBM, Foster-Miller and Vodafone. UCD initiated the *Complex and Adaptive Systems Laboratory (CASL)* in 2006 to drive computational science and information theory at UCD and recently established it as a Major Research Institute following a comprehensive external review.

Project Details:

TYFANNI: Tyndall FlexiFab for Applied Convergent Nanotechnologies	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: UCC	Partners: UL, DCU, QUB
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
4,459	615		5,074

This project will play a key role in integrating Ireland's nanoscience and nanotechnology capabilities, providing a unique set of flexible fabrication facilities for graduate research and education in nanoelectronics, nanophotonics and nanobiotechnology. The emphasis will be on interdisciplinarity and technological convergence to deliver economic regeneration and growth. Through the convergent integration of new materials, device and subsystem concepts from the nano- to the meso- scale, developed in close collaboration with industry, the facilities will enable the production of a generation of post-graduate researchers who are educated to further develop their knowledge, skills and creativity for wealth creation. A unique "FlexiFab" research laboratory, based jointly on the principles of "More than Moore" wafer processing with "Beyond Moore" concepts, will be established within the New Laboratory Building at Tyndall National Institute (Tyndall). State-of-the-art semiconductor wafers (silicon, III-V's) will be post-processed in the facility with other inorganic and biomaterials, to give new device and subsystem capabilities. The FlexiFab will enable a wide variety of novel device and systems fabrication and open the door for Tyndall and its Irish collaborators to enter new European funding opportunities.

Project Details:

DGPP: Dublin Graduate Physics Programme	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD, QUB
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	4,455		4,455

The Dublin Graduate Physics Programme will enable UCD and TCD to combine their resources to develop an exceptional joint Structured PhD Programme (SPP) that will be the flagship for graduate level physics education in Ireland. The focus of DGPP will be primarily on cutting-edge and original research, with taught disciplinary and transferable skills with the two institutions working together in order to expand the portfolio of discipline-based taught elements, extend and consolidate the research and generic transferable skills provision currently provided to underpin professional development throughout students' doctoral training and position

innovation and entrepreneurship as the third pillar of the PhD, alongside original research and advanced education. The collaborative programme creates a scale of activity which not only is compelling from the national perspective, but which will be competitive internationally. When branded and coupled with a focussed and internationally orientated recruitment plan, this activity will put Dublin on the map as a leading location for graduate training in physics.

Project Details

GREP-ENG: Graduate Research Education Programme in Engineering	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: TCD	Partners: UCD, UCC, DIT
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	5,364		5,364

The proposal is for an Engineering Structured PhD Programme to provide the infrastructure for high quality engineering PhD graduate education that will produce the critical mass of talented and capable engineers required to underpin the design and development of products and devices that will drive economic growth and sustainability. Initially, the focus will be on current areas of national/global, social and economic importance, namely Bioengineering & Medical Devices and Sustainable Energy & Energy Efficient Devices. This programme builds on expertise in The Trinity Centre for Bioengineering (TCBE) and the Biomedical Engineering Research Centre (BMERC) in UCD to provide PhD level education in key areas such as tissue engineering, neural engineering, biomechanics and implanted medical devices. The partners have a strong record in electrical and thermal energy systems with a focus on power generation, distribution and use. Interaction with industrial partners both in Ireland, Europe and worldwide is an integral part of the programme to ensure an understanding of how their work can be integrated into the market place. This is a new departure from existing practice and provides a focused, coordinated education geared towards enabling the student's creativity and research skills whilst enhancing the impact of their research through technology transfer and potential for "start-ups".

Project Details:

INSPIRE: A National Graduate Education Programme in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: UCC	Partners: DCU, NUI Galway, DIT, UL
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	3,401		3,401

The "Integrated NanoScience Platform for Ireland" (INSPIRE) was established under PRTL14 to create a national infrastructure enabling the delivery of innovative research in nanoscience. Within PRTL15, the INSPIRE consortium will establish a structured PhD programme building upon the established research infrastructure, providing high-quality graduate training in fulfilment of the INSPIRE vision. Increasingly, information and communication technologies and bionanosciences rely on multi-disciplinary training across a range of platform technologies. In response, a structured graduate education programme will be implemented introducing fundamental nanoscience, complemented by modules in electronics, photonics, and

nanobioscience. A significant component of the structured programme will be the development of business, innovation and entrepreneurship skills for engineering and science students, while maintaining a focus on scientific and technical excellence to address goals expressed in “Building Ireland’s Smart Economy”.

Project Details:

SimSci-PhD: PhD programme in Simulation Science	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD, NUI Galway, QUB, ICHEC
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	3,623		3,623

The programme will deliver a structured graduate education where students will cohere around a core graduate experience focusing on collaborative teamwork to meet common challenges underpinned by transdisciplinary training in Foundations of Simulation, in-depth discipline-based training, together with industrial internships and international Symposia. To drive forward future innovations in Science and Technology the training program will provide substantial depth in computational techniques, mathematical modelling, and data intensive science, and give students unparalleled opportunities for Simulation Science research in their scientific, social science and engineering disciplines. The programme will expand Ireland’s contribution to world-class research in key targeted areas with applications to health, material science, social science and finance, all underpinned by Simulation Science through their common requirements to understand behaviour over multiple scales, influenced by multiple components and involving vast multidimensional data sets. These skilled graduates will enhance Ireland’s academic and economic strength mapping to major challenges facing the country.

Project Details:

TGI: Telecommunications Graduate Initiative	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: TCD	Partners: UCD, UCC, NUIM, DCU, DIT, WIT, QUB, UU
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	5,851		5,851

Telecommunications is a key part of Ireland’s high-tech economy which needs to be sustained and strengthened. Major multi-national companies such as Cisco, Alcatel-Lucent, MA/COM and others have recently established R&D units in the country employing small numbers of highly qualified individuals. IDA Ireland is continuously seeking to attract others and the high quality of our University-based research activity as well as the quality of our graduates both at bachelor and PhD level is a key attractor for such companies. Our indigenous industry in the area is growing strongly as evidenced by the success of such companies as Aldiscon and ChangingWorlds and these are also key employers in this area. This initiative will deliver a world class structured telecoms PhD program in Ireland, built on a coherent educational and training programme that will meet the needs of the wider economic marketplace through enhanced academic achievement. The proposal will unite all the significant players in the Irish academic community in an effort to make a step change in the quality of our PhD graduates for the benefit of both the University’s educational and research activity and also for the economy

as a whole. The industry links and placements supported and encouraged by TGI will broaden their horizons, change their outlook, and afford them opportunities to employ the generic and domain-specific skills they have acquired in a commercial environment. The resulting graduates will be better equipped to make a strong impact in both Irish and multi-national companies and in the field of further research in Ireland.

Project Details:

Nanoremedies: Nanomechanical Approaches and Functional Materials for Regenerative Medicine	Strand 3: New and Emerging Potential	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD, NUI Galway
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
561	1,291		1,852

Nanoremedies will create a new research centre in Ireland that concentrates expertise in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics and engineering to focus on the molecular mechanisms of mechanotransduction and materials and therapeutics that control the mechanobiology of cells. Once established this centre will produce a new generation of biomaterials and therapeutics for tissue and stem cell engineering. This centre will act as a centre of excellence for Irish industry in the fields of bionanotechnology, systems biology, and biomaterials as they relate to mechanotransduction supporting the existing Irish biomedical device industry and acting as a tool for attracting further investment in Ireland

Environment, Marine and Sustainable Energy Projects

Project Details:

ERI@MeRC: Environmental Research Institute at the Maritime and Energy Cluster, Ireland	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: UCC	Partners: Bord Gais Eireann; CIT-National Maritime College of Ireland; IDA; Irish Naval Service; Marine Institute; NUI, Galway; NUIM; QUB; SEI; UCD
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
7,500	913		8,413

The ERI@MeRC proposal will provide the national R&D infrastructure to support the development potential of the Marine Renewable Energy Sector as part of MeRC. The proposal to create the ERI@MeRC Research Building will integrate the Hydraulics and Maritime Research Centre (HMRC), Coastal and Marine Resources Centre (CMRC) and Sustainable Energy Research Group (SERG). Researchers will collaborate on scientific programmes that meet national objectives for ecologically sustainable ocean energy, renewable energy storage and grid integration and policy support & marine resource management. This proposal will create a state-of-the-art National Ocean Energy Test Facility (NOETF) incorporating the enhanced HMRC wave tanks, which were included in SSTI as an important national scale facility. Industry partnerships (e.g. EI Competence Centres) will be fostered within the new facility to support commercialisation of ideas and technology transfer. The IDA will promote ERI@MeRC as a national flagship R&D location to prospective FDI clients to create high level employment. Research activities will underpin the 'new green deal' outlined in '*Building Ireland's Smart Economy*'.

Project Details:

ScienceCntr: TCD-UCD Innovation Alliance: UCD Science Centre – Earth Systems Institute	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
23,328	1,855		25,183

The UCD PRTL 5 proposal provides critical investment to further develop the UCD Science Centre as an infrastructure for major national investments. The Earth Systems Institute is a national centre for energy and environment research of a scale capable of leading Ireland's response to climate change and the global energy crisis, and making Ireland an innovation hub for "green technologies". It positions UCD's leading researchers from across the spectrum of environment and energy alongside UCD's programme on simulation science and Ireland's cognate flagship academic-industry partnerships, SFI CSET-CLARITY and the SFI SRC-Solar Energy Centre. ESI is linked to a network of national and international partners, including Ireland's state agencies in agriculture and the environment. The ESI and related research and innovation portfolio will make an important contribution to meeting Ireland's legally binding EU obligations as regards renewable energy supply and increased efficiency, and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Project Details:

SmartBay: A National Platform for the Development & Application of Emerging Marine, Communications & Environmental Technologies	Strand 1b: National Shared Facility	Lead: DCU	Partners: NUI Galway, Marine Institute, NUIM, UCD, IBM, Intel
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	3,823		3,823

SmartBay seeks to establish a world-class marine research, test and demonstration platform consisting of a sensing and communications infrastructure to build on a successful small scale pilot project. A 20km Sub-sea electro-optic cable, instrument nodes and a network of wireless sensor platforms deployed in Galway Bay, will link data from Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), satellite-based sensing, shore deployed units and a state of the art CyberInfrastructure. The SmartBay R&D Platform will rapidly grow a user base to encompass academic research teams, SMEs, and MNCs, nationally and internationally. It will harness research excellence in scientific and engineering fields in, addition to computational, analytical and data management expertise. Research projects will build on existing capacity and synergies will also be developed with industry and with SFI, CSETs (specifically CLARITY in DCU, DERI in NUI Galway) and Strategic Research Clusters (specifically, Advanced Geotechnologies in NUIM, FAME in WIT). SmartBay will offer a unique resource for training and education of graduate and postgraduate students in the challenges of bringing research out of the laboratory, into real scenarios, as part of a larger multidisciplinary effort contributing to knowledge generation and economic development

Project Details:

ESI-PhD-ENS: Earth Systems Institute – Structured PhD programme in Earth & Natural Science	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD, NUI Galway, UL, QUB
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	9,662		9,662

The proposed ESI PhD programme will create a cohort of graduates with a strong background in Energy and Environmental studies, imbued with the innovation and entrepreneurial skills to develop an emerging green technology sector. This programme forges a collaboration between Irish and international scientists, policy makers and industry to create the graduates who will play a major role in the development of (i) the smart economy and green tech sector, (ii) the AgriFood, Energy, Materials Science and Environmental sectors of the economy. The availability of highly qualified, highly skilled graduates with an innovation focus will provide the ingredients for the development of SMCs and the attraction of MNCs in these sectors to Ireland.

Project Details:

ERC:GI: Electricity Research Centre: Grid Integration of Renewables, Distributed Generation and Flexible Demand	Strand 3: New and Emerging Potential	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD, ESRI
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	2,583		2,583

The ERCGI proposal will develop the necessary techniques that will be key to Ireland achieving its renewable targets, and in the process create intellectual property and human capital. It is centred on the Electricity Research Centre, an industry supported research centre based on a core group of engineering excellence in UCD, with strong supportive economic analysis from TCD and the Economic and Social Research Institute. The research work ranges from engineering and economic aspects of electricity networks to the application with large amounts of distributed and renewable energy sources, complemented by flexible consumer demand. The work will follow through to deployment through industry-sponsored demonstrations of resulting smart grid technologies. The project will have a major National and European impact by delivering tools and techniques that will enable Ireland to achieve ambitious renewable energy targets, thus reducing fossil fuel usage and associated emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, while also reducing the associated import bill. This research will enhance Ireland's reputation as a world leader in all aspects of integration of wind power and other variable renewable energy sources. The research will develop knowledge, skills, competencies and technologies that can be exported to other countries facing equivalent challenges in exploiting their renewable energy resources

Innovation, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Projects**Project Details:**

ACADEMY: The TCD-UCD Innovation Academy	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Co-Leads: UCD, TCD
Capital	Recurrent	
EUR 000	EUR 000	
0	1,722	

The TCD-UCD Innovation Academy is the educational centrepiece of the TCD-UCD Innovation Alliance, an initiative established earlier this year as a response to the stated national policy objective of developing Ireland as a Smart Economy. The Academy is a collaborative joint venture in PhD education between UCD, TCD and Industry. The Academy fundamentally changes doctoral education by establishing innovation alongside research and education as a key outcome, thereby developing a new breed of graduate with the creativity and entrepreneurial skill to apply their knowledge for commercial, economic and social benefit. The Academy will enhance Ireland's reputation for PhD education, thus attracting high-quality international students and fostering the conversion of research capability into innovation currency. These graduates will be trained in leadership and teamwork, will understand the drivers which lead to spin-outs, will be better able to communicate with entrepreneurs and with industry; they will possess knowledge which can translate into a broader impact of innovation, for example, in public policy or in the creative sphere and they will be trained to recognise the innovation potential of blue skies research.

Project Details:

AHSSRB: Arts Humanities Social Sciences Research Building	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: NUI Galway	Partners: National Archives, National Museum of Ireland, Irish Film Institute, Foróige, RTE, TG4 etc/
Capital	Recurrent	Total	
EUR 000	EUR 000	EUR 000	
13,518	636	14,154	

The funding of the Arts Humanities Social Sciences Research Building (AHSSRB) will enable NUI Galway to bring together in a cohesive manner the work and the research populations of two Research Institutes, four Research Centres and one Research Cluster within a single dedicated building that multiplies collisions and interactions between different cohorts of students, including undergraduate research actions, and provides structured resources for Partners and direct access to welcome public stakeholders and communities including RTE, the National Museum of Ireland and the Irish Film Institute. It will integrate research and training in the Humanities, Digital Cultures, Creative Industries, Business, Social Sciences, Rights, Advocacy, and Public Policy. This is entirely consistent with the research strategy for NUI Galway and builds on international and national research agendas. These include the European Commission's Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities themes and national policy on 'cultural entrepreneurship' and 'cultural tourism' as defined in 'Building Ireland's Smart Economy: A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal'; and also in the regional paradigm defined in the Western Development Commission's 2009 report 'Creative West: the Creative Sector in the Western Region'.

Project Details:

IVI-Phase 2: Innovation Value Institute-Phase 2	Strand 1a: Supporting Infrastructure	Lead: NUIM	Partners: Intel, NUI Galway, UL
Capital	Recurrent	Total	
EUR 000	EUR 000	EUR 000	
1,120	0	1,120	

The Innovation Value Institute (IVI) is a research institute of NUI Maynooth, established in partnership with Intel Corporation, and supported by a consortium of over thirty-five companies (the IVI Consortium). In its first phase of operation, the Institute developed an initial research capability through industry practitioners. In the second phase, IVI aims to host a nationally designated Competence Centre in IT Innovation; this has been supported with the award of an initial research grant. Cycle 5 will provide funding for 400m² of new accommodation that will enable realisation of this ambitious programme of research and commercialisation. The Institute collaborates on this programme with other Academic Institutes in Ireland (NUIG, UL) and internationally (MIT, Cranfield, Jönköping). Its physical infrastructure will be based in Maynooth. Commercialisation will include assessment, certification, and education programmes. IVI's research programme is fully aligned with the University and national strategies for collaborative research and developing the Smart Economy. It is also fully aligned with European strategies (European Research Area Vision 2020, Strategy for ICT R&D and Innovation in Europe 2009, European Economic Recovery Plan 2008).

Project Details:

NAVR: National Audio Visual Repository (RIA)	Strand 1b: National Shared Facility	Lead: RIA	Partners: NUIM, TCD, DIT, NUI Galway, NCAD
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	5,181		5,181

The NAVR will provide a central access point for HSS Audio Visual research materials and data gathered and held in HEIs, cultural institutions and social science organisations across the island of Ireland. In so doing, it will support Ireland's participation in 'cultural globalisation' allowing delivery of Irish cultural products and services to global audiences, notably creative and cultural industries, and heritage and tourism and address a key deficit in Irish HSS research infrastructures (ESFRI, 2009; HEA/Forfás, 2006). It concentrates national expertise / resources by bringing together leading researchers in the HSS, library services and high-end computing, drawing on national research and graduate training programmes and structures. Stakeholders such as the national cultural organisations (e.g. RTÉ; TG4; NAI; NESF; NLI) and industry partners (e.g. Microsoft, Intel, IBM) will play a significant advisory and information role in the NAVR's development.

Project Details:

DAH: Digital Arts and Humanities Structured PhD Programme	Strand 2: Structured PhD Education	Lead: TCD	Partners: NUI, Galway, NUIM, RIA, TCD, UCC
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	6,828		6,828

The Structured PhD in DAH is a four-year programme that will provide world-class training in innovative models of arts practice and theory, and humanities research, archiving, and pedagogy. The programme will promote advanced practical and academic research in the application of new media and computer technologies in the arts and humanities. DAH will contribute towards the realisation of the SSTI goals and make a step-change in Ireland's fourth-

level platform by embedding new ways of thinking about the arts and cultural practice and heritage via the production, manipulation and reuse of digital content. This will be done by exposing students to cutting-edge curricula, a range of internships with industry and cultural practice and heritage partners, and intensive summer institutes with industry and academic leaders in the field. DAH will be an internationally innovative programme in which advanced practical and academic research in the application of new media and computer technologies is integrated within a structured arts and humanities degree. It will enable Ireland to develop a world-leading position in a field that will be of vital academic, cultural and economic importance over the coming decades.

Project Details:

IPSE: Innovation Policy Simulation for the Smart Economy	Strand 3: New and Emerging Potential	Lead: UCD	Partners: TCD, QUB
Capital	Recurrent		Total
EUR 000	EUR 000		EUR 000
0	1,151		1,151

IPSE's work package combines empirical research on issues identified as important for Irish innovation performance with computational methods such as network analysis, agent-based modelling and social simulation, to implement and test innovation policy scenarios. Building on research in traditional fields already firmly present in Ireland (e.g. tax, healthcare, financial services, management, industry R&D, policy research), new problem fields for the Irish Smart Economy (e.g. green economy, public sector innovation, adaptive policy networks) will be tackled using their novel methodological framework, which is just emerging as an international research trend: a "hard science" approach to innovation research concerned with scenario modelling, simulation and computational network analyses, with the option of bringing in mathematics (for rigorous controlled computation) and large-scale empirical analyses (for realistic simulation).