

Evaluation Plan (2014 – 2020 Programmes)

In accordance with Articles 56 and 114 of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, the Managing Authority for the INTERREGVA Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 has drawn up a draft Evaluation Plan for the programme.

Article 56 (3) of the above regulation states:

During the programming period, the managing authority shall ensure that evaluations, including evaluations to assess effectiveness, efficiency and impact, are carried out for each programme on the basis of the evaluation plan and that each evaluation is subject to appropriate follow-up in accordance with the Fund-specific rules. At least once during the programming period, an evaluation shall assess how support from the ESI Funds has contributed to the objectives for each priority. All evaluations shall be examined by the monitoring committee and sent to the Commission.

And Article 114 states:

An evaluation plan shall be drawn up by the managing authority or Member State for one or more operational programmes. The evaluation plan shall be submitted to the monitoring committee no later than one year after the adoption of the operational programme.

In preparing the final draft of the Evaluation Plan, the Managing Authority has taken account of the guidance provided by the Commission Services in the 'Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation'.

The relevant section (3.5.2) of the Guidance Note states:

An evaluation plan should include the following elements:

- indicative list of evaluations to be undertaken, their subject and rationale;
- methods to be used for the individual evaluations and their data requirements;
- provisions that data required for certain evaluations will be available or will be collected;

- a timetable;
- a strategy to ensure use and communication of evaluations;
- human resources involved;
- the indicative budget for implementation of the plan;
- possibly a training plan.

The Monitoring Committee is requested to examine and approve the draft evaluation plan which is attached.

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INTERREG VA Programme (2014-2020)

European Territorial Cooperation Programme United Kingdom-
Ireland (Ireland - Northern Ireland – Western Scotland)

Evaluation Plan

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This evaluation plan is prepared by the Managing Authority to fulfil Article 114(1) of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)¹. The plan has taken due account of the European Commission's Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation. The Managing Authority is committed to ensuring a comprehensive evaluation plan is in place to facilitate learning and maximise the impact of the proposed investments. The Monitoring Committee will be asked to examine and approve this evaluation plan on the 9th December 2015.
- 1.2 The programming period 2014 - 2020 places a renewed emphasis on having a clear intervention logic including clear specific objectives, results and outputs with associated targets. Evaluation is a key tool in testing the intervention logic and examining the effectiveness and impact of the programme. Monitoring and evaluation are intrinsically linked and are essential for effective programme and project management, therefore this document also refers to monitoring arrangements. This evaluation plan incorporates lessons learnt from previous programmes.

2. OVERVIEW OF PLANNED EVALUATIONS

- 2.1 This plan includes two types of evaluations:
 - a) implementation evaluation;
 - b) impact evaluations.
- 2.2 The implementation evaluation will support the smooth delivery of the programme by assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation mechanism established for the programme, including measures to reduce the administrative burden.

¹ Draw up an evaluation plan and submit to the Monitoring Committee no more than one year after the approval of the programme in accordance with Article 114 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

- 2.3 Impact evaluations will be carried out on each priority axis, to test the intervention logic of that priority axis, and form a view of the effectiveness and impact of the investment, with a particular emphasis on learning any lessons that could inform future programmes or other related public sector investments.
- 2.4 Implementing and impact evaluations will also inform any proposed adjustments to the Programme during the programme period.
- 2.5 The evaluation plan will require resources, both in terms of staff and finance. The plan proposes a proportionate response to evaluation and takes due account of the size of the programme, the nature of the activities being supported and the added value to public investment by focussing on effectiveness, impact and learning.
- 2.6 The evaluation plan also recognises the wide range of stakeholders with an interest in the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme including: the Programme Monitoring Committee; Member States; the European Commission; Lead Partners and the wider public, including the taxpayer. Therefore all evaluations will be conducted with a high level of transparency, with the findings readily available to all interested parties.

3. EX-ANTE EVALUATION (COMPLETED)

- 3.1 An ex-ante evaluation was carried out on the Programme during programme preparation. The purpose of an ex-ante evaluation aimed to optimise the allocation of resources and to improve the quality of programming. It addressed the relevance of the programme strategy, the likely effectiveness of the programme and an assessment of the potential impact. The ex-ante evaluation also commented on the proposed implementation systems and identified potential risks.
- 3.2 Ex-ante evaluators were appointed early in the planning process for the programme and worked closely with the programme development team. The ex-ante was an iterative process with the evaluators providing feedback and guidance as the

Cooperation Programme developed. The ex-ante evaluation² for INTERREG VA was submitted to the Commission on 28 January 2015 with the Cooperation Programme, in accordance with DG Regio Guidelines on Evaluation Methods.

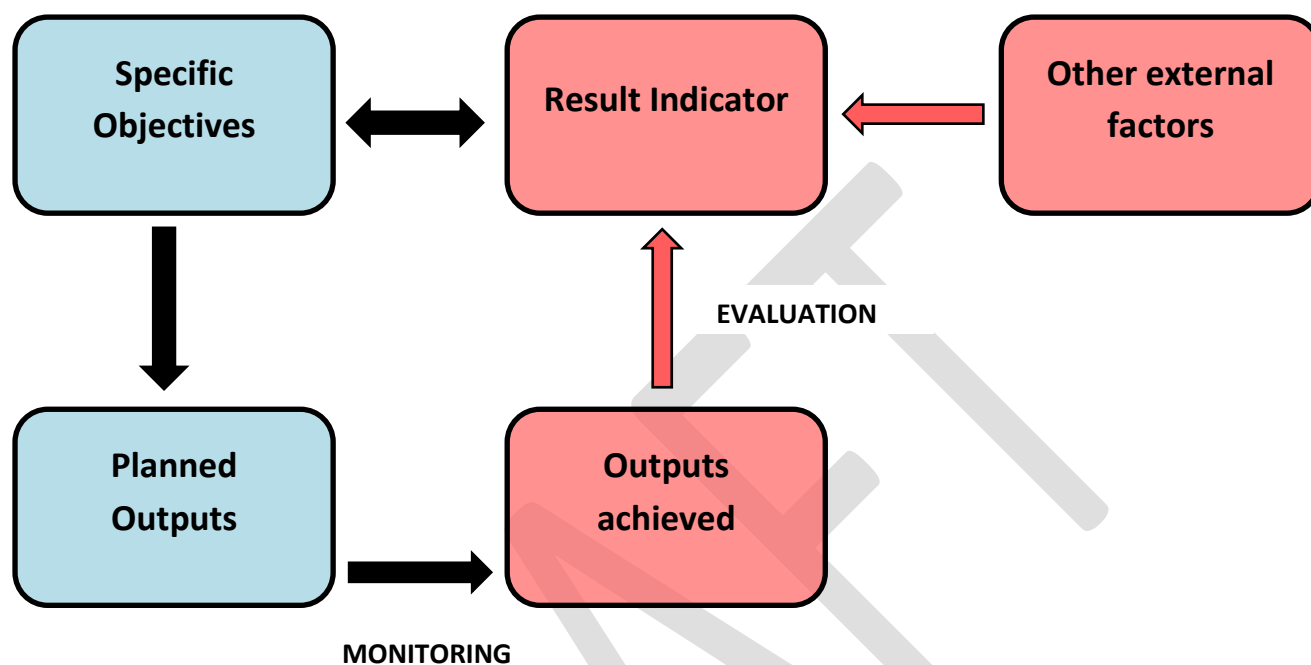
3.3 The ex-ante evaluators recommended the evaluation plan to include:

- Possible data needs for on-going evaluations “including evaluations to assess effectiveness, efficiency and impact for each programme”, and in particular for the impact evaluations that should assess the programme contribution to the objectives of each priority axis at least once during the programme period;
- Main evaluations to be undertaken i.e. covering the interventions leading to the main results or responding to specific needs (for example to find out whether further actions are needed to be launched in a specific field of activity or, when planned, the evaluation of innovative approaches as sources of new policy knowledge);
- Timing of evaluations, their methods and data needs, and possible training activities if deemed necessary;
- Methods to be applied to the planned impact evaluations and availability of the related necessary data through the monitoring system, existing administrative data or national or regional statistics and;
- Any guidance to be followed in undertaking evaluations.

² Ex Ante Evaluation Report on the INTERREG VA Cross Border Territorial Co-operation Programme **2014-2020** (September 2014)

4. MONITORING

Simplified Intervention Logic



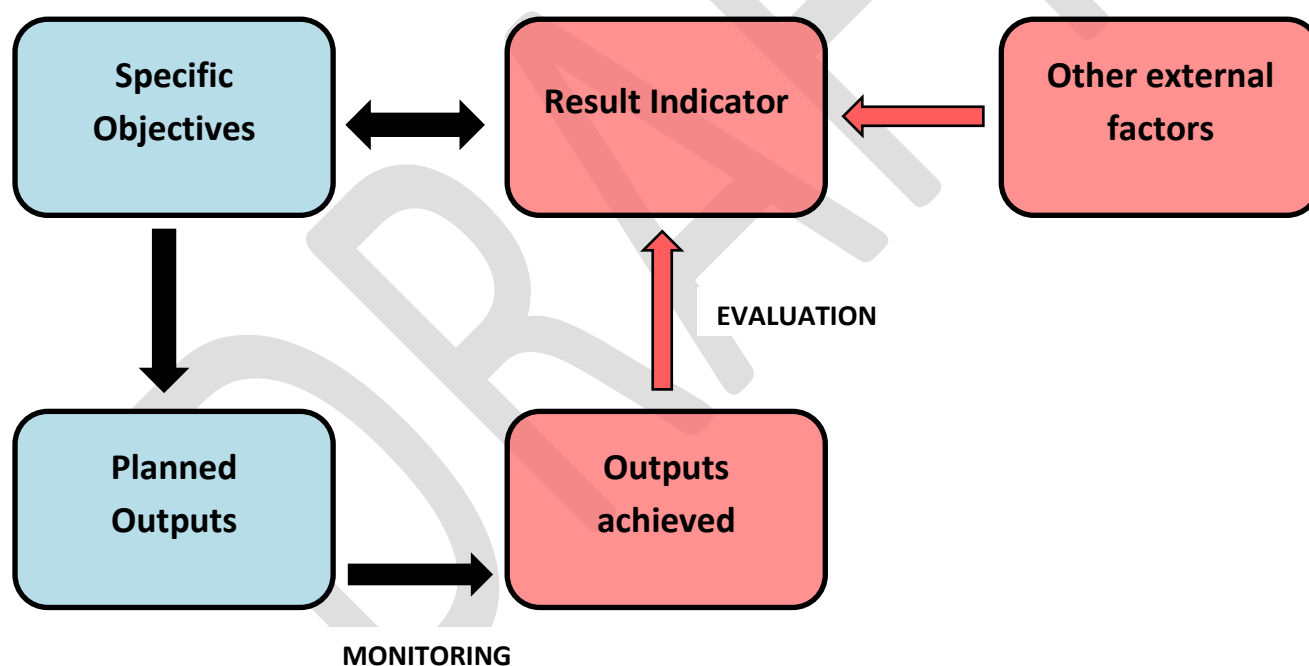
- 4.1 The diagram above outlines a simplified intervention logic, and the relationships between the specific objectives, result indicators and outputs. (Note: the blue shaded boxes refer to the planned actions as stated in the Cooperation Programme, whilst the red shaded boxes refer to the actual situation following implementation.)
- 4.2 The programme identifies a range of outputs for each specific objective. (Table 4 of the Cooperation Programme). These outputs are either common outputs (shared with all other ESIF programmes) or programme specific outputs. Some of these outputs have been selected for inclusion the performance framework of the programme (Table 5 of the Cooperation Programme). The EU Commission will monitor the achievement of the performance framework indicators at the end of 2018 and 2023. Failure to achieve the targets within the performance framework may result in financial penalties.

- 4.3 Monitoring is the term used to describe the system by which the programme will assess the achievement of the outputs against the programme targets. Key aspects of the monitoring system includes:
- clear definitions of all output indicators;
 - inclusion of output indicators in the call for applications;
 - applicants have to address how they will deliver outputs within their application form;
 - outputs inform project assessment and decision making of award of grant aid;
 - outputs are included within the letter of offer for grant aid;
 - outputs are subject to on-going monitoring and quality assurance of data collection;
 - achievement of outputs (and where considered necessary associated milestones) will be linked to payments;
- 4.4 A Monitoring Guide for Applicants will be prepared for each specific objective, detailing result and output indicators; guidance for measuring and recording achievement; definitions for each indicator and the measurement unit; and source of data and frequency of reporting.
- 4.5 Applicants are required to state how they will contribute to the indicators in their application form. The relevant monitoring indicators and targets for each project will be documented in the Letter of Offer. Projects are required to provide updated information on their indicators on a quarterly basis. This will facilitate an assessment of how the project is progressing towards targets and highlighting any particular areas of concern, where action is required.
- 4.6 Progress reports, based on data collated from the monitoring system, will be produced for each Monitoring Committee meeting. The progress reports will describe progress to date for each priority, highlighting, where appropriate, an analysis of where progress is either particularly above or below expectation.

- 4.7 Monitoring information will form part of the Annual Implementation Report, submitted to the EU Commission.
- 4.8 There is a central database shared between INTERREG VA, PEACE IV and other ESIF programmes in NI. Training will be provided to those involved in data entry and monitoring. The system will be used to collect essential financial and non-financial monitoring data and will provide input data for use by programme authorities when communicating with the European Commission using the web interface of the Commission's Electronic Exchange Systems.

5. EVALUATION

Simplified Intervention Logic



- 5.0 The programme identifies result indicators for each specific objective (Table 3 of the Cooperation Programme). The result indicators measure change at regional level. It is anticipated that the programme investments should have a positive impact on the result indicators. However, the achievement of the result may be influenced by other external factors, including other investments, other policy initiatives, changes in the regional economy etc.

- 5.1 Regulation 1303/ 2013 Article 56(3) requires that an evaluation should assess how the support provided has contributed to the achievement of objectives of the programme, at least once during the programming period. Therefore an impact evaluation will be conducted for each priority axis. The impact evaluation will also comment on the contribution of the priority axis to EU 2020 objectives (Regulation 1303/2014 Article 54).
- 5.2 The impact evaluations will be commissioned in 2016/17, and produce reports in the following years: 2018, 2020 and 2022. The report received in 2022 will include a summary of all previous findings, and will contribute directly to the programme summary of evaluation findings, to be submitted to the EU Commission.
- 5.3 The primary purpose of evaluation of the priority axis is to explore the contribution of the programme to the movement of the result indicator. The result indicator may have moved more or less than anticipated, and the movement may have been due to the programme investment or other external factors. The evaluations will be tasked with exploring these relationships, and identifying any key lessons. Specific relevant evaluation questions will be identified for each priority axis and indicative evaluation questions at priority axis level are included at Annex 1.
- 5.4 The evaluations will be a theory-based evaluations (as opposed to counterfactual). Theory-based impact evaluations consider why and how an intervention works; it is mainly a qualitative estimate of the impacts, but will use quantitative data as available, including the monitoring data that has been collected.
- 5.5 An implementation evaluation will also be conducted. This will examine how the programme is being implemented and managed. This will be a shared evaluation with the PEACE IV Programme. The evaluation will consider a range of management and implementation issues including measures to reduce administrative burden as detailed in Section 7 of Cooperation Programme. Further details of the scope of the elevation in included in Annex 1.
- 5.6 In accordance with Regulation 1303/2013, Article 7, there is a requirement that Member States ensure equality between men and women and the integration of a

gender perspective, including in the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes. In addition, Article 7 specifies that the programme authorities must take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination on any of the specified grounds. Article 8 requires that the objectives of the funds shall be pursued in line with the principle of sustainable development. The impact evaluations at the priority axis level will examine the contribution to priority axis to these horizontal principles.

- 5.7 Further evaluations at programme or priority level may result from the annual review process or other reasons as agreed by the Monitoring Committee. To ensure that the programme benefits fully from the evaluations, flexibility in the timing and method of evaluation will be required.
- 5.8 The ex post evaluation of European Territorial Cooperation objective is the responsibility of the EU Commission in close cooperation with Member States and Managing Authorities and is due to be completed by 31 December 2024. The ex post evaluation will be facilitated by programme level evaluations, especially the summary of evaluations and main outputs and results during the period submitted to the Commission by 31 December 2022³. The Managing Authority will contribute to the ex-post evaluation as requested.

6. MECHANISMS FOR DESIGNING AND MANAGING EVALUATIONS

- 6.1 The Monitoring Committee shall appoint an Evaluation Steering Group (ESG) to monitor and advise on implementation of the evaluation plan. The ESG shall be chaired by the Managing Authority with members drawn from the Monitoring Committee. If deemed relevant, technical, scientific or other expert academic input will be included in the Steering Group. This will facilitate the design and quality assurance of the evaluation.
- 6.2 The evaluations will be publicly available on SEUPB's website (Article 54(4) CPR). A citizens' summary will also be produced as relevant. The ESG will ensure the

³ The Programming Period 2014-2020 Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation

findings of evaluations are considered and reported to the Monitoring Committee, together with progress on the implementation of recommendations .

- 6.3 The terms of reference, budget, methodology and findings of evaluations will be transmitted to the Commission through the Structural Funds Common Database (SFC).
- 6.4 Evaluations and their follow-up shall be examined by the Programme Monitoring Committee. The Programme Monitoring Committee may issue recommendations to Managing Authority regarding the evaluation of the Programme. The Programme Monitoring Committee shall monitor actions taken as a result of its recommendations (Article 49.4, CPR).
- 6.5 The Programme Monitoring Committee will examine the evaluation plan annually and suggest revisions, as appropriate.
- 6.6 In accordance with the principle of independence, evaluations shall be carried out by internal or external experts that are functionally independent of the authorities responsible for programme implementation. (Regulation 1303/2013, Article 54 (3)).
- 6.7 The Programme will normally the assign evaluations to external experts. The independence of evaluation will also be enhanced by the presence of various stakeholders on the ESG.
- 6.8 Quality management of evaluation contracts has an important role to play in delivering good evaluation results. The quality of the evaluation as a whole is conditional upon the presence of three distinct but interrelated aspects:
- the quality of the planning and design phase, including the commissioning of the evaluation;
 - the quality of the implementation of the evaluation itself;
 - the quality of the monitoring system and of the available data.

The ESG will have a key role in ensuring this quality, guided by standards presented in EVALSED – the Commission’s online Evaluation Guide. The ESG will also take

cognisance of the Evaluation Standards noted in Annex 3 of CION Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation. The structure of evaluation standards includes:

- evaluation activities must be appropriately organised and resourced to meet their purposes;
- evaluation activities must be planned in a transparent way so that evaluation results are available in due time;
- evaluation design must provide objectives and appropriate methods and means for managing the evaluation process and its results;
- evaluation activities must provide reliable and robust results.

6.9 The evaluations shall be funded from the budget for technical assistance (Regulation 1303/2013, Article 59 (1)).

6.10 Experience from the previous programming period concluded that a single mid-term evaluation limited the value of evaluations for the following reasons:

- The evaluation covered a number of diverse sectors; a general approach was adopted which failed to gain insight into the technical nature of the specific sectors under examination;
- The evaluation was carried out at a point in time the resulting findings were sensitive to the data that was available at that time, which limited the value of the findings;
- The evaluation covered both the implementation and impact aspects, with the findings focusing on implementation at the expense of impact. This in turn limited the value of the evaluation to informing future programme planning;
- The public procurement exercise resulted in a limited number of tenders.

6.11 To address these deficiencies the following approach will be used to appoint the future evaluators;

- The implementation and impact evaluations will be commissioned separately;

- The impact evaluations will be commissioned on a priority axis basis, this will facilitate greater sectoral and technical expertise in the specific priority axis evaluations concerning: research and innovation; environment; transport; health.
- The evaluators will be appointed early in programming period, against a pre-defined reporting schedule. This will enable the evaluators to develop their methodologies and associated information/data sources and report their findings in a timely manner during the course of the programme;
- Consideration will be given to the merits of appointing evaluators through an open call for grant aid under technical assistance or using public procurement. A call for grant aid may attract a wider range of potential evaluators including universities and research institutions, in addition to private sector companies. This may facilitate building institutional capacity in public policy evaluation, especially as it relates to cross border cooperation.

6.12 The implementation of the evaluation plan is primarily the responsibility of the Managing Authority, which has built up considerable expertise in commissioning and managing and overseeing evaluations during the previous programming periods. The skills of the Managing Authority will be supplemented by the staff from the Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency (NISRA), who provide support to the Managing Authority.

6.13 The Managing Authority staff directly engaged in managing evaluations will benefit from participation in the Evaluation Network hosted by the Commission services.

7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR USING AND DISSEMINATING THE EVALUATIONS

7.1 All impact and implementation evaluations will be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee. These presentations will be accompanied by a Managing Authority response on each recommendation presented within the report, detailing whether the recommendation has been accepted and how it is being taken forward. As requested by the Programme Monitoring Committee, the Managing Authority will provide further updates on these recommendations.

- 7.2 The Managing Authority shall submit to the Commission a report summarising the findings of evaluations carried out during the programming period by 31 December 2022 (Regulation 1303/2013, Article 114(2)).
- 7.3 In the interest of transparency and in order to stimulate public debate on evaluation findings, all evaluation reports will be published on the SEUPB website.
- 7.4 A citizens' summary will also be produced as relevant. This will involve wide dissemination of the evaluation findings.
- 7.5 Events and seminars involving Lead Partners and other stakeholders will be held to discuss significant findings. This will aim to promote interest in the evaluation, strengthen its credibility, and add to the learning process. Information sharing will be particularly useful when undertaking impact evaluations.
- 7.6 Consideration will also be given to participation in various European policy fora and Open Days in Brussels, to share the learning with a wider audience.

8. PROPOSED TIMETABLE

- 8.1 The implementation evaluation will be commissioned through a public procurement process in 2016. The evaluators will report at the end of 2016, 2017 and 2018. This will be a joint evaluation with the PEACE IV Programme.
- 8.2 The priority axis impact evaluations will be commissioned in late 2016/17, with the evaluators being appointed in 2017. The evaluators will report in the following years: 2018, 2020 and 2022.
- 8.3 Consideration will be given to using an open call for grant aid under technical assistance or public procurement. Interested bodies will be requested to submit grant proposals which meet the needs of the priority axis. The requirements for potential evaluators will be developed and agreed with the ESG, is likely to include but not limited to:
- Detailed methodology, including arrangements for quality assurance;
 - Proposals to address any additional data and information needs;
 - Proposals for involvement of stakeholders in the evaluation process;
 - Proposals to disseminate lessons and facilitate policy learning.

9. BUDGET

- 9.1 The total available budget be €700,000, however the actual budget used will be dependent on the results of the procurement / grant application process. The ERDF intervention rate is 85%. This represents 0.26% of the programme value.
- 9.2 The cost of the implementation evaluation will be shared with the PEACE IV Programme.
- 9.3 The procurement process will be subject to all normal contract approvals in accordance with the SEUPB financial procedures. The ESG will act as the panel to assess tenders.
- 9.4 The grant applications will be subject to all approval processes, with the applications and assessment being presented to a Steering Committee for decision.

Annex 1

Implementation Evaluation: focusing on management and implementation issues including measures to reduce administrative burden

Section 7 of the Cooperation Programme included a number of Administrative simplifications: Information of Calls for Grant Aid; Application Process; Assessment; Allocation of Funding; Harmonisation of Rules; Project Duration; Letter of Offer Conditions; Monitoring; Budget Structure; Simplified Costs; Lead Partners; Verification; and E-Cohesion.

The evaluation that will report at the end of 2016, 2017 and 2018 will examine these implementation issues. The ESG will agree the exact evaluation questions at the time of commissioning but these may include:

- Has the programme implemented the measures to reduce the administrative burden? What has been the effect of these measures?
- Are potential beneficiaries aware of the Programme and have access to it?
- Is the application process simple?
- Are target processing times being met?
- Are there clear and relevant selection criteria?
- Is the documented data management system effective?
- Are the results of the Programme effectively communicated?
- How could management/implementation of the programme be improved?

Evaluation methods

Quantitative review of administrative data. Interviews and questionnaires with applicants and lead partners and key stakeholders. No additional data will be required to be collected.

Impact evaluations focussing on the impact of the interventions in the four priority axis:

The ESG will agree the exact evaluation questions at the time of commissioning but these generic questions may be included:

- To what extent has the result indicator been achieved?
- What worked well?
- Is the theme as defined in the Cooperation Programme still applicable or what amendments/changes should be considered?
- What policy lessons are there for future investments?
- What hurdles were there, what didn't work well and how could things be done differently?
- Will the cross-border intervention bring added value?
- What cooperation impacts will result?
- Are there barriers to cross-border cooperation that the theme is not addressing?
- Additionality – what has been achieved directly as a result of this theme?
- Complementarity – how have other programmes/policy initiatives contributed to this theme and how and to what other initiatives has this theme contributed?
- Added Value Assessment?
- What new ways of working/partnerships/relationships have been created as a result of this theme?
- What is the contribution of the theme to the Atlantic Strategy?
- What is the contribution of the priority axis to the horizontal principles of equality and sustainable development?

In addition a number of specific priority axis evaluation questions may be asked:

Priority Axis	Specific Objective	Result Indicators	Timing	Examples of Specific Evaluation Questions
Research & Innovation	To increase business and industry relevant research and innovation capacity across the region within two target sectors; Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energies.	The annual number of peer reviewed journal and conference publications in two target sectors (Health and Life Sciences and Renewable Energy) with cross-border authorship and with the potential to create economic impact. Baseline: 4 Target: 75	Reports due end of 2018, end of 2020 and early 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the publications specific to the two target sectors? • What is the balance of uptake across the two sectors? • How has compliancy with the peer review requirement been monitored? • To what extent is the authorship cross-border? • How has the potential to create economic impact been assessed? • What is the economic impact (potential/achieved)? • What is the balance of participation between academic and industry sectors?
	To increase the number and capacity of SMEs engaged in cross-border research and innovation	The percentage of SMEs in the eligible region involved in research and innovation involving cross-border		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percentage of SMEs had the opportunity to be involved? • Did some SMEs just prefer to be involved in local (research and innovation, or other initiatives)? • Are there any barriers to cross-border cooperation between SMEs and how has the

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Priority Axis	Specific Objective	Result Indicators	Timing	Examples of Specific Evaluation Questions
	activity in the region aimed at the development of new products, processes and services.	collaborations. Baseline: 22 Target: 33		Programme overcome them?
Environment	The recovery of habitat and species within protected areas. To develop cross-border co-operation capacity for the monitoring and management of marine protected areas and	The percentage of selected protected habitats in or approaching favourable condition. Baseline: 1 Target: 10 Cross-border capacity for monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species.	Reports due end of 2018, end of 2020 and early 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which habitats improved – those who were worst to begin with, average ones? • What improvements were made that justified the favourable condition? • What are the medium/longer term effects likely to be? • Were other projects born out of the improvement? • What is the interaction between protected habitats and species? • To what extent was cross-border collaboration important for habitats and species? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent does cross-border monitoring and management occur? • How effective is the monitoring and management? • What has the result of the monitoring and management been? • Has anything happened as a result of the cross-

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Priority Axis	Specific Objective	Result Indicators	Timing	Examples of Specific Evaluation Questions
	species in the region. To improve water quality in shared transitional waters. To improve fresh water quality in cross-border river basins.	Baseline: Little Target: Lot Percentage of shared transitional waters in the region with good or high quality. Baseline: 0 Target: 100 Percentage of cross-border freshwater bodies in cross-border river basins with good or high quality. Baseline: 32 Target: 65		border capacity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What contribution is the Programme making to meeting the Marine Strategy Framework Directive? • How did the water quality improve? • What are the medium/longer term effects likely to be? • Have further projects been born out of the improved transitional waters? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did the water quality improve? • What are the medium/longer term effects likely to be? • Have further projects been born out of the improved freshwater bodies?
Sustainable	Promote cross-border	Number of passenger	Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had passengers alternative travel options (e.g.

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Priority Axis	Specific Objective	Result Indicators	Timing	Examples of Specific Evaluation Questions
Transport	intermodal and sustainable mobility in the cross-border region.	journeys utilising cross-border public transport services; Baseline: 8.8% Target: 25% Number of cross-border journeys by walking/cycling in the region; Baseline: 2.7% Target: 10% Number of EV registrations across the region. Baseline: 186 Target: 2000	due end of 2018, end of 2020 and early 2022.	car)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What percentage of passenger journeys were due to new users? • Were the journeys made by existing users that increased their number of journeys? • Had walkers/cyclists alternative travel options (e.g. car, bus)? • What percentage of cross-border journeys by walking/cycling were due to new walkers/cyclists? • What is the split between walkers and cyclists? • What distance do the journeys relate to? • Were there also more non-EV cars registered during the period? • Did users register EVs due to environmental concerns or was it for financial or other reasons?
Health	Through collaboration on a cross-border basis, to	The number of episodes of care delivered on a cross-	Reports due end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did waiting times change for cross-border patients and for Northern and Southern patients?

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Priority Axis	Specific Objective	Result Indicators	Timing	Examples of Specific Evaluation Questions
	improve the health and well-being of people living in the region by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs.	border basis. Baseline: 4700 pa Target: 9000 pa	of 2018, end of 2020 and early 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did waiting times all drop as a result of the cross-border delivery? • Did the initiative reduce waiting times, allow more patients to be seen or both? • What was the patients' experience of the care delivered? • Did the Programme fill any gaps in service provision? • How effective have cross-border frameworks been? • What level of mainstreaming has occurred for cross-border delivery of health services?

Evaluation Methods

Quantitative and qualitative analysis of programme-derived and administrative data to include a review of the operating environment: (policy and socio-economic context); analysis of the monitoring data in relation to outputs and result indicators ; Interviews/Questionnaires Lead Partners & key stakeholders; literature review of relevant studies, other relevant evaluations.

Data requirement and availability

It is not anticipated that there will be any additional data collection required, other than that identified in the Cooperation Programme for monitoring outputs and result indicators. However, given the proposal to appoint evaluators early in the programme life cycle 2016/17, any additional data collection requirements will be identified and addressed at that time.