



Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

# Section 75 Policy Screening Form

## Part 1: Policy Scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or policy area. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

You should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

### Information about the policy

**Name of the policy or policy area:**

INTERREG V STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROGRAMME 2014 - 2020

**Is this an existing, revised or a new policy/policy area?**

Existing	Revised	New
		X

### **Brief Description**

The INTERREG V Programme, with the support of the European Regional Development Fund, falls under the European Commission's (EC) Common Strategic Framework (CSF), and follows from the earlier programme, INTERREG IVA.

INTERREG IVA (2007-2013) supported strategic cross-border co-operation with the aim of building a more prosperous and sustainable region. The core programme area included Northern Ireland (outside the greater Belfast area), the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland, The overall programme value was €256 million, with projects funded in a wide range of sectors including:

- Support to small and micro enterprises to improve innovation and competitiveness;
- Development of tourism attractions to boost the local economy;
- Delivering cross-border health services to improve patient care;
- Support for cross-border collaboration between local councils;
- Rural development projects;
- Development of world class cross-border telecommunications infrastructure;
- Improving cross-border road and public transport networks;
- Tackling common environmental challenges on a cross-border basis;
- Developing energy networks.

76 projects have been funded through INTERREG IVA and a full list of successful projects is available at <http://successes.eugrants.org/>

The forthcoming INTERREG V Programme (2014 - 2020) was developed taking due account of the findings of the public consultation held in 2012, together with the socio-economic review of the region, the policy objectives of administration in the eligible region, and the requirements of EU Regulations. In line with the regulations, the programme is required to adopt a strong result orientation.

The INTERREG V 2014 – 2020 Programme will be targeted at the following areas:

- Northern Ireland (including Belfast); Ireland; the Border Region consisting of the six Counties of: Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo and
- Scotland: Lochaber, Skye & Lochalash, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, South Ayrshire and the Western Isles.

Four Thematic Objectives underpin INTERREG VA:

- **Research and Innovation**
- **Environmental Protection and Resource Efficiency**
- **Sustainable Transport**
- **Social Inclusion, Combating Poverty and any discrimination**

A number of principles have governed how these themes were initially chosen:

- To fit with the thematic objectives and the need for concentration as outlined in the draft regulations;

- To align with current priorities of Government Departments in Northern Ireland / Ireland / Scotland;
- To demonstrate cross-border value;
- To complement other EU ERDF and ESF programmes which are being developed across the eligible regions;
- To align with the findings of the socio-economic review and views expressed in the EU Commission's position paper on the UK and Ireland.

As part of the preparation of this OP, an extensive public consultation was carried out across the eligible region. Based on the results of this public consultation exercise<sup>1</sup> and informed by the lessons of the INTERREG IVA Programme<sup>2</sup> and additional research of the needs of the region<sup>3</sup>, the following strategic areas of investment have been prioritised for the 2014-2020 period:

- *Smart Growth Priority*: Thematic Objective 1 – Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation (Allocation €75m ERDF)
- *Sustainable Growth Priority*: Thematic Objective 6– Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency (Allocation €37m ERDF)
- *Sustainable Growth Priority*: Thematic Objective 7 - Promoting Sustainable Transport and Removing Bottlenecks in Key Network Infrastructures (Allocation €60m ERDF)
- *Inclusive Growth Priority*: Thematic Objective 9 – Promoting Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty (Allocation €53m ERDF)

The specific Target Groups attaching to the four thematic objectives are:

**Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation:** Academic sector (in particular third level education such as universities, FE/HE colleges and institutes of technology); SMEs; Private sector partners in health and life sciences and renewable energy;

**Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency:** Environmental agencies; Local authorities; Academic institutions; non –governmental bodies.

<sup>1</sup> Preparing a new Programme for Cross Border Cooperation (INTERREG V) and a new Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE IV) 2014 – 2020 – Summary of Consultation Responses, SEUPB, February 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Mid-Term Evaluation of the INTERREG IVA Programme, SEUPB, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> The development of a new EU Programme for Cross-Border Co-Operation (INTERREG V) and a new EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE IV) 2014 -2020 - Socio-Economic Profile

**Sustainable Transport:** Public Sector Bodies and Local Authorities.

**Promoting Social Inclusion, Combating Poverty and any Discrimination:** statutory health bodies, health promotion agencies; national health research agencies; health service users (e.g. older people, children and those with disabilities);

**What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims and outcomes)**

Building on the successes of INTERREG IVA, the INTERREG VA Programme aims to focus regional authorities' activities within Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland on a limited set of common objectives. In choosing the thematic areas for all INTERREG programmes, due regard has been taken of the areas which will best contribute to the Europe 2020 agenda, as well as ensuring that priorities closely align with the Country Specific Recommendations to the UK and Ireland.

The Programme will ensure that Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland collectively make a significant contribution under the following four thematic objectives, where the added value of cross border co-operation is evident:

**Smart Growth: Thematic Objective 1: Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation** – To encourage businesses to invest in sectors that offer the most growth potential, whilst building on existing strengths, eliminating weaknesses and helping them to become more competitive in a global marketplace. In delivering this smart growth the programme will tackle two key weaknesses in the programme region's competitiveness, namely the lower level of research, development and innovation expenditure and an under representation of higher value sectors.

- **Investment Priority One: Enhanced & Targeted Research & Innovation** - While Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) is a priority investment area for each of the regions, the INTERREG V Programme presents an opportunity to encourage the creation and development of cross-border partnerships and to build upon and develop existing cross border RD&I partnerships. These partnerships will include representation from academic institutions, SMEs and Government agencies. The intention is to increase the level of regional RD&I competence and capacity to contribute towards the development of a more competitive, high value added economy.

- **Investment Priority Two: Enhanced Innovation in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)** - The programme region has a high level of innovation inactive SMEs. There is an opportunity to build a strong export based economy through increased awareness of, and engagement in innovation amongst the programme region's SME-dominated business base.

**Sustainable Growth: Thematic Objective 6: Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency** – To encourage investment at various levels to achieve a resource efficient, sustainable and competitive economy through the implementation of green infrastructure and environmental risk management strategies. In delivering this sustainable growth the programme will tackle two key threats in the programme region's competitiveness, namely the integrity of its biodiversity and its water quality.

- **Investment Priority One: Protection and Restoration of Biodiversity** - The three jurisdictions share habitats and marine resources. Cross-border collaboration is essential in order to adequately address the requirements of the Biodiversity Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework. The programme will facilitate the development and implementation of common approaches to the management of the environment. In particular the improved management of the marine resources will contribute to EU Atlantic Strategy and Action plan.
- **Investment Priority Two: Investment in Water Sectors** - The region shares three international river basins with several major river systems flowing across the border. Cross-border collaboration is essential to adequately address the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. 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 relative strengths of the three jurisdictions.

**Sustainable Growth: Thematic Objective 7: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Removing Bottlenecks in Key Network Infrastructures** – The primary justification for inclusion of sustainable transport in the OP is the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and other green house gas emissions. An additional compelling factor is that fuel prices for both petrol and diesel fuels in the region are amongst the highest in the national jurisdictions and in the European Union.

In rural communities, which are prevalent in the region and are characterised low density distributed populations, there is a reliance on the use of cars as public transport services are

seldom considered economically viable. The region also includes some areas of high density urban populations where cross border commuting between towns and cities is mainly by car. The inclusion of activities related to this investment priority includes the creation and utilisation of; E Car networks; additional cycle path greenways; and improved multimodal transport links; which will promote the utilisation of more environmentally friendly forms of transport.

- **Investment Priority One: Developing and Improving Environmentally-friendly and low-carbon transport systems** – Developing and improving environmentally friendly (including low-noise) and low carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility.

**Inclusive Growth: Thematic Objective 9: Promoting Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty and discrimination** - To reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by targeting cross border cooperation in healthcare and supporting the social and economic regeneration of deprived and rural communities.

- **Investment Priority One: Reduction in Healthcare Inequalities and Improved Well Being** - The health services across the region face challenges in meeting rising demand within a constrained budget environment. Cross border co-operation can contribute to the more efficient delivery of health services in border regions, particularly with regard to co-ordination of services. Co-operation across the region is essential to obtain the necessary critical mass for healthcare trials. Co-ordination and sharing of e-health solutions can fast track implementation of this technology.

**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?**

YES	NO	N/A
X		

**If YES, explain how.**

In combination and separately, through targeted investment the three thematic objectives are intended to enhance the well-being of all citizens of Northern Ireland by general improvements to the physical environment, for example by protecting biodiversity and promoting low carbon initiatives and sustainable transport.

Under the fourth objective, Social Inclusion and Combating any Poverty, special attention will be afforded to marginalised groups that include children, unemployed youth, older people and people with a disability.

### **Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

The cohesion policy of the European Union provides a framework for financing a wide range of projects and investments with the aim of encouraging economic growth in EU Member States and their regions. The policy is reviewed by the EU institutions once every seven years. The next round of programmes, including INTERREG V, covers the period 2014 - 2020.

In March 2010 the European Commission published *Europe 2020 – A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth*. The Strategy was approved by the European Council in June 2010. The document sets out concrete targets to be achieved within the next decade in areas such as employment, education, energy and innovation in order to overcome the impact of the financial crisis and put Europe back on track for economic growth. This Strategy has become the cornerstone of all EU policies and programmes. Preparation of operational programmes for the period 2014 to 2020 must take account of this strategy and contain proposals that will contribute to the attainment of the targets set out in Europe 2020.

Three EU Regulations set out the rules within which both the PEACE and INTERREG cross-border operational programmes must be prepared, agreed and implemented. The EU Regulations were approved on 17 December 2013 and came into force on 21 December 2013. These are:

**Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013** laying down the Common Provisions for all funds including ERDF;

This proposal sets out common rules on planning of programmes, thematic objectives, financial management and monitoring and evaluation of programmes. These rules will apply to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

**Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013** on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the investment for growth and jobs goal;

This proposal sets out the rules in relation to the overall goals of cohesion policy and the management and control systems for cohesion policy funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Funding for the PEACE and INTERREG programmes will come from ERDF and are therefore subject to the provisions of this regulation.

**Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013** on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development to the European Territorial Cooperation goal;

This proposal sets out the specific programming and reporting arrangements for cross-border, transnational and interregional programmes. It sets out the priority objectives the ERDF, eligibility criteria, financial resources available and criteria for their allocation. It also sets the implementation arrangements, including plans for financial management and control. The PEACE and INTERREG Programmes will be funded as European Territorial Co-operation Programmes and are therefore subject to the provisions of this regulation.

These three regulations form part of a package of proposals, which are collectively referred to as the Common Strategic Framework (CSF). The other regulations in this package relate to the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Whilst these regulations have no direct impact on the cross-border programmes, they would have to be considered if joint funding mechanisms are to be employed.

Locally, SEUPB (NI) will oversee and coordinate the Programme, including the application process, management of resources, project support and evaluation.

**Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?**

SEUPB has been tasked by two Member States (UK and Ireland) to prepare two operational programmes for the period 2014 to 2020. These programmes will be the successors to the current INTERREG IVA and PEACE III programmes.

In order to ensure that the new programmes will be ready for implementation during 2014, SEUPB has been involved in a lengthy planning process based on the regulations.

**Implementation factors**

**Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?**

YES	NO	N/A
X		

**If YES, are they**

**Financial: YES (If YES, please detail)**



The agreed level of programme funding is €240m ERDF. The intervention rate will be 85%, with the additional 15% being provided from non-EU sources. The allocation of funding to the 4 identified themes will be subject to public consultation and agreement with the Member States and the EU Commission.

**Legislative: Y / N (If YES, please detail)**

In November 2010 the European Commission published the Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion *Investing in Europe's Future*. This report contained proposals for its Cohesion Policy for the period 2014 - 2020. During 2011 the Commission conducted widespread consultation on these proposals, culminating in the publication of a legislative package of regulations and associated budget for the period 2014 to 2020. The budget, referred to as the *Multi Annual Financial Framework* (MFF), and associated regulations were approved in December 2013 by the EU Council and the EU Parliament. All programme activity must be consistent with this regulatory framework and any additional subsidiary legislation (delegated acts) that is approved by the EU.

**Other, please specify:**

N/A

**Main stakeholders affected**

**Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?**

**Staff:**

The project will be managed by SEUPB staff in line with normal contractual arrangements.

**Service users:**

The Programme will impact on all those who is associated sector supported i.e. research institutions, SMEs, environmental agencies, transport agencies, health agencies, and those who use the services provided by these agencies.

**Other public sector organisations:**

A wide spectrum of public organisations are likely to be involved in the delivery of the Programme.

**Voluntary/community/trade unions:**

The Programme will involve engagement with the voluntary/community sector and relevant trade unions. These sectors will be represented on the Programme Monitoring Committee and Steering Committees.

**Other, please specify:**

Given that the Programme is so wide in scope, it is likely to have an impact on the economy of Northern Ireland, and its citizens, and many business sectors including SMEs. However, this impact is likely to be positive and will bring benefits to the local community through selective investment in relevant projects.

**Other policies with a bearing on this policy**

**What are they and who owns them?**

There are various strategies in place within the eligible region and Europe that complement the chosen themes of the new INTERREG V Programme. Local policies that have a direct bearing on INTERREG V include:

- NI Programme for Government 2011 – 2015 (OFMDFM, March 2012)
- Lifetime Opportunities – Government’s Anti-Poverty and Social inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland (OFMDFM, 2006)
- NI Sustainable Development Strategy (OFMDFM, 2010)
- Together: Building a United Community (OFMDFM, 2013)
- A Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2005-2010 (OFMDFM, 2005)
- Improving Children’s Life Chances - The Child Poverty Strategy (OFMDFM, 2011)
- Our Children and Young People Our Pledge A Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People In NI 2006-2016 (OFMDFM, 2006)
- Children’s and Young People’s Strategy Action Plan 2010-2013 (DARD, 2010);
- Ageing in an Inclusive Society - Promoting the Social Inclusion of Older People (OFMDFM, 2005)
- NI Gender Equality Strategy 2006-2016 (OFMDFM, 2007)
- Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015 (DHSSPS, 2012)
- A Strategy to Improve the Lives of People with Disabilities - 2012 to 2015 (OFMDFM, 2012)
- Caring for Carers Recognising, Valuing and Supporting the Caring Role (DHSSPS, 2006)
- The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland

- Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025
- Review of Public Administration
- Investing for Health – Developing a new Public Health Strategy for Northern Ireland
- A Strategy to Improve the Lives of People with a Disability 2012-2015

Beyond Northern Ireland, other relevant policies include the following:

#### **Ireland**

- The National Spatial Strategy for Ireland 2002-2020
- Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020
- Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan
- Building Ireland's Smart Economy
- Healthy Ireland – A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025
- Research Prioritisation: A Framework for Monitoring Public Investment in Science, Technology and Innovation, July 2013; DJEI

#### **Scotland**

- Investment Strategies in Scotland
- Government Economic Strategy
- The Quality Measurement Framework

#### **European**

- A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth: Communication from the Commission 2020 - Brussels, (2010)
- A Digital Agenda for Europe: Communication from the Commission to The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Brussels, (2010)
- An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era, European Commission 2010
- First Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (Oct 2011)
- European Commission's Resource Efficient Europe
- EU Territorial Co-operation (ETC) Regulations
- Horizon 2020 - The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
- Natura 2000
- EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 – towards implementation

## Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
ALL	<p>In order to assess potential adverse effects, participation in the previous programme (INTERREG IVA) was considered alongside relevant population profiles drawn from the following sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring Report No. 21: A Profile of the NI Workforce, Summary of Monitoring Returns 2010 (ECNI, 2011)</li> <li>• Profile of the Border region (Border Region Authority, February 2013)</li> <li>• NI Labour Force Survey (DETI, 2013)</li> <li>• Women in NI Labour Market (DFP, 2013)</li> <li>• Annual Population Survey (Office of national Statistics, 2013)</li> <li>• Women and Men in Ireland (Central Statistics Office, 2013)</li> <li>• Labour Market Bulletin 24 (DEL, July 2013)</li> <li>• NI Research and Development Statistics 2011 (NISRA, 2012)</li> <li>• Quarterly National Household Survey (Central Statistics Office, 2013)</li> </ul> <p>Using these data, SEUPB engaged NISRA to carry out an exhaustive statistical analysis of the existing INTERREG IVA Programme by each of the thematic objectives in order to identify any potential adverse impacts. This analysis is available on request from SEUPB. A summary is presented below.</p> <p>Throughout the course of the 2007-13 EU Programming period, balanced participation by men and women, and accessibility for disabled persons, were central requirements of the EU Structural Funds Regulations. These requirements align with those of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.</p> <p>All EU programmes operating in Northern Ireland must comply with both the Section 75 requirements and with the EU Regulatory requirements. All have a</p>

potential impact on equality of opportunity and every effort must be made, and assistance given when necessary, to ensure (within the parameters of the programmes) that all sectors of the population participate fully. In order to ensure that the principle of equality of opportunity is embedded within every aspect of programme implementation, equality was one of the cross-cutting themes which guided the delivery of the 2007-13 Structural Fund programmes including INTERREG IVA.

In line with equality of opportunity as a cross-cutting theme of the programmes, attempts were made to assess the impact of the programmes in terms of equality of opportunity. To facilitate this, Section 75 monitoring data was gathered and reported on to the Programme Monitoring Committees.

Where projects clearly had individual participants benefiting from the project (for example, training projects), those participants, immediately upon joining a project, were asked to voluntarily complete a short, anonymised Equality Monitoring questionnaire designed to reflect Equality Commission best practice. Equality questionnaires were distributed to individual beneficiaries of projects within each of the EU Programmes, as a means of assessing the impact of the Programme on each of the Section 75 categories. The forms were distributed by the respective Implementing Bodies and, on completion, were returned in full to NISRA. Individual participants from each supported project were encouraged to complete the forms, although completion was voluntary. Freepost envelopes were provided to encourage responses. The Freepost envelopes were addressed to NISRA, who analysed the returns.

Each of these equality questionnaires included the relevant project reference number. In an effort to improve the analysis and attempt to provide accurate response rates, SEUPB noted the number of envelopes that had been issued to each project. However, in practice, some projects returned multiple forms in one envelope. Thus, these figures could not be used to calculate accurate response rates. They can however give an indication of coverage of the returns as well as the proportion of approved projects from which forms have been received. There is no way to assess whether or not they are statistically representative of the participants of the Programme. As a result, analysis of this data should be treated with caution.

In comparison with baseline figures, and including census profiles of relevant populations, participants in INTERREG IVA projects generally showed a younger profile and there was lower representation of males, Protestants, widows/widowers, and possibly a higher proportion of people with children as dependents. Some of these trends can be explained by the nature of the activities being funded, for example, businesses to create jobs, share knowledge and establish training programmes, would mean that in general participants would generally be of working age and therefore less likely to be widowed. Additionally, the provision of specific cross-border health services (including child related) could mean a sizeable number of beneficiaries will have dependants.

It should be noted however, that it was not possible to calculate response rates relating to the equality monitoring forms so this data should be used with caution as the profile of non-respondents and people who chose not to complete and return the forms is not known. These non-respondents have the potential to skew any analysis and rather than an accurate representation of participants of the INTERREG IVA Programme, the analysis could be a representation of the characteristics of people who chose to complete the equality monitoring form.

### **Needs, experiences and priorities**

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs/Experiences/Priorities
<p><b>Race</b> <b>Disability</b></p>	<p>Those who face barriers to accessibility of programme-related materials or application information, because of either special language requirements or physical impediments, may need to be accommodated in both the planning and implementation of the programme.</p>
<p><b>Gender</b> <b>Disability</b> <b>Age</b> <b>Religious belief</b></p>	<p>The labour market continues to be stratified in many ways. While this issue lies outside the scope of the Programme itself, it is noted that the thematic objectives: <i>Research and Innovation</i> and <i>Environmental Protection and Resource Efficiency</i> are likely to reflect in applications from sectors of the economy that may have traditionally over-represented one gender or community. Opportunities for encouraging applications from under-represented groups could be considered.</p>
<p><b>Age</b> <b>Disability</b></p>	<p>Older people and those with mobility problems generally rely on a future transport system that is accessible to all. The drive towards sustainable transport must accommodate these concerns.</p>

## **Part 2: Screening Questions**

### **Introduction**

1. If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 categories, then you may decide to screen the policy **out**. If a policy is 'screened out', you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.
2. If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to an EQIA.
3. If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an EQIA, or to measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or an alternative policy.

### **In favour of a 'major' impact**

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and hence it would be appropriate to conduct an EQIA;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns among affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

### **In favour of 'minor' impact**

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

### **In favour of none**

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the earlier evidence, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity / good relations for those affected by this policy, by applying the following screening questions and the impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.



**Screening questions**

<b>1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds? <b>Minor/Major/None</b></b>		
<b>Section 75 Category</b>	<b>Details of Policy Impact</b>	<b>Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	INTERREG V is based on thematic objectives that aim to benefit all sectors of the community in Northern Ireland, and to encourage better relations with neighbouring regions through interrelated projects. While traditionally certain sectors of the economy may have been characterised by relatively higher representation from one community (i.e. Protestants/Unionists in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals), investment in this sector or in the Programme as a whole in itself will not disadvantage any community.	None
<b>Political opinion</b>	INTERREG V is based on thematic objectives that aim to benefit all sectors of the community in Northern Ireland, and to encourage better relations with neighbouring regions through interrelated projects. While traditionally certain sectors of the economy may have been characterised by relatively higher representation from one community (i.e. Protestants/Unionists in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals), investment in this sector or in the Programme as a whole in itself will not disadvantage any community.	None
<b>Racial / ethnic group</b>	In common with earlier INTERREG programmes, INTERREG V is not likely to impact negatively on grounds of ethnicity and may actively promote better relations with neighbouring regions through joint project work. Measures designed to reduce poverty and	Minor (positive)

	promote social inclusion should benefit those from marginalised communities	
<b>Age</b>	Programmes will be available to all ages, and will benefit all citizens of Northern Ireland.	Minor (positive)
<b>Marital status</b>	No identifiable impact.	None
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	No identifiable impact.	None
<b>Men and women generally</b>	While traditionally certain sectors of the economy may have been characterised by relatively higher representation from one gender (i.e. males in research and innovation), investment in this sector or in the Programme as a whole in itself will not disadvantage any gender.	None
<b>Disability</b>	While those with a disability tend to be under-represented within the workforce as a whole, the benefits attaching to INTERREG V should be experienced by all sections of the community, irrespective of health status, while measures designed to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion should benefit those with a disability.	Minor (positive)
<b>Dependants</b>	Measures designed to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion should benefit those with dependants.	Minor (positive)

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?		
Section 75 Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
<b>Racial group</b> <b>Disability</b>	The application process could aspire to accommodate those who may have difficulties with standard procedures.	
<b>Gender</b> <b>Disability</b> <b>Age</b> <b>Religious belief</b>	Lawful positive action measures could be considered to encourage applications from under-represented groups within specified sectors of the economy.	
<b>Disability</b> <b>Age</b> <b>Dependancy</b>	Sustainable transport initiatives should aspire to accommodate those with particular mobility needs.	

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? <b>Minor/Major/None</b>		
Good Relations Category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/Major/None
<b>Religious belief</b>	The programme should encourage good relations through a series of measures that will enhance the local economy and well-being of citizens, and will develop cross-border projects that will be of mutual benefit to all communities.	Minor (positive)
<b>Political opinion</b>	The programme should encourage good relations through a series of measures that will enhance the	Minor (positive)

	local economy and well-being of citizens, and will develop cross-border projects that will be of mutual benefit to all communities.	
<b>Racial group</b>	The programme should encourage good relations through a series of measures that will enhance the local economy and well-being of citizens, and will develop cross-border projects that will be of mutual benefit to all communities.	Minor (positive)

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
<b>Religious belief</b>  <b>Political opinion</b>  <b>Racial group</b>		The Programme in itself is likely to enhance good relations through selective funding of projects designed to enhance the physical environment and local economy while also tackling social deprivation.

### Additional considerations

#### **Multiple identity**

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

The above comments will also apply to considerations where one or more protected characteristic combine.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities.  
Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

N/A

## **Part 3: Screening Decision**

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should: (please underline one):

1. Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)
- 2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time
4. Be subject to an EQIA

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

The Programme has been designed to enhance the local economy, and both the physical and social environments in Northern Ireland through a series of targeted projects that, in themselves, will not adversely impact on any section of the community. Funding of these initiatives will be over and above that provided by the Executive. At the same time, opportunities to actively promote equality of opportunity through lawful measures could be explored in order to address longstanding labour market issues, for example in relation to gender segregation, and steps taken to develop sustainable transport should be developed mindful of potential impacts on those with special needs.

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

The application process could aspire to accommodate those who may have difficulties with standard procedures.

Lawful positive action measures could be considered to encourage applications from under-represented groups within specified sectors of the economy.

Sustainable transport initiatives should aspire to accommodate those with particular mobility needs.

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy at a future date?

**NO**

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:



**Timetabling and Prioritising EQIA**

If 3. or 4., is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? YES / NO

If YES, please provide details:

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for EQIA.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people’s daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority’s functions	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: \_\_\_\_\_

**Any further comments on the screening process and any subsequent actions?**



## **Part 4: Monitoring**

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development. You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007). The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

**Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:**

SEUPB will commit to working with NISRA and the Programme Monitoring Committee to develop mechanisms to monitor the impact of the the programme in relation to promoting the equality of opportunity and good relations. Where any adverse impact is identified through routine monitoring then SEUPB commits to take all reasonable steps to remedy the problem.

## **Part 5: Approval and Authorisation**

<b>Screened by:</b>	<b>Position/Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
IAN BODEN	PROGRAMME OFFICER	02/06/2014
JOHN KREMER	EXTERNAL CONSULTANT	02/06/2014
<b>Approved by:</b>		
SHAUN HENRY	DIRECTOR	02/06/2014

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on your website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

