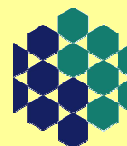


European Priorities 2014-15 Mid-Year Progress Report



Winning in Europe



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EUROPEAN PRIORITIES 2014-15

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

Covering the period 1 April 2014 – 30 September 2014

Background

The Executive's 2014-15 European Priorities have been drawn together using the Balanced Scorecard Methodology.

The three thematic groups working under the Barroso Task Force Working Group, after consideration of Programme for Government commitments and the European Commission's Work Programme developed a Balanced Scorecard for the following broad sectoral areas:

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

The 2014-15 Statement of European Priorities detailed strategic, cross-cutting objectives to focus our European engagement for the year ahead. An overarching European Priorities scorecard provided a high level focus on Ministerial objectives to get more out of European engagement, while the three thematic groups also developed cross-sectoral priorities relating to the economy, environment and climate change, and social matters.

These objectives were translated into the 169 individual targets that constitute the 'European Priorities 2014-15 Implementation Plan'. In agreeing its priorities, the Executive tasked BTWG, under the leadership of OFMDFM's Junior Ministers, to provide it with a mid-year report on progress. This paper fulfils that commitment, reflecting progress up to 30 September 2014.

Summary

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

Table 1: Progress Summary

Overall Progress Summary against 169 targets			
Green	Green/Amber	Amber	Red
163 (96%)	0 (0%)	6 (4%)	0 (0%)

The Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating for each target was assigned by the relevant lead department.

Departments report that 96% of all targets are on track to be achieved with only 6 targets to be achieved with minor delays. No targets are rated as being unachieved or at the highest risk of failure.

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

Successes during the period

In May, more than 200 delegates attended a Horizon 2020 seminar at Titanic, Belfast organised by Invest Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum (NIERF) jointly chaired by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and Belfast City Council. The opening remarks were provided by Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister, Arlene Foster with a keynote address from Dimitri Corpakis, Head of Unit, the European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation. Luis Cuervo Spottorno from Directorate General for Enterprise & Industry provided an overview of the new COSME programme.

The NIERF hosted/supported 2 events in each of the first two quarters of the year: 20 May - Erasmus+ Master Class, 26 June - Plenary which included presentations on Erasmus+ Youth Chapter and Creative Europe, 27 August - Creative Europe Event and 16 September – RESTART2 event.

OFMDFM Junior Ministers addressed the #DeleteCyberbullying conference in the Executive's Office in Brussels in June 2014.

In September, notification was received confirming the success of the €3.5m REMEDIATE project. This Horizon 2020 project, is supported by DOE, and led by Queens University Belfast in collaboration with Dublin City University, the Geological Survey of Ireland and T.E. Laboratories of Carlow.

A State Aid awareness seminar was held on 16 September at Titanic Belfast. There were 130 delegates, 80 of whom were from individuals from private firms, Invest NI, Intertradelreland, SEUPB, NITB and all 26 Councils. 50 attendees were staff from 9 NICS Departments.

DETI & Invest NI met with EU Commission Task Force member Miek Van Der Wee (DG Competition Task Force member) on 17 September to discuss the changes in the Regional Aid Guidelines from 2014–20 period.

Task Force members were also helpful to DETI (and ONIEB) in organising a work programme of meetings (22-24 September) for the Permanent Secretary with senior representatives from 5 DG's such as Normunds Popens, Deputy Director General for implementation, DG REGIO, Daniel Calleja-Crespo, Director General, DG Enterprise, and Gert Jan Koopman, Deputy Director General, DG COMP, as well as representatives from DG Research, Innovation & Science, and DG Connect. They also met with representatives from both UKRep and Irish Rep as well.

DRD hosted a Brussels Business Week from 23-26 September at the ONIEB offices. Officials from the Department's European Programmes and Gateways Unit met with representatives from DG MOVE, Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA), DG COMP, UK Rep and European Cyclists' Federation to discuss a range of transport related issues.

The Minister for Regional Development and officials from the Department attended the ECar 'International Highway' TEN-T project showcase event hosted by ESB on the 23 September. On the 24 September European Programmes and Gateways Unit hosted an information session at the ONIEB for invited stakeholders from NI Ports and Airports. This included sessions delivered by DG Move and INEA covering the Connecting Europe Facility, SESAR, Airports, Motorways of the Sea and Maritime Ports.

The Minister for Regional Development led meetings on the 24 September with MEP's and the Chief Executive of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency.

The Minister for Regional Development hosted a networking event in the ONIEB on 24 September which was attended by NI stakeholders, representatives of EU institutions and MEP's.

OVERARCHING EUROPEAN PRIORITIES

<p><u>RESULTS</u></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><u>CUSTOMERS</u></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><u>BUSINESS PROCESSES</u></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><u>PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION</u></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

EUROPEAN PRIORITIES WITHIN THE RESULTS QUADRANT

OVERARCHING Priorities which apply to ALL thematic groups

<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>
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Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
R1.1	Achieve individual Departmental projections for 2014-15	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	<p>Whilst no drawdown figures have been released as yet for H2020, DETI & DEL are on track to achieve projections.</p> <p>DRD is on track to achieve its drawdown target for 2014-15.</p> <p>Not all financial information is available but DEL is on track to meet its individual projection for 2014-15.</p>
R1.2	Put in place NI Contact Point for Horizon 2020 SC5 by November 2014	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved. DOE has identified the resource for a new SC5 NI Contact Point (CP) and is on track to have the new CP in place in Q3.
R1.3	Invest NI to submit a bid to the COSME programme to deliver the Enterprise Europe Network in NI by the end of Q1 2014	DETI	GREEN	Invest NI submitted a joint Enterprise Europe Network bid with Innovate UK/TSB towards the end of Q1 and are waiting for a decision from the European Commission. This is due before the end of September.
R1.4	Invest NI to submit to EASME a bid to participate in a call to "Enhance the Management Capacity of SMEs" pilot programme by the end of Q1 2014	DETI	GREEN	Invest NI submitted a bid in Q1 and have been informed that this has been successful and are currently making arrangements to agree a formal contract. This is a small award that provides the Enterprise Europe Network team within Invest NI training towards the delivery of coaching and mentoring to SMEs with a particular focus on

				companies successful in the SME instrument programme of Horizon 2020.
R1.5	To participate in the development of at least 8 EU funding proposals for submission under LIFE, LIFE IP, Horizon 2020 or INTERREG V funding programmes during 2014-15	DOE / DRD	GREEN	<p>Target on track to be achieved.</p> <p>DOE are involved in the development of project proposals for Marine, Freshwater and Habitats for submission under; the INTERREG VA Environment funding stream, also a LIFE Integrated Project, two LIFE Traditional Projects, and a number of Horizon 2020 projects under SC5 and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.</p> <p>Work is progressing and meetings have been held between NI Water and Irish Water regarding the development of three joint projects for inclusion in the INTERREG V programme.</p>
R1.6	Facilitate the drawdown of competitive EU funds by end March 2015	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	<p>Ongoing drawdown is being supported and monitored via NIERF. Figures for drawdown amounts are currently being determined (OFMDFM).</p> <p>DSD continues to disseminate information on funding opportunities and partnership call to third parties On track (DHSSPS).</p>
R1.7	EU Capacity Building Fund implemented in 2014-15 and utilised by end of 2015-16 (Subject to funding)	OFMDFM	AMBER	<p>Although funding has been identified for the EU Capacity Building Fund, due to ongoing budgetary pressures across the Department, this has not been fully secured. The outcome of this may be determined by October monitoring.</p>
R1.8	All relevant information in respect of transnational programme calls in 2014-15 appropriate to NI is disseminated promptly to appropriate contacts within SEUPB, and within departments	DFF	GREEN	<p>Only one call in relation to the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) programme announced to date. Other calls and relevant information will be issued to departments as they are released.</p>
R1.9	Identify and develop proposals for collaboration under EU Funding calls within deadlines throughout the year	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	<p>Work is ongoing through the European Centre to identify relevant funding calls (OFMDFM).</p> <p>DSD is monitoring the development of the Innovative Urban Action Fund and has facilitated meetings</p>

				between DG Region and interested parties to discuss potential bids. (DSD). On track – NI health sector to date have participated in 13 funding bids with other EU regions (DHSSPS).
R2.1	Invest NI will encourage participation in 2 events namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Energy Week 23-27th June ; and • European Week of Regions and Cities (OPEN DAYS) – 6-9 Oct 2014 	DETI	GREEN	Invest NI supported Prof Neil Hewitt (University of Ulster) to participate as a speaker during Sustainable Energy week. Prof Hewitt referred to NI research excellence in Energy Storage and presented a local industrial success story from AES Kilroot. Prof Hewitt also took part in a panel discussion with EU commission officials (DG RTD and DG ENER) and EU potential partners for EU project development on marine energy. Invest NI are also taking part in Open Days in October 2014.
R2.2	DOE to encourage participation in local Sustainable Energy Week (23-27 June) events (DOE)	DOE	GREEN	DOE circulated information on a week long programme of local Sustainable Energy Week events to its stakeholder contact list and DOE officials also participated in two events.
R2.3	During 2014-15 DHSSPS and HSC to be represented on all EIP-AHA Action Groups and attend at least 75% of meetings	DHSSPS	AMBER	DHSSPS/HSC are represented on 3 of the 5 Action Groups and all meetings attended. Representation on the remaining 2 groups to be finalised following staff changes within the HSC. For all Action Groups the DHSSPS/HSC continue to contribute to agreed actions and activities.
R2.4	By 31 March 2015 to have facilitated the sharing of health strategies, policies and areas of best practice across all EIP-AHA Reference Sites	DHSSPS	GREEN	There has been 1 meeting of the EIP Reference Site Collaborative Network in Q1 and Q2. A Yammer Site has been developed for the sharing of information and best practice.
R2.5	Participate in 2 or more EU initiatives/events	DARD	GREEN	DARD official attended “Improving Food Safety and Labelling in the EU: Smarter Rules for a Sustainable Agri-Food Chain” Conference on 10 Sept in Brussels.

R2.6	Organise and attend at least 1 Ministerial visit(s) by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved. Plans are in place for the DOE Minister to attend a programme of events in Brussels in December 2014.
R2.7	Organise and/or attend at least 2 EU events in NI and/or Brussels by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved.
R2.8	Hold, actively contribute to or facilitate at least 2 policy-focused events in Brussels/Europe to showcase best practice and innovative policy from Northern Ireland, relating to Social Cohesion including DSC and/or Together: Building a United Community, by end March 2015	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	<p>Junior Ministers spoke at the #DeleteCyberbullying conference in the Executive's Office in Brussels in June 2014.</p> <p>Confirmed workshop at Annual Poverty Convention in November 2014. Confirmed workshop at Eurochild Annual Conference in November 2014 (OFMDFM).</p> <p>On track - DHSSPS established and chairs the EIP-AHA Reference Site Collaborative Network. All 32 EIP-AHA Reference Sites are members of the Collaborative Network. Meetings are organised quarterly to share best practice and consider issues such as the scaling up of health and care policies and service delivery models (DHSSPS).</p> <p>DEL official spoke at DG EMPLOY event on Social Innovation using ESF in Brussels in May 2014 (DEL).</p>
R2.9	Identify examples of best practice from Northern Ireland and apply for these to be included on SIP/EPIC Knowledge Platforms (once launched) at least twice before March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	Potential best practice examples currently being identified relevant to EPIC Platform. SIP platform yet to launch (OFMDFM).
R2.10	Reach at least 250 followers on the Google+ page for the European Centre by end March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	Google+ page launched in September 2014. Currently over 50 followers with over 11,000 views.
R3.1	Organise and attend at least 4 suitable EU events/study visits/seminars by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved.
R3.2	Engage as a partner in 3 of the ESF EC Learning Networks on Active Inclusion; Transnationality; and Career and Age	DEL	GREEN	The Department continues to engage fully with the 3 ESF Learning Networks. Recent activity included the Active Inclusion Steering Group meeting in Vilnius (Lithuania) and Age and Career Steering Group meetings in Belfast (UK) and Berlin (Germany).

R3.3	Include Transnationality as an option within the new ESF Programme	DEL	GREEN	The new ESF Operating Programme 2014-2020 contains reference to the benefits of Transnationality and offers support for those wishing to participate.
R3.4	Maximise Twinning opportunities and the development of collaborative partnerships amongst EIP Reference Sites	DHSSPS	GREEN	Meeting of Reference Site Collaborative Network held in May in Athens and further meeting planned for October in Montpellier. A number of H2020 bids are being progressed involving collaborations between Reference Sites.
R3.5	Develop through the EIP Reference Site Collaborative Network a repository of information across EIP-AHA Reference Sites on health and care strategies, plans, projects and evidence bases	DHSSPS	AMBER	Proposed repository remains under consideration/discussion by the Reference Site Collaborative Network.
R3.6	Agree, where there are shared objectives and priorities, an eHealth MOU with at least 1 other EU Region by end March 2015	DHSSPS	GREEN	On track to finalise MOU with Republic of Ireland by end March 2015.
R3.7	Attend suitable events/study visits/seminars, as appropriate, by end March 2015	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Registered at relevant Brussels Open Week seminars and workshops for October 2014 (OFMDFM). DSD has attended a CEV seminar in Brussels (DSD). NI representation at a number of events including Integrated Care Conferences, Brussels, April; and EU Marketplace, Brussels, September. Participation in a number of EIP-AHA related events planned for October, November and December (DHSSPS).
R3.8	Maximise engagement in Erasmus+ via workshops/study visits and relevant publications by end March 2015 (YCNi)	DE	GREEN	Information on relevant funding calls has been disseminated to youth organisations. Erasmus+ information workshops, applications clinics and feedback provided to Youth organisations. YCNi summary guide to Erasmus+ and international e-bulleting available via YCNi website.
R3.9	Ensure PFY policy objectives are reflected in Erasmus+ national priorities	DE	GREEN	Ongoing communication.
R4.1	Participate in (i) 2 meetings/attend 2 events with the EU Commission Office in Belfast and (ii) 2 meetings/events at ONIEB by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved.

R4.2	Establish co-operative arrangements with policy development and implementation oversight officials in relevant Member States, regions and cities	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	<p>Work is ongoing through the European Centre to identify relevant officials throughout the EU. This work will be further supplemented by the Social Liaison Officer (took up post in mid September 2014) (OFMDFM).</p> <p>On track - This is being taken forward through the EIP-AHA Reference Site Collaborative Network which DHSSPS established and chairs. Membership consists of the 32 EIP-AHA Reference Sites (DHSSPS).</p>
R4.3	Facilitate a visit of the European Commission's Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to Northern Ireland in 2014	DOJ	GREEN	<p>The Anti-Trafficking Coordinator accepted an invitation to visit the Minister of Justice on 7th & 8th October. A programme of events is currently being finalised.</p>
R4.4	Secure formal commitment to maintain the NI Task Force in the new Commission	OFMDFM	GREEN	<p>NI MEP's have been briefed, and have raised this question in Parliamentary hearing on incoming Commissioner for DG REGIO, and with the Director General of DG REGIO.</p> <p>Ministers have written to the Commission President, and Commissioners for UK, IE and RO.</p> <p>Director General for DG REGIO made encouraging comments regarding the future of the NITF on 3 November after his first meeting with new Commissioner.</p>

Additional Priorities for the ECONOMY thematic group

R5	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. (DARD)	R6	Provide and operate an integrated and sustainable transport network through the use of Trans European Networks-Transport (TEN-T) consolidated by EU funds. (DRD)	R7	Fulfil delegated Competent Authority roles in respect of Trans European Networks - Energy (TEN-E) infrastructure Regulation for energy projects accepted as Projects of Common Interest (PCIs). (DETI, DOE)	R8	Implement the European Employment Services (EURES) reform programme in conjunction with the European Commission and the Department for Work and Pensions. (DEL)	R9	Enhance the skills profile of Northern Ireland's current and future workforce through EU placements. (DEL/DE)
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Targets

Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
R5.1	Announce NI decisions on CAP reform by 1 August 2014	DARD	GREEN	Target achieved.
R5.2	Commission agreement to the Competitiveness strand of the NI Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) by Mar 2015	DARD	GREEN	NIRDP 2014-2020 due to be submitted to the Commission for approval on 14 October 2014.
R5.3	To agree a new Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018 for Northern Ireland with DG Environment	DOE/ DARD	GREEN	Commission agreement of our next Action Programme for 2015-2018 has been secured. Final proposals to go before the EU Nitrates Regulatory Committee for formal approval in December 2014.
R6.1	Ratio of applications to calls is no less than 1:2	DRD	GREEN	The CEF call opened in September 2014 and formal applications must be lodged with the Commission by 26 February 2015. DRD is engaged with DfT in agreeing which projects will go forward to application stage.
R6.2	Ratio of successful drawdown to applications no less than 1:3	DRD	GREEN	DRD has been successful in securing TEN-T funding for the study costs associated with developing a multi-modal transport hub at Great Victoria Street.
R7.1	Co-ordinate handling of NI PCI applications within required timescales/milestones as set out in the UK Manual of Procedures (MoP)	DETI/DOE	GREEN	In June 2014, DETI, in co-operation with DOE, formally accepted the Competent Authority role in relation to the PCI process for energy projects in NI.

R7.2	Provide and seek responses from developer and other consenting bodies within required timescales/milestones as set out in the UK Manual of Procedures (MoP)	DETI/DOE	GREEN	DETI has worked with DECC and DOE to produce a UK Manual of Procedures to assist PCI developers and this was published on the Department's web-site in June 2014. DETI has liaised with DECC and PCI developers over summer 2014 to assist them with meeting the 18 August 2014 target date for EU Connecting Europe funding submissions.
R8.1	To agree and implement funding model for reformed EURES by 1st January 2015	DEL	GREEN	The initial EURES Reform Decision which had been proposed by the European Commission had been challenged successfully by the European Parliament. A new 'Regulation' has since been proposed and this is currently being debated by the European Commission and European Parliament as well as assistant Heads of Public Employment Services. It is hoped agreement will be reached presently. If nothing is agreed before 1 January 2015 then EURES Co-ordination (EURESco) will implement contingency measures for the interim period.
R8.2	To agree with EURES UK, the model for the National co-ordination office for reporting on the reformed EURES Services by 1 January 2015	DEL	GREEN	Work is progressing along the lines that the EURES Regulation will be in place by January 2015 although the initial Regulation was successfully challenged and the new Regulation which has been proposed is still currently being debated by the European Commission and European Parliament as well as assistant Heads of Public Employment Services. If nothing is agreed by this date then EURES Co-ordination (EURESco) will implement contingency measures for the interim period. We are liaising with DWP in this regard.
R9.1	Outline a programme for apprentices by March 2015	DEL	GREEN	The new apprenticeship strategy, Securing our Success, was launched in June 2014 and has committed to providing opportunities for placements and exchanges by ensuring that international exchanges are integrated into the new model as a way to enhance the skills profile of the Northern Ireland Workforce. A project has been established to drive this forward with the potential for a joint initiative with the Republic of Ireland to exchange apprentices.
R9.2	Increase student inward mobility study placements by 7%	DEL	GREEN	We do not have inward mobility figures for 2013/14 or 2014-15 so do not know the % change. The British

	within Higher Education			<p>Council will not have the incoming figures until a few months after the Erasmus Final Report is completed. As the report is currently being validated and is not usually submitted to the commission until January, the 13-14 incoming numbers (taken as a result of the outgoing Final Reports of other National Agencies) will not be known to us until next year.</p>
R9.3	Increase staff inward mobility by 7% within Higher Education	DEL	GREEN	<p>We do not have inward mobility figures for 2013-14 or 2014-15 so do not know the % change. The British Council will not have the incoming figures until a few months after the Erasmus Final Report is completed. As the report is currently being validated and is not usually submitted to the commission until January, the 2013/14 incoming numbers (taken as a result of the outgoing Final Reports of other National Agencies) will not be known to us until next year.</p>
R9.4	Increase student outward mobility by 5% within Higher Education	DEL	GREEN	<p>There were 495 student outward mobility placements in 2013-14. We do not yet have actual participation figures for 2014-15. However, there have been 729 applications. This is up over 13% from last year's application figure of 642. While it is unlikely that the final participation figure will be this high at present it looks very likely that there will be at least a 5% increase in participation.</p>
R9.5	Increase staff outward mobility by 5% within Higher Education	DEL	GREEN	<p>There were 40 staff outward mobility placements in 2013-14. We do not yet have actual participation figures for 2014-15. However, there have been 204 applications. This is up over 88% from last year's application figure of 108. While it is unlikely that the final participation figure will be this high at present it looks very likely that there will be at least a 5% increase in participation.</p>
R9.6	Increased levels of school take up of Erasmus+ funding	DE	GREEN	<p>Work by the British Council to promote the Erasmus+ programme is in its early stages. Engagements by schools can only be sensibly measured at the end of the calendar year, since applications are not evenly profiled. All school principals were informed in January 2014 about the new Erasmus+ programme.</p>

R9.7	Contribute, through the Council for the Curriculum and Assessment (CCEA) to European Qualifications Framework (EQF) implementation activities	DEL	GREEN	CCEA attended the EQF Advisory Group meeting in Brussels on 4-6 June.
R9.8	Provide information and support through CCEA to users and potential users of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET)	DEL	GREEN	CCEA continues to meet with mobility practitioners across NI to provide advice and guidance on incorporating ECVET principles and tools into their mobility projects.
R9.9	Contribute, through CCEA, to the ongoing development of the European taxonomy of skills/competences, qualifications and occupations (ESCO)	DEL	GREEN	CCEA has and continues to contribute to the development of ESCO through its attendance and active participation at the UK ESCO Maintenance Committee meetings.

Additional Priorities for the ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE thematic group

R10	Support for Third Party organisations participating in competitive EU projects relating to Environment and Climate Change. (DOE)	R11	Input to the UK's contribution to the 2030 Policy Framework for Climate and Energy (effectively the NI 40% renewables target). (DETI)	R12	Ensure NI position within an all-island energy market is fed into any UK position on relevant EU climate change and energy policy. (DETI)	R13	Contribute to UK transposition and implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive. (DETI)	R14	Establish an appropriate resource to specifically target drawdown from Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 funding stream. (DOE)	R15	Ensure the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 proposals address the key EU priorities including: (i) Ecosystems and (ii) Resource Efficiency. (DARD)
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Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
R10.1	Dissemination of information on current funding calls and partners searches to stakeholders within 5 working days from date of receipt	DOE	GREEN	DOE has achieved 100% success rate in terms of dissemination of information on current funding calls and partner searches within 5 working days of receipt.
R10.2	By 31 March 2015 provide advice and support at least 4 third party organisations on EU funding calls	DOE	GREEN	On track to meet target.
R11.1	20% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2015	DETI	GREEN	On track to meet target - seasonally adjusted average figure to end September 2014 is 19%.
R12.1	Commence consultation on draft CfD contracts and Renewable Obligation Closure Order by March 2015	DETI	GREEN	On track to meet target.
R13.1	Complete transposition of Article 14 (10) by end of 2014	DETI	GREEN	On track to meet target.
R14.1	Establish a resource to specifically target drawdown from Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 funding stream by November 2014	DOE	GREEN	On track to meet target.
R15.1	Achieve approval of the NIRDP by 31 March 2015	DARD	GREEN	NIRDP 2014-2020 due to be submitted to the Commission for approval on 14 October 2014.

Additional Priorities for the SOCIAL thematic group

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

Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
R16.1	Make available up to 10 EU support fund awards to HSC researchers for participation in H2020 proposals by end March 2015	DHSSPS	GREEN	EU support fund awarded to 4 researchers.
R17.1	Increased levels of school take up of ERASMUS+ funding	DE	GREEN	Work by the British Council to promote the Erasmus+ programme is in its early stages. Engagements by schools can only be sensibly measured at the end of the calendar year, since applications are not evenly profiled. All school principals were informed in January 2014 about the new Erasmus+ programme.
R17.2	Sustain levels of youth applications for Erasmus+ funding throughout the year	DE	GREEN	Work by the British Council to promote the Erasmus+ programme is in its early stages. Engagements by youth organisations can only be sensibly measured at the end of the calendar year, since applications are not evenly profiled.
R18.1	Target voluntary groups who are in receipt of DEL or ESF supported funding sending information to them on appropriate calls within 3 working days of receipt and updating them at least 3 times a year on developments within the Erasmus+ programme	DEL	GREEN	Information on relevant funding calls has been disseminated to voluntary groups. An information pamphlet on the new Erasmus+ programme has been issued along with details on briefing events and instructions on how to sign up to Erasmus+ UK newsletter.
R19.1	Establish a dedicated resource to help develop the capacity of organisations in the arts and culture sectors to engage with competitive EU funding streams, including making	DCAL	GREEN	Ongoing, recruitment process for a substantive EU officer with responsibility for the Creative Europe Desk is underway. An interim officer is carrying out

	applications for funding by December 2014		<p>the duties until the substantive resource is in place. In terms of encouraging engagement with the EU amongst the arts and culture sector, there was a Creative Europe Desk presence at the All Ireland Creative Industries conference on 14 May 2014 which stimulated interest in the funding stream amongst the sector and Arts Council has had a number of follow up queries. On 9 June 2014 Arts Council attended the launch of the Creative Europe Desk in Ireland in Dublin. This has led to the development of relationships with the RoI and Arts Council has since been working on a potential collaborative project under the funding stream. The NIERF invited the Arts Council to give a presentation on Creative Europe on 26 June 2014. This was a useful promotional opportunity and facilitated new contacts for the Arts Council particularly with the audio-visual sector.</p> <p>On 27 August 2014, the Creative Europe Desk NI and the Creative Europe Desk Ireland in co-operation with the NIERF hosted a free information seminar and application workshop in Belfast City Hall. The event provided technical assistance, practical advice and networking opportunities for arts and cultural organisations that are developing and planning applications for the Co-operation projects strand of Creative Europe. Over 90 delegates attended and two organisations registered for a one to one meeting which is intended for organisations at a relatively advanced stage in the development of a funding application.</p>
R19.2	Ensure regular monitoring of developments under the PROGRESS axis of EaSI and report on potential opportunities available, as relevant to the social group, within 3 working days (Social Liaison Officer)	OFMDFM	<p>GREEN</p> <p>This will be commenced by the Social Liaison Officer (took up post in mid September 2014).</p>
R19.3	Make people aware of funding opportunities under EaSI programme within 3 working days of receipt	DEL	<p>GREEN</p> <p>No funding opportunities have been identified to circulate. Work ongoing.</p>

CUSTOMERS

EUROPEAN PRIORITIES WITHIN THE CUSTOMERS QUADRANT

OVERARCHING Priorities which apply to ALL thematic groups

<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>
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Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
C1.1	To provide updates to the Minister and relevant Committees from E&CC Liaison Officer on a quarterly basis	DOE	AMBER	Quarter 1 update received from outgoing E&CC LO. 'New' E&CC LO in post from August 2014. Updates expected to be on track for Q3 & Q4.
C1.2	Provide Departmental Committee with a summary of all EU proposals impacting the Department twice yearly	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Input has been commissioned for the second bi-annual justice and home affairs report for the Justice Committee (DOJ).
C1.3	Relevant officials to attend BTWG meetings as appropriate, and actions taken promptly as required	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Ongoing.
C2.1	During 2014-15, explore options for increased engagement with the UK SME envoy, including scope for a NI stakeholder engagement event	DETI	GREEN	On track: Ongoing discussions being held with UK SME envoy to explore how NI might make best use of the SME network. Roundtable event between UK envoy and NI policy makers and SME representative bodies scheduled for 10 November 2014.
C2.2	Liaise with the national agencies for the Erasmus+ programme in the Republic of Ireland to share best practice and gain an insight into differing methods of promotion	DEL	GREEN	To date meetings have taken place with HEA and Leargas. Work is ongoing.
C2.3	DOE to attend relevant North South Ministerial and British Irish Council meetings by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	On target to be achieved.

C2.4	Meet on a quarterly basis with representatives from each of the Devolved Administrations and Irish Regional Office to discuss policy development under the social theme (Social Liaison Officer)	OFMDFM	GREEN	This will be commenced by the Social Liaison Officer (took up post in mid September 2014).
C3.1	Initiate at least 1 meeting with relevant Task Force members	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	DETI & Invest NI met with Miek Van Der Wee (DG Competition Task Force member) on 17 September to discuss the changes in the Regional Aid Guidelines from 2014-20 period. DETI has also met with Agnes Lindemanns and Stephen Langley (DG Regio Task Force members). Task Force members were also helpful to DETI (and ONIEB) in organising a work programme of meetings (22-24 September) for the Permanent Secretary with senior representatives of DG COMP, DG Enterprise, DG Connect, DG Regio, DG Research, innovation & Science.
C3.2	Ensure all Explanatory Memorandums are issued to leads within 2 working days	DEL	GREEN	DEL continues to ensure that all Explanatory Memorandums, where appropriate, are issued to leads within 2 working days.
C3.3	Attendance at 2 or more meetings with MEPS, DGs, AGRIFISH Council, Expert Group etc	DARD	GREEN	First Day Brief provided to NI MEPs in July 2014. DARD Minister in Brussels for AGRIFISH Council and attended meetings with Commissioner Ciolos and Defra SOS on Russian Trade Ban.
C3.4	Regular engagement with Defra, FSA and DAFM on emerging EU policy and legislation issues	DARD	GREEN	Engagement with Defra, FSA and DAFM on beef sectoral issues, and Country of Origin Labelling, and with Defra on EU response to Russian Trade Ban.
C3.5	Retain full-time Agriculture Policy Officer post in Brussels Office	DARD	GREEN	Process has been initiated to fill the post which became vacant due to staff movements.
C3.6	Support UK delegation at EU Third Country Trade Negotiations Groups	DARD	GREEN	DARD technical veterinary support provided to the UK Export Certification Partnership during EU Trade Negotiations.

C3.7	Inform and provide guidance to trade bodies and stakeholders in ICT, Health and Security sectors in NI about the Pre-commercial procurement opportunities in the Horizon 2020 current two-year Work Programme	DETI	GREEN	<p>Q1 - Invest NI attended 2 international events with an EU innovative procurement theme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. iHealth Conference – Santiago de Compostela, 2. Bridging the Innovation Gap by Innovation Procurement, Brussels, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both events were useful in creating linkages to other EU regions considering applications to H2020 PCP/PPI calls particularly in the field of Connected Health. • These links have been disseminated to colleagues in the HSC Board (NI), DHSSPS NI and through the H2020 NI Contact Point for Connected Health. <p>Invest NI continues to work, along with DHSSPS colleagues to promote applications for the relevant calls under the H2020 “Health Demographics, Change & Well-Being” pillar.</p>
C3.8	To complete a scoping study of DEL international activities by March 2015	DEL	GREEN	The scoping study has been completed and the next stage is to be agreed.
C3.9	Formally engage at least 6 times with Member State representatives/organisations annually	DRD	GREEN	On track, 4 formal engagements have taken place to end of Q2 with DfT and DTTaS.
C3.10	Production of Strategic EU Projects Register	DRD	GREEN	Completed.
C3.11	DoE to attend quarterly meetings of EU Steering Group chaired by DFP.	DOE	GREEN	On target to be achieved.
C3.12	Through the NIERF, host an event to incorporate elected Members of European Parliament and other key EU bodies by end March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	Due to the operating calendars of the various EU institutions, securing a date for this event is extremely challenging. However, a number of potential dates have been identified before the end of 2014. Efforts are now underway to identify if enough of the potential speakers are available on one of these dates to enable it to go ahead.
C3.13	Deliver brief on dossiers of NI interest covering significant issues of importance to relevant parties, updated twice per	OFMDFM	GREEN	Initial dossier issued June 2014, to be updated December 2014. Received by NI MEP's and other

	year			relevant parties.
C4.1	FE Colleges are actively engaged in all EU programmes available to them by December 2014	DEL	GREEN	All colleges submitted bids to the 2014 call for Erasmus+ applications. An official from Colleges NI has joined the UK EC/VET Experts Steering Group to represent the 6 colleges.
C4.2	Primary and post-primary schools to be advised of opportunities in line with British Council promotion of ERASMUS+ by December 2014	DE	GREEN	Work by the British Council to promote the Erasmus+ programme is in its early stages. Visits to schools with a strong international focus have begun. All school principals were informed in January 2014 about the new Erasmus+ programme.
C4.3	At least 6 funding bids submitted in health & social care by March 2015	DHSSPS	GREEN	6 bids were submitted in Q1 and Q2.
C4.4	Organise at least 20 Horizon 2020 workshops by December 2014	DETI/DEL	GREEN	18 events organised to date since 1 April 2014.
C4.5	Administer joint DEL/DETI HE EU Support Fund to support NICEP network and related activities	DETI/DEL	GREEN	DEL continues to administer the programme on behalf of both Departments and the Northern Ireland Contact Point network it supports is fully in place.
C4.6	Organise a North/South Horizon 2020 conference under the 'Collaborate to Innovate' brand by end December 2014	DETI	GREEN	By agreement of the All-Island Steering group the event was moved to 3 December, allowing for deadlines that were pending and also to ensure that sufficient knowledge had been obtained to be informative.
C4.7	Deliver targeted capacity development activities to make a significant impact on the success of potential Horizon 2020 applicants in the NI agri-food sector	DARD	GREEN	A range of capacity development activities has been developed and are being delivered that include the introduction of a peer-support/mentoring programme, piloting regular 'clinics' at research centres, providing one-to-one support to applicants, facilitating cross-disciplinary meetings and holding brokerage events.

C4.8	By 31 March 2015 DOE to disseminate information on current funding calls within 5 working days of receipt.	DOE	GREEN	Achieved. Dissemination of information on current funding calls within 5 working days of receipt.
C4.9	DoE to disseminate partners searches to relevant stakeholders within 5 working days of receipt.	DOE	GREEN	Achieved. Dissemination of information on partner searches to relevant stakeholders within 5 working days of receipt.
C4.10	Through the NIERF, hold or provide support to at least 1 event each quarter to provide members with advice and guidance in relation to Competitive EU Funds by end March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	The NIERF hosted/supported 2 events in each of the first 2 quarters of the year: 20 May - Erasmus+ Master Class 26 June - Plenary which included presentations on Erasmus+ Youth Chapter and Creative Europe 27 August - Creative Europe Event 16 September – RESTART2 event – this was a dissemination event for a project funded by one of the precursors to Erasmus+. As an example of best practice it offered an opportunity for Members to learn about both the possibilities under the new programme as well as the lessons learned. While these events have focused on Erasmus+ and Creative Europe, each of these events has also provided general advice and guidance in relation to accessing Competitive EU funding programmes.
C4.11	Issue EU funding newsletter to Justice Network twice yearly	DOJ	GREEN	The inaugural funding newsletter issued in the first quarter of 2014. A second newsletter is currently being drafted.
C4.12	Organise an Information Event (youth and/or Erasmus+ focused) by end March 2015	DSD	GREEN	DSD has been advised that a number of events have been scheduled by YCNI so have disseminated information to third parties.
C4.13	Invite 5 more organisations to join Justice Network	DOJ	GREEN	Three organisations have joined the Network over the summer period.
C4.14	Increased levels of school take up of ERASMUS+ funding	DE	GREEN	Work by the British Council to promote the Erasmus+ programme is in its early stages. Engagements by schools can only be sensibly measured at the end of the calendar year, since applications are not evenly

				profiled. All school principals were informed in January 2014 about the new Erasmus+ programme.
C4.15		Sustain levels of youth applications for Erasmus+ funding	DE	GREEN Work to promote the Erasmus+ programme is in its early stages. Engagements by youth organisations can only be sensibly measured at the end of the calendar year, since applications are not evenly profiled.
C4.16		Organise 5 region wide Erasmus+ focused events for the youth sector by end March 2015 (YCNI)	DE	GREEN On target. 3 events hosted by September 2014.
C4.17		Produce 6 International e-bulletins for youth sector by end March 2015 (YCNI)	DE	GREEN On target. 4 International e-bulletins produced by October 2014.

Additional Priorities for the ECONOMY thematic group

C5 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. (DETI)

Targets

Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
C5.1	1 awareness event to NICS Customers to be held in 2014-15 which includes at least 1 representative from DG Competition	DETI	GREEN	Achieved. State Aid awareness seminar held on 16 September at Titanic Belfast. There were 130 delegates, 80 of whom were from individuals from private firms, Invest NI, IntertradeIreland, SEUPB, NITB and all 26 Councils.

Additional Priorities for the ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE thematic group

C6	Work with appropriate stakeholders to build knowledge and capacity to participate in EU competitive programmes. (DOE)	C7	Proactively engage with stakeholders to provide relevant support to encourage engagement with the European Union. (DOE)
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Targets

Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
C6.1	To host and attend at least 10 workshops by 31 March 2015 to develop customer knowledge and capacity to participate in EU competitive programmes	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved. 6 workshops hosted in by 30 September.
C7.1	To maintain and enhance the DOE's database of key stakeholders and interested parties by 10% to 330 by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved Database increased by 5%.

Additional Priorities for the SOCIAL thematic group

<p>C8 Publicise the new European Social Fund (ESF) Programme 2014-20 to as wide an audience as possible throughout Northern Ireland. (DEL)</p>	<p>C9 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). (All Departments in Social Group)</p>	<p>C10 Promote and widen the involvement of Third Parties in competitive EU funding via the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum (NIERF). (OFMDFM)</p>
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Targets

Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
C8.1	Through road-shows, publicise the new ESF programme in all 11 new Council areas during October and November 2014	DEL	GREEN	Planning for the new ESF Programme road shows continues for week commencing 13 October and 3 November 2014.
C9.1	Disseminate relevant information to stakeholders via NIERF to inform of potential opportunities available through relevant structural funds	OFMDFM	GREEN	The NIERF Secretariat has circulated partner searches as well as information on the various information workshops and consultation events relating to the new round of Structural funds. This is ongoing, as information becomes available. NIERF has also played a role in advertising DEL's ESF Roadshow to members.
C9.2	Regular liaison with DFP European Division and Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB)	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	OFMDFM officials liaise regularly with DFP and SEUPB on an ongoing basis (OFMDFM). DSD meets with DFP on a regular basis. DSD attends PEACE III Steering Committee, Programme Monitoring Committee and Accountable Department meetings on a regular basis (DSD). DHSSPS has been liaising with SEUPB in Interreg V A Operating Plan (DHSSPS).
C10.1	In association with Belfast City Council, increase membership of NIERF to 120 by end March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	Total number of members and those awaiting formal approval is 112 (15 of which have applied to join since April 2014).

C10.2	Share and promote the work of the NIERF and its member organisations via the European Centre Google+ page on a monthly basis	OFMDFM	GREEN	Google+ was launched in September and will promote the NIERF to a wide audience on an ongoing basis as a source of potential NI partners for future funding opportunities.
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BUSINESS PROCESSES

EUROPEAN PRIORITIES WITHIN THE BUSINESS PROCESSES QUADRANT

OVERARCHING Priorities which apply to ALL thematic groups

BP1 Influence Whitehall policy formulation on European matters.	BP2 Monitor competitive EU funding applications and the development of strategic alliances.	BP3 Increase the use of seminars, conferences and workshops as key tools in disseminating knowledge, skills and best practice.	BP4 Achieve the targets in the Executive's 2014-15 European Priorities Implementation Plan.
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Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
BP1.1	Input to UK position on EU proposals in relation to State Aid Modernisation and European Structural Funds	DETI	GREEN	During Q1 and Q2, DETI has provided NI input to the UK position on the EC's revised General Block Exemption Regulation, de minimis regulation, the Risk Capital Guidelines and the Rescue and Restructuring Guidelines for the 2014-20 period. DETI has also contributed to the Competition element of the UK's Review of the Balance of Competences between the United Kingdom and the European Union. DETI has also provided NI input to the UK Partnership Agreement underpinning the EU Structural Funds Operational Programmes for the UK, England and the Devolved Administrations. DETI also continues to provide NI input to UK State Aid Network and the UK ERDF Forum.
BP1.2	Relevant Departments to respond to requests from Whitehall on policy matters relating to Environment and Climate Change policy within required deadlines	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Departments to respond to Whitehall deadlines.
BP2.1	DoE to maintain and enhance arrangements for the monitoring of funding applications and partnerships across the EU by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved. Funding applications and partnerships continue to be monitored and reported on.
BP2.2	Deliver a 20% increase in NI partners in relation to Transnational Programmes	DFP / ALL DEPTS	GREEN	On track - To date the HSC is leading or partnering in 13 H2020 funding applications (DHSSPS).

BP2.3	Database of appropriate European contacts in the area of social cohesion to be updated and maintained monthly	OFMDFM	GREEN	Database has been established for European Centre contacts and is being developed on an ongoing basis. Additional Brussels-based database will be commenced by the Social Liaison Officer (took up post in mid September 2014).
BP2.4	Ensure regular contact with NIERF member organisations regarding applications for funding and update database on a monthly basis	OFMDFM	GREEN	All NIERF members are formally polled twice each year as well as on other ad hoc occasions throughout the year where appropriate as to applications submitted or planned applications. In addition, a series of one-to-one meetings with members has commenced. Where an actual application or a potential application is identified it is recorded on a database which is updated on at least a monthly basis.
BP3.1	At least 4 workshops and stakeholder briefings to be held by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	On target to be achieved. Newry & Mourne, Down and Louth County Councils, and colleagues in DSD Resources and Social Policy Group briefed in Q2.
BP3.2	Attend/participate in three Brussels/Europe-based information sessions relevant to the scope of the Social Thematic Group by end March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	On target to be achieved. Attendance and networking at Social Innovation Conference, May 2014. Social Liaison Officer and OFMDFM staff registered for several workshops during Open Week in Brussels, 6-9 October. Departments to respond to Executives targets as requested.
BP4.1	To respond within deadline to requests for progress updates on targets included in the Executive's 2014-2015 European Implementation Plan	DOE	GREEN	Departments to respond to Executives targets as requested.
BP4.2	Objectives/targets for 2014-15 are delivered by end March 2015	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Ongoing.
BP4.3	2015-16 priorities document is completed in line with BTWG timescales	OFMDFM/ DEL	GREEN	The BTWG Secretariat plan to initiate a request for input from departments to the draft 2015-16 European Priorities by 14 November. DEL has circulated the BTWG revised delivery timescale to members of its internal EU Priorities working group. The internal group will meet in November to propose 2015-16 EU Priorities.

Additional Priorities for the ECONOMY thematic group

BP5 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). (DRD)	BP6 Explore opportunities for support for sustainable economic development of the agri-food sector, including through the European Innovation Partnership (EIP). (DARD)	BP7 Identify potential programmes and partners through the creation of a 'Look Forward Panel' and expansion of promotional activities. (DRD)	BP8 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. (DETI, DSD)	BP9 Explore opportunities for economic development through innovation linked to the health and social care sector. (DHSSPS)	BP10 Secure Executive agreement for a Horizon 2020 target. (DETI)	BP11 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. (DETI)
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Targets

Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
BP5.1	Establish the Assurance Working Group and hold at least 3 seminars annually	DRD	GREEN	On track, meeting took place in June and next one scheduled for November following the INEA info day in Brussels.
BP6.1	Finalise proposals for EIP operational groups within the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 by March 2015	DARD	GREEN	NIRDP 2014-20 due to be submitted to the Commission for approval on 14 October 2014.
BP7.1	Establish 'Look Forward Panel' and hold at least 2 annual seminars	DRD	GREEN	The ToR for the Look Forward Panel have been developed and the first meeting of the panel is scheduled for November 2014.
BP7.2	At least 1 Ministerially hosted promotional event annually	DRD	GREEN	The 2014-15 Ministerial event was held on 24 September 2014 at the offices of the NI Executive in Brussels (ONIEB).
BP8.1	To explore the potential of facilitating a study visit to Brussels with sectoral representatives during 2014-15	DETI	GREEN	On track: DETI, working with ONIEB, has arranged a 2-day study visit to Brussels for a delegation of NI

				social economy stakeholders in early October 2014 in order to explore potential opportunities for the sector.
BP8.2	Complete analysis of social economy enterprises and disseminate information by September 2014	DSD	GREEN	Mapping of social economy sector completed and research information published.
BP9.1	During 2014-15 to commence the development of internationally recognised standards which will facilitate the sharing of health and social care information internationally	DHSSPS	GREEN	A Programme Manager has been appointed to take forward the Requirements and Proof of Concept phases. This work is planned to report in early 2015 and will inform the main development phase in the development of a connected health integrated platform.
BP9.2	By 31 March 2015 to have carried out a Proof of Concept to enhance analytics capability of the HSC	DHSSPS	GREEN	With support from Invest NI, an industry-led International Health Analytics Capability (IHAC) collaborative network was established. Following the completion of a scoping study the project has now moved into a second phase to create a temporary, advanced data analytics demonstrator facility upon which network members will run a series of Health related R&D projects. The primary goal of this phase is to help develop the skills, benchmarks and case studies that will allow the HSC and associated academic and commercial communities to prepare, plan and budget for the adoption and use of data analytics tools in their respective organisations.
BP10.1	Secure agreement from Executive Sub Committee on the Economy for a Horizon 2020 drawdown target	DETI	GREEN	€145m agreed and since agreed by the Executive as part of the Innovation Strategy (September 2014).
BP10.2	Secure agreement from North South Ministerial Council for a target for NI/ROI collaborative success in Horizon 2020	DETI	GREEN	Agreed by the All-island Steering Group and to be presented to the NSMC on a date to be agreed.
BP10.3	Develop a Horizon 2020 strategy by June 2014	DETI	GREEN	Completed. Agreed with NI H2020 Steering Group. Actions to be incorporated into a draft NI strategy on Horizon 2020 to be issued October 2014.
BP10.4	Complete FP7 benchmarking by October 2014	DETI	GREEN	Benchmarking figures against the 5 identified Barroso regions have been completed and are included in Executive subcommittee paper supporting proposals for the NI target. Further consideration being given to the potential identification of other regions that may be more suitable to benchmark.

BP11.1	Agree areas of COSME to be taken forward by 31st Dec 2014	DETI	GREEN	On track for achievement. During Q2 the European Investment fund launched an open call for expressions of interest for the COSME financial instruments and Invest NI are considering next steps.
BP11.2	Complete CIP benchmarking by October 2014	DETI	GREEN	On track for achievement. DETI has discussed this with NISRA during Sept. Project scoping is to be completed in early October, with the first phase of the work around establishing a NI database to be in place by December.

Additional Priorities for the ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE thematic group

BP12 Identify potential projects and partners for DOE and Third Party organisation participation. (DOE)	BP13 Establish and refine appropriate processes to disseminate policy information emanating from European Union. (DOE)
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Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
BP12.1	By 31 March 2015 the DOE Environment and Marine Group to produce a list of potential areas for EU funded project proposals	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved. A list of potential project proposals to be produced by 31 March 2015.
BP13.1	DOE Barroso Team web pages to be reviewed and updated by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved. Review initiated and due to be completed by 31 March 2015.
BP13.2	Environment and Climate Change Group priorities for 2015-16 are agreed by 31 March 2015	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved. Priorities for 2015-16 to be agreed in line with BTWG timescales.

Additional Priorities for the SOCIAL thematic group

<p>BP14 Promote and enhance effective technology and knowledge transfer arrangements in the health sector through involvement in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA). (DHSSPS)</p>	<p>BP15 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. (All Departments in Social Group)</p>	<p>BP16 Raise awareness of the Delivering Social Change (DSC) framework and Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) in Europe. (OFMDFM)</p>	<p>BP17 Explore benchmarking options to compare drawdown in other regions. (All Departments in Social Group)</p>
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Targets

Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
BP14.1	Along with other EU Regions to contribute to the achievement of targets and actions in EIP-AHA Action Plans	DHSSPS	AMBER	Potential slippage in NI contribution to A2 and A3 Actions Groups due to organisational moves within the HSC – currently being addressed through identifying new representatives to these Action Groups. Contribution to other Action Plans on track.
BP14.2	Organise quarterly NI Connected Health Eco-System meetings throughout 2014-15	DHSSPS	GREEN	Meetings held quarterly as planned.
BP14.3	Hold, or participate in, at least 2 events to promote interaction between main stakeholders in connected health by end March 2015	DHSSPS	GREEN	High profile NI participation in eHealth Week in Athens in May.
BP15.1	At least quarterly updates to NIERF members highlighting developments, upcoming events, funding opportunities and success stories for funding drawdown	OFMDFM	GREEN	Information is regularly disseminated to members in relation to developments, upcoming events, funding opportunities and success stories. Updates are circulated following events to notify members when presentations are available. An update highlighting the known success of members in the first rounds of funding programmes is being compiled and will issue in Q3.
BP15.2	Social Liaison Officer to report to Social Thematic Group secretariat on new funding opportunities under ERASMUS+,	OFMDFM	GREEN	This will be commenced by the Social Liaison Officer (took up post in mid September 2014).

	EaSI, Creative Europe and Horizon 2020 within 3 working days of new information being released (Social Liaison Officer)			
BP15.3	Undertake Commission analysis of competitive funding 2014-20 to identify funding opportunities and explore potential of ERDF – Innovative Actions Programme	DETI/DSD	GREEN	DSD is monitoring the development of the Innovative Urban Action Fund and has facilitated meetings between DG Regio and interested parties to discuss potential bids.
BP16.1	Relating to R2, hold, actively contribute to or facilitate at least 2 policy-focused events in Brussels/Europe to showcase best practice and innovative policy from Northern Ireland, relating to Delivering Social Change and/or Together: Building a United Community, by end March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	Confirmed – hosting DSC focused side-workshop at Annual Poverty Convention in November 2014. Confirmed – hosting side-workshop at Eurochild Annual Conference in November 2014.
BP16.2	Identify good news stories and developments relevant to the Delivering Social Change framework and share via the European Centre Google+ page within 2 working days	OFMDFM	GREEN	Ongoing.
BP17.1	Complete feasibility work in relation to benchmarking by end December 2014	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Work is ongoing with NISRA colleagues to develop benchmarking process. Data being provided as requested (DHSSPS).

PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION

EUROPEAN PRIORITIES WITHIN THE PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION QUADRANT

OVERARCHING Priorities which apply to ALL thematic groups

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

Targets

Target No.	Target	Lead Dept.	RAG Rating	Explanation for assigned RAG Rating
PO1.1	Develop a webpage on the DEL intranet by March 2015 to give information and guidance on the current EU structural and competitive funding programmes and the application processes	DEL	GREEN	Meeting held with DEL Policy leads on 16 September 2014 to discuss the content of the webpage.
PO1.2	Improve Departmental staff knowledge of relevant EU issues by hosting an internal seminar by December 2014	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	DETI - Achieved. State Aid awareness seminar held on 16 th September at Titanic Belfast. Attended by approximately 130 delegates 50 of whom were staff from 9 NI Departments.
PO1.3	Four seminar/conference/workshop(s) to be held for staff on the work of the Barroso Team and potential for EU funded projects by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved.
PO1.4	Social Thematic Group to host event to focus on topical thematic issues before end March 2015	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Arrangements for an event are currently being considered (OFMDFM). DHSSPS organised and held an event in February 2014. We will share experiences with Social Thematic

					Group in the planning of the Group's event (DHSSPS).
PO2.1	To arrange a programme of Economy work related visits/introductions for DETI Permanent Secretary, and DETI Grade 3 & 6 with relevant EU bodies & representatives i.e. DG's, UK Rep, Irish rep, EPC, EESC, Innovate UK and MEP's	DETI	GREEN	Achieved. DETI Permanent Secretary, Grade 3 & Grade 6 undertook a programme of Economy themed work related visits/introductions from 22–24 Sept 2014.	
PO2.2	Attend and contribute to meetings of BTWG, Economy Thematic Group, Finance sub-group and HR sub-group	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Attendance in all related meetings to ensure coherent and effective approach to BTWG issues. All Economy input provided to OFMDFM in a timely and accurate manner.	
PO2.3	Attend minimum of 4 EU events by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track to be achieved.	
PO2.4	Ensure staff actively participate in NIERF plenary sessions and events where suitable throughout the year	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Depending on events DHSSPS/HSC will encourage attendance.	
PO2.5	Ensure further development of relationships with relevant DG contact points relevant to the social theme by arranging quarterly update meetings (Social Liaison officer)	OFMDFM	GREEN	This will be commenced by the Social Liaison Officer (took up post in mid September 2014).	
PO2.6	Develop relationships and build database of key contacts within regional offices across Europe by end March 2015 (Social Liaison Officer)	OFMDFM	GREEN	This will be commenced by the Social Liaison Officer (took up post in mid September 2014). This work is ongoing.	
PO3.1	Agree Economy ELO Workplans component of Responsibility Matrix	ALL DEPTS	AMBER	Progress on final agreement of the Workplan and the Responsibility Matrix for the Economy ELO has been delayed pending final agreement of 2014-2015 EU Priorities, relating to Economy Thematic Group.	
PO3.2	At least 6 formal engagements annually which include 2 inward engagements and at least 2 events	DRD	GREEN	Achieved – following the Brussels Business Week officials have completed 8 formal engagements. First annual meeting of the Assurance Working group has taken place. Ministerial event took place on 24 September.	

PO3.3	By 30 September 2014 provide Environment and Climate Change Liaison Officer with work tasks up to 31 March 2015 and suitable induction programme	DOE	GREEN	Target achieved E&CC LO appointed August 2014. Induction & training programme on going.
PO3.4	All department representatives in Social Group to meet with Social Liaison Officer within 6 weeks of appointment	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Meetings to meet Liaison Officer and discuss priorities have been scheduled for 13 and 14 October (OFMDFM). DHSSPS will facilitate meeting when planned.
PO3.5	Ensure attendance of Liaison Officer at (at least) 2 Social Thematic Groups meetings by end March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	Liaison Officer took up position in September and will be invited to suitable future social thematic group meetings. This work is ongoing.
PO3.6	Provide input to Social Liaison Officer work plan by end September 2014	OFMDFM	GREEN	Achieved. Social Group input provided to ONIEB in September 2014.
PO4.1	Organise 1 PCP session on Horizon 2020 PCP/PPI opportunities	DETI	GREEN	Q2 - Invest NI organised an awareness/workshop on Innovative Pre-commercial Procurement (PCP) to all NI Centres of Procurement Excellence (CoPEs), covering both the UK PCP programme, SBRI & H2020. Approximately 20 senior procurement managers from across the NI public sector attended.
PO4.2	Arrange at least one Information exchange visit with other MS on animal disease issues.	DARD	GREEN	Information exchange visit completed by DARD Programme Manager at EU Commission "BTSF – Better Training for Safe Food" event, discussing Animal Disease Control & Contingency Planning, in Riga, Latvia in September 2014.
PO4.3	Introduction of E&CC Liaison Officer to the relevant ALBs of the E&CC Thematic Group as appropriate by 31 March 2015	DOE	GREEN	Target on track. E&CC Liaison Officer formally introduced to the Thematic Group at the September meeting.
PO4.4	At least 1 seminar organised for staff, incorporating the work of the Social Thematic Group. EPCU, ONIEB etc by end March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	Arrangements for internal lunchtime seminar currently being determined.

PO45	Produce and disseminate at least 1 update bulletin for staff information by end March 2015	OFMDFM	GREEN	Bulletin to inform of NIERF and roles of ONIEB staff etc under development.
PO4.6	Quarterly meetings and regular collaboration with relevant authorities to ascertain level of drawdown of European monies	ALL DEPTS	GREEN	Regular collaboration established through the HSCB and Public Healthy Agency (DHSSPS).
PO4.7	Set up an internal working group to disseminate information about EU competitive funding and encourage promotion amongst relevant stakeholders by September 2014	DEL	GREEN	An internal EU Priorities working group has been established within DEL. The group met in June 2014 and September 2014 to discuss the promotion of EU competitive funding within the department and to relevant stakeholders. Next meeting scheduled to take place November 2014.

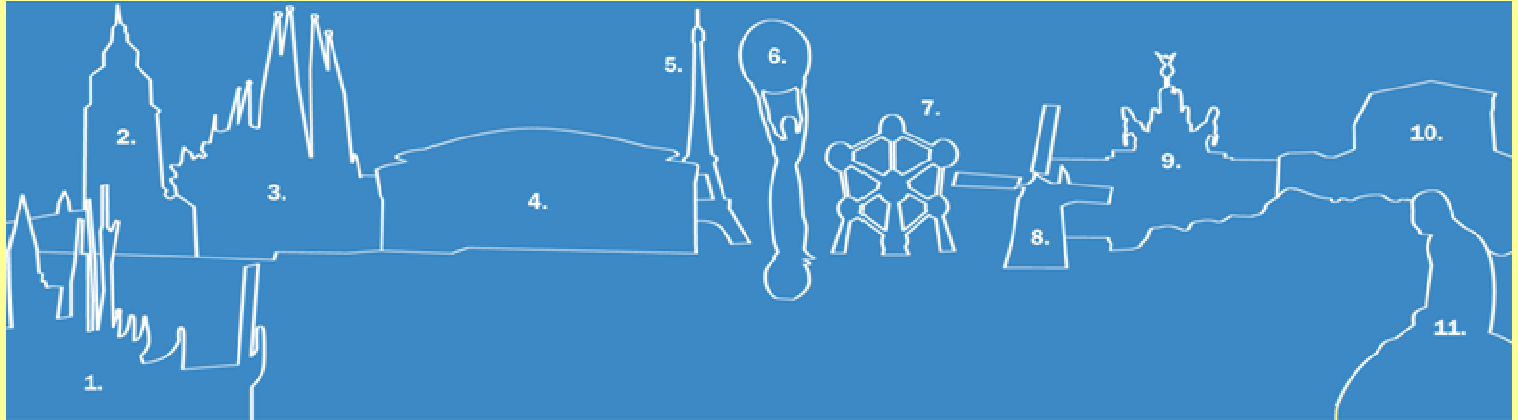
EUROPEAN PRIORITIES 2014-15 –Commentary on Targets not rated Green.

Target No. (Lead Dept)	TITLE	RAG RATING	DEPARTMENTAL NARRATIVE
R1.7 (OFMDFM)	EU Capacity Building Fund implemented in 2014-15 and utilised by end of 2015-16 (Subject to funding)	AMBER	Although funding has been identified for the EU Capacity Building Fund, due to ongoing budgetary pressures across the Department, this has not been fully committed. The outcome of this may be determined by October monitoring. Until funding is fully secured, the EU Capacity Building Fund cannot be launched or utilised.
R2.3 (DHSSPS)	During 2014-15 DHSSPS and HSC to be represented on all EIP-AHA Action Groups and attend at least 75% of meetings	AMBER	Following staff moves with the HSC, DHSSPS has been engaging with HSC to identify and nominate replacement representatives to 2 of the Action Groups NI are not represented on. In the interim DHSSPS/HSC continue to engage with the Action Groups until representatives are identified so as to ensure our contribution to EIP objectives are met.
R3.5 (DHSSPS)	Develop through the EIP Reference Site Collaborative Network a repository of information across EIP-AHA Reference Sites on health and care strategies, plans, projects and evidence bases	AMBER	Proposed repository remains under consideration/discussion by the Reference Site Collaborative Network. Some slippage due primarily to the need for stronger resourcing for the RSCN to provide a co-ordination/administration function. The intention is to develop a European funding proposal for this purpose.
C1.1 (DOE)	To provide updates to the Minister and relevant Committees from E&CC Liaison Officer on a quarterly basis	AMBER	In Quarter 1 an update was received from the outgoing Liaison Officer. However, there was a short gap until the 'new' E&CC Liaison Officer was appointed in August 2014. Target expected to be achieved in Q3 & Q4.
BP14.1 (DHSSPS)	Along with other EU Regions to contribute to the achievement of targets and actions in EIP-AHA Action Plans	AMBER	Potential slippage in NI contribution to A2 and A3 Actions Groups due to organisational moves within the HSC – this has resulted in NI not being represented on these Action Groups for a significant part of 2014. The issue is currently being addressed through identifying new representatives to these Action Groups. Contribution to other Action Plans on track.
PO3.1 (ALL DEPTS)	Agree Economy ELO Workplans and component of Responsibility Matrix	AMBER	Progress on final agreement of the Workplan and the Responsibility Matrix for the Economy ELO has been delayed pending final agreement of 2014-15 EU Priorities, relating to Economy Thematic Group.

Programme for Government – Definitions of RAG Ratings

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

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



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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