

European Priorities 2012-13 Implementation Report



Winning in Europe



**Northern Ireland
Executive**

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EUROPEAN PRIORITIES 2012-13 IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Background

The Executive published its 2012-13 European Priorities on 28 May 2012. These maintained the thematic approach established in previous years, identifying 55 objectives to be pursued by the four cross-departmental sub-groups of the Barroso Taskforce Working Group (BTWG):

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

These objectives were translated into 125 individual targets for delivery across the year; and published as the 'European Priorities 2012-13 Implementation Plan'.

Summary

Thematic Sub-Groups have assessed progress by adopting the Programme for Government (PfG) methodology which assigns a 'Green', 'Amber/Green', 'Amber' or 'Red' rating.

Definitions of RAG ratings and associated target numbers			
Green	Amber/Green	Amber	Red
111 Achieved	8 Substantively Achieved – outstanding progress will be pursued.	1 Substantively Achieved – outstanding progress will not be pursued.	5 Not achieved

Thematic Sub-Groups report that 111 targets (88.8%) were fully achieved with a further 9 targets (7.2%) substantively achieved. Only 5 targets were not met. A full list of the targets and their ratings is provided (Section 2), along with a detailed exceptions report for each target not fully achieved within the year (Section 3).

1. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Policy

- Influenced the draft Trans-European Network – Transport (TEN-T) and Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) regulations securing amendments which improve our future funding opportunities and avoid infrastructure upgrades which were inappropriate to the needs of the region, potentially saving around £13.5bn;
- Persuaded Commissioner Almunia that large companies in ‘Category C’ areas should continue to be eligible for Regional Aid post 2013;
- Lobbied for further Peace funding resulting in a separate statement in the MFF agreed by Heads of State of €150 million for a PEACE IV programme;
- Applied for EU ‘Reference site’ status for the region in respect of its expertise in ‘Active and Healthy Ageing’;
- Agreed a ‘Connected Health and Prosperity Strategic Action Plan’ for the region and established a Northern Ireland Connected Health Eco-System to promote greater collaboration among our public sector, private companies and our universities;
- Became the first UK region to be ‘peer reviewed’ regarding innovation policy development at a European Commission Smart Specialisation workshop;
- Developed a new regional strategy for older people’s issues in consultation with the European Commission;

Networks

- Hosted visits to the region by three EU Commissioners and the Chair of the European Parliament’s Transport Committee;
- Secured joint funding from the European Commission to hold a conference on Smart Specialisation in 2013;
- Created a ‘Justice Network’ to promote EU funding opportunities for organisations working within this sector;
- Hosted a major EU Funding workshop for a wide range of stakeholders, including local and central government, research establishments, NGOs and SMEs;
- Along with Queens University Belfast and the University of Ulster, developed a new European Centre for Delivering Social Change.
- Helped organise and run a number of European engagement programmes for local organisations in Brussels, including, the Arts Council, the Irish Football Association, Autism NI and Where is My Public Servant;
- Appointed a Horizon 2020 manager to lead on preparations for the next EU programme for research and development;
- Hosted 11 Culture events, including musicians, artists, authors, poets, a film and two plays; in the Executive’s Brussels Office, continuing to raise our Culture Profile in Brussels;
- The PSNI continued to build its reputation in Europe, submitting two major lead applications in November 2012 being invited to participate as a partner in 10 others.

Funding

- Secured a regional drawdown total of €55,739,264 from Framework Programme 7 (FP7) since the commencement of the current funding period.
- Latest available FP7 figures (November 2011 to July 2012) reveal an additional 19 successful North/South FP7 applications in this period. These have a total value of €20.5m (representing a 51% increase in this short time).
- Provided partnership/support for a programme of 9 significant EU funded projects (INTERREG IVB, LIFE+, FP7 and DG MARE) with a total value of some £12m of which £3.3m will be directly drawn down over the next 3-4 years by partners in NI;
- Submitted three successful applications for TEN-T funding resulting in the award of circa €5m;
- Secured TEN-T funding for a regional network of 'eCar' charging points under the Electric Green Highways Project, which provides the first cross-border interoperable electric car charging infrastructure in the EU;
- Supported NIACRO in its successful application to the 'Solid Basis for the Future of Young Male Offenders' project in the Daphne III programme, in which they will work with 8 partners, drawing down €33,000 over 2 years.
- Supported the PSNI in its submission of two major lead applications;
- Supported Sport Northern Ireland and the Arts Council for Northern Ireland in funding applications;
- Secured an FP7 research project on Smart Specialisation in 2013;
- Provided new support for agriculture-based SMEs wishing to engage in EU research programmes;
- Established a small grant scheme with the Arts Council to support outward visits by regional groups to learn best practice in establishing funding projects;
- Successfully submitted an INTERREG IVA application for circa £2.4m of funding towards the redevelopment of Portadown Railway Station;
- Submitted a successful application for £5.8m funding from the Competitiveness and Employment Programme for replacement of Goldline and Metro Fleet;

2. PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

TARGET NUMBER	TITLE OF TARGET	LEAD DEPT.	STATUS/ RAG RATING	RESULTS / OUTCOMES
1.1	Drawdown £13.2 million of competitive EU funds between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013.	ALL DEPARTMENTS	ACHIEVED	Total drawdown of £18,334,281 was secured in this financial year
2.1	Offer assistance to the Irish in the preparation for and work of the Irish Presidency of the European Union (January – June 2013) to enhance the region's positive profile and fully participate in key European policy debates.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>One official is seconded to the Irish Permanent Representation (working on COREPER I).</p> <p>DEL and DOE provided staff to assist the Irish in the preparation for and work of the Irish Presidency during the period January-June 2013.</p> <p>Over 40 Irish Presidency meetings were hosted in the Executive's Brussels Office.</p>
2.2	Participate in at least 3 EU themed weeks in Brussels by end of March 2013.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>More than 90 participants attended the InvestNI/ONIEB sponsored Open Days seminar during the Week of European Regions and Cities in Brussels in October, to explore EU funded networks, regional clusters and instruments to support innovation and research.</p> <p>InvestNI, in partnership with Office of the NI Executive in Brussels (ONIEB) and the European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN), organised a conference to explore the regional dimensions of two European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) in Water and Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability during Brussels Green Week in May 2012.</p> <p>DHSSPS and DETI organised a Connected Health and Prosperity Event in the European Parliament on 29 and 30 January 2013.</p> <p>DETI held a showcase exhibition in the European Parliament at the end of March to promote Northern Ireland as a tourist destination with opening remarks from Commissioner Hahn. The event was hosted by the DETI Minister and sponsored by NI MEP's and highlighted the key reasons to visit NI in 2013.</p>
2.3	Encourage inward visits to the region from at least two European Commissioners by December 2012, profiling our regional views regarding key EU policies and programmes.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>The First Minister, deputy First Minister and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and investment met with the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, during her visit to the region in June 2012 to promote our views on research, innovation and Horizon 2020.</p> <p>The Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian Ciolos, visited in September 2012 to discuss CAP reform.</p> <p>The Commissioner for International Co-operation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response visited in February 2013. Junior Ministers met with the Commissioner discussing Regional Aid.</p>
3.1	Identify and engage in EU networks and consortia of benefit to the region, in line with our four thematic priorities, hosting at least one event in the region by June 2012.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>DEL, a lead partner in the European Learning Network on Empowerment and Inclusion, hosted a meeting of 13 European Learning Networks in Belfast in May.</p> <p>NI's Smart Specialisation Co-ordinator presented NI's Smart Specialisation Framework at a European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN) event in Brussels in September.</p>

				<p>NI was the only UK region to be chosen to work with 9 EU counterparts in a FP7 funded research study into Smart Specialisation.</p> <p>The Innovation and Technology Desk Officer became a member of the Smart Specialisation Strategy Platform, a sub-group of ERRIN.</p> <p>The Social Cohesion Desk Officer joined the ERRIN network, which facilitates partner searches. 2 NI Projects have been circulated on this network.</p> <p>ONIEB hosted a workshop entitled 'High Speed Broadband – A Platform for Innovation' organised by the European Regions Network for the Application of Communications Technology in September.</p> <p>DEL established a Northern Ireland European Co-ordination Group for Vocational Education and Training (VET) to support the successful implementation of EU VET initiatives in Northern Ireland.</p>
3.2	Facilitate co-ordination and co-operation between the region's cross-departmental Barroso Task Force Working Group and the European Commission's Task Force for Northern Ireland in line with the Executive's European Priorities, with at least one formal meeting by end of March 2013.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>A Barroso Task Force Stock-take Seminar was held in the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels in December, attended by Junior Ministers, the European Commission Task Force including Ronnie Hall and 3 of the Barroso Desk Officers.</p> <p>There have been 2 inward Commission missions to NI by Task Force Members: DG Employ on the skills agenda and DG Connect on Connected Health Issues.</p> <p>The Innovation and Technology Desk Officer and the Commission's Task Force member in DG Connect organised a broadband focused event in ONIEB attended by DETI officials.</p> <p>The DHSSPS Permanent Secretary and the Innovation and Technology Desk Officer have worked with Commission Health and Digital Agenda officials aiming to secure 'Reference Region' status for NI.</p>
3.3	Increase the available budget for European secondments in April 2012.	DFP	ACHIEVED	<p>The central secondments budget was increased by £293k from approximately £325k in 2010-11 to £618k in 2012-13. This included £200k from DFP and £38k from each department. This supported an increase in secondments from 4/5 to 9, which includes 4 BTWG Desk Officers assigned to specific thematic priorities. DFP increased the EU Central Fund to cover the cost of 4 National Expert in Professional Training (NEPT) placements during 2012-13.</p>
3.4	Increase the number of Executive Ministers having completed a first time engagement programme in Brussels by the end of March 2013.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>9 out of 15 Northern Ireland Ministers made Brussels visits during 2012-13. 2 Ministers completed first time engagement programmes.</p> <p>Junior Minister Jennifer McCann MLA completed her first engagement programme in Brussels in December.</p> <p>Minister for Social Development Nelson McCausland completed his first Brussels programme in February.</p> <p>The First Minister and deputy First Minister were in Brussels once for meetings and to speak at the Peace Conference in January.</p>

				<p>Junior Ministers have made two visits to Brussels, once for the Barroso Task Force stocktake event in December and once for the official opening of the Leuven Institute for Ireland in February.</p> <p>Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Michelle O'Neill has been to Council and meetings in Brussels on 4 occasions.</p> <p>Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment Arlene Foster has been to Brussels on three occasions: to meet Commissioner Almunia in December, to participate in the Health event in the European Parliament in January and to host a showcase exhibition in the European Parliament in March to promote NI as a tourist destination.</p> <p>Minister for Regional Development, Danny Kennedy met with Commissioner Kallas in May and November.</p> <p>Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Edwin Poots, spoke at a Health Conference in Brussels in April and at a connected health event in January at the European Parliament.</p>
3.5	Deliver a Senior Civil Service Masterclass in European engagement by end of March 2013.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	A 'Getting your way in Europe' Masterclass, jointly organised by the Centre for Applied Learning (CAL) and ONIEB, was delivered in December 2012. Targeted at Permanent Secretaries and senior staff who have a direct involvement in EU matters, the masterclass presented best practice and provided an opportunity for departments to address how they can engage more effectively with the EU to meet Programme for Government (PfG) commitments. The Masterclass featured the former deputy Permanent Representative of UKREP, Andy Lebrecht. DSD, DRD and DARD took the opportunity to run separate departmental sessions with Mr Lebrecht on EU Engagement.
CE1.1	Support up to 8 investments in the range 250k to £450k through the European Regional Development Fund part-financed co-investment fund.	DETI	ACHIEVED	The Co-investment Fund completed 13 deals during 2012-13 and the investment pipeline remains strong.
CE1.2	Provide Input to the ongoing EU and UK negotiations on the future Financial Engineering articles in the 2014-20 Structural Funds 'Common Provisions regulation' and the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs 2014-20 (COSME) regulations by 31 March 2013, to ensure the regions requirements are reflected.	DETI	ACHIEVED	NI has liaised closely with lead UK officials and, to date, drafts of the main articles suggest all of the key issues for NI and the UK (e.g. reuse of capital resources and removal of certain delegated acts) will be fully addressed. Negotiations are still progressing.
CE2.1	Participate in at least two Erasmus Consultative Group meetings in 2012/13.	DEL	ACHIEVED	DEL Higher Education Policy Branch participated in two Erasmus Consultative Group meetings on 24 May and 20 November 2012. Student and staff participation on the mobility programme has continued to increase.
CE2.2	Work with the Northern Ireland Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) Advisory Group to plan two promotional events in 2012-13, helping to secure increased participation on the programme.	DEL	ACHIEVED	<p>A Northern Ireland Information Day was held on 18 October 2012 to promote European funding programmes to interested parties involved in education or vocation training.</p> <p>The Lifelong Learning Programme Best Practice event on 14 November 2012 in Armagh was well</p>

				<p>attended with 50 attendees.</p> <p>Northern Ireland has increased its representation across the Leonardo programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Transfer of Innovation projects have been funded under the 2012 call, bringing in over 1.3 million Euros. • 128 apprentices have been provided with a mobility experience through Leonardo Mobility funding since 2010.
CE2.3	Achieve a 5% increase in the number of young people who have gained a "Youthpass" in recognition of their learning through participation in the Youth in Action programme by March 2013.	DE	ACHIEVED	<p>In 2011, 6% of Youthpass certificates were awarded to people from NI. In 2012, this was 20% of the UK total, an increase of 14%. <i>Figures can only be provided as an NI percentage of the total UK figures.</i></p>
CE2.4	Achieve a 5% increase in the number of local young people participating in the Youth in Action European Voluntary Service programme by March 2013.	DE	ACHIEVED	<p>In 2011, approved project applications from NI represented 11% of the UK total. In 2012, this was 16%, an increase of 5%.</p> <p>In 2011, 5% of young people beginning their voluntary placement were from NI. In 2012, this figure was 25%, an increase of 20%. <i>Figures can only be provided as a NI percentage of the total UK figures.</i></p>
CE3.1	Provide input, through the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and other relevant bodies, in 2012/13 to ensure that our position is fully reflected in the UK's interactions with the Commission on revised State Aid rules for 2013–20.	DETI	ACHIEVED	<p>NI's position has been fully reflected in the UK's interactions with the Commission on revised State Aid rules for 2014–20. NI input has been provided on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission's proposed revisions of the State aid rules for Regional aid; • R&D&I; • Risk capital; • Environmental aid and broadband; • The proposed revisions of the General Block Exemption Regulation; • The de-minimis regulation; • The enabling regulation; and • The procedural regulation as well as the proposed revision of the complaints procedure.
CE3.2	Participate, as part of the UK delegation, in the European Commission's autumn 2012 workshop on the proposed revisions of the State Aid rules for Regional Aid.	DETI	ACHIEVED	<p>The autumn 2012 workshop was postponed to the 11-12 of February 2013. DETI participated, as part of the UK delegation. The UK presented a compromise proposal seeking to address known Commission concerns. Following the workshop, VP Almunia withdrew the Commission's proposal to exclude large companies in 'Category C' areas from the post 2013 Regional Aid Guidelines. A DETI official was part of the UK team that drafted the UK's compromise proposal.</p>
CE3.3	During 2012/13, actively seek opportunities for our Ministers, MEPs and departmental officials to lobby the European Commission in relation to the treatment of the region in the post-2013 Regional Aid rules.	DETI	ACHIEVED	<p>In May 2012, NI MEPs met with European Commission Vice-President Almunia.</p> <p>In December, Minister Foster met with Vice-President Almunia.</p> <p>In January 2013, the First Minister and deputy First Minister raised the issue of Regional Aid with President Van Rompuy, who chairs the Council of the European Union; Martin Schulz, who is President of the European Parliament; Danuta Hübner, former DG REGIO Commissioner and Chair of the European Parliament Regional Policy Committee and Commissioners Hahn (REGIO), and Commissioner for Research and Innovation,</p>

				Máire Geoghegan-Quinn . DETI officials had a number of formal and informal discussions with DG Comp officials on NI's treatment in the post 2013 Regional aid rules, including informal meetings during the February 2013 workshop on the Regional Aid rules (see CE3.2).
CE4.1	Allocate £58m of European Regional Development Fund monies in 2012/13 to support indigenous companies and Foreign Direct Investment through a range of business support programmes.	DETI	ACHIEVED	£71.6m of ERDF was allocated in 2012-13 to support FDI.
CE5.1	Carry out a scoping study by 30 September 2012 to identify the range of EU Tourism sector support opportunities available and develop an action plan by 31 March 2013.	DETI	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	A scoping study of potential EU Tourism Sector support opportunities has been completed and considered by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board which, has issued a 'Partner Search' for projects addressing skills in relation to Tour guiding and Foreign language training (tour guides) or Experiential Tourism. An NITB internal EU working group is developing an action plan. Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department
CE5.2	Achieve a 10% increase in EU visitors to Northern Ireland in the 2012 calendar year (above 2011 levels).	DETI	NOT ACHIEVED	The NI Tourism Statistics Report for 2012 indicates that while the total number of visitors from outside NI increased by 3% in 2012, the number of EU visitors to NI in 2012 was unchanged from the 2011 figure at 253,000. Global economic conditions, in particular the ongoing economic problems within the Eurozone, have presented a challenging environment for travel generally. Britain, despite the Olympics, is showing little or no tourism growth for 2012.
CE6.1	Increase the uptake, by 233 additional places in 2012/13, in economically relevant Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) places with local higher education providers in support of the 'New Skills for New Jobs' initiative to develop better matching between skills and labour market needs.	DEL	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	The funding for the additional places has been made available to the sector for the 2012-13 academic year. The actual number of places achieved in the year will not be known until January 2014. However, as the funding was made available, it is anticipated that the target of an additional 233 places will be achieved. but <i>final figures will not be published until January 2014.</i> Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department
CE6.2	Up-skill the working age population by delivering 105,000 qualifications by 2012/13, in support of the 'New Skills for New Jobs' initiative to promote better anticipation of future skills needs.	DEL	ACHIEVED	Some 67,000 qualifications were delivered in 2011-12 and an estimated 50,000+ were delivered in 2012-13. <i>Full year validated data for academic year 2012-13 across all areas of provision for which this target relates will not be available until January 2014.</i>
CE6.3	Deliver 12,000 careers guidance interviews to adult clients by March 2013 in support of the 'Agenda for new skills and jobs' and the EU employment target for 2020: 75% of the working-age population (20-64 years) in work.	DEL	ACHIEVED	14,774 careers guidance interviews were delivered to adult clients by 15 March 2013.
CE6.4	Assist 44,000 participants within the workforce to improve workforce skills over the duration of the NI European Social Fund	DEL	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL	Achieved 94% (41,184) of our 44,000 target, 89% (15,942) of our 18,000 Essential skill needs target, and met our 8,000 target for participants achieving NVQ Level 2 by 31 March 2013.

	Programme 2007-13, including 18,000 participants with essential (basic) skills needs, 18,000 participants without full NVQ level 2 qualifications and 8,000 participants with level 2 but without full level 3 qualifications.		BE PURSUED	<i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i>
CE7.1	Assist 45,000 unemployed participants into sustainable employment over the duration of the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2007-13, including 24,000 participants aged 19 years or over who are unemployed, 16,500 participants aged over 19 years who are economically inactive and 4,500 participants aged 16 to 19 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).	DEL	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	Our 45,000 and 24,000 targets have been met. We are making progress against our 4,500 NEETS target with 2,169 participants (48%) to date. In relation to the 16,500 target of unemployed participants over 19, the current figure is 16,030, (99% of the target). <i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i>
CE8.1	By September 2012, work within the EU Empowerment and Inclusion Learning Network to produce both a Beneficiary tool and an Employer tool.	DEL	ACHIEVED	The Learning Network has developed and validated the beneficiary tool for measuring Empowerment and Inclusion and presented it to an EU Learning Network co-ordination meeting in Belfast on 29 May 2012. An employer recognition award was finalised and made available at the final Learning Network conference on the 27 November 2012.
CE8.2	Work within the Network to produce a Handbook on Empowerment and Inclusion by September 2012 to inform the new operational programme in 2014-20 and assist projects.	DEL	ACHIEVED	The handbook has been finalised and was distributed widely at the final dissemination event on the 27 November 2012.
CE9.1	Submit at least one transport related INTERREG application per Call for applications during 2012-13 where call criteria permit.	DRD	ACHIEVED	DRD successfully submitted an INTERREG IVA application for funding towards the costs of the redevelopment of Portadown Railway Station and jointly submitted an INTERREG IVB application with DOE for the BATTERIE Project.
CE10.1	Submit at least one TEN-T application per Call during 2012-13 where call criteria permit.	DRD	ACHIEVED	DRD submitted three successful TEN-T applications during 2012-13: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The application for the Coleraine to Derry track relay project, awarded €1.6m; 2. The application for the York Street Interchange Options Study, awarded €1.26m; and 3. The application (alongside the Republic of Ireland's Electricity Supply Board), towards the installation of electric vehicle rapid charging points across the island of Ireland, awarded €1.9m.
CE11.1	Carry out an assessment of potential Energy and Telecoms infrastructure funding opportunities under the Connecting Europe Facility by 31 March 2013.	DETI	ACHIEVED	A full assessment of the potential Energy and Telecoms infrastructure funding opportunities under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was completed. DETI Energy Division continues to pro-actively support 3 "projects of common interest" (PCIs) proposing investment in NI's energy networks, which are likely to seek funding under the (CEF). The CEF conditions for telecoms infrastructure funding have yet to be finalised.
CE11.2	Continue the development in 2012-13, in consultation with key regional stakeholders, the Department for Finance and Personnel and the European	DETI	ACHIEVED	Provided input to draft UK Partnership Agreement. A Socio-economic analysis workshop was undertaken with all councils to begin to determine local dimension of the Programme.

	Commission; of a draft Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme for 2014-2020.			A tender exercise to appoint consultant to undertake Programme Strategic Environmental Assessment was completed. Work now ongoing to draft Operational Programme in line with Commission guidance.
CE11.3	Contribute to the Member State working group on the Trans European Network-Transport and Connecting Europe Facility through ongoing engagement with the Department for Transport throughout 2012/13.	DRD	ACHIEVED	<p>The Minister for Regional Development wrote to the Minister of State for Transport on a number of occasions during the negotiations on the TEN-T and CEF regulations providing an update on Northern Ireland's position.</p> <p>DRD officials attended working groups in London, which included Department for Transport (DfT) led meetings with a TEN-T rapporteur and shadow rapporteur.</p>
CE11.4	Influence the European Parliament's consideration of the Trans European Network-Transport and Connecting Europe Facility regulations prior to the conclusion of the Parliament's review process, expected to take place in January 2013.	DRD	ACHIEVED	<p>The Minister for Regional Development has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) travelled to Strasbourg to influence the European Parliament; (2) briefed Northern Ireland's MEPs on the key issues; (3) met with the Transport Commissioner; (4) hosted a visit by Brian Simpson MEP, Chair of the European Parliament's Transport Committee; and (5) met TEN-T and CEF rapporteurs and other influential EU officials at the Connect to Complete event in Brussels. <p>Officials briefed the TEN-T rapporteurs on DRD's position. Northern Ireland's MEPs tabled amendments on behalf of the Department to the European Parliament's Transport Committee.</p>
CE11.5	Contribute to the development of Northern Ireland's next European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme via the Department of Finance and Personnel- led ERDF working group.	DRD	ACHIEVED	<p>DRD officials attended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the European Union Steering Group meetings; (2) an SEUPB event on developing European Territorial Co-Operation programmes for the 2014-2012 period; and (3) a European Parliament Conference on the future of EU funding in Northern Ireland. <p>The DRD Permanent Secretary met the Head of SEUPB to discuss the new INTERREG programme and the Department responded to the SEUPB's European Territorial Cooperation 2014-2020 consultation.</p> <p>In response to DFP's informal consultation on the future of EU funding in Northern Ireland, DRD identified a number of activities which align to the thematic objectives of the draft regulations, and recommended their inclusion in the next Structural Funds programmes.</p>
CE12.1	Put in place a new joint funding package to support greater University participation in the 7 th Framework Programme and its successor, Horizon 2020, by the end of September 2012.	DEL	ACHIEVED	<p>The joint DEL/DETI funding package is in place. The Queen's University and University of Ulster Action Plans relating to the "Higher Education - EU Support Fund" have been formally ratified by DEL and DETI.</p> <p>The universities have now commenced recruitment of the seven Horizon 2020 Contact Points to be supported under the Fund. Offers have been made and accepted in respect of the Engineering, Health and Connected Health posts. An offer has also been made in respect of the Energy post.</p> <p>Offers have not been made in respect of the three remaining posts (ICT, Cyber Security and Social Sciences) reflecting the highly specialist</p>

				nature of the expertise and skills required. These posts are to be re-advertised with interviews scheduled for April.
CE12.2	Carry out a scoping study by 30 th November to identify the EU sector support opportunities available.	DEL	ACHIEVED	A draft scoping study has been carried out. It is currently being examined to determine the best way forward.
IT1.1	Play an active role in the Enterprise Europe Network, participating in at least two network events by November 2012.	DETI	ACHIEVED	The Enterprise Europe Network NI participated in 4 key events: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Wind Energy Brokerage event in Denmark; 2. EEN Annual Conference in Cyprus; 3. Internationalisation of Clusters event in Belfast; and 4. Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.
IT1.2	Participate in the European Regions Research and Innovation Network, hosting at least two Brussels-based events to increase the visibility of regional research capability by end 2012.	DETI	ACHIEVED	Invest NI's Brussels' based Executive co-hosted a number of events with ERRIN: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Knowledge Based Bio Economy Brokerage Event in May including European Innovation Partnership (EIP) meetings in Water and Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability; 2. A Smart Cities brokerage event in July; and 3. An Open Days event in October.
IT1.3	Provide advice, guidance and, where necessary, financial support to encourage greater participation in the final FP7 call in July 2012, with an increase in participation by the closing dates in 2013.	DETI	ACHIEVED	Invest NI had 164 meetings with stakeholders regarding participation in EU R&D programmes. 12 applications for financial support for proposal preparation were funded at a total cost of £162k. This should result in increased participation rates, Invest NI will not know the definitive position with respect to participation levels until appraisals conclude and the successful projects are known. This is unlikely to be known until this time next year (2014).
IT1.4	Host at least 15 workshops or events to promote collaborative R&D opportunities by April 2013.	DETI	ACHIEVED	Invest NI, InterTradeIreland, Health and Social Care, DOE, Universities and Belfast Met have all hosted, collaborated or actively participated in 32 R&D events over the year.
IT1.5	Actively prepare for Horizon 2020 during 2012-13, playing an active role in the UK's negotiations and participating in at least two working groups.	DETI	ACHIEVED	Invest NI have been involved in 3 Department for Business Innovation and Skills Horizon 2020 working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules of participation; • Societal Challenges; and • Review of Support Structures.
IT1.6	Appoint a Horizon 2020 Manager by the end of December 2012.	DETI	ACHIEVED	Horizon 2020 Manager, Dr Simon Grattan has been appointed and commenced work in DETI on 1 August 2012.
IT1.7	Secure €50m of FP7 funding by 31 March 2013	DETI	ACHIEVED	€55.7m secured by the end of March 2013.
IT1.8	Introduce an enhanced Higher Education EU Framework Support Fund by end September 2012.	DEL	ACHIEVED	The enhanced fund, jointly funded by DEL/DETI, is in place. (See CE12.1 for details) .
IT1.9	Introduce a fund to encourage participation of Health & Social Care researchers in EU funding applications by September 2012, where funds cannot be accessed by DEL, Invest NI or InterTrade Ireland.	DHSSPS	ACHIEVED	The fund has been active since September 2012, and has facilitated attendance for a group of 11 health & social care researchers at a brokerage event hosted by ONIEB. The event provided opportunities for networking with representatives from other EU regions and also attracted commission officials. Now in follow-up phase to identify potential areas for collaboration.
IT1.10	Receive updates from Health & Social Care Directors of R&D on applications submitted and funding	DHSSPS	ACHIEVED	Ongoing interaction with R&D Directors and R&D Managers has resulted in a number of responses to partner searches which are currently being

	secured during 2012-13.			followed up. A number of bids have been submitted involving staff from Trusts and PHA.
IT1.11	Provide dedicated resource to support participation of health and social care researchers in EU funding applications commencing 2012-13	DHSSPS	ACHIEVED	<p>A proportion of the time of an experienced HSC R&D Programme Manager (PM) provided the necessary resource. They co-ordinated two EU events, one on the European Innovation Platform on Active & Healthy Ageing in Belfast & a brokerage event in Brussels.</p> <p>The PM has presented to HSC researchers at three further events, and both met with EU lead in QUB Research & Enterprise Office to share information. Relevant partner searches are regularly circulated and followed up to encourage participation in funding bids.</p>
IT1.12	Provide grant funding of up to £800,000 by 31 March 2013 for SME led research and innovation activities through the Research Challenge Fund to pump prime local business for participation in EU research programmes.	DARD	ACHIEVED	Grant funding of £800k was made available.
IT1.13	Provide at least £300k match funding in 2012/13 to help the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute apply for 7 th Framework Programme funding.	DARD	ACHIEVED	Funding was made available to AFBI.
IT1.14	Facilitate AFBI engagement with the European Union, attending at least 2 EU meetings in Brussels and arranging at least 1 EU official visit to AFBI facilities by end March 2013.	DARD	ACHIEVED	<p>Officials attended an EU INTERREG Dairyman Workshop in Ghent, Belgium on 24/26 October 2012. Officials also attended a conference organised as part of Green Week in Brussels on 24 May 2012.</p> <p>EU officials visited Ireland as part of an event to showcase Dairyman. The event happened in Cork but was attended by AFBI officials and participants in the Dairyman project from NI.</p> <p>While the visit was not to AFBI facilities we consider the objective to have been achieved as the AFBI work was showcased.</p>
IT2.1	Facilitate a meeting between relevant Commission Officials and DETI Telecoms/Energy policy leads, and develop an action plan for future engagement by March 2013.	DETI	ACHIEVED	<p>DETI officials met with Frank Cunningham from DG Information Society & Media to consider how the Connecting Europe Facility might benefit DETI over the coming period.</p> <p>DETI participated in a 'High Speed Broadband as A Platform for Innovation' event hosted by ONIEB in Brussels attended by Commission Members in September 2012. DETI delivered a presentation on the factors that influenced public intervention on the deployment of broadband in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>This engagement with the Commission has confirmed that a Departmental CEF Action Plan would not be appropriate, for two main reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the threshold investment levels required to drawdown CEF funding are set at too high a level (€100m+) for interventions relevant to the NI Telecoms market; and future Energy action/engagement will be in support of the Projects of Common Interest (PCI's) referenced at CC8.1 (taking into account that DECC and the Utility Regulator are the key interface with the EU Commission).
IT3.1	Launch a £50m Growth Loan Fund and a £5m Small Business Loan	DETI	ACHIEVED	Invest NI launched a £50m Growth Loan Fund and a £5m Small Business Loan. 8 loans drawn

	Fund by end March 2013.			down and 16 further approved, subject to due diligence.
IT4.1	Develop more open evaluation criteria for the knowledge transfer programme by March 2013, using these to encourage greater participation by regional stakeholders in the next programme call.	DHSSPS	ACHIEVED	Improved response to HSC R&D Division knowledge transfer funding call. 18 applications received – many topics relevant to EU research priorities in H2020.
IT5.1	Develop at least one new measure related to the knowledge transfer funding programme within the agri-food and rural sectors by March 2014 as part of the new Rural Development Programme 2014-20.	DARD	ACHIEVED	Work is ongoing however the initial DARD proposals for rural development (including knowledge transfer) were presented to the first meeting of the Rural Development Programme Stakeholder Consultation Group in November for comment and feedback. Stakeholders will consider the draft measure at their next meeting in May 2013.
IT6.1	Engage with EU officials and local industry representatives to facilitate participation in EIPs, JPIs and ERANETs, holding a minimum of 2 meetings with EU officials and 1 large stakeholder event by the 31 March 2013.	DARD	ACHIEVED	DARD held a large stakeholder event in November 2012, which was addressed by the Head of the European Commission Office in Belfast. Officials attended EIP Agriculture Productivity and sustainability conference in Brussels in November 2012. Officials held several meetings with EU officials, facilitating participation in EIPs, JPIs and ERANETs. Officials also attended the debate on the EIP in the Committee of the regions on 1 October 2012 and are now engaging with EU officials on a potential follow up EIP project.
IT7.1	Promote interaction via the Health & Social Care Directors of Research between health researchers and the academic/commercial sectors in connected health, holding at least one meeting during 2012-13.	DHSSPS	ACHIEVED	Targeted interactions occur regularly via the NI Connected Health Eco-System (item IT7.3, below). A draft clinical investigation agreement for the medical technologies sector is in development.
IT7.2	Submit applications for Reference Site, Status & Commitment Applications against specific actions under the European Innovation Partnership on Active & Healthy Aging by 31 May 2012.	DHSSPS	ACHIEVED	Reference Site application along with 6 EIP Commitments was submitted on 31 May 2012. Work on compiling the Self-Assessment dossiers is being completed. A Peer Review will be carried out from end April to start June 2013 and the awards ceremony will take place in July.
IT7.3	Establish a Northern Ireland connective health eco-system which is representative of the health, academic & industry sectors by the 30 September 2012.	DHSSPS	ACHIEVED	NI Connected Health Eco-System was established on 12 September 2012. 3 meetings of the Eco-System have been held, with attendance from across the Health, Academic and Industry Sectors. The initial focus of the Eco-System is to identify opportunities where technology can support implementation of Transforming Your Car (TYC).
IT7.4	Agree and publish a connected health and prosperity strategic action plan by 30 September 2012.	DHSSPS / INVESTNI	ACHIEVED	Connected Health and Prosperity Strategic Action Plan published on 12 September 2012.
IT8.1	Engage with the creative and cultural industries sector during 2012/13 to increase awareness of EU programme and funding opportunities, in particular the Culture Programme and proposed Creative Europe Programme 2014-20, and facilitate collaborations supportive of potential applications.	DCAL	ACHIEVED	During 2012-13 the Arts Council established and held two meetings of its EU Funding for the Arts Forum. This aims to support arts and cultural organisations interested in developing EU partnerships, projects and funding applications. The forum will provide peer-to-peer support, networking and opportunities for collaboration. In December 2012 the Arts Council opened the EU Partnership Development Travel Scheme which will fund travel to meet with existing and

				potential EU partners to develop project bids. In March 2013 the Arts Council supported a delegation of representatives from arts and cultural sector organisations to travel to Brussels to network with key EU stakeholders.
IT9.1	Support the Armagh Observatory, as UK lead in the EU-UNAWE (EU Universe Awareness) 7 th Framework Programme astronomy outreach programme to: Deliver a primary-sector teaching training course on 'Discovering our Place in the Universe' to 75 primary school teachers, directly and indirectly reaching more than 4000 children in 2012-13 and; Develop two new worksheets to demonstrate the value of the Human Orrery as a novel, cross-cutting educational resource in science, mathematics, astronomy and the world around us by March 2013.	DCAL	ACHIEVED	128 Teachers trained and 4223 children reached. Development of worksheets completed.
IT10.1	Present emerging thinking on a smart specialisation strategy for a peer review exercise organised by DG Regional Policy in June 2012.	DETI	ACHIEVED	Strategy presented to UK Smart Specialisation workshop in July 2012, followed by presentation to DG Regio (Head of Unit) in Brussels in September 2012. DG Regio content with approach that is being taken.
IT10.2	Produce a draft smart specialisation strategy for Executive agreement by end 2012.	DETI	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL NOT BE PURSUED	Due to further engagement with the European Commission and a change in the future conditions for ERDF funding, it was recommended by the Commission that Northern Ireland demonstrate a Strategic Policy Framework for Smart Specialisation. A draft paper outlining Northern Ireland's position on a Strategic Policy Framework for Smart Specialisation will be submitted to the European Commission in June 2013.
CC1.1	Ongoing provision of input during 2012-13, through European Union and UK Government channels, as part of iterative process in relation to the finalisation of priorities and objectives for the future 2014-20 Horizon 2020 programme.	DOE	ACHIEVED	DOE has liaised with officials in DEFRA and DETI, to provide policy input as appropriate and to monitor progress for dissemination to the Thematic Group.
CC1.2	Ongoing provision of input during 2012-13, through European Union and UK Government channels, as part of iterative process in relation to the finalisation of priorities and objectives for the future round of the LIFE+ programme 2014-20.	DOE	ACHIEVED	DOE has monitored and responded to correspondence on new LIFE regulations. Negotiations are currently on hold until the Multi-annual Financial Framework has been agreed. DOE continues to work closely with colleagues in DEFRA and the other devolved administrations regarding the proposed Regulation for the continuation of the LIFE Programme to support EU environment and climate objectives and LIFE+ in general.
CC2.1	Identify and develop at least 2 project proposals by October 2012 to drawdown and secure match funding to improve scientific data and/or assist delivery of key climate change mitigation projects which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	DOE	ACHIEVED	Investigations were undertaken to decide the plausibility of a research project on particulate matter, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, sulphur dioxide and greenhouse gases which may be released from burning biomass. Discussions were held with external bodies into a project looking at the environmental and financial impacts of the burning of smoky coal compared with smokeless coal.

				<p>A further project had been identified that would develop a robust Northern Ireland specific model (similar to England's 2050 Pathway model) to predict routes for achieving current and future greenhouse gas emissions reductions. This type of model would help to fill significant data gaps for Northern Ireland that are currently addressed by extrapolation of UK data.</p> <p>All of these projects are being actively developed with relevant bodies, however, there are no relevant EU calls open at the moment. In-house preparatory work continues.</p>
CC3.1	By October 2012, identify at least 2 opportunities to drawdown and secure match funding for delivery of key climate change adaptation projects which will assist either the communication of the risks and measures to deal with them or facilitate projects which demonstrate how adaptation can be achieved.	DOE	ACHIEVED	<p>DOE has identified a number of opportunities for future drawdown in respect of climate change adaptation. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3.5 million LIFE + project developed by the UK Environment Agency looking at best practice methods for Adapting Upland Agricultural and Forestry to increase resilience to climate change. Whilst the research will not be undertaken in Northern Ireland, funding will be provided to us for climate change outreach work in Northern Ireland associated with the project. Work has been completed in identifying a range of climate change adaptation risks with potential impacts across all departments. These are closely aligned with the gaps in knowledge identified in the NI Climate Change Risk Assessment and approximately 50 potential research areas have been identified and prioritised for action. <p>DOE is liaising with a range of research bodies to determine the capacity to develop future projects and how the DOE can provide support. These research areas are being further developed with the aim of preparation for the new rounds of funding coming into effect in 2014.</p>
CC4.1	Throughout 2012-13, influence the TEN-T and Connecting Europe Facility negotiations through the Department for Transport (DfT) led member state working groups and continued engagement with the Parliament and Commission resulting in the best possible outcome for Northern Ireland when the Regulations are agreed.	DRD	ACHIEVED	<p>The Minister for Regional Development has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written to the Minister of State for Transport on a number of occasions during the negotiations on the TEN-T and CEF regulations to update him/her on Northern Ireland's position; travelled to Strasbourg to influence the European Parliament; met with the Transport Commissioner; hosted a visit by Brian Simpson MEP, Chair of the European Parliament's Transport Committee; and met TEN-T and CEF rapporteurs and other influential EU officials at the Connect to Complete event in Brussels. <p>DRD officials attended working groups in London, which included Department for Transport (DfT) led meetings with a TEN-T rapporteur and shadow rapporteur.</p> <p>Northern Ireland's MEPs tabled amendments on behalf of the Department to the European Parliament's Transport Committee.</p>
CC5.1	Facilitate at least two sustainable transport promotional events by the end of March 2013.	DRD	ACHIEVED	<p>DRD supported by DOE held 5 promotional launch events for electric vehicles charging infrastructure in: Belfast, Newry, Enniskillen, Derry/Londonderry and Larne.</p>

				The Departments also held a major three day event at Titanic Belfast which was attended by 260 sixth form pupils, 200 members of the business community and the general public. A new website and promotional videos were launched at the event.
CC5.2	Where Call criteria permit, support Belfast and Derry City Council in submitting CIVITAS applications during 2012-13	DRD	ACHIEVED	DRD supported Belfast and Derry City Councils in exploring CIVITAS funding opportunities, however, the Councils have advised that they have no plans to submit applications at this time. DRD was ready to assist the councils had applications proceeded further.
CC5.3	Progress the eCar infrastructure project, ensuring that 120 public charge points are installed by March 2013.	DRD	ACHIEVED	160 charge points were installed at 80 locations across NI and two rapid charge points were installed at two locations. A further 40 double headed charge posts and eight rapid charge posts will be installed by June 2013.
CC5.4	Attend TEN-T information Days during 2012-13 to identify potential funding opportunities by March 2013.	DRD	ACHIEVED	DRD officials attended the November 2012 TEN-T Information Days in Brussels to identify potential funding opportunities under the annual and multi annual calls.
CC5.5	Attend TEN-T Project Management Workshops organised by the TEN-T Executive Agency during 2012-13 in order to maintain engagement with the Agency and to keep abreast of best practice in application processes.	DRD	ACHIEVED	DRD officials attended the best practice workshop in Brussels on 30 November 2012 and also attended the TEN-T Project Management Workshop in February 2013.
CC5.6	Where criteria permits, submit at least one TEN-T application per call in 2012-13.	DRD	ACHIEVED	DRD submitted three successful TEN-T applications during 2012/13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the application for the Coleraine to Derry track relay project was awarded €1.6m of TEN-T funding; the application for the York Street Interchange Options Study was awarded €1.26m of TEN-T funding; and the joint application with the Republic of Ireland's Electricity Supply Board was awarded €1.9m of TEN-T funding towards the installation of electric vehicle rapid charging points across the Island of Ireland.
CC6.1	Identify and develop at least one project to secure match funding to assist in the improvement of domestic energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.	DSD	ACHIEVED	DSD are exploring a partnership bid in relation to an energy efficiency project. We have secured additional European money for a boiler replacement scheme in 2013-14 and 2014-15 through the European Regional Development Fund.
CC7.1	By March 2013, work with NI Water to identify and develop potential water related energy efficiency projects and investigate the feasibility of participating in related EU funding programmes.	DRD	ACHIEVED	Potential water related energy efficiency projects have been identified and meetings have taken place with a number of managing authorities to explore the feasibility of participating in the respective funding programmes. An outline project proposal was presented to the European Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) in March 2013. However, given the feedback this project is unlikely to be developed any further at this stage. Further outline project proposals have been developed for future consideration.

CC7.2	By March 2013, work with NI Water to identify and develop potential environmental or biodiversity related projects and investigate the feasibility of participating in related EU funding programmes.	DRD	ACHIEVED	<p>Potential NI Water related environmental/ biodiversity related projects have been identified and meetings have taken place with a number of managing authorities to explore the feasibility of participating in the respective funding programmes.</p> <p>An outline project proposal was presented to the DETI in January 2013. However, given the feedback this project is unlikely to be developed any further at this stage.</p> <p>Further outline project proposals have been developed for future consideration.</p>
CC8.1	By March 2013, explore the potential to support energy infrastructure opportunities by way of the Connecting Europe Facility.	DETI	ACHIEVED	<p>DETI continues to pro-actively support 3 "projects of common interest" (PCIs) proposing investment in NI's energy networks and which are likely to seek funding under the Connecting Europe Facility.</p> <p>This has involved ongoing engagement with the Department for Energy and Climate Change and NI Authority for Utility Regulation who are the key interface with the EU Commission.</p>
CC9.1	Develop at least one project proposal by October 2012, which will fund waste or energy efficiency projects.	DOE	ACHIEVED	<p>DOE has been engaging with Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the ARC 21 waste management group to identify potential European funding streams.</p> <p>DOE is providing support to the successful RENEW project submitted as an INTERREG NWE IVB North West Europe project. The €4.9m project includes as partners; DOE, WRAP, BCC, QUESTOR and many other groups across Europe.</p> <p>This 3 year project aims to make more efficient use of resources to drive economic growth. It will promote innovations for the waste sector, targeting such waste streams as municipal solid waste, agricultural wastes and sludge and will focus on reducing waste.</p>
CC10.1	By October 2012, identify and develop at least 2 project proposals for EU funding to support future research and demonstration projects.	DOE	ACHIEVED	<p>DOE supported the successful INTERREG NPP project, 'SECRE', which includes Action Renewables and the University of Ulster as partners. This project aims to develop and implement social enterprise and business models in community renewable energy. It will inform future policy and demonstrate the applicability of social renewable energy enterprises. Total drawdown of EU funds to Northern Ireland is expected to be in the region of €293k over 3 years.</p> <p>DOE, as an associate partner, provided support to QUESTOR for their Marie Curie Actions (FP7) application for the ATBEST project, which focuses on developing and transferring biogas sector skills. This project will provide training to around 16 young researchers working on industry focused projects targeted along the biogas supply chain. The project will address several technical knowledge gaps to deliver more efficient and sustainable biogas production and utilisation.</p> <p>Total drawdown of EU funds to Northern Ireland is expected to be in the region of £1.25m over 3 years.</p>
CC11.1	By March 2013, engage with, and hold at least one workshop targeted at Universities, other	DOE	ACHIEVED	<p>A successful workshop took place on Wednesday 27 March 2013 at Hillsborough. It was opened by the Minister and involved a variety of speakers on</p>

	research based institutes and SMEs to promote EU research programmes.			EU funding themes, with case studies and networking opportunities for SMEs and Universities.
CC12.1	Develop at least one new measure or integrate a new measure, relating to the agriculture climate change objectives within the new Rural Development Programme 2014- 2020 on resource efficiency by March 2014.	DARD	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	<p>Integration of agriculture climate change objectives is on-going through informal consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>Formal consultation is due to launch in June 2013 which will (hopefully) lead to EC approval in early 2014.</p> <p>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</p>
CC13.1	Facilitate AFBI engagement in EU research funding schemes in relation to the link between resource efficiency and lower emissions (chemical fertiliser, sequestration, and feed) and develop one project proposal by March 2013.	DARD	ACHIEVED	<p>AFBI are working with their European partners on a Horizon 2020 bid for Dairyman2. The bid is due to be submitted in the Autumn of 2013 if match funding by all partners is forthcoming. AFBI have match funding available. At this stage project costs are €12m with receipts for AFBI expected in the region of €375k -525k over the lifetime of the project.</p>
CC14.1	Develop at least 2 innovative project proposals centred on research and innovation by October 2012.	DOE	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	<p>DOE and DRD provided financial support to the INTERREG NAA project, 'BATTERIE', which is co-ordinated by its lead partner, Northern Ireland not-for-profit company, Action Renewables.</p> <p>This project will establish better accessible and sustainable transport to encourage a more secure and effective operation of the existing transport infrastructure and promote the use of low carbon transport alternatives. Total EU drawdown to Northern Ireland for this project will be in the region of €666k over 3 years.</p> <p>DOE has also provided support to Action Renewables for its BioPAD project which commenced in January 2013.</p> <p>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</p>
CC15.1	Organise a workshop for stakeholders and key groups, including the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and QUESTOR, focused on a small number of key topics of interest by March 2013.	DOE	ACHIEVED	<p>A successful workshop took place on Wednesday 27 March 2013 at Hillsborough. The Minister opened the event which involved a variety of speakers on EU funding themes, with case studies and networking opportunities for SMEs and Universities.</p> <p>In line with the Minister's announcement, a series of further rolling summits will be held to raise awareness and help facilitate progress on developing projects.</p>
CC16.1	Follow up on the Brussels Engagement Programme in March 2012, with further dialogue and a further meeting with Commission Task Force members by March 2013.	DOE	NOT ACHIEVED	<p>This was to have coincided with the cancelled Ministerial visit. (see CC 16.2 below)</p> <p>This visit has been rescheduled for May 2013.</p> <p>Further progress will only be monitored by the lead department</p>
CC16.2	Work with the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels to organise at least one Ministerial visit to Brussels by March 2013.	DOE	NOT ACHIEVED	<p>The Ministerial visit which had been organised had to be cancelled at short notice due to the political situation in Northern Ireland at the time.</p> <p>This visit has been rescheduled for May 2013.</p> <p>Further progress will only be monitored by the lead department</p>
SC1.1	Participate in at least three events to promote the European Year in 2012.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>Junior Ministers participated in 4 events linked to the 2012 European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity Amongst the Generations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an Intergenerational Event organised by

				<p>Linking Generations on 30 April 2012;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECNI event entitled Strengthening Protection for all Ages on 25 September 2012; • Opportunity Europe Event on 16 October 2012; and • Pensioners Parliament on 16 November 2012.
SC1.2	Share with the European Commission examples of innovation and best practice in regional policy relating to older people.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>Officials have built a strong relationship with the Head of the Active Ageing Unit, have met with a representative from Age Platform Europe to discuss the regional work relating to the European Year and have shared information with DG Employ on the small grants scheme.</p> <p>Junior Ministers opened the Opportunity Europe Event on 16 October 2012 and this encouraged intergenerational working and the sharing of best practices.</p>
SC1.3	Establish a scheme to support community and voluntary organisations' projects which promote active ageing and solidarity amongst the generations by May 2012.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>OFMDFM established a small grants scheme for projects undertaken by community and voluntary organisations. 77 applications were received and, following evaluation by an independent panel, 16 groups were awarded funding.</p> <p>Projects range from older people working with peers to encourage them to take an active role in society to promoting the use of ICT to older people with mentoring from young people.</p>
SC1.4	Engage with the European Commission in the development of a new regional strategy for older people's issues by November 2012.	OFMDFM	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	<p>The Active Ageing Strategy – “A better place to grow older” is currently in its final stages before going out for consultation. Contributions from the Commissioner for Older People and the Older Peoples Advisory panel have been reflected in the new draft and it has been reworked extensively during 2012.</p> <p>It is hoped the Strategy will be launched in Autumn 2013.</p> <p><i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i></p>
SC1.5	In 2012-13 engage with the European Commission and European partners, with the aim of establishing the region as a reference site under the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.	DHSSPS	ACHIEVED	<p>An application for Reference Site status was submitted in May 2012. The Commission issued guidance for the Self-Assessment and Peer Review phases at the end of January 2013 and the Department is presently compiling the dossiers on areas of good practice.</p> <p>These have to be submitted by 19 April 2013. The Peer Review Phase will run from 29 April to 7 June 2013 and Reference Site Awards will be made in July 2013.</p>
SC2.1	In 2012-13, identify and lobby key contacts within the European Institutions to promote Maze Long Kesh as the favoured site for an EU Institute for Peace Building and Reconciliation.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>During 2012-13 OFMDFM has undertaken a lobbying strategy with EU Institutions to ensure the Peace building and Conflict Resolution Centre (PbCRC) is recognised as a potential contributing partner within a European Institute for Peace concept.</p> <p>This has comprised of regular meetings in Brussels, with a number of bodies including the EPLO and Saferworld, a European External Action Service (EEAS) official visiting Maze/Long Kesh, and an OFMDFM official speaking at the workshop of the EU Foreign Affairs Committee on the subject.</p> <p>The PbCRC was referenced in the EEAS report (15.10.12) as 'becoming an important forum bringing together policy-makers, mediation</p>

				practitioners conflict parties and the broader public to discuss conflict prevention and dialogue issues'.
SC3.1	Seek partnership arrangements throughout Europe, joining at least one network or consortium to share experience of conflict resolution by March 2013.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	The Department of Justice created the Justice Network to share information and experience with organisations on European matters. The Desk Officer joined the ERRIN network, and has circulated projects from the PSNI on it which aim to share their experience of conflict resolution. OFMDFM joined and now co-chair the NI European Regional Forum and use it to help share experience of conflict resolution.
SC3.2	Participate in the international conference hosted by Ireland 'On the Shared Future: Building and Sustaining Peace, the Northern Ireland case study' in April 2012.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	Successfully participated in the international conference hosted by Ireland 'On the Shared Future: Building and Sustaining Peace, the Northern Ireland case study' in April 2012.
SC3.3	Disseminate the upcoming book, The Story of Peace, an account of the development and progress of the three EU PEACE Programmes to date, throughout European networks identified by the Desk Officers by December 2012.	OFMDFM	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	The Story of Peace, an account of the development and progress of the three EU PEACE Programmes to date, has yet to be published. <i>Future progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i>
SC4.1	Develop a process to identify, share and disseminate EU funding opportunities to stakeholders relevant to social cohesion across the public, private and voluntary sectors by December 2012.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	A process has been developed to disseminate and share EU funding opportunities to stakeholders, whereby all information coming from Europe with regards to social cohesion is sent by the Desk Officer and officers in OFMDFM to the departments sitting on the social cohesion sub group. Following this departments then forward the information on to stakeholders in their sectors. All information is also forwarded to the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum, whose members are from the public, private and voluntary sectors.
SC4.2	Create a database of individuals and organisations involved in successful EU funding projects by September 2012 and organise and attend networking opportunities throughout 2012-13 to ensure that their experience is recognised and shared.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	A database of organisations involved in successful EU funding projects has been created and is currently in use. New opportunities are sent out to contacts on the database. Attended various networking opportunities, including meetings with the NIERF, the European Commission representative for Northern Ireland, the British Council, the Youth Council for Northern Ireland, Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, the PSNI, Chief Officers of the Third Sector and other groups spanning across the public, private and voluntary sectors to ensure experience is recognised and shared.
SC4.3	Liaise with the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy on a bi-monthly basis to be appraised of EU Commission formulation of urban and community policies.	DSD	ACHIEVED	DSD continue to liaise with DG Regio staff on a regular basis to discuss urban and community policies. DSD Minister met with the Chair of the European Commission Barroso Taskforce, Ronnie Hall, (Director General Regional Policy) and the Principal Advisor to Walter Deffaa (Director General Regional Policy) on 19 February 2013.
SC4.4	Work with the European Commission in 2012 to develop a programme of engagement to align with the European Year of	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	Officials have met with Colette Fitzgerald, the EU Commission's representative for Northern Ireland and discussed the Year and the Commission's plans for events, to see areas of mutual working

	Citizenship in 2013.			and where synergies may be achieved. Ministerial approval has been given to stage an EU event to mark the EU year of the Citizen in 2013. This will be taken forward by NIERF in conjunction with the EU Commission.
SC4.5	Identify at least two relevant European networks for which participation would benefit the region by end August 2012.	DSD	ACHIEVED	The Desk Officer produced a comprehensive assessment of the most relevant European networks for all Departments participating in the Social Cohesion Thematic Group. DSD identified two networks to assess the merits of participating in. These are the European Anti-poverty Network and Volonteurope.
SC5.1	Identify the scope to bid for INTERREG funding by end March 2013, recognising that many of these funds are now closed.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	The Desk Officer identified that there was zero scope for bids for INTERREG IVB and IVC funds as these funding streams were closing in late 2012. Consultations regarding INTERREG V have been ongoing since and officials are monitoring these to ensure when opportunities arise they are disseminated out to interested parties and support is provided to those taking an application forward.
SC6.1	Identify existing programmes and seek one partnership arrangement with an organisation from a European network by December 2012.	DOJ	ACHIEVED	NIACRO were successful in applying to the Daphne III programme, to the 'Solid Basis for the Future of Young Male Offenders' project. The project is being led by a Dutch NGO (<i>The 180 Foundation</i>) and launched on 1 January 2013 with 8 partners participating. The project has a total value of approx €150k and NIACRO will drawdown €33,000 over 2 years. NIACRO are planning a partner meeting in Belfast in September 2013.
SC7.1	Create a Justice network by June 2012 and convene its first meeting by November 2012, at which information on EU Funding opportunities will be disseminated.	DOJ	ACHIEVED	The Minister of Justice opened the inaugural Justice Network meeting on 7 November 2012. Key speakers (from the European Commission Office in Belfast, the PSNI, NI-CO and the Social Cohesion Desk Officer) addressed the group, providing advice and guidance based on experience. A funding partnership was established as a result of the event.
SC8.1	Join the European Network on Youth Unemployment by December 2012.	OFMDFM	NOT ACHIEVED	Investigations to join the network took place, however, because the network was winding down early in the year, we were told that an application to join would not be successful.
SC9.1	Disseminate information on the Youth in Action programme with relevant stakeholders during 2012 and provide support to potential applications under this programme when future calls for proposals are announced.	DSD	ACHIEVED	Information on the Youth in Action programme has been disseminated and organisations sign-posted to the Managing Authority in Northern Ireland. DSD officials met with the Youth Council for Northern Ireland and agreed to collaborate in promoting Youth In Action in the most disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland.
SC9.2	Utilise our volunteering infrastructure (Volunteer Now, Association of Independent Volunteer Centres and North West Volunteer Centre) to promote the Youth in Action Programme by	DSD	ACHIEVED	DSD has used the volunteering infrastructure (Volunteer Now, Association of Independent Volunteer Centres and North West Volunteer Centre) to promote the Youth in Action Programme and have disseminated information to these organisations.

	June 2012.			In response to queries DSD liaised with the Social Cohesion Desk Officer to get additional information on funding rules and identified a Northern Ireland contact point in the Youth Council for Northern Ireland. Also established that the British Council is the UK's managing agent for this funding. The volunteer centres advertised the programme on their website/facebook and enews publications
SC10.1	By the end of March 2013, use PEACE III funds to support the creation of shared spaces.	DSD	ACHIEVED	DSD is an Accountable Department for PEACE III Priority 2 Theme 1 Creating Shared Public Spaces and provides support which enables the draw-down of European funds. Priority 2.1 is designed to regenerate urban, rural and border areas that appear derelict, segregated, underused, threatening and/or unwelcoming and transform them into shared spaces. £21.3 million has been drawdown to date.
SC10.2	Pursue any competitive EU funding opportunities that arise during 2012-13 that are designed to reduce poverty, support social inclusion or combat discrimination and support projects in making applications.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	Over 50 project calls designed to reduce poverty, support social inclusion and combat discrimination were disseminated to stakeholders. Multiple project calls and partner searches were shared with the NI European Regional Forum to encourage and support their members in making applications. Meetings were held with the British Council, a national agency for many funding programmes designed to reduce poverty, support social inclusion and combat discrimination, to develop processes to help boost the number of successful applications. This is being taken forward into the rest of 2013. Meetings were held with the Youth Council for Northern Ireland who are a national contact point for the Youth in Action Programme, to help them boost the number of applications being made under the funding programme.
SC11.1	Identify funding available through the PROGRESS Programme by March 2013, with the aim to making a bid and/or joining the relevant European network to secure funding.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	A number of funding opportunities available through the PROGRESS Programme were identified and sent to stakeholders with a view to supporting bids from them. The Desk Officer joined the ERRIN network with a view to finding partners for applications from Northern Ireland. No suitable projects came forward. There could be a number of reasons for this including lack of capacity. The work of the Social Cohesion Group in the 2013-14 European Priorities will focus on capacity building.
SC12.1	Engage in transnational cooperation with at least one European region or network by end March 2013 to identify best practice in other regions, communicating learning to all government departments on a regular basis throughout 2012-13.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	Officials liaised and networked on a regular basis with counterparts from the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the main UK EU delegations to identify best practice in other regions. Learning on engagement activities and influencing funding calls information was compiled and articulated and circulated on a bi-annual basis.
SC12.2	Carry out research into which European regions and which projects have been most effective	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	A research paper, entitled European Policy 2007-2013 – EU Funding to Tackle Disadvantage – A Breakdown of the Funding Received by

	in attracting EU funding to tackle disadvantage by September 2012, establishing contacts and building networks with other regions on an ongoing basis to improve our ability and expertise in this area.			European Regions and Focus of Projects, was developed. The Desk Officer has liaised regularly with counterparts from the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the main UK EU delegations to improve our ability and expertise in this area.
SC13.1	Identify European officials responsible for Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, making at least three contacts to raise awareness of our needs and actions to address poverty and social exclusion by March 2013.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	Meetings took place with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc Vermyle, the Commission's Desk Officer for Social Cohesion in NI and Wales in DG EMPL; • Maria Podlosek-Ziegler, Youth in Action Team, DG EAC; • Ralf Jacob, Head of unit, Active Ageing, Healthcare and Social Services in DG EMPL; and • Laura Cassio, Desk Officer for diversity and inclusion in DG EAC.
SC13.2	Actively engage with European institutions and consortia to identify best practice and promote mutual learning on poverty and social exclusion by end March 2013.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	Meetings were held with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colette Fitzgerald, head of the European Commission Office in Belfast to identify best practice and promote mutual learning on poverty and social exclusion; • Graeme Robertson (DG Regio) to discuss the urban aspect of regional policy; • Ronnie Hall; • Tricia Harkin (DG Justice) to discuss development in criminal justice post 2014; • Michal Rynkowski on EU sport policies; • Pedro Valasquez on sport and Erasmus for All; and • Diedre O'Reilly (DG EMPLOY) regarding the Social Investment package. <p>Officials attended a number of European events in Brussels and Northern Ireland including: Consolidating the Steps Towards the 'Creative Europe' Programme – new funding methods and uses and habits in Cultural and the Creative sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing divided communities together – PEACE Conference; • EPHA-CECODHAS Seminar Housing and Health Equity; • Creative Europe – information session – DG Education and Culture' • Policy Dialogue: the role of welfare states in a changing Europe – Findings from the European Social Survey; • Lifelong Learning Programme Infoday; • 'European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion' Committee of the Regions Conference.
SC14.1	Identify the organisations working in the area of social cohesion within the region who could most benefit from European assistance by September 2013, identifying the most appropriate source of funding available and providing assistance; facilitating at least 1 bid for funding during 2012-13.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	The Social Cohesion Desk Officer facilitated bids for funding from both the Arts Council and Sports NI. However, both cases were unsuccessful. OFMDFM agreed to co-chair the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum. OFMDFM have established a small grant scheme with the Arts Council to help send groups they work with out to European countries to network and see how successful funding projects are established. Contacted over 800 organisations who had previously bid for or received European funding to offer assistance and publicise the work of the Barroso Task Force. Many organisations

				requested to be kept updated with any new project calls with a view to making bids in the future.
SC14.2	Hold a stakeholder workshop by March 2013, attend relevant conferences in Northern Ireland and Brussels and actively target key stakeholders to raise awareness of the Barroso Task Force and provide support to partner organisations involved or seeking to get involved in European projects.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	Officials attended a number of European events in Brussels and Northern Ireland and established a small grant scheme with the Arts Council (see SC13.2 and SC14.1). Over 800 organisations were contacted who had previously bid for or received European funding to offer assistance and publicise the work of the Barroso Task Force. Many organisations requested to be kept updated with any new project calls with a view to making bids in the future.
SC14.3	Arrange a Ministerial visit to Brussels by October 2012 to promote and raise awareness of the Barroso Task Force among NI Voluntary and Community Organisations.	DSD	ACHIEVED	The Minister for Social Development visited Brussels on 18/20 February 2013 to develop contacts with Commission Officials and receive briefings on: the work of the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels, EU Regional and Urban Policy, UK negotiations on the next round of European Funding, the Irish Presidency, volunteering and the social economy.
SC14.4	Ensure at least one successful drawdown from the Culture Programme for a project or initiative relating to the Arts by March 2015.	DCAL	ACHIEVED	Four of Northern Ireland's arts and cultural organisations have received awards from the Culture programme since April 2012: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Community Circus School: HIP CIRQ EUROP (total project value €200,000.00; • Prime Cut Productions Ltd: The Happiness Project (total project value €186,526.00; • Nerve Centre: Open the Shutters (total project value: €176,422.00; and • Community Arts Partnership: City (Re)Searches: Experiences of Public-ness (Total project value €60,000.00.
SC14.5	Establish at least three research and development networking projects for artists working across all art forms in conjunction with Intercult, Stockholm; promoting exchange and collaboration.	DCAL	NOT ACHIEVED	One of the three projects (Creative Districts) failed to shortlist in July 2012. Despite further efforts by Intercult, the Arts Council and other EU partners, no project funding was secured. Partners are meeting in May 2013 to review the potential for the realisation of a scaled back version of the programme. Future EU funding opportunities will continue to be researched and applications made as appropriate. <i>Future progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i>
SC15.1	Assist the PSNI in identifying funding opportunities and partners by May 2012, providing assistance in making at least one bid for European funding by end March 2013.	DOJ	ACHIEVED	The Department provided advice to the PSNI on two funding applications which were submitted in November 2012. The PSNI lead on both applications and entered into partnership arrangements for 10 additional applications. Through networking at the Justice Network event in November, the PSNI brought Women's Aid Federation NI on board as a partner in their Human Trafficking related application.
SC16.1	Use membership of the NIERF to identify funding opportunities for social cohesion projects, making at least one application by end March 2013.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	Over 30 funding projects and partner searches have been disseminated around NIERF members, with OFMDFM offering to support any members wishing to make applications. Applications have been supported from the Arts Council and the PSNI.
SC17.1	Maintain and enhance the network of contacts established by the	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	OFMDFM contacted some 800 organisations who had previously bid for or received European

	Social Cohesion Thematic Group. Disseminate information through the network relating to funding opportunities and partnership opportunities.			<p>funds to help promote experience and networking opportunities. Information on project calls will be disseminated out to those groups who expressed an interest in receiving more information.</p> <p>Over 50 project calls designed to reduce poverty, support social inclusion and combat discrimination were sent out to departments to be disseminated to stakeholders.</p> <p>Multiple project calls and partner searches have been disseminated through the NIERF, encouraging organisations to apply for competitive EU funding.</p> <p>The Department of Justice created the Justice Network, through which it shares and disseminates information on funding opportunities and partnership opportunities. Through networking at the Justice Network event in November 2012, the PSNI brought Women's Aid Federation NI on board as a partner in their Human Trafficking related application.</p>
SC17.2	Host at least two meetings of the Social Cohesion Thematic Group in which stakeholders are invited to participate by March 2013, disseminating information related to funding and partnership opportunities.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	3 NIERF meetings were held (14 February, 2 August, 1 November,) to which stakeholders were invited.
SC17.3	Identify and join at least one European network, seeking potential partners for bidding for competitive funding.	OFMDFM	ACHIEVED	<p>Desk Officer has joined the ERRIN network which facilitates partner searches. The PSNI and Sport NI projects have already been circulated on the network.</p> <p>OFMDFM and DEL have both joined the European Information Network.</p> <p>OFMDFM joined and now co-chair the NIERF. A report 'Guide to European Networks' was published by the Social Cohesion Desk Officer and disseminated to all departments on the social cohesion sub group and contacts they work with.</p>

3. EXCEPTIONS REPORT

Target No. (Lead Dept)	TITLE	RAG RATING	DEPARTMENTAL NARRATIVE
CE5.1 (DETI)	Carry out a scoping study by 30 September 2012 to identify the range of EU Tourism sector support opportunities available and develop an action plan by 31 March 2013.	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	While the scoping study has been developed, due to a need for greater clarity on various points, a detailed action plan is still under development. <i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i>
CE5.2 (DETI)	Achieve a 10% increase in EU visitors to Northern Ireland in the 2012 calendar year (above 2011 levels).	NOT ACHIEVED	<p>The NI Tourism Statistics Report for 2012 indicates that while the total number of visitors from outside NI increased by 3% in 2012, the number of EU visitors to NI in 2012 was unchanged from the 2011 figure at 253,000.</p> <p>It should be recognised that global economic conditions, in particular the ongoing economic problems within the Eurozone, have presented (and continue to present) a challenging environment for travel generally. Even Britain, despite the Olympics, is showing little tourism growth for 2012.</p> <p><u>Remedial Actions</u></p> <p>In 2013, there will be a number of events that will provide exceptional opportunities to promote NI as a tourist destination to other Europeans as well as the World:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Police and Fire Games in August 2013 – the third largest multisport event in the world, attracting 7,000 competitors from 70 countries; • Derry/Londonderry is the inaugural UK City of Culture for 2013 and will stage a series of high profile cultural events throughout 2013, including the All Ireland Fleadh and the Return of Colmcille; • The Turner Prize; and • The G8 Summit in Fermanagh in June 2013 presented a unique opportunity to showcase Northern Ireland on the world stage. <p>Tourism Ireland will implement a campaign of targeted marketing activities to grow European visitors to Northern Ireland in 2013. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a comprehensive programme of promotional activity to highlight Londonderry as UK City of Culture 2013 overseas and other major events such as the World Police and Fire Games; • Capitalise on the unprecedented opportunity of the G8 Summit, which will be hosted in Fermanagh, to showcase Northern Ireland – not only to world leaders but also to the international media; • Prioritise resources in the six top performing markets within Europe, with Germany and France as priority markets, followed by Italy, Nordics, Spain and the Netherlands; • Roll out a new suite of 30 websites in 11 languages designed to capitalise on the growing importance of the internet in travel and holiday planning and to harness the phenomenal growth in social media; and • Continue to build the case for increased direct access to Northern Ireland.
CE6.1 (DEL)	Increase the uptake, by 233 additional places in 2012/13, in economically relevant Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) places with local higher education providers in support of the 'New Skills for New Jobs'	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	<p>We have assumed that the places have indeed been taken up by the universities and the FECs. We could go out to these bodies and ask them to provide the figures for us and take a decision on target achievement based on their responses. However, this will take time and the figures provided by the universities may not be the same as the figures to be submitted to HESA in December 2013 and published in January 2014. We await the publication of the official statistics.</p> <p><i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead</i></p>

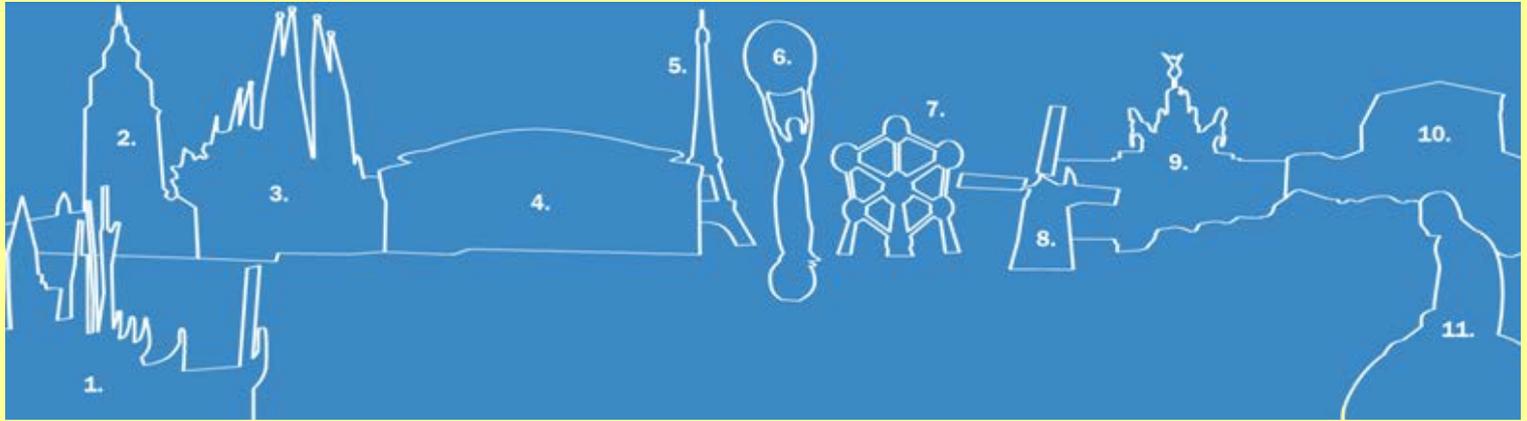
	initiative to develop better matching between skills and labour market needs.		<i>department</i>
CE6.4 (DEL)	Assist 44,000 participants within the workforce to improve workforce skills over the duration of the NI European Social Fund Programme 2007-13, including 18,000 participants with essential (basic) skills needs, 18,000 participants without full NVQ level 2 qualifications and 8,000 participants with level 2 but without full level 3 qualifications.	SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	The ESF programme runs until 31 March 2015 and therefore all targets within the programme have to be achieved by that date. <i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i>
CE7.1 (DEL)	Assist 45,000 unemployed participants into sustainable employment over the duration of the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2007-13, including 24,000 participants aged 19 years or over who are unemployed, 16,500 participants aged over 19 years who are economically inactive and 4,500 participants aged 16 to 19 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).	SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	The ESF programme runs until 31 March 2015 and therefore all targets within the programme have to be achieved by that date. <i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i>
IT10.2 (DETI)	Produce a draft smart specialisation strategy for Executive agreement by end 2012.	SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL NOT BE PURSUED	The European Commission have developed their thinking regarding Smart Specialisation (S3). Initially the future condition was for regions to produce a Smart Specialisation Strategy. Due to further engagement with the European Commission and a change in the future conditions for ERDF funding, it was recommended by the Commission that Northern Ireland demonstrate a Strategic Policy Framework for Smart Specialisation. A draft paper was submitted by DETI to the Commission for discussion in 2012 and has been presented on the DETI website. A draft paper outlining Northern Ireland's position on a Strategic Policy Framework for Smart Specialisation will be submitted to the European Commission in June 2013. An integral building block of the Strategic policy framework for smart specialisation is the Northern Ireland Innovation Strategy 2013-25. It is envisaged that a draft will be made available in parallel with the S3 documentation.
CC12.1 (DARD)	Develop at least one new measure or integrate a new measure, relating to the agriculture climate change objectives within the new Rural Development Programme 2014- 2020 on resource efficiency	SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	The NI Rural Development Programme (NIRD) has potential to address climate change objectives in the agriculture and forestry sectors and to change behaviours. Its creation is an 18 month process which started in 2012-13 and will not finish until the European Commission approve the Programme in its entirety. Progress has been made and is on schedule. <i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead</i>

	by March 2014.		<i>department</i>
CC14.1 (DOE)	Develop at least 2 innovative project proposals centred on research and innovation by October 2012.	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	<p>Whilst the objective was to develop 2 innovative projects by October 2012, DOE have supported one project through the development phase and now have a successful project which is drawing down EU money. This has been a more beneficial use of resources at present due to tight deadlines and ending of funding streams.</p> <p>DOE has, however, provided support in the form of match funding for another innovative project, BIOPAD, which started on 1 January 2013. This is an INTERREG NPP project, which aims to increase the availability of biomass fuels by building new bioenergy supply chains, thus contributing to renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. The project is co-ordinated by Action Renewables and has a total NI drawdown of €134,000.</p> <p><i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i></p>
CC16.1 (DOE)	Follow up on the Brussels Engagement Programme in March 2012, with further dialogue and a further meeting with Commission Task Force members by March 2013.	NOT ACHIEVED	<p>It was intended that further engagement with Commission Task Force members would take place during a proposed Ministerial visit to an Environment Council meeting. Unfortunately, this visit had to be cancelled at short notice due to the political situation in Northern Ireland at that time.</p> <p>The Minister is committed to visiting Brussels and arrangements are being made to reschedule a visit in May 2013.</p> <p><i>Future progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i></p>
CC16.2 (DOE)	Work with the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels to organise at least one Ministerial visit to Brussels by March 2013.	NOT ACHIEVED	<p>As per CC16.1, it was intended that the Minister's visit would coincide with his attendance at an Environment Council meeting. Unfortunately, this visit had to be cancelled at short notice due to the political situation in Northern Ireland at that time.</p> <p>A rescheduled visit is being arranged for May 2013.</p> <p><i>Future progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i></p>
SC1.4 (OFMDFM)	Engage with the European Commission in the development of a new regional strategy for older people's issues by November 2012.	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	<p>The Active Ageing Strategy – "A better place to grow older" is currently in its final stages.</p> <p>Following further engagements with departments about signature projects, ministerial clearance will be sought and following analysis of the results of the consultation exercise in spring / summer 2013, it is hoped the Strategy will be launched in the Autumn.</p> <p><i>Outstanding progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i></p>
SC3.3 (OFMDFM)	Disseminate the upcoming book, The Story of Peace, an account of the development and progress of the three EU PEACE Programmes to date, throughout European networks identified by the Desk Officers by December 2012.	SUBSTANTIALLY ACHIEVED – OUTSTANDING PROGRESS WILL BE PURSUED	<p><i>The Story of Peace</i>, an account of the development and progress of the three EU PEACE Programmes to date, has yet to be published.</p> <p>The book is expected to be published later in 2013 and will subsequently be disseminated out to European networks identified by the BTWG Desk Officers.</p> <p><i>Future progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i></p>
SC8.1 (OFMDFM)	Join the European Network on Youth Unemployment by December 2012.	NOT ACHIEVED	<p>Investigations to join the network took place, however, it was made clear to Desk Officers that the network was winding down early in the year, meaning an application to join would not be successful.</p>

			OFMDFM joined the NIERF which is considering youth employment.
SC14.5 (DCAL)	Establish at least three research and development networking projects for artists working across all art forms in conjunction with Intercult, Stockholm; promoting exchange and collaboration.	NOT ACHIEVED	<p><u>Corners – Turning Europe Inside Out</u></p> <p>The first Corners partners meetings were held in Istanbul (May 2010), Ljubljana (Sept 2010) and Stockholm (2011) where the concept for Xpedition was developed , each partner choosing artists for both the Research and Commissions and/or organising a CORNERS event in their home territory.</p> <p>All partners come from the edges of Europe, usually border countries/regions, dealing daily with multi lingual realities, complex historical patterns and cultural narratives. Leading for the Arts Council were Roisin McDonough (Chief Executive) and Noirín McKinney (Director of Arts Development).</p> <p>ACNI put out an open call for artists to take part. The three artists selected were Paula Mc Fetridge (Drama) , Laurence Mc Keown (Drama) and Phil Hession (Visual Arts), who visited Scandinavia and eastern Europe.</p> <p>Following a successful Research and Development initiative in 2011-12 involving 30/40 artists and researchers across Europe, an application was made to the EU Culture Program on 3 October 2012 by Intercult Productions ek för on behalf of ten partnership organisations from seven European countries.</p> <p>An intensive meeting with the partners took place in Slovenia in September 2012 to work up the thrust of the EU application, partners’ funding, programme budgets and responsibilities. Each partner was contributing 250,000 Euro to gain match funding for the proposed 22 artistic projects that were planned out of the R&D stage.</p> <p>This application to fund the second stage of Corners was unsuccessful. However, the partners are meeting in May 2013 to refocus on other funding streams and own resources to plan how much of the proposed programme can still be accomplished.</p> <p><i>Future progress will only be monitored by the lead department</i></p>

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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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