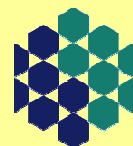


European Priorities 2013-14 Mid-Year Progress Report



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EUROPEAN PRIORITIES 2013-14

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

Covering the Period 1 April 2013 – 30 September 2013

Background

The Executive's 2013-14 European Priorities maintain the thematic approach established in previous years, identifying 29 objectives to be pursued by the four cross-departmental sub-groups of the Barroso Task Force Working Group (BTWG):

- Competitiveness and Employment;
- Innovation and Technology;
- Climate Change and Energy; and
- Social Cohesion.

These objectives were translated into the 113 individual targets that constitute the 'European Priorities 2013-14 Implementation Plan'.

In agreeing its priorities, the Executive tasked BTWG, under the leadership of OFMDFM's Junior Ministers, to provide it with a mid-year report on progress. This paper fulfils that commitment, reflecting progress up to 30 September 2013.

Summary

Thematic Sub-Groups have assessed progress by adopting the Programme for Government (PfG) methodology which assigns a 'Green', 'Green/Amber', 'Amber' or 'Red' rating, depending on the degree to which the target is fully on track or has encountered differing degrees of delay or difficulty (Table 1).

Table 1: Progress Summary

Overall Progress Summary against 113 Targets			
Green	Green/Amber	Amber	Red
106	5	2	0
93.8%	4.4%	1.8%	0%

Thematic Sub-Groups report that 98% of all targets are on track to be achieved or to be achieved with minor delays. 30 targets (**27% of the total**) are already fully achieved and none are rated as being at high risk of failure.

A full list of the targets and their ratings is provided (Appendix 1), along with more detailed commentary on each target considered to have encountered a substantive delay or difficulty (Appendix 2). A definition for each of the 'RAG' ratings, as used within the PfG monitoring system is provided for reference (Appendix 3).

Successes during the period

- DEL organised a well attended event in September 2013 to promote the final round of Transversal study visits to policy makers and managers in education including the Further Education sector, training organisations and the voluntary sector.
- Funding has been provided for an additional 467 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics places at local Higher Education providers.
- The I&T Thematic Group reported that Northern Ireland (through DHSSPS and HSC) was one of 13 regions across Europe awarded European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing 3 Star Reference Site status. This was the highest level of award achieved by any Region.
- The prestigious European Business Innovation Network Congress came to Northern Ireland for the first time taking place in Derry/Londonderry from 29-31 May 2013. The Congress, part-sponsored by Invest NI, DEL and DCAL was attended by over 500 delegates from all around Europe including officials from DOE and DRD. The event provided an excellent opportunity to develop contacts throughout the EU and for Invest NI to hold a workshop introducing Horizon 2020.
- The €3.86m ATBEST project, coordinated by QUB with DOE as an associate partner, commenced in July 2013. This Marie Curie Actions FP7 project will develop innovative research and training for the biogas industry in Europe. It comprises eight training sites located in the UK, Ireland, Germany and Sweden and is a multidisciplinary collaboration between internationally-renowned research teams and industrial partners, each with complementary expertise in a wide range of environmental technologies. The Enterprise Europe Network Northern Ireland, managed by Invest NI played a key role in identifying suitable European partners and advising on the application process.
- The Ecar team have completed the installation of rapid charge points in NI under the International Green Electric Highways project.
- Two DRD projects have been approved for funding under the DETI Competitiveness and Employment programme during 2013:

- Clean Urban Transport Phase 2: Replacement of Metro and Ulsterbus fleet (£5,110,000 ERDF funds); and
 - The A2 Shore Road to Greenisland (£12,977,000 ERDF funds).
- Ministers Launched the European Centre for Delivering Social Change on June 4th.
- DSD in partnership with Youth Council Northern Ireland held an information event to publicise the Youth in Action programme on 3 September attended by over 60 key representatives from Voluntary and Community Organisations.
- There have been 2 meetings of the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum (NIERF). In order to more closely align the work of forum to the BTWG the NIERF established four Sub Groups each mirroring a Thematic Group.
- As part of EU Sustainable Energy Week in June 2013 DOE organised two seminars at the ONIEB, one on sustainable energy and transport, the other on sustainable energy and innovation. The seminars were aimed at showcasing NI expertise in sustainable energy and included presentations from the DRD Minister, DOE and DRD officials, Wrightbus, McLaughlin & Harvey, QUB (QUESTOR and CASE) and Belfast City Council.

APPENDIX 1

EUROPEAN PRIORITIES 2013-14 – Targets and ‘RAG’ ratings at 30/09/2013

Overall Progress Summary against 113 Targets			
Green	Green/Amber	Amber	Red
106	5	2	0
93.8%	4.4%	1.8%	0%

OBJECTIVE / TARGET NUMBER	TITLE OF OBJECTIVE / TARGET	LEAD DEPT.	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION FOR ASSIGNED RAG RATING
1	Fully realise the opportunities which the European Union presents			
1.1	Facilitate drawdown of £12 million competitive EU funds by NI departments between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Departments continue to drawdown competitive EU funding.
1.2	Facilitate BTWG thematic groups to scope and initiate a benchmarking exercise to assess relative performance in drawing down competitive EU funds against the highest achieving European regions by March 2014.	OFMDFM	AMBER	SOME CONCERNS Issue for discussion at the October BTWG meeting.
1.3	Secure a secondment of a member of the European Commission's Task Force to the NI Civil Service by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Work in Progress. Awaiting clearance from DHSSPS on current proposal.
1.4	Further relationships with our representatives in Europe, including MEPs and representatives on the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee, to progress EU issues and opportunities.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Regular and frequent contact is maintained with all our MEPs, COR and EESC representatives with formal meetings scheduled as issues warrant. DRD Officials in the newly created EU Transport Policy and Funding Unit completed an introductory visit to Brussels in September. Useful meetings were held with Northern Ireland's MEPs, Commission Officials, UK Rep and Irish Rep. Several follow-up actions have been identified to continue to build on these relationships.
2	Influence and shape future policy.			
2.1	Over the 2013-14 year, facilitate BTWG thematic groups to deliver 6 European policy seminars, including 2 on cross-cutting priority topics, in conjunction with the European Commission Office in Belfast.	OFMDFM	AMBER	SOME CONCERNS Some seminars are already in the pipeline. Issue for discussion at the October BTWG meeting

OBJECTIVE / TARGET NUMBER	TITLE OF OBJECTIVE / TARGET	LEAD DEPT.	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION FOR ASSIGNED RAG RATING
2.2	Achieve positive policy outcomes in relation to Regional Aid Guidelines, TEN-T/Connecting Europe Facility, Common Agricultural Policy, Eel Recovery and Connected Health in 2013-14; through sustained engagement in OFMDFM Brussels.	OFMDFM	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>The Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels (ONIEB) has arranged for DETI, DRD, DCAL, DARD and DHSSPS to both make representations at various levels to the European Commission and European Parliament resulting in a greater understanding of the issues that are important to Northern Ireland and in some cases progress to a better policy outcome.</p> <p>A first reading agreement on the TEN-T Regulation was reached on 29 May and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is likely to be agreed in the Autumn. Through continued engagement by DRD over a two-year period, exemptions and flexibilities have been successfully secured which avoid Northern Ireland being forced to make multi-billion Euro investments to meet unnecessary infrastructure standards. In addition, increased opportunities to bid for CEF funding for Northern Ireland's transport network have been negotiated.</p>
2.3	Provide and deliver customised visits for Executive Ministers during 2013-14 to advance their European policy objectives.	OFMDFM	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>ONIEB has arranged and supported programmes for several Executive Ministers to date and plans are in hand for 5 Ministerial engagements before the end of 2013. We have also masterminded and arranged several Assembly Committee programmes.</p> <p>The Minister for Regional Development travelled to Brussels at the end of June 2013 for the EU Sustainable Energy Week.</p>
2.4	Deliver an improved, effective NICS Brussels EU policy study programme by March 2014.	DFP	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>Corporate HR (CHR) has commissioned the Centre for Applied Learning to facilitate an EU Study Visit, which is scheduled for 17-21 March 2014. The cost for the study visit will be met by the EU Central Fund, which all NICS Departments contribute to and is administrated by CHR, under the management of the BTWG HR Sub Group.</p> <p>CHR has sought the views of the BTWG HR Sub Group and conducted an evaluation exercise of previous study visits to improve the 2014 event. It is intended to seek applicants for</p>

OBJECTIVE / TARGET NUMBER	TITLE OF OBJECTIVE / TARGET	LEAD DEPT.	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION FOR ASSIGNED RAG RATING
				the study visit from each department in early November.
3	Build our positive profile.			
3.1	Offer assistance to the Irish Presidency of the European Union through to June 2013.	OFMDFM	GREEN	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <p>OFMDFM has seconded one member of staff to the Irish Permanent representation and ONIEB has made available office space in Brussels during the Presidency for presidency related meetings.</p> <p>DEL provided staff to the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in support of the International Labour Organisation conference in Geneva.</p> <p>DOE agreed to the secondment of a member of staff to work with the Irish Presidency team.</p>
3.2	Deliver at least five events promoting Northern Ireland on the European stage by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <p>ONIEB has since April arranged 2 cultural events and 1 policy event. 3 cultural events and 2 policy related events are planned before the end of 2013.</p>
3.3	Participate in at least 3 EU themed weeks in Brussels by the end of March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>ONIEB facilitated Departmental and NIERF participation in sustainable energy week.</p> <p>The DOE/DRD Ecar team travelled to Brussels at the end of June 2013 for EU Sustainable Energy Week. The team attended a number of events in addition to presenting at seminars organised by DOE and meeting with local Officials. They intend to build on this for next year.</p> <p>DRD and DOE are currently involved in a BATTERIE project event which will culminate in an electric vehicle making a journey to mainland Europe.</p> <p>There is also a planned event in SME week in November but further participation is dependent on NI co-operation.</p> <p>Work is also ongoing to identify participation in other themed weeks.</p>
3.4	Facilitate AFBI's participation in a regional partnership in DG Regio's OPEN DAYS week in October 2013, including hosting the partnerships' official seminar in the Executive's Brussels Office.	OFMDFM	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>Open Days is scheduled for 7-10 October. AFBI plan to participate in the event and ONIEB plan to host the partnerships' official seminar.</p>

OBJECTIVE / TARGET NUMBER	TITLE OF OBJECTIVE / TARGET	LEAD DEPT.	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION FOR ASSIGNED RAG RATING
CE1	Promote and facilitate mobility			
CE1.1	Increase participation by students by a minimum of 7.5% and staff by a minimum of 5% in the Erasmus programme and other lifelong learning programmes (Current Lifelong Learning programme in 2013, and Erasmus+ 2014).	DEL	GREEN / AMBER	<p>MINOR CONCERNS</p> <p>Student applications for the 2013-14 Erasmus programme show an increase of 7.05% which is above the UK average of 3.36%. Staff applications are however only up by 1.89%, but this still reflects a higher increase on the UK average which is showing a decrease of 6.94%. Actual participation figures will not be available until the end of the year.</p> <p>We are engaged in ongoing discussions with our HEI's and University Colleges to improve on these figures. As well as this we intend to raise this at the next UK Erasmus consultative meeting in November.</p>
CE1.2	Ensure at least two representatives from NI Higher Education Institutes (HEI's) sit on the European Co-ordination Group.	DEL	GREEN	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <p>Representatives from both Queen's University Belfast and St Mary's University College are members of this group along with a representative from DEL Higher Education Policy Branch. The last meeting was held on 21 May 2013.</p>
CE1.3	Work with the Northern Ireland Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) Advisory Group to plan promotional events in 2013-14, helping to secure increased participation in the Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal programmes.	DEL	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>The Lifelong Learning Programme Advisory Group meeting was held in September 2013. Further details of the successor programme Erasmus+ were provided at the meeting. Initial discussions on promotional activity underway with Ecorys (the national agency).</p>
CE1.4	Hold a promotional event in September 2013 to promote the final round of Transversal study visits to policy makers and managers in education.	DEL	GREEN	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <p>DEL held a promotional event with Ecorys on 17th September 2013. The event attracted 20 delegates representing DEL, the Further Education sector, training organisations and the voluntary sector. Feedback from the event was positive.</p>
CE1.5	In conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions develop a new Charter for European Employment Services (EURES) delivery by March 2014.	DEL	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing between the Department for Employment & Learning and Department for Work & Pensions on the way forward for the EURES Reform across the UK. The Departments are currently examining the detail of the proposed reform.</p> <p>ESF Managing Authorities have been involved in the discussions. The European Commission still have to make some final</p>

OBJECTIVE / TARGET NUMBER	TITLE OF OBJECTIVE / TARGET	LEAD DEPT.	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION FOR ASSIGNED RAG RATING
				decisions regarding the exact make up of the reformed services. Current EURES activities are funded until 31 December 2014 to ensure a smooth transition to the new EURES services.
CE1.6	Deliver European Qualifications Framework (EQF) projects through the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and other UK networks. Five EQF projects will be progressed during 2013-14.	DEL	GREEN	ON TARGET All of the EQF projects are progressing well. Planning is well underway for the UK EQF international conference which will take place in Birmingham in late February 2014.
CE1.7	Deliver, through CCEA, a programme of awareness and support for potential Northern Ireland European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) users throughout 2013-14.	DEL	GREEN	ON TARGET CCEA has met with a number of mobility practitioners across NI to provide advice and guidance on incorporating ECVET principles and tools into their mobility projects.
CE1.8	Establish a project group to commence the development of an NI Single Qualifications and Credit Framework which will be referenced to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) by March 2014.	DEL	GREEN	ON TARGET Dr Jayne Mitchell of the UK Quality Assurance Agency has agreed to be the Chair of the project group. The QAA have previously carried out work in relation to referencing the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) and the framework for higher education qualification in Scotland. Membership of the team will be finalised within the next month and the initial meeting will be scheduled to take place in October 2013.
CE1.9	To examine the potential for educational programmes within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and business education spheres to be extended through accessing European funding and through connection to European programmes.	DE	GREEN	ON TARGET Discussions are ongoing with DFP and through the Desk Officer regarding the possibility of submitting an application for EU funding through the 2014-2020 Structural Fund or to access other funds to build capacity within DE's existing STEM and Business Education intervention activities.
CE2	Increase the skills profile of the working population			
CE2.1	To support the 'Agenda for new skills and jobs' and contribute to the EU employment target for 2020 of having 75% working-age population (20-64 years) in work by delivering 53,000 qualifications in 2013-14.	DEL	GREEN / AMBER	MINOR CONCERNS Data for the 2013-14 academic year will be available in January 2015. An update will be provided when this information is available but analysis of previous data

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				indicates the target will be met on schedule.
CE2.2	Provide funding for an additional 467 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics places at local Higher Education providers by September 2013.	DEL	GREEN	ACHIEVED Funding for the 467 additional STEM places has been included in the block grant allocations to the universities and colleges for the 2013-14 academic year.
CE2.3	Provide 15,000 careers guidance interviews to adult clients in 2013-14	DEL	GREEN	ON TARGET Delivery of adult guidance interviews is on target. This has been achieved through raising awareness of career guidance services among DEL colleagues and within community and voluntary organisations.
CE3	Utilise European Social Fund			
CE3.1	Through the provision of additional funding, to increase the number of those 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEETs) accessing European Social Funds (ESF)	DEL	GREEN	ON TARGET Currently 190 NEETS young people are receiving EMA funding to enable them to access ESF programmes against a projected number of approximately 500.
CE4	Explore the potential of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) to support NI business growth and competitiveness.			
CE4.1	Complete an assessment of the potential value of COSME as an additional source of funding for NI SMEs by 31 December 2013.	DETI	GREEN	ON TARGET A meeting has taken place between DETI and the Desk Officer to agree the scope of the assessment.
CE5	Explore potential funding opportunities for Social Enterprises.			
CE5.1	Carry out an assessment of the opportunities and key policies for Social Enterprises in Northern Ireland for the forthcoming programming period 2014-2020 by 31 December 2013.	DETI	GREEN	ON TARGET A meeting has taken place between DETI and the Desk Officer to agree the scope of the assessment.
CE6	Explore Trans-European Transport Network funding opportunities.			
CE6.1	Consider submission of a TEN-T application in order to bid for EU funding during 2013-14.	DRD	GREEN	ACHIEVED In April 2013 DRD submitted two applications seeking TEN-T funding assistance for the upgrade of the A8 and a study regarding the development of the Belfast Transport Hub. The Department has received provisional notification that the A8 application was successful; however it has still to be fully ratified by the Commission. The Department anticipates an additional €18,372,000 of EU funds as a result. The first payment (approx €9,186,000) is expected before 31st March 2014.

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CE7	Prepare for and influence EU decision-making processes in respect of future structural fund programmes, the State aid rules, the Trans-European Network regulations and the associated Connecting Europe Facility.			
CE7.1	Continue to monitor and, where possible, influence the European Institutions' consideration of the Trans European Network - Transport and Connecting Europe Facility regulations prior to adoption of the final regulations.	DRD	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>A first reading agreement on the TEN-T Regulation was reached on 29 May and the CEF is likely to be agreed in the Autumn. Through continued engagement by DRD over a two-year period, exemptions and flexibilities have been successfully secured which avoid Northern Ireland being forced to make multi-billion Euro investments to meet unnecessary infrastructure standards. In addition increased opportunities to bid for CEF funding for Northern Ireland's transport network have been negotiated.</p>
CE7.2	Develop the Investment for Growth & Jobs programme in line with the EC timeframe.	DETI	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>The public consultation on the ERDF proposed programme content commenced on 1 July and will run for a period of 16 weeks, in parallel with the DEL consultation on the ESF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme and the DARD consultation on the Rural Development Programme.</p>
CE7.3	During 2013, ensure the Northern Ireland position is fully reflected in the United Kingdom's interactions with the Commission on the State aid modernisation initiative (i.e. Regional Aid Guidelines, Risk Capital Guidelines, R&D&I Guidelines, de-minimis regulation, General Block Exemption Regulation etc.)	DETI	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>During the first two quarters, the NI position on the following State aid rules and regulations was communicated to BIS to help inform the UK's response and position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Aid Guidelines 2014 – 2020; • General Block Exemption Regulation for 2014 – 2020; • The EC's R&D&I issues paper; de minimis regulation for 2014 – 2020; • the EC's Cinema Communication; • the functioning and taxation of ports; • new procedures for State aid complaints; • Environmental and Energy Guidelines 2104 – 2020; and • the Risk Capital Guidelines for 2014 - 2020.
CE8	Increase level of engagement with Europe.			
CE8.1	Hold a seminar in Europe showcasing exemplars of good practice.	DEL	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>Through the Desk Officer in ONIEB the Department has been in discussions with the mid-Norway region regarding</p>

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				participating in a series of events/seminars in Brussels during February 2014 regarding employability issues. These discussions continued throughout Quarter 2. The Desk Officer is also in the early stages of actively engaging with other regions with a view to furthering the engagement of the thematic group stakeholders. We will continue to liaise with the Desk Officer to progress these opportunities.
CE8.2	Hold a policy seminar in Belfast highlighting specific policy developments in addressing youth unemployment.	DEL	GREEN	ON TARGET Detailed work continues to focus on finalising the conference agenda, confirming speakers etc. Senior Commission representative are due to speak. Invitations to main stakeholders will issue shortly. As the event is aimed at NEETS they will be involved significantly in framing the agenda for the event and in determining the workshop topics which are a key element of the event. To facilitate this, a separate fringe event will be held on the 12 November, organised and run by the young beneficiaries.
CE8.3	By September 2013, lead on an NI application to a call for "Clusters and Entrepreneurship in Support of Emerging Industries" promoted by DG Enterprise and Industry. This call aims to foster cross-sectoral spill over through better capitalising on cross-cutting technologies and services.	INVESTNI	GREEN	ACHIEVED 2 Applications have been submitted.
CE8.4	Engage in a process of knowledge exchange with DG Connect on the benefits of ICT Innovation Vouchers" with a view to encouraging NI participation in workshop during the Week of Open Days in October 2013.	INVESTNI	GREEN	ON TARGET Invest NI have engaged with DG Connect regarding Innovation Vouchers.
CE8.5	Explore the educational benefits of international engagement by schools with a view to setting out how existing partnering might be extended and take-up increased.	DE	GREEN	ON TARGET Exploratory discussions have taken place with the British Council to examine how increased international engagement by NI schools can be achieved through the new ERASMUS+ programme.
CE9	Increase partnership links between NI organisations and European organisations.			
CE9.1	Identify opportunities and partners by March 2014	DEL	GREEN	ACHIEVED In the six month period the Desk Officer identified 15 separate funding opportunities for the thematic group worth a total funding of 50m euro, with estimated project costs available to Northern Ireland of 22.5m euro. On top of this the Desk Officer highlighted a further 29

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				organisations seeking partnerships in the period. Of these opportunities highlighted the Desk Officer is only aware of one application for funding going forward in the period from Belfast Metropolitan College under the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Call for proposals. Discussions are ongoing regarding a future link up / event between DEL and the mid Norway regional office for early 2014. The Desk Officer is also in the early stages of actively engaging with other regions with a view to furthering the engagement of the thematic group stakeholders.
CE9.2	Hold a master-class in Northern Ireland on relationship building by March 2014.	DEL	GREEN	ON TARGET Contact has been made with the European Commission who have agreed to facilitate the master class. Plans are on track to host this by March 2014.
CE9.3	By March 2014, identify and join networks relevant to promoting Competitiveness and Employment.	DEL	GREEN	ON TARGET Networks relevant to C&E were highlighted in Quarter 1 in respect of the Further Education and Tourism sectors. Work is ongoing with respect to the assessments for the COSME programme and Social Enterprise Sector which will include information on networks that could be beneficial for NI.
IT1	Maximise the drawdown of Horizon 2020 funds for NI by promoting increased participation in EU research, technology and innovation programmes by NI companies, universities, research base and elsewhere in the public sector.			
IT1.1	Finalise appointment of an NI Horizon 2020 Contact Point (NICP) Network by the end of October 2013.	DETI	GREEN / AMBER	MINOR CONCERNS All appointed and in post apart from one of the ICT roles which is currently being re-advertised.
IT1.2	Develop a Horizon 2020 communications strategy by the end of June 2013.	DETI	GREEN	ACHIEVED Strategy was completed by June 2013.
IT1.3	Develop a NI Horizon 2020 website by the end of August 2013.	DETI	GREEN	ACHIEVED Website is in place – www.detni.gov.uk/horizon2020
IT1.4	Appoint a specific NI Contact Point with responsibility for SMEs by the end of August 2013	INVESTNI	GREEN	ACHIEVED In place. Dr Joanne Coyle (Invest NI) was appointed as UK National Contact Point for SMEs in July 2013.
IT1.5	Organise at least 10 Horizon 2020 workshops by December 2013	DETI	GREEN	ACHIEVED To date there have been 18 with further workshops being planned.

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IT1.6	Increase the number of Horizon 2020 evaluators from NI as a continuous process throughout the lifetime of the programme	DETI	GREEN	ON TARGET A new strategy for this has been developed and is being implemented by the network.
IT1.7	Identify additional ways to provide direct support to non Invest NI clients and review the existing support mechanisms by the end of September 2013.	DETI	GREEN	ACHIEVED Discussions with RoI counterparts has indicated that support to government agencies and third sector organisations should be the responsibility of parent departments - options being considered. The outcome of an SME H2020 training event in Brussels in October may provide further direction on additional support mechanisms to encourage greater SME participation.
IT1.8	Increase NI representation on EU Research Technology & Innovation groups and committees as a continuous process throughout the lifetime of the programme.	DETI	GREEN	ON TARGET This is an ongoing process and through the activity of the network, progress is being made.
IT1.9	Develop Marie Curie (MC) and European Research Council (ERC) strategies to ensure an enhanced take-up by potential applicants and thereby encourage an increased level activity in comparison with that under FP7 by the end of June 2013.	DEL/DARD	GREEN / AMBER	MINOR CONCERNS A draft strategy has been developed for ERC and MC by QUB. The equivalent UU strategy is currently being developed with the support of the NI Horizon 2020 Manager.
IT1.10	Develop a new NI Horizon 2020 guide by December 2013.	DETI	GREEN	ON TARGET This is on track but cannot be concluded and released until final details on Horizon 2020 have been agreed by the Commission.
IT1.11	Promote opportunities within Connected Health R&D to local and international businesses throughout 2013-14.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ON TARGET Opportunities to participate in Connected Health R&D are highlighted to business colleagues, whether local or international, on an ongoing basis in an ad hoc manner, either in one-to-one meetings or in discussion groups etc. Commercial colleagues will also be invited to attend an HSC-led event <i>EU Initiatives to Support Innovative Practice</i> , scheduled for 19 November.
IT1.12	Work collaboratively, locally and internationally, to improve health and well-being and support sustainable services throughout 2013-14.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ON TARGET The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) is leading on an Integrated Care proposal under the Policy Support Programme (PSP ICT7). The application is at negotiation stage. A number of EU Regions are included as partners on the project.
IT1.13	Develop a Draft Strategic Policy Framework for Smart Specialisation document to be submitted to the European Commission by June 2013.	DETI	GREEN	ACHIEVED The draft S3 Strategy was submitted to DG Regio by the end of June 2013.

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IT1.14	Host an EU conference on Smart Specialisation by December 2013.	DETI	GREEN	ON TARGET Conference scheduled for 17 October.
IT1.15	Promote networking opportunities, and facilitate at least 3 keynote events by March 2014, for local creative and cultural industries to engage with EU businesses, organisations and networks to encourage economic and social innovation.	DCAL	GREEN	<p>ON TARGET</p> <p>In May 2013 DCAL was a principle sponsor (along with Invest NI and Ilex) of the European Business Network (EBN) Congress held for the first time in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The 2013 EBN Congress took place in Derry/Londonderry and was hosted by the Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Centre (NORIBIC).</p> <p>In November 2013 DCAL, together with Invest NI and Belfast City Council, will support the hosting of the Cartoon Finance conference in Belfast. Cartoon is the European Association of Animation Film and is based in Brussels. This annual conference regularly attracts around 250 animation professionals and industry investors from across Europe and promotes industry networks and commercial opportunities.</p> <p>Further plans have been developed for an event in March 2014 as part of NI Creativity Month and involving the 'Honeycomb – Creative Works' programme – an INTERREG IVA Programme supporting the creative industries and led by the University of Ulster.</p>
IT2	Further engage with the European Union in relation to Agri-Food Sector.			
IT2.1	Promote and enhance effective technology and knowledge transfer arrangements in the agri-food sector through involvement in the European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP) throughout 2013-14.	DARD	GREEN	ON TARGET Work continues through Dairyman to promote knowledge transfer.
IT2.2	Explore the scope for NI involvement in the European Innovation Partnership, relevant Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) and European Research Area Networks (ERANETs) by December 2013.	DARD	GREEN	ON TARGET We are currently looking at how to proceed with EIP and it is one strand of the RDP which is currently out for consultation.
IT2.3	Explore the scope for NI involvement in the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) in relation to health, food and raw materials by March 2014.	DARD	GREEN	ON TARGET DARD have continued to gather information. The Agri-food NI Contact Point is now in post and we anticipate work to explore potential for NI involvement to continue
IT2.4	Provide annual funding of up to £1million to support collaborative R&D and innovation within the agri-food and rural sectors by December 2013.	DARD	GREEN	ON TARGET DARD made funding available through the Research Challenge Fund. DARD awarded grant

OBJECTIVE / TARGET NUMBER	TITLE OF OBJECTIVE / TARGET	LEAD DEPT.	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION FOR ASSIGNED RAG RATING
				funding of £716k although one applicant later decided not to proceed. DARD do intend to run a further RCF programme but at this stage it is unlikely that further offers will be made in this financial year. The £1m was made available this year although the rigorous assessment process meant that not all applications were successful.
IT3	Develop a more effective process to support effective collaborations involving health professionals and policy makers in EU bids and encourage the commercialisation and the widespread adoption of research findings related to technology and organisational models in the publicly-funded health sector.			
IT3.1	Provide up to a total of £50k throughout 2013-14 within the Health & Social Care (HSC) R&D EU support fund to encourage participation of HSC researchers in EU funding applications, where funds cannot be accessed from other funders.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ON TARGET Scheme open and being promoted to relevant groups. Planning to organise targeted workshops in ONIEB for specific research groups who are well positioned to lead bids and attract partners.
IT3.2	Provide information to and receive updates from Health & Social Care Directors, Research Managers and Trust R&D finance leads, covering the full breadth of relevant EU opportunities for funding and partnership, applications submitted and funding secured throughout 2013-14.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ON TARGET NI H2020 Contact Points attended both Director's and governance meeting in June 2013, and will now attend alternate Directors and governance manager's meetings, also meeting separately with finance lead, and have signposted HSC finance officers to relevant training opportunities.
IT3.3	Provide dedicated staff contact to support the participation of Health & Social Care researchers in EU funding applications in 2013-14.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ACHIEVED R&D Finance lead in Belfast Health & Social Care trust (BHSCT) & Support officer from Public Health Agency (PHA) attended training for FP7 audit in London. In HSC R&D Division, intern has been retained as temporary staff member and will spend 0.5 Whole Time Equivalent on this work, supporting Assistant Director and 0.1 WTE Programme Manager.
IT3.4	Promote knowledge transfer by means of the Health & Social Care R&D Division Knowledge Transfer scheme. Issue a further call by 31 December 2013.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ACHIEVED Five awards made in May 2013, and a further call is in development.
IT3.5	Promote interaction between the Health & Social Care Directors of Research and other Trust stakeholders and the academic commercial sectors in connected health and beyond, holding at least one event by end March 2014.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ON TARGET Event scheduled for 19 November – EU Initiatives to support innovative practice – in partnership with HSC Board, will draw together key stakeholders.
IT3.6	Become a European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA) Reference Site by July 2013.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ACHIEVED DHSSPS was awarded 3 Star European Innovation Partnership

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				on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA) Reference Site Status on 1 July. We were one of 13 Regions across Europe to be awarded this rating.
IT3.7	Promote and enhance effective technology and knowledge transfer arrangements in the health sector through involvement in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA).	DHSSPS	GREEN	ACHIEVED DHSSPS and HSC have made 7 Commitments under the EIP-AHA objectives and are working collaboratively with EU Regions in delivering on the Commission's Action Plan.
IT3.8	Run a series of events through the NI Connected Health Eco-System throughout 2013-14 with the aim of identifying opportunities where innovation and technology can contribute to the delivery of health and social care services.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ACHIEVED Eco-System events were held in June and September. In addition an International Eco-System meeting was held in May and attracted attendees from USA, and Europe.
IT3.9	During 2013/14 explore opportunities for economic development through innovation linked to the health sector arising from the Economy and Jobs Initiative Task and Finish Group Report.	DHSSPS	GREEN	ACHIEVED Ministers have agreed the proposals for taking forward the Task & Finish recommendations. Governance and management arrangements to support implementation of the recommendations from the T&F Report are being developed. In addition a collaborative network has been established to take forward a scoping study on a Connected Health integrated Platform and another is under consideration for the International Health Analytics Centre.
CC1	Promote the increased participation of relevant bodies (e.g. Departments, research establishments, NGOs, SMEs etc.) in the European competitive funding process.			
CC1.1	Participate in workshop to help develop confidence and capacity to participate in relevant funding programmes by October 2013.	DOE	GREEN	ON TARGET DOE has organised a Horizon 2020 funding workshop for 21 October to provide interested parties with an early look at the new funding stream and provide attendees with the opportunity to network with experts to build confidence and capacity.
CC1.2	Circulate details of calls for projects under relevant European funding programmes to relevant bodies within 5 days of announcement.	DOE	GREEN	ON TARGET As new funding streams have not yet been finalised, calls have been minimal. However, any appropriate calls have been circulated to all relevant members of the group's contact list within 5 days.
CC1.3	Support relevant bodies through the sharing of information, access to contacts and provision of resources to assist them in the preparation and submission of at least 6 funding applications by end March 2014.	DOE	GREEN	ON TARGET Meetings have been held with various relevant contacts from areas including industry, education and the not for profit sector with introductions made between groups to allow for development of projects for

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				proposal by the end of the financial year.
CC1.4	Participate in 3 meetings of the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum during 2013-14.	DOE	GREEN	ON TARGET We expect to meet this target having attended 100% of meetings held so far.
CC2	Develop our profile as a region of excellence for innovative research and development on climate change and energy.			
CC2.1	Participate in the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN) Congress on 29-31 May 2013.	DOE	GREEN	ACHIEVED Attended all 3 days of EBN conference, participating in meetings and workshops and manning a stand in the exhibition area to allow for dissemination of information and extensive networking. Follow up contact has been made with several other conference attendees.
CC2.2	Attend / participate in at least 2 European networking events to promote Northern Ireland projects and organisations.	DOE	GREEN	ACHIEVED On 16 May officials attended an Intertrade Ireland conference in Dublin. This allowed for collection of information and networking possibilities alongside one to one meetings with members from various areas of industry and education. From 24-26 June DOE organised, attended and presented at a number of seminars in Brussels during EU Sustainable Energy Week. The seminars were designed to showcase NI businesses and innovation around sustainable energy. They were supported by DRD colleagues and the DRD Minister who also attended and spoke at a number of events. On 9 September officials attended a Life workshop organised by DEFRA. It was attended by officials from various jurisdictions allowing for networking and promotion of Northern Ireland ideas at the event and via follow up teleconference.
CC3	Identify opportunities to develop proposals aligned to EU policy that will support the development and delivery of better policies across climate change, resource efficiency, energy efficiency, increased use of renewable energy and sustainability.			
CC3.1	Identify a minimum of 10 areas where additional research is necessary to support policy development in respect of climate change, resource efficiency or energy policy by 31 March 2014.	DOE	GREEN	ACHIEVED DOE officials have produced a climate change risk assessment from which the 10 areas for potential research may be

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				sourced. Preliminary discussions have been held with partners to share this information and help to develop research topics.
CC3.2	Develop outlines for at least 6 project proposals across climate change, resource efficiency and energy by 31 March 2014	DOE	GREEN	ON TARGET DOE have assisted Advantage NI, Newtownabbey Borough Council, University of Ulster and Action Renewables to produce relevant project outlines with a view to developing into bids for funding.
CC3.3	Identify one potential partner project to improve domestic energy efficiency in the private rented and privately owned sector by 31 March 2014.	DSD	GREEN	ON TARGET Work is ongoing to identify a relevant project within the agreed timescale.
CC3.4	Encourage AFBI to work with their European partners to identify and develop at least one project to improve resource efficiency / resource management in the agriculture sector by 31 March 2014.	DARD	GREEN	ON TARGET AFBI intend to bid for Horizon 2020 funding in relation to resource efficiency project in the dairy sector.
CC3.5	Work with NI Water to identify and explore EU funding opportunities to support potential work in the area of energy efficiency, biodiversity, environmental and flood mitigation.	DRD	GREEN	ACHIEVED Work is ongoing and meetings have been held with NI Water to identify relevant projects and EU programmes from which funding may be sourced. DRD discussions were held with DFP in May 2013 on potential NI Water projects that would be relevant for inclusion in the INTERREG and Competitiveness programmes for 2014-20. Events and conferences have been attended including the InterTradeIreland conference in May 2013 to hear about preparations for Horizon 2020 and an Environment and Renewable Energy event in September 2013.
CC4	Prepare for and influence EU priorities for new legislation and funding programmes proposed for 2014-20.			
CC4.1	Input to and seek to influence priorities for <i>Horizon 2020, LIFE+, INTERREG V and European Social Fund</i> programmes by December 2013.	DOE	GREEN	ACHIEVED DOE officials have been providing input and feedback on policy drafts when appropriate. DRD continue to meet with DFP, DPER, DTTAS and SEUPB in order to influence the priorities and Thematic Objectives for the INTERREG V programme, with the aim of the inclusion of Thematic Objective Area 7: Sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures.
CC4.2	Develop summaries of the new funding programmes within 2 weeks of their official announcement and distribute to relevant bodies.	DOE	GREEN	ON TARGET Although the new funding programmes have not been finalised yet, DOE officials have been working closely with

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				colleagues in DETI, Defra and ONIEB, monitoring the early draft regulations and work programmes to remain informed and prepared for the release of official information.
CC4.3	Provide appropriate support to relevant bodies to assist in the preparation of at least 6 project proposals in readiness for the first calls issued under the new funding programmes.	DOE	GREEN	ON TARGET DOE has been circulating information as appropriate. The department has also organised a workshop to give relevant organisations a steer on the likely content of Horizon 2020 and provide an opportunity for potential project partners to meet and network to further develop projects.
CC5	Work with the European Union to develop and deliver policies and/or projects relating to reducing congestion and emissions and provide sustainable transport solutions.			
CC5.1	Facilitate at least one sustainable transport promotional event by the end of March 2014.	DRD	GREEN	ON TARGET Ecar will be hosting a number of regional ecar events throughout Northern Ireland by the end of March 2014.
CC5.2	With the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), jointly undertake the International Green Electric Highways - Study to assess fast charging infrastructure by 30 September 2014.	DRD	GREEN	ON TARGET Ecar have completed the installation of rapid charge points in NI under the International Green Electric Highways project. A second iteration of the customer survey on attitudes to electric vehicles is now on-going.
CC5.3	Work with the Managing Authority and DFP EUD to identify potential projects for the Competitiveness and Employment programme during 2013-14	DRD	GREEN	ACHIEVED Two DRD projects have been approved for funding under the Competitiveness and Employment programme during 2013: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Urban Transport Phase 2: Replacement of Metro and Ulsterbus fleet (£5,110,000 ERDF funds); and • The A2 Shore Road to Greenisland (£12,977,000 ERDF funds). DRD will continue to meet with DETI with the aim of submitting further applications to the C&E programme.
CC6	Identify key infrastructure projects which align with EU energy policy and funding opportunities and support the delivery of the Strategic Energy Framework.			
CC6.1	Work with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (NIAUR) in support of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) proposing investment in Northern Ireland's energy networks during 2013-14.	DETI	GREEN	ON TARGET DETI has been actively supporting seven potential PCI projects – 4 within the electricity field and 3 related to natural gas. This support has seen all seven make it on to the Commission's

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				provisional PCI list and publication of those projects deemed successful is expected in early October 2013.
CC7	Continue to build capacity to improve access to the European institutions and elective funding opportunities through engagement by officials and Ministers.			
CC7.1	Arrange at least one visit by Minister of the Environment to Brussels by March 2014.	DOE	GREEN	ON TARGET DOE is actively seeking appropriate opportunities for a Ministerial visit and is confident of arranging a visit within the year.
SC1	Through the development of the European Centre for Delivering Social Change, promote and facilitate increased participation in competitive European funding streams and relevant EU policy among social cohesion stakeholders in government, the community and voluntary sector, academia, and the private sector.			
SC1.1	Attend at least three international conferences in areas relevant to social cohesion and European funding/policy by March 2014. Where possible, arrange for Northern Ireland experts to be speakers.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ACHIEVED 8 International Conferences attended in the areas of Social Investment, Creative Europe, Social Innovation and Lifelong Learning.
SC1.2	Hold regular workshops through 2013 and 2014 in Northern Ireland to circulate the opportunities available in Europe and promote the support available through the Barroso Task Force.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET This is being carried out through NIERF meetings with input from Desk Officers and other relevant sources.
SC1.3	Continue to develop the European Centre for Delivering Social Change in conjunction with Queens University Belfast and the University of Ulster by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Ministers launched the centre in June and work is underway to produce the Centre's first paper on educational attainment.
SC2	Prepare for the introduction of the new 2014-20 competitive funding programmes, targeting Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Social Change and Innovation, and Horizon 2020 Programmes.			
SC2.1	Produce a summary paper analysing the future of EU funding relating to social cohesion from 2014 to 2020 for regional stakeholders by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET A draft paper has been compiled and work is ongoing to finalise it.
SC2.2	Analyse proposals for new competitive funding streams relevant to social cohesion, and delivering social change. Identify key themes, opportunities and any amendments required by social cohesion stakeholders by March 2014	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET The regulations are nearing completion. Full analysis will be completed when they are finalised.
SC2.3	Disseminate summary documents on the Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Social Change and Innovation and the Horizon 2020 Programmes to the social cohesion communication network by March 2014	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET The regulations are nearing completion. Full analysis will be completed when they are finalised and summary documents will be compiled and circulated.

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SC2.4	Investigate developing a web portal to disseminate funding opportunities to the widest possible audience in conjunction with the NIERF by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Discussions have been ongoing with Belfast City Council to discuss the services that the NIERF can provide to members.
SC3	Provide advice, guidance and support to organisations and stakeholders involved in applying for European funding or influencing policy decisions throughout 2013-14, targeting Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Social Change and Innovation, and Horizon 2020 Programmes.			
SC3.1	Help organisations applying for European funding to find partners by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET This is ongoing work but there have already been a number of successful instances of finding partners for NI led transnational projects. For example, the PSNI has been put in touch with partners in the Czech Republic and Flanders.
SC3.2	Attend at least 3 relevant Brussels-based information events relating to funding programmes relevant to social cohesion by end March 2014 and communicate information derived from these to relevant stakeholders.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET The information events will shortly be scheduled as regulations become finalised. The majority of these info events will take place in October-December 2013.
SC3.3	Consider proposals for funding for those projects which have met all the necessary conditions for European funding but currently lack match funding by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Ministers have agreed to the establishment of a European Capacity Building Fund, which will include a provision for match funding. Discussions are now progressing with Belfast City Council on how the fund will be managed.
SC4	Build capacity amongst organisations involved in social cohesion with limited or no experience of working with the European Union, targeting Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Social Change and Innovation, and Horizon 2020 Programmes.			
SC4.1	Organise at least two events throughout the year to make stakeholders aware of existing avenues of support and advice on EU matters by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Work is under way to identify key speakers and is on target for achievement. This information is also disseminated through the NIERF meetings.
SC4.2	Explore the creation of a financial resource to support organisations in the community and voluntary sector with limited resources to visit Brussels and pursue funding opportunities by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Ministers have agreed to the establishment of a European Capacity Building Fund. Discussions are now progressing with Belfast City Council on how the fund will be managed.
SC4.3	Manage and support the Justice Network throughout 2013-14 to identify and disseminate funding opportunities.	DOJ	GREEN	ON TARGET The Department continues to inform the Justice Network of funding opportunities and support its efforts in applying for European funding. A collaborative meeting recently

OBJECTIVE / TARGET NUMBER	TITLE OF OBJECTIVE / TARGET	LEAD DEPT.	RAG RATING	EXPLANATION FOR ASSIGNED RAG RATING
				took place between two Justice Network members to discuss future funding opportunities - this working relationship arose from the Justice Network. The Department is starting to arrange bi-lateral meetings with Justice Network members to discuss potential opportunities presented by the new budget period going forward.
SC4.4	Organise one event with the Youth Council for Northern Ireland by the end of September 2013 to publicise the Youth in Action Programme to organisations working in the most disadvantaged areas.	DSD	GREEN	ACHIEVED DSD in partnership with the Youth Council for Northern Ireland organised an Information event to publicise the Youth in Action Programme. This was held on 3 September 2013 in Grosvenor House, Glengall Street, Belfast and was attended by over 60 key representatives from Voluntary and Community organisations.
SC4.5	Explore and identify funding opportunities through the Creative Europe Funding Stream.	DCAL	GREEN	ON TARGET Work is ongoing to identify funding opportunities through the creative Europe funding stream and the Department has made contact with the British Council, the National Agency in that regard.
SC5	Increase engagement with the European institutions and key European networks by March 2014 in relation to delivering social change and the Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Social Change and Innovation, and Horizon 2020 Programmes.			
SC5.1	Organise full programmes for two Executive Ministers to visit Brussels and engage with the European Commission, MEPs and other essential contacts by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Full programmes organised for OFMDFM Junior Minister's for their 24/25 June visit. Minister Ford due to attend council on 05/06 December.
SC5.2	Engage with key European networks connected to Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, Social Change and Innovation and Creative Europe to prepare for the 2014-2020 funding period.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Work is being undertaken to identify appropriate networks and this will be disseminated through the NIERF.
SC5.3	Join one anti-poverty or one volunteering network by March 2014.	DSD	GREEN	ON TARGET The Department is currently taking forward its membership of the European Volunteer Centre (CEV) and the target is on track for achievement.
SC5.4	Meet with one office of another European Region to identify opportunities for partnership working to identify possible funding opportunities in the areas of Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Social Change and Innovation, and Horizon 2020 Programmes by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ACHIEVED Successful meetings held with the Basque Region, the Irish Regional Office, Ile de France, Picardie and West Midlands.

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SC6	Enhance the region's profile as a region with expertise in innovative practices in the area of social cohesion relating to areas of delivering social change.			
SC6.1	Hold at least one event in Brussels to showcase examples of best practice and innovation in relation to social cohesion and delivering social change by March 2014	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Events planned for December 2013 and March 2014.
SC6.2	Host an event in conjunction with the European Commission to tie in with the European Year of the Citizen by December 2013.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Planning under way to hold a workshop/seminar as part of the ESF NEETs conference being organised by DEL on 21-22 November.
SC6.3	Encourage at least ten groups from Northern Ireland who are interested in accessing EU funding to visit Brussels and organise meetings with relevant Commission officials and other EU contacts by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ACHIEVED Visits and programmes organised for more than ten organisations to date. Work is ongoing to facilitate groups throughout the rest of the year.
SC6.4	Share our experience of conflict resolution to assist others by disseminating the upcoming book, <i>the Story of Peace</i> , an account of the development and process of the three EU PEACE Programmes to date, throughout European networks by December 2013.	DFP	GREEN	ON TARGET SEUPB and INCORE are compiling the book and are on target for achievement.
SC7	Track and report information on relevant EU funding opportunities and policy developments on relevant funding programmes, including Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Social Change and Innovation, and Horizon 2020 Programmes.			
SC7.1	Issue a bi-monthly newsletter setting out relevant funding opportunities and policy developments relevant to social cohesion to NIERF members and those organisations who have asked to receive funding updates.	OFMDFM	GREEN / AMBER	MINOR CONCERNS Newsletter to commence later in the year as new funding streams and funding calls come online.
SC7.2	Hold a funding master class for the community and voluntary sector with examples drawn from organisations that have successfully accessed EU funding by March 2014.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Work is under way to identify key speakers and is on target for achievement.
SC7.3	Maintain and regularly update a detailed database of organisations involved or interested in European funding opportunities	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET A database has been compiled. In addition OFMDFM are encouraging interested organisations to join the NIERF.
SC7.4	Maintain and regularly update a detailed database of current and future applications for European funding.	OFMDFM	GREEN	ON TARGET Discussions have taken place as to how best to carry out this task. Following the approval of the EU Capacity Building Fund it is anticipated that the NIERF will provide an opportunity to obtain this information.

**EUROPEAN PRIORITIES 2013-14 –Commentary on Targets
not rated “Green” (as of 30/09/2013)**

Target No. (Lead Dept)	TITLE	RAG RATING	DEPARTMENTAL NARRATIVE
1.2 (OFMDFM)	Facilitate BTWG thematic groups to scope and initiate a benchmarking exercise to assess relative performance in drawing down competitive EU funds against the highest achieving European regions by March 2014.	AMBER	Issue for discussion at the October BTWG meeting.
2.1 (OFMDFM0)	Over the 2013-14 year, facilitate BTWG thematic groups to deliver 6 European policy seminars, including 2 on cross-cutting priority topics, in conjunction with the European Commission Office in Belfast.	AMBER	Some seminars are already in the pipeline. Issue for discussion at the October BTWG meeting
CE1.1 (DEL)	Increase participation by students by a minimum of 7.5% and staff by a minimum of 5% in the Erasmus programme and other lifelong learning programmes (Current Lifelong Learning programme in 2013, and Erasmus+ 2014).	GREEN / AMBER	2013/14 student applications to the Erasmus programme show an increase of 7.05% which is above the UK average of 3.36%. If there was an additional 3 applications we would have met the target of 7.5%. Staff applications are however only up by 1.89%, but this still reflects a higher increase on the UK average which is showing a decrease of 6.94%. If there was an additional 4 applications we would have met the target of 5%. Actual participation figures will not be available until the end of the year. We are engaged in ongoing discussions with our HEI's and University Colleges to improve on these figures. As well as this we intend to raise this at the next Erasmus consultative meeting in November.
CE2.1 (DEL)	To support the 'Agenda for new skills and jobs' and contribute to the EU employment target for 2020 of having 75% working-age population (20-64 years) in work by delivering 53,000 qualifications in 2013-14.	GREEN / AMBER	CE 2.1 refers to a qualifications target for which there is currently no data. The data for qualifications in 2013/14 won't be available until early 2015 and we therefore put the RAG rating as Amber/Green. We do expect the target to be met.
IT1.1 (DETI)	Finalise appointment of NI Horizon 2020 Contact Points (NICP) Network by the end of October 2013.	GREEN / AMBER	Six of the seven university-based Northern Ireland Contact Points (NICPs) have been appointed (with four already in position). The ICT role housed within QUB (novel wireless technologies and cyber security) is being re-advertised.
IT1.9 (DEL/DARD)	Develop Marie Curie and European Research Council (ERC) strategies to ensure an enhanced take-up by potential applicants and thereby encourage an increased level of activity in comparison with that under FP7 by the end of June 2013.	GREEN / AMBER	A strategy has been developed for ERC and MC by QUB. This has been reviewed by DEL and DETI with comments being fed back for a further revision. As the UU EU R&D Manager role has only been filled at the start of August the UU equivalent strategy is currently being developed with the support of the NI Horizon 2020 Manager and is acknowledged as a priority.
SC7.1 (OFMDFM)	Issue a bi-monthly newsletter setting out relevant funding opportunities and policy	GREEN / AMBER	Due to the winding down of the 2007-13 programmes there have been limited opportunities to avail of funding. Newsletter to commence later in the year as new funding streams and

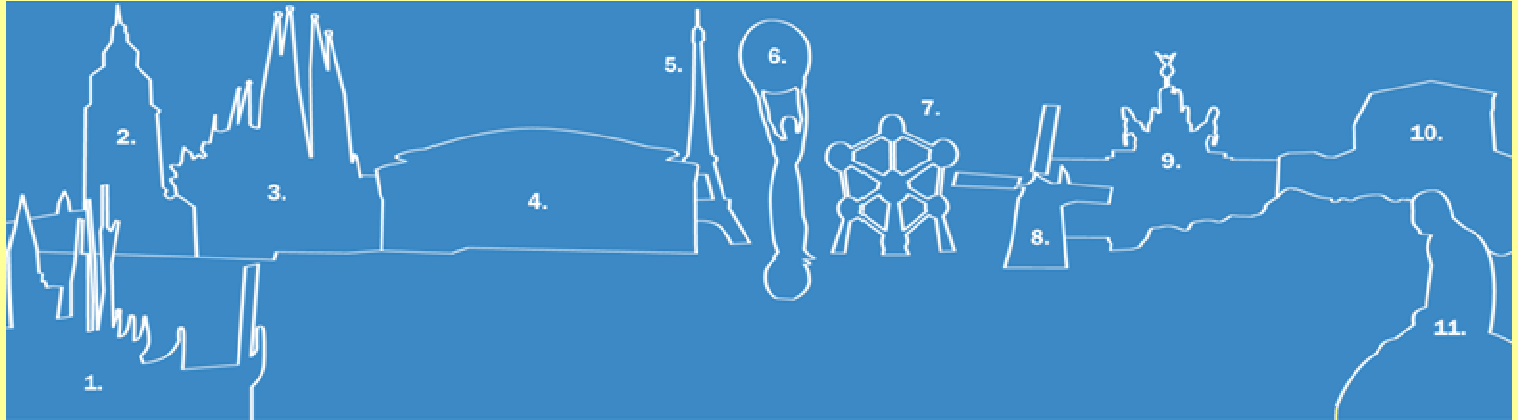
	developments relevant to social cohesion to NIERF members and those organisations who have asked to receive funding updates.		funding calls come online.
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Programme for Government – Definitions of RAG Ratings

The following criteria have been applied in proposing a RAG rating:

RAG status	Description
Green	Achieved or on track for delivery
Green/Amber	Level of progress is broadly on track with easily redeemable deviations from plans and there is <i>justifiable</i> confidence of getting close to targeted outcomes
Amber	Rate of progress is less than planned and there is significant doubt around the achievement of targeted outcomes
Red	Commitments not achieved or not expected to be achieved or delivery of the targeted outcome(s) will not be achieved within the current PfG period

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Cover Key:

1. Gondolas, Venice; 2. Town Hall, Krakow; 3. Sagrada Família, Barcelona; 4. Waterfront Hall, Belfast;
5. Eiffel Tower, Paris; 6. Circle of Thanksgiving, Belfast; 7. Atomium, Heysel, Brussels; 8. Windmill, Netherlands;
9. Brandenburg Gate, Berlin ; 10. The Parthenon, Athens; 11. The Little Mermaid, Copenhagen.

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