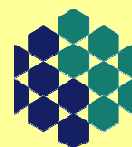


# European Priorities 2014-15



Winning in Europe



**Northern Ireland  
Executive**

[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)

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## **STATEMENT OF EUROPEAN PRIORITIES 2014-15**

### **1. VISION AND STRATEGIC EUROPEAN AIMS**

The main focus in the Programme for Government is to grow the economy and tackle disadvantage. Systematic engagement with Europe in an outward and forward looking manner will help realise this goal. The Executive's European vision is to:

**Participate in Europe in a positive, outward and forward looking manner and to become a preferred region of choice for partnership working and within which to live, work, study and invest.**

The Executive will:

- **Promote its interests within the European Union;**
- **Raise its positive profile throughout Europe; and**
- **Raise awareness and encourage participation in European matters.**

### **EUROPE 2020**

The strategic framework to help shape and focus the Executive's European engagement is set with reference to the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and innovative economic growth and the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme 2014.

## **2. THEMATIC EUROPEAN PRIORITIES**

A European priorities statement focusing on the most vital indicators, tracking overall progress towards the Executive's strategic aims, was developed by three cross-sectoral thematic groups on:

- Economy;
- Environment and Climate Change; and
- Social.

A breakdown of departments by thematic group is given in Annex A and a list of the European Commission Task Force members is attached at Annex B.

European Priorities were developed with reference to the Balanced Scorecard methodology (Annex C) to provide a 'balanced' set of vital objectives navigating the Executive to success in Europe.

### **3. WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?**

#### **RESULTS**

Success is

- Exceeding the Executive's Programme for Government target for increased drawdown of competitive EU funds.
- Raising the region's positive profile in Europe.
- Increased EU awareness of the Executive's policy positions, particularly at the policy formulation stage.
- A UK negotiating line which reflects the Executive's interests, providing tangible benefits to our citizens and businesses.
- Maintaining a structured relationship with the incoming College of Commissioners to ensure greater access to influential decision-makers.
- Departments seamlessly integrating European policy at local, regional, national and supra-national levels.

#### **CUSTOMERS**

Success is

- Providing timely and accurate advice to Ministers and the Assembly on European policy and funding programmes.
- Furthering the Executive's interests in Europe by utilising our close relations with the other Devolved Administrations and Ireland.
- Engaging more effectively with the region's European representatives.

#### **BUSINESS PROCESSES**

Success is

- Achieving the level of performance or rate of improvement needed against the targets set in the 2014-15 European Priorities Implementation Plan.
- Putting learning into practice by comparing our performance in drawing down competitive EU funds.
- Increasing the use of seminars and workshops as key tools in disseminating knowledge, skills and best practice.
- Increased policy engagement with Whitehall on EU policy issues impacting on devolved responsibilities.

#### **PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION**

Success is

- Policy staff with the necessary knowledge of the European Union and its funding schemes.
- Staff with the skills to operate within the EU networking landscape.
- Staff who are encouraged to interact and engage with civil society to increase drawdown of competitive EU funds.
- Enhancing liaison between departments and the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels (ONIEB) to engage EU Institutions more effectively and make greater use of the 18 Directorate-General (DG) contact points in the NI Task Force.

## OVERARCHING EUROPEAN PRIORITIES

<p><b><u>RESULTS</u></b></p> <p>R1 Deliver the Programme for Government target for increased drawdown of competitive EU funds, including Horizon 2020.</p> <p>R2 Raise the region's positive profile by transferring knowledge and learning through participation in formal and informal European networks and partnerships.</p> <p>R3 Maximise policy engagement with the European Commission, increasing our influence on policy development.</p> <p>R4 Maintain a structured relationship with the European Commission, developing strategic relationships with new Commissioners and Cabinet officials.</p>	<p><b><u>CUSTOMERS</u></b></p> <p>C1 Provide timely and accurate advice to Ministers and the Assembly on European policy and funding programmes.</p> <p>C2 Maximise the good relationships that already exist with the other Devolved Administrations and Ireland, to further our European policy objectives, funding opportunities and influence.</p> <p>C3 Engage purposefully with the region's European Representatives in the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions and European Economic and Social Committee.</p> <p>C4 Promote increased participation of civil society in competitive EU funding opportunities.</p>
<p><b><u>BUSINESS PROCESSES</u></b></p> <p>BP1 Influence Whitehall policy formulation on European matters.</p> <p>BP2 Monitor competitive EU funding applications and the development of strategic alliances.</p> <p>BP3 Increase the use of seminars, conferences and workshops as key tools in disseminating knowledge, skills and best practice.</p> <p>BP4 Achieve the targets in the Executive's 2014-15 European Priorities Implementation Plan.</p>	<p><b><u>PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION</u></b></p> <p>PO1 Ensure policy staff have the knowledge and skills to maximise their effectiveness in liaising with Whitehall and the European Commission.</p> <p>PO2 Support the development of staff to exploit the benefits of a structured relationship with the European Commission.</p> <p>PO3 Engage with European Liaison Officers to agree work plans and support the delivery of the Executive's European priorities.</p> <p>PO4 Facilitate Arms Length Bodies, including relevant Third Parties, to effectively participate in and promote competitive EU applications and collaboration opportunities.</p>

## RESULTS QUADRANT

### OVERARCHING Priorities which apply to ALL thematic groups

<b>R1</b> Deliver the Programme for Government target for increased drawdown of competitive EU funds, including Horizon 2020.	<b>R2</b> Raise the region's positive profile by transferring knowledge and learning through participation in formal and informal European networks and partnerships.	<b>R3</b> Maximise policy engagement with the European Commission, increasing our influence on policy development.	<b>R4</b> Maintain a structured relationship with the European Commission, developing strategic relationships with new Commissioners and Cabinet officials.
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### Additional Priorities for the ECONOMY thematic group

<b>R5</b> Ensure the Executive's position is fed into EU policies and funding arrangements for agri-food and rural development; including Common Agricultural Policy, Rural Development Programme, animal and plant health, food labelling and promotion and EU dairy policy. <b>(DARD)</b>	<b>R6</b> Provide and operate an integrated and sustainable transport network through the use of Trans European Networks-Transport (TEN-T) consolidated by EU funds. <b>(DRD)</b>	<b>R7</b> Fulfil delegated Competent Authority roles in respect of European Networks - Energy (TEN-E) infrastructure Regulation for energy projects accepted as Projects of Common Interest (PCIs). <b>(DETI, DOE)</b>	<b>R8</b> Implement the European Employment Services (EURES) reform programme in conjunction with the European Commission and the Department for Work and Pensions. <b>(DEL)</b>
		<b>R9</b> Enhance the skills profile of Northern Ireland's current and future workforce through EU placements. <b>(DEL/DE)</b>	

### Additional Priorities for the ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE thematic group

<b>R10</b> Support for Third Party organisations participating in competitive EU projects relating to Environment and Climate Change. <b>(DOE)</b>	<b>R11</b> Input to the UK's contribution to the 2030 Policy Framework for Climate and Energy (effectively the NI 40% renewables target). <b>(DETI)</b>	<b>R12</b> Ensure NI position within an all-island energy market is fed into any UK position on relevant EU climate change and energy policy. <b>(DETI)</b>	<b>R13</b> Contribute to UK transposition and implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive. <b>(DETI)</b>
		<b>R14</b> Establish an appropriate resource to specifically target Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 funding stream. <b>(DOE)</b>	<b>R15</b> Ensure the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 proposals address the key EU priorities including: (i) Ecosystems and (ii) Resource Efficiency. <b>(DARD)</b>

### Additional Priorities for the SOCIAL thematic group

<b>R16</b> Provide support within Health and Social Care (HSC) Research and Development EU support fund to encourage participation of HSC researchers in funding applications. <b>(DHSSPS)</b>	<b>R17</b> Promote suitable funding opportunities through ERASMUS+ funds, particularly under the Youth Chapter. <b>(DEL/DE)</b>	<b>R18</b> Seek suitable funding opportunities through Creative Europe funds. <b>(DCAL)</b>	<b>R19</b> Seek suitable funding opportunities through Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) funds. <b>(DEL/OFMDFM)</b>
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## CUSTOMERS QUADRANT

### OVERARCHING Priorities which apply to ALL thematic groups

<p><b>C1</b> Provide timely and accurate advice to Ministers and the Assembly on European policy and funding programmes.</p>	<p><b>C2</b> Maximise the good relationships that already exist with the other Devolved Administrations and Ireland, to further our European policy objectives, funding opportunities and influence.</p>	<p><b>C3</b> Engage purposefully with the region's European Representatives in the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions and European Economic and Social Committee.</p>	<p><b>C4</b> Promote increased participation of civil society in competitive EU funding opportunities.</p>
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### Additional Priorities for the ECONOMY thematic group

<p><b>C5</b> Raise awareness of revised State Aid rules (for 2014–20) to stakeholders and customers in conjunction with Department of Business Innovation Skills (BIS) and Directorate General (DG) Competition. <b>(DETI)</b></p>
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### Additional Priorities for the ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE thematic group

<p><b>C6</b> Work with appropriate stakeholders to build knowledge and capacity to participate in EU competitive programmes. <b>(DOE)</b></p>	<p><b>C7</b> Proactively engage with stakeholders to provide relevant support to encourage engagement with the European Union. <b>(DOE)</b></p>
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### Additional Priorities for the SOCIAL thematic group

<p><b>C8</b> Publicise the new European Social Fund (ESF) Programme 2014-20 to as wide an audience as possible throughout Northern Ireland. <b>(DEL)</b></p>	<p><b>C9</b> Proactively engage with stakeholders to encourage them to consider suitable opportunities under: the European Social Fund; European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (including Peace IV and Interreg); and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). <b>(All Departments in Social Group)</b></p>
	<p><b>C10</b> Promote and widen the involvement of Third Parties in competitive EU funding via the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum (NIERF). <b>(OFMDFM)</b></p>



## BUSINESS PROCESSES QUADRANT

### OVERARCHING Priorities which apply to ALL thematic groups

<b>BP1</b> Influence Whitehall policy formulation on European matters.	<b>BP2</b> Monitor competitive EU funding applications and the development of strategic alliances.	<b>BP3</b> Increase the use of seminars, conferences and workshops as key tools in disseminating knowledge, skills and best practice.	<b>BP4</b> Achieve the targets in the Executive's 2014-15 European Priorities Implementation Plan.
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### Additional Priorities for the ECONOMY thematic group

<b>BP5</b> Establish operational processes which are cognisant of, and compliant with the requirements of the European Commission and relevant external Agencies including the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA). <b>(DRD)</b>	<b>BP6</b> Explore opportunities for support for sustainable economic development of the agri-food sector, including through the European Innovation Partnership (EIP). <b>(DARD)</b>	<b>BP7</b> Identify potential programmes and partners through the creation of a 'Look Forward Panel' and expansion of promotional activities. <b>(DRD)</b>	<b>BP8</b> Explore further EU collaborative networking and funding opportunities for the social economy sector, including the potential for a study visit for key stakeholders during 2014-15. <b>(DETI, DSD)</b>	<b>BP9</b> Explore opportunities for economic development through innovation linked to the health and social care sector. <b>(DHSSPS)</b>	<b>BP10</b> Secure Executive agreement for a Horizon 2020 target. <b>(DETI)</b>	<b>BP11</b> Carry out an assessment of the Competitiveness of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (COSME) funding scheme and agree its application to the Northern Ireland context. <b>(DETI)</b>
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### Additional Priorities for the ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE thematic group

<b>BP12</b> Identify potential projects and partners for DOE and Third Party organisation participation. <b>(DOE)</b>	<b>BP13</b> Establish and refine appropriate processes to disseminate policy information emanating from European Union. <b>(DOE)</b>
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### Additional Priorities for the SOCIAL thematic group

<b>BP14</b> Promote and enhance effective technology and knowledge transfer arrangements in the health sector through involvement in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA). <b>(DHSSPS)</b>	<b>BP15</b> Compare, track and report on funding opportunities and outcomes for relevant competitive funding programmes, including Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) and Horizon 2020 Programmes. <b>(All Departments in Social Group)</b>	<b>BP16</b> Raise awareness of the Delivering Social Change (DSC) framework and Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) in Europe. <b>(OFMDFM)</b>	<b>BP17</b> Explore benchmarking options to compare drawdown in other regions. <b>(All Departments in Social Group)</b>
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**PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION QUADRANT**

**OVERARCHING Priorities which apply to ALL thematic groups**

<p><b>PO1</b> Ensure policy staff have the knowledge and skills to maximise their effectiveness in liaising with Whitehall and the European Commission.</p>	<p><b>PO2</b> Support the development of staff to exploit the benefits of a structured relationship with the European Commission.</p>	<p><b>PO3</b> Engage with European Liaison Officers to agree work plans and support the delivery of the Executive's European priorities.</p>	<p><b>PO4</b> Facilitate Arms Length Bodies, including relevant Third Parties, to effectively participate in and promote competitive EU applications and collaboration opportunities.</p>
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The overarching priorities fully cover the work being done within the People and Organisation quadrant; thematic groups have no additional priorities to add for 2014-15.

## **THEMATIC GROUPS**

### **Economy Thematic Group**

The membership of the group is made up of the following departments:

- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) (Chair)
- Department for Employment and Learning (DEL)
- Department of the Environment (DOE)
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
- Department for Regional Development (DRD)
- Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)
- Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)
- Department for Social Development (DSD)
- Department of Education (DE)

### **Environment and Climate Change Thematic Group**

The membership of the group is made up of the following departments:

- Department of the Environment (DOE) (Chair)
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
- Department for Regional Development (DRD)
- Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)
- Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)

### **Social Thematic Group**

The membership of the group is made up of the following departments:

- Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) (Co-chair)
- Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) (Co-chair)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL)
- Department for Social Development (DSD)
- Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)
- Department of Education (DE)

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

ALLY Ute (DG Agriculture and Rural Development - AGRI)  
BENHAIEM Jean-Bernard (DG Agriculture and Rural Development - AGRI)  
BONIFACIC Nadia (DG Education and Culture - EAC)  
BRITTON Henry (DG Competition - COMP)  
CUNNINGHAM Frank (DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology - CNECT)  
DEARLE Ciaran (DG Research and Innovation - RTD)  
ELSNER Thomas (DG Enterprise and Industry - ENTR)  
FERREIRA Joao Paulo (DG Mobility and Transport - MOVE)  
IGLESIA GOMEZ Maria (DG Health and Consumers - SANCO)  
KABACINSKI Rafal (DG Energy - ENER)  
KANJOU AUGÉ Imad (DG Enterprise and Industry - ENTR)  
KRAMER Sandra (DG Justice - JUST)  
KWINTKIEWICZ Anna (DG Climate Action - CLIMA)  
LANGLEY Stephen (DG Regional Policy - REGIO)  
LINDEMANS Agnes (DG Regional Policy - REGIO)  
LUYCKX Olivier (DG Home Affairs - HOME)  
PAVLIN Tamara (DG Regional Policy - REGIO)  
RUIZ DE CASAS Jose Antonio (DG Regional Policy - REGIO)  
VALENTIN Udo (DG Environment - ENV)  
VAN DER WEE Miek (DG Competition - COMP)  
VARGA LENCSES Viktoria (DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries - MARE)  
VATANEN Lea (DG Secretariat-General - SG)  
VERMYLE Marc (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion - EMPL)  
ZALASINSKI Adam Konrad (DG Taxation and Customs Union - TAXUD)

## BALANCED SCORECARD

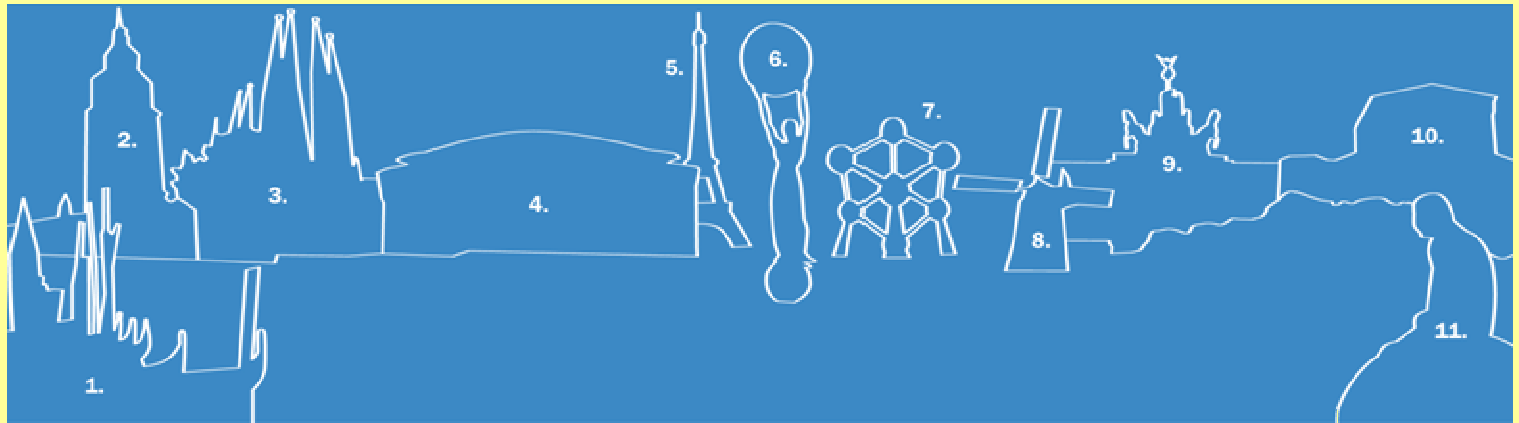
Balanced Scorecard is a recognised business planning tool that helps an organisation to monitor its performance from four broad yet interrelated perspectives (quadrants).

### Quadrants in the European Priorities Balanced Scorecard

<p><b>RESULTS</b></p> <p>Aimed at meeting stakeholder expectations</p>	<p><b>CUSTOMERS</b></p> <p>Aimed at meeting customer expectations</p>
<p><b>BUSINESS PROCESSES</b></p> <p>What we must excel at to achieve business results and meet financial and customer expectations</p>	<p><b>PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION</b></p> <p>What will drive the advances required in business results, customer and internal processes</p>

The Balanced Scorecard works by recognising that measuring and focusing on improvement activity captured in Business Processes and People and Organisations (the enabling quadrants), will lead to improvements being delivered in Results and Customers (the outcome quadrants).

It demands clarity between strategic outcomes and operational processes, providing a priorities statement that focuses on the most vital indicators.



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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