

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION GOAL
PART A**

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFCB040
Title	Interreg V-A - France-United Kingdom (Manche/Channel)
Version	2016.1
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

Overview

Project Development

After the delays mentioned in last year's report, the programme has made good progress on building its project pipeline and approving Phase 1 applications. Two calls for projects were launched (call 3 from 23/02 to 24/03 and call 4 from 19/09 to 13/10). Two selection subcommittees for Phase 1 projects were held during this period, one in January in Kings Lynn for the second call for Phase 1 applications, and one in August in London for the 3rd call for Phase 1 applications. Between them they approved 14 projects at Phase 1, out of a total of 32 Phase 1 projects submitted in Calls 2 and 3.

The programme has also held its first selection committees for Phase 2 projects, 1 in July in Maidstone and 1 in November in Norwich. The first project has now been fully approved, with 3 others approved in principle pending conditions set by the committee being met. It is anticipated that Grant Offer Letters for these projects will be issued in the first half of 2017. As it is presumed that these projects will be able to meet their conditions and be finally approved, the Citizen's Summary for the programme has not made a distinction between approved and approved in principle, however in this report we are only formally reporting projects that have received their final approval from the committee.

As a result, the programme has committed (not including TA commitments) 8,000,062.52€, of which 5,499,342.93€ is ERDF. If the projects which are conditionally approved are included, this rises to 18,165,539.02€ ERDF.

In addition, a further six Phase 2 projects have submitted applications for review, to be presented to selection committees in the 1st quarter of 2017, with a seventh expected to submit shortly after the New Year.

Programme Management

Staffing of the JS is now fully completed, with the appointment of a Communications Officer. Additionally, 2 Finance and Appraisal Officer Trainees have been recruited on 18 month training contracts in order to continue to build the skills base in the Joint Secretariat. The Certifying Authority is now also fully staffed, with the recruitment of a Finance Officer.

The Management and Control System was signed off by the Audit Authority in December, and as of the 31st of December the National Authority have agreed to formally designate Norfolk County Council as MA and CA. However owing to technical difficulties with the SFC2014 platform this is not expected to formally take place until January 2017.

It was also decided to switch the Programme Management software used by the Programme from Synergie-CTE produced by Agence de Services et de Payment to eMS produced by INTERACT. The first applications were submitted on the new system in the Programme's 4th call for Phase 1 applications, which was open from the 13th of September to the 13th of October, and the system will be fully operational by Mid-2017, with the

first Phase 2 applications being transferred to the system in early 2017.

This year also saw the final completion of the cooperation programme, with the remaining result indicator information added to the CP, along with minor amendments to address changes made during the final drafting of the Management and Control System which altered the summary description of the CP. The final version was sent on the 7th of October, and approved by the European Commission on the 10th of November.

Communication

The Programme Launch event was held in Dorking, Surrey in May, attended by approximately 100 people. In order to avoid confusion among participants, this was branded as the Programme's annual event.

Alongside this, a series of events were held promoting specific objective 3.2 (to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems) in order to attract high quality projects under this objective. The programme also held 8 bid writing workshops to provide support to applicants and give feedback and lessons learned on how to write a successful application to the Programme.

Synthesis of Implementation Difficulties

The largest barrier to implementation in 2016 was the referendum in the United Kingdom on exiting the European Union in June. This has had two main impacts on programme implementation;

1. In the short term, the period after the referendum created great uncertainty for projects, and for the Managing Authority, over whether European Funding would continue to be available, in particular whether projects ending after the exit date of the United Kingdom would continue to receive funding to complete their projects. Some reassurance was given on this matter by two statements from the United Kingdom Treasury, one in August and one in October. The first offered a funding guarantee for UK partners whose projects were signed before the Autumn Statement of 2016, and the 2nd offered the same guarantee for projects with signed Grant Offer Letters before the United Kingdom formally leaves the European Union, anticipated to be in March 2019. One consequence of this period of uncertainty (minimum 6 months) was that project development significantly slowed down during that period.
2. In the longer term, given that the programme requires partners from within the United Kingdom for a project to be eligible, the potential anticipated departure of the UK from with European Union in March 2019 would effectively reduce the period over which the programme anticipates approving projects by 18 months. Therefore the programme is undertaking a review of its likely commitment and measures to adapt to this situation, to be presented to its Programme Monitoring Committee in March 2017.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1	Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.	<p>After a delayed start of the Programme, fewer projects were received across all Priority Axis during the 2 calls for proposals in 2016 when compared to the first 2 calls in 2015. As well as the Brexit context, this can be explained by project applicants realising that new expectations from our Programme took time to translate into project ideas and application forms. More intense support from our facilitation team was put in place to support potential beneficiaries throughout the increased development stage for projects before submission. The JS organised 8 bid writing workshops across the area in February 2016. 158 participants attended those workshops with the aim of increasing the quality of these projects.</p> <p>However, the increase in the quality of projects submitted under this Priority Axis is still to be felt with 3 projects approved at Phase 1 out of 11 submitted. One particular challenge under this Priority Axis has been supporting projects to understand State Aid in the context of engaging with SMEs and industrial application of research. To resolve this, JS staff members attended a training with Lexxion, which was cascaded to the rest of the team, and was especially helpful for the facilitation team who are now in a better position to advise project partners on this subject. 3 Phase 2 projects were approved under this Priority Axis, Specific Objective 1.1, during the June 2016 SSC and 1 Phase 2 project was rejected under this Priority Axis, Specific Objective 1.2 during the March SSC (This was the first Phase 2 project decision to take place in a SSC).</p>
2	Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.	<p>After a delayed start to the Programme, fewer projects were received across all Priority Axis during the 2 calls for proposals in 2016 when compared to the first 2 calls in 2015. As well as the Brexit context, this can be explained by project applicants realising that new expectations took time to translate into project ideas and application forms. Furthermore, more intense support from our facilitation team was put in place with potential beneficiaries to support an increased development stage for projects before submission. The JS organised 8 bid writing workshops across the area in February 2016. 158 participants attended those workshops with the aim of increasing the quality of projects. The quality of projects submitted in this priority Axis has increased with 3 Phase 1 approved out of 6 submitted. Another series of bid writing workshops will be organised across the area in 2017. The first Phase 2 project of the Programme was approved under this Priority Axis at the SSC in June 2016.</p>
3	Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	<p>After a delayed start to the Programme, fewer projects were received across all Priority Axis during the 2 calls for proposals in 2016 when compared to the first 2 calls in 2015. As well as the Brexit context, this can be explained by project applicants realising that new programme expectations (in relation to the performance framework) took time to translate into project ideas and application forms. Furthermore, a more intense support from our facilitation team was put in place with organisations and therefore a longer development stage for projects before submission. The JS organised 8 bid writing workshops across the area in February 2016. 158 participants attended those workshops with the aim to increase the quality of this project.</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>Overall, the quality of projects submitted under this Priority Axis has increased with 4 Phase 1 projects approved out of 8 submitted. However, as far as Specific Objective 3.1 is concerned, only 1 Phase 1 project out of 4 was approved. The 2 Phase 2 projects submitted under this SO were rejected during the SSC in June 2016. In order to help redress this, the JS will organise 8 local workshops throughout the Programme area on the thematic of natural and cultural heritage in 2017. A cross-border event related to the topic is planned for autumn 2017.</p>
4	Technical Assistance	<p>The Programme has focused on finalising the new systems and processes needed for designation. The MCS was finalised on November 17th and sent to the Independent Audit Body for review. Four intermediary versions of the MCS had been submitted for feedback and amendments ahead of the final version. In December, DCLG informed Norfolk County Council that it would be designated as the MA once technical issues with SFC2014 have been overcome. Formal designation is expected early 2017.</p> <p>After difficulties with the online management system SYNERGIE-CTE the MA decided to move to eMS, developed by INTERACT. A lot of time was invested into developing the Phase 1 and Phase 2 applications forms on eMS and ensuring that the software was compatible with the servers at Norfolk County Council. The Phase 1 applications form was ready on eMS for the 4th call, and the Phase 2 application form will be ready for the next call.</p> <p>With the first Phase 2 projects being submitted, the JS also worked on drafting key documents including the Partnership Agreement and Grant Offer Letter.</p> <p>Recruitment and training of newly appointed Finance and Appraisal Officers was carried out at the beginning of 2016. Changes in managerial positions also resulted in the recruitment of a new facilitator and Programme coordinator. After two unsuccessful recruitment campaigns, a Communication officer finally took up post on November 1st.</p> <p>The main risks identified in our risk register are; fluctuation of the exchange rate from Euro to Pounds; slow programme delivery; managing potential decommitment; potential for early programme closure related to Brexit; and staff retention. A risk management plan is in place to control and mitigate against the impact of these risks.</p>

3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 1.1b

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	1,347,841.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	1,347,841.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	21.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	21.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	CO45	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	Persons	7,000.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	CO45	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	Persons	7,000.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	30.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	30.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems	10.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems	10.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	1.3	Number of businesses and business intermediaries cooperating with research institutions	Number of businesses and intermediaries	20.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	1.3	Number of businesses and business intermediaries cooperating with research institutions	Number of businesses and intermediaries	20.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	1.4	Number of innovative skill development and professional training schemes for disadvantaged people	Number of schemes	40.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	1.4	Number of innovative skill development and professional training schemes for disadvantaged people	Number of schemes	40.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	1.5	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to increase the quality and effectiveness of service delivery to disadvantaged groups	Number of Institutions	20.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	1.5	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to increase the quality and effectiveness of service delivery to disadvantaged groups	Number of Institutions	20.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	1.6	Number of socially innovative services designed	Number of services	5.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	1.6	Number of socially innovative services designed	Number of services	5.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	0.00	0.00
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	0.00	0.00
F	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	0.00	0.00
F	CO45	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	0.00	0.00
S	CO45	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	0.00	0.00
F	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	0.00	0.00
S	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	0.00	0.00
F	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	0.00	0.00
S	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	0.00	0.00
F	1.3	Number of businesses and business intermediaries cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00
S	1.3	Number of businesses and business intermediaries cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00
F	1.4	Number of innovative skill development and professional training schemes for disadvantaged people	0.00	0.00
S	1.4	Number of innovative skill development and professional training schemes for disadvantaged people	0.00	0.00
F	1.5	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to increase the quality and effectiveness of service delivery to disadvantaged groups	0.00	0.00
S	1.5	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to increase the quality and effectiveness of service delivery to disadvantaged groups	0.00	0.00
F	1.6	Number of socially innovative services designed	0.00	0.00
S	1.6	Number of socially innovative services designed	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
Specific objective	1.1 - To increase the delivery and uptake of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1b.1.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
1.3	Level of delivery and take-up of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors	%	52.95	2015	54.05			As indicated in Annex 4 of the Cooperation Programme, collection of qualitative data is not due to take place until the preparation of the 2018 Implementation report.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.3	Level of delivery and take-up of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors				

Priority axis	1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.
Investment priority	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation, and supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production, in particular in key enabling technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies, as well as fostering investment necessary for strengthening the crisis response capacities in health services
Specific objective	1.2 - Increase the quality and the effectiveness of service delivery to the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups through social innovation

Table 1: Result indicators - 1.1b.1.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
1.2	Level of quality and effectiveness of the service provided to disadvantaged groups	%	61.25	2015	61.75			As indicated in Annex 4 of the Cooperation Programme, collection of qualitative data is not due to take place until the preparation of the 2018 Implementation report.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2	Level of quality and effectiveness of the service provided to disadvantaged groups	0.00		0.00	

Priority axis	2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.
Investment priority	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 2.4f

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	20.00	0.00	There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2016.
S	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	20.00	6.00	
F	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems.	5.00	0.00	There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2016.
S	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems.	5.00	6.00	
F	2.3	Number of supported LCT multisectoral networks	Number of networks.	5.00	0.00	There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2016.
S	2.3	Number of supported LCT multisectoral networks	Number of networks.	5.00	1.00	
F	2.4	Number of participants in awareness raising or training events for take up and development of low carbon technologies	Number of participants	16,000.00	0.00	There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2016.
S	2.4	Number of participants in awareness raising or training events for take up and development of low carbon technologies	Number of participants	16,000.00	600.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	0.00	0.00
S	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	0.00	0.00
F	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	0.00	0.00
S	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	0.00	0.00
F	2.3	Number of supported LCT multisectoral networks	0.00	0.00
S	2.3	Number of supported LCT multisectoral networks	0.00	0.00
F	2.4	Number of participants in awareness raising or training events for take up and development of low carbon technologies	0.00	0.00
S	2.4	Number of participants in awareness raising or training events for take up and development of low carbon technologies	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.
Investment priority	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
Specific objective	2.1 - Increase the development and uptake of existing or new low-carbon technologies in the sectors that have the highest potential for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

Table 1: Result indicators - 2.4f.2.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
2.1	Level of performance in the development and uptake of new or existing low-carbon technologies and services.	%	47.82	2015	51.82			As indicated in Annex 4 of the Cooperation Programme, collection of qualitative data is not due to take place until the preparation of the 2018 Implementation report.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1	Level of performance in the development and uptake of new or existing low-carbon technologies and services.	0.00		0.00	

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.6c

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	240,000.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	240,000.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	3.1	Number of innovative products/services that result from projects enhancing common cultural & natural assets	Number of new or enhanced products/services.	55.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	3.1	Number of innovative products/services that result from projects enhancing common cultural & natural assets	Number of new or enhanced products/services.	55.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00
F	3.1	Number of innovative products/services that result from projects enhancing common cultural & natural assets	0.00	0.00
S	3.1	Number of innovative products/services that result from projects enhancing common cultural & natural assets	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	3.1 - Realise the potential of the common natural and cultural assets to deliver innovative and sustainable growth

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.6c.3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
3.1	Level of performance in the delivery of innovative and sustainable economic activities which enhance common cultural and natural assets	%	65.43	2015	65.93	0.00		As indicated in Annex 4 of the Cooperation Programme, collection of qualitative data is not due to take place until the preparation of the 2018 Implementation report.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.1	Level of performance in the delivery of innovative and sustainable economic activities which enhance common cultural and natural assets	0.00		0.00	

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 3.6d

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of institutions.	65.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of institutions.	65.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016.
F	3.3	Number of pilot operations aimed at the enhancement and protection of the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of pilot operations	10.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016.
S	3.3	Number of pilot operations aimed at the enhancement and protection of the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of pilot operations	10.00	0.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	0.00	0.00
S	3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	0.00	0.00
F	3.3	Number of pilot operations aimed at the enhancement and protection of the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	0.00	0.00
S	3.3	Number of pilot operations aimed at the enhancement and protection of the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	0.00	0.00

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Specific objective	3.2 - Enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems

Table 1: Result indicators - 3.6d.3.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
3.2	Percentage of transitional and coastal water bodies with good or high ecological status	%	44.08	2015	53.55			As indicated in Annex 4 of the Cooperation Programme, collection of qualitative data is not due to take place until the preparation of the 2018 Implementation report.

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.2	Percentage of transitional and coastal water bodies with good or high ecological status	0.00		0.00	

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators - 4.Technical Assistance

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	5.1.1	Number of animation measures to stimulate the generation of projects	Number		87.00	
S	5.1.1	Number of animation measures to stimulate the generation of projects	Number		0.00	
F	5.1.2	Number of crossborder applications submitted to the Programme	Number		100.00	2016 number is comprised of 25 Phase 1 applications, of which 2 were considered ineligible. Additionally 13 Phase 2 projects submitted their application during this year, all of which were considered eligible.
S	5.1.2	Number of crossborder applications submitted to the Programme	Number		0.00	
F	5.1.3	Number of crossborder cooperation projects selected	Number		1.00	This number only counts projects with an unconditional approval for their Phase 2 application. An additional 3 projects have been agreed in principle, with conditions that must be met before the committee will authorise Grant Offer Letters to be issued. These are therefore not counted as formally approved for this project.
S	5.1.3	Number of crossborder cooperation projects selected	Number		0.00	
F	5.2.1	Number of progress reports monitored and leading to payment	Number		0.00	
S	5.2.1	Number of progress reports monitored and leading to payment	Number		0.00	
F	5.2.2	Number of employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		0.00	
S	5.2.2	Number of employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		22.20	This figure includes 1 employee currently on maternity leave. There is currently 1 vacancy in the JS to replace a facilitator that has moved on to new employment.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	5.1.1	Number of animation measures to stimulate the generation of projects	41.00	12.00
S	5.1.1	Number of animation measures to stimulate the generation of projects	0.00	0.00
F	5.1.2	Number of crossborder applications submitted to the Programme	62.00	0.00
S	5.1.2	Number of crossborder applications submitted to the Programme	0.00	0.00
F	5.1.3	Number of crossborder cooperation projects selected	0.00	0.00
S	5.1.3	Number of crossborder cooperation projects selected	0.00	0.00
F	5.2.1	Number of progress reports monitored and leading to payment	0.00	0.00
S	5.2.1	Number of progress reports monitored and leading to payment	0.00	0.00
F	5.2.2	Number of employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	0.00	0.00
S	5.2.2	Number of employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA		

(1) S=Cumulative value - outputs to be delivered by selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries], F=Cumulative value - outputs delivered by operations [actual achievement]

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	4.1 - To support the development of high quality projects, built by robust partnerships focusing on delivering the change and intended outcomes of the programme objectives.

Table 1: Result indicators - 4.4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
N/A	N/A	N/A	1.00	2014	2.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
N/A	N/A				

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
Specific objective	4.2 - To provide a compliance, audit and payment regime with high standards of probity systems that will minimise risk to the European Union and Member State funds

Table 1: Result indicators - 4.4.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
N/A2	N/A2	N/A2	1.00	2014	2.00			

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
N/A2	N/A2				

3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone 2018 total	for	Final target (2023) total	2016	Observations
1	O	CO45	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	Persons	875		7,000.00	0.00	
1	F	1	Expenditure Certified	€	18,720,012		149,760,094.00	0.00	
1	I	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	4			0.00	
1	I	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	2			0.00	
1	O	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0		30.00	0.00	
1	O	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0		10.00	0.00	
2	F	2	Expenditure Certified	€	7,488,004.63		59,904,037.00	0.00	
2	I	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems being designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	3			0.00	
2	I	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems being produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	1			0.00	
2	O	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0		20.00	0.00	
2	O	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems.	0		5.00	0.00	
3	F	3	Expenditure Certified	€	11,232,007		89,856,057.00	0.00	
3	I	3.1	Number of innovative products/services under development	Number of products/services under development	7			0.00	
3	I	3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported or being supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of institutions	9			0.00	
3	O	3.1	Number of innovative products/services that result from projects enhancing common cultural & natural assets	Number of new or enhanced products/services.	0		55.00	0.00	
3	O	3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of institutions.	0		65.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
1	O	CO45	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	Persons	0.00	0.00
1	F	1	Expenditure Certified	€	0.00	0.00
1	I	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	0.00	0.00
1	I	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	0.00	0.00
1	O	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0.00	0.00
1	O	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0.00	0.00
2	F	2	Expenditure Certified	€	0.00	0.00
2	I	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems being designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	0.00	0.00
2	I	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems being produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	0.00	0.00
2	O	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0.00	0.00
2	O	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems.	0.00	0.00
3	F	3	Expenditure Certified	€	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
3	I	3.1	Number of innovative products/services under development	Number of products/services under development	0.00	0.00
3	I	3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported or being supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of institutions	0.00	0.00
3	O	3.1	Number of innovative products/services that result from projects enhancing common cultural & natural assets	Number of new or enhanced products/services.	0.00	0.00
3	O	3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of institutions.	0.00	0.00

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	Total	149,760,094.00	70.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
2	ERDF	Total	59,904,037.00	70.00	8,000,062.52	13.35%	7,964,080.52	0.00	0.00%	1
3	ERDF	Total	89,856,057.00	70.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
4	ERDF	Total	15,744,490.00	85.00	15,744,490.00	100.00%	15,744,490.00	0.00	0.00%	1
Total	ERDF		315,264,678.00	70.75	23,744,552.52	7.53%	23,708,570.52	0.00	0.00%	2
Grand total			315,264,678.00	70.75	23,744,552.52	7.53%	23,708,570.52	0.00	0.00%	2

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

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Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by eneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF												
2	ERDF	065	01	03	07	04		10	FR523	8,000,062.52	7,964,080.52	0.00	1
3	ERDF												
4	ERDF	121	01	07	07			18	UKH13	5,248,164.00	5,248,164.00	0.00	1
4	ERDF	122	01	07	07			18	UKH13	5,248,163.00	5,248,163.00		1
4	ERDF	123	01	07	07			18	UKH13	5,248,163.00	5,248,163.00	0.00	1

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
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(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

No evaluations of the Programme have been carried out in 2016. The first evaluations are expected to begin in 2017.

Name	Fund	From month	From year	To month	To year	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings
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5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

Implementation difficulties:

The largest issue having a significant impact on Programme performance was the EU referendum in the UK on June 23rd. Although it is too soon to assess the impact of Brexit on Programme Performance, the uncertainty following the referendum affected all potential applicants. Many project applicants raised concerns to the Programme and some UK applicants decided to withdraw from EU funded Programmes until further guarantees were given. These guarantees were given late in the year (October 3rd), which explains the fall in the number of projects coming forward to our last call, closing on October 13th.

The difficulties in recruiting a Comms officer has been partially addressed by filling in the role with different JS staff. It is difficult to evaluate to what extent it may have limited the promotion of the Programme to potential applicants.

From one call to another, the Programme has observed a fall in the number of Phase 1 projects submitted. This affects the commitment targets set per SSC. Although the approval rate has increased, the rate is still low. Project applicants have had difficulty making the shift from the previous Programming period to the expectations of the new Programme in relation to results based programming, and the need for projects to have a clear impact in relation to Europe 2020 goals (especially at Phase 1). At Phase 2, project applicants have sometimes not responded fully to the Phase 1 recommendations made by the SSC. This has resulted in projects being rejected at Phase 2. For Phase 2 applications not fully meeting the SSC's expectations, an amendment to the Programme's rules was made by the PMC creating a refer-back procedure at Phase 2. This avoids projects having to resubmit a Phase 1 where the committee is not comfortable that the application and work plan are of sufficient quality to guarantee project delivery, but considers the projects core principles are of sufficient quality that they wish to see the project resubmitted.

With the first Phase 2 project approved in June 2016, and 3 more approved with conditions in November 2016, the Managing Authority was not in a position to sign the Grant Offer Letters of those projects. The signature of Grant Offer Letters is expected early 2017. This has delayed the contractual start of the project and therefore delayed the grant spend, potentially having an impact on N+3 targets.

During the SSC in June 2016, the Committee members disagreed on the quality standard to be applied to Phase 1 projects, leading to a delay in projects being selected at Phase 1. To resolve these disagreements, the Managing Authority arranged for INTERACT to host workshops with the committee members in order to discuss expected standards for projects, with the first taking place in September 2016.

Measures taken:

It was important for the Programme to communicate as soon as possible on the outcome of Brexit and reassure project applicants that the Programme will continue supporting cross-border cooperation projects. The Programme is working closely with DCLG and BEIS to provide clarity and give guarantees to applicants where possible. Facilitators helped to communicate key news around Brexit, especially following the October 3rd Statement from the UK Government confirming it guarantees that if a project is contracted whilst the UK

remains in the EU, project partners from the UK will have their full funding guaranteed. This includes the ERDF and ETC. Although this announcement was only made shortly before the 4th call for closed, a few Phase 1 projects were still submitted (11), demonstrating that some project applicants are still interested in accessing funds for cross border cooperation.

With the difficulties in recruiting a Comms Officer, the promotion of the Programme was carried out by JS Staff on Social Media Channels (Twitter, LinkedIn, Programme website). The Communication Strategy was approved by PMC in November 2016. The JS also organised a series of events to promote the Programme, including the annual event in Dorking on the 19th of May with more than 100 participants in attendance. The agenda included presentations from JS staff, and French and English experts on each Specific Objective of the Programme. A workshop dedicated to those “New to Interreg” was also held in both languages. Also, 8 thematic workshops on Specific Objective 3.2 on coastal and water eco-systems were organised across the eligible area. A cross-border event, based on the findings of the local workshops, was then organised in Caen on June 16th to bring together project applicants and foster project ideas on the thematic. 90 participants attended the cross-border event. This event also enabled us to address weaknesses in projects relating to this SO.

In order to improve the acceptance rate at Phase 1, 8 bid writing workshops were organised to explain what a good application looks like. 158 attended the workshops with an average of 20 per workshop. The feedback from participants was very positive, and they also asked the JS for more networking opportunities. Alongside this, the lessons learned from each call, identifying common mistakes in applications, was published on the website.

Significant challenges related to the Management Information System were encountered, including significant delays in delivering the full functionality required. The decision was made to change from Synergie CTE to eMS, designed by INTERACT. A supplier was appointed following a procurement procedure to support the JS. The eMS Phase 1 online application was ready for our last call of the year 2016. However, the Phase 2 online application form was not ready so the Programme accepted Phase 2 applications submitted in Word, PDF and Excel format, which were then uploaded to the secure members section of our website for SSC members to access. The transition to eMS has created significant work for the JS but it is expected that eMS will be fully operational mid-2017.

Within the JS internal processes, and before any formal project submission has taken place, facilitators are allocated a Finance and Appraisal Officer (FAO) to review the draft application form of each project for informal feedback. In order to comply with separation of functions, the FAO who has carried the informal feedback will not be allocated to the appraisal of the project. This process was put in place to increase the quality of the projects by having an independent review of the project before submission. The same process was adopted for Phase 2 applications. The aim is to increase the success rate of projects.

A new micro-projects scheme has been set up to encourage smaller organisations, including SMEs and charitable organisations, to take part in the Programme. It is hoped that the smaller projects under this scheme will be able to launch and implement faster than common projects. The launch of this scheme will take place early 2017 with a first call for projects in April 2017.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

With the Programme not yet in a position to sign Grant Offer Letters for projects approved at Phase 2, it is difficult to assess whether sufficient progress has been made to reach the programme targets (Result indicators, Outputs indicators). The projects have not started implementing their activities yet.

However, the JS has developed a series of monitoring tools to forecast the progress made, both for output indicators and for N+3 targets. Regarding output indicators, 10 out of 17 Output indicators are expected to meet the targets set. The other 7 are being contributed to but underperforming at the moment. This will be monitored and updated with the next two calls in 2017 and through the call for Micro-projects which will also contribute to those Output indicators.

As far as financial targets are concerned (N+3), the Joint Secretariat has developed a tool to monitor the ERDF commitment for projects, taking into account the projects' start date, expected submission of payment claims and expected certification of expenditures. This tool will be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in March 2017. It is anticipated that this tool will be updated after each call, each JS panel and each SSC to make sure accurate and the most up-to-date data is used and communicated to Member States taking part in the Programme Monitoring Committee and to the European Commission. This tool also allows us to anticipate any risk of decommitment.

As already mentioned, Brexit could have a significant impact on the Programme meeting its targets if the Programme is not able to sign Grant Offer Letters after March 2019. There are already concerns over decommitment, in both scenarios (early end to commitment in 2019, or commitment up until the end of 2020). Therefore the Programme is investigating options to increase the commitment of ERDF which will be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in March 2017.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
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Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

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9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.
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Due to the late start in the programme arising from the delays identified in the previous Implementation Report, and due to the Brexit context, the programme is not sufficiently advanced to enable us to present a clear picture of progress towards performance goals. An early assessment of the implementation of the programme was begun in December 2016 and the results of this assessment will be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in March 2017.

Information on achieving the Programme Result Indicators will be included in the 2019 AIR once programme evaluations have been completed, as set out in Annex 4 of the Cooperation Programme.

Based on the current pipeline of projects that have been approved as outline applications and are developing their full application, the output indicators for SO1.1 and 1.2 should be met and exceeded by the end of the programme. It is also expected that the programme will meet its milestone targets for the end of 2018

Investment targeted at smart specialisation sectors complements domestic strategic priorities with investments foreseen in several advanced manufacturing projects over the next year, including new technological products, robotic aids to manufacturing, and advanced chemical manufacturing.

These are areas which are considered relevant to the wider economic development of the programme area.

Priority axis	2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.
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Due to the late start in the programme arising from the delays identified in the previous Implementation Report, and due to the Brexit context, the programme is not sufficiently advanced to enable us to present a clear picture of progress towards performance goals. An early assessment of the implementation of the programme was begun in December 2016 and the results of this assessment will be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in March 2017.

Information on achieving the Programme Result Indicators will be included in the 2019 AIR once programme evaluations have been completed, as set out in Annex 4 of the Cooperation Programme.

Based on the current pipeline of projects that have been approved as outline applications and are developing their full application, the output indicators should will be met and exceeded by the end of the

programme. It is also expected that the programme will meet its milestone targets for the end of 2018.

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.
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Due to the late start in the programme arising from the delays identified in the previous Implementation Report, and due to the Brexit context, the programme is not sufficiently advanced to enable us to present a clear picture of progress towards performance goals. An early assessment of the implementation of the programme was begun in December 2016 and the results of this assessment will be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in March 2017.

Information on achieving the Programme Result Indicators will be included in the 2019 AIR once programme evaluations have been completed, as set out in Annex 4 of the Cooperation Programme.

Based on the current pipeline of projects that have been approved as outline applications and are developing their full application, the output indicators for SO3.2 should will be met and exceeded by the end of the programme. For SO3.1 the current pipeline of projects are projecting to far exceed CO9 for number of visitors, however there is a lower level of delivery against the indicator 3.1 (new products and services).

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
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Due to the late start in the programme arising from the delays identified in the previous Implementation Report, and due to the Brexit context, the programme is not sufficiently advanced to enable us to present a clear picture of progress towards performance goals. An early assessment of the implementation of the programme was begun in December 2016 and the results of this assessment will be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee in March 2017.

Information on achieving the Programme Result Indicators will be included in the 2019 AIR once programme evaluations have been completed, as set out in Annex 4 of the Cooperation Programme.

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

The Programme pursues the objective of equality between men and women both at Programme level and at Project level. At Programme level, as stated in the Cooperation Programme, it is the Programme Monitoring Committee's responsibility to review the actions in relation to equality, non-discrimination and sustainable development. The Managing Authority is committed to carrying out the function of drawing up and ensuring that appropriate selection procedures and criteria are applied that take into account the general principles of equality between men and women and sustainable development.

Therefore, project applicants are required to include a statement on the impact of their project horizontal principles (equality between men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and sustainable development). In the Application Form Phase 2, project applicants are required to demonstrate their contribution to improving, and enforcing those principles and the PMC agreed this as an assessment criteria of projects, irrespective of the Specific Objective.

The promotion of equal opportunities is one of the missions of all MA and JS Staff as mentioned in their Job description and in accordance with Norfolk County Council's guidelines and managing ethos.

Specifically, for Specific Objective 1.2 on *Increasing the quality and effectiveness of service delivery to the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups through social innovation*, one of the Output indicators measures the number of participants involved in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion beyond borders. Based on the current pipeline of projects that have been approved as outline applications and are developing their full application, this output indicators should will be met and exceeded by the end of the programme

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

There is a strong focus on sustainable development in the Cooperation Programme. The goal of the France (Channel) Programme is to “*harness the potential of cross-border cooperation to contribute to the balanced and sustainable development of the cooperation area, and more widely, to the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the European Union*”. In addition, relevant bodies responsible for sustainable development were consulted and contributed to the development of the Cooperation Programme.

At Programme level, it is the Programme Monitoring Committee’s responsibility to review the actions in relation to equality, non-discrimination and sustainable development. The Managing Authority is committed to carrying out the function of drawing up and ensuring that appropriate selection procedures and criteria are applied that take into account the general principles of equality between men and women and sustainable development.

The Programme supports activity that promotes sustainable development and creates sustainable communities by safeguarding, and requiring the sustainable use of existing resources to enhance the long-term management of, and investment in, human, social and environmental resources for future generations. The Programme has been subject to a Strategic Environment Assessment.

Therefore, project applicants are required to include a statement on the impact of their project horizontal principles (equality between men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and sustainable development). In the Phase 2 application Form, project applicants are required to demonstrate their contribution to improving, enforcing those principles and the PMC has agreed this as an assessment criteria of projects, irrespective of the Specific Objective. The potential environmental impact of projects is assessed during the selection of projects by assessing how the proposed actions take into account environmental protection requirements (including addressing soil, water and air pollution), resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management. Thus, consideration is given to the projects adherence to the principles and objectives of sustainable development; as well as the associated environmental costs and benefits resulting during project selection.

In addition, during 2016 a particular effort was made to promote the Specific Objective 3.2 of the Programme, relating to sustainable use of the natural environment by improving the management of Coastal and Transitional Water Ecosystems, which has substantially boosted the programme pipeline of projects in this area.

The full impact of these measures will only be known in future years, due to the early stages that all projects are in. There is scope within the evaluation plan and planned evaluation contracts for this to be assessed.

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
2	5,600,043.78	13.35%
Total	5,600,043.78	2.51%

Overall contribution to the climate change objectives will be included in the Programme Evaluation. Currently the programme has committed 8,000,062.52€, of which 5,499,342.93€ is ERDF, to projects falling under categories of intervention which are considered to make 100% contribution to climate change objectives. This amount is committed under Category of Intervention 065. Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy.

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

France

The French Partners of the Interreg VA France (Channel) England Programme consist of;

- Regional Councils of Brittany, Hauts de France and Normandy
- Departmental Councils of Calvados, Côtes d'Armor, Eure, Finistere, Ille-et-Vilaine, Manche, Morbihan, Oise, Orne, Pas-de-Calais, Seine-Maritime, and Somme.
- The Préfecture of Normandy

The members of the French delegation is drawn from the partners mentioned above.

Before each PMC, all of the members of the French partners meet to develop a single position concerning the decisions to be taken at the Committee.

Each member of the French delegation consults their services connected with the thematic issues. Civil Society can equally be consulted by the partners of the French Delegation.

For example the Regional Council of Brittany has involved the Council Economic, Social and Environmental Regional (CESER) of Brittany to understand the possible consequences of Brexit for Brittany through an analysis of the diversity and the richness of existing relationships between Brittany and the United Kingdom. This analysis is cross sectorial with the objective of enabling public bodies and businesses to be proactive and bring forward ideas. The report can be viewed on the website of the Regional Council for Brittany

http://www.bretagne.bzh/jcms/prod_379516/fr/et-apres-les-enjeux-du-brexit-pour-la-bretagne

United Kingdom

The UK, through DCLG operates a standard model for partner involvement in ETC programmes for all ETC programmes in England. This has three levels;

- The PMC delegation, which attends the PMC meetings and SSC meetings
- The UK sub Committees, which meet to agree a common position for the delegations attending the PMC and SSC meetings. This group has a wider membership than the delegation

- A Wider UK ETC engagement forum, for considering the higher level issues surrounding ETC, and meeting once a year, with a wider membership than either of the other groups.

Invitations to join these groups was sent to the national ESIF committees, which comprise over 500 organisations, including Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Authorities, Regulatory Authorities such as the Environment Agency, and Civil Society Representatives.

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

In accordance with Article 114(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013, the France (Channel) England Evaluation Plan was submitted to the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) within one year of the adoption of the Cooperation Programme and was approved by the PMC on the 18th October 2016.

The Evaluation Plan was developed on the basis of guidance published by Interact and by the Evaluation Unit at DG Regio. As such it included a description of the types of evaluation, the roles and responsibilities of different programme bodies related to evaluation, sources of evaluation expertise, data collection systems, quality management and planned evaluations and timings. With regards the evaluation approach set out in the Evaluation Plan, the France (Channel) England proposes to have two main evaluations, one evaluating the impact of the Programme, the other evaluating Programme implementation although the provision to carry out ad hoc evaluations as required is also incorporated.

Since the approval of the Evaluation Plan the following actions have taken place in its implementation:

Implementation Evaluation

The implementation evaluation is scheduled to take place in two phases, the first phase in 2017, the second in 2018. Each one will cover different aspects of programme implementation.

The first phase has already begun. Responding to circumstances referred to in other sections of this document, this phase is focused on evaluating programme delivery. Specifically, it will assess whether the programme is on track to meet its delivery targets and if not why, as well as providing an evidence base for proposals to improve programme delivery and any adjustments to programme targets. This evaluation has a deliberately narrow scope in order to develop findings which can be acted upon as soon as possible. The evaluation framework setting out the evaluation activities was developed in December 2016, with the activities to begin in the January 2017. The PMC held in March 2017 will decide whether changes to programme implementation should take place based on proposals to improve programme delivery stemming from the evaluation activities.

The method used for this evaluation, as well as its findings will be reviewed by external evaluators (contract scheduled to begin in summer 2017). This review will inform the method adopted for Phase 2 of the implementation evaluation in 2018.

Impact Evaluation

The impact evaluation will be carried out by external evaluators. As mentioned above, the contract for the evaluators is scheduled to begin in summer 2017 with the first deliverables scheduled for August/September 2017. These first deliverables include both an inception report on how the provider will carry out the impact evaluations, and a proposal for any data collection mechanisms which need to be put

in place for gathering data for evaluation.

The method used for this evaluation, as well as its findings will be reviewed by external evaluators (contract scheduled to begin in summer 2017). This review will inform the method adopted for Phase 2 of the implementation evaluation.

Status	Name	Fund	Year of finalizing evaluation	Type of evaluation	Thematic objective	Topic	Findings (in case of execution)	Follow up (in case of execution)
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10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

The following section will outline the key communication activities that took place during 2016 and the results of these activities. It will also provide an update on the cost of Communication activities in 2016.

Before going into the details of the activities, here is a reminder of the Communication Objectives for the France (Channel) England Programme:

1. To increase awareness and understanding of the FCE Programme
2. To support project partners in their communication activities to promote project results
3. To publicise the results of the FCE projects to the citizens of the FCE area

The following activities were carried out in-line with these objectives.

1.1. Events

During 2016 the Programme organised a series of events to help raise awareness of the Programme to potential applicants and to increase the quality of project applications. Below is a summary of the events that took place in 2016.

- **8 bid-writing workshops (February)** - *Ille-et-Vilaine, Calvados, Seine-Maritime, Somme, Suffolk, Medway, Wiltshire, Devon*

Bid-writing workshops were hosted in both France (4) and England (4). These consisted of practical workshops that provided applicants with useful hints and tips on how to write a successful application. Number of attendees 158

- **1 Launch Event (May)** – *Surrey*

In-line with EU regulations the Programme hosted its launch event in September 2016. The event focused on introducing the Programme and its objectives to relevant stakeholders, including potential applicants and politicians. Number of attendees 100

- **7 Coastal and Transitional water ecosystems workshops (April)** – *Plymouth, Dorset, East Sussex, Essex, Pas-de-Calais, Calvados, Finistère*

In 2016 the Programme focused a number of events around the Programme's Specific Objective 3.2. This included 7 workshops held in both France (3) and England (4) that aimed to increase the number of high quality projects submitted under this specific objective. Number of attendees 144

- **1 Coastal and Transitional water ecosystems cross-border event (June)** – *Normandy*

Following on from the cross-border workshops, the Programme organised a cross-border event to help organisations find relevant partners and help them kick-start their project applications. Number of attendees 90.

After the events feedback from attendees was gathered and collated. The feedback has been very positive. Details of the feedback from a selection of events can be found below.

Cross-Border Event

When asked whether the event content was relevant to their needs, 93% of respondents to the survey agreed with 33% strongly agreeing. When asked if attendees were satisfied with the event 89% responded yes.

Annual Event

87% of survey respondents found the event content useful with 11% strongly agreeing with this statement. When asked if they were satisfied with the event 92% of respondents answered yes, with 19% strongly agreeing with the statement.

1.2. Social Media

A large part of the Programme's communication activities have been through its presence on Social Media. The Programme currently has accounts on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Twitter

In 2016 the Programme posted **192 tweets** to help publicise the activities and opportunities linked to the Programme. The Programme's Twitter profile received **9532 profile visits** and now has **374 followers**.

LinkedIn

In 2016 a LinkedIn showcase page was created as part of Managing Authority, Norfolk County Council's account page. The page was used as an effective way to publicise calls to the professional audience on LinkedIn, as well as another channel to share any updates from the Programme. The page was visited **340 times** in 2016 and now has **245 followers**. Several posts also achieved **engagement rates of over 10%**.

1.3. Website and Newsletter

Website

The website is one of the Programme's primary communication tools, with it hosting all the necessary information and documents for potential applicants. It also provides clear and concise descriptions about the Programme and its objectives for the general public.

News stories are also regularly posted to the website to keep visitors informed on the latest developments within the Programme. In 2016 **29 news stories** were posted to the website.

The programme also publishes a "lessons learned" after each call on the programme website, highlighting common mistakes in application forms.

In 2016 two additional pages were added to the website. A 'Find a Partner' page was created to host project applications that are looking for additional partners, and an 'interested parties' page for organisations that are interested in working on a cross-border project. Both pages have been popular with applicants with the 'Find a Partner' page currently hosting 8 project applications and the 'interested parties' page holding 13 interested organisations. It is hoped that these pages will continue to help organisations find the relevant partners they need for their projects.

Since the addition of Google Analytics to the website in March 2016, the website has had **7,892 different users** (up to 31 December 2016). There is a relatively even split between **French (36%)** and **British (46%)** visitors to the website. Popular pages of interest include 'Downloadable documents', 'About the Programme' and 'How to Apply'.

Newsletter

Every year the Programme produces two newsletters. This was the case again in 2016 with the newsletter published in March and September. As well as it being posted to our website and across social media, the newsletters were sent out to a mailing list containing partners, interested applicants and people who has signed up via our website. This current mailing list contains 198 readers.

1.4. Media Coverage

The Programme released three press releases during 2016. This was largely due to the small number of projects approved. The ICE project was covered by the financial French newspaper La Tribune, which has a circulation of over **531,000 copies**.

It is hoped that this number will increase in 2017 in-line with an increased number of approved projects.

1.5. Communications Officer Recruitment

In November 2016 the Programme successfully recruited a Communications Officer, following two unsuccessful attempts in 2015 and early 2016. This will help drive forward communication activities in 2017.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

11.1. Progress in the implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development, and community led local development under the cooperation programme

N/A

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

N/A

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

As identified in section 4.4 of the Cooperation Programme, the programme area partially falls within the area of the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, and therefore seeks to align with this where possible. However at the same time a large part of the programme area is outside the area of the Atlantic area, and it has a broader focus that simply maritime issues.

The programme has a pipeline of projects that are likely to contribute to the Atlantic Strategy Objectives. Currently it has approved 1 project that contributed to the Strategy by focusing on the use of renewable energy in remote locations, such as islands and isolated coastal communities, including the use of tidal energy. This contributes towards *exploitation of the renewable energy potential of the Atlantic area's marine and coastal environment* under Priority 2 of the Strategy.

By the nature of the partnership working in the programme, this also contributes to Priority 1 by "*sharing knowledge between higher education organisations, companies and research centres.*"

The programme has also held, as detailed elsewhere in this report, a series of events promoting projects under Specific Objective 3.2 relating to protection of transitional and coastal water ecosystems. The precise nature of the projects arising from this work is not yet fully known, however there are a number of projects approved at Phase 1 that could contribute to *sustainable management of marine resources* under Priority 2.

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

Priority(s) and objective(s) that the programme is relevant to:

	Priority	Objective
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.1 - Sharing knowledge between higher education organisations, companies and research centers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.2 - Enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacities in the maritime economy of the Atlantic area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.3 - Fostering adaptation and diversification of economic activities by promoting the potential of the Atlantic area
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.1 - Improving maritime safety and security
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.2 - Exploring and protecting marine waters and coastal zones
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.3 - Sustainable management of marine resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.4 - Exploitation of the renewable energy potential of the Atlantic area's marine and coastal environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Improve accessibility and connectivity	3.1 - Promoting cooperation between ports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.1 - Fostering better knowledge of social challenges in the Atlantic area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.2 - Preserving and promoting the Atlantic's cultural heritage

Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the Atlantic SBS

A. Are the Sea Basin Strategic coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators or members, and/or Objective coordinators or members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?

Yes No

B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the ATLSBS?

Yes No

C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the ATLSBS?

Yes No

Approximate or exact amount in Euro invested in the ATLSBS::

ERDF	5,529,342.87
CF	0.00
ESF	0.00
EAFRD	0.00
EMFF	0.00
any other funds	0.00
name of "any other funds"	

D. Obtained results in relation to the ATLSBS (n.a. for 2016)

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11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

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13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

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**14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN
— PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

N/A

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Implementation report version has been validated