

# Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme Annual Implementation Report 2008



Supporting and Enabling Dynamic Regions



EU Regional Policy 2007-2013



CCI Number 2007IE162PO001

# 2007-2013



Ireland's EU Structural Funds  
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union



EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND



*Border, Midland & Western*  
Regional Assembly

Operational Programme	Supporting and Enabling Dynamic Regions
	Border, Midland and Western Region, Ireland
	2007 – 2013
	CCI number 2007IE162PO001
Annual Implementation Report	Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme
	2008
	Date of approval by Monitoring Committee:

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# **1 Introduction**

## **1.1 Introduction**

This is the second annual implementation report on the implementation of the Border Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme (OP) 2007 – 2013. The report complies with Article 67 of Regulation 1083/2006 which requires the Managing Authority to submit an Annual Implementation Report within six months of the end of each full calendar year of implementation; and has been compiled in accordance with the format specified in Annex XVIII of Regulation (EC) 1828/2006.

The annual implementation report is a key document in the management of the Structural Fund programmes and is a central element in the process by which programme performance is reviewed by the Commission and by the OP Monitoring Committee. It also serves as the basis for information on the contribution of the OP to achieving the targets with respect to Lisbon-earmarked categories and the admissibility of the report is a pre-condition for continuation of interim payments by the EU Commission.

This report relates to the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. The aim of the annual report is to provide a comprehensive overview of the implementation of the OP.

## **1.2 Background**

The regionalisation arrangements negotiated by the Irish authorities in 1999 in the context of the Agenda 2000 Agreement, saw the designation of the country into two NUTS<sup>1</sup> II regions for EU Cohesion Policy purposes. These regions, which were established in 1999<sup>2</sup> are:

(a) the Border, Midland and Western (BMW) Region which qualified for Objective 1 status for Structural Funds for the full period to 2006; and

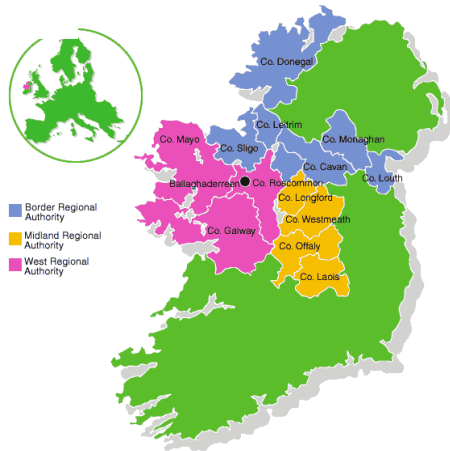
(b) the Southern and Eastern (S&E) Region which qualified for a six-year phasing-out regime for Objective 1 status up to the end of 2005, and for part of the region to 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> NUTS ‘Nomenclature des Unites Territoriales pour Statistiques’ is the term given to the EU regional classification system

<sup>2</sup> Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1999. S.I. No. 226 of 1999. <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/ZZSI226Y1999.html>

**Figure 1 – Map of the BMW Region**



The new round of EU Structural and Cohesion funding covers the period 2007 – 2013. Under Article 6 of the General Regulation (EC) 1083/2006<sup>3</sup>, regions not covered by the Convergence Objective will be eligible for assistance under the Competitiveness and Employment Objective. This will include the Border Midland and Western (BMW) NUTS II region which qualified as a phasing-in under the transitional arrangements as a previous Objective One region which now has a per capita GDP above 75% of the EU25 average. The BMW region will receive c. €458m in total structural funding over the period, of which 50% (c. €229m) will be ERDF funding.

The Irish Government, as set out in the National Strategic Reference Framework<sup>4</sup> (NSRF) has decided that Cohesion policy will be delivered through separate Regional Operational Programmes for the BMW and the Southern and Eastern regions and one national ESF Operational Programme. The BMW Regional Assembly has been designated by the Government to be the Managing Authority for the BMW Regional Operational Programme and is responsible for its preparation and delivery.

Given the agreed objectives of Cohesion policy, Structural Funds are being concentrated on implementing community policies, namely the renewed Lisbon Agenda<sup>5</sup> and the Göteborg

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<sup>3</sup> European Commission (2006) Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 of 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) 1260/1999. [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/feder/ce\\_1083\(2006\)\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/pdf/2007/feder/ce_1083(2006)_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Government of Ireland (2007) National Strategic Reference Framework for Ireland, 2007 – 2013

<sup>5</sup> European Commission (2005) Common Actions for Growth and Employment – the Community Lisbon Programme [http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/COM20\\_330\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/COM20_330_en.pdf)

Declaration<sup>6</sup>. The specific focus is on innovation and the knowledge economy, environment and risk minimisation, accessibility to services of general interest (broadband, transport infrastructure), increasing adaptability of workers and enterprises, enhancing access to employment, and social inclusion measures. This Operational Programme was designed to set out a development strategy, including a coherent set of priorities to meet the strategic objectives that have been set for the Regional Operational Programme.

The final Operational Programme was submitted to the European Commission on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007, within the statutory deadline. The following are the priorities included in the OP:

**Priority 1: Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy**

- ❖ Applied Research Enhancement, Incubation and Collaboration Scheme
- ❖ Competitive Research Funding
- ❖ Micro-enterprise supports
- ❖ Broadband delivery and demand stimulation
- ❖ Experimental Actions – small number of pilot initiatives

**Priority 2: Environment and Risk Prevention**

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

**Priority 3: Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks**

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

### **1.3 Monitoring Committee Approval**

Article 67(1) of regulation 1083/2006 requires that the Managing Authority shall send an Annual Implementation Report to the Commission by 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. This report was approved at the Monitoring Committee meeting of May 19th 2009.

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<sup>6</sup> European Commission (2001) A sustainable Europe for a better World: A European Strategy for Sustainable Development – Proposal to the Gothenburg European Council [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001\\_0264en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001_0264en01.pdf)

## **2 Overview of the Implementation of the Operational Programme**

### **2.1 Achievement and Analysis of Progress**

#### **2.1.1 Introduction**

The main focus of the BMW Regional Assembly during 2008 has been the continued development of implementation arrangements and the early implementation of the Operational Programme 2007 – 2013. This involved the completion of selection criteria processes and implementation plans, administrative agreements and systems descriptions in partnership with intermediary bodies. The BMW Regional Assembly was also engaged in the development and review of the Department of Finance Circular on Financial Management and Control (12/2008) the National Eligibility Rules (Department of Finance Circular 16/2008); the Structural Funds IT System and the guidance on information and publicity.

In total, €62.97 of expenditure has been reported by Intermediary Bodies, but this has not yet been certified to the EU.

#### **2.1.2 Preparation of Implementation Plans and Selection Criteria**

The Managing Authority prepared a detailed guidance document on the content of the Implementation Plans in August 2007. Following consultation with the Department of Finance and the Horizontal Units (see below), the Implementation Plan Guidance document was issued to all Intermediary Bodies in September 2007. This was based on the format of the Programme Complement document that was used for the previous Operational Programme, with some specific changes:

- measure level financial tables not required;
- role of Intermediary Body and Public Beneficiary Body included; and
- flowchart for expenditure declarations, verifications and audits inserted.

Twenty one draft Implementation Plans were received in advance of the first Monitoring Committee meeting held in November 2007. Using a standard checklist, each draft plan received was reviewed by the Managing Authority in early 2008 and revised implementation plans were adopted at the second Monitoring Committee meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

#### Selection Criteria

In accordance with Article 65 of the General Regulation, the Monitoring Committee was required to consider and approve criteria for the selection of operations financed under the Operational Programme, within six months of the approval of the OP (i.e., by April 16<sup>th</sup> 2008) and approve any revision of those criteria in accordance with programming needs. A paper setting out the selection criteria to be used selecting operations under the BMW Regional Operational Programme was completed in March 2008 and approved by written procedure.

In the Irish administrative system, co-funded operations are generally not selected directly by the Managing Authority, but can be selected by other bodies under its responsibility, who have been duly delegated the task (through the Administrative Agreements) in accordance with Article 56(3) of the General Regulation. Selection of projects will therefore be undertaken by the relevant

Government Departments/State Agencies who have statutory authority for the relevant interventions, and under the legal and institutional arrangements pertaining in Ireland, so that, rather than having one set of generic selection processes and criteria for all operations to be funded under the OP, each of the individual Themes/Sub-Themes have their own specifically tailored criteria and selection processes. These specific selection criteria for individual themes were drawn up in consultation with the relevant Intermediate Bodies, and were set out in the selection criteria document.

The Managing Authority will be responsible for ensuring that operations are selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the programme.

### **2.1.3 Financial Management and Control**

Following the adoption of the Operational Programme on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the focus of financial management and control actions was placed on the administrative processes to prepare for the implementation of the Operational Programme and to comply fully with the regulations governing the implementation of EU co-financed programmes.

#### Financial Management and Control Circular (12/2008)

The Managing Authority has been consulted by the Department of Finance on the content of the circular on EU Financial Management and Control arrangements. This circular replaces Circular 34/2001 which applied for the 2000-06 programming period. The Circular sets out *inter alia*:

- Overall financial management and control arrangements
- Designated authorities
- The responsibilities of each level in the cascade
- Procedures for the declaration and certification of EU co-financed activities
- Compliance with EU laws in respect of public procurement and state aids
- Information and Publicity
- Financial Corrections
- Treatment of Irregularities
- Reporting Arrangements
- Maintenance of an adequate audit trail
- Standard forms for declarations of expenditure

#### Administrative Agreements

Article 59 of the General Regulation 1083/2006, requires that the mutual relations between the authorities responsible for EU co-financed activities should be laid down in full accordance with the institutional, legal and financial systems of the Member State concerned. Article 12 of the Implementation Regulation (1828/2006) requires that "...where one or more tasks of a Managing Authority or certifying authority are performed by an intermediary body, the relevant arrangements shall be formally recorded in writing".

In accordance with these requirements the BMW Regional Assembly, in consultation with the Southern and Eastern Assembly and the Department of Finance prepared a standard Administrative Agreement, which has been issued and agreed with each Intermediary Body in 2008. The agreements set out, *inter alia*, the responsibilities of each Intermediate Body in respect of:

- Implementation of activities in accordance with the approved OP and Implementation Plan;

- Respective roles of the Managing Authority and Intermediary Body and the functions delegated to the Intermediary Body;
- Provision of descriptions of the financial management and control systems in place and the maintenance of an up-to-date procedures manual;
- Provision on an annual basis an estimate of expenditure to allow effective monitoring of the Financial Plans and meeting n+2 targets;
- Mechanisms for the verification of expenditure claims by beneficiaries including agreed arrangements for on-the-spot checks and, where appropriate, agreed sampling levels;
- Certification of expenditure in accordance with the provisions of the Department of Finance Circular including the provision of all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification;
- Arrangements for the reporting of irregularities and the treatment of negative adjustments;
- Maintenance of an adequate audit trail and arrangements for retention of documentation
- Audit Arrangements, including facilitating verification audits by the ERDF FCU, and facilitating systems audits at Intermediary body level, co-ordinated by the ERDF FCU;
- Arrangements for reporting on financial and physical progress on the implementation of the Theme/Sub-theme to the Monitoring Committee;
- Facilitating the conduct of evaluations;
- Compliance with EU and national rules in respect of public procurement and EU state aid rules;
- Notification of major projects;
- Ensuring compliance with the EU and NSRF Information and Publicity requirements and publication of a beneficiary list; and
- Co-operation with Managing Authorities and Certifying Authority in relation to closure arrangements.

### **National Eligibility Rules**

Article 56(4) of the General Regulation requires that rules on the eligibility of expenditure be laid down at national level. Accordingly, the ERDF and ESF Certifying Authorities in conjunction with the Managing Authorities and the ERDF and ESF Financial Control Units have initiated the process of preparing a National Eligibility Rules document that will set out *inter alia*, national rules in respect of:

- General Eligibility of expenditure paid out & proof of expenditure
- Salaries, wages , travel & subsistence
- Indirect Costs(Overheads)
- In-kind costs
- Purchase of Assets (Depreciation Charges)
- Purchase of Second Hand Equipment
- Purchase of land
- Purchase of Real Estate
- Leasing and Rental Costs
- Financial and Legal Charges
- Technical Assistance
- Cross-Financing ERDF/ESF
- Repayable assistance
- Revenue Generating projects
- VAT
- Sub-contracting costs
- Location of Operation

The finalised eligibility rules (Department of Finance Circular 16/2008) were issued to the Intermediary Bodies in 2008.

### **Systems Descriptions**

During 2008, work was completed on the Managing Authority and Intermediary Body Systems Descriptions and a Compliance Assessment was undertaken by the Audit Authority (ERDF Financial Control Unit) in October 2008. The Systems Description encompassed the following:

- Designation of bodies
- Delegated Tasks and Functions
- Written cascade agreements
- Organisation structures
- Procedures for carrying out functions
- Project selection and approval procedures
- Verification procedures
- Procedure for processing applications
- Procedures for re-imburement of beneficiaries
- Maintenance of audit trail.

Formal approval is awaited from DG Regio on the Systems Description and Compliance Assessment.

### **EU Structural Funds IT System**

The EU Regulations provide that the Member States shall have reliable accounting, monitoring and financial reporting systems in computerised form and systems and procedures to ensure an adequate audit trail.

Following meetings of the Implementation Group at the end of 2007, it was agreed that an appropriate option to meet the Commission requirements was a centralised database with web access for all bodies with the functionality to create the B1, B2 and B3 declaration forms and subsequently propose them to the body immediately above them in the cascade for approval. The system will also generate a payment claim to the Commission.

The IT System will be used by all the actors in the financial management and control cascade system in accordance with the shared management responsibilities. It comprises a centralised project database containing mandatory project data. It creates the B1, B2, B3 forms and proposes them to the level above in the financial management cascade. It uses pass-word protected internet access. In addition it records the value of verification checks by project/operation and adjustments made are reconciled in the claim process.

### **Verification Checklists and Guidance Document**

In accordance with Article 13 of Regulation (EC) 1828/2006, the Managing Authority has prepared detailed checklists to cover all aspects of desk-based and on-site verification of eligible expenditure. These checklists cover each of the following:

- Eligibility
- Public Procurement
- Audit Trail
- EU Publicity
- Receipts
- Procedures Manual

- On-the-spot checks
- Other EU and national regulations

In addition a guidance document on management verifications and on appropriate sampling methodologies was issued to all Intermediary Bodies during 2008.

### Guidance Seminars

The Managing Authority will organize a series of Guidance Seminars for Intermediary and Public Beneficiary Bodies during the early years of the programme in order to introduce and provide guidance on the financial management and control arrangements for the 2007 – 2013 period, including the systems description, national eligibility rules, IT system for certification, administrative agreements, expenditure verification arrangements, audit arrangements and treatment of irregularities. These seminars will be organized in conjunction with the S&E Regional Assembly, Certifying Authority and Audit Authority (as appropriate).

### Advance Payments

During 2008, no expenditure declarations were submitted to the Managing Authority and no certified claims were submitted by the Certifying Authority to the EU. A further 3% advance of €6, 862,765.14 was paid in 2008 which was additional to the €4,575,176.76 advance paid in November 2007 by the EU to the Certifying Authority.

### 2.1.4 Information on the Physical Progress of the Operational Programme

Specific information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme is presented in the reports on physical progress by priority in section 3 of this report. There are no overall Operational Programme performance indicators. However, an update on the context indicators that were included in the Operational Programme is included in Annex 2.

As stated in the introduction to this section (2.1.1), the main focus in 2008 was on putting in place the necessary implementation and financial management and control arrangements in order to met regulatory requirements. Implementation has commenced on aspects of all four priorities and expenditure on these is reported in the next section.

### 2.1.5 Financial Progress to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008

	Expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the managing authority	Corresponding public contribution	Private expenditure	Expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries	Total payments received from the Commission
Priority Axis 1: Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy Fund: ERDF				25,937,844	
Priority Axis 2: Environment and Risk Prevention				3,204,000	

<b>Fund: ERDF</b>					
<b>Priority Axis 3: Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks</b>					
<b>Fund: ERDF</b>					
<b>Priority Axis 4: Technical Assistance</b>					
<b>Fund: ERDF</b>					
<b>Grand total</b>				62,976,054	
<b>Total in Phasing-in Region</b>				62,976,054	<b>11,437,941.9*</b>

\*This represents the 5% advance paid by the Commission in 2007 and 2008

### 2.1.6 Cumulative breakdown of allocations of the Community contribution by category (Part C of Annex II of the Implementation Regulation)

For the expenditure reported to date, but not yet certified to the EU, it not possible to be definitive at this time. Information on the cumulative breakdown of allocations of the community contribution by category as set out in Annex II of the Implementation Regulation will be captured by the IT system when Intermediary Bodies commence to certify eligible expenditure in 2009. A preliminary indication of the categorisation of priority codes is provided below. These are as follows:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Dimension 1: Categorisation Code</b>	<b>Dimension 2: Form of Finance</b>	<b>Dimension 3: Territory</b>	<b>Dimension 4: Economic Activity</b>	<b>Dimension 5: Location</b>	<b>Community Contribution (not yet certified) €m</b>
Priority 1	01	01	01	22	IE 01	0.435332
	08	01	05	22	IE 01	5.419136
	08	02*	05	22	IE 01	0.842933
	02	01	01	22	IE 01	0.194787
	10	01	05	10	IE 01	3.482948
Priority 2	43	01	05	21	IE 01	1.2816
Priority 3	51	01	05	21	IE 01	2.252
	16	01	01	11	IE 01	3.3908
	54	01	01	21	IE 01	0.2036
	61	01	01	22	IE 01	0.0388
	22	01	01	11	IE 01	7.3196
Priority 4	85	01	00	17	IE 01	0.328542
<b>Total</b>						<b>25.190421</b>

\* Proportion of repayable aid is based on a threshold of 30% of direct grant aid given to beneficiary firms

### **2.1.7 Assistance by target groups and areas**

The BMW Regional Operational Programme does not set out to assist any specific target groups. However, the focus of Priority 3 (Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks) is on strengthening the spatial structuring of the BMW region by investing in integrated sustainable strategies to enhance the competitiveness, accessibility and social cohesion of the region's urban growth centres and to modernize the region's transport infrastructure. This will entail focusing investment on the designated gateways and hubs and on their immediate hinterlands. In terms of a sectoral focus, one of the sub-themes will focus research supports on the marine research sector which is quite strong in the BMW region.

### **2.1.8 Assistance repaid or re-used**

To date there has been no assistance repaid or re-used following cancellations of assistance, as there has been no assistance certified to the Commission.

### **2.1.9 Qualitative analysis**

In 2008, implementation had commenced and expenditure declared on 13 themes out of the total of twenty six in the overall Operational Programme. The expenditure reported amounts to just over €62.97 million which represents under 11% of the OP total. The main focus in 2007 and 2008 has been on the finalisation and negotiation of the OP and on putting in place the necessary implementation and financial management and control arrangements.

Individual theme-level performance data is provided in Annex 1 of this report in respect of those themes where implementation had commenced in 2007 and 2008.

### **2.1.10 Contribution to the Lisbon Targets**

The conclusions reached at the European Council meeting held in Lisbon in 2000 included a commitment to make the European Union the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world, with more and better jobs and greater social inclusion, by 2010. Following a review of the achievement of this goal in 2004, the re-launched Lisbon Agenda placed particular emphasis on growth and jobs. The National Strategic Reference Framework and this Operational Programme reflect the priorities set out in the Irish Government's National Reform Programme (NRP) which was submitted to the EU in October 2005. This brought together a wide range of policies and initiatives, the implementation of which were aimed at sustaining Ireland's strong economic performance and employment growth. The NRP identifies three broad policy areas: macro-economic policy, micro-economic policy and employment policy. In addressing the Lisbon goals, the NRP states that global markets and global competition characterise the environment within which the Irish economy must prosper and compete as part of the EU of 27 Member States.

Within the NRP, the need to maintain competitiveness and improve productivity is viewed as paramount. A Progress Report on the NRP submitted in October 2006 re-confirmed the Irish Government's commitment, working with the Social Partners, to the pursuit of improved quality of life and living standards for all and its recognition of the interdependence of social equity and sustainable development with economic growth and improved employment opportunities.

The implementation of the development strategy, priority objectives and selected interventions as outlined in this OP will contribute to Ireland meeting its commitments as set out in the National Reform Programme and in accordance with Article 29(1) of the General Regulation, the Annual Report on the implementation of the National Reform Programme will include a concise section on the contribution of the OP to the implementation of the National Reform Programme. The following table sets out the correlation between the priorities in the BMW Regional OP and the Lisbon Agenda Guidelines.

Priority	Guideline Reference	Guideline
<b>Priority 1: Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy</b>	Guideline 7	Increase and improve investment in research and development, in particular in the private sector, with a view to establishing a European area of knowledge
	Guideline 8	Facilitate all forms of innovation
	Guideline 9	Facilitate the spread and effective use of ICT and build a fully inclusive information society
	Guideline 15	Promote a more entrepreneurial culture and create a supportive environment for SMEs
<b>Priority 2: Environment and Risk Prevention</b>	Guideline 11	Encourage the sustainable use of resources and strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth
<b>Priority 3: Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks</b>	Guideline 16	Expand, improve and link up European infrastructure, and complete priority cross border projects
<b>Priority 4: Technical Assistance</b>	n/a	n/a

Based on the cumulative breakdown of allocations presented in section 2.1.6, above, it is possible to provide an indication of the achievement of the earmarking targets to date. This is presented in the following table:

Priority	Categorisation Code	Reported Expenditure	Lisbon earmarking
Priority 1	01	1.088332	Yes
	02	0.486969	Yes
	08	15.655173	Yes
	10	8.707370	Yes
Priority 2	43	3.204	Yes
Priority 3	51	5.63	No
	16	8.477	Yes
	22	18.299855	No
	54	0.509	No
	61	0.097	No
Priority 4	85	<b><u>0.821855</u></b>	No
<b>Total</b>		62,976,053.63	<b>59.8%</b>

### **2.1.11 Promotion of Equal Opportunities and application of the Horizontal Principles**

In accordance with Article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 laying down the general provisions on the ERDF, the Operational Programme sets out information on the steps taken to ensure equality between men and women, the integration of a gender perspective and the prevention of discrimination on the basis of gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the various stages of implementing the Funds and, in particular, in the access to them.

The objectives of the Operational Programme will also be pursued within the framework of sustainable development and the promotion of the goal of protecting and improving the environment in accordance with Article 17 of the above regulation. In addition, the OP incorporates mechanisms to promote social inclusion during implementation.

Meetings were held with the specialist Horizontal Units in June and July 2007 to preview the treatment of the following horizontal principles:

- Environment – Environment Policy Unit, Department of the Environment
- Social Inclusion – Office of Social Inclusion and Combat Poverty Agency
- Gender Equality – Gender Equality Unit, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- Broad Equality – Equality Authority

It was agreed that while all operations co-financed had to respect national and EU rules and guidelines in respect of all horizontal issues, the principle of prioritization which was established following the mid-term evaluation of the NDP/CSF in 2004, would apply whereby all themes/sub-themes would be prioritized for at least one and not more than two of the principles which would be most relevant.

Each of the horizontal principle units provided specific text which was incorporated into the guidance issued in respect of the Implementation Plans for each relevant theme/sub-theme. In addition, the Managing Authority prepared a generic guidance document on the treatment of horizontal principles which was issued to all Intermediary Bodies. A condition will be included in the administrative agreements requiring Intermediate Bodies to report annually on the horizontal principles in an agreed format.

The assessment of the first drafts of the Implementation Plans that was undertaken at the end of 2007 and in early 2008 included an assessment of the text provided in respect of the horizontal principles. A general assessment of these plans indicated that there were significant shortcomings with regard to the incorporation of the horizontal principles. Revised Implementation Plans received were forwarded to the relevant horizontal units for their observations in advance of the April 2008 Monitoring Committee meeting.

A further meeting took place with the four horizontal units in June 2008 at which the reporting template for progress reports to the OP Monitoring Committee was agreed along with the process for assessment of these reports.

### **2.1.12 Partnership Arrangements**

In accordance with Articles 11 and 32(2) of the general regulation, the Managing Authority prepared the Operational Programme following consultation with national regional and local authorities, representatives of economic and social partners and non-governmental organisations. This built on the well-established institutional arrangements that have been put in place as part the Irish social partnership process, up to and including the current agreement *Towards 2016*, and which was successfully applied to the previous programming periods. Many of the partners are actively engaged in programme implementation as Intermediary Bodies and beneficiaries of the interventions. This partnership principle is also strongly reflected in the membership of the OP Monitoring Committee, which is set out in Annex 3 of this report and will also be reflected in the conduct of Evaluations.

## **2.2 Information about Compliance with Community Law**

As set out in the adopted Operational Programme, the BMW Regional Assembly as Managing Authority for the OP is required to ensure that operations financed by the Funds, are in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty, with instruments adopted under it and with Community policies and actions in the field of competition and with procedural and material State aid rules applicable at the point of time when the public support is granted. Section 14 of the Administrative Agreement relates to compliance with state aid rules.

The Managing Authority will also ensure that the European public procurement directives are complied with, in respect of the award of contracts for projects funded by European funds. Section 15 of the Administrative Agreement relates to compliance with public procurement

During 2008, there were no significant problems encountered related to compliance with Community law in respect of state aids or public procurement, under the Operational Programme.

## **2.3 Significant Problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

Following the approval of the Operational Programme at the end of 2007, a significant shortfall in the forecasted level of eligible public expenditure has been identified. This has arisen for a number of reasons:

- The effect of the extended overhang of the 2000-06 OP to June 2009, which has affected research and innovation expenditure
- The re-allocation of funding from roads investment, for which insufficient alternative investments have been found
- The removal of sports capital and swimming pools as eligible expenditure
- The deterioration in the public finances which has reduced and deferred the implementation of some schemes

This matter was raised with the EU Commission at a bilateral meeting in Dublin in September 2008 and further more detailed discussions took place at the Annual Review Meeting in December 2008 at which a range of options for dealing with the issue were presented by the Irish authorities. Following these meetings further discussions have taken place with several Government Departments and Agencies and some additional

eligible expenditure has been identified, but this is insufficient to meet the forecasted shortfall.

It is intended to bring proposals to the May '09 Monitoring Committee meeting on this issue

## **2.4 Changes in the context of the Operational Programme implementation**

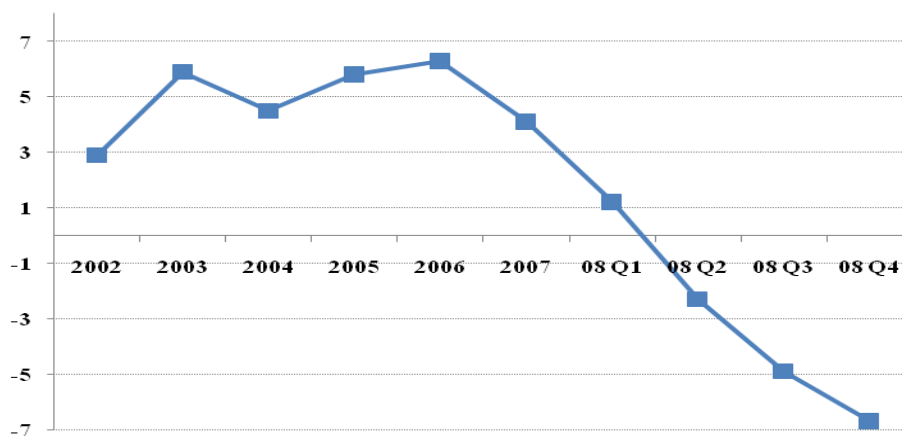
### **2.4.1 Socio-Economic Context**

#### **The National Macro-Economic Context**

Over the last decade, unprecedented economic growth has seen the level of Irish real GDP almost double in size. There have been many reasons advanced for Ireland's economic development, which in combination can help explain the exceptionally strong growth rates experienced. They included EU membership, the stimulus provided by structural and cohesion funds and access to the Single Market; Ireland's low corporation tax rate and a large and expanding multinational presence; a buoyant construction sector; a high proportion of the population of working age; increased participation in the labour market especially by females; a reversal of the trend of emigration towards net inward migration; sustained investment in education and training; co-ordinated social partnership agreements and a more stable public finance position.

Ireland however is now enduring a significant reversal of fortunes. This downturn can be traced to the emergent weakening of the domestic housing market in 2007 and the associated reduction in consumption growth towards the end of the year. These trends have continued throughout 2008 and have ultimately led to the collapse of the construction sector, one of the key sectors which drove Ireland's extensive growth. The output from construction fell nationally by 18.4% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2008 compared to the corresponding period in 2007. This has been further exacerbated by the deterioration in economic conditions internationally resulting from the severe disruption of international financial markets and the emergence of a global banking crisis which has constrained the availability of credit. The impact of which has severely dented the economic performance of Ireland's leading trading partners in the US, UK and euro area. The resultant drop in global demand has, in tandem with an appreciation of the Euro against both the UK Sterling and US Dollar has contributed to negative export growth. Declining domestic consumer confidence has also depressed private consumption. All these factors have culminated in Ireland becoming the first eurozone country to officially enter recession in September 2008, following two consecutive quarters of negative growth in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2008. This has been followed by a further fall of 6.7% in output in the final quarter of last year, compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. These trends are illustrated in the following graph.

**Annual Change (%) in Ireland's GNP 2002-2008**



Source: Central Statistics Office (2009), *Quarterly National Accounts 2008 Q4*.

The scale and speed of developments has seen a rapid deterioration in Ireland's fiscal position and a sharp rise in unemployment. Unemployment has risen to 11.4%<sup>7</sup> in April 2009 compared to 4.6% in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2008<sup>8</sup>. These conditions are likely to deepen in the short run. The Irish Central Bank's latest Quarterly Bulletin<sup>9</sup> forecasts that the Irish economy will contract by almost 7% in 2009 and it expects economic growth to shrink by 12% in total from 2008 to 2010. While the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) in their Quarterly Economic Commentary<sup>10</sup> expect unemployment to rise to 16.8% in 2010. Ireland's recovery is dependent upon an upturn in the global economy due to its status as a small open economy. Projections from international organisations such as the OECD, IMF and ECB project a further decline in the global market in the first half of 2009, followed by a relatively flat trend in 2009 and a modest recovery during 2010.

The main impact of this changed macro-economic context on the BMW Regional Operational has been the reduction, deferral or cancellation of planned investment programmes due to the deterioration in the public finances. This impact has been evident in all priorities of the programme.

### **The Border, Midlands and Western Regional Context**

The BMW Region consists of 47% of the land area, 27% of the population and 19% of the GDP of the country. With the exception of Galway City and a number of growing towns, the Region is predominantly rural and with more than double the population living in rural areas.

<sup>7</sup> Central Statistics Office (2009), *Liver Register April 2009*. This rate represents the estimated standardised unemployment rate for March 2009.

<sup>8</sup> Central Statistics Office (2008), *Quarterly Household Survey 2008 Q1*.

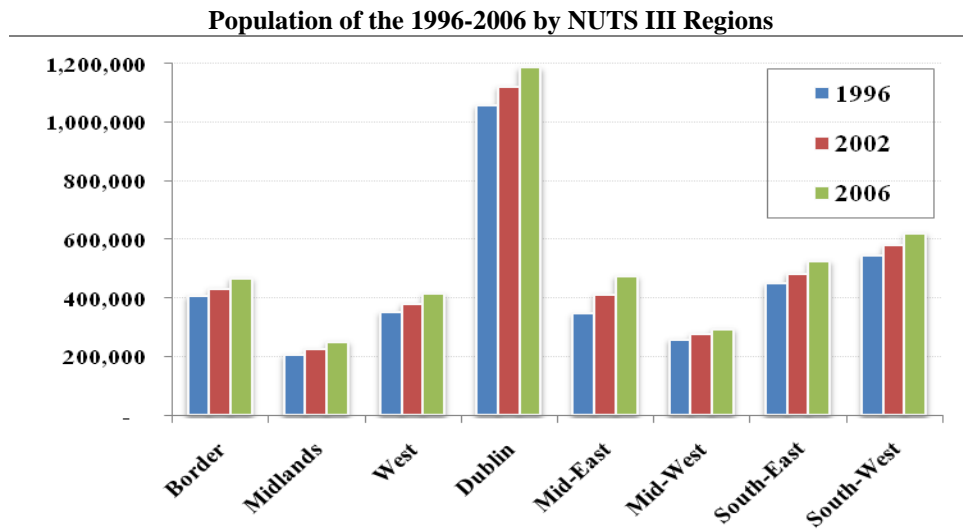
<sup>9</sup> Central Bank (2009). *Quarterly Bulletin No.2 2009 (April)*.

<sup>10</sup> ESRI 2009. *Quarterly Economic Commentary*. Spring 2009.

## Demographic Trends in the BMW Region

Overall the population of the Republic grew by 8.0% over the six year 1996-2002 intercensal period and by 8.2% over the four year 2002-2006 period. The population of the BMW Region has increased by 9.3% between 2002-2006. The findings of the 2006 census<sup>11</sup> show that the population in the BMW Region is now equal to 1.134m in a Region of 32,481 km<sup>2</sup> (34.9 persons per km<sup>2</sup>), while the population of the S&E Region is 3.105m in a Region of 36,414 km<sup>2</sup> (85.3 persons per km<sup>2</sup>). These populations correspond to 26.8% and 73.2% of the total population respectively.

The 2006 Census showed that population increased in every county in Ireland however the nature of this growth has not been evenly. The highest increases occurred in Laois, Cavan and Leitrim and the lowest increases in Sligo, Mayo and Monaghan. In relation to sustainable settlement patterns, the outcomes of the 2006 census as well as indicating positive population trends in many previously under-developing counties, also indicate that urban sprawl continues to be a feature of new settlement patterns. This is demonstrated by the changes in the population of the Mid-East Region which grew by 18.8% between 1996-2002 and by 18.1% to 2006. The following bar chart shows the population levels for the NUTS III regions over the three censi.



Source: Central Statistics Office, Census of Population 2006

## Regional GVA Trends

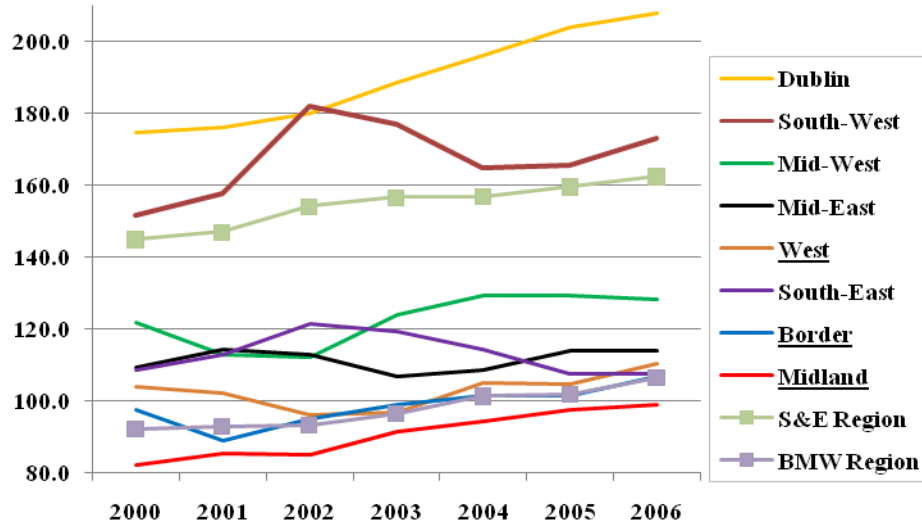
Over the period 2000 to 2006, the output from the Region grew by 15.2% compared to 12.1% for the S&E Region, it is important to note however that the BMW Region grew for a much lower base. The BMW Region contributed 18.9% of total national GVA in 2000 this figure has fluctuated within one percentage point over the period under consideration and stood at 19.3% in latest figures released from the CSO<sup>12</sup>. What is clear from the figures below is that Ireland's economy during 2000-2006 has been largely driven by the Dublin and South-West Region while the remaining regions have struggled

<sup>11</sup> Central Statistics Office (2006). Census 2006.

<sup>12</sup> Central Statistics Office (2009). County Incomes and Regional GDP 2009.

to make any significant gains outside their historical share of national output. In fact the BMW Region's economy continues to demonstrate low levels of 'value-added' activity and this is borne out by the fact the Region contributed just 19.3% of national output despite employing 26% of Ireland's workers.

**GVA per Person at Basic Prices 2000-2006 by NUTS II & III Regions: (EU27=100)**

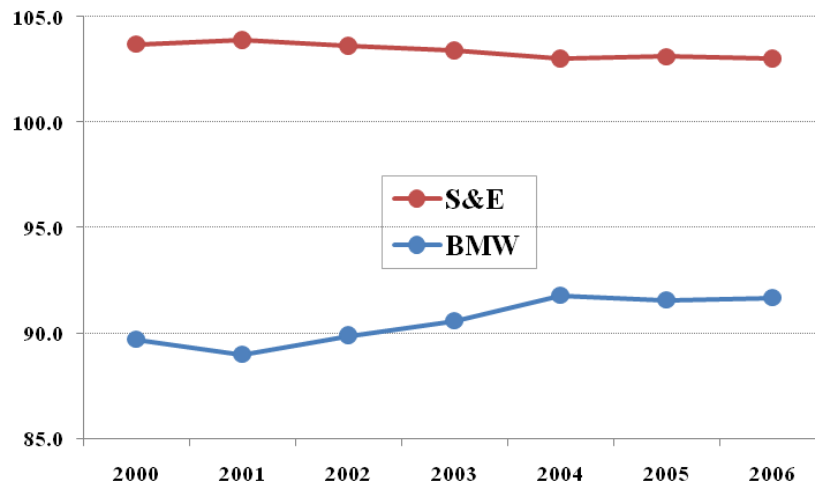


Source: Central Statistics Office (2009), County Incomes and Regional GDP 2006

### Regional Income Trends

There has been a slight convergence in regional incomes at NUTS II level. Incomes (as measured by disposable income per person) rose by 51.4% between 2000 and 2006 in the BMW Region, while the S&E Region experienced a 47.0% rise in disposable income over the same period. Average disposable income per person in the BMW Region in 2006 was €18,965, compared with €21,304 in the S&E Region. These figures mask wide variation within both regions. For example the Dublin Region averaged 12.3% above the national average in 2006, while incomes in the Midland Region were 9.4% below the average. These figures are further illustrated in the following figure.

**Disposable Income by NUTS II Region 2000-2006 (State=100)**

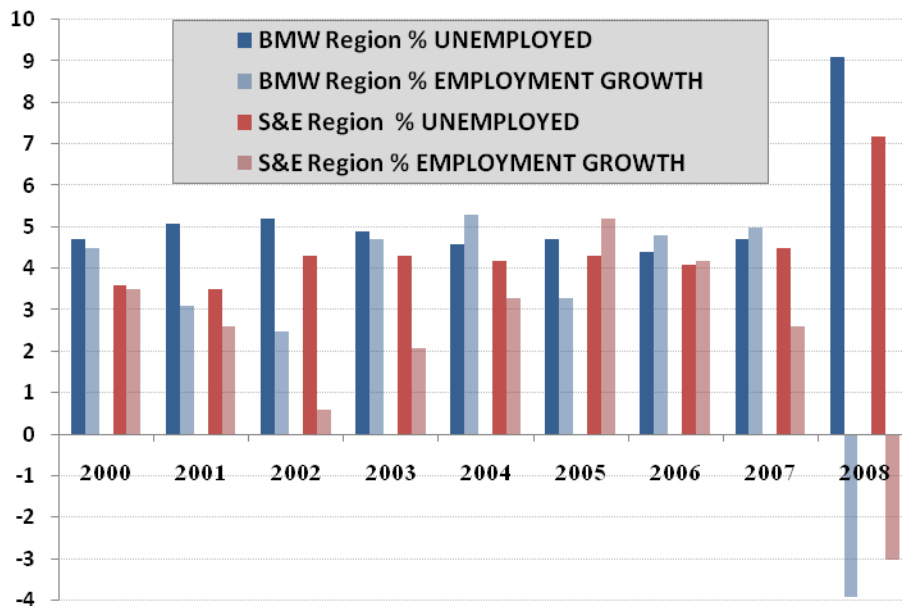


Source: Central Statistics Office (2008), County Incomes and Regional GDP 2006

### Regional Labour Market Trends

Employment dropped by 6.5% in 2008 in the BMW Region and by 3.2% in the S&E Region. The rates of unemployment in the BMW Region have been consistently higher than the S&E Region and this remains the case. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008, unemployment had reached 9.1% in the BMW Region compared to 7.2% in the S&E Region. These trends which are a consequence of the current macro-economic environment are likely to continue and we can expect these gaps to widen in the medium-term. These trends are illustrated in the following figure.

**Annual Unemployment & Employment Growth Rates by NUTS II Regions 2000-2008**



Source: Central Statistics Office, Quarterly National Household Survey 2000-2008

The labour force participation rate is currently 60.9% in the BMW Region compared with 63.5% in the S&E Region, which has a lower dependency rate.

#### **2.4.2 National Policy Developments**

##### **National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) 2007-2013**

In July 2007, the European Commission approved Ireland's National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), this sets out in broad terms how Ireland will invest €750m in EU funding over the period 2007-2013. The NSRF outlines the strategy for allocating the available funding through the selected operational programmes. The objective is to provide an overarching structure for each member state that allows for the development of operational programmes and ensures consistency with Community and national policies.

The NSRF for Ireland sets out the following key priorities:

- ⇒ Promoting investment in human capital through up-skilling the workforce, increasing participation in the workforce, and activating groups outside the workforce;
- ⇒ Supporting innovation, knowledge and entrepreneurship in the regions;
- ⇒ Strengthening the competitiveness, attractiveness and connectivity of the National Spatial Strategy, through improved access to quality infrastructure and promoting environmental and sustainable development.

These will be implemented through three operational programmes:

1. Border, Midland and Western Region Operational Programme (ERDF);
2. Southern and Eastern Region Operational Programme (ERDF); and
3. European Social Fund (Employment and Human Resources) Employment and Human Resources Operational Programme.

##### **National Development Plan 2007-13 (2000-2006)**

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2007-2013, launched in Dublin Castle on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 is a high level strategic document which sets out within a sustainable economic and budgetary framework indicative seven year investment allocations for the various sectoral areas, totalling almost €184bn.

The NDP 2007-2013 sets out the key high level objectives of investment for Ireland in the period 2007-2013 as follows:

- Promotion of sustainable economic and budgetary stability;
- Promotion of national competitiveness;
- Fostering better balance in regional development with a particular focus on assisting all regions to deliver to their maximum potential;
- Delivery of economic and social infrastructure in an efficient Value for Money Way which improves the quality of life of our citizens;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Promotion of social inclusion; and
- Development of strong cross-border and all island economic and sectoral co-operation

The 2007-2013 NDP will focus on five investment priorities as follows:

	<b>€bn Investment (Current Prices)</b>
Economic Infrastructure	54.7
Enterprise, Science and Innovation	20.0
Human Capital	25.8
Social Infrastructure	33.6
Social Inclusion	49.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>183.7</b>

The National Development Plan with an emphasis on improving quality of life in a sustainable manner will take account of the National Spatial Strategy, environmental sustainability, impact on Social Inclusion, the all-island dimension, value for money considerations and the requirements of the EU Lisbon process. The new NDP in particular seeks to consolidate progress made under previous programmes and address the investment now necessary to maintain national competitiveness within a sustainable economic and budgetary framework. It also sets out the resourcing commitments necessary to achieve policy developments agreed under the Towards 2016 agreement. The NDP sets out a framework for the promotion of regional development with a particular focus on investment in the NSS-designated Gateways.

Owing to the prevailing weakened economic conditions and the impact on the Exchequer the Government has set about prioritising investments under the NDP and this will ultimately impact on the number of projects that will be completed.

### **Rural Development National Strategic Plan and Programme 2007-2013**

In July 2007, the EU Rural Development Committee approved Ireland's Rural Development Programme for the period 2007-2013. The rural development strategy and programme was developed in line with the EU's rural development framework and through consultation with relevant stakeholders by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Under the programme Ireland will receive €2.33bn from the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) which with national co-financing will bring the total budget to €5.78bn. The measures in the Programme address three priorities - competitiveness, the environment and the wider rural economy. The main agri-food measures are REPS 4 / Natura (€2.98bn), Disadvantaged Areas (€1.8bn), Early Retirement (€418m), Installation Aid (€63m) and Farm Investment (€85m). Overall these Schemes account for 93% of the Programmes total public budget. It also provides increased support for restructuring through improved rates under the early retirement and installation aid schemes. Support will also be provided in the areas of capital investment, training and advice. There will be a 17% increase in REPS payments and payments under the Disadvantaged Areas scheme will increase by 8%.

Over €425m will be provided to support improvements to the quality of life in rural areas and the diversification and development of the rural economy. This represents a trebling for such activities over the next seven years. Of the total, €234m will come from the European Union and the remainder from the Exchequer. The Programme will be

delivered by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs through a network of Local Action Groups as was the case for the existing LEADER+ programme. The Programme will play a key and vital role in ensuring that the aims of the Government in relation to rural development are rolled out and achieved over the next seven years.

### **National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016**

The Irish Government launched the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 in February 2007. The Plan identifies a number of high level strategic goals in priority areas in order to achieve the overall objective of reducing consistent poverty. The targeted actions and interventions are designed to mobilise resources to address long-standing and serious social deficits. They focus on:

- ensuring children reach their true potential;
- supporting working age people and people with disabilities, through activation measures and the provision of services to increase employment and participation;
- providing the type of supports that enable older people to maintain a comfortable and high quality standard of living;
- building viable and sustainable communities, improving the lives of people living in disadvantaged areas and building social capital.

In view of the very substantial progress achieved in enhancing income support over recent years, these goals place a renewed emphasis on services, activation measures and supporting quality employment. The plan recognises the continuing challenges faced by those in work but on low incomes, as well as the vulnerability of those in households without any employment.

The overall poverty goal is:

- To reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty to between 2% and 4% by 2012, with the aim of eliminating consistent poverty by 2016, under the revised definition.

The high level goals, as set out in the attached overview, are aimed at:

- The provision of targeted pre-school education;
- Reducing literacy difficulties and tackling early school leaving;
- Maintaining the combined value of child income support measures at 33%-35% of the minimum adult social welfare payment rate;
- Introducing an active case management approach to support those on long-term social welfare into education, training and employment, with an overall aim of reducing by 20% the number of those whose total income is derived from long-term social welfare;
- Maintaining the relative value of the lowest social welfare rate;
- Continuing to increase investment in community care services for older people;
- Maintaining, and if possible enhancing, the value of the State Pension;
- Increasing the employment and participation of people with disabilities;
- Delivering increased housing output to meet the accommodation needs of some 60,000 new households, the homeless, Travellers, older people and people with disabilities;

- Developing 500 primary care teams to improve access to services in the community, with particular emphasis on meeting the needs of holders of medical cards;
- Developing a strategy aimed at achieving the integration of newcomers in Irish society.

In addition to the high level goals, there are some 154 targeted actions and interventions set out in the Plan designed to ensure that a decisive impact is made on poverty.

### **National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020**

The publication of the **National Spatial Strategy** in November 2002 established a 20-year framework for regional development in Ireland. It identified five Gateways and four Hubs in the BMW Region which would act as the economic drivers for the Region. One mechanism to facilitate the implementation of this strategy was through the **Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGS)** process. The RPGS were initially adopted by the Regional Authorities in 2004 for each of the NUTS III regions and outline how development will take place over timeframe of the NSS. The areas, which they cover, include managing population growth, regional identity, infrastructure, social facilities, sustainability of rural areas, the environment, economic development and cultural amenities. The Regional Authorities are currently engaged in a review of the RPGs and the preparation of new RPGs for the period 2010-2022, to be completed by 2010. In parallel to this the **2009 Planning Amendment Bill** will seek to strengthen links between local and regional planning.

### **2.4.3 Relevant Policy Developments at Priority Level**

#### **Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy**

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources are currently examining tenders that they have received for the roll-out of the **National Broadband Scheme (NBS)**. The rollout of services under the NBS will aim to deliver 100% coverage in Ireland. It is envisaged that an announcement will be made early in 2009.

Ireland recorded the fourth highest growth in terms of new broadband fixed lines per 100 population in the EU in the period January 2007 to January 2008, however significant differences persist in terms of broadband availability between urban and rural areas across Ireland. The European Commission's **Progress Report on the Single European Communications Market 2007** found that the DSL coverage in terms of population in rural areas is 64% compared to the DSL national average of 86%.

In July 2007, Chambers Ireland in partnership with the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) published the findings of their **eBusiness Survey 2007**. The survey analyses the usage and attitudes of Irish business to telecommunications, internet services and ebusiness applications. The survey found that business in the BMW Region were less likely to be connected to the internet and had lower levels of access to broadband than the Southern and Eastern Region<sup>13</sup>.

In July 2008, the tender was agreed and issued for the completion of the **Kelvin Project**. This project is a crossborder initiative between the Department of Communications,

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<sup>13</sup> Regional level data provided by Chambers Ireland upon request.

Energy and Natural Resources and the Northern Ireland Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and is co-financed under INTTREG. This €32m project budget provides for the installation of a new submarine cable and that will connect to the existing northern transatlantic submarine cable network by installing a branching unit which will link Northern Ireland to the US and Canada and another which will link Northern Ireland to the UK. This new link will establish the Border Region as one of the most globally connected regions in the world. It is envisaged that the new submarine cable and the associated terrestrial cable network will be complete and operational by no later than November 2009 and access to the network should come into effect in April 2010 or earlier.

In April 2007, Forfás published **Promoting Enterprise-Higher Education Relationships** which identified key areas which need to be addressed to ensure Ireland remains at the forefront of international trends in research and innovation. It examined the current relationship that exists between higher education institutions and identified potential for further exploitation of this relationship. It found that while there had been some success to date, higher education-enterprise collaboration operates at a very low level in Ireland and that the structures that are in place to encourage and support the process have failed to achieve significant results.

This is further developed in their June 2007 publication, **The Role of Institutes of Technology in Enterprise Development** which is of particular relevance to the BMW Region as there are five institutes of technology in the sub-region, four of which are the main higher education providers in their respective regions. The regional context of each institution which determines the strategic focus of each institution was found to be the key factor in determining its role in enterprise development. This report identified further potential for the development agencies to enhance strategic relationships with the institutes. This could assist institutes in their planning for emerging opportunities to meet enterprise education, training, research or development requirements. The further development of the role of institutes of technology in the BMW Region could lead to a real impact on the economic potential of the Region and facilitate the delivery of high value-added industries to the Region.

The Forfás report published in October 2007, **Towards Developing an Entrepreneurship Policy of Ireland** sets out a blueprint to drive entrepreneurship in Ireland. Following on from the Small Business Forum recommendation that the Government should formally adopt a national entrepreneurship policy, Forfás were tasked with drawing up an entrepreneurship policy statement. The intention is to develop a blueprint to drive entrepreneurship in a similar manner to which characterised the drive to attract foreign direct investment to Ireland. This report focuses on developing entrepreneurial activity in Ireland by building on Ireland's strengths and providing for a mechanism to reduce barriers to entrepreneurship on an ongoing basis. It identifies key areas for development relating to culture, education and entrepreneurship amongst women and immigrants. A vision for an entrepreneurial society is established and measures to further improve the environment for entrepreneurship are outlined. The report sets out an approach to implement the development of an entrepreneurship for

Ireland, the finalisation of this policy will have an impact on the regions as it attempts to foster a culture of entrepreneurship throughout Ireland.

In August 2007 funding was awarded under Cycle 4 (2007-2011) of the **Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL)** this represented an investment of €230m in research infrastructures and research programmes for third level institutions in Ireland. NUI Galway (NUIG) was the only third level institution in BMW Region to benefit from Cycle 4 allocations. This maintained the pattern established by the first three cycles of PRTL where by institutions in the BMW Region received just 12% of the €605m investment, with NUIG receiving 93% of the total investment in the region. Of the BMW Region's five Institutes of Technology - Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT), Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT), Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT), Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) and the Institute of Technology Sligo (IT Sligo) - only AIT and IT Sligo benefited from direct funding under this programme. Cycle 5 which will be a 5-year programme from 2010-2014 will be launched in 2009 with a total fund of €300m, with approximately €200m for capital development and €100m for recurrent costs.

### **Environment and Risk Prevention**

Under the Kyoto Protocol Ireland agreed to a target of limiting its greenhouse gas emissions to 13% above 1990 levels by the first commitment period 2008-2012 as part of its contribution to the overall EU target. Ireland ratified the Kyoto Protocol on the 31 May 2002, along with the EU and all other Member States, and is internationally legally bound to meet the challenging greenhouse gas emissions reduction target. In March 2007 the Government launched **Ireland's National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2013** which sets out the strategy to meet Ireland's Kyoto commitments by providing a framework for action to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions

Some of the key targets outlined in the strategy include:

- 15% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources from 2010 and 33% by 2020;
- Biomass to contribute up to 30% of energy inputs from at peat stations by 2015; and
- 33% energy savings across the public sector by 2020.

In January 2008, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and the Northern Ireland Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment published the **All Island Grid Study**. This study sought views on the development of a joint strategy for the provision of renewable energy sourced electricity within the All-island Energy Market leading up to 2020. With the objective that consumers, North and South, could continue to benefit from access to sustainable energy supplies provided at a competitive cost. It also sought to examine how the island might best develop the SEM<sup>14</sup> electricity infrastructure to allow the maximum penetration of renewable energy.

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<sup>14</sup> On November 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, the all-island SEM went live. The SEM is a gross mandatory pool through which almost all electricity generated or supplied in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland must be traded, and replaced bilateral arrangements in each of these jurisdictions. The main change under the SEM is that the wholesale price of electricity will now be market-driven rather than determined administratively as was the case previously. The SEM is the most significant component to have been delivered to date under the

This report is one of the most advanced and comprehensive of its kind in the world, the study examined:

- a range of generation portfolios for Ireland,
- the ability of our power system to handle various amounts of electricity from renewable sources,
- the investment levels required, and
- the climate change and security of supply benefits that would accrue.

The Environmental Protection Agency report, **The Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland** found that the BMW Region's overall level of compliance was 97.0% in 2007 based on a point sampling of drinking water. This represents an improvement on the 2006 figure which found that the Region was 96.2% compliant.

### **Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks**

The **Transport 21** Investment Package was announced in May 2006. From 2006 to 2015, capital investment in the Irish transport system will take place under the framework of Transport 21. Transport 21 is designed to resolve the problems of backlogs in previous capital investments, while at the same time meeting expected growth in transport demand.

The aims of Transport 21 are to:

- Increase accessibility;
- Ensure sustainability;
- Expand capacity;
- Increase use; and
- Enhance quality.

A total national investment package of €34.4bn has been allotted over the 10 year period, providing the necessary funding to:

- Complete the development of the inter-urban motorway network by 2010;
- Bring about improvements in the rest of the national road network, focusing particularly on the balanced regional development objectives of the National Spatial Strategy and on the needs identified in the National Roads Needs Study;
- Complete the safety programme on the national rail network;
- Bring about a radical improvement in the level and quality of rail services, based on the policy framework provided by the Strategic Rail Review;
- Improve regional and rural public transport services;
- Fund essential capital works at the six existing regional airports;
- Address accessibility for people with mobility, sensory and cognitive impairments by implementing the commitments in The Department of Transport's Sectoral Plan under the Disability Act 2005.
- Deliver a sustainable transport system that balances social, economic and environmental considerations.

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All-island Energy Market Development Framework that was agreed between the Governments and energy regulators of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in November 2004.

Transport 21 proposes improvements in commuter services including the Athenry-Galway service due by 2009, upgrading the current inter-city routes and the re-opening the Western Rail Corridor (WRC). The WRC project links the three designated urban Gateways of Sligo, Galway and Limerick, via the designated Hubs of Tuam and Ennis. Its opening will facilitate ease of access to regional airports at Sligo and Galway and the International airports at Shannon and Knock and is a key project for the Region.

The government announced in the NDP 2007-2013 the provision of a **Gateway Innovation Fund** (GIF) as a strategic target intervention to stimulate the growth and development of the 9 Gateway cities and towns identified under the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020. A fund of €300m was earmarked for the GIF over three years 2008-2010 under the management of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Due to the adverse economic conditions and the resultant impact on exchequer finances the roll-out of the GIF has been deferred in the medium term.

The **Gateway Development Index** (GDI) which has been commissioned in 2008 by the BMW and S&E Regional Assemblies' will examine for the first time the economic and social progress of the 9 Gateways as identified under the NSS. These Gateways are identified as key catalysts to stimulate regional growth and their development is central to realisation of the Regions' potential. The Index will examine a suite of indicators and the findings of this study will be published in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009. This GDI will be repeated again in 2010 and 2013 in line with the mid-term review of the Regional Operational Programmes and the National Development Plan, and the conclusion of these programmes.

#### **2.4.4 Contribution to the Lisbon Agenda and National Reform Programme**

The conclusions reached at the European Council meeting held in Lisbon in 2000 included a commitment to make the European Union the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world, with more and better jobs and greater social inclusion, by 2010. Following a review of the achievement of this goal in 2004, the re-launched Lisbon Agenda placed particular emphasis on growth and jobs. The National Strategic Reference Framework and this Operational Programme reflect the priorities set out in the Irish Government's National Reform Programme (NRP) which was submitted to the EU in October 2005. This brought together a wide range of policies and initiatives, the implementation of which were aimed at sustaining Ireland's strong economic performance and employment growth. The NRP identifies three broad policy areas: macro-economic policy, micro-economic policy and employment policy. In addressing the Lisbon goals, the National Reform Programme states that global markets and global competition characterise the environment within which the Irish economy must prosper and compete as part of the EU of 27 Member States.

Within the NRP, the need to maintain competitiveness and improve productivity is viewed as paramount. A Progress Report on the NRP submitted in October 2006 re-confirmed the Irish Government's commitment, working with the Social Partners, to the pursuit of improved quality of life and living standards for all and its recognition of the interdependence of social equity and sustainable development with economic growth and improved employment opportunities.

The implementation of the development strategy, priority objectives and selected interventions as outlined in this OP will contribute to Ireland meeting its commitments as set out in the National

Reform Programme and in accordance with Article 29(1) of the General Regulation, the Annual Report on the implementation of the National Reform Programme will include a concise section on the contribution of the OP to the implementation of the National Reform Programme. The following table sets out the correlation between the priorities in the BMW Regional OP and the Lisbon Agenda Guidelines.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Guideline Reference</b>	<b>Guideline</b>
<b>Priority 1: Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy</b>	Guideline 7	Increase and improve investment in research and development, in particular in the private sector, with a view to establishing a European area of knowledge
	Guideline 8	Facilitate all forms of innovation
	Guideline 9	Facilitate the spread and effective use of ICT and build a fully inclusive information society
	Guideline 15	Promote a more entrepreneurial culture and create a supportive environment for SMEs
<b>Priority 2: Environment and Risk Prevention</b>	Guideline 11	Encourage the sustainable use of resources and strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth
<b>Priority 3: Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks</b>	Guideline 16	Expand, improve and link up European infrastructure, and complete priority cross border projects
<b>Priority 4: Technical Assistance</b>	n/a	n/a

## **2.5 Substantial modifications pursuant to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) 1083/2006**

There were no substantial modifications to the programme in 2008. Some modifications will be necessary in 2009 arising from the anticipated shortfall in forecasted eligible expenditure.

## **2.6 Complementarity with Other Instruments**

The Operational Programme sets out arrangements on complementarity with other current programmes. As Managing Authority for the Operational Programme, the BMW Regional Assembly is responsible for ensuring that that arrangements are put in place with other

Programme Managers to ensure that assistance from the Funds is consistent with the activities, policies and priorities of the Community and complementary with other financial instruments of the Community. The objective is to ensure that no duplication exists which might reduce the impact of the programme. These other programmes include:

- ESF Human capital Investment Programme
- National Rural Development Programme
- European Fisheries Fund
- EU Research Framework Programmes
- PEACE III Programme
- Territorial Co-operation (Objective 3) Programmes
- National Development Plan

In order to ensure co-ordination across OPs, the Managing Authority is participating fully on the Committee on Co-ordination of EU funds established and chaired by the Department of Finance, as set out in the NSRF established in accordance with Article 27 (5 )(b) of Council Regulation (EC) 1085/2006. The membership of the Committee included the Dept of Finance, Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Dept of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Dept. of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Regional Assemblies and Special EU Programmes Body. The first meeting was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007. A sub group of the Committee has convened to prepare the Annual Summary to the EU Commission.

## **2.7 Monitoring and Data Collection Arrangements**

### **Meetings of the Monitoring Committee**

The second meeting of the Operational Programme Monitoring Committee took place on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Assembly offices, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon.

### **Data Collection**

For each theme, output and result indicators have been specified and agreed. Data will be provided in the annual progress reports for each theme to monitor progress against the agreed indicator targets. A standard reporting template was approved at the November 2007 Monitoring Committee meeting.

In addition the IT system will capture project-level data as set out in Annex III of the Implementation Regulation. The requirement to publish a beneficiary list will also be captured by the IT system.

### 3 Implementation by Priority

#### 3.1 Priority 1: Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy

##### **ARE Applied Research Enhancement**

Up to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, funding was awarded to seven Applied Research Centres in Athlone (1), Dundalk (1), Galway (2), Letterkenny (2) and Sligo (1) and five Centres employed 27 personnel; 21 male and 6 female. Two Centres are in the process of recruiting staff. The five established Centres had completed 14 Industrially Focussed projects by the end of December 2008. Industrially focussed projects are projects that involve collaboration with an industrial partner for a period of at least 10 days duration.

There are an additional 819 work spaces being provided through the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions, Cycle 4, with 483 replacement places also being provided - bringing the total number to 1,302.

The Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme (RFES) was launched following the recommendations of a HEA/Forfás Review of Research Infrastructure. Funding was awarded following a competitive process and was spread over 31 projects in 20 institutions. The total scheme amounted to €58m with 20,098m<sup>2</sup> of space targeted for refurbishment. Institutions in the BMW regions accounted for €10.6m of the funding and 3,891m<sup>2</sup> of refurbished space.

Under the Incubation Centre Development sub theme; Letterkenny Institute of Technology construction is well underway and the centre is due to open in September 2009.

##### **Marine Research**

Of the total projected expenditure on the Marine Research Sub-Theme of €8m over its lifetime, €3.6m was committed in 2007. A further €1.63m was committed in 2008.

##### **Micro-Enterprise – Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

The Micro-Enterprise Innovation and Entrepreneurship sub theme reports that 3049 micro-enterprises have been assisted and 17,175 jobs created in those enterprises.

##### **Broadband Provision and Demand Stimulation**

The National Broadband Scheme is running on schedule with 15/21 month roll-out.

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Output</b>								
No. of Regional Incubation Centres	Achievement	5	5					
	Target							9
	Baseline	5	5					
No. of collaborative research projects approved	Achievement	1	1					
	Target							4
	Baseline	0	0					0
No. of training days provided to microenterprises	Achievement	22,634 (male)	72,634					
		10,603 (female)						

	Target							119,572
	Baseline	35,572	35,572	35,572	35,572	35,572	35,572	35,572
No. of microenterprises supported	Achievement	2,877	3,049					
	Target			2,556				5,011
	Baseline	2,511	2,511	2,511	2,511	2,511	2,511	2,511
No. of initiatives to enable broadband infrastructure and service provision	Achievement		2					
	Target							3
	Baseline	0	0					0
<b>Result</b>								
Total employed in Incubation Centres	Achievement		184					
	Target							218
	Baseline	168	168	168	168	168	168	168
No. of researchers engaged in the approved projects	Achievement	2	20					
	Target							100
	Baseline	0	0					0
No. of enterprises in incubation Centres	Achievement		58					
	Target							68
	Baseline	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
No. of recipients of training	Achievement	12,059 (male) 14,239 (female)	39,620					
	Target			41,550				61,530
	Baseline	26,550	26,550	26,550	26,550	26,550	26,550	26,550
No. of jobs created in assisted microenterprises	Achievement	10,460 (male) 4,324 (female)	17,175.5					
	Target			18,484				20,884
	Baseline	16,684	16,684	16,684	16,684	16,684	16,684	16,684
Additional business with 512 Kbps downstream and 128 Kbps upstream broadband available	Achievement		0					
	Target							8,125
	Baseline		0					

\* Data on outstanding indicators will be provided when implementation has commenced and progress has been reported on the relevant individual themes

## 3.2 Priority 2 Environment and Risk Prevention

### Rural Water Source Protection

#### Village Sewerage Systems

It is expected that liaison with local authorities on the identification and selection of schemes for inclusion in these intervention will commence in 2009.

### Sustainable Energy

#### Energy for Business Programme

#### Strategic Development Zones

#### Renewable Energy R, D & D

#### CHP & Bioheat (Reheat) Programme

1. Progress reported under the Sustainable energy theme in 2008 includes; engagement covered approx. 550 firms directly under the Energy in Business Programme sub theme.
2. Sustainable Energy Zones (SEZs) sub theme reports, one zone in progress in Dundalk involving public sector, businesses and consumer population.
3. Renewable Energy R, D & D Programme sub theme, there was 1002MW of wind generation connected to the grid at the end of 2008 and it provided 2298GWh or 12% of national electricity demand.
4. CHP & ReHeat (Bioheat) Programme sub theme, total installed electricity capacity of 8,611KWh total Renewable Heat installed capacity was 37 MW, solar thermal: total installed area of 1,300 m<sup>2</sup>, heat pumps: total installed capacity of 2.3 MW.
5. Ocean Energy Development Unit sub theme, the upgrade program for the National Ocean Test Facility (NOTF) at HMRC-UCC was initiated.

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Output								
No. of rural water source protection projects supported	Achievement	0	0					
	Target							12
	Baseline	0	0					0
No. of STEDS projects supported	Achievement	0	0					
	Target							12
	Baseline	0	0					0
No. of energy schemes introduced	Achievement		3					
	Target							8
	Baseline	0	0					0
Biological	Achievement							

oxygen demand reduction in protected sources	Target							75%
	Baseline							
Population equivalent served by STEDS schemes	Achievement							
	Target							2,800
	Baseline							
No. of energy efficient buildings supported**	Achievement							
	Target							492
	Baseline	0	0					0
No. of sustainable development zones**	Achievement		1					
	Target							4
	Baseline	0	0					0

\* Data on outstanding indicators will be provided when implementation has commenced and progress has been reported on the relevant individual themes

\*\* A replacement for these indicators is being considered

### 3.3 Priority 3 Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks

#### Urban Regeneration

##### Urban Renewal

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is currently finalising proposals for the Urban Regeneration Scheme 2007 – 2013.

##### Built Heritage

Allocations are not yet cleared and no projects have been approved as of yet. The overall Capital Built Heritage allocation is €12.5m.

#### Natural Heritage Development – National Parks Visitor Centres

##### Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre

Building completed, fit-out and interpretation element being installed at present and centre is scheduled to open for the 2009 Summer season subject to new staff being sanctioned.

##### Clara Bog Visitor Centre

Building to be completed this summer, fit-out and interpretation to be installed and centre to be opened for 2010 visitor season subject to staff being sanctioned.

##### Provision of Recycling Facilities

While the new grants scheme was launched in July 2008, take-up to date has been disappointing. On a national basis only 5 projects, comprising grant-aid of €1.9m have been received to date and there have been no applications for assistance in gateways or hubs in the BMW region that would therefore qualify for assistance under this Measure.

### Water Conservation

There has been no expenditure on the projects to date. No significant expenditure is anticipated in 2009. Bulk of expenditure arising will be in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

### RAPID Physical Environment

To date, no expenditure has occurred. No expenditure is expected until 2009.

### Playgrounds in RAPID Areas

2 playgrounds have been built in the BMW region RAPID area in Cavan Town with funding from the RAPID Playgrounds sub theme.

### ACCESS (Arts Infrastructure)

To date no expenditure has occurred, as applications have not yet been accepted for the new scheme. No expenditure is expected to take place until 2009 at the earliest.

### National Secondary Roads

The N52 Tullamore Bypass will form a 14km section of the National Secondary route, this project is currently under construction under the National Secondary Roads sub theme and is due for completion in 2010.

### Public Transport

Physical work in respect of the Removal of Speed Restrictions was completed at Portarlington in February 2008. Iarnród Eireann is currently taking delivery of 183 new Railcars for use on the national network, including on the Dublin-Galway line. Services were introduced on the Dublin-Galway line, via Portarlington, by the end of 2008.

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Output								
No. of integrated growth centre strategies approved	Achievement							
	Target	0	0					10
	Baseline	0	0					0
No. of secondary linking routes improved	Achievement		0					
	Target							2
	Baseline		0					
Km of improved linking routes	Achievement		19.6(Mid Term)					
	Target		19.6(Mid Term)					14
	Baseline		0					
No. of public transport projects supported	Achievement	1						
	Target							1
	Baseline							

Time savings on improved routes (mins)	Achievement		12 (Mid Term)					
	Target		12					9.5 peak 2.7 off-peak
	Baseline							
Daily service on Dublin – Galway	Achievement		7					
	Target							10
	Baseline		7					
Daily service on Dublin – Westport	Achievement		3					
	Target							3**
	Baseline		3					

\* Data on outstanding indicators will be provided when implementation has commenced and progress has been reported on the relevant individual themes

\*\* To be increased to 5 services daily in September 2009

### 3.4 Priority 4 Technical Assistance

The total technical assistance budget for the duration of the Operational Programme is €10,897,096. To end of 2008, €680,961 has been spent including €272,384 EU Funds.

Indicators*		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Output</b>								
No. of Monitoring Committee meetings held	Achievement	1	2					
	Target	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Baseline	0	0					
No. of evaluations and studies conducted	Achievement	0	1					
	Target	0						3
	Baseline	0	0					
Verification audits and closure audits	Achievement	0	0					
	Target	0						7
	Baseline	0	0					
No. of annual publicity events	Achievement	1	2					
	Target	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Baseline	0	0					
% Achievement	Achievement		N/A					
	Target							100%

of physical and financial targets	Baseline		0					
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\* Data on outstanding indicators will be provided when implementation has commenced and progress has been reported on the relevant individual themes

### 3.5 Qualitative Analysis

Information on the financial progress of each priority is presented in section 2.1.5. Information on the physical progress of each priority measured against the approved output and result indicators is presented above.

By the end of 2008, implementation had commenced on 13 themes out of the total of twenty six in the overall Operational Programme. The expenditure reported amounts to €62.97 million which represents under 11% of the OP total. As stated previously, the main focus in 2007 and 2008 was on the finalisation and negotiation of the OP and on putting in place the necessary implementation and financial management and control arrangements.

Individual theme-level performance data is provided in Annex 1 of this report in respect of those themes where implementation had commenced by the end of 2008.

### 3.6 Demonstration of the Effects of the Promotion of Equal Opportunities

Information on the promotion of equal opportunities and the application of the horizontal principles is presented in section 2.1.11.

### 3.7 Share of priority allocations used in accordance with Article 34(2)

Complementary financing of actions that fall within the scope of assistance under the European Social Fund arises in Priority 1 in the micro-enterprise theme from the financing of training programmes which form part of the suite of business development supports provided by the County Enterprise Boards.

Although not required to be referred to in the Operational Programme, the amount of financing as a proportion of the priority total will be captured by the IT system as part of its project accounting, monitoring and financial control functions, and will be reported accordingly.

## **4 ESF Programmes: Coherence and Concentration**

This section is not applicable to the BMW Regional OP.

## **5 ERDF/CF Programmes: Major Projects**

The National Roads Authority has prepared a major project notification in accordance with Article 40 of the General Regulation in 2008, in respect of the 14km N52 Tullamore Bypass which has a contract price of €53.16 million. A formal response is awaited from the EU Commission.

## 6 Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance Priority is a stand-alone priority administered by the BMW Regional Assembly as Managing Authority. It is a priority which applies across the entire Operational Programme and consequently, is not part of the suite of themes designed to contribute **directly** to the achievement of the specific objectives of the Operational Programme. The total technical assistance budget for the duration of the Operational Programme is **€10,897,096**.

Under this priority, funding is provided to cover programme wide costs in relation to areas such as preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control of the Operational Programme together with activities to reinforce the administrative capacity for implementing the Funds.

### Cumulative Expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008

	Total Programme Spend	EU Structural Funds
Expenditure	.821355	.328542

#### Note:

The expenditure above represents expenditure incurred by the Regional Assembly and Regional Authorities and also the BMW portions of costs incurred by the ERDF Financial Control Unit and the IT Unit within the Department of Finance.

### 3. Performance Indicators

Indicator Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target (2013)	Out-turn to December 2008
OUTPUT	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings held	0	7*	2
	Number of Evaluations & Studies conducted	0	3	1
	Verification Audits & Closure Audits	0	7	0
	Number of annual publicity events	0	7	2
RESULT	% Achievement of Physical and Financial Targets	0	100%	N/A

During 2008, work took place on the delivery of the Gateway Development Index, a report to capture the impact of the investment under the Operational Programme, and in particular Priority 3, on the growth centres designated under the National Spatial Strategy, in accordance with the commitment made in section 5.4 of the OP. This project was managed by the BMW and S&E Regional Assemblies and directed by a steering committee which included representatives from

the Spatial Planning Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Following a competitive tendering process, the contract for undertaking the study was awarded to a consortium involving Fitzpatrick Associates, Trutz Hasse and Quota Search. The Index included the completion of a perception study to complement a suite of indicators that were used to develop the index. The findings of this study were published in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009. This GDI will be repeated again in 2010 and 2013 in line with the mid-term review of the Regional Operational Programmes and the National Development Plan, and the conclusion of these programmes.

## **7 Information and Publicity**

### **Implementation of the Communication Plan 2007 - 2013**

The Border Midland and Western Regional Assembly as Managing Authority for the Border Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 has contributed to the preparation of the Communication Plan for the NSRF 2007 – 2013. This plan includes a wide range of information and publicity actions to be implemented at Operational Programme level.

The Communication Plan sets out the information and publicity strategy for Ireland's National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and for the two Regional Operational Programmes (OPs). It outlines how the Managing Authorities and other bodies responsible for administering and delivering the programmes will provide information on the Operational Programmes and publicise their outcomes and achievements. This Communication Plan has been drawn up in accordance with the Commission Implementation Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006.

#### **Aims of the Communication Plan:**

The aims of this Communication Plan are to increase public awareness, transparency and visibility of the Operational Programmes and of EU Cohesion and Regional Policy at National, Regional and Operation level. It will do this by:

- Highlighting the role and contribution of Ireland's EU Structural Funds Programmes 2007-2013 and the progress achieved;
- Emphasizing the joint actions taken by the EU and Ireland and the results accomplished;
- Ensuring that assistance from the Funds is transparent by providing potential beneficiaries with clear and detailed information on conditions of eligibility and procedures for applying for funding;
- Supporting the implementation of the NSRF and the OPs by increasing the understanding of the objectives of the programmes among potential beneficiaries, the general public, implementing bodies, the social partners and other interested organisations;
- Disseminating information on Ireland's EU Structural Funds Programme 2007-2013 widely through all available communication channels;
- Ensuring compliance with the EU Regulations; and
- Ensuring that the responsibilities of beneficiaries, as specified in Article 8 of Commission Implementation Regulation (EC) 1828/2006, are understood and applied.

## **Ensuring Compliance with Information and Publicity Regulations**

Compliance with Information & Publicity Regulations is ensured through the following:

### **Information & Publicity Guidelines Prepared in 2008**

Information and Publicity Guidelines were prepared and issued by the Department of Finance in 2008 following consultation with the Managing Authorities. These guidelines will ensure that all bodies involved with European Union Structural Funds, for the funding period 2007-2013, will be in a position to comply with Article 69 of Council Regulation 1083/2006 and Articles 2-10 of Commission Implementation Regulation 1828/2006.

### **Information & Publicity requirements included in Level 1 Declaration Checklists of Structural Funds IT System**

The Management Verification checklists developed by the Managing Authority in compliance with Article 13 of Regulation (EC) 1828/2006 includes a checklist on compliance with Information and Publicity requirements as set out in *Appendix 1*.

This will ensure that EU Information and Publicity requirements are being observed.

### **Information & Publicity requirements included in the terms of the Administration Agreements concluded with each Department**

The Managing Authority has overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with the EU Information and Publicity requirements<sup>15</sup> and for ensuring that the strategy set out in the Communications Plan as approved by the Commission is implemented in full.

Detailed Information & Publicity requirements are included in the Administration Agreement with each Department as detailed in *Appendix 2*.

### **Publication of the List of Beneficiaries**

The BMW Regional Assembly has published the List of Beneficiaries as required under Article 7 (2)(d) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006, on the BMW Website <http://www.bmwassembly.ie/beneficiaries/beneficiaries.html>. This list will be updated on a regular basis.

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<sup>15</sup> Articles 60(j) and 69.2 of the General Regulation

## **Significant Events undertaken in twelve months ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008**

During the twelve months ended **31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008** a host of activities were engaged in and every opportunity was availed of to increase public awareness of NSRF and EU funding.

### **BMW Annual Conference 2008**

A major conference attended by over 100 delegates entitled “**QUALITY of LIFE: Improving the Region’s Competitive Advantage**” was held in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois on **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008**. The speakers included Mr. Nicky Brennan, President of the GAA and Ms. Eanna Ni Lamhna, President of An Taisce and Broadcaster together with representatives from DCU, Laois Co. Co., and Fitzpatrick Associates Economic Consultants. Delegates were informed of the need to focus on quality of life in order to improve the region’s competitive advantages.

This Conference was a major information activity as part of the BMW Regional Assembly’s obligation to promote the BMW Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013.

### **Minister Gormley Addresses Joint Meeting of Regional Assemblies**

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley TD, addressed a joint meeting of Ireland’s two Regional Assemblies - the Border, Midland and Western and Southern and Eastern at a special meeting in Dublin on **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 2008**.

Minister Gormley acknowledged the contribution of the two Regional Assemblies to the successful implementation of the National Development Plan 2000-2006 and said that the allocation of a central role to the Assemblies in the delivery of EU Structural Funds for the 2007-2013 period is a recognition of this contribution.

### **ECOS Conference**

The Economic & Social Policy Commission (ECOS) is one of the five Sub-Committees of the Committee of the Regions and has membership from the 27 EU Member States. Political representatives from Local and Regional Governments from across the 27 Member States of the European Union gathered in Athlone on **September 29-30, 2008** for the ECOS Conference which took place in the Sheraton Hotel.

The EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) in conjunction with the Association of Irish Regions and the BMW Regional Assembly organised the ECOS Conference on the theme of **‘Supporting our SMEs – overcoming barriers to their development’**. Discussions took place on the contribution that SMEs make to the economy and the impact of the

proposed Small Business Act for Europe which the European Commission is bringing forward to help make policies more SME friendly.

The Conference, which was the initiative of Cllr. Constance Hanniffy, President of the Economic and Social Policy Committee of the CoR, was officially opened by An Taoiseach, Mr. Brian Cowen TD and was addressed by high profile speakers including Günter Verheugen, Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry; Mr. Frank Ryan, Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Ireland and Professor Ciaran Ó Catháin, President of Athlone IT.

### **Association of Irish Regions (AIR) Annual Conference 2008**

The Association of the Region (AIR) Annual Conference was organised by the BMW Regional Assembly in association with Open Days 2008: European Week of Regions and Cities. The theme of the conference was *“Ireland’s Waters: An Untapped Resource?”* The Conference was held on **Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 2008** in the Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa Hotel, Clonakilty and attended by over 100 delegates. Speakers included Mr. Geoffrey O’Sullivan (Marine Institute), Mr. Jason Whooley (BIM), Mr. Éanna Rowe (Waterways Ireland) and Mr. David Byrne (Central Fisheries Board)

### **Visiting Delegations**

Since the establishment of the Assembly in 1999, a wealth of knowledge in dealing with EU affairs has been accumulated. Presentations are given to parliamentarians and officials from new member states and other Objective 1 regions on the role of the Assembly and the regulations governing the administration of Structural Funds. Visiting delegations **during 2008** included groups from **Czech Republic, Finland, Romania and Azerbaijan.**

### **Finnish Delegation**

A Finnish Delegation from the Regional Council of North Karelia visited the BMW Region on the **12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008.** Councillor Tom Crosby Chairman of the BMW Regional Assembly accorded an official welcome to the ten strong delegation who were on a fact finding tour of the BMW Region. The group visited Frenchpark Childcare facility and Lough Key Forest Park in Co. Roscommon as well as the Midland Innovation and Research Centre at the Athlone Institute of Technology all of which were co-financed.

### **Launch of 2007 Annual Report**

The Annual Report gives a detailed account of the Assembly’s work and activities. One thousand Annual Reports are distributed annually to all Local Authorities, Government Departments and State Agencies.

The BMW Regional Assembly's Annual Report 2007 was formally launched by Minister of State at the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Michael Finneran TD, in Ballaghaderreen on the **5<sup>th</sup> September 2008**.

### **EU Flag**

The flag of the European Union was flown in front of the BMW Regional Assembly premises for one week starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> May in accordance with Article 7 (2)(c) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006.

### **INFORM**

INFORM is a network of Communication Officers responsible for Information and Publicity for Structural and Cohesion Funds. Gerry Lavelle is the designated contact for the BMW Regional Operational Programme and attended the INFORM Network Meeting in Brussels in June 2008. A guide was prepared by the INFORM Members for their own use and also for the Beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy as set out in Article 8 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1828/2006. Mr. G. Lavelle in partnership with Barbara Piotrowska, European Commission, DG Regional Policy, contributed to the section on the "objective and spirit of the legal requirements".

### **Presentations on the Regional Programme**

28 Presentations have been made during this period on the Regional Operational Programme

## **Best Practice**

### **Gradu8 Treasure Trail**

The Graduate Treasure Trail has been designed to effectively communicate an organisation's message and information. It is focused primarily on secondary school students. To participate, students must first register online at [www.gradu8.net](http://www.gradu8.net) and answer a series of questions.

The BMW Regional Assembly participated in the scheme. On the **18<sup>th</sup> December 2008** Councillor Tom Crosby, Chairman of the BMW Regional Assembly presented a student of St Mary's Primary School, Strokestown, with an Apple iPod which she won for her participation in the Graduate online quiz. The quiz encourages students to develop an understanding of public administration, state agencies and their functions.

The Assembly listed a number of questions in relation to the work of the Assembly and EU Activities.

## Other Activities

### **Press Releases and Media Interviews**

Press Releases were issued following all significant events which occurred during this period, highlighting the support from EU Structural Funds in the BMW Region. The EU logo, as appropriate, is used on all press releases, copies of speeches etc.

### **Radio Interviews have been given during this period, as detailed hereunder**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>RADIO STATION</b>	<b>INTERVIEWEE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
27th March 2008	Shannonside Radio	Gerry Finn	Regional Affairs
1 <sup>st</sup> May 2008	Shannonside Radio	Gerry Finn	BMW Annual Conference
1 <sup>st</sup> May 2008	Midlands Radio	Gerry Finn	BMW Annual Conference
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2008	Highland Radio	Adrian O'Donoghue	Publication of CSO's 'Regional Quality of Life in Ireland' Report
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2008	Shannonside Radio	Adrian O'Donoghue	Publication of CSO's 'Regional Quality of Life in Ireland' Report
17 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	Highland Radio	Gerry Finn	BMW AGM
17 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	INN Radio-Dublin	Gerry Finn	BMW AGM
18 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	Ocean FM	Gerry Finn	BMW AGM
18 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	Shannonside Radio	Gerry Finn	BMW AGM
15 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Shannonside Radio	Cllr. Tom Crosby	BMW
13th November 2008	Midlands Radio	Gerry Finn	Finnish Delegation Visit
14th November 2008	Ocean FM	Gerry Finn	Finnish Delegation Visit

### **Public Notices/Advertisements**

Where public notices appear relating to co-financed interventions/themes supported under the ERDF which do not display the appropriate logos, or display them incorrectly, or do not give due recognition to ERDF funding. It is the policy of the BMW Regional Assembly to bring this to the attention of the relevant Department, Agency, Implementing Body or Intermediary Body, so that the error is not repeated.

### **Regional Media**

The regional and local papers are scanned on a weekly basis for articles and advertisements regarding the BMW Regional Operational Programme. Such articles are held on file for future reference.

**Progress Indicators for monitoring progress on implementation of the  
Communication Plan for BMW Operational Programme**

<b>Indicator Type</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline 2007</b>	<b>Mid-term 2010</b>	<b>Final Target</b>	<b>Outcome Dec 08</b>
Output (Key management indicator)	Number of people dealt with/accessing information (website and public information office) breakdown by Operational Programme	3,000 per month	3,000 per month	3,000 per month	3,000 per month
Output BMW	Number of annual events	0	3	7	2
Output	Number of seminars/presentations	0	45	105	49
Output	Number of public launches/events/press releases/interviews of interventions by Operational Programme	This is a monitoring indicator designed to monitor transparency of the individual measures. Targets have not been set.			61
Impact	Level of overall public awareness of the EU Structural Funds Programmes*.				
Impact	Level of awareness of the role of the BMW OP*.				
Impact	Level of awareness of individual Funds (ESF and ERDF)*				
Impact	Local press coverage by operational programme/priority.	This is a monitoring indicator designed to monitor transparency of the individual measures. Targets have not been set.			51

\* A public awareness survey will be commissioned. The survey will provide figures for public awareness and enable targets to be set.

## Appendix 1

### Publicity Checklist

Priority/measure: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_ Date visited: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ (Sign)

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ (Sign)

*Article 2 – 10 Commission Regulation (EC) no. 1828/2006 and Section 18 of the Administrative Agreement sets down the European Commission requirement on information and publicity..*

The EU Flag and the Europeans Union’s participation should feature on the following in relation to projects in receipt of EU Structural funds:

- Billboards Plaques
- Brochures/Literature
- Application Forms
- Annual Reports
- Display/Exhibition stands
- Videos
- Advertising & Supplements
- Conference Material
- Web sites
- Offer letters, correspondence with projects/beneficiaries
- Press releases
- Posters

The arrangements for the use of logos are as follows:

- the NSRF logo is to **replace** the NDP logo for **all** EU co-financed publicity material;
- this is to be accompanied by the EU flag logo, with European Regional Development Fund underneath, to be inserted on right hand side of the NSRF logo;
- as applied under the 2000-06 programmes, the sponsoring organisation or Department logo (where used) is inserted to the right of the EU logo;
- all logos to be of equal scale; and
- in addition, where it is feasible to do so, the EU Commission’s suggested tagline “**Investing in your future**” should also be used.

### Requirements for billboards and Plaques

- Billboards and commemorative plaques are compulsory for projects where the public contribution is over €500k.
- The billboard must be of a size that is appropriate to the scale of the operation.
- The section of the billboard reserved for the EU contribution should take up to at least 25% of the total area of the billboard.
- The letters used must be at least the same size as the letters for the national announcement although the typeface may be different.
- Once a site or project is completed, billboards must remain in place for no longer than six months.

Wherever possible, the billboard must be replaced by a commemorative plaque within 6 months of completion of the project.

For further information on publicity, see the website [www.eustructuralfunds.ie](http://www.eustructuralfunds.ie)

<b>Procedure</b>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Reference Number*</i>
<b>Perform sample tests to ensure that publicity requirements for EU Structural Funds are adhered to:</b>		
Was there publicity by the body concerned aimed at targeting the applicant of assistance i.e. indicated on the Grant form that it is EU Co-Financed.		
In the case of projects exceeding €500k enquire if billboards/commemorative plaques have been erected on site, view photographic evidence or perform a physical spot check if possible.		
Obtain the publicity folder and view booklets, leaflets, advertising, tender notices etc.		
View website of the relevant body where applicable		
Enquire if information events or launches were organised and view documentation relating to these events.		
Taking into account of the documentation viewed note observations and make recommendations were applicable.		

\* All documents obtained/prepared to support the Article 13 check should be clearly referenced. The reference number of the supporting documentation should be noted in this column.

## **Appendix 2 – Extract from Administration Agreement**

*The Managing Authority will provide guidance to Intermediate Bodies on meeting their Information and Publicity requirements and on the appropriate use of logos in Guidance Seminars which are scheduled to take place annually for all Intermediate and public beneficiary bodies. It will publish information regarding this on their website and update it as necessary.*

*Intermediate bodies for individual operations and the public beneficiary bodies under their aegis are responsible for carrying out information and publicity measures for the public, relevant to the projects/operations for which they are responsible. In doing so, Intermediate Bodies will ensure that public bodies comply with the requirements of Articles 5 to 9 of the Implementation Regulation (EC) 1828/2006, and in particular Article 8 concerning the putting up of plaques, billboards and acknowledgement of funding sources.*

*Intermediate Bodies and the public bodies under their aegis shall publicise the availability of funding, the selection process, deadlines, eligibility criteria and associated regulations concerning EU funding through all appropriate channels.*

*Intermediate Bodies and the public bodies under their aegis will promote the individual projects/operations for which they are responsible using the various channels at their disposal, i.e. websites, launches, sectoral publications, business/community groups, advertisements, information leaflets and selected seminars and conferences. The National Strategic Reference Framework and EU logos must be displayed in all publicity material, application forms, letters of offer or grant approval as well as on signs for projects as required under the Commission Regulation. In addition, publicity material should include the required text references acknowledging the role of the Exchequer and EU structural funds and in the funding of the operation.*

*Intermediate Bodies and the public bodies under their aegis shall provide suitable material (press releases, photographs) for use by the Operational Programme Managing Authority and NSRF Managing Authority in Operational Programme level promotions.*

*Intermediate Bodies and the public beneficiary bodies under their aegis shall co-operate with the Managing Authority in project visits and study tours by visiting delegations that may arise over the lifetime of the Operational Programme.*

*Intermediate Bodies and the public bodies under their aegis will report to the Operational Programme Monitoring Committee, as part of the report to the Monitoring Committee, on planned and completed information actions relating to their themes/operations and on promoting the role of EU regional policy, where appropriate.*

*The procedures for spot-checking of co-financed projects/operations by the Managing Authority and Intermediate Bodies in accordance with Article 60 (b) of the Council*

*General Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, and audits carried out by the Audit Authority, shall include checks on compliance with Information and Publicity regulations.*

*Intermediate Bodies and public beneficiary bodies shall inform potential beneficiaries that the acceptance of funding is an acceptance of their inclusion in the list of beneficiaries published in accordance with point (d) of Article 7(2) of the Implementation Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006. Intermediate Bodies shall co-operate with the Managing Authority in compiling and publishing the list of beneficiaries by 30<sup>th</sup> June annually.*

## ANNEX 1 Progress Reports Received

### Priority 1 Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy

Priority	Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy
Intervention/Theme	1. ARE Applied Research Enhancement
Sub-Theme	1.1 ARE Applied Research Enhancement
	1.2 Incubation Centre Development
	1.3 EI Commercialisation Fund

#### 1.1 ARE Applied Centres of Excellence in the BMW Region

##### 1. Introduction

Enterprise Ireland recognises that the Institutes have a key role to play in developing innovative technologies in collaboration with local industry to deliver maximum industrial impact. The Applied Research Enhancement programme was created to enhance the applied research capabilities within the Institutes of Technology. The role of the Institutes of Technology in research and development is still a relatively new and evolving one although the Sector is recognised as having developed a track record in industry-relevant and applied research.

The objective of the Programme is to generate regional economic activity through the creation of a strong applied research base for the Region by bringing together researchers into the Institutes of Technology which will

- Provide a centre of excellence in applied research capable of exploiting opportunities in science, engineering, and technology to the benefit of the Regional and National economy.
- Compete successfully for National and International research funding to support a growing applied research presence in the Institute of Technology.

This programme provides an opportunity for the Institutes to develop research capability in areas of strategic importance to the individual colleges and of relevance to industry both regionally and nationally. The programme operates via an open call basis and the total funding for an ARE Centre was initially up to €1.25m for a project duration of 3- 5 years.

#### **New Initiative: Launch of Restructured ARE Call encompassing PIONEER, ARE NEW Centre and ARE+ Centre**

In 2008 Enterprise Ireland restructured the Applied Research Enhancement Programme. This restructuring will give an opportunity for smaller and more focused centres to be established around new and emerging research groups in the colleges giving them the capacity to engage in R&D with local industry. Centres will be funded in line with the Research and Innovation Strategy developed by the Institute and the current limitation of 3 centres per institute is now removed. In making this investment, Enterprise Ireland is seeking to generate regional economic activity through the creation of a strong applied research base for the Region by introducing new talent into the Institutes of Technology.

Rather than setting up a number of new centres in a one-size fits-all approach, in the longer term it was agreed to take a more strategic approach and establish industry relevant centres on a phased basis. Not all of the colleges are starting on the same level and some need more assistance than others to get their research activities up and running on a level that is sufficient to work with industry. Centres that are up and running and which have proven that they have the skills and resources to work with industry will have the opportunity to apply for further support and continue to deliver to local industry.

The Programme was expanded to three Phases:

PIONEER (Phase 1) of the new programme will provide start-up funding of €250,000 per project to new and emerging research groups in the Institutes of Technology to assist them in building up applied research capability and initiating contacts with industry.

NEW CENTRE START (Phase 2) funding will target those centres that have identified the research areas to be developed and have developed a commercialisation strategy to maximise collaboration with local and if necessary national industry. Funding of up to €2m will be awarded to each Centre over a 4 year period.

ARE+ (Phase 3) funding will provide performance linked funding for high performing Centres. A baseline funding of €800,000 for 4 years will cover operational costs. If the Centre meets agreed targets, Enterprise Ireland will grant an additional €50,000 per year towards the costs of funding an additional researcher/research engineer.

Additional measures will be implemented to increase and strengthen the interactions between the ARE centres and local industry. These activities will focus on awareness and dissemination, networking and personnel.

Proposal submission, selection and approval

The PIONEER and New Centre Start phases of the Programme operate via an Open Call. ARE+ funding is only available to existing ARE Centres and all Centres coming to the end of ARE funding will be invited to submit an application. The ARE Programme team works closely with the applicant Institute and also link into the relevant Technology Area and Regional Specialists in Enterprise Ireland. After submission, the New Centre and ARE+ applications are evaluated by a panel made up of academic and industrial experts. A site visit also takes place. The proposal is finally brought to the Industry Research & Commercialisation Committee for approval and to the Enterprise Ireland Board if appropriate.

Proposals will be selected and prioritised for consideration according to the following criteria:-

1. Achievement of balanced regional development. In the 2009 PIONEER Programme prioritisation will be given to colleges with no ARE activity provided that they meet the other criteria in terms of technology and commercial justification,
2. Achievement of a sectoral balance.
3. Mutual agreement between Enterprise Ireland and the college authority on an appropriate research agenda for the region.

## 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

- **Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:**

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Result	No of ARE Centres in place/extended	5	15	7
Impact	No of industrially focussed projects	2	12	14
Impact	No of researchers			27 (6 female)

Up to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, funding was awarded to seven Applied Research Centres in Athlone (1), Dundalk (1), Galway (2), Letterkenny (2) and Sligo (1). This activity is captured under the 2000-2006 Operational Plan which was extended to June 31<sup>st</sup> 2009. A list of the Applied Research Centres is presented in Appendix 1.

The funding awarded in December 2008 to two Centres in the BMW region will contribute significantly to the capacity of the Border region to develop a footprint in new technologies – both from the perspective of developing partnerships with industry from within and outside the region and in building up the human capital base essential to underpin new innovation based businesses and a vibrant regional economy. The proposed Centre in Dundalk, in addition to targeting business from existing pharma operations in Ireland, will be a great addition to the investment being made by IDA in its 100 acre strategic site in Dundalk geared to new biopharma investment. The proposed Centre in Letterkenny will be instrumental in building know-how and innovation from the ground up for the support and development of future high tech companies.

## 3. Expenditure

Please note that, due to the extension of the Productive Sector Operating Programme 2000-2006 in order to maximise the drawdown of funds, there will be no claims submitted until September 2009.

## 4. North-South Co-operation

The Measure focuses on investment in applied research capability in the South but all ARE Centres are open to engagement with industry and 3rd level institutions in the North regarding collaborative projects in R&D and on consultancy to industry. Because many of the ARE Centres in the BMW region are located close to the Border there is greater North-South collaborative activity in place. Another Enterprise Ireland funding Programme (coordinated with Invest NI), the Innovation Vouchers, allows for companies in the North to work with researchers in the South and vice versa. Some of this activity will be implemented through the ARE Centres.

## 5. Information and Publicity Requirements

Publicity will be driven in a number of ways:

- Adherence to the regulations concerning the use of Irish Structural Funds and EU logos is a condition of all contracts between Enterprise Ireland and the Institutes of Technology. This

involves, by way of example, the use of appropriate logos and text references in brochures, promotional material, signage, etc.

-Through a dedicated presence on the Enterprise Ireland web site (<http://www.enterpriseireland.com/ResearchInnovate/>) and individual web sites for the centres (for example [www.cappa.ie](http://www.cappa.ie))

- In the official centre launches. The centres have been officially opened by Government ministers with all the attendant media coverage that accompanies such an event.

- The launch of a case studies brochure.

- In relevant presentations and articles.

The assistance of the European Union is acknowledged at all times.

The individual centres also host a number of Industry open days to showcase their facility and skillsets to local industry.

## **6. Horizontal Issues**

Centre progress reports are completed quarterly and the number of female personnel in each Centre is tracked.

Up to December 31st 2008, five Applied Research Centres are up and running and employing 27 personnel of which 21 are male and 6 are female. Two Centres approved for funding in 2008 are in the process of recruiting staff. The gender balance is not a reflection of the Region but the discipline of the technology and the participation of females taking up Engineering. The Bio Lifesciences attract a higher female participation than Engineering & Electronic disciplines.

## **7. Compliance with Community Policies**

□ Enterprise Ireland have agreed thresholds and authorisation limits which determine the particular quotation or tendering procedure to be followed, and the authorisation required before the organisation commits to spend. This must be followed for all purchases.

□ National Procurement Guidelines and EU Directives apply not only to formal written contracts but to all purchasing activities. Enterprise Ireland seeks to ensure that its practices and procedures are open, objective and transparent. In this respect, the published National Procurement Guidelines and EU Directives must be followed.

## **8. Future prospects**

The first call for PIONEER applications will close on March 27<sup>th</sup> 2009. Enterprise Ireland recently received the first application for ARE+ funding from Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology and this proposal is currently under evaluation. It is anticipated that a further 1-2 ARE New Centre Starts will be approved in the next 12 months.

## **9. Any adjustments required**

The number of industrially focussed projects will be revised upwards.

## 10. Annexes

The ARE Centres in the BMW Region are listed below.

	<b>Centre and Objective</b>	<b>Location</b>
1.	Technologies for the Marketing of Live Shellfish (Shelltec) SHELLTEC develops methodologies & innovative technologies to optimise the delivery of high quality live shellfish (crustaceans and bivalves) products from the BMW region to European and world markets.	Galway-Mayo IoT  Manager Martin Robinson
2.	Design Innovation Centre This centre fosters & supports applied research in design management and methodologies within Irish industry and business through research in design management & methodologies and assisting companies to develop their design capabilities so as to develop new and improved products.	Sligo IoT Manager Toby Scott
3.	Centre for Applied Marine Biology (CAMBio) CAMBio is developing applied marine biotechnology research in collaboration with local industry in aquaculture, marine biodiscovery, marine food processing and waste remediation e.g. development of fish offal fertilisers	Letterkenny IoT Manager Wolfram Bruck
4.	Galway Medical Technologies Centre (GMedTech) Engages medical device development companies to identify their product test needs and enables implantable medical products to be tested in environments that closely match the in-vivo condition	Galway-Mayo IoT Manager John Kelly
5.	Seamless Use Through Network Abstraction Technologies (SUNAT) SUNAT undertakes world class research in adaptive networking technologies and create outputs that will have a direct benefit for the BMW region. Facilitates the rapid prototyping, of mobility enabled applications and assists companies that are not specialists in IT to mobilise their products, services and workforces.	Athlone IoT Manager: Anthony Cunningham
6.	The Wireless Sensor Applied Research (WiSAR) Lab is a centre of excellence in wireless sensor network (WSN) technology which aims to become the hub of research and applied solutions for technology companies in the NW region. The research themes of the centre are to develop WSN solutions in the Body Area & Built Environment Networks for industrial collaborators.	Letterkenny IT Manager to be appointed.
7.	Biopharma centre of excellence in applied research capable of exploiting opportunities in life sciences for the economic benefit of regional and national Irish based Bio-Pharmaceutical Industries.	Dundalk IT Manager to be appointed.

### **Case Study: Wireless Sensor Applied Research Centre (WiSAR), Letterkenny Institute of Technology**

The aim of the Wireless Sensor Applied Research (WiSAR) Lab is to create a centre of excellence in Wireless Sensor Network technology. WiSAR will result in the provision of a complete range of technology transfer tools for SMEs in the region and the Centre will become the hub of research and applied solutions for technology companies in the North West region. The WiSAR Centre will

- build on the success of the EpiCentre1 which has realised a potential cluster of regional companies deploying wireless technology,
- promote the technical transfer of applied research outputs into commercial solutions,
- provide design support of wireless solutions for local companies, RF field testing and RF component testing services.

The majority of technology companies in the North West region are individual-led small start-ups. Many of these companies are moving towards wireless solutions with several companies entering the fast growing biomedical devices sector. Currently there is no facility in the region that helps them to identify potential technology pathways.

ARE funding will equip Letterkenny Institute with world class expertise in the specific areas of low power wireless motes, wireless sensors network and wireless sensor networking protocols. WiSAR will provide companies with access to design support, commercialisable research and networks of companies, both in the region and nationally, The WiSAR Centre will offer these companies the potential to extend their horizons and product portfolios into collaborative research projects in emerging technologies in the Wireless Sensor area, particularly for Body Area Networks in implantable medical devices. WiSAR will assist the local companies to develop ideas and incorporate intellectual property into their growth.

It is envisaged that the WiSAR will generate Innovation Partnerships with client companies and Proof of Concept projects with partner research centres. Another metric of the success of the WiSAR Lab project will be the generation of increased economic activity within the region resulting directly from the application and commercialisation of the centre's research. The research group is expected to grown from 4 to 9 researchers.

The WiSAR Centre was officially opened by the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Coughlan TD on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2008.

## 1.2 Incubation Centre Development

### 1. Introduction

This measure is concerned with the provision of supports and business space within the environment of a third level institution that will advance the development of emerging high potential start-up companies.

The measure provides for the development of the infrastructure of the Institutes of Technology by the provision of Incubation Centres. These will facilitate the commercialisation of research and development projects carried out by their personnel. Institutes will also be encouraged to provide dedicated mentoring and support services to incubator facilities. The Centres complement other NDP supported initiatives to deliver innovation and technology to the region.

The programme aims to accelerate the development of high potential start-up companies through a combination of business support services, infrastructure and access to the expertise of the host third level institution. As such, its objectives can be seen as three-fold:

- Fostering entrepreneurship and campus company activity
- Help realise the commercial potential of Ireland's research community
- Supporting balanced regional development.

#### **New Initiative: Launch of Campus Incubation Extension of Business Incubation Facilities in the Institutes Of Technology 2008 - 2013**

In May 2008 Enterprise Ireland opened a new Call under the Campus Incubation Programme. The total expenditure is estimated to be in the region of €15-20m. The Call is open to the Institutes of Technology to expand their existing business incubation facilities where a clear case is made of unmet entrepreneurial demand coupled with host institution capability and commitment to address this.

Funding will support additional business incubation space that will aid the development of manufacturing and internationally traded services companies in the regions which demonstrate the potential to become sustainable and grow in the longer-term. In line with existing arrangements, the duration of company tenancy will be two years nine months.

Each successful applicant may receive aid up to a maximum of €2.5m, or 95% of eligible expenditure whichever is the lesser, to expand its existing campus incubator. The 2007 – 2013 Regional Operational Programmes include provisions to co-finance these facilities at a rate of 40%.

Enterprise Ireland operates a two step application process and to date six Institutes of Technology including three from the BMW region have submitted Expressions of Interest. All applications are at various stages of the evaluation and approvals process.

Proposals are brought to the relevant Committee of the Intermediary Body (the Industrial Research & Commercialisation Committee) for approval. This committee is composed of senior members of Enterprise Ireland, the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment, the Department of Agriculture, the IDA, senior academics and independent industrial experts and members of the business community.

Where required, applications will be then submitted to the Enterprise Ireland Board for approval.

Proposals will be supported that meet the following criteria:

1. Enterprise need; there is evidence of the unmet market need that cannot be catered for through natural turnover of existing client companies or in similar facilities in the region
2. Host institution capability and commitment. How business incubation fits within the wider institutional strategy, that there is evidence of institutional commitment to company creation, including supports provided to centre managers and to client companies and plans for developing these. The existing centre has a strong track record to date in terms of occupant quantity and quality and their turnover
3. Contribution to balanced regional development; there will be an impact on regional employment of companies coming through centre and the Centre will continue to create linkages with other enterprise development facilities and initiatives in the region
4. Viability of the proposal; Construction costings including value for money and a projected cashflow for the facility

## 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

- **Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:**

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output	No. of business incubation centres in place/extended	5	9	5
Result	No of companies in centres	52	68	58
Impact	No of employees in these companies	168	218	184

Up to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, there were 58 companies incubating in 5 Centres in Athlone, Castlebar, Dundalk, Galway and Sligo. The companies employed 184 personnel, of which were 147 male and 37 were female.

The sixth approval for funding pertains to Letterkenny Institute of Technology. Some delays in the planning process had been experienced. These have since been resolved, construction is well underway and the centre is due to open in September 2009.

### 3. Expenditure

- Complete financial table at Theme/Sub-Theme level

Year	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
	<b>1=2+3+4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>486,969</b>	<b>194,787.60</b>	<b>292,181.40</b>			
<b>2009</b>						
<b>2010</b>						
<b>2011</b>						
<b>2012</b>						
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>486,969</b>	<b>194,787.60</b>	<b>292,181.40</b>			

This is the only claim in relation to the BMW region submitted under the 2007 – 2013 Regional Operational Programme and it relates to the construction of incubation space in the Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Project no. 135507. The claim will be included in the first return for 2007 – 2013 OP in 2009.

### 4. North-South Co-operation

The Measure focuses on investment in infrastructure in the Republic of Ireland.

### 5. Information and Publicity Requirements

Publicity has been driven in a number of ways:

- Adherence to the regulations concerning the use of Irish Structural Funds and EU logos is a condition of all contracts between Enterprise Ireland and the Institutes of Technology. This involves, by way of example, the use of appropriate logos and text references in brochures, promotional material, signage, etc.
- Through a dedicated presence on the Enterprise Ireland web site ([www.enterpriseireland.com/campusincubation](http://www.enterpriseireland.com/campusincubation)) and individual web sites for the centres (for example, [www.mirc.ie](http://www.mirc.ie)).
- In the official centre launches. The centres have been officially opened by Government ministers with all the attendant media coverage that accompanies such an event.
- Global Business Incubation Day: on 8 December 2008, Enterprise Ireland and the incubation centres participated in an international celebration of business incubation. The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mary Coughlan, TD, marked the occasion with the announcement that employment in incubation centres across Ireland had passed the 1,000-mark and the launch of a case studies brochure.
- In relevant presentations and articles.

The assistance of the European Union is acknowledged at all times.

## **6. Horizontal Issues**

This initiative is a competitive programme whereby awards are made on the merits of individual applications. Notwithstanding, Enterprise Ireland has agreed to track the participation of female employees located in companies in the supported Incubation Centres. See Annex 2.

## **7. Compliance with Community Policies**

In line with the regional development of the EU Structural Fund, this measure aims to enhance the quality and availability of employment, and build research and technological capability within the regions. It is achieving this by providing dedicated support to the Institutes of Technology to develop their regional innovation infrastructure. Under the extension call, all Institutes are eligible to apply.

The contractual arrangements between Enterprise Ireland and the Institutes of Technology include a requirement that Public Sector Guidelines are strictly adhered to in relation to the construction of the centre and the procurement of goods and services associated with it.

## **8. Future prospects**

The Campus Incubation Call will run to 2013. Networking and support activities for the Centre Managers and Centre Tenants is progressing.

## **9. Any adjustments required**

No adjustments are required.

## **1.3 Commercialisation Fund**

### **1. Introduction**

Enterprise Ireland seeks to encourage and facilitate high quality applied research aimed at the commercial exploitation of knowledge. The Commercialisation Fund is concerned with generating project outputs suitable for commercial exploitation opportunities for the benefit of the Irish economy.

The objective of the programme is to foster a dynamic and commercially aware research community and to create an environment that promotes entrepreneurship. In so doing an accessible route to commercialisation is established for the transfer of knowledge from the research base into industry.

As part of its commitment to facilitating the commercialisation of research, EI provides a range of supports under the Commercialisation Fund. These include a Proof of Concept Programme, a Technology Development Programme and Commercialisation Plus funding.

The Proof of Concept aims to support academic researchers to explore innovative scientific concepts with commercial potential. Grants of €50k to €100k may be awarded for up to 12 months.

The Technology Development programme is designed to assist researchers in accomplishing substantive applied research projects based on a foundation of confidence that the underlying technologies are sound and that there is a reasonable prospect of serving a worthwhile, identifiable market. Grants of €100k to €400k may be awarded for 18 to 36 months.

Commercialisation Plus provides funding for those completed projects that have reached advanced commercialisation discussions with potential industrial partners, but need to address specific market validation issues.

There are three Calls for Proposals per year – Spring, Summer and Winter. The evaluations are composed of both internal and external assessments and they focus on the commercial potential and technical merit of each proposal. Projects are assessed in light of the end goal objective of producing licensing agreements and/ or spin-out companies.

Technology Development Proposals are evaluated under the following criteria; Technical Merit, Innovation, Commercial potential, potential to exploit In Ireland, the team, project plan and costing.

Proof of Concept proposals are evaluated under the following criteria; Technical Feasibility, Commercial potential, Team, Resources, Project plan and Costing.

After evaluation proposals are brought to Enterprise Ireland's Industrial Research & Commercialisation Committee (IRCC) for approval. This Committee is composed of senior members of Enterprise Ireland, the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment, the Department of Agriculture, the IDA, senior academics and independent industrial experts and members of the business community.

Third-level researchers and researchers in other research producing organisations (RPOs) can apply to carry out applied research that may lead to licensing agreements and spin-out companies. This Fund does not support purely exploratory research nor does it support applied research for companies.

## 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

- **Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:**

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Result	Number of approvals by IRCC -Proof of Concept, Technology Development, Commercialisation Plus	0	90	0
Impact	Licenses achieved as a result of funded research	0	10	0
Impact	Start-up Enterprises arising from funded research	0	9	0

27 Principle Investigators were successful in 2008. However this activity is captured under the 2000-2006 Operation Plan due to the extension of the plan to June 30th 2009.

## 3. Expenditure

Please note that, due to the extension of the Productive Sector Operating Programme 2000-2006 in order to maximise the drawdown of funds, there will be no claims submitted until September 2009.

## 4. North-South Co-operation

The Measure focuses on the development of commercialisable research in the South with the main objective being economic impact for Ireland.

## 5. Information and Publicity Requirements

The contribution of the EU Structural Funds 2007-2013 will be acknowledged in all brochures, promotional material, press releases, publicity activity, advertisements, signage, applications forms, annual reports, letters of offer, etc., by use of appropriate logo and text references. A dedicated commercialisation communications unit within Enterprise Ireland is responsible for continued promotion of the scheme and commercialisation in general. This includes advertisement campaigns, road shows, and dedicated websites.

## 6. Horizontal Issues

This initiative is a competitive programme whereby awards are made on the merits of individual applications. Thus the gender split within the programme is reflective of the existing gender split within colleges. Enterprise Ireland has putting in place a system that will allow us to measure the percentage of female researchers participating in the programme.

## **7. Compliance with Community Policies**

- Enterprise Ireland have agreed thresholds and authorisation limits which determine the particular quotation or tendering procedure to be followed, and the authorisation required before the organisation commits to spend. This must be followed for all purchases.
- National Procurement Guidelines and EU Directives apply not only to formal written contracts but to all purchasing activities. Enterprise Ireland seeks to ensure that its practices and procedures are open, objective and transparent. In this respect, the published National Procurement Guidelines and EU Directives must be followed.

## **8. Future prospects**

The first Call of 2009 is now closed. There will be two further calls for applications under the Commercialisation Fund in 2009. We anticipate three Calls in 2010.

## **9. Any adjustments required**

No adjustments are required at present.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>2. Building Research Capacity</b>
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	<b>2.1 Programme of Research in Third Level Institutions</b>
	<b>2.2 Marine Research</b>

## 2.1 Programme of Research in Third Level Institutions

Theme: Building Research Capacity & Capability within Higher Education Institutions.

The programmes included in this Operational Programme are –

- Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions – capital and recurrent
- Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme
- Technological Sector Research

### 1. Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLTI)

The PRTLTI aims to support a strategic and planned approach by third-level institutions to the long-term development of their research capabilities, consistent with their existing and developing research strengths and capabilities. The programme also seeks to enhance the quality and relevance of graduate output and skills and to encourage co-operation between researchers within and between institutions.

Proposals are required to promote excellence in research and are made by institutions rather than by specific faculties or individuals. The emphasis is on assisting institutions to enhance and develop research capabilities. Research in a wide range of areas is eligible for support including humanities, science, technology and the social sciences. An independent international panel of leading academics and researchers, who are individuals of the highest standing in their respective disciplines and research communities, evaluate proposals. No Irish person is permitted to participate in the decision-making process, ensuring complete independence and enabling the panel to assess proposals using international best practice as a guide.

There have been four cycles of awards under the PRTLTI to date.

<b>Cycle</b>	<b>CAPITAL €m</b>	<b>CURRENT €m</b>	<b>TOTAL €m</b>
<b>1 – (2000-2003)</b>	177.5	28.6	206.1
<b>2 – (2001- 2004)</b>	48.8	29.7	78.5
<b>3 – (2002– 2006)</b>	178	142.4	320.4
<b>4 – (2007- 2010)</b>	131.3	129.4	260.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>535.6</b>	<b>330.1</b>	<b>865.7</b>

**Note: Totals include both exchequer and private funding.**

PRTLTI Cycles 1, 2 and 3 are now complete.

The awards under Cycle 4 of the PRTLTI were announced in August 2007. This cycle builds on the achievements of the three previous cycles under the Programme. In addition to its main objective of supporting world class research, it also rewards innovation and collaboration in higher education. The PRTLTI is a key element of the Strategy for Science Technology and

Innovation, the road map for the implementation of Government policy to develop a knowledge economy and Fourth Level Ireland. 'World class research, world class people and world class enterprises with the drive to succeed, and the resources to do it' are what the SSTI aims to deliver. Details of the awards under Cycle 4 are outlined in Appendix 1.

**INCREASED PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE** - there are an additional 819 work spaces being provided through PRTLII Cycle 4, with 483 replacement places also being provided - bringing the total number to 1,302.

### **Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions**

Approval for Cycle 4 of the PRTLII was given in 2007 and drawdown of funds began in 2008. Of a total capital allocation of c. €131 million, approx. €8 million was approved for the BMW region. Funding is spread over 6 projects in NUIG and includes collaborative projects in the areas of Environment, Humanities, Nanotechnology and Biophotonics. The targeted space in respect of these projects is 1,140m<sup>2</sup> with approximately 151 stations. The 6 capital projects are:

1. National Biophotonics and Imaging Platform (NBIP)
2. e-INIS: The Irish National e-Infrastructure
3. INSPIRE; Integrated Nanoscience Platform for Ireland
4. Humanities Serving Irish Society (HSIS)
5. The Irish Social Science Platform (ISSP)
6. Environment and Climate Change; Impacts and Responses Graduate Programme

The total capital expenditure of €8m above does not represent the overall expenditure under Cycle 4 of PRTLII in the BMW Region. A further €19.6million in recurrent funding has also been approved. This raises the overall amount to 10.7%. The Programme of Research in Third level Institutions is a competitive funding process and represents the Region's current capacity to 'win' funding in this area. NUI Galway is the only higher education institute (and the only University) in the Region in receipt of funding under this cycle of the programme and as such on a pro-rata basis it performs strongly. The fact that the ratio of expenditure is higher on the recurrent side for NUI Galway reflects the fact that investment of over €67m over the first 3 cycles of the programme has built up the capital assets of the college and as a result there is currently a greater emphasis on developing the recurrent element of their programmes.

The BMW Regional Assembly acknowledges that the development of the Region's research and development and innovation capacity is a vital component for the competitiveness region. The Assembly has actively engaged with the Government on this issue and has raised this issue in meetings with An Taoiseach, the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation and the Chief Science Adviser to the Government. The Operational Programme sets a number of initiatives to address this deficit.

The Assembly is also engaged in the activities of Lónra the higher education network for the BMW Region. Under the auspices of Lónra the Institutes of Technology in the Region – Athlone, Dundalk, Galway-Mayo, Letterkenny and Sligo, NUI Galway and St. Angle's College, Sligo signed a collaborative research agreement on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June last which will see them harnessing their collective strengths and will boost the research resources of the regional economy while also placing the institutions in a stronger position to seek research and development funding.

## 2. Expenditure

Q4 2008

BMW				
Cycle 4	NUIG			4,840,048
<b>Total for Cycle 4</b>				
<b>BMW</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,840,048</b>

### The Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme (RFES).

Drawdown of funding is also based on the Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme which was announced in 2008. The Scheme was launched following the recommendations of a HEA/Forfás Review of Research Infrastructure. Funding was awarded following a competitive process and was spread over 31 projects in 20 institutions. The total scheme amounted to €58m with 20,098m<sup>2</sup> of space targeted for refurbishment. Institutions in the BMW regions accounted for €10.6m of the funding and 3,891m<sup>2</sup> of refurbished space. An amount of €9.4 million was expended in 2008 with the balance in 2009.

RFES Expenditure	Q3	Q4	Total
Athlone	222,923	1,590,133	1,813,055
Dundalk		800,000	800,000
GMIT		286,715	286,715
IT Sligo		139,790	139,790
Letterkenny IT		278,871	278,871
NUIG	212,220	5,916,346	6,128,566
	<b>435,143</b>	<b>9,011,855</b>	<b>9,446,998</b>

Details of the institutional awards under the RFES are outlining in Appendix 2.

**INCREASED HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE** - The PRTLTI enables the quality training of young researchers, who are required both for the public and private sectors. The programme will contribute significantly and directly to the doubling of Ph.D. output in order to upscale research across all the disciplines. This includes building critical mass in research teams and Cycle 4 is contributing to meeting these goals by providing:

Regional breakdown of Human Resources						
	PIs	Researchers (PhD+)	Research Assistants	Technicians	PhD Students	Others
<b>S&amp;E</b>						
<b>Posts</b>	39	110.5	22.4	27.84	260	75.09
<b>FTE Years</b>	50.69	293.7	52.87	68.86	930.5	178.38
<b>Head Count</b>	54	129	23	30	345	110
<b>BMW</b>						
<b>Posts</b>	-	21	-	-	51	9
<b>FTE Years</b>	-	57	-	-	196	18.2
<b>Head Count</b>	-	21	-	-	51	9

<b>Total</b>						
<b>Posts</b>	39	131.5	22.4	27.84	311	84.09
<b>FTE Years</b>	50.69	350.7	52.87	68.86	1126.5	196.58
<b>Head Count</b>	54	150	23	30	396	119

As the 2007/08 academic year had already commenced before implementation plans were agreed with the institutions, much of the human infrastructure was recruited during 2008, with many taking up position for the 2008/09 academic year. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 approximately 75% of the positions to be funded over the lifetime of the programme are in place.

The PRTLTI was included under the PSOP (N+2) funding and therefore expenditure in the BMW region for 2007 and up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008 is not included under the 2007 – 2013 programme. There was no recurrent expenditure for the remaining quarter of 2008 under PRTLTI cycle 4.

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

#### Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31st December 2008 *	
				Male	Female
<b>Output</b>	Researcher PhD+ appointed	0	21	13	7
	PhD Students appointed	0	51	11	21
	Other appointed	0	9	4	1

Caveat 1: Positions appointed relate to NUI Galway only.

Caveat 2: Due to the national collaborative nature of PRTLTI, all other indicators are for Cycle 4 projects as a whole, both S&E and BMW regions.

Caveat 3: We are currently looking into some outstanding discrepancies regarding the gender breakdown and total number appointed to date figures. We will endeavour to have corrected this in the next report

#### Other achievements for which no targets had been set

Class	Indicator	Outturn to Dec '08
	Equipment purchase	127
	Peer Review Publications	739
	Conference/ Presentations	977
	Research Awards	299
	Patents/ IP Output	21
<b>Teaching &amp; Learning</b>	Undergrad/ Masters/ PhD courses created	20
	Additions to existing courses	247
	New national collaborations established	40
	New international collaborations established	36
	North/ South Collaborations established	12

### **3. North-South Co-operation**

With respect to All-Island collaboration, the PRTL I Cycle 4 Call text which sets out the guiding principles of the programme, specifically encourages collaboration with higher-education institutions in Northern Ireland

In line with this, Queen's University Belfast is a devolved partner on the Irish Social Science Platform, an all island programme of fundamental, applied, and comparative research and graduate training in Knowledge, Innovation, Society and Space. It links together significant and complementary centres of social sciences and humanities expertise across the eight institutions involved, which include in the BMW region National University of Galway and Institute of Technology Sligo, as well as DCU, NUIM, UCC, UL and MIC in the South and East Region.

Projects have also established a number of cross border collaborations since funding began in 2007.

Ten new North/South collaborations have been established within three projects that include both NUI Galway and IT Sligo as a partner. [INSPIRE, HSIS & ISSP]. One such example is the Cross-Border Energy Storage Research Programme that has been established under the ISSP project. A cross-border research consortium comprising research experts in the fields of sustainability, energy efficiency and spatial planning on both sides of the Irish border has been successful in achieving stage one funding from the Cross-Border Research and Development Funding Programme – 'Strengthening the All-Island Research Base'. The research programme is exploring the potential and implications of innovative approaches to energy storage and sharing.

### **4. Information and Publicity Requirements**

On commencement of PRTL I Cycle 4 projects, institutions were issued an approval letter containing the conditions of their award. Included in this were the following Publicity Requirements.

"It is a requirement that an acknowledgement of the financial contribution from the ERDF is included on all press and information material, and on all other communications actions undertaken including launches, publications, advertising, website, seminars, presentations etc.

The Higher Education Authority will monitor compliance with these publicity requirements and will seek an update on your institution's communication and dissemination strategy for PRTL I funded projects in the progress reports."

Projects have been routinely informed of the publicity requirements required under funding, and an email communication was sent by way of reminder to both institutional representatives and project co-ordinators regarding the required use of logos. As part of this commitment to ensure compliance, featured on the PRTL I 4 webpage is a reminder of required logos, along with the logos available for download.

### **5. Equality:**

Within the PRTL I Cycle 4 Call Text, the following was included under the monitoring and evaluation of the programme: -

“All programmes will require proofing having regard to Gender, the Environment, Poverty and Rural Development. A particular focus on Gender Proofing will apply to the PRTL I in forthcoming cycles. Institutions should be aware that the NDP Gender Equality Unit will require gender data on the composition of assessment boards from formulation of institutional proposal through to the recruitment of researchers.”

In line with reporting requirements, institutions are required to report on the gender breakdown of positions filled to date. As such the following is the breakdown of positions appointed to 31st Dec 2009 for the programme as a whole. We are currently looking into some outstanding discrepancies regarding the gender breakdown and total number appointed to date figures. We will endeavour to have corrected this in the next report.

Male	Female	Total
303	201	504

From this, the BMW breakdown, relevant only to NUI Galway, is as follows;

Male	Female	Total
28	29	57

## **6. Environment:**

Under PRTL I Cycle 4, a total of €11.5 million will be invested in the area of the Environment under the Environment & Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Graduate Programme. Led by NUI Galway, this project will develop a specific Graduate Research Education Programme in Environment and Marine research. NUI Galway will receive €5.8M as part of the consortium.

In addition, under the capital component of this programme NUI Galway will develop the Mace Head research institute as a national resource through acquiring key platform technologies and equipment. The upgrading of the unique world-leading Ocean-Atmosphere super-site at Mace Head will enable advanced research into aerosol formation, aerosol-cloud interactions, air-sea exchange and CO<sub>2</sub> uptake at a prime geographical location for such research. The upgrading of the Mace Head site was identified as a key national and indeed European research infrastructure in the 2006 HEA/Forfás review.

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## **Future prospects**

As at 31st December 2008 approximately 75% of the positions to be funded over the lifetime of the programme are in place.

### **2. Technological Sector Research**

The Technological Sector Research Programme applies to Institutes of Technology. The Technological Sector Research measure is based on a competitive process, with independent adjudication by national and international experts.

**The TSR was included under the PSOP (N+2) funding and therefore expenditure in the BMW region for 2007 and up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008 is not included under this programme.**

There are three strands within the programme -

**Strand I: Postgraduate R&D Skills Development Programme** provides research and development training for graduates leading to the award of a Masters Degree. Projects are based in the areas of Science/Technology or Business/Humanities. The main objective of the programme is to increase the supply of graduates with the necessary skills to provide the advice and technical support required by industry/business. Adjudication panels met and made final recommendations for awards in June 2008. These awards commenced in the 2008/09 academic year. Details are at Appendix 3.

**Strand II:** The objective of the **Enterprise Platform Programme** is to provide systematic enterprise development training programmes to provide graduates with the necessary skills to establish and run their own business. Aims to train entrepreneurs in the skills required to establish and run their own businesses. This comprises the provision of formal education/ training in enterprise/product development on the one hand, strongly reinforced by enterprise-specific advice and counselling through a network of industry/business mentors on the other. This programme compliments activities of Enterprise Ireland. Details are at Appendix 3.

**Strand III: Projects** - This strand is aimed at funding postgraduate, postdoctoral or other experienced researchers and developing the expertise of existing academic staff in research to build core strengths. The objectives of this strand are:

- To enable a strategic and planned approach by the technological sector to the long-term development of sectoral research capabilities;
- To promote and enhance a research ethos appropriate to the differentiated roles played by individual institutions;
- To make a positive contribution to the quality of teaching in the sector.

Project funding can range from €100,000 to €400,000 and projects have a duration of approx. 3 years. In September 2008, 41 submissions totalling €15,254,106 were received for the 2008 competition for funding. 8 awards totalling €3,016,268 were made. Details are at Appendix 3.

The following funds issued to the BMW institutions at the end of 2008 -

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Letterkenny IT	76,175.00
AIT	370,104.40
Dundalk IT	352,539.89
GMIT	333,342.00
Sligo IT	298,625.00

### Performance Indicators

Indicator	Baseline	Outturn 2008	Final Target 2008
Number of students participating in programmes 1 and 2. Number of projects funded in programme 3			
<b><u>Postgraduate R&amp;D skills</u></b>			
National	36	86*	100
• Male	20	48	
• <i>FEMALE</i>	16	38	
BMW total	10	23**	27
• Male	6	14	
• <i>FEMALE</i>	4	9	
S&E total	26	63***	73
• Male	14	34	
• <i>FEMALE</i>	12	29	

\*100 projects were awarded. 86 commenced in 2008, 12 in 2009. 2 projects did not proceed. \*\*23 commenced in 2008, 3 in 2009. 1 project did not proceed.

\*\*\*63 commenced in 2008, 9 in 2009, 1 project did not proceed.

<b><u>Strand II: Enterprise Platform</u></b>			
National	82	183	168*
• Male	52	145	
• <i>FEMALE</i>	30	38	
BMW total	8	46	40
• Male	5	32	
• <i>FEMALE</i>	3	14	
S&E total	74	137	128
• Male	47	113	
• <i>FEMALE</i>	27	24	
<b><u>Strand III: Core Research</u></b>	Nil	0	60
<i>PROJECTS FUNDED – NATIONAL</i>			
Number of Core Research Projects Funded	Nil	8**	

\*13 programmes offering a total of 168 places.

\*\*these projects commenced in 2009.

**Annualised forecast of eligible expenditure committed by the Higher Education Authority to the Regional OP.**

BMW	TOTAL BMW		
	Current	Capital	Total
2007	0	0	0
2008	3	0	3
2009	5.5	3	8.5
2010	6.5	2.5	9
2011	7.5	7.5	15
2012	5.5	26	31.5
2013	3.5	17	20.5
	<b>31.5</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>87.5</b>

**North-South Co-operation**

Provision is made under the North/South Co-operation strand of this sub-measure to support Cross-Border Research Initiatives on a collaborative basis between institutions.

Each Strand awards funding through a competitive, independently adjudicated process based on performance against agreed criteria. These criteria relate to issues such as research quality and industry relevance. Collaborative arrangements with industry or other universities/institutes are encouraged in each funding Strand but are not a specific element of the programme's aims. North-South co-operation, where it occurs is driven by existing institutional research partnerships and/or regional location.

**Horizontal Issues**

Gender targets have not been set for TSR as funding is for projects as opposed to individual students or researchers.

The selection of projects/individuals for approval under TSR programmes is on the basis of excellence. In this regard, the setting of specific targets based on gender analysis is not appropriate.

More general long-term targets would aim to improve gender balance over the time-scale of the Plan. All institutions of higher education are statutorily obliged to ensure equality in all their activities, and wording to the effect that: "Applications are welcomed from both male and female candidates", is incorporated into application documentation.

A number of factors influence the gender breakdown of participants on TSR funded programmes including the different take-up rates of both genders in the various fields of study and the statistically greater likelihood of male students to continue to postgraduate study in the science area rather than females.

**Appendix 1**

Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions – Cycle 4		
Programme	Institutions	Amount Awarded (exchequer funding only)
<b>Biosciences and Biomedical</b>		
The National Programme on Biopharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences	Dublin City University Trinity College Dublin University College Cork University College Dublin	€19,196,000
Clinician-Scientist Training Programme ( CSTP) & MMI	NUI Galway Royal College of Surgeons Ireland Trinity College University College Cork University College Dublin	€11,216,000
National Biophotonics & Imaging Platform ( NBIP)	Dublin City University Dublin Institute of –Technology NUI Galway NUI Maynooth Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland University College Cork University College Dublin	€30,067,000
The Centre for Applied Science for Health	Institute of Technology, Tallaght	€9,261,000
Food Ireland : National Food and Health Collaborative Research Prog	University College Cork University College Dublin University of Limerick	€6,414,000
Biosciences Cell Biology and Cell Signalling	University College Cork	€3,000,000
Science Centre	University College Dublin	€17,547,000
<b>Chemical and Physical Sciences</b>		
Network Mathematics	NUI Maynooth	€2,255,000
<b>Information and Communication Technologies</b>		
e-INIS : The Irish National e-infrastructure	Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies NUI Galway NUI Maynooth, Trinity College Dublin	€12,460,000

	University College Dublin	
The Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media	Dublin Institute of Technology National College of Art and Design	€1,997,000
Serving Society : Management of Future Communications Networks and Services	Waterford Institute of Technology	€3,195,000
Integrated Research Building	Waterford Institute of Technology	€3,217,000
NEMBES : Network Embedded Systems	Cork Institute of Technology	€13,578,000
Lero : The Irish Software Engineering Research Centre and Graduate School	University of Limerick	€7,333,000
<b>Platform Technologies</b>		
Nanoscience and Nanoscale technologies for Ireland (NANOTIERE)	Cork Institute of Technology Dublin City University Dublin Institute of Technology NUI Galway Trinity College Dublin University College Cork University College Dublin University of Limerick	€31,658,000
<b>Humanities and Social Sciences</b>		
Humanities Serving Irish Society (HSIS)	Dublin City University NUI Galway NUI Maynooth National College of Art and Design Royal Irish Academy Trinity College Dublin University College Cork University College Dublin	€28,040,000
The National Programme of Research on Knowledge, Innovation, Society and Space (KISS)	Dublin City University NUI Galway NUI Maynooth University College Cork University of Limerick	€16,542,000
Irish Social Science Data Archive (ISSDA)	University College Dublin	€750,000
<b>Environment, Marine and Natural Resources</b>		

Environment and Climate Change : Impacts and Responses	Cork Institute of Technology NUI Galway NUI Maynooth Trinity College Dublin University College Cork University College Limerick	€ 11,556,000
<b>Overall Total</b>		<b>€229,282,000</b>

## Appendix 2

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Research Facilities Enhancement Scheme</b>	<b>AWARD</b>
UL	Composite and Glass Materials	€1,565,000
TCD	SFI Centres Enhancement Plan	€3,170,000
UCD	UCD Science Research Development	€8,109,000
NUIM	Callan Building Enhancement	€2,900,000
UCC	Kane (Science) Building	€5,040,000
UL	Food & Health	€2,280,000
WIT	Pharmaceutical and Life Science	€2,035,000
Dundalk IT	Strategic Expansion of the National Centre for Freshwater Studies	€ 800,000
DCU	Bioanalytical Science Facility	€3,765,000
Cork IT	BioPharma Chem Proposal	€ 325,000
Limerick IT	Enhancement of Department of Applied Science Research Infrastructure	€ 500,000
GMIT	GMIT -research facilities enhance scheme	€1,494,900
IT Sligo	Business and Humanities Research Centre	€ 68,265
NUIG	Biomedical Science and Engineering	€6,147,900
ITTralee	Mammalian Cell Culture Facility	€1,024,000
AIT	AIT Postgraduate Research Hub	€1,813,055
DCU	Humanities & Social Sciences Research Facility	€ 430,000
IT Tallaght	ARCe - Applied Research Capacity Enhancement	€1,400,336
Letterkenny IT	Refurbishment of Science Research Facilities	€ 278,871

UCC	Mammalian Cell and Microbial Culture	€2,211,027
ITB	Engineering Research Laboratory	€ 160,971
St Pats Drumcondra	Digitised Language Research Unit	€ 400,000
DCU	School of Computing Research Facility	€ 840,000
NUIM	Refurbishment of St. Anne's House	€2,000,000
UL	CPI Energy & Sustainable Environment	€ 972,000
UCD	UCD NanoBiology & Energy Research Development	€2,060,000
Mary Immaculate	Upgrading Postgraduate Research Centre	€ 35,000
WIT	Telecommunications	€1,200,000
TCD	Arts Technology Research Laboratory	€1,700,000
TCD	SPD Translational Labs	€3,200,000
ITSligo	Centre for Design Innovation Prototyping Laboratory (*IT Sligo Block G)	€ 71,525

### Appendix 3

#### Technology Sector Research

**Strand I** - 70 Science & Technology and 30 Business & Humanities awards were made for the 2008/09 year, of which 28 were in the BMW region.

	Institute	Business & Humanities	Science & Technology	Total
1	<b>Athlone</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
2	Blanchardstown	0	2	2
3	Carlow	1	2	3
4	Cork	0	3	3
5	DIT	9	14	23
6	<b>Dundalk</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
7	<b>Galway/Mayo</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
8	IADT	3	1	4
9	<b>Letterkenny</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
10	Limerick	0	3	3
11	<b>Sligo</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
12	Tallaght	1	12	13
13	Tralee	1	3	4
14	Waterford	10	7	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

*Strand II: Enterprise Platform Programme - Progress 2008. The following programmes commenced in 2008:*

Institute	Programme Title	Budget
Cork	Genesis Programme	€255,000
DIT	The HOTHOUSE Programme	€155,000
<b>Dundalk</b>	<b>Novation EPP</b>	<b>€155,000</b>
Dunlaoghaire	CREATE	€155,000
Tallaght	M50 @ Synergy Centre	€155,000
Waterford	SE Region Enterprise Platform Programme	€255,000
<b>Galway Mayo (with Athlone)</b>	<b>Mid-west EPP</b>	<b>€155,000</b>
Limerick	LEAP Limerick Enterprise Acceleration Programme	€155,000
<b>Athlone</b>	<b>Mid-West EPP</b>	<b>€155,000</b>
Tralee	EPP	€155,000

Carlow	EPP	€155,000
<b>Sligo</b>	<b>Ceim</b>	<b>€155,000</b>
Blanchardstown	M50@ LINC Centre	€155,000

Core Research Strengths Enhancement

**Progress 2008:**

In September 2008, 41 submissions were received for the 2008 competition for funding. 8 awards were made of which 4 were in the BMW region.

<b>Institute</b>	<b>No. of Applications</b>	<b>No. of Approvals</b>
<b>Athlone</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Blanchardstown	1	0
Carlow	2	1
Cork	4	0
DIT	10	0
<b>Dundalk</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Dunlaoghaire	-	-
<b>Galway-Mayo</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Letterkenny</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Limerick	1	0
<b>Sligo</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Tallaght	4	1
Tralee	3	0
Waterford	5	2
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>

## 2.2 Marine Research

### 1. Introduction

Activity in 2008 consisted of *i*) ensuring a smooth start-up and ongoing monitoring of the large-scale Cod Aquaculture project funded in late 2007 (see Annex 3) and *ii*) funding of additional research projects in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture. Five new projects co-financed by the ERDF under the Marine Research Sub-Theme of the BMW Operational Programme 2007 – 2013, commenced in late 2008. All five of these projects are clearly focused on addressing objectives set by *Sea Change (A Marine Research, Knowledge and Innovation Strategy for Ireland 2007 – 2013)*<sup>16</sup> for the aquaculture and fisheries sectors, two sectors of significant importance in many peripheral areas of the BMW region. They are addressing issues that will assist in maintaining existing and creating new economic activity in the region. They are also contributing to the building of research capacity and capability in public research institutions in the region and building collaborations with industry. The total investment in these projects, all of which are led by research institutions in the BMW region, is €2.25m, of which €1.63m is earmarked for the project leads and other partners in the BMW region. Descriptions of the funded projects and a list of project partners are provided in Annex 3.

All of the projects funded to date will contribute towards the objectives of the Marine Research Sub-theme, namely:

- **Increasing** the marine sector’s **competitiveness** and **stimulating** the **commercialization** of the **marine resource** in a manner that **ensures** its **sustainability** and protects marine biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Building new **research capacity** and capability and **utilising** fundamental **knowledge** and technology to create new marine-related commercial opportunities and companies;
- **Informing public policy, governance and regulation of the sector** and supporting the delivery of more **innovative, customer-driven public services** by applying the knowledge derived from marine research and monitoring; and

In addition, the projects are clearly aligned to the Horizontal Principle of Environmental Sustainability.

### 2. Performance Indicators

Further progress has been made towards reaching the indicator targets set for the Marine Research Sub-theme:

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term Target	Final Target 2013	Out-turn to end 2008
1	No. marine-related PhDs funded (gender disaggregated)	0	5	16	2 F 1 M 2 Pending
2	No. marine-related research fellows funded (gender disaggregated)	0	3	9	1 M 1 pending
3	No. research projects based in research institutions funded	0	4	8	5

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.marine.ie/home/SeaChange.htm>

4	No. desk/feasibility studies funded	0	2	4	0
5	No. scientist days funded on National Research vessels	0	16	48	0
6	No. of items of specialist research equipment acquired	0	3	6	1
7	No. of projects that advance the sustainable development and management of marine resources	0	3	8	5
8	No of projects that enhances our understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems and/or create knowledge of relevance to the management of Ireland's future environmental well-being	0	3	8	3

**Notes:** 7 & 8 may have double counting as projects may address both the stated objectives.

### 3. Expenditure

Of the total projected expenditure on the Marine Research Sub-Theme of €8m over its lifetime, €3.6m was committed in 2007. A further €1.63m was committed in 2008. Thus, a total of €5.23m (65%) is committed.

Expenditure on projects in 2008 (BMW elements only) amounted to €435,332 (see table); bringing the total expenditure to date (2007 and 2008) to €1.088m, versus a projected expenditure of €1.2m.

Year	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
	<b>1=2+3+4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2007</b>	629,015	251,606	377,409		0	88,484
<b>2008</b>	459,317	183,726	275,591		0	148,380
<b>2009</b>						
<b>2010</b>						
<b>2011</b>						
<b>2012</b>						
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>1,088,332</b>	<b>435,332</b>	<b>653,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>236,864</b>

NB The expenditure reported here represents only the advance/interim payments, as opposed to actual verified expenditure. Columns 1-4 relate only to partners in the BMW region. Column 6 relates to payment in connection with the non-BMW partners on projects.

Further expenditure detail on a project basis is provided in Appendix 1.

#### **4. North-South Co-operation**

Calls for research proposals issued by the Marine Institute are open on an island of Ireland basis and North-South research collaborations are strongly encouraged. North-South collaboration is a central objective of *Sea Change*. One of the projects funded in 2008, Gill Pathologies, involves collaboration with a NI research institute. The results of all projects will be disseminated on an all-island basis, providing clear benefits to the Northern Ireland aquaculture and fisheries industries.

#### **5. Information and Publicity Requirements**

All publicity material for the suite of projects funded by the Marine Institute comply with the requirements of EU Regulations 1083/2006 and 1828/2006 and correctly acknowledge the ERDF contribution.

The Grant-aid Agreements drawn up between the Marine Institute and the grantees include publicity guidelines, which lay out the requirements for acknowledging the funding source. A copy is attached as Annex 4.

Interim project reports submitted to date have complied with the publicity requirements.

#### **6. Horizontal Issues**

##### *Environmental Sustainability*

Five of the six projects funded over 2007-2008 will directly address Objective 3 of the Marine Research Sub-Theme, namely:

*Increasing the marine sector's competitiveness and stimulating the commercialization of the marine resource in a manner that **ensures its sustainability and protects marine biodiversity and ecosystems***

Environmental sustainability is essential to healthy and economically viable fisheries and aquaculture industries. As such, adherence to this principle is key to the success of the these projects. Further detail is provided in Annex 2.

##### *Gender Equality*

##### Gender

Data for researchers working on the suite of six projects is collected in conjunction with the interim progress reporting requirement for projects. These are reported above (Section 2) for two specific performance indicators – PhD Scholarships and Research Fellows. Further detail on the gender breakdown of all researchers on these projects is provided in Annex 2.

#### **7. Compliance with Community Policies**

The sub-theme is not subject to state-aids.

Funding provided to date has been by means of Grant-aid, as opposed to direct procurement. Evaluation of projects includes Value for Money as an evaluation criteria. Where grant-aid is provided to a project participant to secure goods/services integral to completing the project there is an obligation to comply with public procurement procedures.

#### **8. Future prospects**

The BMW OP Marine Research Sub-Theme will continue to be implemented as part of the overall implementation of *Sea Change*. Opportunities to fund new projects in 2009/10 will be considered within the context of the Marine Institute's overall NDP funding allocation. If such

opportunities exist they are likely to be reduced compared to activity to date, given the current financial climate, and will be clarified over the coming months. The ability to reach the full projected expenditure of €0.9m in 2009 will depend on the ability to make new project commitments in 2009 which is subject to the current budgetary situation

**9. Any adjustments required**

No

## Appendix 1

### Project level expenditure report

Year	Project Name	Cumulative Project expenditure reported previously	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
			<b>1=2+3+4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>EIRCOD</b>	629,015	89,892	35,957	53,935		0	12,608
	<b>Tacit Knowledge</b>	0	83,038	33,215	49,823		0	0
	<b>AquaPlan</b>	0	76,268	30,507	45,761		0	6,632
	<b>ASTOX</b>	0	132,691	53,076	79,615		0	71,449
	<b>GILPAT</b>	0	55,428	22,171	33,257		0	57,691
	<b>Fisheries &amp; Climate</b>	0	22,000	8,800	13,200		0	0
<b>Cum Total</b>		<b>629,015</b>	<b>459,317</b>	<b>183,726</b>	<b>275,591</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>148,380</b>

NB The expenditure reported here represents only advance/interim payments made to the lead partner on each of the six projects, as opposed to actual verified expenditure. Columns 1-4 relate only to partners in the BMW region. Column 6 relates to payment to the lead partner in connection with the non-BMW partners on projects

## Appendix 2

### Project Activity 2008

#### *Ongoing Projects*

The large-scale Cod Aquaculture project, funded in late 2007, commenced work in early 2008. The EIRCOD–Cod Broodstock and Breeding project (Total Value €4.1m; BMW region €3.6m) is designed to *provide the technical R&D component of a national initiative to develop cod farming in Ireland*. The project is addressing a key national priority, namely diversification of the aquaculture industry, a significant industry in peripheral areas of the BMW region. It is being carried out by a consortium of six organisations, three of which are in the BMW region, led by the National University of Ireland, Galway. A full description of the project, including its aims and objectives, was provided in the 2007 Progress Report. Significant progress was made during 2008, including:

- Recruitment of specialist scientific and technical staff;
- Refurbishment of hatchery and nursery areas at the NUI Galway laboratory facilities at Carna, Co. Galway;
- Establishment of improved live feed production and larval rearing systems (at Carna);
- Successful rearing of juveniles from wild caught cod;
- Establishment of broodstock;
- Successful transfer of juvenile cod to sea;
- Draft report on the economic assessment of cod farming in Ireland.

The Marine Institute maintains a close oversight of this project, with representation on the project steering committee. As with all projects administered by the Marine Institute, six-monthly progress reports (both technical and financial) are submitted and reviewed by the project monitor and the funding office.

#### *New Projects 2008*

In February 2008 the Marine Institute launched a further call for research proposals under the Marine Research Sub-Programme of the National Development Plan (2007 – 2013) for specific, pre-defined projects aimed at addressing the Fisheries Resources and Aquaculture research programmes of *Sea Change (A Marine Research, Knowledge and Innovation Strategy for Ireland 2007 – 2013<sup>17</sup>)*. The call was open to research institutions (third-level and other) and SMEs throughout the island of Ireland with the aim being to profile successful projects within the BMW region for ERDF co-financing under the Marine Research Sub-Theme of the BMW Operational Programme 2007 – 2013.

Following evaluation of research proposals received for the suite of projects, in accordance with the evaluation process and criteria set out in the Implementation Plan, five projects were profiled under the BMW OP Marine Research Sub-Theme. As of December 2008 these projects were at various stages in the start-up process. The projects are:

#### **Defined Strategic Industry Project - The Establishment and Application of Protocols to Capture, Collate and Integrate the Tacit Knowledge in the Fishing Industry for Use in the Scientific Assessment, Advisory and Fisheries Management Process**

- *Grant-Aid:* €332,152 (All in BMW Region)

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<sup>17</sup> <http://www.marine.ie/home/SeaChange.htm>

- *Lead:* National University of Ireland, Galway
- *Partners:* Federation of Irish Fishermen  
Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Dublin)

The aim of this project is to develop methodologies for accessing the tacit knowledge of fisher communities, and the rendering of their insights into a rigorous scientific mode, that can be useful for the policy process and marine science community more widely. This is a key objective for the Fisheries Resource Research Programme of *Sea Change*. The project also contributes significantly towards the objectives of *Steering a New Course - Strategy for a Restructured, Profitable and Sustainable Irish Seafood Industry 2007 – 2013*, in that the tacit knowledge of industry can be used to inform management plans for the sustainable exploitation of Ireland's fisheries resources. In part, the project involves filling the gap between social science methodologies, which can uncover tacit knowledge, and the needs of natural scientists who require detailed, precise, and verifiable information from fishers. Much of this information will concern practical environmental issues: stock health, status of fishing grounds, environmental affects of fishing gear/techniques, etc. However, the project will also be vital in developing a set of methodologies for how to engage with fishers as stakeholders in the policy process.

A number of case studies will be carried out during the course of the project. The first of these relates to the *Nephrops* fisheries on the Aran Grounds (west of the Aran Islands), an important fishery for the Galway/Rossaveal/Aran fleets.

#### **Defined Applied Industry Project - Development of an AquaPlan for Irish Finfish Aquaculture**

- *Grant-Aid:* €331,174 (€306,834 in BMW Region)
- *Lead:* Marine Institute (Galway)
- *Partners:* Vet-Aqua International (Galway)  
IFQC Ltd. (Dundalk)  
Irish Salmon Growers Association (Dublin)

The *AquaPlan* project aims to build and enhance capacity for the management of finfish health in the aquaculture sector by developing scientifically proven measures for the management and mitigation of infectious diseases. It will take account of the impact infectious diseases have on the industry in terms of losses due to poor growth and high mortalities. Ultimately, the project aims to develop an AquaPlan, a comprehensive strategy for the management of health issues in the Irish aquaculture industry. The development of such a strategy is seen as a priority for increasing production, sustainability and expansion of the finfish sector. Particular emphasis will be placed on preventative measures, early warning systems, reporting and training.

This project will result in the publication of a series of protocols, leaflets and a risk assessment framework in order to increase the ability of the Irish finfish aquaculture industry and regulatory agencies to manage fish health issues in a pro-active manner. The project will also meet the need for the development of accredited training and education of fish farm employees, biologists, fish health professionals and veterinarians in the area of finfish health.

#### **Defined Applied Industry Project - Investigations of Increased Mortalities on Marine Salmon Sites due to Gill Pathologies**

- *Grant-Aid:* €452,474 (€222,380 in BMW Region)
- *Lead:* Marine Institute (Galway)

- *Partners:* Vet-Aqua International (Galway)  
Coastal & Marine Resources Centre, UCC (Cork)  
Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (N. Ireland)  
Irish Salmon Growers Association (Dublin)

This project will provide information on the underlying causes of gill pathologies in salmon, which cause significant losses in the salmon farming industry. Losses of Atlantic salmon during the marine phase of production are on average around 30% each year. A significant proportion of those losses are due to gill pathologies. The causative agents of the gill pathologies have yet to be identified, although it is believed that it is a multi-factorial condition. A range of environmental parameters have been suggested as possible causes or triggers for the onset of mortalities. These include elevated sea temperatures during the summer months, low dissolved oxygen levels and poor water quality. Adverse environmental conditions may predispose the fish to infection by a range of bacterial or viral pathogens, parasitic zooplankton species or toxic algal blooms and this project will specifically address this issue, with a view to providing.

The project aims to create an increased awareness of the problem at industry level and provide new tools and insights to manage the risk, ultimately leading to the adoption of suitable management and mitigation procedures on marine sites. This would reduce the mortality (and increase the welfare) of marine reared finfish and thereby increase the competitiveness of the Irish finfish aquaculture sector.

**Defined Applied Industry Project - Azaspiracids: Toxicological Evaluation, Test Methods and Identification of the Source Organism**

- *Grant-Aid:* €1,020,699 (€659,348 in BMW Region)
- *Lead:* Marine Institute (Galway)
- *Partners:* Dublin Institute of Technology (Dublin)  
Norwegian School of Veterinary Science (Norway)  
Nat. Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)  
National Research Council (Canada)  
Alfred Wegener Institute (Germany)  
IFREMER (France)

Azaspiracids (AZAs) are a marine toxin group, first discovered in Ireland in 1995. Since this date, AZAs have recurred in Irish waters and continue to pose a risk management problem for the shellfish industry and for regulators, from a consumer safety perspective. As with other shellfish toxins, appropriate management of the shellfish commodity is dependent on:

- A clear understanding of the ecology of the causative source organism(s);
- Availability and knowledge of the toxic agents, their shellfish metabolites and behaviour in mammalian systems; and
- Detailed knowledge of the effects of the toxins on animals and humans.

This project aims to strengthen the existing monitoring programme for shellfish toxins through (i) the elucidation of the source organism of azaspiracids; (ii) the clarification of relative and combined toxicities and the mode of action of analogues of azaspiracids and other lipophilic toxins; and (iii) the sustainable supply of AZA-calibrants in support of international efforts in the validation of quantitative test methods that can be used to refine, reduce and replace animal testing.

This project is expected to strengthen the competitive position of the Irish bivalve shellfish industry, based on world-class science and food safety. It will provide a scientific basis for

rationalising the biotoxin monitoring and risk management systems used in Ireland and the EU, thus supporting the sustainable growth of the shellfish industry while maintaining health and protection for shellfish consumers.

It is also anticipated that the project will contribute to the strengthening of Irish research capacity through close collaboration with a number of world-class research institutions.

**PhD Scholarship - The Impact of Climate Change on the Distribution, Biology and productivity of Fish Stocks in Waters around Ireland**

- *Grant-Aid:* €110,000 (all in BMW Region)
- *Lead:* Martin Ryan Institute, NUI Galway

The waters around Ireland are important regions for research on the impact of climate change on fisheries. Several commercially important fish species are at the limit of their southern (cod and herring) and northern (sardines, anchovies) distributions; thus allowing the use of regional datasets to study bio-geographical species shifts. In addition, Irish waters host important spawning grounds for several commercially and widely distributed fish species; allowing the study of the impact of climate change on fish migration patterns and spawning locations. The aim of the PhD scholarship is to integrate fisheries survey and stock assessment data with environmental datasets to assess the impact of climate change on the dynamics of the mackerel stock and cod stocks in waters around Ireland.

The project will contribute to the expansion of knowledge in this field. On a national and European level, the results of this work will improve our knowledge of climate impacts on fisheries in an Irish context, thus aiding policy makers to improve fisheries management decisions, taking climate into account.

### Appendix 3 – PUBLICITY GUIDELINES

***All published materials relating to the project should carry full acknowledgement of NDP and ERDF Grant-Aid, the Marine Institute and Sea Change, as follows:***

This project (Grant-Aid Agreement No. ....) is carried out under the *Sea Change* strategy with the support of the Marine Institute and the Marine Research Sub-programme of the National Development Plan 2007–2013, co-financed under the European Regional Development Fund.

In addition to the above wording, the following **logos** should be displayed:



#### ***Advertisements***

***Advertisements (for Press, Web-sites and Internal Notice Boards) for posts/research scholarships/fellowships Grant-Aided under the project should carry full acknowledgement of ERDF and NDP Grant-Aid, the Marine Institute and Sea Change and should include the Host Institution, NSRF, ERDF, Marine Institute and Sea Change logos.***

#### ***Presentations/Posters***

***Presentations (Overheads/PowerPoint/Slides) and Posters should carry full acknowledgement of ERDF and NDP Grant-Aid, the Marine Institute and Sea Change and should include the NSRF, ERDF, Marine Institute and Sea Change logos. In a Presentation, this acknowledgement should come at the beginning of the presentation (e.g. after the introductory slide).***

#### ***Publications***

##### ***Grey Literature***

Internal and Grey Literature Reports should carry full acknowledgement, including logos, of ERDF and NDP Grant-Aid, the Marine Institute and *Sea Change* on the title page.

##### ***Scientific/Technical Literature***

The following text should be included in the Acknowledgements Section:

***“This project (Grant-Aid Agreement No. ....) was carried out under the Sea Change strategy with the support of the Marine Institute and the Marine Research Sub-Programme of the National Development Plan 2007–2013, co-financed under the European Regional Development Fund”.***

**Further information on publicity requirements, and copies of relevant logos, can be obtained from the Sea Change Management Unit, Funding and Administration Office:**

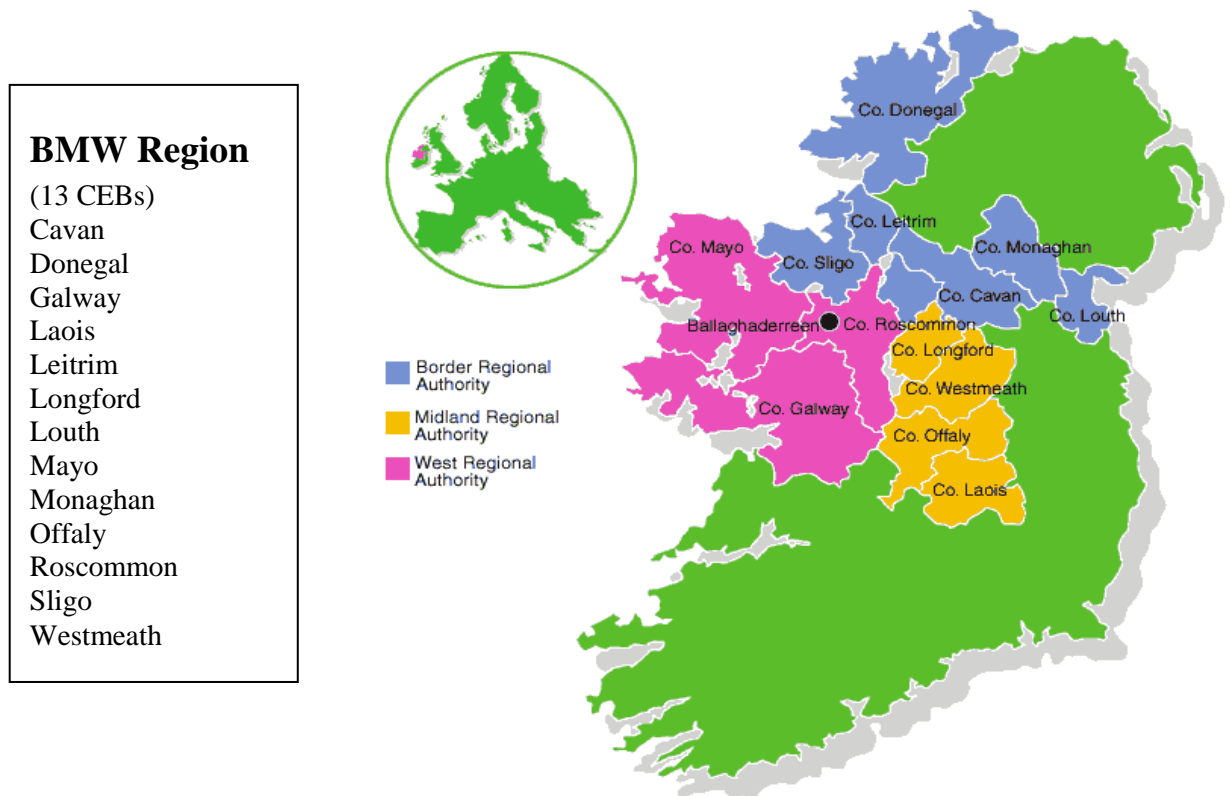
**Email: [funding@marine.ie](mailto:funding@marine.ie)**

**Tel.: 091-387200**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>3. Micro-Enterprise – Innovation and Entrepreneurship</b>
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	

### 1. Introduction

The Micro-enterprise Theme is delivered through the 13 County and City Enterprise Boards (CEBs) located in the BMW region. CEBs were established in 1993 and subsequently given statutory status under the Industrial Development Act of 1995. Their statutory function is to stimulate economic and entrepreneurial activity at local level and to develop local indigenous enterprise in the micro-business sector.



Each CEB operates as a stand-alone limited company whose actions are delivered under an Operating Agreement to be agreed between the individual CEB and Enterprise Ireland. Enterprise Ireland supports the region’s 13 CEBs through annual Exchequer allocations, provided to Enterprise Ireland for that purpose, which fund expenditure co-financed under the Regional OP.

*The CEBs operate in accordance with the Regional Operational Programme for 2007-13, under the **Micro-Enterprise Innovation and Entrepreneurship** sub-theme of the Innovation and the Knowledge Economy Axis. The County and City Enterprise Boards, established at 13 locations across the BMW region, deliver the actions described under this theme.*

The operational period for the Micro-enterprise sub-theme commenced with effect from 1 January 2007 and will report to the Monitoring Committee under the Indicators and Cross-cutting themes in the Implementation Plan agreed by the Monitoring Committee.

The theme is designed to achieve over the term of the Operational Programme increased rates of business start-up and expansion, and increased **competitiveness, innovation and technological adaptation** by **micro-enterprises** (the enterprise sector which encompasses small and start-up enterprises employing not more than 10 people).

As part of the aim under the Axis of the Regional Operational Programme to nurture a positive **culture of entrepreneurship** and promote the formation of **new and innovative enterprises** with growth potential, the CEBs are charged with primary responsibility at **local level** for:

- cultivating a favourable culture of entrepreneurship and
- supporting the development of enterprises.

A suite of focused business supports and services are made accessible by County Enterprise Boards (CEBs) to enterprises, to enable **existing and start-up** entities to increase their capability, raise productivity, to adapt Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications and to increase employment.

To give effect these objectives under the Micro-enterprise theme of the 2007-13 Operational Programme, the CEBs will:

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

The current economic climate, both globally and domestically, presents considerable additional challenges for micro-enterprise and is resulting in a higher demand for CEB services at local level. The recession is driving innovation, and many new businesses are being started up across the country, mainly by people who have recently been made redundant.

A submission to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) by the CEB network, supported by the CEB Co-ordination Unit, recommending a suite of revised Financial Instruments to enable CEBs assist existing and new start-up companies is currently being evaluated by ETE and a recommendation should ensue shortly.

## 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

### • Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:

Class	Indicator	Baseline figures as of 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2006	Final Target 2013	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008*
<b>Output</b>	<b>No of micro-enterprises assisted<sup>18</sup></b>	2,511	5,011	3049
	Of which Male Promoters	1,792	3,576	2218
	Of which Female	608	1,213	712
	Promoters Of which Promoter is company/partnership/other	111	222	119
	<b>No of training days provided<sup>19</sup></b>	35,572	119,572	72,634.6
	Male			33,880.5
	Female			38,650.1
	Other			104
<b>Result</b>	<b>No. of jobs created in assisted micro-enterprise<sup>20</sup></b>	16,684	20,884	17,175.5
	Male F/T	10,460	13,093	10,676
	Female F/T	4,324	5,412	4,569
	Male P/T	1,401	1,757	1,313
	Female P/T	2,399	3,001	2,548
	<b>No of training recipients<sup>21</sup></b>	26,550	61,530	39,620
	Of Which Male	12,059	27,562	17,955
	Of Which Female	14,239	33,688	21,388
	Of Which Companies /partnership/other	252	300	277

\*Figures are calculated using baseline figure plus 2007 and 2008 figures

CEBs assist projects in the manufacturing and internationally traded services area (or with potential to become).

<sup>18</sup> PMS Report N109 “Key and Secondary Indicators Summary – Key no 3, Secondary Indicator no 6” 1/1/08–31/12/08, printed 02/04/09 plus baseline figure

<sup>19</sup> PMS Report N110 “National Development Plan Performance Indicators – Key no 9” 1/1/08–31/12/08, printed 01/04/09 plus baseline figure

<sup>20</sup> PMS Report N117 “National Roll Up Summary” 1/1/08–31/12/08, printed 01/04/09

<sup>21</sup> PMS Report N110 “National Development Plan Performance Indicators – Key no 4” 1/1/08–31/12/08, printed 01/04/09 plus baseline figure

### 3. Expenditure

- Complete financial table at Theme/Sub-Theme level

Year	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF @40%	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
	1=2+3+4	2	3	4	5	6
2007	€8,031,567*	€3,212,627*	€4,818,940*			
2008	€7,623,606*	€3,049,442*	€4,574,164*			
2009						
2010						
2011						
2012						
2013						
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	€15,655,173	€6,262,069	€9,393,104			

\*The figures above may be adjusted in line with the final submissions of the B1 from the County and City Enterprise Boards.

### 4. North-South Co-operation

Cross-border trade and business co-operation is facilitated and encouraged by CEBs, especially by those in Border counties. CEBs in the BMW region participate in cross-Border projects such as: **Tradelinks, Interreg IIIA, Peace II/(EU) Peace and Reconciliation, CREATE, BREIFNE** and in informal networks of cooperation at district and local area level. Joint **CEB-LEA** (Northern network of Local Enterprise Agencies) activities are undertaken to introduce micro-businesses in either jurisdiction to Island-wide market possibilities for products and services. Other activities promoted on a cross-border basis include business visit exchanges, joint marketing initiatives, exhibitions, alliances and joint ventures etc. Co-operation in female entrepreneurship is also encouraged through links established by the CEB Women-in-Business Networks with various women groups/ organisations in Northern Ireland.

**Cavan County Enterprise Board** in partnership with Fermanagh University Partnership Board secured funding in 2006 from **Border Action (Peace II)** under the programme for **Peace and Reconciliation** towards the appointment of a Special Projects Officer to assist in addressing the economic and enterprise development needs of West Cavan, including Swanlinbar, Blacklion, Bawnboy and Dowra and the adjoining areas of West Fermanagh. The initiative included the delivery of an enterprise action programme devised for the area including training, mentoring, and the development of village economic profiles. A Special Projects Officer (SPO) was appointed and has organised information sessions, and training in the area. The SPO works primarily from offices in Swanlinbar and Blacklion acting as a first point of contact for the West Cavan/West Fermanagh Development Project. Achievements during the initiative included the delivery of a number of enterprise related programmes, mentoring and business seminars. The project concluded in mid 2008.

**West Fermanagh Social, Community and Enterprise Regeneration Project** is a joint initiative of **Cavan County Enterprise Board, Fermanagh Enterprise Ltd and Cavan County Enterprise Fund**. This Project has received funding through **International Fund for Ireland** under the **Building Foundations programme**. The three year Project aims to support enterprise and local economic development in the area through the provision of business advice, training/mentoring; promotion of positive community relations; raising awareness of cultural diversity; creation of strategic partnerships; and development of a shared vision for the future development of the area. The Project will employ a full time Programme Manager and Part-time Project Administrator. The Executives employed will be based in West Cavan & West Fermanagh.

**The 'Tradelinks' Programme** is a cross border initiative of **Enterprise Northern Ireland** (representing the local enterprise agency network in Northern Ireland) and the **County Enterprise Boards** in the six Border Counties. The programme which commenced in late 2004 comprised a suite of business support measures aimed at addressing barriers to trade by providing a framework for co-ordinated mentoring and networking opportunities to support micro enterprises based in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties. Funding for the 'Tradelinks' programme was secured from **Interreg**, the International Fund for Ireland, **Invest Northern Ireland** and the **Border County Enterprise Boards**. **Cavan CEB** was the lead regional co-ordinator for the 'Tradelinks' programme for the Central Border East area. This area includes Cavan, Monaghan and areas taking in Cookstown, Armagh and Dungannon. Cavan CEB had specific responsibility for the Cavan/Monaghan area as well as the overall management role within the region. Cavan CEB placed 37 Cavan Companies on the programme which concluded in early 2008. A new phase 2 programme is due to get underway in 2009 with funding support from **Interreg IVA**.

**Bréifne Project:** November 2006, saw the launch of **Bréifne** by Minister Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. **Cavan CEB** have been centrally involved in the development of **Bréifne**, a cross border tourism company established to market West Cavan, North Leitrim, South Fermanagh, North Sligo and North Roscommon as one region under the brand name **Bréifne**. The project was supported by the five local authorities, the Geological Surveys of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the University of Ulster and Cavan Enterprise Board. A 200 page interactive website with extensive tourist information and a vast array of geological, archaeological, cultural, ecological and historical information relating to the region was developed. Bréifne also produced a major travel guide and 30 minute film showcasing the region. A series of interpretative signs were designed and located at sites throughout the region. The second phase of the project in 2007 and 2008 focused on marketing the products developed and the region generally, as well as expansion of the Marble Arch European Geopark (Co. Fermanagh) into areas of Co. Cavan.

**Cavan Innovation & Technology Centre (CITC)**, which is a joint initiative of **Cavan County Enterprise Board and Cavan County Enterprise Fund**, has been developed as part of a cross-border programme to support local, regional and national agencies in stimulating an environment conducive to innovation, entrepreneurship and inward investment in the Cavan/Fermanagh region. CITC has also been approved as a distance learning/outreach centre for the central border area. The Centre comprises reception / exhibition / display areas, administration offices, innovation office / laboratories, a training facility, conference room and lecture theatre and is equipped with the most up to date information and communications technology (ICT), including audio visual equipment.

CITC brings a whole new dimension to the range of support services available to new and existing businesses in Cavan and the Central Border Area generally. As an Outreach and Distance Learning Facility, CITC has partnered with a number of Ireland's leading academic institutions to improve access to third level education, particularly for the business community.

CITC also delivers short-term corporate training and development programmes in areas such as computing, languages and science. All CCEB training is now delivered in the CITC. This facilitates enhanced management of training programmes and ensures that a high quality learning environment is available.

CITC has also been approved for Skillnet funding (namely - Border E.D.G.E. Skillnet) to deliver a range of training programmes in the border region between 2007 and 2009.

**Microtrade** is a programme funded by **Intertrade Ireland**. **Cavan CEB** has continued to promote various events held, which were subsequently attended by Cavan CEB clients during the year including the B.I.G. event which focused on bringing together companies from both sides of the border that had an interest in Renewable energy and green technology.

**Donegal CEB** has been involved in the active delivery of the **Tradelinks** cross border programme with the 5 other CEBs and the local enterprise agency network. This is primarily a mentoring programme to assist in business development and cross border trade. Other Boards involved in this initiative are: Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, Cavan & Sligo. Donegal have completed delivery of Tradelinks programme and have prepared a new application for **Tradelinks 2**.

**Galway County & City Enterprise Board** supported a number of initiatives with **Micro Trade Ireland**. Two companies had successful dealings with companies in Northern Ireland and two companies were successful under the **Acumen Program**.

**Laois County Enterprise Board** worked closely with **Microtrade** and linked a Portlaoise based company, the **Costume Shop.ie**, with a company in Northern Ireland. **TheCostumeShop.ie** is Ireland's biggest online fancy dress costume shop. As part of Microtrade Link up Funding, the company partnered up with a company in Northern Ireland called Palmer Agencies. Palmer Agencies is a wholesale distribution company that were looking to expand their operation in southern Ireland.

As part of the MicroTrade grant The Costume Shop focused on exporting to Northern Ireland and Microtrade part funded a PPC (price per click campaign). To date the company has placed orders with Palmer agencies in excess of €130,000 and continue to work closely together.

**Leitrim CEB** remained involved in two cross border programmes during 2008 including Innovation Enterprise Initiative Programme and the Business Transition programme.

- **Innovation Programme:**

The project aimed to help businesses identify new work methods which will lead to an increase in efficiency as well as delivering a series of training and mentoring in new

technologies and innovation. This programme operated a series of cross border network events.

- **Business Transition Programme:**

This programme assisted companies in Leitrim, Sligo and Omagh in all areas of market research. A programme officer was available to assist companies with their research needs. The programme also delivered a Cross Border Meet the Buyer Event for four consecutive years.

**Louth CEB** have been involved with **The Enterprise Network East (Interreg IIIA)** project. This project creates business and civic links between Louth/Newry & Mourne and Eastern Europe. A trade mission to Lithuania and Latvia was successfully completed in October 2007. Trade missions to Germany and France were also successfully completed in 2008.

**The Plato programme** continued to provide cross-border networking opportunities for SMEs in Louth and Newry & Mourne.

The **Creative Enterprise Office** completed its programme of work in June 2008 and elements of that project have been mainstreamed by Louth County Enterprise Board.

**Craftmark** continues to support craftmakers and craft clusters in **Louth/Monaghan/Armagh/Down**.

**Westmeath CEB** hosted an event in April 2008 which featured presentations detailing information on **Microtrade, Acumen and Fusion Programme**.

## **5. Information and Publicity Requirements**

### **Publicity**

CEBs continue on an ongoing basis to publicise their programmes and activities using local printed and electronic media. Mailshot advertising, national and local Newspaper advertorials and advertisements, as well as signage for CEB-sponsored exhibitions and enterprise events constitute the bulk of CEB expenditure outgoings on publicity. Websites maintained by each CEB notify and publicise their activities. In each case the EU logo and accreditation is printed and displayed prominently.

### **Events**

**Donegal CEB** held **Enterprising Donegal Business Week 2008** in March 2008. This event was organised to promote and support business development in Donegal. The week's events included talks, presentations, seminars, workshops and awards - all contributing to foster, promote and expand the County's base of entrepreneurial activity in support of local wealth generation and sustainable employment. Appropriate advertising and press releases were used to advertise the series of events.

**Leitrim CEB:** All advertisements (newspaper and radio), publications (newsletters and small business handbook) and marketing material including brochures, posters and road signage as well as website produced by Leitrim County Enterprise Board publicise the involvement of NDP and Structural Funds contributions through use of logo and text.

**Mayo CEB:** In January 2008 the Board launched the Spring Training Schedule with an advertising campaign in the local press and on local radio. All advertisements carried the national and EU logos together with the tagline “Investing in Your Future”.

All participants on training programmes were supplied with folders where the ERDF and National contribution was acknowledged. Board staff and trainers also acknowledged the EU contribution at the commencement of each training event. Participants were supplied with pads and biros, sourced from the NDP/CSF information office, promoting the contribution by the EU.

In August 2008 a similar campaign was undertaken by **Mayo CEB** in relation to the Autumn training schedule. Again all advertisements carried the relevant logos and tagline.

**Mayo CEB** has a display stand which is used at various events throughout the year. This stand contains the relevant EU logo. All letterheads, compliment slips etc. carry the relevant logos.

During 2008 the **Mayo CEB** engaged in a major entrepreneurship development programme for second level schools in the county. This was a one day fun workshop developing entrepreneurial skills in students. The promotional literature contained the EU Logos.

**Sligo CEB** and **The Irish Franchise Association** held a seminar “Franchising ....All You Need to Know” in June 2008. This seminar provided information on franchising and also had a number of speakers.

**Westmeath CEB** hosted a seminar “Your Business and Corporate Social Responsibility” in February 2008. This event aimed to create awareness of corporate social responsibility.

## **6. Horizontal Issues**

- Reporting template for each applicable horizontal issue – see Annex 2

## **7. Compliance with Community Policies**

- Please state if the Theme/Sub-theme is subject to state aids
- 1. CEBs were advised of the provisions of **Commission Regulation 1998/2006** in relation to notification and monitoring of levels of State aid.
- 2. Confirmation of compliance will be monitored under the ‘Article 13’ verification checks which will be carried out by the Enterprise Ireland (Implementing Body) throughout the period of the Operational Programme 2007-13.
- Provide a brief description of the Public Procurement Procedures for the Theme/Sub-theme

As State Agencies CEBs must abide by the Public Procurement Guidelines - Competitive Process 2004 Guidelines on conducting an appropriate competitive process under national rules and revised EU public procurement Directives. These largely replace the provisions of the 1994 Guidelines [Green Book].

<b>Threshold</b>	<€5K	€5K-€50K	€50K – EU Threshold
<b>Process</b>	Min. 3 verbal quotes	Min. 3 written quotes	Formal Tendering Process <a href="http://www.etenders.gov.ie">www.etenders.gov.ie</a> Voluntary OJ EU
<b>Award</b>	Lowest Price / most suitable	Evaluate most suitable offer against specified requirements. Notify unsuccessful bidders.	Lowest price or MEAT (Most Economically Advantageous Tender). Notify unsuccessful bidders

### **8. Future prospects**

Commentary on the future prospects for the implementation of the Theme/Sub-Theme.

Prospects for the implementation of the Theme/Sub-Theme will be greatly enhanced by the introduction of the new suite of Financial Instruments. The new instruments will provide Boards with a range of focused supports to enable them encourage and support new innovative start-up and expanding companies.

### **9. Any adjustments required**

Any proposals for adjustments considered necessary to the Implementation Plan.

When fully introduced the Implementation Plan will require adjusting to take account of the new Financial Instruments.

### **10. Annexes**

Please annex additional information, for example allocations for 2009, project approvals, etc. where available.

- Please provide a breakdown of expenditure/projects by County/City (NUTS 1V) in accordance with Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1

### BMW County & City Enterprise Board expenditure report

CEB Name	Cumulative Project expenditure reported previously	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer
		1=2+3+4	2	3
	BMW Expenditure M1 & M2 2007*	BMW Expenditure M1 & M2 2008*	@40%	Total Matching Exchequer
CAVAN	€661,117	€658,772	€263,509	€395,263
DONEGAL	€957,315	€884,269	€353,708	€530,561
GALWAY	€634,436	€617,363	€246,945	€370,418
LAOIS	€475,797	€540,514	€216,206	€324,309
LEITRIM	€433,447	€422,125	€168,850	€253,275
LONGFORD	€452,965	€472,495	€188,998	€283,497
LOUTH	€686,402	€738,878	€295,551	€443,327
MAYO	€666,783	€629,144	€251,658	€377,486
MONAGHAN	€513,487	€466,340	€186,536	€279,804
OFFALY	€546,884	€547,898	€219,159	€328,739
ROSCOMMON	€490,006	€428,350	€171,340	€257,010
SLIGO	€648,530	€598,620	€239,448	€359,172
WESTMEATH	€864,397	€618,836	€247,535	€371,302
<b>TOTAL</b>	€8,031,567	€7,623,606	€3,049,442	€4,574,164

\*The figures above may be adjusted in line with the final submissions of the B1 from the County and City Enterprise Boards.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Innovation, ICT and the Knowledge Economy</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>4. Broadband Provision and Demand Stimulation</b>
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	

## 1. Introduction

Under this Theme, support from public funds will be provided primarily to overcome identified gaps in broadband infrastructure and service. This will be achieved through the following measures:

- Completion of the Metropolitan Area Networks (MANS) in partnership with local and regional authorities. A further phase of MANS will be considered once the effectiveness of spending under the first phase has been addressed.
- Scheme to subsidise the provision of broadband services in un-served areas. A new National Broadband Scheme (NBS) is currently under way to deliver broadband to areas of the country that would not be served without intervention. This will be implemented over the early part of the plan.
- Facilitating access to advanced telecommunications infrastructure by SMEs
- Stimulation of demand for advanced telecommunications services among SMEs

## Objectives

- The Metropolitan Area Networks (MANS) Programme is constructing open access wholesale telecommunications networks to facilitate the delivery of open access broadband infrastructure to competing service providers.
- The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources DCENR is considering initiatives aimed at stimulating demand for advanced telecommunications services among SMEs.
- The National Broadband Scheme (“NBS”) is to provide affordable, scalable broadband services to rural areas, many of which do not currently have any broadband service. Extension and take-up of broadband facilities in rural areas is an important policy objective. Bridging the digital divide will make all of Ireland better able to engage in our knowledge society.

Following the conclusion of a technology neutral procurement process, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on 23 December 2008 entered into a contract with Hutchison 3G Ireland Ltd (trading as “3”) for the implementation of the NBS.

The NBS will be rolled out on an electoral division basis and will address electoral divisions (1,028) that are deemed to be without adequate broadband services. 53% of the EDs to be covered under the NBS are located within the BMW Region. A map of the NBS Coverage Area is available on the Department’s website at the following link:

<http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Communications/Communications+Development/National+Broadband+Scheme.htm>

A challenging, yet achievable, roll out schedule must be met, which will see services being launched in a small number of rural areas at end April 2009. Almost half of the entire NBS coverage area will be enabled by end 2009 while all residential and

business premises within the NBS Coverage Area will have broadband connectivity by end September 2010.

## 2. Performance Indicators

- **Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:**

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output	No. of initiatives to enable broadband infrastructure and service provision	0	3	2
Result	Additional businesses with broadband available No. in Clár regions	0	8,125	0

## 3. Expenditure

- Complete financial table at Theme/Sub-Theme level

Year	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
	<b>1=2+3+4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2007</b>	€78,266.00	€31,306.40	€46,959.60	0	0	0
<b>2008</b>	€8,629,104.00	€3,451,641.60	€5,177,462.40	0	0	0
<b>2009</b>						
<b>2010</b>						
<b>2011</b>						
<b>2012</b>						
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>€8,707,370.00</b>	<b>€3,482,948.00</b>	<b>€5,224,422.00</b>			

MANs = Nil

NBS = as above

- Cumulative Forecasted Expenditure to end 2008 is €9m. Actual Cumulative outturn is €8.707m.
- Shortfall of €300k is due to outstanding claim for MANs Project (Edenderry).
- No expenditure has been reported on B2s to date. Training on electronic system is expected shortly.

#### **4. North-South Co-operation**

N/A

#### **5. Information and Publicity Requirements**

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in association with the Regional Assembly for the BMW region will take steps to ensure that adequate publicity is given to the measure with a view to making the general public, potential beneficiaries and trade organisations aware of the opportunities afforded by the measure.

The contribution of the ERDF and Exchequer Funds will be acknowledged in all advertisements, publicity and forms and by means of a notice at sites during construction and at facilities once they are completed. All Information and Publicity will be undertaken in accordance with the Communications Plan. A publicity file is held by both the Public Beneficiary Body and the Implementing Body to record all publicity measures and use of EU Logos. See Department's website with logos and Press Release January 2009 acknowledging EU Co-financing at **Annex 3**.

#### **6. Horizontal Issues**

**Social Inclusion:** All businesses in Rapid or Clar areas currently without broadband will have broadband available to them as a result of the NBS

*Sustainable Development (Environment):*

#### **MANs**

The infrastructure proposed for rollout under the measure comprises telecommunications hardware of fibre optic cable. They are constructed under best practice guidelines issued from the Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and implemented by each Local Authority in the regions. The infrastructure is also subject to local planning permissions and road opening licences designed to minimise the impact of the infrastructure on the local environment.

#### **NBS**

The NBS Service Provider is required to comply with national and EU planning & environmental regulations & guidelines in respect of works associated with the NBS, including, if appropriate, the Foreshore Acts. In addition the Service Provider is required to consider potential environmental impacts and to favour lower impact approaches in supplying broadband under the NBS

#### **7. Compliance with Community Policies**

- State Aid approval was received for both the MANs and NBS Projects.
  - MANs decision N 284/2005 – Ireland.
  - NBS Decision no. N 475/2007

DCENR ensures compliance by public beneficiary bodies under their aegis with national and EU guidelines and directives on public procurement in respect of all EU co- financed operations under their remit. These include guidelines issued by the National Public Procurement Policy Unit within the Department of Finance in July 2004.

In accordance with EU Treaty provisions and Directives in particular (2004/18/EC), public procurement must be carried out in an open, objective and transparent manner. The EU Directives, National Procurement Regulations and 2004 Public Procurement Guidelines – Competitive Process impose legal obligations on public bodies in regard to advertising and the use of objective tendering procedures for contracts above certain value thresholds. As the

Intermediate Body, DCENR ensures compliance with this requirement as part of the verification checks conducted in compliance with this agreement.

Public Beneficiary Bodies are obliged to:

- Advertise their requirements in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).
- Use procurement procedures that provide open and transparent competition.
- Apply clear and objective criteria, notified to all interested parties, in selecting tenders and awarding contracts.

For the following contracts types:

- Works-building and civil engineering contracts.
- Supplies-purchasing of goods and supplies.
- Services-consultancy, financial, advertising.

Advertisements in the OJEU should be published on the etenders website, if supplemented by advertisements in the national media ensure that national advertisements do not appear before the date of dispatch of the OJEU and must not contain any information additional to that in the OJEC advertisement.

## **8. Future prospects**

The 21 month NBS rollout programme is on track, with first services launched in a small number of sites at end April 2009. The first programme milestone is set to be reached at end June next when broadband services will be made available in 15% of the EDs within the entire NBS Coverage Area.

As regards demand stimulation initiatives, under the NBS contract 3 is required to implement 2 marketing campaigns in the NBS coverage area:

- 1) White Label Marketing – promotion of broadband in general (supplier neutral). Messages will focus on demand stimulation, i.e. will announce the arrival of broadband and articulate the benefits and uses of broadband to residential and business Customers
- 2) 3's Retail marketing – promotion of the NBS product. Messages will focus on availability, ease of use, ease of install and value for money.

Both campaigns will use a variety of media to communicate the messages including direct mail, outdoor advertising, online marketing, press and radio advertising, stakeholder events etc.

## **9. Any adjustments required**

N/A

## Appendix 1

### Project level expenditure report

Year	Project Name	Cumulative Project expenditure reported previously	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
			1=2+3+4	2	3	4	5	6
<b>2008</b>	<b>MANs</b>		0					
	<b>NBS</b>		€8,629,104.00	€3,451,641.60	€5,117,462.40	0	0	0
<b>Cumulative Total</b>			<b>€8,629,104.00</b>	<b>€3,451,641.60</b>	<b>€5,117,462.40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Appendix 2

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### Government announces scheme to deliver broadband across Ireland

**€223 million investment in rural broadband infrastructure - 170 jobs to be directly created - Universal coverage by September 2010**

*Dublin, 22 January 2009*

Communications Minister Eamon Ryan today announced the National Broadband Scheme, the Government scheme to deliver broadband services throughout the country. Following the conclusion of a competitive tendering process, the Minister has entered into a contract for the delivery of this scheme with '3' (a Hutchinson Whampoa company).

Ireland currently has over 1.2 million subscribers to broadband. The National Broadband Scheme will provide the remaining 10% of our population, or approximately 33% of the area of the country, with broadband services (see attached map). Ireland will have 100% coverage by September 2010; half of the area under the scheme will be covered by the end of this year.

Investment of €223 million from a combination of Exchequer funds, EU co-financing and '3' will create 170 direct jobs. Hundreds more will be protected and created as the availability of broadband increases the investment and enterprise in the targeted areas.

'3' will extend its network to provide mobile wireless broadband services into the NBS area. Initially, the service will have a minimum download speed of 1.2 mbps. At least, two upgrades of speeds are planned during the lifetime of the contract. These product upgrades will be carried out at no cost to the customer.

Announcing the scheme, Minister Ryan said, **"For too long, rural Ireland has been without this essential service.**

**Today's announcement is a boost for the rural economy. Now businesses throughout the country can have ready access to the national and international markets. Employment will be created and sustained. Quality of life will improve for rural residents and communities will be strengthened.**

**This contract represents real value for public money. I congratulate '3' on winning this contract and look forward to them meeting the challenging, but achievable coverage targets."**

*Robert Finnegan Chief Executive of 3 commented: "3 is delighted to have won the NBS tender - it's great news for 3 and for rural Ireland. We'll be rolling out our first class broadband network bringing internet services to thousands of homes and businesses*

across the country. Over five years we'll be investing 223 million euros and creating around 170 new jobs giving Ireland's economy a welcome boost. There has never been a more important time for people to get connected as Ireland strives to sharpen its competitiveness. 3 has already played an important part in bringing Ireland up to speed in the broadband league tables and we look forward to further strengthening 3's market leading position with the most innovative and services and best value price plans available."

**-ENDS-**

**Notes for Editors:**

Any fixed residential or business customer located within the NBS coverage area can apply for broadband services from 3 Ireland. There are approximately 223,000 buildings located within the NBS coverage area, covering 1028 electoral divisions.

The product provided by 3 Ireland will cost €19.99 per month with a connection fee of €49 which includes the cost of the necessary equipment.

Wireless mobile broadband services will be provided in the NBS area with approximately 8% of areas receiving a satellite service.

An uncharged monthly data cap of 15GB (12GB download and 3GB upload) will apply for the wireless product while 11GB (10GB download and 1GB upload) will be available for satellite users.

Subscribers can expect the following speeds at launch

Wireless Mobile	Min (at cell edge)	Max (at cell centre)
Download Speed	1.2Mbps	5Mbps
Upload Speed	200kbps	1.8Mbps
Satellite	Min	Max
Download Speed	1Mbps	1Mbps
Upload Speed	128kbps	128kbps

Two upgrades of the wireless product are planned by 3 in the coming years without any increase in the monthly recurring charge:

July 2010	Min (at cell edge)	Max (at cell edge)
Download Speed expected	1.6Mbps	6.8Mbps
Upload Speed expected	1.2Mbps	4Mbps
October 2012	Min (at cell edge)	Max (at cell edge)
Download Speed expected	2.3Mbps	10.4Mbps
Upload Speed expected	1.4Mbps	4.8Mbps

The schedule for roll-out is 21 months and the first services will be deployed in spring 2009.

Detailed maps, including individual county maps are available on the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources website [www.dcenr.gov.ie/NBS](http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NBS). Further detail, including an online checking facility, is available at [www.three.ie/NBS](http://www.three.ie/NBS)

**For further information, please contact:**

Press Office  
 Department of Communications, Energy &  
 Natural Resources

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## National Broadband Scheme

Following the conclusion of a competitive tendering process, the contract to implement and operate the National Broadband Scheme (NBS) was entered into with "3" (a Hutchison Whampoa company trading as 3) on 23 December 2008.

The NBS will deliver broadband to certain target areas in Ireland in which broadband services are not available. Under the contract, 3 will be required to provide services to all premises in the NBS area who seek a service. In order to facilitate competition in the area, 3 will also be required to provide wholesale access to any other authorised operator who wishes to serve premises in the NBS area.

Individual County maps, together with the list of Electoral Divisions (EDs) in each County to be addressed by the NBS, are available to view below.

[NBS Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Find out more about the NBS](#)



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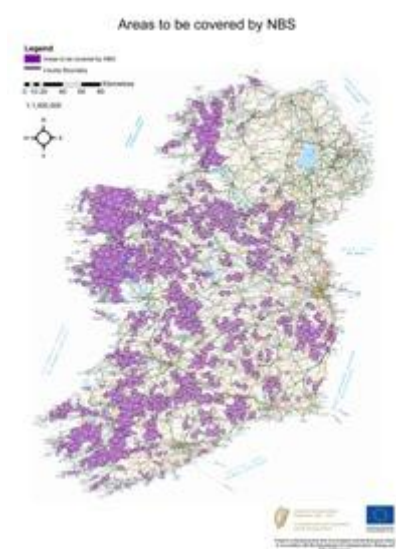
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## Areas to be addressed by the National Broadband Scheme



### Maps and list of EDs to be addressed by County

[Carlow](#) [Cavan](#) [Clare](#) [Cork](#) [Donegal](#)  
[Galway](#) [Kerry](#) [Kildare](#) [Kilkenny](#) [Laois](#)  
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[Tipperary](#) [Waterford](#) [Westmeath](#) [Wexford](#) [Wicklow](#)

[NBS Coverage Map \(High Res\)](#)

## Assessment of the Effect of the NBS on the Environment

- [Public Notice](#) (As published in The Irish Times 29th October 2008 & Foinse 2nd November 2008)
- [Environmental Screening Report](#)

## Press Releases

- [Press Release January 2009](#) - National Broadband Scheme
- [Press Release May 2007](#) - National Broadband Scheme
- [Press Release September 2007](#) - National Broadband Scheme

## Related Information

- [Broadband.gov Website](#)

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## Priority 2 Environment and Risk Prevention

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Environment and Risk Prevention</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>2. Rural Water Source Protection</b>
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	

The Department, in partnership with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes has implemented a national pilot source protection scheme with the objective of putting in place a national strategy for the protection of surface and ground water sources from agricultural pollution, commercial/industrial and residential sources. The pilot programme is being co-ordinated through the Science Dept, Dundalk Institute of Technology.

This involves the ongoing assessment and monitoring of the entire Milltown lake catchment area in Churchill/Oram, Monaghan. It also involved farmyard surveys, investigations into septic tanks and soil status.

Data is being received from the pilot project on an ongoing basis and will be used to inform the criteria for selection of projects under this intervention.

It is expected that liaison with local authorities on the identification and selection of schemes for inclusion in this intervention will commence later this year.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Environment and Risk Prevention</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>3. Village Sewerage Systems</b>

The Wastewater Treatment Pilot Projects advanced by the Department, the National Rural Water Monitoring Committee and the local authorities was completed in 2007.

The objective of the projects is to assess new cost effective ways of providing a wastewater collection and treatment systems for small rural villages and to test a range of innovative technologies for collecting and treating domestic wastewater and include conventional and membrane based package treatment plants as well as vacuum sewers as opposed to traditional gravity and pumped systems.

As part of a programme to evaluate new technologies for providing cost-effective and efficient wastewater collection and treatment for small rural villages, a Septic Tank Effluent Drainage System (STEDS). The STEDS approach is based around the retention of the septic tank on the householder's property and the collection of the effluent only for subsequent treatment and disposal.

The report on the pilot projects has been completed and is currently being examined by the Department.

It is expected that liaison with local authorities on the identification and selection of schemes for inclusion in this intervention will commence later this year.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Environment and Risk Prevention</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>1. Sustainable Energy</b>
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	<b>1.1 Energy for Business Programme</b>
	<b>1.2 Strategic Development Zones</b>
	<b>1.3 Renewable Energy R, D &amp; D</b>
	<b>1.4 CHP &amp; Bioheat (Reheat) Programme</b>
	<b>1.5 Ocean Energy Development</b>

## 1.1 Energy in Business Programme

### 1. Introduction

The objective of this Programme is to deliver energy cost- and carbon-reduction services to all sectors of business through network, training and advisory programmes. Building on a suite of services established through Budget 2007, widening participation and consequent energy savings across business. Programmes range from certified energy management for advanced firms to assessment and advice services for SMEs.

### 2. Performance Indicators

<b>Class</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Final Target</b>	<b>Outturn to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008</b>
Output	Deliver a range of support programmes and services across the business sector, progressively servicing more businesses (measured in terms of energy spend by those businesses).	0 Engagements  Baseline established for energy efficiency of business against which to measure improvement		Engagement in 2008 covered approx. 550 firms directly.  SMEs received advice and training through Advisory Service and Energy MAP through direct on-site assessments as well as training and interactive web support.
Result	Level of energy spend in businesses targeted for energy management advice and support services	Zero businesses involved in energy management in business support services	Provision of energy management advice and support services to businesses with energy spend of €1,300m  Business sector	Provision of energy management advice and support services to businesses with energy spend of €1000m  Delivery of

			is 20% more efficient than baseline.	energy cost reductions ranging, on average, from 5-13%.  Business Sector 20% more energy efficient than baseline.
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## 1.2 Sustainable Energy Zones (SEZs)

### 1. Introduction

The programme will reward collaborative actions at Local Authority level by helping to fund targeted activities within designated sustainable energy communities in order to trigger the accelerated delivery of the Government Energy White Paper targets. The programme is designed to encourage strong private sector and whole-community participation in the achievement of those objectives. Its objective is to promote exemplar sustainable settlements in growth areas by encouraging local authorities to lead by example in their areas and to use their powers to designate SEZs.

### 2. Performance Indicators

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output	Demonstrate and promote integrated community approaches to sustainable energy via a network of Sustainable Energy Zones	No. of SEZ in Ireland	4 Zones fully operational	One zone in progress in Dundalk
Result	Number of sustainable energy zones that each comprises a mix of social and private houses, industry, institutional buildings and transport facilities.	The Provision of models and lessons to motivate and guide regulators, developers and consumer choice	10,000 MWh contribution from renewable electricity within the 4 SEZ per annum	One zone in progress in Dundalk involving public sector, businesses and consumer population

### 1.3 Renewable Energy R, D & D Programme

#### 1. Introduction

The main focus of the RE, R, D & D programme is on stimulating the deployment of renewable energies. It adopts an aggressive technology-led approach to renewable resolving technology and market barriers such as energy storage and demand management in the electricity sector. It involves the deployment of renewable and alternative energy technologies in residential, commercial, public, and community buildings through a combination of grant and regulatory interventions.

#### 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/ subtheme Implementation Plan.

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output	Acceleration of the development and deployment in the Irish marketplace of competitive renewable energy products, processes and systems.		Delivery of 100 R&D projects to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy	SEI delivered four research reports/ studies to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy
Result	Enabling technical and other barriers to market uptake and/or modal switching to be overcome.	6.8% (2005) 8.6 % (2006) of electricity consumption from renewable energy	Wind equates to 15% of national electricity demand in 2010 and 40% demand by 2020.	Total final consumption from renewable energy was 10%.  There was 1002MW of wind generation connected to the grid at the end of 2008 and it provided 2298GWh or 12% of national electricity demand in 2008.
	The number of RE RD&D projects delivered under the following areas			SEI delivered four reports including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Geothermal Atlas of Ireland,</li> <li>- A Report on the potential for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) of CO<sub>2</sub> in geological formations on an all island basis,</li> <li>- A study investigating the potential for community ownership</li> </ul>

				<p>of a wind farm project in Killala, Co Mayo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A review the potential of marine algae as a source of biofuels in Ireland.</li> </ul>
	Shared cost		30 RE RD&D Shared Cost projects	18 RE RD&D Shared Cost projects (cumulative from 2006)
	Demonstration		54 RE RD&D demonstration projects	26 RE RD&D demonstration projects (cumulative from 2006)
	Shared cost R&D Commissioned public good activities		20 RE RD&D Shared cost R&D / Public Good activities	14 RE RD&D Shared cost R&D / Public Good activities (cumulative from 2006)

## 1.4 CHP & ReHeat (Bioheat) Programme

### 1. Introduction

The Renewable Heat (ReHeat) Deployment Programme is aimed at stimulating the installation of new renewable energy plants supplying space, water and process heating in the commercial, industrial, services, public sectors as well as ESCO (Energy Supply Company) installations by means of grant assistance. The Programme is focused on biomass boilers (fuelled by wood chips and wood pellets), solar thermal collectors and heat pumps.

The CHP Deployment Programme will provide grant support to assist the deployment of small-scale (<1MWe) fossil fired CHP and biomass (anaerobic digestion (AD) and wood residue) CHP systems. The Programme will ultimately include biomass (anaerobic digestion (AD) and wood residue) CHP, and micro CHP.

### 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output	The development of a CHP and Bioheat Boiler Deployment Programme to assist in the deployment of small-scale fossil fired CHP, and biomass CHP and heating systems in industrial, commercial and public sectors.		50-80 new gas fired CHP installations;  450 - 600 wood fuelled boilers supported by end 2010  12,000 m <sup>2</sup> of installed solar panels.  15 - 20 heat pumps systems.	Total installed electricity capacity of 8,611KWh  Total Renewable Heat installed capacity was 37 MW <sub>th</sub> ;  Solar thermal: Total installed area of 1,300 m <sup>2</sup> in 2008  Heat pumps: Total installed capacity of 2.3 MW <sub>th</sub> in 2008
Result	Leveraged investment  No. of gas-fired CHP installations Etc.		Leveraged investment of €30M in CHP in Ireland;  50-80 New gas fired CHP installations of 100/120kWe;  Leveraged investment of approximately	Leveraged investment of over €4million in CHP in 2008.  28 CHP Projects were completed in 2008  Leveraged investment of over €10 million in ReHeat in 2008.

			<p>€85 million in ReHeat by 2010.</p> <p>A set of supported installations leading to a reduction in commercial / energy related carbon dioxide emissions</p>	<p>Biomass boilers: 85 projects were completed</p> <p>Solar thermal: 73 projects were completed</p> <p>Heat pumps: 28 projects were completed</p>
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## 1.5 Ocean Energy Development Unit

### 1. Introduction

The Ocean Energy Development Unit (OEDU) has been established to implement the Government's policy decision to accelerate the development of Ocean Energy (Wave and Tidal) in Ireland and it established to advance the deployment of ocean energy technologies in Ireland by increasing the capacity for research and development both with academic institutions and commercial entities developing devices in Ireland. This has, as objectives:

- Targets for the connection of 75Mw of ocean energy by 2012 and 500Mw by 2020 (Programme for Government and White Paper)
- The creation, in Ireland, of a centre of excellence in OE technology and the stimulation of a world-class industry cluster.

### 2. Performance Indicators

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output	Acceleration of the development of Ocean Energy (Wave and Tidal) in Ireland.	¼ scale test site operating in Galway Bay.  HMRC established as Centre of Excellence.	Upgraded NOTF operational.  Full scale wave test site underway for completion for 2010/11.	Establishment of the OEDU was completed and integrated work programme articulated.
Result	Increased the capacity for research and development within academic institutions.  Increased number and stronger commercial entities developing devices and projects in Ireland.	¼ scale ocean energy device in testing/development at Galway.	NOTF contributing to OE research and development and providing services for industry development.  First Ocean Energy grid connected device producing power.	An open call for Expressions of Interest for the Industry Prototype Development Fund released.  The upgrade program for the National Ocean Test Facility (NOTF) at HMRC-UCC was initiated.  Agreement with Marine Institute for operation of ¼ scale test site.  The development of the Test Sites facility – Full-Scale (Belmullet) & Quarter Scale (Galway) – was commenced.

### 3. Expenditure

#### Project level expenditure report

Year	Project Name	Cumulative Project expenditure reported previously	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
			<b>1=2+3+4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>RERDD</b>		<b>0.751</b>	<b>0.3004</b>	<b>0.4506</b>	<b>0</b>		
	<b>CHP/ Reheat</b>		<b>1.976</b>	<b>0.7904</b>	<b>1.1856</b>	<b>0</b>		
	<b>SEZ</b>		<b>0.477</b>	<b>0.1908</b>	<b>0.2862</b>	<b>0</b>		
	<b>OEDU (Ocean)</b>					<b>0</b>		
<b>Cumulative Total</b>			<b>3.204</b>	<b>1.2816</b>	<b>1.9224</b>	<b>0</b>		

### 4. North South Co-operation

SEI has established a sustainable energy community programme in Dundalk, called Dundalk 2020. This project proposal aims to stimulate a paradigm shift in the use of energy within communities to more sustainable patterns and is supported through the SEZ Programme. The project includes a cross-border dimension where Dundalk is working with the associated communities of Newry in delivering the project philosophies in a move to a more sustainable energy economy.

SEI chairs the implementation of the work of the Sustainable Energy Working Group (a Working Group under All Island energy Joint Steering group [JSG]). The focus of the JSG's attention has been on elements of the all-island electricity work programme. SEI participates in the All Island Grid Study which will form the basis for ensuring the long term renewable electricity policy targets. From a Renewable energy deployment perspective, SEI is participating in the work programme which is informing the delivery of 2020 renewable electricity policy targets North and South. Other activities include the development of All Island Sustainable Energy Indicators, and the development of an INTERREG-supported Renewable Energy Installers Academy, by SEI and Action Renewables in Belfast.

SEI delivers an Annual Energy Awards Initiative on an all-island basis that encourages active participation from organisations, industry and businesses on the Island of Ireland.

### 5. Information and Publicity Requirements

The European Union strapline, logo and artwork will be used at all opportunities in communications regarding projects either directly by SEI or by project beneficiaries. All logo/credit usage will comply fully with applicable guidelines. The use of such materials is a

requirement on all branded publications. A beneficiary list will be published in the SEI Annual report

## **6. Horizontal Issues**

Energy research is a key component of the National Strategic Reference Framework and the Irish Government's Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (2006 – 2013). Both recognise that high levels of investment in research and innovation are essential, both for economic competitiveness, and to yield innovations in areas such as healthcare and environmental technologies which make tangible improvements to our quality of life.

The principle of Environmental Sustainability is a key component of sustainable development, a principle reflected in the Government's White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland" and the National Climate Change Strategy. Energy remains a key factor in ensuring economic growth and societal development and SEI continues to promote the decoupling of economic growth from the adverse effects of energy consumption and production.

SEI has estimated that the Industry and Business Initiative is increasing the cost competitiveness to Irish business covering over 50,000 jobs per annum. It estimates that up to 5,500 jobs will be created/ sustained through activities that are directly related to the delivery of some of its core programmes up to and including 2009. For every €1 spent by SEI on its programmes, a total of €5.50 is accrued to the Irish economy in energy and carbon savings.

## **7. Compliance with community policies**

All programmes identified comply with community policies.

## **8. Future prospects**

The expanding remit of SEI has enabled SEI to shape the development and delivery of a number of core initiatives, additional to the ones foreseen at the commencement of the National Strategic Reference Framework. In the submission of its Implementation Plan to the Regional Assemblies and Government, SEI stated its intention to outline future programme complements upon receipt of indications from government on the funding of sustainable energy priorities. The Ocean Energy Development Unit has been included subject to a review by the Regional Assemblies and the Department of Finance. The above programmes deliver activities on a national basis (i.e. both BMW and S&E regions). The financial profile associated with each programme is limited to the capital requirements for effective delivery.

### **Priority 3 Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>1. Urban Regeneration</b>
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	<b>1.1 Urban Renewal</b>
	<b>1.2 Built Heritage</b>
	<b>1.3 Natural Heritage Development – National Parks Visitor Centres</b>
	<b>1.4 Provision of Recycling Facilities</b>
	<b>1.5 Water Conservation</b>
	<b>1.6 RAPID Physical Environment</b>
	<b>1.7 Playgrounds in RAPID Areas</b>
	<b>1.9 ACCESS (Arts Infrastructure)</b>

#### **1.1 Urban Renewal**

The Urban Regeneration Programme 2007 – 2013 has been deferred and will be revisited by the Government at a later date. Therefore it is expected that there will be no further projects under the scheme for the foreseeable future and no expenditure was incurred during 2008.

## 1.2 Built Heritage

### 1. Introduction

The intervention has supported the conservation, restoration and upgrading of built heritage sites in the designated areas. The projects supported relate to large scale built heritage sites or projects and have enhanced the attractiveness of the location to visitors and improved the quality of the built environment in the region. The projects funded have contributed to sustainable development by ensuring the continued viability of the buildings/structures and accessibility for the public to allow for appreciation of the area's important buildings.

### 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

- **Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:**

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output	No. of projects Completed	2	14	4*
Result	Conservation Project Completed	Not completed	Conservation project completed	Ongoing

\*Subject to discussions with the Managing Authority regarding eligibility.

Strokestown House, Co. Sligo;

Heywood Gardens, Co. Laois;

Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Sligo;

Quaker Meeting House, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.

### 3. Expenditure

- Complete financial table at Theme/Sub-Theme level

Year	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
	1=2+3+4	2	3	4	5	6
2007						
2008	.509m*	0.203	0.306			
2009						
2010						
2011						
2012						
2013						
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>.509m*</b>	<b>0.203</b>	<b>0.306</b>			

\*subject to discussion with the Managing Authority on eligibili

#### **4. North-South Co-operation**

The Walled Towns initiative funded many Walled Town days across the Country including one in Derry to publicise Walled Towns restoration North and South of the Border.

#### **5. Information and Publicity Requirements**

Procedures have been put in place to include logos and relevant wording in all press releases, letters of offer and plaques where appropriate.

#### **6. Horizontal Issues**

The projects funded have contributed to sustainable development by ensuring the continued viability of the buildings/structures and accessibility for the public to allow for appreciation of the area's important buildings.

#### **7. Compliance with Community Policies**

The theme/subtheme is not subject to state aids.

Department of Finance's Public Procurement Plan followed by OPW, Heritage Council and the Local Authorities.

#### **8. Future prospects**

There have been major cutbacks in the Heritage allocation and this may have implications for expenditure in the region.

#### **9. Any adjustments required**

There is one change needed on the Implementation Plan under the heading of Selection Criteria. It was stated that one of the stipulations be: property is in public ownership or trusteeship. This should now read: property is in public ownership or trusteeship or open to the public generally.

#### **10. Annexes**

2009 allocations are not yet cleared by the Minister so no projects have been approved as of yet. The overall Capital Built Heritage allocation is €12.5m.

### 1.3 Natural Heritage Development – National Parks Visitor Centres

#### 1. Introduction

##### Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre

Building completed, fit-out and interpretation element being installed at present and centre is scheduled to open for the 2009 Summer season subject to new staff being sanctioned (see below).

##### Clara Bog Visitor Centre

Building to be completed this summer, fit-out and interpretation to be installed and centre to be opened for 2010 visitor season subject to staff being sanctioned (see below).

- No new initiatives or issues;
- No legislative changes or unexpected socio-economic developments that have had direct impact on the implementation of the theme
- Obstacles encountered in implementation – the public service staff embargo will impact on the intended opening date of the centre as staff cannot be recruited (at the present time) to provide adequate cover. Staffing numbers are subject to ongoing review to ascertain if even part time coverage can be provided out of current resources;
- No reports/studies relevant to the Theme/Sub-Theme.

#### 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

- **Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:**

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output	1. Visitor Numbers	Zero – new facilities	20,000	N/A
	2. Contribution to education in nature & sustainability	Zero – new facilities	5,000	N/A
Result	Nil - Centres not open yet			

#### 3. Expenditure - Ballycroy

- Complete financial table at Theme/Sub-Theme level

Year	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
	1=2+3+4	2	3	4	5	6
2007	1.51	.604	0.906			
2008	3.37	1.348	2.022			
2009						
2010						
2011						

<b>2012</b>						
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>4.88</b>	<b>1.952</b>	<b>2.928</b>			

**Expenditure - Clara**

- Complete financial table at Theme/Sub-Theme level

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Eligible Public Expenditure</b>	<b>Total ERDF</b>	<b>Total Exchequer</b>	<b>Total Matching Other Public</b>	<b>Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end</b>	<b>Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure</b>
	<b>1=2+3+4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.45</b>			
<b>2008</b>	<b>1.626</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.976</b>			
<b>2009</b>						
<b>2010</b>						
<b>2011</b>						
<b>2012</b>						
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>2.376</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>1.426</b>			

**4. North-South Co-operation**

- No developments

**5. Information and Publicity Requirements**

- Projects still under construction.

**6. Horizontal Issues**

Provision made in site locations and building designs.

**7. Compliance with Community Policies**

- This Theme/Sub-theme is not subject to state aids
- Public Procurement Procedures undertaken by the OPW who are project managers for these projects.

**8. Future prospects**

N/A

**9. Any adjustments required**

No adjustments considered necessary to the Implementation Plan.

## **1.4 Provision of Recycling Facilities**

### **1. Introduction**

The National Development Plan 2007 -2013 and the associated Regional Operational Programmes provide financial assistance towards the implementation of waste management plans and the delivery of waste management infrastructure.

#### **New Initiatives or issues**

In July 2008 a new grants scheme, the Waste Recycling Capital Grants Scheme was launched. This scheme replaced the Waste Management Infrastructure Capital Grant Scheme, which ran from 2002 to June 2008 and under which over €100m was allocated in grant assistance to local authorities towards the provision of recycling infrastructure such as bring banks, civic amenity sites, composting centres, biological treatment plants and materials recovery facilities. The new scheme is similar to the previous successful scheme and is intended to build on the accomplishments in improving recycling infrastructure that have been achieved to date.

However, while the standard rate of grant remains at 75% (as in the previous scheme), grant assistance of up to 85% is available for projects designed to increase the biological treatment of waste. This is in recognition of the priorities set out in the national Strategy on Biodegradable Waste and the significant challenge that Ireland faces in meeting the Landfill Directive targets.

#### **Progress in the development of the co-financed Scheme**

While the new grants scheme was launched in July 2008, take-up to date has been disappointing. On a national basis only 5 projects, comprising grant-aid of €1.9m have been received to date and there have been no applications for assistance in gateways or hubs in the BMW region that would therefore qualify for assistance under this Measure.

It is likely that, due to the difficult economic situation, Local authorities are re-assessing their overall spending commitments and therefore holding off submitting applications. It is therefore anticipated that take-up of funding will be slower than originally anticipated but, if the economy improves, may pick up later in the term of the programme. This would reflect experience under 2000-2006 Regional Operational Programme, which was initially very slow to start but accelerated rapidly in the last two years of the Programme.

#### **Any reports/studies relevant to the measure:**

An international review of waste management practices is underway and it is expected that the consultants report will be completed by mid-June 2009. This review will assist in determining the mix of technologies that is most suited to our circumstances and it is expected that there will be a major role for mechanical biological treatment in this.

#### **Forecast Expenditure**

The Carrowbrowne composting facility, in Galway, which was originally approved under the old scheme, has incurred expenditure of approx. €0.75 million in 2008. Consideration is being given as to whether this expenditure can be transferred to the new scheme. There has been no other eligible expenditure in 2008 and, based on the low take-up of the scheme, no further expenditure is anticipated in 2009.

## 1.5 Water Conservation

### 1. Introduction

Water conservation projects in Sligo, Athlone, Mullingar and Dundalk have been selected for co-funding. The objective is to reduce unaccounted for water in these urban areas. Projects with an estimated value of €16.3 million are to be progressed - €7million of which will be co-funded works attracting 40% recoupment in ERDF aid.

### 2. Performance Indicators

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target	Position at 31 December 2008
Output	UFW			
- Dundalk		55%	48%	55%
- Sligo		46-86%	30%	46-86%
- Athlone		47%	42%	47%
- Mullingar		29%	26%	29%
Result	UFW			

### 3. Expenditure

There has been no expenditure on the projects to date. No significant expenditure is anticipated in 2009. Bulk of expenditure arising will be in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

### 4. North/South Cooperation

N/A

### 5. Publicity

Projects have not yet commenced. Requirements have been brought to the attention of the authorities involved.

### 6. Horizontal Issues

Water conservation is entirely concerned with the horizontal theme of environmental sustainability and would generally be regarded as neutral in relation to the other horizontal themes of equality and social inclusion.

### 7. Compliance with Community Policies

State aids do not arise. All procurement for the projects will need to comply with National and EU requirements.

### 8. Future Prospects

All of the water conservation projects are rehabilitation works. This is a mature phase of water conservation where authorities deal with areas of high persistent leakage. Following pipe sampling and testing to validate the condition of water mains, investment is then targeted on those sections yielding the best return.

Under National procedures, the first step is the drawing up of a Rehabilitation Strategy for the county/city by the relevant water services authority. Once this is in place, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government can then consider

individual projects for approval to funding. Different levels of progress can be reported in relation to the co-funded projects, as follows:

- In the case of Mullingar and Athlone, the Rehabilitation Strategy has been drawn up and individual projects in the two towns were approved on 25 March 2009 at an estimated cost of €8.8 million. The final beneficiary – Westmeath County Council – will now progress to the next stages in the development of the projects – preparation of an updated budget, preparation of a polluter pays report and a brief for the appointment of a consultant to supervise the works. Works should commence in 2010 and would generally take 18 – 24 months to complete.
- In the case of Dundalk, the Rehabilitation Strategy has been drawn up and paperwork in relation to the advancement of individual projects in the town is being prepared for submission to the Department. These are expected by the end of April 2009. It should be possible for projects to start in 2010 and would generally take 18 – 24 months to complete.
- In the case of Sligo, the Rehabilitation Strategy has been drawn up and paperwork in relation to the advancement of individual projects in the town is being prepared for submission to the Department. It will be later in 2009 before these are sent to the Department. Project likely to commence in 2011 and again a construction period of 18 – 24 months would be typical.

**9. Any adjustments required**

None

## 1.6 RAPID Physical Environment

### 1. Introduction

The Local Authorities are charged with primary responsibility for delivering the capital works at a local level.

Eligible works include the provision of speed ramps and pedestrian lights, dishing and improvement of footpaths, road improvement works, landscaping, improvement of open spaces, seating areas, lighting, boundary walls and works to make open spaces in housing and flat complexes amenable to recreational use in RAPID areas in gateways/hubs in the BMW region.

### Objectives

The key objective over the time of the Regional Operational Programme will be to facilitate the implementation of one of the key seven key strategic themes, Physical Environment, identified by a review of the RAPID programme in 2006.

The RAPID programme was launched in February 2001 in order to direct State assistance towards improving quality of life and access to opportunities for communities in 25 designated disadvantaged urban areas throughout Ireland. A year later, the second strand of the programme extended its coverage to a further 20 provincial towns.

### 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

- **Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:**

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output	9 projects undertaken in RAPID areas	zero under 2008 Scheme	9 projects in BMW region gateways/hubs	NIL
Result	Improvement of the physical environment in RAPID areas	zero under 2008 Scheme	60,000 households benefiting from enhanced physical infrastructure	NIL

### 3. Expenditure

- Complete financial table at Theme/Sub-Theme level

Year	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
	<b>1=2+3+4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>NIL</b>					
<b>2008</b>	<b>NIL</b>					

<b>2009</b>						
<b>2010</b>						
<b>2011</b>						
<b>2012</b>						
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Cumulative Total</b>	<b>NIL</b>					

- These are new capital commitments which require Department of Finance sanction. This sanction has been sought. To date, no response has been received from the Department of Finance.

#### **4. North-South Co-operation**

No direct impacts on North/South Co-operation.

#### **5. Information and Publicity Requirements**

The contribution of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and EU Structural Funds will be acknowledged in all promotional material, annual reports, letters of offer, etc., by use of the appropriate logo and text references. The relevant Structural Funds regulations on information and publicity will be complied with in this regard.

#### **6. Horizontal Issues**

##### **Social inclusion**

The RAPID programme was launched in February 2001 in order to direct State assistance towards improving quality of life and access to opportunities for communities in 25 designated disadvantaged urban areas throughout Ireland. A year later, the second strand of the programme extended its coverage to a further 20 provincial towns. Responsibility for delivering the programme was designated to the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, the Department of Environment and Local Government, **and later the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DCGRA)**, with **Pobal** co-ordinating its implementation on behalf of the Department. In June 2006, RAPID priority status was extended to Ballyfermot bringing the total number of RAPID areas to 46.

The RAPID Leverage Schemes have enhanced the quality of life of many of the residents in RAPID areas and promoted social inclusion through enhancing the physical environment of housing estates, providing play and sports and health facilities and through providing funding for CCTV installations and graffiti clean-ups.

A formal evaluation of the programme was launched on 1 June 2006. The report indicates that the experience of the RAPID Programme has been very positive in many areas and the Programme has made substantial progress in identifying the needs of disadvantaged communities and in implementing important local projects in response to those needs.

The main strengths of the Programme are stated to be the facilitation of a significant number of local development projects addressing the most pressing needs of the local community. In the opinion of local stakeholders, these projects would not have progressed without the establishment of the RAPID programme. Another key strength noted was the establishment of structures that have provided a mechanism for disadvantaged communities to identify

needs and to influence policy. These structures allowed for the development of effective working partnerships between the key players, the leveraging of greater national and local government investment in RAPID areas and the development of innovative practice with regard to projects, community participation and engagement.

## 7. Compliance with Community Policies

- Please state if the Theme/Sub-theme is subject to state aids

Compliance in relation to public procurement, EU eligibility, tax clearance and information and publicity are set out in the terms and conditions for the Scheme.

## 8. Future prospects

These are new capital commitments which require Department of Finance sanction. This sanction has been sought. To date, no response has been received from the Department of Finance.

## 9. Any adjustments required

N/A

## 10. Annexes

These are new capital commitments which require Department of Finance sanction. This sanction has been sought. To date, no response has been received from the Department of Finance.

Indicator	Baseline	Final
9 projects undertaken in RAPID areas	zero under 2008 Scheme	Department of Finance sanction awaited
Improvement of the physical environment in RAPID areas	zero under 2008 Scheme	Department of Finance sanction awaited

## 1.7 Playgrounds in RAPID Areas

### 1. Introduction

The Local Authorities are charged with primary responsibility for delivering the capital works at a local level.

The scheme will provide funding for the provision of new playgrounds or the refurbishment of existing playgrounds. It should be noted that in this context 'playground' should be interpreted to include the provision of fixed play equipment for children of any age, and can include play equipment suitable for older children and teenagers, such as Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). Future developments will provide recreation areas for older people.

The key objective of the playgrounds scheme is to increase the range of public play opportunities available to children and young people in designated RAPID areas in the BMW region.

The RAPID programme was launched in February 2001 in order to direct State assistance towards improving quality of life and access to opportunities for communities in 25 designated disadvantaged urban areas throughout Ireland. A year later, the second strand of the programme extended its coverage to a further 20 provincial towns. In June 2006, RAPID priority status was extended to Ballyfermot bringing the total number of RAPID areas to 46.

A brief description and commentary on progress with reference to the key objectives of the theme/subtheme, the cumulative physical and financial indicators over the period in question, as set out in the Implementation Plan.

### 2. Performance Indicators

Achievements of physical indicators relative to targets set out in the theme/subtheme Implementation Plan.

- **Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme:**

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final	Outturn to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Output 1.	Number of Playgrounds provided	zero under 2008 Scheme	9 projects in BMW region gateways/hubs	2 playgrounds built in BMW region RAPID area in Cavan Town
Result 1. 2. 3.	No. of users of new/used playgrounds	0	46,000 households in completed projects in BMW region gateways/hubs by end 2009 Based on one child user per household	1,500 households in the completed project in the BMW region. Based on one child per household

### 3. Expenditure

- Complete financial table at Theme/Sub-Theme level

Year	Total Eligible Public Expenditure	Total ERDF	Total Matching Exchequer	Total Matching Other Public	Total Expenditure declared to Managing Authority at year end	Other Non Co-Financed Expenditure
	1=2+3+4	2	3	4	5	6
2007	NIL					
2008	97,000	38,800	58,200			
2009						
2010						
2011						
2012						
2013						
Cumulative Total	97,000	38,800	58,200			

- This is a demand-led, bottom-up and non-competitive grants process. Funding is available on this basis to all RAPID areas. Each RAPID Area Implementation Team (AIT) prioritises projects for funding under the Scheme. Projects thus prioritised are approved at a meeting of the AIT. Each RAPID area decides on its own needs and €66,000 is made available to each area. Not all areas apply for this funding every year.

- These projects are located in the Cavan Town RAPID area.

### 4. North-South Co-operation

No direct impacts on North/South Co-operation.

### 5. Information and Publicity Requirements

The contribution of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and EU Structural Funds will be acknowledged in all promotional material, annual reports, letters of offer, etc., by use of the appropriate logo and text references. The relevant Structural Funds regulations on information and publicity will be complied with in this regard.

### 6. Horizontal Issues

#### Social inclusion

A formal evaluation of the programme was launched on 1 June 2006. The report indicates that the experience of the RAPID Programme has been very positive in many areas and the Programme has made substantial progress in identifying the needs of disadvantaged communities and in implementing important local projects in response to those needs.

The main strengths of the Programme are stated to be the facilitation of a significant number of local development projects addressing the most pressing needs of the local community. In the opinion of local stakeholders, these projects would not have progressed without the establishment of the RAPID programme. Another key strength noted was the establishment of structures that have provided a mechanism for disadvantaged communities to identify needs and to influence policy. These structures allowed for the development of effective working partnerships between the key players, the leveraging of greater national and local government investment in RAPID areas and the development of innovative practice with regard to projects, community participation and engagement.

### **Urban regeneration RAPID**

The RAPID Leverage Schemes have enhanced the quality of life of many of the residents in RAPID areas and promoted social inclusion through enhancing the physical environment of housing estates, providing play and sports and health facilities and through providing funding for CCTV installations and graffiti clean-ups.

### **7. Compliance with Community Policies**

- Please state if the Theme/Sub-theme is subject to state aids

Compliance in relation to public procurement, EU eligibility, tax clearance and information and publicity are set out in the terms and conditions for the Scheme.

### **8. Future prospects**

N/A

### **9. Any adjustments required**

N/A

### **10. Annexes**

Playground developments under the Scheme will take place in the following BMW region RAPID area Gateways and Hubs: Athlone, Cavan Town, Galway, Sligo, and Tuam. €299,000 has been allocated to grant-aid these developments.

## 1.8 ACCESS (Arts Infrastructure)

### 1. Introduction

The Intermediary body (Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism) is responsible for processing applications under the Arts Capital Programme also known as ACCESS (Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme). In the current economic climate it is not known when the next ACCESS scheme will be announced.

### 2. Expenditure

To date no expenditure has occurred.

### 3. Performance Indicators

No progress to report as no projects have yet been awarded funding.

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term Dec '09	Final	Outturn to Dec '08
<i>Output</i>	Provision of high quality multi-disciplinary arts and culture facilities and enhanced capacity in Gateways and Hubs to provide access to arts and cultural facilities in disadvantaged areas and promoting participation by groups covered by equality legislation	5 Centres in Gateways or hubs	6 Centres in Gateways and Hubs	7 Centres in Gateways and Hubs	5
<i>Result</i>	Increased capacity of grant-aided facilities. Capacity includes number of seats in performance spaces and	Estimate currently being calculated			

	number of multi use art spaces available in each building.				
<b>Impact</b>	Increased numbers of audiences / artists participating in arts and culture.	Not available at present			

#### **4. North-South Co-operation**

No progress to report.

#### **5. Information and Publicity Requirements**

The Department and Beneficiary Bodies will ensure compliance with the Information and Publicity requirements as set out under articles 5 to 9 of Regulation (EC) 1828/2006.

The contribution of the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 and EU Structural Funds will be acknowledged in all promotional material, annual reports, letters of offer etc, by use of appropriate logo and text references. The relevant Structural Funds regulations on Information and Publicity will be complied with in this regard.

The beneficiary list will be published on the Department's website.

#### **6. Horizontal Issues**

No progress to report as no projects have yet been funded. However the scheme does contribute to the following horizontal issues under the Operational programme:

##### **Social Inclusion**

One of the cross-cutting objectives of the scheme is to contribute to the achievement of the horizontal principle of social inclusion through the provision of facilities with universal access, including access for disabled persons. Universal access, with particular regard to disabled persons, is a condition of grant-aid provided under the scheme.

As part of the selection criteria projects will be expected to have an anti-discrimination policy or rules in place before funding is approved. This policy is expected to address all possible forms of discrimination e.g. gender, religion, ethnicity etc. and details how the organisation seeking funding intends to prevent such discrimination.

Local authority and other public bodies, to be co-funded by the EU will be expected to implement their existing policies on social inclusion.

One of the stated objectives of the Government's Arts policy, which is taken account of when selecting projects under the scheme, is to encourage and support the strategic development of the arts in local communities, both geographic and communities of interest, for the disadvantaged and for minority groups. Policy on the arts is to promote and strengthen the arts in all its forms, increase access to and participation in the arts, and to make the arts an integral and valued part of our national life. Consequently, all funding allocated by the

Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism for arts and cultural facilities is aimed at, inter alia, addressing the issues of cultural participation, access and social inclusion.

### **Broad Equality**

Another cross-cutting objective of the scheme is to ensure broad equality. Equality principles in Ireland are implemented through the actions against discrimination in the 9 areas of: gender, marital status family, age, disability, race, sexual orientation, religion and the travelling community. All projects supported under this intervention will be expected to ensure compliance in this regard. As part of the selection criteria projects will be expected to have an anti-discrimination policy or rules in place before funding is approved.

### **7. Future prospects**

No comment can be made until applications have been received and projects selected. As the scheme is demand led the prospects for co-funding will depend on the quality of applications received. An independent selection committee who will make recommendations to the Minister will evaluate all applications. The Minister will make the final decision in relation successful projects.

### **8. Any adjustments required**

No adjustments required at present.

### **9. Annexes**

Appendix 1 Financial ExpenditurePriority	<b>Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>2. Strategic Linking Routes</b>
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	

## **1. Introduction**

A brief description and commentary on progress with reference to cumulative physical and financial indicators over the period in question, as set out in the Implementation Plan.

### **N52 Tullamore By-Pass**

The N52 Tullamore Bypass will form a 14km section of the National Secondary Route (N52) Dundalk to Nenagh. The route commences 6km southwest of Tullamore in the townland of Heath and rejoins the existing N52 approximately 3km north of the town in the townland of Gormagh. The scheme will provide a bypass of Tullamore town for N52 and N80 traffic. The contract provides for the construction of 11.5 km of standard single carriageway; 2.5km of wide single carriageway; 1.5 km of link road; 18 at-grade junctions including 9 roundabouts; 12 principal structures including bridges over 3 rivers, the Grand Canal and the Dublin-Galway railway line. The scheme supports the National Spatial Strategy by improving connectivity between the linked Midland Gateway towns of Athlone Tullamore and Mullingar.

An application for EU Aid was submitted to the BMW Regional Assembly on 25 February 2008.

An Tanaiste and Minister for Finance, Mr. Brian Cowen, TD, performed a sod turning ceremony to mark the commencement of construction on the project on 3rd March, 2008 and a brochure issued with appropriate reference to EU Funding (copy attached). A Transport 21 Sign and EU Structural Funds Programmes, 2007 – 2013 Sign with EU logo were in place for the sod turning event (copies of photographs attached). The event was also attended by key stakeholders and the national media.

The project is currently under construction and is due for completion in 2010.

### **N52 Carrick Bridge to Clonfad**

This project involves the widening, realignment and reconstruction of the deficient 4km section of national secondary route on the section between Mullingar and the new N6. Route selection phase is completed and an application was made in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 on 17 December 2007. Preliminary Design has been completed and the scheme will be ready for the publication of the CPO by June, 2009

## **2. Expenditure**

**See Appendix 1**

### 3. Performance Indicators

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term Dec '09	Final
Output	1. No of key Linking Routes 2. Km Completed	0	2 19.6	2 19.6
Result	<b>1. Transit Time Savings</b> 2. Traffic Use	0 0	12 12,546	12 13,070

### 4. North-South Co-operation

The initially selected routes are not adjacent to the Border, although the N52 is a major route corridor from the North-East (connecting parts of Northern Ireland) to the Midlands of Ireland.

### 5. Information and Publicity Requirements

The National Roads Authority has over 12 years experience in implementing the publicity requirements in relation to EU Co-financed operations. The financial instruments concerned include Structural Funds (ERDF), Cohesion Funds and Ten-T Funds. Personnel involved in the administration and management of the relevant schemes in the National Roads Authority have been fully briefed on the publicity requirements and follow up meetings will be undertaken in order to monitor compliance on an ongoing basis.

The publicity requirements, as set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006, have been notified to key personnel involved in the administration and management of the relevant schemes in the relevant local authorities and meetings will be arranged by the Authority with these personnel to fully outline the publicity requirements and actions to be undertaken by the local authority in order to ensure full compliance. The position will be monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

In order to assist local authorities in this regard, templates detailing EU Logo and Tagline requirements in relation to Commemorative Plagues, Billboards etc., have been prepared by the Authority.

### 6. Horizontal Issues

- Provide a description of how the Theme/Sub-Theme is being proofed, in practice, for each of the horizontal issues applicable to that Theme/Sub-Theme.
- Complete the template for each applicable principle (Annex 2)

\*Gender disaggregated data must be provided when a commitment to do so was made in the Implementation Plan or their absence explained.

Under the Roads Regulations, 1994 (S.I. No. 119 of 1994), a statement of the likely effects on the environment of any proposed road development should be carried out for a road development that involves 'the construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or the realignment or widening of an existing road so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new, realigned or widened road would be 8 kilometres or more in length in a rural area or 500 metres or more in length in an urban area'.

As part of the route selection study all environmental impacts are assessed under the following headings:

- Archaeology
- Built Heritage
- Flora, Fauna and Habitats
- Landscape and Visual Effects
- Land Use
- Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology
- Air, noise and Vibration
- Human Environment

See also Appendix 1

## **7. Future prospects**

Commentary on the future prospects for the implementation of the Theme/Sub-Theme. National Secondary roads are medium distance through routes connecting important towns, serving medium to large geographical areas and linking to the national primary routes to form a homogeneous arterial network.

*The Authority's strategy for the development of the national secondary network over the period 2007 – 2010 has been determined having regard to national policy objectives set out in Transport 21*

This development strategy incorporates the following:

- widening, realignment and reconstruction of deficient sections;
- the provision of small bypasses, minor inner relief roads,
- structural improvement measures, including new high quality road pavement and improved drainage;
- capacity improvements, including the provision of hard shoulders, and improved vertical and horizontal alignments;
- safety improvements including the improvement of layout of junctions and access points;
- provision of traffic calming schemes;
- provision of high quality signing, lining and reflective studs, and
- bridge replacement, reconstruction and strengthening.

The N52 Tullamore Bypass forms and integral element of the above development strategy.

*High quality infrastructure in peripheral regions such as the west of Ireland forms a critical element in underpinning continued competitiveness. Balanced regional development is the cornerstone of the European Unions objectives and the ongoing development of the national secondary road network will facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods in accordance with the objectives of the Treaty of the European Union.*

A competitive and knowledge based economy is the aspiration of all European Countries and Ireland's cohesive national roads programme will facilitate the ongoing competitiveness of the economy in conformity with the Lisbon objectives

The provision of high quality infrastructure in the BMW region, such as the N52 Tullamore By-Pass and N52 Carrick Bridge to Clonfad scheme, will enhance regional connectivity between Gateway and Hub towns as identified in the National Spatial Strategy, 2002-2020.

**8. Any adjustments required**

Any proposals for adjustments considered necessary to the Implementation Plan.

N/A

**9. Annexes**

Please annex any relevant additional information

N/A

## Appendix 1

### FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE

*N52 Tullamore By-Pass*

Year	Total Public Expenditure	ERDF	<b>Exchequer</b>	Other Public	Expenditure certified to Managing Authority at year end	Private & other non co-financed
	1=2+3+4	2 = 1*40%	3	4	5	6
2007						
2008	18,299,855	7,319,942	10,979,913	0	0	0
2009				0	0	0
2010						
2011						
2012						
2013						
Cumulative	18,299,855	7,319,942	10,979,913	0	0	0

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Urban Development and Secondary Transport Networks</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>3. Public Transport</b>
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	

## 1. Introduction

### Removal of Speed restrictions at Portarlinton

This work is part of the Removal of Speed Restrictions Programme which Iarnród Eireann is undertaking and which aims to improve speeds on the rail network to support the increased frequency on the InterCity services. The objectives in respect of the Removal of Speed restrictions at Portarlinton are to facilitate an increase in the use of public transport on rail services through Portarlinton and ensure a decrease in journey times in respect of services through Portarlinton. Physical work in respect of the Removal of Speed Restrictions was completed at Portarlinton in February 2008.

## 2. Expenditure

See Appendix 1.

## 3. Performance Indicators

Targets as per table in the Implementation Plan.

Class	Indicator	Baseline 2006	Mid-term Dec '09	Final 2013	Outturn
Output	Journey Time Dublin-Galway	Average minutes 165	Average minutes 160 minutes	Average minutes 158 minutes	
Output	Journey Time Dublin - Westport				
Result	Additional services	7	10	10	
Impact	Increased use of public transport	1.5 million journeys			

## 4. North-South Co-operation

N/A

## 5. Information and Publicity Requirements

The Department of Transport and Iarnród Eireann will comply with all Information and Publicity Requirements.

## 6. Horizontal Issues

N/A at present. First evaluation timescale is December 2009.

**7. Future prospects**

Physical work in respect of the Removal of Speed Restrictions was completed at Portarlinton in February 2008. Iarnród Eireann is currently taking delivery of 183 new Railcars for use on the national network, including on the Dublin-Galway line. Services were introduced on the Dublin-Galway line, via Portarlinton, by the end of 2008.

**8. Any adjustments required**

Physical work in respect of the Removal of Speed Restrictions was completed at Portarlinton in February 2008.

**9. Annexes**

Please annex any relevant additional information

## Appendix 1

### FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE

Year	Total Public Expenditure	ERDF	Exchequer	Other Public	Expenditure certified to Managing Authority at year end	Private & other non co-financed
	1=2+3+4	2 = 1*40%	3	4	5	6
<b>2007</b>	<b>€5.907 million</b>	<b>2.3628</b>	<b>3.5442</b>	---	---	---
<b>2008</b>	<b>€2.570 million</b>	<b>1.028</b>	<b>1.542</b>	---	---	---
<b>2009</b>						
<b>2010</b>						
<b>2011</b>						
<b>2012</b>						
<b>2013</b>						
<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>8.477</b>	<b>3.3908</b>	<b>5.0862</b>			

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Technical Assistance</b>
<b>Intervention/Theme</b>	<b>1. Technical Assistance</b>
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	

## 1. Introduction

The Technical Assistance Priority is a stand-alone priority administered by the BMW Regional Assembly as Managing Authority. It is a priority which applies across the entire Operational Programme and consequently, is not part of the suite of themes designed to contribute **directly** to the achievement of the specific objectives of the Operational Programme. The total technical assistance budget for the duration of the Operational Programme is **€10,897,096**.

Under this priority, funding is provided to cover programme wide costs in relation to areas such as preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control of the Operational Programme together with activities to reinforce the administrative capacity for implementing the Funds.

## 2. Expenditure

### Technical Assistance

#### Cumulative Expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008

	<b>Total Programme Spend</b>	<b>EU Structural Funds</b>
Expenditure	.821355	.328542

#### Note:

The expenditure above represents expenditure incurred by the Regional Assembly and Regional Authorities only. Other expenditures incurred in respect of Publicity, Audit, IT system, etc., have not yet been quantified and are therefore not included.

### 3. Performance Indicators

Indicator Class	Indicator	Baseline	Final Target (2013)	Out-turn to December 2008
OUTPUT	Number of Monitoring Committee Meetings held	0	7*	2
	Number of Evaluations & Studies conducted	0	3	1
	Verification Audits & Closure Audits	0	7	0
	Number of annual publicity events	0	7	2
RESULT	% Achievement of Physical and Financial Targets	0	100%	N/A

During 2008, work took place on the delivery of the Gateway Development Index, a report to capture the impact of the investment under the Operational Programme, and in particular Priority 3, on the growth centres designated under the National Spatial Strategy, in accordance with the commitment made in section 5.4 of the OP. This project was managed by the BMW and S&E Regional Assemblies and directed by a steering committee which included representatives from the Spatial Planning Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Following a competitive tendering process, the contract for undertaking the study was awarded to a consortium involving Fitzpatrick Associates, Trutz Hasse and Quota Search. The Index included the completion of a perception study to complement a suite of indicators that were used to develop the index. The findings of this study were published in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009. This GDI will be repeated again in 2010 and 2013 in line with the mid-term review of the Regional Operational Programmes and the National Development Plan, and the conclusion of these programmes.

## ANNEX 2: Context Indicators

The following table provides an update on the context indicators that were selected for inclusion in the BMW Regional Operation Programme.

Category	Indicator	Baseline Indicators	Updated Indicators (as at April 2009)	Source
Macro-economic	GDP/Capita, BMW Region (EU27=100)	102.9 (2004)	106.4 (2006)	CSO, County Incomes and Regional GDP
	Total Employment in BMW Region (000s)	555.5 (2006)	520.8 (2008)	CSO, Quarterly National Household Survey
	Net Output per person Engaged in Industry in BMW Region	€133,800 (2004)	€162,059 (2006)	CSO, Census of Industrial Production
Priority 1	Innovation Activity Rate <sup>22</sup>	50.8% (2002-2004) BMW Region	47.2% <sup>23</sup> (2004-2006) Ireland	COS/Forfás, Community Innovation Survey
	Entrepreneurial Activity Rate in Ireland <sup>24</sup>	17.9% (2005)	17.2% (2007)	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
	% of Businesses with Broadband in Ireland	48% (2005)	83% (2007)	Eurostat, Internet Usage by Enterprise
Priority 2	Average Drinking Water Compliance Level in BMW Region <sup>25</sup>	95.6% (2004)	97.0% (2007)	Environmental Protection Agency, The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland
	Energy Efficiency in Ireland <sup>26</sup> (1995=100)	85.0 (2005)	84.0 (2007)	Sustainable Energy Ireland, Energy Efficiency in Ireland
Priority 3	Population of Gateways and Hubs	215,288 (2002)	237,467 (2006)	CSO, Census of Population

<sup>22</sup> The latest figures are not provided at a regional level from the 2006 survey, the BMW Regional Assembly is actively seeking that this be readdressed in the next Community Innovation Survey.

<sup>23</sup> This refers to the innovation rate for companies with 10 or more employees.

<sup>24</sup> This is a sum of *Total Early Stage Entrepreneurs & Established Firm Entrepreneurs*.

<sup>25</sup> This is the average of the 14 administrative areas in the BMW Region.

<sup>26</sup> This refers to the *Industrial Energy Efficiency in Ireland Rating*.

	Public Transport Usage (000s) (Bus, Train & Luas)	298,183 (2005)	307,504 (2006)	CSO, Transport 2006
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## **ANNEX 3: Monitoring Committee Membership**

### **BMW REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME MONITORING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2008**

Councillor Connie Hanniffy (Cathaoirleach)  
Councillor Owen Bannigan  
Councillor Tom Costello  
Mr. Gerry Finn (Director)  
Mr. Kieran Moylan (Secretary to the Monitoring Committee)

#### **IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS**

Mr. Pat Casey	Department of Finance
Mr. Jim Deane	Department of Finance
Mr. Vincent Landers	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Mr. Aidan Hodson	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Mr. Paul Doyle	Department of Education and Science
Mr. Richard Browne	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Mr. John Donohoe	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Mr. Carthage Cusack	Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government
Mr. John McElligott	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism
Ms. Kathleen Morrissey	Department of Transport
Ms. Clodagh McDonnell	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

#### **REGIONAL INTERESTS**

Cllr. Tiernan Walsh	West Regional Authority
Cllr. Martin Baker	Border Regional Authority
Cllr. Paddy Belton	Midland Regional Authority
Ms. Deirdre Frost	Western Development Commission
Mr. John Tiernan	City and County Managers Association*

#### **SOCIAL PARTNERS**

Mr. Niall McEvoy	Employer/Business Pillar**
Mr. Joe Cunningham	Trade Union Pillar
Ms. Maura Hickey	Trade Union Pillar
Mr. Pdraig Gibbons	Farming Pillar
Mr. John O'Donnell	Farming Pillar
Mr. Seamus Boland	Community/Voluntary Pillar
Ms. Tess Murphy	Community/Voluntary Pillar

#### **HORIZONTAL INTERESTS**

Ms. Lorraine O'Donoghue	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
Ms. Sinead O'Hara	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
Ms. Pauline Moreau	Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform (Equality & Gender Equality)
Mr. Gerry Mangan	Department of Social & Family Affairs, Office for Social Inclusion
Mr. Brian Darcy	Equality Authority
Ms. Ruth Taillon	Combat Poverty Agency
Ms. Eithna Diver	Comhar, Sustainable Development Partnership

#### **NORTH SOUTH CO-OPERATION**

Ms. Nuala Cormican	Special EU Programmes Body
Ms. Lisa McMullan	Special EU Programmes Body

**ADVISORS TO THE MONITORING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Jonathan Denness                    EU Commission (DG Regio)  
Mr. Noel Farrell                        EU Commission (DG Regio)

Mr. Jim Stone                            Midland Regional Authority  
Mr. Jim McGovern                      West Regional Authority  
Mr. Matt Donnelly                        Border Regional Authority

Mr. Noel Tallon                         Department of Finance, ERDF Paying Authority  
Ms. Valerie Robinson                    Information & Publicity Unit

\*        Replacement nominee to be sought

\*\*       Second Employer/Business nominee to be sought