

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

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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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.

The Programme has continued to support the development of projects and approval of applications. Out of the €209.7m funding pot, €74m (35%) has been committed, leaving €135m (65%) of funding available. (Figures exclude Technical Assistance)

Projects approved in 2018

In 2018, 11 projects were approved (including four micro projects), for which the GOL was signed for 8 projects (of which 3 were Micro Projects). January 2018 saw the approval of the first micro project.

Projects submitted in 2018

In 2018, 16 applications (including 8 micro projects) were submitted. (An additional project was submitted as a regular project but approved as a modification (phase 2) to an existing project in 2019)

Please note that some projects were submitted in 2017 and considered in 2018, whilst others were submitted in 2018 and will be considered in 2019.

Over the Programme's lifetime

By the end of 2018, a total of 25 projects (including 4 micro projects) had been approved during the Programme's lifetime (for which the Grant Offer Letter had been signed for 21 projects).

By the end of 2018, a total of 112 project applications had been submitted over the Programme's lifetime (including 14 for micro projects). (As stated previously, an additional project was submitted as a regular project but approved as a modification to an existing project in 2019)

Selection Sub Committees

In 2018, four Selection Sub Committees were held – Westminster (30/01/18); Beauvais (27-28/03/18);

Portsmouth (26/06/18) and Maidstone (29/11/18).

Application process

A new single phase, application process was put in place in the second half of 2017 to replace the phase 1 and phase 2 application process. Under this new process, the first full applications were submitted in 2018.

This new process replaced calls during the year with an open, continuous call for regular projects, including the opportunity every two months for prospective applicants to submit an Intervention Logic Outline for informal feedback from the delegations.

ILOFs

In 2018, over the seven review periods, 21 Intervention Logics Outline forms were submitted (including one repeat) and received feedback from the SSC, of which 5 were then submitted as full applications in 2018 (and 10 have been submitted for consideration in 2019).

Micro project calls

Micro projects calls 3&4 were launched in 2018 (closing on 10/04/2018 and 24/10/2018). (The first two calls for micro projects were in 2017).

Funds committed

In 2018 the Programme committed €21, 825, 372 of ERDF

In 2017 the Programme committed €34,119,571 of ERDF

In 2016 the Programme committed €18,045,486 of ERDF

The Programme has so far committed €73,990,429 of ERDF (excluding TA commitments). (Projects for which a GOL have been signed account for €65,863.718.50 ERDF.)

The Technical Assistance so far accounts for €5,340,356.89 ERDF. Therefore, the total commitment so far is €79,330,785 ERDF.

Targeted projects

In 2017, the JS had started working towards a ‘targeted projects’ initiative, developing a number of large projects in a top-down approach on issues deemed important to the Programme area, and offering greater support to applicants. Four targeted labs were held in 2018 on: Green Hydrogen, Tourism, Tidal Energy and Plastics Pollution. The first targeted project application was made at the end of 2018 for consideration in 2019 on the theme of green hydrogen. Seven more applications stemming from the labs are in the project pipeline.

Programme Management

Staffing

The Joint Secretariat has faced staffing challenges during 2018 with 13 new staff members & 4 interns:

Following resignations, 5 facilitators joined the team, as did 5 Finance & Appraisal officers, a Deputy Programme Manager (Finance & Appraisal), a Deputy Programme Manager (Facilitation) and a Communications Officer. Some of these vacancies were open for a significant time. A new internship scheme was set up which saw four interns join to support the work of the JS.

Software

The Programme Management software, eMS that was introduced in 2017 continued to be used for applications, payment claims and reporting. eMS has been upgraded through two software updates. These upgrades have contributed new functionalities and improvements into eMS. Among other improvements: the software is now GDPR compliant, the procurement reporting page has been included and it has been enabled to enter modifications in eMS when reports are in progress without deleting the reports. The project modifications are gradually being transferred into eMS. The JS has also included some changes into the software in order to align it with the European Commission's and Programme requirements, eg. the typology of errors list has been updated following the revised list published by the Commission in December 2018.

Communication

Activities 2018:

- Targeted lab (cross-border events) - Hydrogen, Tourism & Tidal and Plastics Pollution – attended by more than 170 people in total)
- Information Session (Plymouth)
- Project partner training
- Social media campaign
- New website
- Print media & web advertising
- Publications/Info tools
 - Programme video
 - First Level Controller video
 - Programme leaflet
 - Targeted Projects handbooks & factsheets
 - Citizens Summary 2017
- 3 newsletters
- 6 e-shots excl. event invitations (3 months to Micro Project call, launch of Targeted Projects, new projects approved, meet the people behind the projects, future of cooperation survey, GDPR)

Awards – Project Vista AR and Project ICE were submitted to the DG Regio awards. Although not selected, DG Regio selected ICE as a good example of a project co-financed by Cohesion Policy and will be published on its online project database.

Although the Programme enjoyed rises in engagement on Twitter/LinkedIn/website, evaluation showed this did not have a significant impact on boosting the number of applications.

Synthesis of implementation difficulties

The largest barrier to implementation in 2018 was the continued uncertainty over Brexit, the impact of which has continued to be felt on the number of projects submitting an application, leading to a lower level of commitment than expected.

An announcement from the UK Government was made in July 2018 guaranteeing funding to all UK partners of projects approved by the end of 2020 in EU-funded programmes even in a no-deal Brexit. This gave some level of reassurance, and the Programme communicated widely on this development.

However, as 2018 passed and a deal had still not been reached, the looming Brexit deadline made for further uncertainty, prompting many questions from approved and potential partners, particularly to the Facilitation team, about the impact of a no-deal Brexit on their funding. The Programme was unable to give any further certainty or clarity in 2018 since the August announcement.

As part of efforts to counteract the negative impact, the marketing campaign was launched to encourage applicants to apply in 2017/2018.

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>The impact of Brexit was felt across all priority axes in 2018, with a lower number of projects submitting due to the uncertainties.</p> <p>The single-phase application process meant that potential applicants could use various mechanisms to contact the Facilitation team, including Project Idea forms on the website, as well as face-to-face meetings and email and phone contact.</p> <p>Project submissions for priority 1 in 2018: 11 applications (including 1 resubmission), 7 of which were Micro Projects (including the resubmission)</p> <p>Project approvals for priority 1 in 2018: 5 projects were approved (of which 2 were Micro Projects)</p> <p>Please note that some projects were submitted in 2017 and considered in 2018, whilst some were submitted in 2018 and will be considered in 2019.</p> <p>8 Intervention Logic Outlines were submitted.</p> <p>Cross-border targeted labs on Hydrogen, Plastics Pollution and Tidal energy enabled prospective partners to collaborate on developing projects under this priority (and/or other priorities).</p> <p>A cross border event was also held in Kent in the UK to generate interest in projects supporting refugees following the refugee crisis and correspondence from the EC prioritising the issue. Although 2 projects emerged from this event, to date no projects have been submitted.</p>
2	Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.	<p>The impact of Brexit was felt across all priority axes in 2018, with a lower number of projects submitting due to the uncertainties.</p> <p>Project submissions for priority 2 in 2018: 2 applications (1 of which was a Micro Project) The regular project is a targeted project focusing on Green Hydrogen (due to be considered in 2019). (In addition, another application was also submitted as a project but was approved as a modification to an existing project in 2019.)</p> <p>Project approvals for priority 2 in 2018: 2 projects were approved (both of which were Micro Projects)</p> <p>Please note that some projects were submitted in 2017 and considered in 2018, whilst some were submitted in 2018 and will be considered in 2019.</p> <p>7 Intervention Logic Outlines were submitted (including 1 resubmission).</p> <p>Cross-border targeted labs on Green Hydrogen, Plastics Pollution and Tidal energy enabled prospective partners to collaborate on developing projects under this priority (and/or other priorities).</p>
3	Enhance the attractiveness of	The impact of Brexit was felt across all priority axes in 2018, with a lower number of projects submitting due to

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
	territories within the FCE area.	<p>the uncertainties.</p> <p>Project submissions for priority 3 in 2018: 3 applications (including 1 resubmission) (0 of which were Micro Projects)</p> <p>Project approvals for priority 3 in 2018: Four projects were approved (0 of which were Micro Projects)</p> <p>Please note that some projects were submitted in 2017 and considered in 2018, whilst some were submitted in 2018 and will be considered in 2019.</p> <p>6 Intervention Logic Outlines were submitted.</p> <p>Cross-border targeted labs on Tourism and Plastics Pollution enabled prospective partners to collaborate on developing projects under this priority (and/or other priorities).</p>
4	Technical Assistance	<p>There is no change to the MA/CA/AA set up, all of which are based at Norfolk County Council.</p> <p>2018 saw the recruitment of 13 new staff, including two new Deputy Programme Managers. In addition, a new internship scheme was set up which introduced the first four interns to support the work of the JS.</p> <p>The Programme Management software, eMS that was introduced in 2017 continued to be used for applications, payment claims and reporting. It has been upgraded through two software updates.</p> <p>The main risks identified in our risk register were; Performance: slow programme delivery; the link between de-commitment and the TA budget; potential for early programme closure related to Brexit; concerns of prospective applicants over Brexit, fluctuation of the exchange rate from Euro to Pounds; and staff retention. A risk management plan is in place to control and mitigate against the impact of these risks.</p> <p>As shown in eMS, one payment claim for Technical Assistance was submitted in 2018 (the 3.1 claim for the period 10/2017 to 09/2018). This been sent to our FLCs for verification, but has not been certified or sent to the European Commission yet.</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	2018	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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	1,347,841.00	3,909,584.93	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016. 6 projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2017. 11 projects have been approved under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	21.00	25.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016. 6 projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2017. 11 projects have been approved under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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	6,300.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016. 6 projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2017. 11 projects have been approved under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
S	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	30.00	516.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016. 6 projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2017. 11 projects have been approved under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
S	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems	10.00	1,017.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016. 6 projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2017. 11 projects have been approved under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
S	1.3	Number of businesses and business intermediaries cooperating with research institutions	Number of businesses and intermediaries	20.00	130.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016. 6 projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2017. 11 projects have been approved under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	Observations
						2017. There are no fully completed operations under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
S	1.4	Number of innovative skill development and professional training schemes for disadvantaged people	Number of schemes	40.00	4.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016. 6 projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2017. 11 projects have been approved under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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	218.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016. 6 projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2017. 11 projects have been approved under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.
S	1.6	Number of socially innovative services designed	Number of services	5.00	27.00	No projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2016. 6 projects have been approved under priority 1 as of the 31st December 2017. 11 projects have been approved under this Priority as at 31st December 2018.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	974,251.21	0.00	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	0.00	0.00
S	CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	13.00	0.00	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	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	7,040.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	505.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	1,010.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.3	Number of businesses and business intermediaries cooperating with research institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.3	Number of businesses and business intermediaries cooperating with research institutions	82.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.4	Number of innovative skill development and professional training schemes for disadvantaged people	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.4	Number of innovative skill development and professional training schemes for disadvantaged people	4.00	0.00	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	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	136.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	1.6	Number of socially innovative services designed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	1.6	Number of socially innovative services designed	2.00	0.00	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	2018 Total	2018 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	48.19		The answer given previously by participants was assumed to be the same for any who did not respond this year. Alternative experts from the same organisations were sought to replace any who left since the Baseline survey was conducted.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
1.2	Level of quality and effectiveness of the service provided to disadvantaged groups	%	61.25	2015	61.75	45.61		The answer given previously by participants was assumed to be the same for any who did not respond this year. Alternative experts from the same organisations were sought to replace any who had left since the Baseline survey was conducted.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2	Level of quality and effectiveness of the service provided to disadvantaged groups								

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	2018	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 priority as at 31st December 2018.
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	16.00	5 projects have been approved under this priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as at 31st December 2018.
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	16.00	2 projects have been approved under priority 2 as of the 31st December 2017. 5 projects have been approved under this priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as at 31st December 2018.
S	2.3	Number of supported LCT multisectoral networks	Number of networks.	5.00	5.00	2 projects have been approved under priority 2 as of the 31st December 2017. 5 projects have been approved under this priority as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this priority as at 31st December 2018.
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	4,860.00	2 projects have been approved under priority 2 as of the 31st December 2017. 5 projects have been approved under this priority as at 31st December 2018.

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	7.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	7.00	6.00	0.00	0.00
F	2.3	Number of supported LCT multisectoral networks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	2.3	Number of supported LCT multisectoral networks	2.00	1.00	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	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	9,120.00	600.00	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	2018 Total	2018 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	46.87		The answer given previously by participants was assumed to be the same for any who did not respond this year. Alternative experts from the same organisations were sought to replace any who had left since the Baseline survey was conducted.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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.								

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

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2018	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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as at 31st December 2018.
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	407,675.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016. 2 projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2017. 3 projects have been approved under this objective as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as at 31st December 2018.
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	71.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016. 2 projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2017. 3 projects have been approved under this objective as at 31st December 2018.

(I)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	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	0.00	0.00
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	468,000.00	0.00	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	0.00	0.00
S	3.1	Number of innovative products/services that result from projects enhancing common cultural & natural assets	15.00	0.00	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	2018 Total	2018 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	66.34		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. The answer given previously by participants was assumed to be the same for any who did not respond this year. Alternative experts from the same organisations were sought to replace any who had left since the Baseline survey was conducted.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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								

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	2018	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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as at 31st December 2018.
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	479.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016. 3 projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2017. 6 projects have been approved under this objective as at 31st December 2018.
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. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as of 31st December 2017. There are no fully completed operations under this objective as at 31st December 2018.
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	15.00	No projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2016. 3 projects have been approved under priority 3 as of the 31st December 2017. 6 projects have been approved under this objective as at 31st December 2018.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	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	0.00	0.00
S	3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	205.00	0.00	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	0.00	0.00
S	3.3	Number of pilot operations aimed at the enhancement and protection of the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	5.00	0.00	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	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
3.2	Percentage of transitional and coastal water bodies with good or high ecological status	%	44.08	2015	53.55	42.11		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. The progress against this result indicator was assessed using the same method as that used to establish the baseline applied to the most recent data available.

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.2	Percentage of transitional and coastal water bodies with good or high ecological status								

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	2018	Observations
F	5.1.1	Number of animation measures to stimulate the generation of projects	Number		887.00	2018 includes 137 meetings with costs and 342 meetings/events with no cost related.
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		140.00	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. 2017 number is comprised of 6 Phase 1 applications, 6 Micro Project of which 1 were considered ineligible . Additionally 12 Phase 2 projects submitted their application during this year, all of which were considered eligible. 2018 includes 5 micro projects and 4 regular projects.
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		25.00	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. 2017 number is comprised of 12 Phase 2 applications fully approved (including 3 projects from 2016 that responded to conditions and 9 projects approved in 2017 and which responded to conditions when relevant in 2017) 2018 includes 3 projects for which the Grant Offer Letter has not yet been signed but the signature is not (anymore) subject to final approval of conditions by the SSC.
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		8.00	The first claim of the Technical assistance has been divided into 3 claims. The JS checklist has been signed off for 3 claims in 2017. Update 2018: This includes 5 reports for the Technical Assistance in total.
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		27.25	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. 2017: There are currently 2 vacancies in the JS to replace a facilitator and a FAO that have moved on to new employments. 2018: number at Dec-2018. This includes 23 FTE for the JS. Estimated figures for the CA (1.5), the AA (2.5) and the MA (0.25).

(1)	ID	Indicator	2017	2016	2015	2014
F	5.1.1	Number of animation measures to stimulate the generation of projects	408.00	87.00	41.00	12.00
S	5.1.1	Number of animation measures to stimulate the generation of projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	5.1.2	Number of crossborder applications submitted to the Programme	124.00	100.00	62.00	0.00
S	5.1.2	Number of crossborder applications submitted to the Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	5.1.3	Number of crossborder cooperation projects selected	13.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
S	5.1.3	Number of crossborder cooperation projects selected	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	5.2.1	Number of progress reports monitored and leading to payment	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	5.2.1	Number of progress reports monitored and leading to payment	0.00	0.00	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	0.00	0.00
S	5.2.2	Number of employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	19.00	22.20	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	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	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
N/A	N/A	N/A	1.00	2014	2.00			

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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	2018 Total	2018 Qualitative	Observations
N/A2	N/A2	N/A2	1.00	2014	2.00			

ID	Indicator	2017 Total	2017 Qualitative	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	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	2018	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	502,312.50	
1	I	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	4			516.00	
1	I	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	2			1,017.00	
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	1,019,663.70	
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			16.00	
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			16.00	
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	556,309.69	
3	I	3.1	Number of innovative products/services under development	Number of products/services under development	7			71.00	
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			479.00	
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	2017	2016	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			
1	F	1	Expenditure Certified	€	120,000.00			
1	I	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	505.00			
1	I	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	1,010.00			
1	O	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0.00			
1	O	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0.00			
2	F	2	Expenditure Certified	€	30,000.00			
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	13.00			
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	12.00			
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			

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2017	2016	2015	2014
				systems				
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			
3	F	3	Expenditure Certified	€	90,000.00			
3	I	3.1	Number of innovative products/services under development	Number of products/services under development	15.00			
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	205.00			
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			
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			

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	Total eligible expenditure incurred by beneficiaries and paid by 31/12/2018 and certified to the Commission
1	ERDF	Total	149,760,094.00	70.00	45,350,092.55	30.28%	40,141,826.46	36,020,062.32	24.05%	9	502,312.50
2	ERDF	Total	59,904,037.00	70.00	11,910,907.80	19.88%	11,200,288.97	9,056,055.83	15.12%	5	1,019,663.70
3	ERDF	Total	89,856,057.00	70.00	38,038,285.81	42.33%	35,322,251.05	28,995,289.27	32.27%	7	556,309.69
4	ERDF	Total	15,744,490.00	85.00	15,744,490.00	100.00%	15,744,490.00	3,909,017.38	24.83%	1	
Total	ERDF		315,264,678.00	70.75	111,043,776.16	35.22%	102,408,856.48	77,980,424.80	24.73%	22	2,078,285.89
Grand total			315,264,678.00	70.75	111,043,776.16	35.22%	102,408,856.48	77,980,424.80	24.73%	22	2,078,285.89

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)

N/A

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	060	01	01	07	01		06	FR232	10,669,165.78	9,545,652.28	8,410,923.61	2
1	ERDF	060	01	01	07	01		07	FR524	4,631,250.32	3,428,922.62	3,959,660.21	1
1	ERDF	060	01	01	07	01		07	UKJ32	5,768,425.74	5,737,979.44	4,019,960.02	1
1	ERDF	062	01	01	07	01		06	FR232	3,902,329.73	3,268,616.42	3,306,054.05	1
1	ERDF	064	01	01	07	01		24	UKJ4	506,943.55	444,206.48	458,371.91	1
1	ERDF	102	01	01	07	01		21	UKJ4	9,997,757.55	9,511,325.41	7,394,184.81	1
1	ERDF	102	01	01	07	01		23	UKJ31	5,823,672.26	4,932,141.73	4,919,164.34	1
1	ERDF	109	01	01	07	01		21	UKH12	4,050,547.62	3,272,982.08	3,551,743.37	1
2	ERDF	023	01	01	07	04		22	FR522	486,593.00	391,754.40	486,593.00	1
2	ERDF	023	01	01	07	04		22	FR523	481,139.95	396,069.96	460,061.95	1
2	ERDF	065	01	01	07	04		07	FR232	1,815,627.71	1,431,629.22	1,646,081.59	1
2	ERDF	065	01	01	07	04		08	UKK41	1,127,484.98	1,016,754.93	897,994.72	1
2	ERDF	065	01	03	07	04		10	FR523	8,000,062.16	7,964,080.46	5,565,324.57	1
3	ERDF	085	01	03	07	06		02	FR251	12,439,112.41	10,840,531.87	10,167,905.60	2
3	ERDF	085	01	03	07	06		22	UKJ24	4,019,357.20	3,340,576.95	3,461,436.68	1
3	ERDF	087	01	01	07	06		02	UKK41	3,787,243.58	3,787,243.58	2,622,498.03	1
3	ERDF	092	01	01	07	06		14	UKK41	5,641,170.25	5,394,865.44	4,148,012.23	1
3	ERDF	094	01	01	07	06		15	UKK43	7,826,353.06	7,633,983.90	5,601,852.74	1
3	ERDF	094	01	03	07	06		15	UKK43	4,325,049.31	4,325,049.31	2,993,583.99	1
4	ERDF	123	01	07	07			24	UKH1	15,744,490.00	15,744,490.00	3,909,017.38	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)
12	2,820,651.79	1.26%	276,257.81	0.12%

(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

As set out in its Evaluation Plan, The France (Channel) England (FCE) Programme's approach to Evaluation consists of 3 strands:

- An Implementation Evaluation o Assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of Programme implementation.

- o Part 1 taking place in 2017/2018

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- o Part 2 2018/2019

- o Carried out by Joint Secretariat (JS), but with methodological oversight from external experts

- An Impact Evaluation Assessing the results of the Programme and whether they represent the Programme's full potential given its resources and internal and external factors

- o Final report to be delivered 2022

- o Carried out by external evaluators

- An evaluation of the Potential of Future Cooperation in the FCE area o Aimed at informing discussions on cooperation in the Channel area, post-Brexit

- o Delivery scheduled for 2018, carried out by external experts.

-

A single procurement was carried out for all the external expertise required to conduct the evaluation activities. This was completed in June 2017.

Future of Cooperation Evaluation

Expected Deliverables in 2018:

- Inception Report (March 2018)

- Final Report (November 2018)

Inception Report

The inception report was approved in March 2018.

The approved inception report set out the questions that evaluation would address, the approach and delivery schedule.

Approved questions:

- What are the reasons for cooperation?
- What is the added-value of cooperation?
- What are the key conditions for cooperation?

Approved approach:

The aim of this evaluation is to contribute to the debate about the future of cooperation in the Channel

[Type here]

Area ahead of the submission of the full Impact Evaluation in 2022. In order to achieve this and in order to undertake a comprehensive review of cooperation between the UK and France, the as yet "incomplete" data from the current programming period will be supplemented with data from previous programming periods and other ETC and non-ETC programmes.

The following sources will be used:

- Existing studies
- Project databases
- Local strategies
- Survey of stakeholders

- Analysis of case studies

Approved schedule:

The inception report maintained a provisional November 2018 deadline. However, this was to be reassessed based on the development of the political context.

Draft Report

A draft report was delivered by the external evaluators in October 2018. Given the political context at the time, the date for the final version was agreed to be rescheduled for 2019. The Managing Authority (MA) and external evaluators met to discuss MA feedback and areas for improvement in March 2019. A second draft is scheduled for May/June 2019.

Implementation Evaluation

The second implementation evaluation to be conducted by the JS was scheduled by the JS for 2018/2019.

In response both to feedback on the 2017 Annual Implementation Report, and to recommendations as part of the external evaluators' performance review (see Impact Evaluation below), the JS work has focused on reviewing the output indicator targets in the Cooperation Programme.

The JS analysis has focused on why the Programme is overachieving in terms of Output Indicators despite underperforming in terms of financial performance. The two possible reasons analysed are:

- Overreporting by beneficiaries
- Inaccurate assumptions or calculations in the Performance Framework targets

The proposed approach and first findings on Priority 1 will be presented to the Programme Committee in April/May 2019. The full analysis applied to all Priorities will take place of the summer 2019.

Impact Evaluation

Under the Impact Evaluation strand of evaluation activities, the following activities were scheduled for 2018.

[Type here]

- Delivery of the Theory of Change by external evaluators
- Delivery of the First Performance Review by external evaluators

Theory of Change

This was based on a review of Programme documents and interviews conducted with the committee delegations. The Theory of Change was approved by the Managing Authority in April 2018.

First Performance Review

This was received and approved in April 2018. Its findings contributed to the selection of Implementation Evaluation topic by the JS (see above).

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

Brexit

The largest issue having a significant impact on Programme performance was Brexit, leading to a lower commitment level than expected. Many project applicants raised concerns to the Programme and some decided to delay their submission until there was further clarity around Brexit or to completely stop working on their project.

In March 2017, the PMC adopted measures to counterbalance this negative impact, and increase the level of commitment, working to the assumptions that all projects needed to be approved and contracted before March 2019, the probable date of the UK exiting the EU, and the deadline for the UK government guarantee of funding for UK partners. These measures were on: Improving the efficiency of processes; Communication.

Improving the efficiency of processes:

2018 saw the first full applications submitted under the new single-phase application process introduced in 2017, which includes the opportunity for applicants to submit an Intervention Logics Outline for feedback from the SSC every two months.

In 2018, 21 Intervention Logics Outline forms were submitted and received feedback from the SSC, of which 5 were submitted as full applications in 2018 (and 10 applications have been submitted for consideration in 2019).

The PMC also agreed in 2017 that the finance and appraisal officers would seek clarifications from projects during the appraisal processes, to help decision-making. The SSC is made aware of the clarifications requested and the responses made as part of the appraisal report. This has been working well through 2018 and speeding up the process.

Communication:

2018 saw the end of the communications campaign that had started in 2017. To support its action plan to get as many projects approved in 2017 and 2018 to minimise or avoid decommitment, the Programme needed to raise awareness amongst potential applicants about the funding opportunities. A large communication campaign was agreed by the PMC. It included events, paid social media advertising through LinkedIn and Twitter, a website update, print advertising and more creative content with a focus on videos (see section 2). This, however, did not have a significant impact on boosting applications.

The PMC's decision to ask the JS in November 2017 to start developing "targeted projects" started to come to

fruition in 2018. The targeted projects are large top-down projects concepts developed by the JS, with an objective to develop project ideas to respond to challenges identified in the Cooperation Programme.

The context, need definition and expected outputs were to be set out by the JS, while the detailed content of the work packages was to be defined by the partnership. The JS offers an enhanced support role, and the application forms are generally written by the lead partners.

The level of the support given varies on the need of the project (which can depend on a number of factors, including the lead partner's ability, capacity and experience) and the capacity of the JS, as targeted projects can be very time-intensive, particularly for the facilitators involved.

The themes of targeted projects are approved by the PMC. Four cross-border events (labs) were held in 2018 (hydrogen, tourism, tidal energy and plastics pollution). The first targeted project application has been made at the end of 2018 for consideration at an SSC in 2019 on the theme of green hydrogen. Seven more applications stemming from the labs are in the project pipeline.

The JS learned lessons from organising these labs, thereby improving the organisational and logistical aspects as each new lab was held – ranging from the day's activities, attendees, and how best to encourage collaboration and network to maximise any opportunities on the day or thereafter that may lead to projects.

In addition, the JS sends an update to the UK and French delegations on targeted projects in the pipeline, on a monthly basis.

The UK Government's announcement in July 2018 guaranteeing funding for UK partners of approved projects even in a no-deal Brexit was communicated widely by the JS. However, as a no-deal Brexit started looking more likely as 2018 wore on, there were no further updates thereafter that the JS could provide to potential applicants to provide a greater level of reassurance to applicants seeking this from the Facilitation team.

First Level Controllers

The recruitment of the first level controller for the French partners must go through a framework agreement procedure with competition from all providers selected by the French National Authority. In 2017, delays in the recovery of expenses the 2018 joint Secretariat and the National Authority worked together to minimise delays, and in December 2018 an explanatory video on a controller was put on our website to anticipate questions from French partners on the procedure.

Delays in payment claims

The JS saw a high number of errors in payment claims that had to be returned to First Level Controllers and

then resubmitted by project partners, which created additional workload for the JS. In addition to the low staffing levels since July 2018, this resulted in a backload of claims leading to delays in authorising payments to partners.

Measures taken saw the JS put an action plan in place in December 2018 to tackle this as a priority and maximise the number of staff working on processing the claims. The JS also recruited and trained additional staff to help deal with the claims as quickly as possible. The most critical payments were made urgently and the remainder were prioritised.

As a number of projects indicated that they would not be ready for the January 2019 project submission deadline, the JS delayed the April 2019 SSC (from April 2 to April 16), giving projects until the end of January to submit. The SSC from January 31 was also deferred to March. Partners and the delegations were kept informed with communications from the JS.

Staffing

Staff turnover has been high again in 2018, with 13 people joining the JS, (plus interns), therefore staff retention, which is an important risk in the risk register of the Programme, has had an impact on the implementation.

This has affected the Facilitation team, which has seen five of its eight members leave, with one of those vacancies continuing to prove difficult to recruit to (Brighton). The need for existing staff to cover wider areas of the programme in order to keep supporting applicants during staff changes, and supporting new colleagues, along with the higher level of support required for targeted projects, has created an increase in the team's workload. Added to this, the vacancy for Deputy Programme Manager was open for several months.

The Finance & Appraisal team also brought in five new members in 2018. This high staff turnover plus the wave of first payment claims of many projects, which had been submitted with a high rate of errors, put an additional burden on the team.

(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.

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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

N/A

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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Priority 1 € 68.5m remains available from € 104.8m : 35% spent, 65% available (which is 33% of total original budget)

Priority 1 budget shows that it still has the largest amount left to be allocated (€ 68.5m), which is 33% of total original budget - the same percentage/amount left as the sum total of the other two priorities.

In previous years, the Programme targeted specific objectives or geographical areas that were under-represented. The figures show the importance of allocating funds to Priority 1 in the coming year to balance the spread of projects across all three priority axes of the Programme.

Priority axis	2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.
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Priority 2 € 33.5m remains available from € 41.9m : 20% spent, 80% available (which is 16% of total original budget)

It is clear that Priority 2 has the highest **percentage** of funding remaining at 80%. However, Priorities 2 and 3 have similar amounts of funding still to be allocated.

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.
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Priority 3 € 32.9m remains available from € 62.9m : 48% spent, 52% available (which is 16% of total original budget)

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
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(Figures do not include Technical Assistance)

Technical Assistance

Priority was given to recruiting extra staff and returning staffing levels to near-capacity. This enabled the

JS to improve their efficiency across all tasks to achieve the objectives of the programme.

A full programme of communication activities was delivered in 2018 to achieve the programme's objectives and to raise awareness of the funding available in each priority.

The Programme has also reshaped its processes to try to speed up the application process in a response to the uncertainty around the programme's ability to commit funding beyond 2019 as a result of Brexit.

Continuous self-assessment has been carried out by the JS resulting in updated Internal Procedures, published Q & As for applicants, regular training for staff, amendments to the monitoring system and over recruitment to key posts prevent further loss of knowledge due to high attrition rates.

In accordance with the multi-level governance approach, sub committees of both delegations involving economic and social stakeholders including organisations representing environmental agencies have been involved throughout the preparation and implementation of the programme, including through participation in the pre-meetings for monitoring committees and for technical advice on the selection of projects.

Representatives from a wide range of economic and societal organisations, public sector and third sector organisations have attended and engaged in programme events . Including public authorities; economic and social partners; and relevant bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination.

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

Our Programme manual highlights how project quality is scored against the strategic and operational criteria, including:

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination: Actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the project. In particular, in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination, and the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Equality between men and women: Promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at project level.

An event was held in Kent to generate interest in projects supporting refugees, which has led to project ideas in the pipeline.

The following approved projects promote equality between men and women and promote non-discrimination;

Accelerating Women's Enterprise (AWE) brings together organisations working in business creation to address the gender imbalance in business start-ups, where men are currently twice as likely to start a business compared to women. The project will use expertise to train and recruit over 160 specialist mentors. The mentors will then be paired with disadvantaged women where they will help coach and support them with business skills such as finance management, marketing and access to markets. At the end of the 3-year project, AWE will have trained over 700 women and helped create 130 jobs. (see 11.4)

Assistive Devices for empowering disabled People through robotic technologies (ADAPT). This project will help tackle mobility problems faced by elderly and disabled people, by developing a new smart electronic powered wheelchair and virtual reality wheelchair simulator. The smart electronic powered wheelchair will also report on the user's health by sending real-time information via the internet, enabling healthcare professionals to monitor any changes in the user's health. The project could reach up to 300,000 electric wheelchair users in the Channel area and help train more than 15,000 healthcare professionals.

PONToon (Partnership Opportunities using new technologies fostering social and economic inclusion) will improve the employment rates of women from disadvantaged backgrounds by developing digital tools & technologies to tackle the digital skills shortage in the UK and France. The target will be socially excluded women who are far removed from the labour market and who may face challenges such as single parenthood and mental health issues. Over the 3.5-year lifetime of the project, the tools developed will help train 1600 women with the aim of 400 participants returning to work as a direct result. **(see 11.4)**

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

Our Programme manual highlights how project quality is scored against the strategic and operational criteria, including:

The project makes a positive contribution to the Programme horizontal principles:

-Sustainable development; Actions to 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. This criteria takes also into account the ability of the project to address the environmental challenges and take advantage of the opportunities highlighted in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) nontechnical summary. Cross-border cooperation in our Programme Area which will clearly impact positively on the environment will be highly encouraged.

The following projects promote sustainable development;

Project ICE (Intelligent Community Energy) aims to design and implement innovative smart energy solutions for isolated territories in the FCE area. The challenges relating to energy will be overcome by producing an innovative low-carbon energy system (Smart Grid) for the entire energy cycle from production to consumption. The project will focus on improving and developing smart solutions for energy production, storage and consumption. It is hoped that the system will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions of the communities involved in the project by over 50%.

Project SB&WRC (Sustainable Bio & Waste Resources for Construction) will develop new forms of thermal insulation, using waste materials such as rapeseed and jean fibres helping to offer more environmentally friendly alternatives to the resource intensive insulants that are currently on the market. The project will work together with construction professionals to develop three prototype insulants that will not only exploit waste products that are currently under used in the construction industry, but will also have a carbon footprint 25% lower than standard insulants such as glass and rock wool. The project will also raise awareness of the new insulants to over 2,000 construction professionals through events to encourage uptake of the products once the project has ended.

Project CobBauge will promote the construction of cob houses in the Channel area by developing, testing and creating new low carbon and energy efficient cob mixes. CobBauge will create and test 4 new cob mixes that will be thermally and structurally tested to ensure they meet building regulations and significantly improve household energy efficiency. The mixes will be produced from local soils, helping reduce CO₂ production emissions by 38% compared to the production of traditional masonry materials. It will also reduce construction waste by 16 tonnes per property – a saving of €2,115 in terms of landfill costs.

Project Optiwood will create a training programme to significantly improve the way commercial wood boiler plants are managed. The project is expected to improve efficiency by 10% which will significantly reduce the amount of CO2 emissions produced by this type of energy production. Wood boilers are considered an important part of Europe's renewable energy mix, with the sector needing to double production by 2030 to ensure the EU's renewable energy targets are met.

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	8,337,635.48	19.88%
3	7,259,442.01	11.54%
Total	15,597,077.49	6.99%

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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

The UK and French delegations have established separate stakeholder management groups, which play an important role in the Programme. These groups comprise experts in the field whose technical knowledge and judgement can be used by the SSC when considering projects.

The groups, which bring together experts in the field spanning the geographical areas and areas of specialist interest, meet before decision-making meetings for discussions.

Their opinions and recommendations on applications are fed into the Committee for consideration.

These contacts also participate in the results indicator survey which feeds into the evaluation of the Programme.

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

As set out in its Evaluation Plan, The France (Channel) England (FCE) Programme's approach to Evaluation consists of 3 strands:

- An Implementation Evaluation o Assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of Programme implementation.

- o Part 1 taking place in 2017/2018

- o Part 2 2018/2019

- o Carried out by Joint Secretariat (JS), but with methodological oversight from external experts

- An Impact Evaluation o Assessing the results of the Programme and whether they represent the Programme's full potential given its resources and internal and external factors

- o Final report delivered 2022

- o Carried out by external evaluators

- An evaluation of the Potential of Future Cooperation in the FCE area o Aimed at informing discussions on cooperation in the Channel area, post-Brexit

- o Delivery scheduled for 2018, carried out by external experts.

Progress in delivery of the Implementation Evaluation:

Delivery to Date:

- Part A of the Implementation Evaluation (JS) – delivered June 2017

- Review of findings of Part A of the Implementation Evaluation (external evaluators) – delivered October 2017

- Review of JS method of Part B of the Implementation Evaluation (external evaluators) – delivered July 2018

- Part B of Implementation Evaluation has been commenced by the JS. The method and first findings will be delivered to the Programme Monitoring Committee in April/May 2019, with the final delivery planned for June/July.

This delivery is in line with the Evaluation Plan. However, Parts A and B of the Implementation Evaluation have had a more limited scope than anticipated in the Evaluation Plan. Therefore, the Programme may undertake a Part C in 2019/2020. This will be decided in consultation with the External Evaluators and with Programme Committee members.

Progress in delivery of the Impact Evaluation:

Delivery to Date:

- Inception Report (external evaluators) – delivered in October 2017

- Theory of Change based on a committee member survey and review of Programme documents (external evaluators) – delivered in April 2018

- First Performance Review (external evaluators) – delivered in April 2018

This delivery is in line with the Evaluation Plan and Impact Evaluation Inception Report. The Final Version of the Impact Evaluation is scheduled for October 2022.

Progress in delivery of the Future of Cooperation Evaluation:

Delivery to Date:

- Inception Report (external evaluators) – delivered March 2018

- Draft Final Report (external evaluators) – delivered October 2018

- Second Draft Final Report (external evaluators) – scheduled for May 2019

This deliver is in line with the Evaluation Plan and Future of Cooperation Inception Report. As set out in the Inception Report, the deadline for the delivery of the final report was scheduled for November 2018. However, this deadline was dependent on the political context. The new deadline has been agreed by the

Managing Authority and the external evaluators.

Key Findings and Actions Taken:

- Implementation Evaluation Part A: in response to the Programme's low commitment rate, and the risk of decommitment, the purpose of Part A of the Implementation Evaluation was to identify changes to current Programme organisation, decision-making and selection processes that could increase commitment. The Evaluation identified the reasons for low commitment that the Programme could influence: length of time that it takes applicants to apply; the size of budgets of applications. In response to these findings the Programme has implemented a new, less time-consuming "single phase" application process, replacing the "two phase" process. The Programme has also initiated a top-down approach to project development. One of the purposes the top-down approach is to develop higher value projects with higher impact.

- Performance Review (2018): one of the key findings of the Performance Review (2018) was to raise questions as to the Programmes' method of reporting Output Indicator achievement. This is because the Programme is currently overachieving in terms of output delivery despite underperforming financially. In response to this finding, the JS has analysed two possible reasons for different between targets and reported performance:

- o Overreporting by beneficiaries

- o Inaccurate assumptions or calculations in the Performance Framework targets

This analysis is currently still in progress. The method used by the JS and the findings for Priority 1 will be presented to the Programme Committee in April/May 2019. If approved the method will be applied to all Priorities in June/July 2019. Depending of the results of the full analysis, the Programme may request that projects submit project modifications or the Programme will submit a modification to the Cooperation Programme.

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 in 2018 in line with the Interreg France (Channel) England's communication strategy.

A reminder of the Programme's communication objectives, outlined in the communication strategy, can be found below:

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

In-line with objective 1 of the communication strategy, communication activities in 2018 were heavily focused on attracting potential project applicants to the Programme and supporting them to build high quality project applications. Objectives 2 and 3 of the communication strategy were also supported but were not a primary focus.

Below is a summary of the communication activities for 2018:

1. Digital

Social Media

Social media played an important role in 2018, with the Programme implementing several paid social media campaigns on both LinkedIn and Twitter, aimed at attracting new applicants to the Programme.

A significant number of attendees at the Programme's events said that they had heard about the event through social media, another indicator of the importance of these channels.

Twitter

Followers on Twitter rose from 637 to 790 (153 increase).

LinkedIn

Followers on LinkedIn went up by 378 to 480 (102 increase)

However, although the paid campaigns boosted the number of impressions, this did not translate into a proportionate rise in followers.

Comparing the number of projects submitted (24 in 2017 and 16 in 2018), there was no significant impact on the number of projects submitted in 2018.

This shows that although the passive receipt of social media posts had some effect, this did not translate into action from prospective applicants.

Website

The Programme's social media channels have also helped drive traffic to the website, with average unique page views at 1100/month (unique pageviews is the number of sessions during which the specified page was viewed at least once (internal staff views cannot be excluded, which must be taken into account)).

The Programme continued to post regular news stories to the website, covering both project and programme news. The website was revamped in May 2018 to encourage engagement among potential applicants and to increase the number of project leads. The revamp included a significant facelift, plus the creation of additional pages including a page that allows applicants to leave a brief overview of their project idea directly on the website. The Programme received 18 project ideas submitted via the website between May and the end of the year. The average length of sessions on the website was 1 min 24, which is another strong indicator of good engagement on the website.

Newsletter/Email

Email has proven to be a very effective way of engaging with the Programme's stakeholders. The Programme sent three newsletters and an additional 6 e-shots, (one story emails) and event invitations via email. The results have been very positive with open rates averaging 33% and click through rates averaging 13.5% – both well above the industry average. An analysis of event registrations shows that the vast majority of event attendees heard about the event thanks to email communication.

Video

A promotional video was also created to attract potential applicants to the programme which included a full-length video of two minutes, plus 30 second versions to promote on social media

A video to inform new lead partners in France how to select a First Level Controller was produced and sits on the website to help reduce queries, thereby saving time with enquiries.

2. Events

Targeted Project labs

In 2018 the Programme organised 4 Project Labs to support the development of large scale cross border projects known as Targeted Projects. These focused on the following topics:

- Hydrogen – attendees 41
- Tourism – attendees 46
- Tidal Energy – attendees 45
- Plastic Pollution – attendees 40

Total 172

The results of these events were very positive with each event leading to the development of multiple large scale projects linked to each thematic. The events also led to the generation of several regular project ideas, for example after the Tourism Project Lab just under 20 project idea forms were submitted to the Programme.

Information Sessions and bid-writing workshops

To encourage more funding in areas that have seen little or no investment so far, the Programme held several information sessions to help raise awareness of the funding options available through the Programme.

Although it is too early to see the results of these sessions the events did help attract ‘new to Interreg’ organisations, with 70% of attendees at the Plymouth Information Session saying this was their first Interreg event.

Partner Training

To support projects with their communication activities, the Programme held partner training meetings with partners of newly approved projects to support them at the start of their projects.

3. Publications

A Programme leaflet was created to support the promotion of the Programme’s funding opportunities. is distributed to potential applicants at events and meetings by the Programme’s team of facilitators.

The Citizens’ Summary for each year is on the website.

4. Media coverage

In the Communication strategy project partners play a key role in disseminating news about their projects to the local media. Projects have helped generate 22 pieces of known coverage in the written press as well as multiple pieces on radio and television.

5. Communications Information bank

A Comms information bank was created as a ‘one-stop shop’ spreadsheet to store contact information about all approved projects, including contact information for all lead partners and communications contacts and social media used by projects.

This has already become a useful tool for the whole team when needing to make contact with a project and can be used to create mailing lists quickly and accurately. It will enable further interaction between the JS and lead partners, essential for promoting results more publicly.

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 5 projects (1 of which has not yet met its conditions) that contribute to the Strategy:

- 1 project by focusing on the use of renewable energy in remote locations, such as islands and isolated coastal communities, including the use of tidal energy (ICE). This contributes to *exploitation of the renewable energy potential of the Atlantic area's marine and coastal environment* under Priority 2 of the Strategy.

- 1 project focusing on improving the knowledge and the management of populations of salmonids (SAMARCH). This contributes to *sustainable management of marine resources* under Priority 2 of the Strategy.

- 1 project focusing on the use of satellite technology to improve the way water quality and harmful algal blooms are monitored (EUROHAB). This contributes to *improving maritime safety and security* under Priority 2 of the Strategy

- 1 project focusing on improving water quality in the Channel area by reducing the levels of nutrients with the implementation of payment for ecosystem services. (CPES) This contributes to *exploring and protecting marine waters and coastal zones* under Priority 2 of the Strategy.

- 1 project focusing on reducing the negative impacts of marine infrastructures on ecosystems and turning them into objects that will help the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity. (MARINEFF – conditions not yet met). This contributes to *exploring and protecting marine waters and coastal zones* under Priority 2 of the Strategy.

The nature of the partnership working in these projects means that this contributes to Priority 1 by "*sharing knowledge between higher education organisations, companies and research centres*"

Finally, as detailed elsewhere in this report the Programme has started working on targeted project, with one of these projects focusing on extending the season and coastal and rural tourism, which could contribute to *preserving and promoting the Atlantic's cultural heritage* under Priority 4 of the Strategy.

- 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)

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

Project PONToon (Partnership Opportunities using new technologies fostering social and economic inclusion) will improve the employment rates of women from disadvantaged backgrounds by developing a range of digital tools and technologies that will be used to tackle the digital skills shortage that currently exists in the UK and France. The target will be socially excluded women who are far removed from the labour market and who may face challenges such as single parenthood and mental health issues. Over the 3-and-a-half year lifetime of the project, the tools developed by PONToon will help train 1600 women with the aim of 400 participants returning to work as a direct result of this training. **MENTIONED IN 9.2**

Project Increase Valorisation Sociale will develop a new cross-border training programme to help social housing residents set up their own micro-businesses or achieve other forms of employment. The project will aim to help train 6,000 participants, creating up to 1,100 new businesses and helping a further 2,000 people into employment. Typically, social housing residents face higher than average unemployment the project will aim to tackle this problem by working closely with housing associations in 38 neighbourhoods in France and the UK to deliver one-to-one training sessions for residents. Once the project has ended, Increase will continue to support participants and other housing association residents by creating a number of community ambassador roles in each of the 38 neighbourhoods, who will provide on-going support to micro-entrepreneurs and continue to engage future participants, ensuring the long lasting legacy of the project.

Accelerating Women's Enterprise (AWE) brings together organisations working in business creation to address the gender imbalance in business start-ups, where men are currently twice as likely to start a business compared to women. The project will use expertise from both sides of the Channel to train and recruit over 160 specialist mentors. The mentors will then be paired with disadvantaged women where they will help coach and support them with business skills such as finance management, marketing and access to markets. At the end of the 3-year project, AWE will have trained over 700 women and helped create 130 jobs. **MENTIONED IN 9.2**

The project Connected Communities initiative will address the social challenge of a growing ageing population with social action budgets. The social prescribing plus innovative solution that it proposes will support older isolated people, or those at risk of being isolated, by improving their access to health and well-being facilities and services. It is estimated that community disconnectedness costs £32 billion in the UK and €39.4 billion in France annually in healthcare costs, lost productivity, and increased demand on social and public services (CEBR 2017) (French Public Service 2018). Connected Communities proposes to combat this loss in resources by connecting older people and services within FCE communities, thereby boosting their ability to help themselves, increase happiness, decrease loneliness and reduce social services demand. Although this project has been approved it is yet to meet its conditions.

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

The Programme's contribution to achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth will be assessed as part of the Programme's Impact Evaluation. This is scheduled for October 2022, in order to take into account the results of as many completed projects as possible.

No preliminary results from this evaluation are available at this stage.

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).

Financial indicators:

The Programme is underperforming against its financial indicators 2018 milestones across all priorities:

Priority 1. Financial indicator

Target: 18,720,012 €

Progress: 502,312.50 €

Priority 2. Financial indicator

Target: 7,488,004.63 €

Progress: 1,019,663.70 €

Priority 1. Financial indicator

Target: 11,232,007 €

Progress: 556,309.69 €

Since the development of the targets for the Performance Framework, the Programme has experienced significant disruption in its delivery due to the UK's Referendum on Leaving the European Union.

One of the consequences of the referendum result is that the number of applications to the Programme calls has reduced significantly. This is partly due to the uncertainty that followed during the initial months after the referendum and the lack of guarantees on the impact on EU funding streams in the immediate aftermath. Although the UK Government's announcement in October 2016, which stated that organisations could continue to apply for funding up to March 2019, and subsequent announcements have helped provide some certainty to applicants, a high level of media focus on the on-going negotiations between the UK and the EU has made this message difficult to reinforce. Meanwhile, all assurances have been caveated by the fact that negotiations are still ongoing. The Programme has also noted that a number of organisations have refocused their strategies to obtaining external funding away from Interreg Programmes, towards funding streams perceived as more secure.

That Brexit has influenced partners willingness to engage with the Programme has been confirmed by correspondence between stakeholders and the Programme's facilitation team. It has also been reflected in the

average submission rates for application forms before and after June 2017.

Average Number of Projects Submitted per call: pre-June 2017 vs post June 2017

Pre-June 2017 - 12

Between June 2017 and June 2018 – 6

In response, the Programme has developed a number of initiatives to increase commitment, notably the Programme's new Single Phase Application which offers a faster application process and the Programme's Targeted Project Scheme. However, the results of these will not influence Programme Spend until after 2018 (the first generation of approved Targeted Project and Single Phase Applications will not have their first claims until 2019).

The Programme has kept the Commission desk officer informed of both the impact of Brexit on the Programme and the Programme's efforts to increase commitment.

As outlined in the Section 5., issues related to FLC recruitment and quality of claims received has also impacted on the Programme's financial performance. In the short-term, the Programme has reallocated resources to pay most urgent claims. In the long term, the Programme is reviewing its guidance materials, training and processes in order to remove unnecessary blockages and to ensure that FLCs have a better understanding of Programme expectations and have the materials available to meet them.

Output Performance

The Programme is not underperforming against any of its output indicator targets.

As findings from the 2017 Annual Implementation Report, the Commission raised questions as to a potential disjunct between the lower financial performance and high output in progress performance.

The JS are currently conducting an analysis into a) whether the Programme has been overreporting; b) the steps to take in case the Programme is overreporting.

The analysis is still in progress. However, the preliminary findings indicate that there is no evidence that outputs in progress report are inaccurate. Given the level of achievement compared to targets, this would suggest that the targets were set too low. The Programme will communicate with the desk officer on the necessary steps to take following the conclusion of the analysis.

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
Warning	2.48.1	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the baseline value and moving away from the target for priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, specific objective: 1.1, indicator: 1.3, year: 2018 (48.19 < 52.95). Please check.
Warning	2.48.1	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the baseline value and moving away from the target for priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, specific objective: 1.2, indicator: 1.2, year: 2018 (45.61 < 61.25). Please check.
Warning	2.48.1	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the baseline value and moving away from the target for priority axis: 2, investment priority: 4f, specific objective: 2.1, indicator: 2.1, year: 2018 (46.87 < 47.82). Please check.
Warning	2.48.1	Annual value entered in table 1 is below the baseline value and moving away from the target for priority axis: 3, investment priority: 6d, specific objective: 3.2, indicator: 3.2, year: 2018 (42.11 < 44.08). Please check.
Warning	2.49.1	Annual value entered in table 1 exceeds the target value for priority axis: 3, investment priority: 6c, specific objective: 3.1, indicator: 3.1, year: 2018 (66.34 > 65.93). Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,090.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: 1.5, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,683.33% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: 1.1, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 1,720.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: 1.1, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 10,100.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: 1.2, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 10,170.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: 1.2, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 100.57% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO45, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 119.05% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO42, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 120.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 4f, indicator: 2.2, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 129.09% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 6c, indicator: 3.1, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 140.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 4f, indicator: 2.2, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 150.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 6d, indicator: 3.3, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 169.86% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 6c, indicator: CO09, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 195.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 6c, indicator: CO09, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 290.06% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: CO27, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 315.38% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 6d, indicator: 3.2, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 320.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 2, investment priority: 4f, indicator: 2.2, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 410.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: 1.3, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 540.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: 1.6, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 650.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: 1.3, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 680.00% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 1, investment priority: 1b, indicator: 1.5, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.52.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered is 736.92% of the total target value for "S", priority axis: 3, investment priority: 6d, indicator: 3.2, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.1, year: 2014. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.1, year: 2015. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.1, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.1, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.1, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.2, year: 2015. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.2, year: 2016. Please check.

Severity	Code	Message
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.2, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.2, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.3, year: 2016. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.3, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.1.3, year: 2018. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.2.1, year: 2017. Please check.
Warning	2.54.1	In table 2, the annual total value entered for "F" (implemented) is % of the annual total value entered for "S" (forecast from selected) for priority axis: 4, investment priority: -, indicator: 5.2.1, year: 2018. Please check.