

BMW Regional Assembly Czech Delegation

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June 2009



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Presentation Structure

- Part I: History of EU Funds in Ireland
 - Programme Structure
 - Where was the money spent?
 - What was achieved?
- Part II: Introduction to the Irish Administrative System
 - Programme management and implementation
 - Who does what?
- Part III: Developing a Regional Operational Programme



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Part I: History of EU Funds

- Ireland an EU member since 1973
 - Poorest country of then 12 member states
- Started to avail of Structural Funds from 1989
- Four programming periods since then
 - 1989 to 1993
 - 1994 to 1999
 - 2000 to 2006
 - 2007 to 2013



1989 to 1999

- Ireland qualified as objective I region
- Two Programming Periods
 - 1989-1993 (EU funding: €4.2 billion, 2.1% of GDP)
 - 1994-1999 (EU funding: €7.3 billion, 1.6% of GDP)
- Main focus
 - “Catching-up” - economic convergence
 - Raising competitiveness and long-term growth potential
 - Tackling unemployment



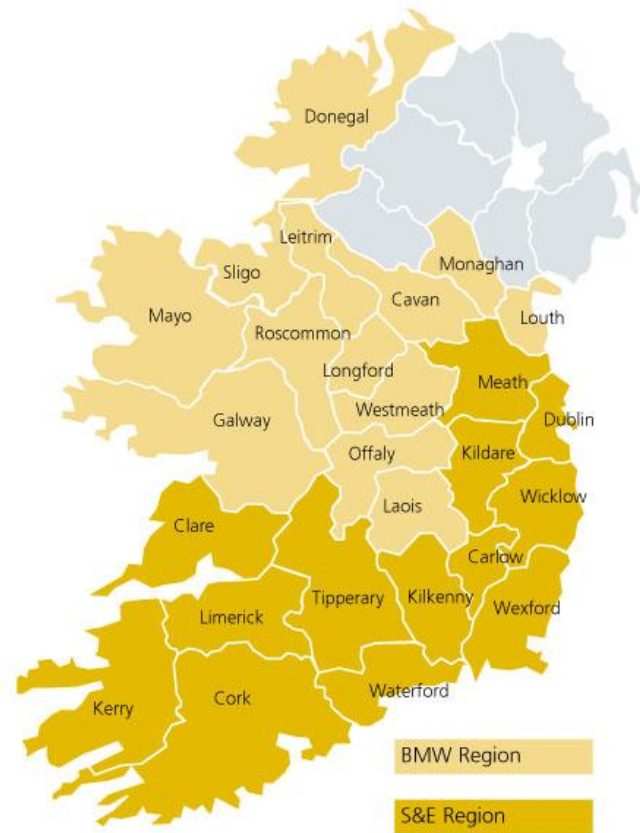
Where was the money spent?

- EU aid of €7.3 billion 1994 to 1999
 - CSF (€5.8 billion) organised around 4 priorities and 9 operational programmes
 - €1.5 billion under Cohesion Fund, not part of CSF
- CSF Priorities
 - Infrastructure (36%)
 - Productive Sector (35%)
 - Human Resource Development (25%)
 - Local Development (4%)



2000-2006

- Ineligible for objective 1
- Split into 2 separate NUTS II Regions for EU purposes
 - Border, Midland and Western Region -Objective 1
 - Southern and Eastern Region Transitional Objective 1 Status



Regional Assemblies

Regional Assembly

B.M.W. 29

S&E 41

Regional Authorities

B.M.W. 3

S&E 5

County Councils

County Borough

Corporations



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Role of the BMW Regional Assembly

- **Managing Authority for the 2000-06 Regional Operational Programme - €4bn public funds (€425m EU)**
- **Managing Authority for the 2007-13 Regional Operational Programme - €572m public funds (€229m EU)**
- **Monitoring the general impact of all EU and national investment programmes in the region**
- **Highlighting issues of concern for the region and ensuring that national policies take the regional dimension into account e.g., National RTDI Policy, NSS, Transport Policy, Broadband Policy etc.**



2000 to 2006 Funds

- Structural + Cohesion Funds: €3.9 billion
 - = 0.4% of GDP
- CSF formed part of larger NDP (€51 billion)
 - NDP included non-EU financed public investment
 - Health, social housing, social inclusion
 - Allocation of EU funds agreed with Commission
 - Common programming, monitoring and evaluation system
- Significant changes in overall strategy and programme structure
 - Increased allocation to infrastructure
 - Stronger emphasis on tackling regional imbalances
 - Fewer OPs
 - Regional programmes
 - 3 Inter-Regional Ops
 - 1 Peace



Programme Structure and Funds Allocation, 2000 to 2006

Operational Programme	Total planned NDP (€bn)	EU Funding (€bn)
Economic & Social Infrastructure	23.8	1.615
Employment & Human Resource	14.2	.892
Productive Sector	5.8	0.282
BMW Regional	3.0	0.402
S&E Regional	4.1	0.570
Peace	0.14	0.13
Total	51	3.891



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What was achieved?

- Strong economic growth over last 20 years
- EU Structural Funds contribution modest but important
 - Funds have supported not driven economic convergence
- Other factors explain “Celtic Tiger”
 - Favourable demographics
 - Wider effects of EU membership
 - Macroeconomic Policy
 - FDI
 - Political stability / Social Partnership
- Estimated long-run impact of EU Funds has been to add about 3 per cent to GDP
- High rates of return from investment in infrastructure and HRD



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2007 to 2013 Period

- Ireland eligible under regional competitiveness and employment objective
 - BMW: phasing in region
 - S&E: competitiveness
- Programme structure
 - 2 NUTS regional EDRF-funded programmes
 - 1 national ESF-funded human resources OP
- Total allocation to Ireland = €751million and Interreg
 - Changed times!
- Separate nationally-funded NDP



Part II: Irish Administrative System

- National level
 - 15 Government Ministries (Departments)
 - Headed by a Minister, government member
 - Policy development function
 - State bodies (e.g., National Roads Authority, FAS, Enterprise Ireland)
- Regional level
 - 2 Regional Assemblies (NUTS II)
 - 8 Regional Authorities (NUTS III)
- Local/county level
 - Local Authorities (Municipalities)
 - 29 County Councils, 5 City Councils
- Overall a quite centralised system



NSRF Managing Authority

- Functions
 - Preparation of NDP/NSRF
 - Negotiation with Commission
 - Overall monitoring of NSRF progress
 - Physical
 - Financial, especially n+2
 - Chair and Secretariat to CSF



NSRF MA: Irish Situation

- Department (Ministry) of Finance
- Very significant role in Ireland
 - Key interlocutor with Commission
 - Also responsible for national budget and public investment policy
 - EU Funds integrated into national budget
 - Programmes are "pre-funded"
 - Ensures certainty in funding



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OP Managing Authority

- Functions
 - Drafting OP and other programme documents
 - Chair and Secretariat to OP Monitoring Committee
 - Preparation of progress reports and Annual Implementation Report
 - Organising evaluations
 - Certifying payment claims for submission to certifying authority
 - Compliance with EU policies
 - Information and publicity



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OP Managing Authorities in Ireland

- Features (2000 to 2006)
 - 3 managed by government ministries
 - 2 by regional assemblies
- Coordination authorities more than managing authorities
- Work closely with CSF MA
- Small staffing complement



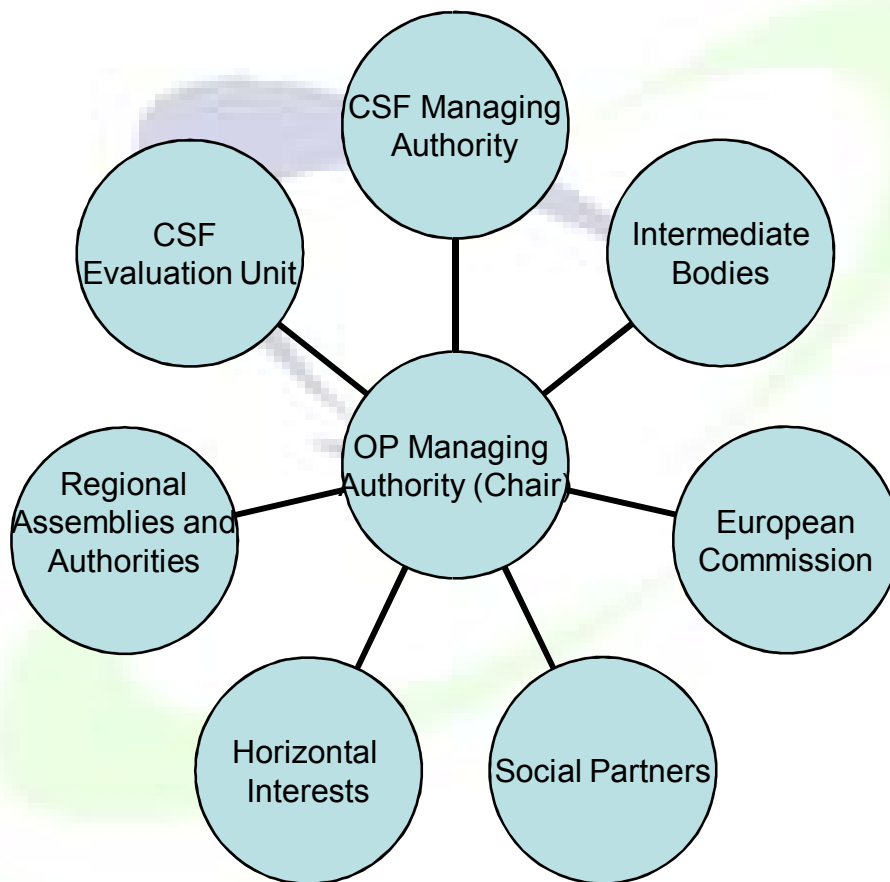
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OP Monitoring Committee Membership



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Partnership

- Established tradition of social partnership in Ireland
- Social partners
 - Employer representatives
 - Trade Unions
 - Farmers
 - Community and Voluntary sector
- Structural Funds
 - Consulted on NDP and NSRF
 - On CSF and OP monitoring committees



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Summary: Key Features of Irish Implementation System

- Centralised approach
 - Key role of Finance Ministry
- Implementation dominated by government bodies and agencies
- OP managing authorities = coordination authorities
- Strong partnership approach
- Funds have had significant socio-economic impact but don't explain “Celtic Tiger”



Part 3:

Preparing a Regional Development Strategy



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Programme Planning

Regional OP

- Consultation during drafting took place with Government Departments and Agencies, Local Authorities, CEBs, 3rd Level Sector, Regional Assembly, Monitoring Committee and Operational Committee, EU Commission
- OP subject to independent ex ante evaluation – Fitzpatrick & Associates Economic Consultants appointed 1st July 2006 – draft ex ante report on Assembly web-site www.bmwassembly.ie
- OP subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report completed



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DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (1)

The Proposed Strategy takes account of the following EU/National Considerations:

- The EU policy context set by the Lisbon & Gothenburg Agendas;
- The Community Strategic Guidelines and the interventions eligible under the ERDF Regulation;
- The requirement that a minimum of 75% of national expenditure should be earmarked for Lisbon objectives;
- The limited Funds available to the region under EU Cohesion Policy and the profile (frontloading) of the funding
- The need to maximise the visibility of the funds and EU Added-Value.



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DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2)

The Development Strategy also takes account of the following regional issues:

- The agreed vision for the region, arising from the Regional Foresight exercise;
- The SWOT analysis and the specific areas of need identified
- The strategic priorities defined in the National Strategic Reference Framework
- The need for both concentration of resources and for balance in interventions (both spatially and thematically);
- The National Spatial Strategy and other relevant strategies;



Development Strategy (3)

Having regard to the €184bn investment proposed under the NDP across 5 investment priorities and the €7bn Rural Development Programme, the priorities chosen:

- Must be niche investments in selected areas
- Must complement the mainstream investment programmes
- Must be consistent with EU & national & regional priorities



Priorities Chosen

Three Priorities are Proposed:

- Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy
- Environment and Risk Prevention
- Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks
- There will be a small Technical Assistance Priority



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Priority 1:

To raise the Region's Research, ICT & Innovation capacity to generate and absorb new technologies

- Applied Research Enhancement, Incubation and Collaboration
- Competitive research funding
- Micro-enterprise supports
- Broadband delivery and demand stimulation
- Experimental Actions



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Priority 2:

Contribute to the protection & enhancement of the rural environment and stimulate energy efficiency, renewable energy production

- Rural water source protection
- Pilot village sewerage scheme
- Renewable energy/energy efficiency



Priority 3:

Strengthen spatial structuring, integrated urban development strategies, with improved secondary transport linkages

- Integrated urban development
- Public transport
- Key linking secondary routes



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Priority Allocations: BMW Region

Priority	Total Allocation
Innovation, ICT & Knowledge Economy	201.5m
Environment & Risk Prevention	90m
Urban Development & Secondary Transport Networks	269.5m
Technical Assistance	10.8
Total	571.8



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