



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie

Interreg 
Northern Ireland - Ireland - Scotland
European Regional Development Fund

Citizens' Summary: INTERREG VA Programme (2014-2020)

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



 Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union

 Northern Ireland Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk

 European Union
 The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future



What is the INTERREG VA Programme?

The INTERREG VA Programme is one of over 60 funding programmes across the European Union that have been specifically designed to address problems that arise from the existence of borders.

Borders can reduce economic development, hamper the efficient management of the environment, obstruct travel and hinder the delivery of essential health and social care services. The new INTERREG VA Programme will tackle these issues head-on in order to promote greater levels of economic, social and territorial cohesion across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

The INTERREG VA Programme for 2014-2020¹ will help to create a more prosperous and sustainable cross-border region. The Programme will also reflect priority areas for European Territorial Cooperation, including contributing to the Atlantic Strategy. It is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

What's different for 2014-2020?

In line with the Europe 2020 strategy the European Commission (EC) requires that all of the new 2014-2020 Programmes will focus on a narrow range of activities to ensure that there is sufficient available funding to bring about significant change. Successful applicants are required to demonstrate tangible results and outputs in the delivery of their projects, which must be aligned to the overall objectives, results and outputs of the Programme. Letters of Offer will be issued to successful applicants in Euros.

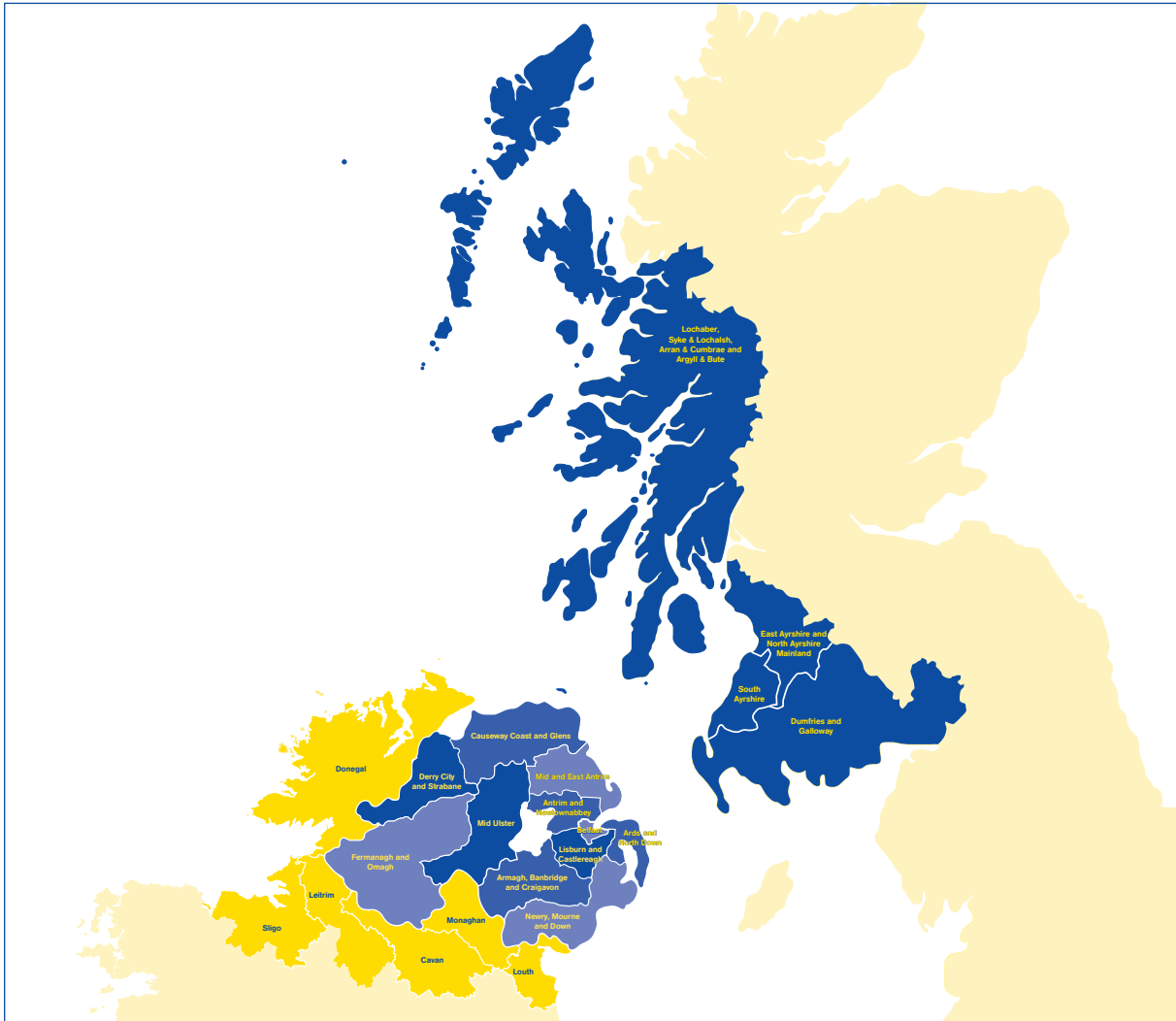
Where does the Programme operate?

The eligible area for the new INTERREG VA Programme includes Northern Ireland (incorporating Belfast), the Border Counties of Ireland (Monaghan, Leitrim, Cavan, Louth, Sligo and Donegal) and Western Scotland (Dumfries & Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland; South Ayrshire; Locharber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute and Eilean Siar/Western Isles).

Projects have to be cross-border in nature and must therefore involve partners from at least two Member States (UK and Ireland). Under exceptional circumstances, up to 20% of the Programme's allocated budget can be spent outside of the eligible area, as long as tangible benefits to the region can be demonstrated.

All applicants must demonstrate cross-border cooperation in the development and implementation of their projects. In addition, projects must demonstrate cross-border cooperation in either staffing, or financing, or both.

¹ This is a summary of the Cooperation Programme for INTERREG VA 2014-2020. No rights can be obtained from this document. The full Cooperation Programme, as agreed in February 2015, is available on the SEUPB website www.seupb.eu



The Programme is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), which has offices based in Belfast, Monaghan and Omagh. INTERREG VA also has a National Contact Point based in Glasgow, to facilitate Scottish involvement in the Programme.

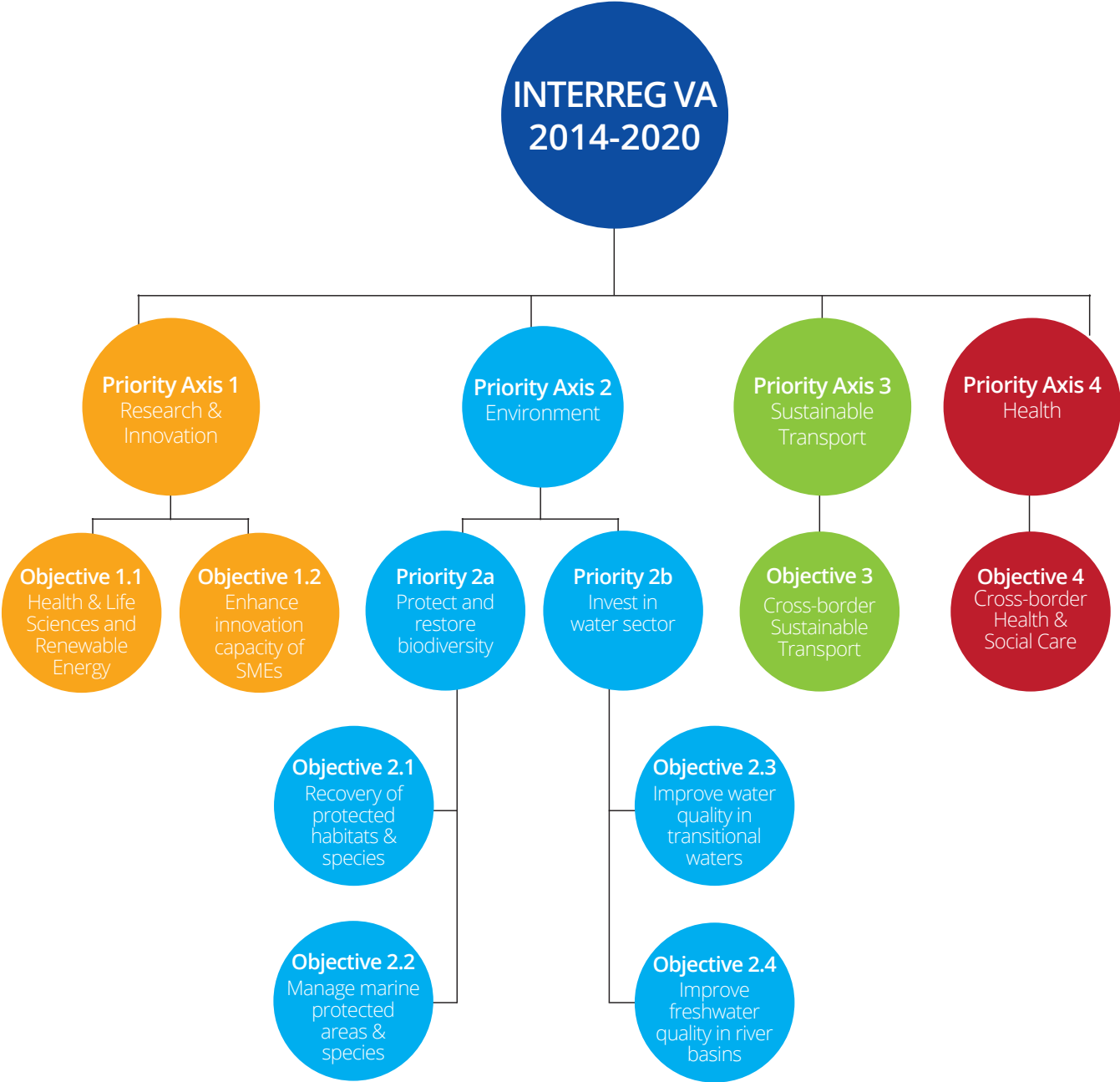
How much is the Programme worth?

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) contribution to the Programme is **€240m** (85%). In addition €43m (15%) will come from match-funding, raising the total value of the Programme to **€283m**.

The match-funding must come from non-EU sources which may include national, regional, local government, the project's own resources, or private. Contributions in-kind may be used as match-funding. The arrangements for match-funding, which may vary between Programme themes, will be detailed in the specific call for applications.

What changes will the Programme make?

The Programme has four key priority areas where it wants to make significant and lasting change: Research & Innovation; the Environment; Sustainable Transport and Health & Social Care.





Priority: Research & Innovation

Enhancing Research & Innovation - (ERDF: €45m)

The economies of the region have a low proportion of high value sectors and low levels of Research & Innovation. There is an opportunity to build effective cross-border collaboration partnerships that will significantly impact upon the overall regional capacity for Research & Innovation in targeted sectors.

This **objective** will increase business industry-relevant Research & Innovation capacity across the region within two target sectors; 'Health & Life Sciences' and 'Renewable Energy'. It will **result** in an increase in the annual number of peer reviewed journal and conference publications within these two sectors, with cross-border authorship and with the potential to create economic impact. These sectors have been identified in consultation with national economic development agencies. They offer the most potential for growth and are relevant to all regions within the Programme's eligible area.



Output: 514 years worth of PhD (or above) level research



Output: 5 research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects



Output: 20 enterprises receiving support



Output: 10 enterprises receiving grants



Output: 20 enterprises receiving non-financial support



Output: 10 enterprises cooperating with research institutions



Output: 10 enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- The creation of clusters which will enable the development of virtual centres of excellence within the region, involving capacity and competence building;
- Clusters will complement existing Research & Innovation strategies within jurisdictions by promoting cross-border cooperation and will take the form of partnership arrangements between existing institutions in academia, public sector agencies and private sector companies;
- The further development of existing competence centres to facilitate increased levels of cross-border collaboration;
- The clusters will address market failure in the Research Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI) landscape, whereby the risk associated with the longer-term nature of strategic research carried out cannot be addressed by individual companies.



Business Investment in Research & Innovation – (ERDF: €15.9m)

SMEs across the region are characterised by low levels of innovation activity and low levels of Research & Innovation expenditure. Cross-border cooperation presents opportunities to foster partnerships between SMEs and relevant research institutions, drawing upon the different research strengths across the Programme area.

This **objective** will increase the number and capacity of SMEs and micro-businesses in the region which are engaged in cross-border Research & Innovation activity aimed at the development of new products, processes and tradeable services. It will **result** in an increase in the percentage of SMEs and micro-businesses in the eligible area which are involved in Research & Innovation involving cross-border collaborations.

-  **Output: 1,408 enterprises receiving support**
-  **Output: 19 enterprises receiving grants**
-  **Output: 1,408 enterprises receiving non-financial support**
-  **Output: 50 enterprises cooperating with research institutions**
-  **Output: 5 research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects**
-  **Output: 469 enterprises receiving one-to-one innovation advice**
-  **Output: 94 enterprises in receipt of an Innovation Capability Development Programme**
-  **Output: 19 enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects**
-  **Output: 70 enterprises engaging an Innovation Intern, on a cross-border basis**

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Education and awareness-building programmes aimed at SMEs;
- One-to-one mentoring and advice programmes for SMEs;
- Innovation capability audits within SMEs;
- Development and implementation of innovation action plans tailored to the needs of the SMEs which address innovation capability deficiencies;
- Innovation internship programmes incorporating technology job creation, designed to address the capability deficiencies;
- A collaborative research and development programme designed to create and support collaborative research projects between SMEs and research institutions.



Priority: Environment

Recovery of protected habitats & priority species - (ERDF: €11m)

The three jurisdictions of the INTERREG VA Programme share habitats and marine resources. Cross-border collaboration is essential in order to adequately address the requirements of the Biodiversity Strategy, Birds and Habitats Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

This **objective** will promote cross-border cooperation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species. It will **result** in an increase in the percentage of selected protected habitats in or approaching favourable condition.

The Programme has prioritised seven protected habitats and seven priority species. These have been selected from habitats and species common to all three jurisdictions. All habitats and species selected for investment will be taken from this priority list. Only sites important to these protected habitats or priority species can be chosen for investment by the Programme.

Protected Habitats - Alkaline fens, Blanket bog, Active raised bog, Marl Lakes, Calcareous fens, Petrifying springs with tufa formation, Transition mires and quaking bogs.

Priority Species - Hen Harrier, Marsh Fritillary, White-clawed crayfish, Breeding waders (curlew, lapwing, redshank, snipe), Golden plover, Corncrake, Red grouse.



Output: 4,500 ha of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status



Output: 25 conservation action plans

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Development of mapping of protected habitats and sites of cross-border relevance;
- Development and implementation of conservation action plans for protected sites of cross-border relevance;
- Tangible conservation actions for protected habitats and species;
- Conservation management and protection activities to encourage sustainable natural regeneration of species populations;
- Development and sharing of best practice and enhancement of skills in ecosystem management;
- Development and use of databases to assist conservation actions;
- Removal of invasive species;
- Research into species and habitats, including the impact of climate change, which support the actions within the Programme;
- Education and outreach activities.



Manage marine protected areas & species - (ERDF: €11m)

The Programme will facilitate the development and implementation of common approaches to the management of the marine environment. The improved management of the marine resources will contribute to the EU's Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan.

This **objective** will develop cross-border capacity for the monitoring and management of marine protected areas and species. It will **result** in a corresponding increase in cross-border monitoring and management capacity. This will facilitate the development and growth of a regional 'blue economy' based on its maritime resources and the alignment of regional activities with the EU's Atlantic Strategy.



Output: 1 network of buoys for regional seas, including telemetry and oceanographic monitoring (e.g. for seals, cetaceans and salmonids)



Output: 5 models developed to support conservation of marine habitats and species



Output: 6 complete marine management plans for designated protected areas



Output: 1 system for the prediction of bathing water quality and the installation of real time signage

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Development and implementation of cross-border management plans for marine protected areas and species;
- Mapping of marine/seabed environment;
- Creation of a network of marine protected areas;
- Research and development in the marine environment (including the impact of climate change);
- Marine skills initiatives;
- Co-ordinated research programme of direct relevance to the management challenges of the eligible area;
- Knowledge and data sharing;
- Prediction model development and signage for short-term pollution and real time management of bathing water quality in coastal waters.



Priority: Environment

Improve water quality in transitional waters - (ERDF: €30m)

Cross-border collaboration is essential to adequately address the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, in relation to shared transitional waters. The Programme will facilitate the implementation of common approaches to the management of the water resources and the sharing of best practice and technical expertise across the eligible region, drawing on the relative strengths of the three jurisdictions.

This **objective** will improve the water quality in shared transitional waters. It will **result** in an increased percentage of shared transitional waters in the region with good or high quality. Marine modelling of cross-border transitional and coastal waters can identify the sources of pollution and the optimum way to achieve and maintain good water quality status.

Such modelling will identify the most effective interventions and improvements required for the sewerage network and wastewater treatment works that impact on the shared waters. Interventions will be focused on two transitional and cross-border water bodies, Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle.



Output: 10,000 people benefiting from improved wastewater treatment



Output: 2 sewage network and wastewater treatment projects completed to improve water quality in shared transitional waters

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Research and development in wastewater treatment technologies, including the use of sustainable technologies with direct relevance to the shared transitional waters;
- Creation of demonstration sites in the catchment areas to illustrate best practice wastewater treatment methodologies;
- Sewerage network and wastewater treatment projects to protect and enhance the Water Framework Directive classification of the cross-border catchment areas.



Improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins - (ERDF: €20m)

Within the Programme area, Ireland and Northern Ireland share 11 cross-border river basins. Greater levels of cross-border collaboration between both jurisdictions is needed in order to improve freshwater quality and contribute to compliance with the Water Framework Directive requirements.

This **objective** will improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins. It will **result** in an increased percentage of cross-border freshwater bodies in cross-border river basins with good or high quality. Appropriate interventions in water catchments can lead to an improvement in water quality which will mitigate against the need for capital investment and contribute to reduce operating costs whilst protecting and enhancing biodiversity.



Output: 3 river water quality improvement projects completed



Output: 50 cross-border groundwater monitoring wells installed



Output: 1 cross-border drinking water Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Development and implementation of integrated river basin management plans and actions;
- Development and implementation of a management plan and projects for designated drinking water protected areas so that Water Framework Directive water classifications can be maintained and improved;
- Activities related to the improvement of river water quality;
- Activities related to freshwater quality management research;
- Activities related to establishing ground water monitoring wells.



Priority: Sustainable Transport

Sustainable Transport – (ERDF: €40m)

Transportation across the region is dominated by car usage, which results in high carbon emissions. This trend is set to increase in line with rising population and economic growth. The Programme will provide support to greater connectivity between the three jurisdictions, creating a more coherent and integrated network, which can join up public transport, cycling and the enhanced use of electric vehicles.

This **objective** will promote cross-border, intermodal and sustainable mobility in the region. It will **result** in an increased number of passenger journeys (up to 25%) utilising cross-border public transport services by 2023. It will also increase the number of cross-border journeys made by walking/cycling (up to 10%) in the region, as well as the number of Electric Vehicle (EV) registrations, up to 2,000 by 2023.



Output: Creation of one cross-border, multi-modal public transport hub encompassing integrated services



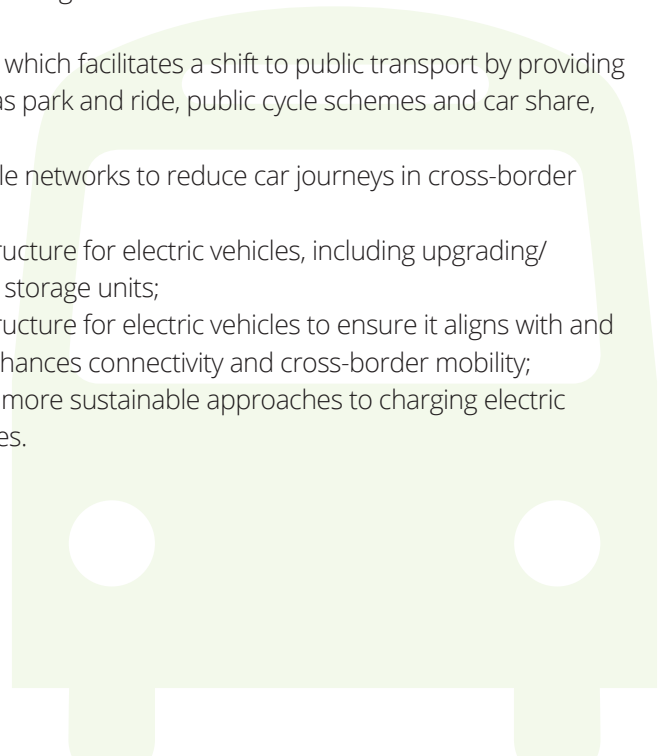
Output: Creation of 80km of new cross-border greenways



Output: Creation of a cross-border EV network including 73 new/upgraded rapid chargers

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Development of a cross-border, multi-modal hub which facilitates a shift to public transport by providing modern, cross-border, integrated services, such as park and ride, public cycle schemes and car share, etc.;
- Development of cross-border greenways and cycle networks to reduce car journeys in cross-border transportation;
- Development of the existing cross-border infrastructure for electric vehicles, including upgrading/establishing rapid transport chargers and battery storage units;
- Development of the existing cross-border infrastructure for electric vehicles to ensure it aligns with and complements the Rapid Charger Network and enhances connectivity and cross-border mobility;
- Research into charging infrastructure, specifically more sustainable approaches to charging electric vehicles, including the use of EV chargers on ferries.





Priority: Health & Social Care

Health & Social Care – (ERDF: €53m)

The health and social care services across the region face challenges in meeting rising demand within a constrained budget environment. Cross-border cooperation will contribute towards the more efficient delivery of health services in border regions. Cooperation across the region is essential to obtain the necessary critical mass for healthcare trials. Coordination and sharing of e-health solutions can fast-track implementation of this technology, facilitating the delivery of high quality services.

This **objective** will, through collaboration on a cross-border basis, 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. It will **result** in an increased number of 'episodes of care' delivered on a cross-border basis.



Output: Develop 12 new cross-border area interventions to support the positive health and wellbeing and prevention of ill health for 15,000 beneficiaries



Output: Develop two new cross-border area community support services to support 4,000 disabled people who are socially isolated



Output: Develop a new cross-border area community and voluntary sector infrastructure to support 8,000 clients who have recovered from mental illness



Output: Develop and implement two new border area frameworks for early intervention to benefit 5,000 vulnerable families



Output: Establish four cross-border frameworks, for scheduled and unscheduled care streams for 15,000 patients



Output: Provide e-health interventions to support the independent living in caring communities for 4,500 patients



Output: Create a shared cross-border framework and service for the identification, assessment and referral of 2,500 patients identified as 'at risk' of isolation and social exclusion



Output: Provide specialist training and development programmes for 3,800 cross-border area health and social care providers



Output: Develop and deliver 10 cross-border area health care intervention trials for novel but unproven healthcare interventions to prevent and cure illness



Output: Create one e-health research and evaluation mechanism for the evaluation of e-health and mobile health solutions



Priority: Health & Social Care

The outputs overleaf can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Supporting positive health and well-being and the prevention of ill health through an integrated approach;
- Development of a social equality approach to promoting social inclusion, citizenship and better life outcomes for disabled people;
- Promoting cross-border mental and emotional resilience and recovery;
- Early authoritative intervention with vulnerable families;
- Primary care and older people services, supporting caring communities and independent living;
- To develop new models of working both in scheduled and unscheduled care streams by better utilising scarce physical, financial and human resources;
- Development and implementation of support and cooperation services on a cross-border basis for community and voluntary organisations involved in the provision of social care and healthcare services within their own communities;
- Development, implementation and evaluation of cross-border initiatives in the area of e-health, including addressing challenges of isolation in rural areas, telemetry, web-based information on community resources and support services across a range of healthcare service areas;
- Development of cross-border cooperation in the area of healthcare records management in order to streamline access to information for patients and clinical professionals in the provision of cross-border care services;
- Cross-border training interventions for healthcare professionals, social care professionals and personnel in community and voluntary organisations involved in the provision of cross-border health and social care support services;
- Development, implementation and evaluation of health and social care trials in a range of healthcare areas.



What kind of projects will be supported?

Who decided what the priorities would be for the new Programme?

The content of the Programme was informed by two public consultations (held in 2012 and 2014); a socio-economic profile of the region; and extensive consultation with the Government Departments and agencies in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The Programme also reflects the EU's '2020 Strategy', the European Territorial Cooperation Regulations and the European Commission Position Papers for the UK and Ireland. Its content has been agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive, the Irish Government, the Scottish Government and the European Commission.

Who can apply for funding?

Subject to eligibility checks, applications can be submitted from a wide range of organisations including: Public Sector Bodies; Government Departments; Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations; Universities and Institutes of Technology; Colleges of Further Education, Private Sector and Healthcare providers. (This list is not exhaustive).

How can I learn about funding opportunities?

Different funding calls will be open at different times throughout the new programming period. Full details of all funding calls will be advertised on the SEUPB's website (www.seupb.eu), Twitter account (@SEUPB) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SpecialEUProgrammesBody). A regularly updated list of all successfully funded projects will also be available on the SEUPB's website.

What criteria will be used to assess applications?

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide full and detailed information in line with the guidance provided at the outset of each stage of the application process. The following criteria, detailed below, will be used to assess all applications:

- The **results** and **outputs** of any application must be in line with the objectives, results and outputs of the Programme. (These will be detailed in the call for applications);
- Applications must clearly demonstrate **cross-border cooperation** and added value between partners in the UK and Ireland;
- Applicants must be able to show evidence of **good corporate governance** and partnership arrangements;
- Applications must have a **high quality of project design** in terms of pre-planning, implementation and performance monitoring;
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their project represents **strong value for money**;
- The project must contribute to **sustainable development** and **equality**.

How are projects assessed?

A two stage process will be used to determine the success of any application. Stage one will be a short application form with applicants receiving a decision on whether or not they can move to stage two. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide full and detailed information in line with the guidance provided at the outset of each stage of the application process.

Stage two of the process will include the submission of a detailed Business Plan which will provide more detail on the application and will be subject to a robust appraisal. Except in duly justified cases, the overall assessment period is 36 weeks, including the issuing of a Letter of Offer to the applicant. If the 36 week assessment period is not achieved for any application, a rationale will be provided on the SEUPB's website.

The Programme Monitoring Committee has delegated responsibility to a Steering Committee which will make the final decision on whether or not funding is awarded.

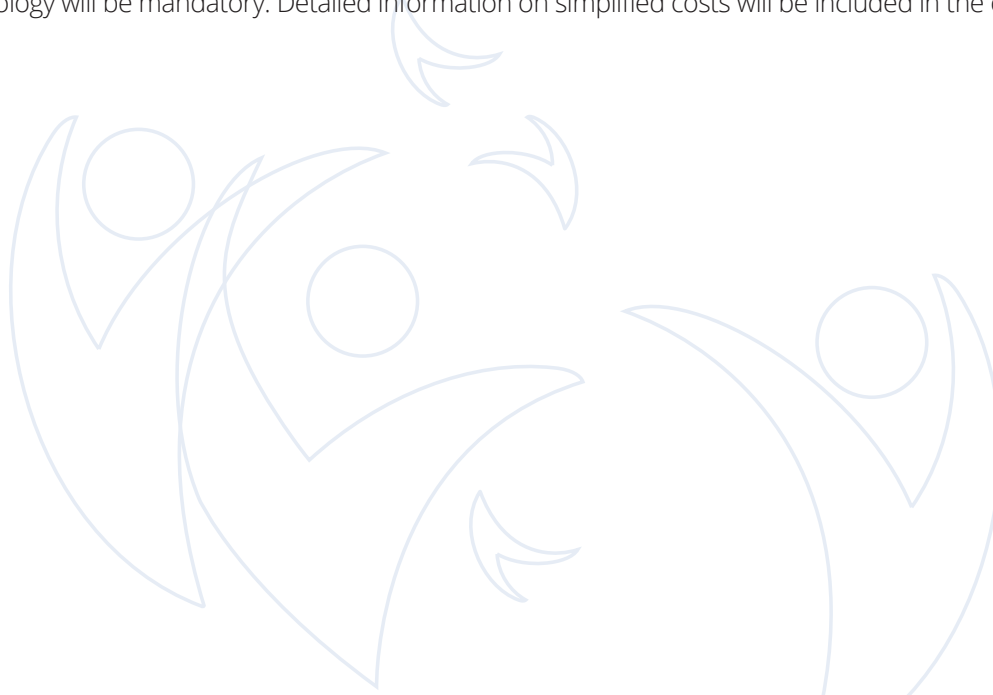
Calls for applications will have a high degree of focus and will detail the results from projects as well as the total outputs required and total financial allocation of each call. A calendar of fixed Steering Committee dates will be published at the time of the call which will provide transparency on the targets for processing times. The decision-making procedures and criteria will be very clearly set out in the terms of reference of each call.



How have we simplified the new Programmes for 2014-2020?

In response to feedback from previous applicants and to opportunities presented in the new regulations, there is a renewed focus on simplification within the new INTERREG VA Programme. As such, a number of measures have been introduced to help reduce the level of bureaucracy associated with the Programme:

- **Harmonisation of rules:** A single set of Programme Rules will be applied throughout the Programme area. These rules will reflect the minimum actions required to meet EU regulations and national procedures. The rules are harmonised with those for the new PEACE IV Programme for 2014-2020.
- **Project duration:** The duration of the project can be up to seven years, depending on the nature of the activities being proposed. Where a project is over three years in duration, the second phase of the project will be conditional on a rigorous mid-term evaluation.
- **Letter of Offer conditions:** Additional conditions in a Letter of Offer will be reduced to the minimum required and will not replicate those contained within Programme Rules or standard conditions.
- **Monitoring:** The number of indicators within a Letter of Offer will reflect the result and output focus of the Programme. It is a regulatory requirement that monitoring of indicators will be completed in a manner compliant with e-cohesion.
- **Budget structure:** A simplified budget structure will be used within the Letter of Offer. This will increase the operational flexibility of Lead Partners in the delivery of projects without the requirement to seek approval for changes to sub-budget lines.
- **Simplified costs:** The Programme will proactively promote and implement simplified costs. All relevant projects will avail of a flat rate for overheads. Where there is a suitable basis for unit costs, this methodology will be mandatory. Detailed information on simplified costs will be included in the calls.



How have we simplified the new Programmes for 2014-2020? cont.

- **Lead Partners:** Local authority and other Lead Partners which are engaging with a large number of final recipients will be required to state how they are reducing the administrative burden for final recipients. Local authorities will be required to use unit costs, flat rates, lump sums or resource allocation models to reduce the administrative burden for final recipients.
- **Verification:** Risk-based sampling methodology will be used by the Financial Control Unit in carrying out its administrative checks. A focus on unit costs and outputs will significantly reduce the level of verification. During verification, increased emphasis will be placed on the achievement of outputs and results.
- **E-Cohesion:** The programme will embrace the principles of e-cohesion. Applicants will have the ability to apply for funding on line. Lead Partners will be required to provide up-to-date monitoring and financial information on line.



What about the Horizontal Principles?

What about Sustainable Development?

The Programme has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment to ensure that it supports activity that will promote sustainable development. Projects must demonstrate how they will minimise any adverse impact they may have on the environment.

All projects in all themes must comply with the Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted by the European Council in June 2006, as well as the respective national Sustainable Development Strategy within each jurisdiction. As part of the assessment of applications, consideration will be given to the project's adherence to the principles and objectives of sustainable development. Where deemed appropriate, Environmental Impact Assessments will be made.

What about Equal Opportunities?

The Programme shall ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective is taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation of the Programme as well as in its monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The Programme shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during its preparation and implementation. In particular, accessibility for persons with disabilities shall be taken into account throughout the preparation and implementation of the Programme.

In accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Employment Equality Act (1998) and the Equal Status Act (2000), as amended by the Equality Act (2004) in Ireland and the Equality Act (2006) in Scotland, projects part-funded by the Programme shall comply with and, where appropriate, contribute to Community policy and legislation on equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

The Programme has been subject to equality screening in accordance with relevant national legislation and the SEUPB's equality policy. This screening concluded that there were minor, positive impacts across four of the nine Section 75 grounds (race/ethnic origin; age; disability and dependency). It found that there were neutral impacts on sexual orientation, marital status, men and women generally, political opinion and religious belief.

Project Applicants will be required to include a statement of the likely equality impact of their project in their application and to identify any differential impacts.

How is the Programme managed?

The SEUPB is the Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat, Certifying Authority and Financial Control Unit for the INTERREG VA Programme and as such is responsible to the European Commission, the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC), The Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland.

The **Managing Authority** has overall responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the Programme. It chairs and provides overall administration support for the Programme Monitoring Committee.

The **Joint Secretariat** is responsible for providing information on funding opportunities. It also prepares project assessments which are presented to the Steering Committee for their final decision. It shall assist Lead Partners in the implementation of their projects.

The **Certifying Authority** certifies all expenditure claims submitted to the EC as well as controlling the Programme's cash flow and making payments to Lead Partners.

The **Financial Control Unit** is responsible for verifying the legality and regularity of all expenditure incurred. It conducts pre-contracting checks on each Lead Partner and carries out administrative verifications of claims made by a project.

The independent **Steering Committee** has been delegated responsibility by the Programme Monitoring Committee to select projects to be funded. Its decision is final.



How is the Programme monitored?

A **Monitoring Committee** is established under European Regulation for the INTERREG VA Programme to monitor the effectiveness and quality of the Programme.

The membership of the Monitoring Committee comprises of representatives of the Member States, local and regional government, as well as social and economic partners representing business, trade unions, and the voluntary, environmental and equality sectors. A full list of the Committee members, along with the papers and minutes of all committee meetings, is available on the SEUPB's website.

The committee fulfils a number of key responsibilities:

- It must approve the project selection criteria to be used in the Programme;
- It must review progress toward achieving the targets of the Programme and examine the impact of its implementation;
- It will consider and approve formal reports submitted to the EC, including Annual Reports on Implementation;
- It may propose amendments to the Cooperation Programme, (the document approved by the EC which establishes the Programme strategy and priorities); and
- It will consider and approve any proposal to amend the Commission decision which approved the Programme.

Further information on the INTERREG VA Programme for 2014-2020, including the full Cooperation Programme document is available at www.seupb.eu



Notes



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