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	UKJ24 - West Sussex
	UKJ31 - Portsmouth
	UKJ32 - Southampton
	UKJ33 - Hampshire CC
	UKJ34 - Isle of Wight
	UKJ41 - Medway
	UKJ42 - Kent CC
	UKK14 - Swindon
	UKK15 - Wiltshire CC
	UKK21 - Bournemouth and Poole
	UKK22 - Dorset CC
	UKK23 - Somerset
	UKK30 - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
	UKK41 - Plymouth
	UKK42 - Torbay
	UKK43 - Devon CC

# **1. STRATEGY FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION**

## **1.1 Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion**

1.1.1 Description of the cooperation programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

### ***Introduction: background***

#### *Overview of the cooperation area*

The 2014-2020 France (Channel) England cooperation programme brings together partners from the regions of the north and north-west of France along the Channel, as well as their immediate hinterlands, from Finistère to Pas-de-Calais and all the southernmost counties of the UK from Cornwall to Norfolk. The programme extends over an area of more than 130 000 km<sup>2</sup>. With a population of some 23.7 million people (about 3% of the total EU population), it is one of the most densely populated in Europe. It is also characterised by a mosaic of different regions, from major urban centres to intermediate (semi-urban, semi-rural) or rural regions, some of which are isolated.

For France, the eligible area of the Programme is: Finistère, Côtes d'Armor, Ille-et-Vilaine, Morbihan, Manche, Calvados, Orne, Seine Maritime, Eure, Oise, Somme and Pas-de-Calais.

For UK, the eligible area is: Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, West Sussex, East Sussex, Kent, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Wiltshire, Somerset, Surrey, Cambridgeshire, Plymouth, Torbay, Bournemouth and Poole, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton, Brighton and Hove, Medway, Thurrock, and Southend-on-Sea, Peterborough and Swindon.

The following presentation of the cooperation area is based on a territorial needs assessment and a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) of the area drafted in 2013.

The France (Channel) England area is relatively prosperous in European terms. Its GDP per capita, for example, is above the European average although there are wide disparities between regions.

While it is also a vibrant area with a growing population, has an employment rate also above the European average, and strong maritime connectivity in parts (the Channel is the busiest sea in the world), it nonetheless faces a range of environmental, social, and economic challenges.

In 2013 the area's economy performed less well compared with the year 2000. There are several reasons for this, not least that the consequences of the 2008 economic and financial crisis continue to be felt acutely. There are also increasing challenges of intensifying international competition from emerging markets. The area's SMEs have

been hard hit by the financial crisis, by the uncertainty surrounding energy prices, and by austerity in public sector spending. As a result, SMEs' capacity to invest and their investment opportunities have been limited, and the unemployment rate has consequently risen (although the situation has improved recently in England).

The area's traditional economic base (including agriculture, fisheries, industries, and ports) has faced challenges for many years, yet the area also has potential in emerging fields that offer good economic development prospects, including in the "green", "blue", and "silver" economies. The France (Channel) England area also possesses considerable natural and cultural assets, making it a highly attractive destination for tourists, but also perhaps a prime location for businesses to invest and for people to want to live.

The France (Channel) England area is vulnerable to the effects of climate change and experiences serious flooding events, especially along its coastal areas, and it is also affected by soil erosion. Its estuaries are particularly vulnerable. The present and future sustainable development of the France (Channel) England area therefore depends on successful management of the challenges stemming from natural risks and human activities and their impacts.

The Channel's natural environment also has the potential to provide abundant renewable energy (including wind and marine), the exploitation costs of which are expected to fall.

The France (Channel) England area possesses other strengths, such as a high rate of access to ICT and potential to further deploy innovative ICT solutions to deliver services to harder-to-reach individuals (including the ageing population). It can also boast high quality higher education programmes, which are available to all; however some people are unable to access them.

The challenges and opportunities described in the preceding paragraphs offer a core set of cooperation opportunities and challenges, despite the diverse typology of territories on either side of the Channel. Of course it will also be important, when identifying cooperation opportunities, to bear in mind the physical barrier of the Channel, as well as structural economic and social differences.

### *The Europe 2020 Strategy*

This France (Channel)-England cross-border cooperation programme for the 2014-2020 period forms part of a wider European strategy entitled 'Europe 2020'. Europe 2020 was adopted in the wake of the economic crisis to help Europe to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy with high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. **To achieve these goals, the Europe 2020 strategy has set 3 priorities, 5 objectives and 7 flagship initiatives.**

Europe 2020 sets out **three** mutually reinforcing **growth priorities**:

- Smart growth: for a knowledge and innovation-driven economy;
- Sustainable growth: for a resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;
- Inclusive growth: for a high-employment economy delivering economic, social and territorial cohesion.

To be able to measure progress the strategy includes **five quantified headline targets** to be achieved by the end of 2020. These relate to employment; research and development; climate change and renewable energies; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction.

It also includes **seven ‘flagship initiatives’** through which the EU and national and local authorities will mutually reinforce their efforts to achieve the Europe 2020 Strategy goals. These are:

- The ‘Innovation Union’ is the European Union strategy to create an innovation-friendly environment that makes it easier for innovative ideas to be turned into products and services that will generate growth and new jobs;
- ‘Youth on the Move’ aims to improve young people’s education and employability;
- The ‘Digital Agenda for Europe’ aims to accelerate the deployment of broadband internet;
- ‘A resource-efficient Europe’ aims to decouple economic growth from resource use, support the shift to a low-carbon economy, increase the uptake of renewable energy, modernise the transport sector and support energy efficiency;
- ‘An integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era’ aims to create an environment in which businesses, especially SMEs can develop and grow to maintain and support a strong, competitive, and resource-efficient industrial base;
- ‘An agenda for new skills and jobs’ aims to modernise the labour market and to equip people with the right skills throughout their working lives;
- ‘A European platform against poverty’ aims to support approaches that enable everyone to participate in, and benefit from, growth and employment, thus ensuring social and territorial cohesion.

Where assistance from the Funds is granted to a large enterprise, the Managing Authority shall ensure itself that the financial contribution from the Funds does not result in a substantial loss of jobs in existing locations within the Union.

**All European policies and funding, including this 2014-2020 France (Channel) England Programme, are designed to contribute to this new European Union strategy.**

As part of this strategy, EU regulations have **set down specific goals for cross-border cooperation between European territories**. In line therefore with the 1299/2013 EU Regulation, the France (Channel) England programme will “*aim to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions, such as: declining local industries, an inappropriate business environment, low levels of research and innovation, environmental pollution, risk prevention, and aim to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas while enhancing the cooperation process for the purpose of the overall harmonious development of the Union*”[1]. The goal is to harness the potential of cross-border cooperation to contribute to the balanced and sustainable development of the cooperation area, and more widely, to the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the European Union. It will also contribute to the priorities of the Atlantic Strategy and action plan with its focus on “enabling the blue economy to reach its potential” through targeted investment, increased research capacity, and developed skills.

The 2014-2020 France (Channel) England cross-border cooperation programme also incorporates the recommendations for both member states set out in the European Commission's Position Papers (2012) and Partnership Agreements between the European Commission and member states. The Position Papers set out the following priorities for cross-border cooperation:

- Innovation and eco-innovation in the fields of renewable energy, environmental protection and smart specialisation (United Kingdom);
- The protection and stewardship of the cross-border environment; transport and communication services; the efficient exploitation and use of resources (United Kingdom and France);
- Stimulating growth and jobs by harnessing the cross-border area's marine and maritime potential (United Kingdom and France).

### ***The shared development challenges facing the France (Channel) England cooperation area***

The following sections present a more fine-grained analysis structured around Europe 2020's three growth objectives. The aim is to present the key features of the programme area and the shared development challenges for which cross-border cooperation can provide a framework for practical policy action.

#### *Smart growth*

**Measured against smart growth indicators the France (Channel) England area's performance is generally higher than the EU average (EU28+4). Despite wide disparities the regions of the area also share a number of innovation and competitiveness challenges, as well as fields of economic specialisation.**

The performance of the France (Channel) England cooperation area against EU R&D spending targets set at 3 % of GDP, (this target is one of the five principal targets of the Europe 2020 strategy) is equal to or better than that of the EU28+4. There are however large disparities across the area's regions. For example, a number of British areas already exceed this target, whereas other regions allocate less than 1 % of their GDP to R&D[2].

In relation to business competitiveness, figures from the Regional Competitiveness Index (the European Commission's new composite index), show that a majority of the regions in the France (Channel) England area are performing above the European average. In only a few regions is the level of competitiveness average or average to low. Where this is the case, the primary explanation is a limited ability to take-up or spread innovation in the private sector, especially among SMEs, (through licensing for example). In addition, following the 2008 crisis and its deep and continuing consequences, SME productivity has fallen by 2% in France and by 12% in the United Kingdom[3].

In relation to employment in high technology industries and the number of patent applications, the overall performance of the France (Channel) England area is better than the European average, although, as for R&D spending, there are significant disparities

across the area (the percentage of employment in high technology industries varies between 8.1% and 2.1%, for example[4]).

Despite these differences, the innovation needs across the region are essentially the same, although they may vary in degree from one region or territory to another. The common innovation goals that are set out in regional innovation, smart specialisation or other regional strategies include a focus on the following areas:

- Strengthening research capacity;
- Enhancing support to regional industry clusters, developing networks based on the triple/quadruple helix model, and fostering collaborative R&D projects;
- Boosting the exploitation of research excellence, stimulating results-driven research and supporting technology and knowledge transfer;
- Developing and supporting innovation projects in SMEs (including with access to finance for innovation and especially early-stage funding for innovation projects);
- Enabling and supporting a more international approach to innovation processes and activities;
- Making demand for low-carbon technologies one of the main drivers of the innovation effort.

The France (Channel) England area is home to a range of innovating industries, examples of which include:

- Logistics, transport and ports
- Life sciences and health
- Environmental and marine technologies; developing the green and blue economies
- Communication, digital and creative industries
- Agri-food
- Business services and ICT
- Production and engineering
- Tourism and recreation
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency

The France (Channel) England Cooperation area has a number of growth opportunities that include:

- The growth potential in the marine, maritime and coastal economy, collectively referred to as ‘blue growth’ growth, is an objective of the EU’s integrated maritime policy launched in 2007. In 2012, the Commission set out its definition of the blue economy by identifying five priority areas: blue energy, aquaculture, maritime, coastal and cruise tourism, marine mineral resources and blue biotechnology. There is strong potential for growth in these industries in the France (Channel) England area that the

Programme could exploit. The goals of blue growth are also consistent with those of: (i) smart growth (innovation, the competitiveness of SMEs in the marine biotech sector, tourism, innovative technologies, etc.); (ii) sustainable growth (marine energies); and (iii) inclusive growth (in relation to employment and economic revitalisation). The programme will contribute to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive's (2008/56/EC) (MSFD) aims to "protect and preserve the marine environment" and "to prevent and reduce inputs in the marine environment, with a view to phasing out pollution" through the joint actions of priority axis 3.2.

- The growth potential in the silver economy: The share of the over 65 year olds in the population of the France (Channel) England area is slightly higher than the European average and an ageing population is a characteristic feature of the area. The coastal zones are synonymous with a concentration of elderly people, which is a challenge but also an opportunity for developing the silver economy (technologies, social services, and health). The social challenges that arise from a growing silver economy are considerable, making it important that the Programme's actions not only exploit economic potential, but also contribute to inclusive growth. The programme will support relevant projects within the framework of the European Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.

- The decline of traditional activities such as agriculture and fisheries: the France (Channel) England area has a range of traditional industries, many of which have been becoming less competitive over time. Revitalising or diversifying these industries is an opportunity for the regions and territories of the area and the Programme can envisage supporting a range of (existing or new) growth industries such as agri-food, renewable energies, the blue economy, green tourism, etc. Revitalisation can of course bring with it social challenges for the communities affected, which the Programme can address under its inclusive growth goal (see inclusive growth).

- The France (Channel) England area has good innovation potential, for example hosting 14 of Europe's top 171 research institutions, some strong centres of innovation and a range of innovating, market leading companies. However, this potential is not being maximised due to a number of factors (including geographical concentrations within the programme area leading to different levels of performance and a lack of critical mass, or imperfect systems to transform high quality science and research into marketable and successful products and other commercial outputs. Of course, addressing these issues would create more jobs (particularly higher value jobs) in the Programme area, leading to higher levels of GVA and disposable income that will in turn lead to more money being spent on wider local service economies.

- The France (Channel) England area broadly offers good education to its young people, but there are two significant challenges when it comes to employing them. Firstly, due to a plethora of individual circumstances, a number of young people are unable to access education, training and employment, which can lead to long term issues of worklessness, benefit dependency and exclusion. Secondly, the programme area does not offer a coherent range and quality of employment opportunities, meaning that many young people face a choice of either low wages and low career prospects, or leaving the programme area (for example to London or Paris). However, these young people also constitute a potentially valuable resource if a stronger France (Channel) England economy can create more and better job opportunities.

**For the France (Channel) England area three shared development challenges emerge from the area needs analysis in relation to smart growth.**

Challenge n°1: Assemble a critical mass of partners by strengthening collaboration among different fields of industry and innovation stakeholders and by strengthening innovation clusters:

- Encourage collaborative approaches to innovation in order to assemble partnerships with critical mass;
- Establish links between industry and universities to stimulate innovation and encourage the application and commercialisation of research excellence by industry;
- Adopt a smart specialisation approach, support the development and creation of clusters in strategically important fields of business & industry with a view to stimulating innovation.

Challenge n°2: Support the development of innovative solutions to societal challenges

- Boost R&D on societal objectives such as climate change, energy efficiency, health, the ageing population.

Challenge n°3: Stimulate innovation in SMEs in growth industries

- Encourage SMEs to invest in R&D to create an innovative cross-border environment;
- Assist SMEs to access funding to enable them to undertake R&D;
- Establish links between SMEs and universities to stimulate innovation and encourage the application of research by SMEs.

*Sustainable growth*

**Sustainable growth forms the second pillar of the Europe 2020 strategy, and with its wealth of natural assets the France (Channel) England cooperation area can play a key role in achieving Europe 2020 goals.**

With both on shore wind energy and offshore marine energy the programme area possesses considerable potential in renewable energies. This potential can be exploited further by using new technologies, establishing new production sites, and stimulating demand.

As for all European regions, the France (Channel) England area needs to instigate a large-scale effort to improve energy efficiency. Construction, transport and industry are the most energy-intensive sectors and improving and modernising buildings has been included as a goal in both the United Kingdom's and French National Reform Programmes (many commercial and public and residential buildings were built before 1974, and are highly energy intensive).

In relation to transport it is worth reiterating that the Channel is the busiest sea in the world and, as such, warrants particular attention. Maritime transport over short distances offers an alternative to road transport. There is also a real opportunity in the regions of the France (Channel) England area to improve traditional regional or local transport plans through multimodal solutions.

It is therefore important to grasp the economic opportunities afforded by ‘green technologies’, which can, at the same time as protecting the environment, improve productivity and strengthen business competitiveness, thereby generating and/or maintain growth and jobs.

In relation to the environment, biodiversity and natural assets the France (Channel) England area boasts Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which constitute a natural heritage, and it also possesses, a rich cultural heritage with 15 sites included on the UNESCO world heritage list, as well as numerous sites protected by national schemes. It is also home to a significant reservoir of biodiversity in terms of its flora and fauna, both on land and in the sea.

The area faces considerable challenges in relation to water pollution and depletion of its fisheries resources (with consequent impacts on biodiversity). The rivers flowing through major population centres are sensitive to organic pollutants, and farm runoff is a major source of pollution. In many of the region’s cities there are large industrial sites (both disused and active), which present a pollution risk for the environment. Soil erosion is also a major issue in a number of the area’s regions.

The France (Channel) England area is facing problems regarding air pollution in particular in urban areas including ports (e.g. NO<sub>2</sub> and specific matters linked to shipping or to increasing use of biomass). In particular through the actions of priority 2.1, the programme will contribute to the Clean Air Package of 18 December 2013 by supporting measures which improve air quality, through support to research and innovation of low carbon technologies, and by protecting ecosystem services.

In relation to adapting to climate change and managing natural risks the France (Channel) England programme area has estuaries and extensive coastline, which are particularly exposed and vulnerable, to numerous flooding instances. The vulnerability of the area’s natural environment is exacerbated by human activities, for example the risk of accidental pollution. The effective management of these risks depends on the effective planning and implementation of prevention and mitigation measures.

**For the France (Channel) England area three shared development challenges emerge from the area needs analysis in relation to sustainable growth.**

*Challenge n°4: Reduce the energy vulnerability of the France (Channel) England area (reliance on external supply, limited resources) by improving energy efficiency and increasing the production and use of renewable energies.*

- Stimulate the decentralised production of renewable energies on land and off-shore;
- Increase the production and use of renewable energy by stimulating environmental technologies and the bio-economy (in agriculture and agri-food), through research, studies and pilot projects;
- Increase public acceptance and use of Low Carbon Technologies;
- Promote the development of intelligent and decentralised systems (energy supply and demand);
- Stimulate new solutions for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas savings in high emissions and areas/sectors (such as urban areas, transport and agriculture).

Challenge n°5: Promote economic sustainability through responsible and green territorial development

- Initiate policies for the efficient use of resources and to steer economic agents/operators towards more sustainable behaviour;
- Stimulate environmental technologies and the bio-economy (in agriculture and agri-food), through research, studies and pilot projects;
- Strengthen the circular economy by improving practices and ‘linking-up’ cross-border cycles in order to increase resource efficiency;
- Boost the development of a high-quality tourism sector, notably by exploiting the area’s cultural, natural and historical heritage and by developing a sustainable green tourism sector.

Challenge n°6: Improve risk prevention and the capacity to adapt to and mitigate climate change

- Ensure an integrated management of coastal area; including generating and sharing common information relating to climate change among maritime authorities;
- Promote shared approaches for the protection and management of natural areas;
- Promote integrated water management (water quality, conservation of natural resources and biodiversity);
- Develop preventative/mitigation measures for cross-border natural disasters, especially flooding and droughts;
- Implement measures in order to prevent and better manage pollution in order to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

*Inclusive growth*

**Inclusive growth is the third pillar of the Europe 2020 strategy; the France (Channel) England area paints a mixed picture in this regard.**

The France (Channel) England area enjoys some economic advantages and strengths, including:

- An employment rate that is higher than the European average, and in general an employment rate higher than other areas in England and France
- A rate of people affected by poverty that is lower than the EU average
- In general, well-developed compulsory free education systems, enhanced by a highly developed higher education system that includes 14 of the top 171 major European research universities

However, these broad overall strengths hide a number of weaknesses. Although a range of opportunities exist, they are not accessible to all. There are a range of complex factors, many of which are entrenched and multi-generational, that make it difficult for some

individuals and groups to participate in society and the economy. These were exacerbated by the financial and economic crisis that started in 2008, and although the economic situation is showing signs of improvement (particularly in England), significant structural challenges remain.

This leads to some geographical disparities across the France (Channel) England area, sometimes at a macro-level (for example, general differences between England and France) or at a more local level (for example, between different NUTS3 areas). However, in reality the problem is much more targeted than this, either involving entire communities or specific individuals.

- Some areas suffer from the decline of traditional industries that they were once reliant on. This in turn has reduced the opportunities available to the entire local community. It is an issue particularly relevant to more peripheral coastal and rural areas, which already face more acute challenges relating to accessibility and communication.
- Some individuals, for a range of very complex and individual reasons, have lacked the ability or support to take advantage of wider opportunities available to them. This in turn leads to wider problems (for example long-term worklessness, lack of participation in society, or impacts on the education and life prospects of wide family members and children). Sometimes, particularly in urban areas, these individuals live side-by-side with more affluent and prosperous neighbours.
- Some groups (for example young people, the ageing population, women or ethnic minorities) can also face additional barriers, challenges and pressures when it comes to full participation in wider society or the economy.

Whether geographical or focused on individual people and families, these disparities can have significant consequences for the individuals or groups involved; but they also impact on wider society (for example higher costs of support provided through public services, or social exclusion leading to higher rates of crime or anti-social behaviour). Removing these disparities therefore benefits society as a whole. A multitude of organisations across the Programme area are already working to address these issues, many of them working with limited budgets and under financial pressure; the France (Channel) England Programme can support this by bringing together these organisations to firstly learn from each other, but more importantly to work together to test and implement new and better solutions.

**For the France (Channel) England area two development challenges emerge from the area needs analysis in relation to inclusive growth.**

*Challenge n°7: Help groups at risk of economic exclusion to actively participate in the economy through innovative solutions for urban and rural regeneration and driving change in the economy to create employment opportunities*

- Generate employment by supporting economic revitalisation and a shift to growth sectors/industries;
- Improve access to facilities and services (health, well-being, housing) for target groups such as the elderly and the disabled;
- Stimulate the employment of people in vulnerable groups (such as older workers, the young and long term unemployed);

- Stimulate social enterprise and the third sector;
- Tackle concentrations of multiple deprivations by sharing best practices and increasing the capacity of stakeholders.

*Challenge n°8: Enable the active population to play their part in economic revitalisation by enhancing skills through training/retraining*

- Develop skills needs forecasting and matching systems on local and regional scales and encourage cooperation between higher education institutions;
- Coordination between education and labour markets, by improving (cross-border) mobility and exchanges, including improving language skills (language learning within vocational courses/training, in education and through cultural exchanges);
- Identify business skills needs and develop tailored skills and training/retraining programmes especially in industries targeted by smart specialisation strategies where there is an observed shortage of skilled labour.

***The 2014-2020 France (Channel) England cooperation programme strategy***

*Overall ambition*

The overall ambition for the 2014-2020 France (Channel) England programme, and its cooperation strategy, priorities, specific objectives, expected results and types of projects are the fruit of a year's work that began in 2013. This work has involved the programme's formal partners as well as business, environmental protection, and civil society representatives.

The programme's contents are based on an analysis of the common development challenges in the France (Channel) England area and its regions, especially with regard to the goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (see above). Taking into account lessons learnt by the previous cross-border cooperation programme, the Programme will target its support on interventions where cross-border cooperation can offer genuine added value and practical solutions for people and businesses in the real world.

In line with the European requirements for resource concentration (and in line with the EU's objectives regarding the selection of policy themes[5]), the Programme is required to support a more limited set of themes.

The 2014-2020 France (Channel) England programme's overall ambition is:

*To work together to develop the natural, economic, societal and maritime assets of the France (Channel) England area for a creative, sustainable and inclusive crossborder region that creates wealth and jobs for its inhabitants.*

The following complementary Priorities flow from the Programme's overall ambition:

- **Priority 1** –Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the France (Channel) England area;

- **Priority 2** – Support the transition to a low-carbon economy in the France (Channel) England area;
- **Priority 3** – Enhance the attractiveness of the territories of the France (Channel) England area;

### *Content of the three strategic Priorities*

Priority 1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the France (Channel) England area

The goal of this first Priority is to support the development and uptake of innovative practical solutions to the economic and societal challenges facing the France (Channel) England Programme area – as well as exploit its opportunities. **It will contribute directly to the smart growth goal of the Europe 2020 Strategy, which, in line with the Lisbon Strategy adopted in 2000, aims to create an economy based on knowledge and innovation as drivers of growth, competitiveness, and employment creation.**

The programme also aims to develop joint approaches and responses and to create a shift in the economy to reduce exclusion and help harder-to-reach individuals participate fully in society and the economy. **It will contribute directly to the inclusive growth goal of the Europe 2020 Strategy which aims to build a high-employment economy that ensures social and territorial cohesion.**

The present analysis of the different regions in the France (Channel) England area illustrates their diverse innovation performances. Nonetheless, there are a number of common challenges and opportunities for which a cross-border approach is well-suited. Particularly worthy of mention are:

- The need to better exploit research excellence by increasing support for developing and transferring technologies and knowledge;
- The need to support SMEs, and social enterprises to deliver or take-up innovative solutions;
- The need to assist innovative organisations to internationalise their activities through joint innovation projects and accessing new markets.

In addition, the France (Channel) England area is characterised by specific development challenges, where cross-border cooperation in innovation projects can have a real development impact. These are:

- Exploiting the potential of its marine, maritime and coastal economy;
- Revitalising its traditional industries;
- Exploiting the growth potential of the silver economy, especially in rural areas;
- Exploiting the area's innovation potential;
- Supporting young people to access education, training and employment;

- Creating a stronger economy which will provide a coherent range and quality of employment opportunities.
- High levels of inactivity in populations that are disadvantaged in the labour market (young people, older workers, disabled people, and women, for example);
- Difficulties in accessing basic services, including health and housing;
- Wide disparities between individuals in terms of social and economic development and the presence of disadvantaged areas (characterised by unemployment, poverty and social exclusion), where the situation has, in some localities, become critical in the wake of the economic crisis. This is exacerbated by declining traditional sectors/industries, which can often impact widely across whole communities;
- The sharp rise in the over 65 population, which brings with it a need to address the issue of adapting the infrastructures and public services they use.

These various contextual elements explain why the France (Channel) England Programme will focus its support on two cooperation challenges, namely:

- Developing innovative solutions that address the common economic and societal challenges confronting the France (Channel) England cooperation area;
- Assembling a critical mass of capabilities by increasing collaboration in different fields of innovation and enhancing the potential of innovation clusters and networks in the France (Channel) England area.

The Programme has adopted a broad definition of innovation, one that extends beyond the confines of research laboratories to include not only the providers of, but also the consumers/users of innovation. Specifically, it incorporates a "4+1" innovation typology covering product, process, marketing or organisational innovation, as defined in the "Oslo Manual"[6], plus social innovation. Social innovation is defined as a new idea (products, services and models) that simultaneously meets social needs and creates new social relationships or collaborations[7]. Social innovation is an important tool for transforming and modernising local and regional economies.

In such a context, it is essential that the regions of the cooperation area i) provide effective solutions for the socio-economic problems facing disadvantaged rural and urban communities and territories and ii) regenerate these territories and address exclusion by boosting and exploiting their potential.

Cross-border cooperation can add value with its ability to organise the transfer of best practices between territories and bring a range of organisations together to develop new and improved ways to deliver services to disadvantaged people and communities. It also provides a framework for delivering a critical mass of initiatives that can have a significant impact on society and the economy.

Programme support will focus on strengthening the capacity of the economic development community and social partners to put forward new economic and societal solutions that address the problems of social inclusion and the revitalisation of disadvantaged coastal, urban and rural communities.

## Priority 2 – Support the transition to a low-carbon economy in the France (Channel) England area

The goal of this second Priority is to support the development and uptake of low-carbon technologies (either increasing the use of existing technologies, or supporting the development of new technologies) in the France (Channel) England cooperation area. **It will contribute directly to the sustainable growth goal of the Europe 2020 Strategy, which, in line with the Gothenburg Strategy adopted in 2001, aims to create a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy.**

With their potential to reduce the carbon intensity of activities at each stage of the energy chain – low-carbon energy generation, storage and distribution, and energy efficiency at the final consumer stage – low-carbon solutions have an important role to play in enabling Europe's transition to a low carbon economy.

The France (Channel) England area is, in this respect, confronted by several common challenges, fully justifying a joint cross-border approach. One such challenge is meeting the European Union's 2020 goal of 20% of renewables in total energy consumption when in 2011 the share of renewable energies in the United Kingdom stood at 3.8%, and in France at 11.5%. The Channel area enjoys substantial potential for developing renewables, including wind, solar, marine, geothermal and biomass. It has significant potential along its coasts especially, for developing renewable marine energies and it is one of Europe's premier locations for fixed offshore wind and wave energy.

Across the cooperation area, it is necessary to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to exploit – to the maximum extent possible – the potential for developing low-carbon technologies and generating low-carbon energy. This can in turn lead to knock-on benefits, for example providing cheaper, greener, more secure energy to people and businesses across the FCE area.

There are also opportunities to develop the low carbon economy to meet economic growth priorities, for example through increasing business productivity, reducing costs and enhancing competitiveness (through energy efficiency technologies) and securing growth and new jobs (for example, through developing green technologies and opening up new export markets). Successfully exploiting this potential depends on assembling a critical mass of partners and capabilities, sufficient not only to develop and improve low-carbon technologies and energies, but also with the capacity to promote their take-up by final consumers.

The added value of cross border cooperation to provide Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) has been identified, by providing new materials, including for energy production, transportation and storage which can play an essential role to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Programme support under this Priority will focus on the area's shared challenge of reducing its energy vulnerability by widening the uptake of low carbon technologies, which was identified by the area's economic, social and environmental needs analysis.

## Priority 3 - Enhance the attractiveness of the territories of the France (Channel) England area

The goal of this third Priority is to enhance the attractiveness of the territories of the France (Channel) England area, by, on the one hand, jointly enhancing and exploiting natural and cultural assets and, on the other, jointly developing green and blue infrastructures and ecosystem services. **This Priority and its two objectives will also contribute directly to the sustainable growth goal of the Europe 2020 Strategy and its ambition of creating a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy.**

The attractiveness of the France (Channel) England area refers to the ability of its territories to attract (and retain) people and businesses in a context of increasing mobility, both internationally and locally. Attractiveness has several complementary dimensions (most notably economic, residential, and tourism). Through this dedicated priority, the programme's goal is to enhance the quality of the surroundings for its residents and its visitors, by protecting and exploiting the area's strengths, including its natural resources, its cultural heritage, and its maritime character.

### *Natural and cultural heritage*

The natural and cultural potential of the France (Channel) England area constitute a range of potentially valuable assets that can be exploited to build a high quality and diverse offer to visitors, residents and businesses.

Developing and commercially exploiting the region's natural and cultural heritage is a rational response to several of the France (Channel) England area's shared development challenges. With regard to smart growth, it can provide a response to the challenges of boosting the local economy and of creating and developing businesses in sectors with high growth potential or which are targeted by innovation policies. With regard to sustainable growth, it reflects the need to preserve the environment by adopting responsible and green approaches and mitigating risks. Lastly, with regard to inclusive growth, it could help to i) revitalise and restructure the economy in growth sectors (thereby creating employment) and ii) adapt the skills of the labour force to enable economic revitalisation.

The major challenge facing cross-border cooperation will be to bring together key people and organisations from both sides of the Channel to jointly design, develop and deliver solutions that make a measurable difference to the environment and economy of the programme area.

### *Ecosystem Services and Green and Blue infrastructures*

The France (Channel) England cooperation area possesses a rich and varied natural heritage, with a rich biodiversity. However, the Channel's regions, and especially the sea separating them, are facing growing anthropogenic pressure from industry, agriculture, land take, tourism pressure, transport, and so on. They therefore face significant ecological and environmental challenges.

It is therefore vital to protect them; to strengthen ecosystem services, which can be defined as the benefits that human communities derive from ecosystems (including economic, health, and social benefits, etc.), to develop green and blue infrastructures, and to help territories to adapt to climate change.

Promoting the environment for future generations through responsible and green initiatives is therefore one of the priorities of the France (Channel) England cooperation area. Cooperation offers the area an opportunity to improve the management of natural risk for its rural, urban and coastal and cross-border environmental areas.

On the programme scale, cross-border cooperation offers the prospect of significant tangible added value: the Channel is a rich yet fragile environment that is shared by the cooperation area's regions, which are confronted with similar difficulties. They can therefore enhance the way they protect, manage, and exploit the environment through working together to design and test new approaches and solutions.

**The combination of these different Priorities represents the translation of the Europe 2020 strategy and its 3 pillars of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth into tangible policies for the France (Channel) England area.** The initiatives and projects it supports will fulfil the Programme's aspiration to create wealth and employment and at the same time contribute to the harmonious, ecologically responsible, and equitable development of the France (Channel) England area.

[1] Regulation 1299/2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal, Recital 5.

[2] Source: Area needs and SWOT analyses for the regions and territories of the France (Channel) England and 2 Seas cooperation programmes.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Ibid.

[5] For the 2014-2020 programming period the European Commission set out a total of 11 possible thematic objectives. 80% of the ERDF funding shall concentrate on 4 of these TOs.

[6] OECD, Oslo Manual, <http://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/2367580.pdf>

[7] These solutions are both social in their ends and in their means. They can take the form of genuine innovations or of improved solutions. *Open Book of Social Innovation, Murray, Calulier-Grice and Mulgan, March 2010*

1.1.2 Justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Common Strategic Framework, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation

**Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities**

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
01 - Strengthening research,	1b - Promoting business investment in R&I,	The potential for intervention in the field of innovation in the programme area covers

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
technological development and innovation	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	<p>different domains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assemble a critical mass of partners for smart specialisation and innovation, by strengthening collaboration among different fields of industry and innovation stakeholders, and by strengthening innovation clusters;</li> <li>• To stimulate innovation in SMEs in growth industries and increase the involvement of SMEs in international networks for research;</li> <li>• To encourage the possibility of quadruple helix cooperation and technology transfer;</li> <li>• Through social innovation, develop new systems and services to support those furthest from the labour market and the ageing population.</li> </ul> <p>The Programme can tackle the issues related to the need of critical mass in key R&amp;D themes, to respond to the common need of exploiting emerging concepts.</p> <p>The Programme also aims to tackle the issues of social inclusion, to find solutions to address unemployment, poverty and social exclusion at a cross-border level.</p>
04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies	<p>There is a need to increase the share of renewable energy and to increase energy efficiency within the FCE area.</p> <p><b>Renewable energy</b></p> <p>The share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption should reach 20% by 2020. Both in the UK and in France, additional effort is required to reach the targets. There is considerable potential for renewables, including marine energy.</p> <p><b>Energy efficiency</b></p> <p>The EU position papers include an increase in energy efficiency to reduce the amount of energy required to provide products and services. In France the focus is on</p>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		<p>productive sectors and in the UK the built environment.</p> <p>There are opportunities to address these issues by investing in cross border activities that support the development of solutions that will increase the development and uptake of low carbon technologies to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery technologies</li> <li>• Innovations that reduce the cost of energy</li> <li>• Monitoring tools to replace existing but expensive tools</li> <li>• Use of renewable resources</li> <li>• Key Enabling Technologies</li> </ul>
<p>06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency</p>	<p>6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage</p>	<p>There is a need to create economic opportunities through the development of positive spin offs for the economy, environment and regional heritage (natural and cultural).</p> <p>The natural and cultural potential of the France (Channel) England area constitute a range of valuable assets that can be sustainably exploited to build a high quality and diverse offer to visitors, residents and businesses. It supports the need for more economic, environmental and socially sustainable management of common heritage but equally the need for a more competitive tourism industry. This will increase the ability of the territories to attract and retain people and businesses in a context of increasing mobility.</p> <p>Adding value to the region's natural and cultural assets responds to shared challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need to boost the local economy and to create and develop businesses in sectors with high growth potential</li> <li>• need to preserve the environment by adopting responsible and green approaches and mitigating risks</li> </ul>

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure	<p>Natural phenomena and human activities have made the area vulnerable. The Channel is the busiest maritime thoroughfare in the world and is becoming a new industrial hub.</p> <p>On the programme scale, cross border cooperation offers the prospect of significant tangible added value: the channel is a rich yet fragile environment that is shared by the area's regions, which are confronted with similar difficulties. The regions can therefore enhance the way they protect, manage, and exploit the environment through working together to design and test new approaches and solutions that will enhance ecosystem health and resilience, contribute to biodiversity conservation and benefit human populations through the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services.</p> <p>Cooperation can touch on the following components to improve the ecosystems in the Channel Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding ecosystems and their functioning</li> <li>• Valuation in the context of controlled use of space and resources</li> <li>• Protection for sustainable ecosystems</li> </ul>

## 1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (i.e. Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

Taking into account the challenges and opportunities identified, the Programme has decided the following financial allocations per priority axis:

**Priority Axis 1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area**

Budget allocation amounts to 47.0% of the available ERDF budget.

**Priority Axis 2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area**

Budget allocation amounts to 18.8% of the available ERDF budget.

**Priority Axis 3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area**

Budget allocation amounts to 28.2% of the available ERDF budget.

**Priority Axis 4 - Technical Assistance**

Budget allocation amounts to 6.0% (maximum allowed by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 for ETC programmes).

This financial allocation takes into account the ex-ante evaluation and it is coherent with the outcomes and impact expected.

**Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme**

Priority axis	ERDF support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Result indicators corresponding to the specific indicator
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)		
1	104,832,066.00	47.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 01 - Strengthening research, technological development and innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1b - Promoting business investment in R&amp;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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 1.1 - To increase the delivery and uptake of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors</li> <li>▼ 1.2 - Increase the quality and the effectiveness of service delivery to the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups through social innovation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[1.2, 1.3]
2	41,932,826.00	18.80%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 04 - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 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</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[2.1]
3	62,899,240.00	28.20%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 06 - Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 3.1 - Realise the potential of the common natural and cultural assets to deliver innovative and sustainable growth</li> </ul> </li> <li>▼ 6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▼ 3.2 - Enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	[3.1, 3.2]
4	13,382,816.00	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	[N/A, N/A2]

## 2. PRIORITY AXES

### 2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### 2.A.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	1
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

#### 2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not Applicable.

#### 2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</b>
ERDF	Total

#### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	1b
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	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

## 2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1.1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	To increase the delivery and uptake of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>The goal of this objective is to contribute to the economic vibrancy and innovation performance of the FCE area. This will be achieved by exploiting the area's research excellence, innovation support infrastructures, and natural assets to increase the development and uptake of innovative products, processes, systems, and services in sectors identified in smart specialisation strategies that are shared across the Programme.</p> <p>The preparatory phase for the programme pinpointed the challenges that the programme will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· a need to achieve the critical mass of expertise required to develop, adapt, test and/or adopt innovative products, processes, systems and services,</li> <li>· a need to better exploit and commercialise research, within and outside of the FCE area, to deliver tangible economic benefits for its territory and its inhabitants.</li> </ul> <p>The programme will therefore use cross-border cooperation to develop, adapt, transfer, test and foster the use of innovative solutions.</p> <p>The programme will contribute to the development and adoption of innovations through the creation and reinforcement of networks (business clusters, research and training centres, public sector and third sector).</p> <p>By doing this, the programme hopes to facilitate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· increased business opportunities and actions to support the export of innovations to new markets</li> <li>· the creation of new high value and knowledge-intensive jobs and the attraction of expertise to the area</li> <li>· inward investment into the FCE area</li> </ul>

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1.1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	To increase the delivery and uptake of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· the development of new tangible solutions to the economic challenges facing the FCE area</li> <li>· enhanced competitiveness and growth through innovation (developing, testing, and adopting new products, services, processes and systems)</li> </ul> <p>The achievement of these results could be influenced by external factors which are not in the control of the programme, such as economic globalisation, economic crisis, and ICT use, development and diffusion.</p> <p>To participate in the programme projects must demonstrate (1) exactly how they will support cooperation between participating organisations, and (2) the tangible outcomes that their activities will produce.</p>
<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1.2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Increase the quality and the effectiveness of service delivery to the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups through social innovation
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>The preparatory phase for the programme pinpointed the challenges that the programme will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to support the development of innovative solutions to address the societal challenges faced by the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups</li> </ul> <p>Need to enable the active population to play their part in economic revitalisation, including by enhancing skills through innovative training/retraining. The programme will therefore use cross-border cooperation to develop, adapt, transfer, test and foster the use of innovative solutions. By doing this, the programme hopes to facilitate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of social innovation applications that will help tackle the challenges related to those furthest from the labour market or to the ageing population.</li> <li>• An increase in the effectiveness and efficiency of local services addressing the challenges faced by the most socially and economically challenged groups.</li> <li>• The exploitation of the results of research and studies to develop social innovation applications that will support public</li> </ul>

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	1.1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	To increase the delivery and uptake of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors
	<p>bodies, the third sector and social enterprises to generate better outcomes for those who experience the most social and economic disadvantage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To influence policy makers across the programme area in the design and delivery of innovative services and tools used to deliver social inclusion.</li> <li>• Measurable improvement in the skills and knowledge of those furthest from the labour market of their ability to become economically active.</li> <li>• An improvement in the actions taken by businesses to “give a chance” to those further away from the labour market</li> </ul>

**Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

Specific objective		1.1 - To increase the delivery and uptake of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
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	Survey of Experts	2018, 2020, 2023

Specific objective		1.2 - Increase the quality and the effectiveness of service delivery to the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups through social innovation					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.2	Level of quality and effectiveness of the service provided to disadvantaged groups	%	61.25	2015	61.75	Survey of regional experts	2018/2020/2023

## 2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

### 2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
<p><b><u>Types and examples of actions for SO 1.1</u></b></p> <p>The following text contains the types of actions the programme will support under Specific Objective 1.1. The list of examples of actions is not exhaustive and serves as guidelines rather than specific criteria.</p> <p><b>Type of action: Proof of concept/validation</b></p> <p><i>Proof of concept is documented evidence that a potential product or service can be successful. It is a small exercise to test a discrete design idea or assumption. Investment will support pilot lines, early product validation actions, and early validation before diffusion of technologies.</i></p> <p>Example of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supporting collaborative research designed to develop and adapt new products, to improve the delivery of services, to improve processes or systems.</li></ul> <p><b>Type of action: Demonstration and testing</b></p> <p><i>Demonstration and testing is one step in product and service development.</i></p> <p>Example of actions</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint pilot innovation projects on new products, processes, systems and services</li> <li>• Joint testing of new products, services, processes or systems – which could also include testing market demand and how to roll out / embed solutions</li> <li>• Joint design of innovative solutions that could include feasibility studies, scoping or finding ways to overcome technical or structural barriers</li> <li>• Joint demonstration projects involving the wide-scale testing of new products, processes and services</li> </ul> <p><b>Type of action: Implementation</b></p> <p><i>Implementation is: demand stimulation, networking, clusters and innovation platforms, up to the first production of innovative technologies.</i></p> <p>Example of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint business development, for example relating to innovation management, cluster development and creation of business and commercial networks, and supporting the internationalisation of SMEs</li> <li>• Joint development of cross border tools to provide business to business opportunities</li> <li>• Transfer of best practice by creating or reinforcing cross border networks for innovation, in order to stimulate fresh concepts and innovative working practices (for example cross- and multi-sectoral working, bringing together research institutions with public, private and third sector partners), and to improve the efficiency of innovation policies.</li> <li>• Joint awareness and training events aimed at public decision makers, stakeholders and practitioners concerned by these challenges</li> <li>• Develop joint cross-border education and training pathways to business development, management of clusters, and internationalisation of SMEs</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
<p>• Support the commercialisation of existing research to roll out, embed and bring to market innovative solutions</p> <p><b><u>Target Sectors for SO 1.1</u></b></p> <p>This Specific Objective includes a focus on smart specialisation sectors that are shared across the Programme area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transport and ports</li> <li>• marine and environmental technologies</li> <li>• agro-food</li> <li>• life and health science</li> <li>• communication, digital and creative industries</li> <li>• manufacturing</li> </ul> <p>The above should not however be considered exhaustive as the Programme will be responsive to emerging needs according to developments within the Smart Specialisation Strategies.</p> <p>The programme will pay particular attention to those projects which support the use of Key Enabling Technologies within these sectors.</p> <p>Due to the maritime border, the programme expects to support innovation linked to ‘blue growth’ and the maritime /coastal economy.</p> <p>Research and innovation projects on low carbon technologies, cultural and natural heritage, ecosystem services, and green and blue infrastructures, will be supported under Priorities 2 and 3 of the programme.</p> <p><b><u>Target Areas for SO 1.1</u></b></p> <p>The whole of the eligible area.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
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**Project partners (beneficiaries) for SO 1.1**

- The private sector, including SMEs
- Business intermediaries
- Social enterprises
- Universities and research institutes
- Innovation and technology transfer agencies
- Public authorities and equivalent public bodies: Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships

The programme will prioritise innovation projects aiming to span the entire innovation process, including universities, research institutes, the public sector, companies, the third sector and social enterprises.

**Types and examples of actions for SO 1.2**

The following text contains the types of actions the programme will support under Specific Objective 1.2. The list of examples of actions is not exhaustive and serves as guidelines rather than specific criteria.

**Proof of concept**

*Proof of concept is documented evidence that a potential product, process, system or service can be successful. It is a small exercise to test discrete design idea or assumption that will improve the development of social innovation applications.*

- Joint strategy formulation compiling evidence at the scale of the FCE area, including the analysis and identification of those at risk;
- Resource reports for policy making compiling evidence of examples of successful interventions in the field of social innovation, identification of opportunities for social innovation, development of action plans, cross border working protocols etc.
- Develop innovative guidelines and working practices that can be embedded across the FCE area to accelerate and improve social inclusion

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
<p>outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint design of innovative social service delivery models focused on improved efficiency and effectiveness.</li> </ul> <p><b>Demonstration</b></p> <p><i>Demonstration and testing is one step in setting up novel approaches and measures to improve the development of social innovation applications.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint design and demonstration of innovative service delivery mechanisms.</li> <li>• Joint design and demonstration of innovative applications.</li> </ul> <p>Development of pilot actions so that the effectiveness and quality of service delivery can be tested and taken up by service providers.</p> <p><b>Implementation</b></p> <p><i>Implementation is: demand stimulation, networking, clusters and innovation platforms, in order to deliver solutions to develop efficient and effective services to meet the health, well-being and employability needs of those citizens furthest from the labour market.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in small scale infrastructure (e.g equipment) related to social innovation that is a result of jointly designed interventions and undertaken by cross border partnerships;</li> <li>• Design and implement joint training courses and exchange of good practice to influence innovative policy and practices targeted at those furthest from the labour market;</li> <li>• Exchange good practice and experience between public sector and economic development stakeholders to improve innovative future policy and service provision;</li> <li>• Implement jointly designed innovative training programmes focused to overcome barriers to employability or entrepreneurship for disadvantaged groups;</li> <li>• Jointly design and implement innovative initiatives to increase mutual understanding and cooperation between generations.</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
<p><b><u>Target Sectors for SO 1.2</u></b></p> <p>All areas of business and industry capable of growth may be targeted by initiatives aiming to improve access to employment and promoting social inclusion.</p> <p>The programme will consider the possibility of supporting relevant projects within the framework of the European Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.</p> <p><b><u>Target Areas for SO 1.2</u></b></p> <p>The Programme will focus on disadvantaged population rather than on disadvantaged areas. In particular the programme will focus on those furthest from the labour market and the ageing population.</p> <p><b><u>Project partners (beneficiaries) for SO 1.2</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business networks and associative bodies/organisations</li> <li>• Businesses</li> <li>• Public bodies and public equivalent bodies: Local and regional authorities, Chambers of Commerce, public health organisations, etc.</li> <li>• Third sector</li> <li>• Social housing providers</li> <li>• Training centres.</li> </ul>	

***2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations***

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
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***Guiding principle for priority 1b***

- The programme will prioritise innovation projects aiming to span the entire innovation process, including universities, research institutes, the public sector, companies, the third sector and social enterprises.

***Common principles for all the priorities***

For all of its priorities, the Programme will support projects which fulfil the guiding principles set out below:

- **The added value of cross-border cooperation:** projects must demonstrate the added-value of cooperation across the Channel, with the aim of enhancing the potential of the cross-border territories. The added value of cross-border cooperation stems from a common will to tackle a problem going beyond local interests and needs: it's about finding shared solutions to common problems. A cross border cooperation project in the France (Channel) England programme must be more than a simply 'mirror project' on both sides of the Channel.
- **An approach focused on achieving results for the territories and their population:** the Programme will only fund projects which generate tangible, measurable results for the territory and its population and that demonstrate how they will contribute to the result indicator for the Priority under which they are supported. Projects will be expected to demonstrate that value-for-money is delivered.
- **The coordination and complementarity with other European funding programmes:** projects will need to demonstrate if and how they dovetail with the European Commission's other funding instruments (for example ERDF and Horizon 2020).
- **Quality of partnerships:** the Programme will assess the quality of partnerships that will implement projects, particularly those built around strong partnerships involving a wide cross-section of stakeholders (public sector, civil society, the third sector, the business sector, etc.) and that involve new partners in the programme.
- **The presence of a strategy that ensures the long term viability of the policy action:** the Programme will take into account whether projects have

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
<p>already planned a long-term sustainable strategy and plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>Capitalisation of projects outputs:</b> the Programme will take into account whether the projects main outputs are sustainable and if there is a long-term plan to make use of the outputs and results of the projects.</li> <li>· <b>Cross-cutting principles:</b> at the application stage the Programme will also check that projects respect its cross-cutting principles outlined at section 8.</li> <li>· <b>The maritime dimension of the Programme:</b> the Programme will welcome projects that address maritime challenges faced by the cross-border area, such as exploiting its economic development potential, protecting its natural environment, or risk management.</li> <li>· Admissibility criteria will be established at the start of the programme, which will then apply to every project call.</li> <li>· Additional criteria may be specified for each project call.</li> </ul>	

#### 2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
Not Applicable.	

#### 2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

<b>Investment priority</b>	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
Not Applicable.	

### 2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

**Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators**

<b>Investment priority</b>	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				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO27	Research, Innovation: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R&D projects	EUR	1,347,841.00	Project partners	Annual
CO42	Productive investment: Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Organisations	21.00	Project partners	Annual
CO45	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	Persons	7,000.00	Project partners	Annual
1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	30.00	Project partners	Annual
1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems	10.00	Project partners	Annual
1.3	Number of businesses and business intermediaries cooperating with research institutions	Number of businesses and intermediaries	20.00	Project partners	Annual
1.4	Number of innovative skill development and professional training schemes for disadvantaged people	Number of schemes	40.00	Project partners	Annual

<b>Investment priority</b>	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				
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
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	Project partners	Annual
1.6	Number of socially innovative services designed	Number of services	5.00	Project partners	Annual

## 2.A.7 Performance framework

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

Priority axis		1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
CO45	O	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in projects promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion across borders	Persons	875	7,000.00	Project partners	
1	F	Expenditure Certified	€	18,720,012	149,760,094.00	Certifying Authority	
1.1	O	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0	30.00	Project partners	
1.2	O	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0	10.00	Project partners	

Priority axis		1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
1.1	I	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	4		Project partners	
1.2	I	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	2		Project partners	

### **Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework**

#### *Selection of Financial Indicators*

The financial indicators selected are calculated on the basis that 12.5% of the programme expenditure will be certified by 2018. The figures shown are this percentage of the global allocation to each priority.

#### *Selection of Key Implementation Steps*

The Key Implementation Steps have been selected as it does not foreseen that any projects will have completed their actions by the end of 2018 to allow for a forecast of the milestone to be given. In each case they represent the actions which are expected to be completed by a project which is in the process of generating outputs to be recorded under the programmes output indicators.

#### *Selection of Targets for Output Indicators*

The targets outlined above reflect the ambitions of the Programme. In choosing these targets the Programme Preparation Group has been guided by the Joint Secretariat which has gathered data from existing projects in the previous programme to estimate a unit cost of delivering each of the outputs foreseen in the Output Indicators.

These unit costs have then been used to apprehend the cost of the activities that the Programme wishes to carry out, and the targets have been set taking this information into account.

This has led to the selection of leading outputs, which in each case correspond to the majority of the expenditure foreseen under the Priority Axis, and have been selected for the performance framework.

#### *Calculation of unit costs*

In order to calculate the Unit costs, the following method has been used.

1. Representative projects from Interreg IVA FCE have been selected where they have produced outputs which are relevant to the Output Indicators selected for the Interreg VA programme
2. The workpackages within the projects which relate to these outputs have been identified, and the costs extracted. This is to separate the costs of projects which are not related to the outputs. For example, where a project invests both in Social Inclusion and development of new artistic projects, only the workpackages related to social inclusion are counted. A unit cost for outputs was then produced by dividing the costs of the workpackages by the number of outputs.
3. Where projects have not completed or have not completed filing their claims, the budget figures have been used. Where progress reports do not yet show outputs, the forecast in the application form have been used.
4. The unit costs established in point 2 (above) have then been used to create an average unit cost for each output indicator.
5. For the Output indicator 1.1&1.2 (innovative products, processes, systems and services) and Output Indicator 2.1&2.2 (Low Carbon innovative products, processes, systems and services) the same unit cost has been used. This is because the indicators are very similar to each other and we do not expect to see different costs for projects under priority 1 and priority 2.
6. This average unit cost has then been multiplied by 1.33 in order to account for the expected costs of project management and communication. This is based on the average project in 2007-13 on average spending 25% of its resources on these areas.

In order to factor in inflation, the midpoint of the relevant work packages has been taken, and inflation added at a rate of 2% per year to produce unit costs in 2014 prices.

#### **2.A.8 Categories of intervention**

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

## Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

**Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.	
	Code	Amount (€)
	060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking	18,869,772.00
	061. Research and innovation activities in private research centres including networking	6,289,924.00
	062. Technology transfer and university-enterprise cooperation primarily benefiting SMEs	22,014,734.00
	064. Research and innovation processes in SMEs (including voucher schemes, process, design, service and social innovation)	15,724,810.00
	102. Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility	23,063,054.00
	107. Active and healthy ageing	14,676,489.00
	109. Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	4,193,283.00

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

Priority axis	1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.	
	Code	Amount (€)
	01. Non-repayable grant	104,832,066.00

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
	01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)	33,011,617.00
	02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)	34,846,179.00
	03. Rural areas (thinly populated)	36,974,270.00

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
	07. Not applicable	104,832,066.00

**2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)**

<b>Priority axis:</b>	<b>1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.</b>	
All planned actions are described under Priority Axis 4 - Technical Assistance.		

### 2.A.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	2
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

### 2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not Applicable.

### 2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</b>
ERDF	Total

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	4f
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

### 2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	2.1
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<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	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
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>The goal of this objective is twofold: to develop new low-carbon technologies and services and to improve and foster the uptake of new or existing low-carbon technologies and services by exploiting the FCE area's research excellence and innovation support infrastructures.</p> <p>The preparatory phase for the programme pinpointed several challenges that the programme will address. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a need to achieve a critical mass of expertise in this field capable of developing, adapting, transferring, testing and fostering the uptake of low carbon technologies and services</li> <li>• a need to better exploit research produced both within the FCE area and outside it, to transform knowledge into marketable goods and services</li> <li>• a need to reduce the dependency on unsustainable energy by using low carbon technologies</li> </ul> <p>To meet these challenges the programme will act to strengthen cross-border cooperation in order to develop, adapt, transfer, test and foster the use of low-carbon technologies and services.</p> <p>More specifically the programme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support innovation networks and business clusters (which could include universities, research institutes, the public sector and not-for-profit organisations) in order to develop and commercialise new low-carbon products, services, processes and systems;</li> <li>• increase the ability of both the public and private sectors to take up low-carbon technologies and services;</li> <li>• improve public policy frameworks to stimulate the supply of, and demand for, low-carbon technologies and assist the private sector to gain access to low-carbon technology markets.</li> </ul> <p>These actions should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generate high-value added knowledge-intensive jobs;</li> <li>• increase economic competitiveness and create new export markets;</li> <li>• increase the share of renewable energy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve energy efficiency</li> </ul> <p>The achievement of these results could be influenced by external factors which are not in the control of the programme, such as climate change, technological improvement of a low-carbon economy, uncertainty on energy markets.</p> <p>To participate in the programme projects must demonstrate exactly how they will support cooperation between participating organisations, and the tangible outcomes that their activities will produce.</p> <p>The overarching aim of this specific objective is to reduce the carbon emissions across the programme area.</p>
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**Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

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					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.1	Level of performance in the development and uptake of new or existing low-carbon technologies and services.	%	47.82	2015	51.82	Survey of regional experts.	2018/2020/2023

## 2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

### 2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
The following text contains the types of actions the programme will support. The list of examples of actions is not exhaustive and serves as guidelines	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>rather than specific criteria.</p> <p><b>Type of action: Proof of concept/validation</b></p> <p><i>Proof of concept is documented evidence that a potential product or service can be successful. It is a small exercise to test a discrete design idea or assumption. Investment will support pilot lines, early product validation actions, and early validation before diffusion of technologies. Proof of concept/validation will aim to develop new technologies and to stimulate their adoption.</i></p> <p>Example of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied collaborative research and innovation on low-carbon technologies, including new concepts, approaches, products, processes, and services;</li> <li>• Applied collaborative research and innovation on KETs;</li> <li>• Environmental and societal impact studies on how to increase and / or improve the use of low-carbon technologies and services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Type of action: Demonstration and testing</b></p> <p><i>Demonstration and testing is one step in product and service development.</i></p> <p>Example of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint feasibility testing of low-carbon technologies and services, including KETs;</li> <li>• Joint pilot demonstration projects to test and showcase the benefits of low carbon technologies and services and their applications;</li> <li>• Joint testing of low carbon technologies leading to more efficient and effective ways of using energy.</li> </ul>	

**Investment priority**

4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

- Joint feasibility and technical studies on low-carbon technologies and services to explore their market potential;

**Type of action: Implementation**

*Implementation is: demand stimulation, networking, clusters and innovation platforms, up to the first production of innovative low carbon technologies.*

**Example of actions**

- Joint measures (including raising awareness campaigns and training programmes) to promote the development and uptake of low carbon technologies, including renewable energy;
- Joint awareness and training events aimed at public decision makers, stakeholders and practitioners concerned by these challenges;
- Joint implementation of strategies and action plans to help SMEs gain access to local and international low-carbon energy technology markets.

**Target Sectors**

This Specific Objective will be targeting sectors shared across the Programme area that have the potential for a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, in particular:

- renewable energies
- transport
- agriculture
- manufacturing
- building

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>The programme will pay particular attention to those projects which use Key Enabling Technologies</p> <p>In line with the European Commission’s Blue Growth Strategy and Atlantic Strategy, Priority 2 will also pay particular attention to those projects related to the programme’s maritime dimension.</p> <p><b><u>Target Areas</u></b></p> <p>All the regions in the FCE area are eligible under this Specific Objective.</p> <p><b><u>Project partners (beneficiaries)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher education and research centres</li> <li>• Organisations in the fields of technology transfer</li> <li>• Business support agencies</li> <li>• Innovation agencies</li> <li>• Businesses, business organisations and networks (e.g. clusters)</li> <li>• Public sector or public similar bodies</li> <li>• Not-for-profit organisations working with the public (for users, consumers, environment protection).</li> </ul>	

***2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations***

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
<p>Guiding principles the same as those described under Axis 1.</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

### 2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
Not Applicable.	

### 2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies
Not Applicable.	

### 2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

**Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators**

<b>Investment priority</b>		4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies			
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
2.1	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	20.00	Project partners	Annual
2.2	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems.	5.00	Project partners	Annual
2.3	Number of supported LCT multisectoral networks	Number of networks.	5.00	Project partners	Annual
2.4	Number of participants in awareness raising or training events for take up and development of low carbon	Number of participants	16,000.00	Project partners	Annual

<b>Investment priority</b>	4f - Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies				
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
	technologies				

## 2.A.7 Performance framework

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

<b>Priority axis</b>		<b>2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.</b>					
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator type</b>	<b>Indicator or key implementation step</b>	<b>Measurement unit, where appropriate</b>	<b>Milestone for 2018</b>	<b>Final target (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate</b>
2	F	Expenditure Certified	€	7,488,004.63	59,904,037.00	Certifying Authority Accounts	
2.1	O	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0	20.00	project partners	
2.1	I	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems being designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	3		Project partners	
2.2	O	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems.	0	5.00	Project partners	
2.2	I	Number of new or enhanced low carbon products, services, processes or systems being produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	1		Project partners	

## **Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework**

### *Selection of Financial Indicators*

The financial indicators selected are calculated on the basis that 12.5% of the programme expenditure will be certified by 2018. The figures shown are this percentage of the global allocation to each priority.

### *Selection of Key Implementation Steps*

The Key Implementation Steps have been selected as it is not foreseen that a sufficient number of projects will have completed their actions by the end of 2018 to allow for a forecast of the milestone to be given. In each case they represent the actions which are expected to be completed by a project which is in the process of generating outputs to be recorded under the programmes output indicators.

### *Selection of Targets for Output Indicators*

The targets outlined above reflect the ambitions of the Programme. In choosing these targets the Programme Preparation Group has been guided by the Joint Secretariat which has gathered data from existing projects in the previous programme to estimate a unit cost of delivering each of the outputs foreseen in the Output Indicators.

These unit costs have then been used to apprehend the cost of the activities that the Programme wishes to carry out, and the targets have been set taking this information into account.

This has led to the selection of leading outputs, which in each case correspond to the majority of the expenditure foreseen under the Priority Axis, and have been selected for the performance framework.

### *Calculation of unit costs*

In order to calculate the Unit costs, the following method has been used.

1. Representative projects from Interreg IVA FCE have been selected where they have produced outputs which are relevant to the Output Indicators selected for the Interreg VA programme
2. The workpackages within the projects which relate to these outputs have been identified, and the costs extracted. This is to separate the costs of projects which are not related to the outputs. For example, where a project invests both in Social Inclusion and development of new artistic

- projects, only the workpackages related to social inclusion are counted. A unit cost for outputs was then produced by dividing the costs of the workpackages by the number of outputs.
3. Where projects have not completed or have not completed filing their claims, the budget figures have been used. Where progress reports do not yet show outputs, the forecast in the application form have been used.
  4. The unit costs established in point 2 (above) have then been used to create an average unit cost for each output indicator.
  5. For the Output indicator 1.1&1.2 (innovative products, processes, systems and services) and Output Indicator 2.1&2.2 (Low Carbon innovative products, processes, systems and services) the same unit cost has been used. This is because the indicators are very similar to each other and we do not expect to see different costs for projects under priority 1 and priority 2.
  6. This average unit cost has then been multiplied by 1.33 in order to account for the expected costs of project management and communication. This is based on the average project in 2007-13 on average spending 25% of its resources on these areas.

In order to factor in inflation, the midpoint of the relevant work packages has been taken, and inflation added at a rate of 2% per year to produce unit costs in 2014 prices.

## 2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

### Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

**Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.	
	Code	Amount (€)
	023. Environmental measures aimed at reducing and / or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions (including treatment and storage of methane gas and composting)	16,773,130.00
	060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including	8,386,565.00

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.</b>	
networking		
065. Research and innovation infrastructure, processes, technology transfer and cooperation in enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy and on resilience to climate change		4,193,283.00
069. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs		4,193,283.00
071. Development and promotion of enterprises specialised in providing services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change (including support to such services)		8,386,565.00

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
01. Non-repayable grant		41,932,826.00

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)		13,204,647.00
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)		13,938,471.00
03. Rural areas (thinly populated)		14,789,708.00

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.</b>	
	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (€)</b>
07. Not applicable		41,932,826.00

**2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)**

<b>Priority axis:</b>	<b>2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.</b>	
All planned actions are described under Priority Axis 4 - Technical Assistance.		

### 2.A.1 Priority axis

<b>ID of the priority axis</b>	3
<b>Title of the priority axis</b>	Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

### 2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not Applicable.

### 2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</b>
ERDF	Total

### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	6c
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

### 2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	3.1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Realise the potential of the common natural and cultural assets to deliver innovative and sustainable growth

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	3.1
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Realise the potential of the common natural and cultural assets to deliver innovative and sustainable growth
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>Investment under this objective will enhance the area’s attractiveness as a place to live, work, and visit by developing and using the natural and cultural assets of the area (heritage sites as well as intangible capital).</p> <p>Specifically, this objective will deliver a platform for innovative and sustainable economic growth by exploiting and improving the natural and cultural assets of the area in an innovative and environmentally friendly way, involving therein the development of the creative and cultural industries. The evidence of success will be provided through evidence of, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase of tourist volumes and their distribution throughout the year, and higher expenditure by tourists;</li> <li>• commercial opportunities for the areas’ businesses;</li> <li>• direct/indirect job creation and preservation;</li> <li>• enhanced quality of life for residents and enhanced appeal to potential residents;</li> <li>• creating opportunities for training and learning for professionals.</li> </ul> <p>The evidence of success will be provided through the number of innovative products/services that result from projects developing and exploiting common cultural and natural assets and an increase in tourist numbers and in their distribution throughout the year.</p> <p>The achievement of these results could be influenced by external factors which are not in the control of the programme, such as economic crisis and proximity to major global hubs.</p>

**Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

Specific objective		3.1 - Realise the potential of the common natural and cultural assets to deliver innovative and sustainable growth					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

Specific objective		3.1 - Realise the potential of the common natural and cultural assets to deliver innovative and sustainable growth					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
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	Survey of regional experts	2018/2020/2023

## 2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

### 2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>The following text contains the types of actions the programme will support. The list of examples of actions is not exhaustive and serves as guidelines rather than specific criteria.</p> <p><b>Type of action: Proof of concept/validation</b></p> <p><i>Proof of concept is documented evidence that a potential measure can be successful. It is a small exercise to test discrete approaches and measures which will create economic opportunities through the development of the natural and cultural heritage by emulating positive spin offs for the economy.</i></p> <p>Example of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop innovative joint marketing approaches and measures that strengthen the image and enhance the attractiveness of the programme area as a destination of choice in worldwide marketplaces (for example, shared marketing approaches to attract new visitors and attract inward investment, and the development of digital technology);</li> <li>• Jointly design innovative approaches to increase employment in the natural environment and cultural sectors, and so enhance the attractiveness of the FCE area;</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint design innovative methods for identifying the emergence of new sustainable tourist activities and adapting education/training schemes accordingly.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Type of action: Demonstration and testing</b></p>	
<p><i>Demonstration and testing is one step in setting up novel approaches and measures.</i></p>	
<p>Example of actions</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trialing and testing whether innovative place based marketing approaches, new cross-border events, or innovative cross-border tourism products can be successful;</li> <li>• Testing and demonstrating different approaches to enhancing natural and cultural heritage including the development of creative and cultural industries across the FCE area.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Type of action: Implementation</b></p>	
<p><i>Implementation is: demand stimulation, networking, clusters and innovation platforms, in order to deliver solutions that make a tangible difference to the environment and economy of the programme area.</i></p>	
<p>Example of actions</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of innovative and sustainable cross-border products and services for the tourism and the cultural sectors, with a particular emphasis on supporting eco-tourism;</li> <li>• Implementation of innovative and sustainable actions that develop or enhance cross-border routes linked to, for example, common historical, geological, natural or existing heritage assets;</li> <li>• Implementation of joint innovative events or communication measures to increase interest and therefore use of the FCE area's natural and cultural</li> </ul>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
<p>assets;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of joint innovative training initiatives for natural and cultural heritage stakeholders and practitioners;</li> <li>• Exchange of good practice and experience between public sector and economic development stakeholders to innovate to develop future policy on regeneration and service provision as well as enable the reuse of derelict buildings and industrial sites;</li> <li>• Identify and deliver innovative products and services produced by cultural and creative industries, to enhance the attractiveness of natural and cultural assets.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Target Areas</u></b></p> <p>All the regions of the FCE area are eligible under this specific objective.</p> <p>This specific objective’s communication, promotion and marketing actions are likely to target regions outside of the area eligible.</p> <p><b><u>Project partners (beneficiaries)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third-sector, cultural and environmental organisations</li> <li>• Universities / research centres working in partnership with the cultural sector</li> <li>• Business and industry, trade associations/bodies, business networks, business intermediaries</li> <li>• Local Authorities</li> <li>• Tourist boards/offices and tourism development agencies</li> <li>• Agencies/management bodies for sensitive and protected natural areas, organisations responsible for protecting and working with the environment.</li> </ul>	

***2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations***

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
The Programme will not fund one-off events unless they are part of an action plan with specific objectives within the project.	
Other guiding principles are the same as those described under Axis 1.	

#### **2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)**

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Not Applicable.	

#### **2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)**

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Not Applicable.	

#### **2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)**

**Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators**

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage				
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	240,000.00	Project partners	Annual
3.1	Number of innovative products/services that result from projects enhancing common cultural & natural	Number of new or enhanced	55.00	Project partners	Annual

<b>Investment priority</b>	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage				
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
	assets	products/services.			

#### 2.A.4 Investment priority

<b>ID of the investment priority</b>	6d
<b>Title of the investment priority</b>	Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

#### 2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	3.2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems
<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>	<p>The expected result of this objective will be i) to promote more effective and efficient management of green and blue infrastructure, meeting the objective of preserving biodiversity and inclusion of biodiversity preservation into local development frameworks, and ii) to enhance ecosystem services[1]. This will focus particularly, but not exclusively, on how the Channel can be used to this end and how blue growth can be utilised to underpin economic growth. Transitional water are bodies of surface water in the vicinity of river mouths which are partly saline in character as a result of their proximity to coastal waters but which are substantially influenced by freshwater flows.</p> <p>This will be achieved by improving how stakeholders and practitioners understand, deliver, exploit, develop and work together to preserve biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p> <p>Effective management and protection of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of the Channel will bring benefits to the people and the economy[2], delivering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• benefits in terms of public health from a protected environment;</li> <li>• tangible economic benefits, for example job creation;</li> <li>• growth, business opportunities;</li> </ul>

<b>ID of the specific objective</b>	3.2
<b>Title of the specific objective</b>	Enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved prevention and management of natural risks (including those related to climate change).</li> </ul> <p>The achievement of these results could be influenced by external factors which are not in the control of the programme, such as increase in traffic, accessibility and transport networks, and climate agreements and negotiations.</p> <p>This investment priority will address the identified challenges of the area: on the one hand to promote economic sustainability through responsible and green territorial development and on the other hand to improve risk mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Research and innovation projects on ecosystem services will be supported under this priority.</p> <p>[1] (Mazza et al, Institute for European Environmental Policy, 2011)</p> <p>[2] (Bureaubuiten economie &amp; omgeving (Buiten Consultancy), 2013, p. 59)</p>

**Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators** (by specific objective)

Specific objective		3.2 - Enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
3.2	Percentage of transitional and coastal water bodies with good or high ecological status	%	44.08	2015	53.55	Environment Agency (UK) and DREAL (FR)	2018/2020/2023

#### 2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

**2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries**

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>The following text contains the types of actions the programme will support. The list of examples of actions is not exhaustive and serves as guidelines rather than specific criteria.</p> <p><b>Type of action: Proof of concept/validation</b></p> <p><i>Proof of concept is documented evidence that a potential product, process, system or service can be successful. It is a small exercise to test discrete design idea or assumption that will improve the management and protection of the Channel and its coastal environment and associated waterways.</i></p> <p>Example of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint research and scoping studies to manage environmental and natural risks, biodiversity and ecosystems, and natural assets across the FCE area with the aim to raise awareness of natural heritage, biodiversity, and local ecosystems and their services;</li> <li>• Joint analysis, comparison and evaluation of the management of protected areas (marine areas, UNESCO biospheres, areas of outstanding natural beauty, etc.), especially where new activities are emerging (natural marine resources, marine energy, offshore aggregates, etc.) leading to concrete proposals that will improve how ecosystems are managed;</li> <li>• Pilot projects on the definition and implementation of new management systems for ecosystem services, including joint activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Type of action: Demonstration and testing</b></p> <p><i>Demonstration and testing is one step in setting up novel approaches and measures for the effective management and protection of the Channel, coast, estuaries, and waterways which will bring benefits to the people and economy.</i></p> <p>Example of actions</p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint testing and piloting of actions that demonstrate better management of the FCE area and how to balance competing priorities for human activities and environmental preservation;</li> <li>• Joint testing of cross border cooperation on risk management (e.g. flooding) as a tool for better protecting ecosystems services.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Type of action: Implementation</b></p>	
<p><i>Implementation is: demand stimulation, networking and sharing platforms, in order for stakeholders and practitioners to improve how they understand, exploit, develop and work together to 1) preserve biodiversity and inclusion of biodiversity preservation into local development frameworks, and 2) enhance ecosystems services.</i></p>	
<p>Example of actions</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation of common information, education and communication tools for the general public, designed to improve organisations and citizens respect for and treatment of the environment;</li> <li>• Joint awareness and training events on the theme of sustaining, improving and managing ecosystem services – aimed at public decision makers, environmental stakeholders, and practitioners concerned by these challenges ;</li> <li>• Implementation of joint actions to better manage green and blue infrastructure;</li> <li>• Development and implementation of measures to influence local planning policy especially focused on maritime and coastal planning;</li> <li>• Implementation of joint measures to reduce pollution and improve the management of environmental risk especially in relation to the maritime risk and pollution;</li> <li>• Joint initiatives combining sustainable management of natural resources (promotion of renewable energy in tourist infrastructure, water and waste management) and protection and promotion of preserved natural areas.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Target Areas</u></b></p>	

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>All regions in the FCE area are eligible under this specific objective.</p> <p>The programme does not restrain geographically the project activities to coastal or transitional water areas. Projects will however need to demonstrate how their activities have a positive impact on or relevance to coastal or transitional water ecosystems.</p> <p><b><u>Project partners (beneficiaries)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third-sector organisations and NGOs</li> <li>• Businesses (for example, tourism businesses, service businesses in the environmental field) and business networks</li> <li>• Research centres, universities and knowledge transfer organisations</li> <li>• Public authorities and public equivalent bodies: local and regional authorities, environmental protection agencies, tourist offices</li> <li>• Organisations responsible for the management of natural sites, organisations in charge of protecting and promoting the environment.</li> </ul>	

#### ***2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations***

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>Guiding principles are the same as those described under Axis 1.</p>	

#### ***2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)***

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
<p>Not Applicable.</p>	

#### 2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Not Applicable.	

#### 2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

**Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators**

<b>Investment priority</b>	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure				
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Target value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Frequency of reporting</b>
3.2	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of institutions.	65.00	Project partners	Annual
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	Project partners	Annual

#### 2.A.7 Performance framework

**Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis**

<b>Priority axis</b>		<b>3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.</b>					
<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator type</b>	<b>Indicator or key implementation step</b>	<b>Measurement unit, where appropriate</b>	<b>Milestone for 2018</b>	<b>Final target (2023)</b>	<b>Source of data</b>	<b>Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate</b>
3	F	Expenditure Certified	€	11,232,007	89,856,057.00	Certifying Authority Accounts	
3.1	O	Number of innovative	Number of new or enhanced	0	55.00	Project	

Priority axis		3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
		products/services that result from projects enhancing common cultural & natural assets	products/services.			partners	
3.2	O	Number of institutions (public or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of institutions.	0	65.00	project partners	
3.1	I	Number of innovative products/services under development	Number of products/services under development	7		Project partners	
3.2	I	Number of institutions (public or private) supported or being supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems	Number of institutions	9		Project partners	

### Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

#### *Selection of Financial Indicators*

The financial indicators selected are calculated on the basis that 12.5% of the programme expenditure will be certified by 2018. The figures shown are this percentage of the global allocation to each priority.

#### *Selection of Key Implementation Steps*

The Key Implementation Steps have been selected as it is not foreseen that a sufficient number of projects will have completed their actions by the end of 2018 to allow for a forecast of the milestone to be given. In each case they represent the actions which are expected to be completed by a project which is in the process of generating outputs to be recorded under the programmes output indicators.

#### *Selection of Targets for Output Indicators*

The targets outlined above reflect the ambitions of the Programme. In choosing these targets the Programme Preparation Group has been guided by the Joint Secretariat which has gathered data from existing projects in the previous programme to estimate a unit cost of delivering each of the outputs foreseen in the Output Indicators.

These unit costs have then been used to apprehend the cost of the activities that the Programme wishes to carry out, and the targets have been set taking this information into account.

This has led to the selection of leading outputs, which in each case correspond to the majority of the expenditure foreseen under the Priority Axis, and have been selected for the performance framework.

#### *Calculation of unit costs*

In order to calculate the Unit costs, the following method has been used.

1. Representative projects from Interreg IVA FCE have been selected where they have produced outputs which are relevant to the Output Indicators selected for the Interreg VA programme
2. The workpackages within the projects which relate to these outputs have been identified, and the costs extracted. This is to separate the costs of projects which are not related to the outputs. For example, where a project invests both in Social Inclusion and development of new artistic projects, only the workpackages related to social inclusion are counted. A unit cost for outputs was then produced by dividing the costs of the workpackages by the number of outputs.
3. Where projects have not completed or have not completed filing their claims, the budget figures have been used. Where progress reports do not yet show outputs, the forecast in the application form have been used.
4. The unit costs established in point 2 (above) have then been used to create an average unit cost for each output indicator.
5. For the Output indicator 1.1&1.2 (innovative products, processes, systems and services) and Output Indicator 2.1&2.2 (Low Carbon innovative products, processes, systems and services) the same unit cost has been used. This is because the indicators are very similar to each other and we do not expect to see different costs for projects under priority 1 and priority 2.

6. This average unit cost has then been multiplied by 1.33 in order to account for the expected costs of project management and communication. This is based on the average project in 2007-13 on average spending 25% of its resources on these areas.

In order to factor in inflation, the midpoint of the relevant work packages has been taken, and inflation added at a rate of 2% per year to produce unit costs in 2014 prices.

### 2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

#### Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

**Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	
	Code	Amount (€)
060. Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking		6,289,924.00
085. Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure		9,434,886.00
087. Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks e.g. erosion, fires, flooding, storms and drought, including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures		18,869,772.00
092. Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets		9,434,886.00
094. Protection, development and promotion of public cultural and heritage assets		18,869,772.00

**Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	
	Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant		62,899,240.00

**Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type**

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	
	Code	Amount (€)
01. Large Urban areas (densely populated >50 000 population)		19,806,971.00
02. Small Urban areas (intermediate density >5 000 population)		20,907,707.00
03. Rural areas (thinly populated)		22,184,562.00

**Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms**

Priority axis	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	
	Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable		62,899,240.00

**2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)**

Priority axis:	3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	
All planned actions are described under Priority Axis 4 - Technical Assistance.		

## 2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### 2.B.1 Priority axis

<b>ID</b>	4
<b>Title</b>	Technical Assistance

### 2.B.2 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</b>
ERDF	Total

### 2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

<b>ID</b>	<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support</b>
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.	<p>Both the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat will aim to implement an effective system which develops quality projects and generates relevant applications with a high chance of approval.</p> <p>The Joint Secretariat will provide a network of Project Development staff (facilitators) embedded within partner organisations across the programme area. These staff will be trained, performance managed and able to contribute to a range of expertise into the programme. They will provide effective support for applicants throughout and after the application process and will form an account management relationship with the projects they support.</p> <p>This infrastructure will be supported by a proactive approach to partnership matching, support seminars to assist in the design of projects that will achieve the objectives of the programme and a legacy of greater participation throughout the programme area.</p>

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
		<p>The strategy for the deployment of Technical Assistance has been developed following an analysis of the performance of the 2007-13 IVa programme focussing on the level of decommitment, the project pipeline and the resources deployed to support facilitation of projects across the programme area. In addition, key issues relating to compliance with union policies on eligibility of expenditure (in particular the role of First Level Control (FLC), the Managing Authority and Member States) input into the processes. Further we have studied the findings on Interact FLC systems study (September 2013) and report of DATAR Implementation of the verification of operations in France within the scope of ETC Programmes (April 2012). These reports' key findings were used to develop the Management and Control System.</p> <p>Our analysis of the IVa programme performance indicated a lack of facilitation across the programme area throughout the lifetime of the last programme period, preventing the development of a strong pipeline of projects being developed, coupled with a system of approval where the first the PMC saw a project was when full applications had been developed and appraised. The consequence of this was a slow start to programme delivery and difficulty meeting expenditure targets.</p> <p>In response to this, the structure for facilitation provides 8 staff geographically located across the programme area and embedded within partner organisations to drive programme delivery through promoting project development and raising awareness of the programme and the opportunities it affords. This focus on developing a strong pipeline of projects will help the programme meet its challenging expenditure targets. A 2 phase project approval process is also introduced. Phase 1 will be a strategic overview of the project proposal to meet the challenges the programme wishes to address and the planned resources. Phase 2 will be a full business case application. Both phases will be appraised and will enable the PMC to assess the fit of the project early in its development lifetime and save significant abortive work for projects that have little prospect of success.</p> <p>Our ambition is that this system will deliver higher quality projects, have a higher project approval ratio and lead to a high performing programme in terms of spend and deliverables. Furthermore customer satisfaction will be tested to ensure continuous improvement.</p>

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
		The programme Managing Authority will establish networks and relations with other programme managing bodies to learn and build on the position as a new Managing Authority.

## 2.B.4 Result indicators

**Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)**

Priority axis		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.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
N/A	N/A	N/A	1.00	2014	2.00	n/a	n/a

## 2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
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	<p>The programme will deliver against the principles of sound financial management; strong performance and risk management systems and quality project and programme evaluation. These will be achieved by a Management &amp; Control system that provides detailed information for Programme Monitoring Bodies.</p> <p>Reporting will include commitment and spend performance against targets, evaluation of the impact of the management and control systems in minimising irregular or ineligible expenditure, and the delivery of outputs against selected result indicators. These will be presented using recognised programme management tools such as RAG (Red Amber Green) rated control mechanisms and will include proposals in case of delay or difficulty. This will be supported by a proactive and mandatory approach to training for all project partners and beneficiaries supported by detailed guidance to assist in the smooth delivery of the programme.</p> <p>The programme will take advantage of simplification processes that can be applied to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries.</p> <p>Training for JS staff will be consistent in all aspects of programme and project management and staff will be deployed in the most cost effective way to deliver the programme within the Technical assistance budget that has been agreed for the programme.</p> <p>Our analysis of the previous programme was based on the key findings of the Interact and DATAR studies into the verification and FLC systems. It has led us to conclude that the role of Lead Partners and the FLC system in place during the last programme period was weak, led to poor claim compilation and checking, and placed too great reliance on the back end of the claim process (once the claim was submitted to the JS and to the MA), which resulted in significant errors, payment interruptions and an over-burden on the MA and the Member States to sign off expenditure.</p>

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
		<p>As a result we have proposed a major reform of the claim management system, placing greater responsibility on lead partners and comprehensively changing the operation of FLC to operate at project partner as opposed to lead partner level.</p> <p>We then propose placing contractual responsibilities on lead partners to check partner claims and setting a service standard for FLC that is 100% check operating within a 2% error rate. Each step of the system will include a certification process agreed by PMC. In addition the Managing Authority is proposing to provide in depth, mandatory training at project partner level and FLC backed up by a checklist system of compliance that will be monitored by the JS. This should help to shift the burden of claims verification onto the project partners and reduce the burden on the JS.</p> <p>Our ambition is to set high standards of performance on projects that minimise errors and the need for corrections and penalties, to build a performance framework into contracts for FLC providers, and to place the concentration of resources at the front end of the claims process to in effect build a “firewall” system into our systems. We will back this up with extensive mandatory training for all project partners and FLCs and the development of a series of signed checklists to be certified at each step of the process. We expect this system to lead to much lower error rates and corrections across all of the programme activities.</p>

## 2.B.4 Result indicators

**Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)**

Priority axis	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						
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
N/A2	N/A2	N/A2	1.00	2014	2.00	n/a	n/a

## 2.B.5 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

### 2.B.5.1 Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
<b>Types of actions to be supported</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proactively encourage potential beneficiaries to apply to the FCE programme</li><li>• Provide administrative and financial advice to any potential beneficiary</li><li>• Undertake thorough project appraisal, approval of applications and contracting with approved projects</li><li>• Conduct monitoring at both Project and Programme Level</li><li>• Capitalisation &amp; dissemination of Programme results</li><li>• Apply sound financial management of EU structural funds &amp; national co-financing components of Programme funds</li><li>• Certification of expenditure at 1st and 2nd level control/audit, and annually to the European Commission</li><li>• Put in place appropriate risk-management and anti-fraud measures</li><li>• Support the Programme Monitoring Committee in its execution of tasks</li><li>• Stage programme events, meetings and training sessions for:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beneficiaries</li></ul></li></ul>	

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· First Level Controllers</li> <li>· Auditors</li> <li>· Experts</li> <li>· Member States</li> <li>· Programme Bodies</li> </ul> <p>Technical Assistance will commit expenditure in relation to: overheads, staff costs, accommodation, external consultancy/expertise, equipment, website design, documentation &amp; translation, etc.</p> <p>Some tasks will be aimed at increasing the administrative and systems capacity of any potential beneficiary.</p> <p>Several tools, including events and web-based tools, will be implemented to help potential beneficiaries find partners on both sides of the Channel.</p> <p>Targeting, achieving and capturing results are an important feature of the France (Channel) England cooperation programme. There will be actions taken to ensure that Project Beneficiaries are aware of any key lessons drawn from activities 2007-2013.</p> <p><b>Expected contribution to specific objective</b></p> <p>Priority 4 outlines and addresses the activities to ensure a cohesive and effective management of the programme.</p> <p>This involves creating a high quality team of people that are focused on delivering support and guidance to potential and actual project beneficiaries, and effective and timely performance reporting to the programme governing bodies.</p>	

*2.B.5.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)*

**Table 11: Output indicators**

Priority axis		4 - Technical Assistance		
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data
5.1.1	Number of animation measures to stimulate the generation of projects	Number		Programme System
5.1.2	Number of crossborder applications submitted to the Programme	Number		Programme System
5.1.3	Number of crossborder cooperation projects selected	Number		Programme System
5.2.1	Number of progress reports monitored and leading to payment	Number		Programme System
5.2.2	Number of employees FTEs (full time equivalents) whose salaries are co-financed by TA	Number		Programme System

## 2.B.6 Categories of intervention

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

### Tables 12-14: Categories of intervention

**Table 12: Dimension 1 Intervention field**

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance	
	Code	Amount (€)
121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection		4,460,940.00
122. Evaluation and studies		4,460,938.00
123. Information and communication		4,460,938.00

**Table 13: Dimension 2 Form of finance**

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance	
	Code	Amount (€)
01.Non-repayable grant		13,382,816.00

**Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type**

Priority axis	4 - Technical Assistance	
	Code	Amount (€)
07.Not applicable		13,382,816.00

### 3. FINANCING PLAN

#### 3.1 Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in €)

**Table 15**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
ERDF	0.00	27,217,216.00	23,068,816.00	41,915,903.00	42,754,220.00	43,609,304.00	44,481,489.00	223,046,948.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,217,216.00</b>	<b>23,068,816.00</b>	<b>41,915,903.00</b>	<b>42,754,220.00</b>	<b>43,609,304.00</b>	<b>44,481,489.00</b>	<b>223,046,948.00</b>

### 3.2.A Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in €)

**Table 16: Financing plan**

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	For information	
					National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
1	ERDF	Total	104,832,066.00	44,928,028.00	42,681,627.00	2,246,401.00	149,760,094.00	70.0000001335%		
2	ERDF	Total	41,932,826.00	17,971,211.00	17,072,651.00	898,560.00	59,904,037.00	70.0000001669%		
3	ERDF	Total	62,899,240.00	26,956,817.00	25,608,976.00	1,347,841.00	89,856,057.00	70.0000001113%		
4	ERDF	Total	13,382,816.00	2,361,674.00	2,361,674.00	0.00	15,744,490.00	84.9999968243%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>223,046,948.00</b>	<b>92,217,730.00</b>	<b>87,724,928.00</b>	<b>4,492,802.00</b>	<b>315,264,678.00</b>	<b>70.7491081510%</b>		
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>223,046,948.00</b>	<b>92,217,730.00</b>	<b>87,724,928.00</b>	<b>4,492,802.00</b>	<b>315,264,678.00</b>	<b>70.7491081510%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

### 3.2.B Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective

**Table 17**

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
1	Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	104,832,066.00	44,928,028.00	149,760,094.00
2	Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	41,932,826.00	17,971,211.00	59,904,037.00
3	Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	62,899,240.00	26,956,817.00	89,856,057.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>209,664,132.00</b>	<b>89,856,056.00</b>	<b>299,520,188.00</b>

**Table 18: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives**

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the programme (%)
2	34,384,917.20	15.42%
3	22,643,726.40	10.15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,028,643.60</b>	<b>25.57%</b>

## 4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, including in relation to regions and areas referred to in Article 174(3) TFEU, having regard to the Partnership Agreements of the participating Member States, and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results

The main needs and challenges to be addressed are described under Section 1 of this Programme. The territorial dynamics have been analysed, with the support of a specific SWOT analysis organised around the 3 EU2020 priorities carried out in 2013.

The programme strategy has been developed to reflect simultaneously the common needs of the programme area (e.g. to enhance its innovation performance and to address employment issues that are multi-generational and entrenched across the programme area) and the specific needs of its coastal territories to tackle common challenges in the maritime region, exploit the potential of the border area and enhance the co-operation process in the cross-border region.

The challenge this programme faces is cooperation in spite of the maritime border. The maritime space is both a natural barrier and a link, and this impacts cross-border cooperation at all levels.

The programme will tackle territorial development needs by:

- **Exploiting the potential of the cross border area**

Contributing to the realisation of the economic potential of maritime border areas by improving the overall consistency and coordination of policies and tools that will have an impact on the maritime economy and the marine environment.

Promoting R&D investment and the competitiveness of the business sector based on the quadruple helix where government, industry, academia and civil participants work together to drive changes beyond the scope of what any one organisation could do alone.

Focusing on the cross-border context of SMEs to foster innovation and eco-innovation

Increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency to improve environmental protection of shared resources.

- **Enhancing the cooperation process**

Supporting improved knowledge transfer and sharing of best practice between business, research and education

Supporting shared approaches to economic revitalisation of the cross border area including joint marketing campaigns and development of enhanced tourism products.

- **Tackling common challenges**

Supporting activity that will protect the shared environmental heritage including prevention of natural risks.

Supporting social innovation which will increase employability and reduce the risk of social exclusion.

Supporting growth and the creation of jobs.

The use of specific instruments related to integrated approaches, in particular community-led local development instruments, does not appear appropriate for the achievement of the specific objectives within this cross-border cooperation area:

- the size of project partnerships challenges the relevance of local development groups
- in general, the territorial dimension of most of the proposed SOs intends to create change at the level of the entire cooperation area.

#### **4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)**

Approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and principles for identifying the areas where they will be implemented

#### **4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)**

Principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and the indicative allocation of the ERDF support for these actions

**Table 19: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF support**

Indicative amount of ERDF support (€)
0.00

#### **4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)**

Approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis

**Table 20: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)**

Priority axis	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
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Priority axis	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies (where appropriate)**

**(Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional and sea basin strategies)**

In accordance with ERDF ETC Regulation ( d ) of Article 8, paragraph 3 , of Regulation (EU ) No 1299/2013 ), the France (Channel ) England 2014-2020 Programme has regard to how its strategy and the projects which it supports contribute to the maritime Strategy of the European Union adopted in the Atlantic region on May 13, 2013.

France and the United Kingdom are among the five participating states of the European Union involved in this; western regions of the cooperation area of France (Channel) England are covered by the aims and ambitions of the Atlantic Maritime Strategy. The Atlantic Maritime Strategy and the Programme are responding to some similar issues of territorial development and to the same objectives within the Common Strategic Framework for EU cohesion policy. The Programme and the Atlantic Strategy share a focus on innovation and economic development, low carbon economy, heritage and reducing social exclusion.

It is equally important to note where the Programme and the Atlantic Strategy may be different. Firstly, large areas of the Programme are not covered by the Atlantic Strategy, and the Programme will deliver equally to all its areas, including those on the North Sea coast. Secondly, whilst coastal and maritime issues are important to the Programme, there will also be a wider focus on issues affecting the entire Programme area, meaning that the Programme will be broader than the narrow focus of the Atlantic Strategy. Nevertheless, the Programme will fund a number of projects that are likely to be of interest to the bodies overseeing the delivery of the Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan.

## 5. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

### 5.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

**Table 21: Programme authorities**

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Norfolk County Council, Economic Development and Strategy	European and Economic Programmes Manager
Certifying authority	Financial Services, Norfolk County Council	Senior Accountant
Audit authority	Norfolk Audit Services	Chief Internal Auditor

**The body to which payments will be made by the Commission is:**

- the Managing authority  
 the Certifying authority

**Table 22: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks**

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Head of authority/body (position or post)
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Department for Communities and Local Government	Arni Narain - First Level Control Approbation Manager
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Préfecture de Région Haute Normandie	Préfet de la région Haute-Normandie
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Norfolk Audit Services	Adrian Thompson - Chief Internal Auditor

### 5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

For the implementation of the 2014-2020 France (Channel) England programme and in accordance Regulation (EU) 1299/2013, Article 23 (2) the Managing Authority shall set up a Joint Secretariat to:

***“...assist the Managing Authority and the monitoring committee in carrying out their respective functions. The Joint Technical Secretariat shall also provide information to potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under cooperation programmes and shall assist beneficiaries in the implementation of operations.”***

Some appointments of Secretariat staff have occurred to assist the Managing Authority with preparatory work to launch the programme. The following appointments have been made:

- Programme Manager
- Deputy Programme Manager; Project Development
- Deputy Programme Manager; Finance & Appraisal

The recruitment of Facilitators and Finance and Appraisal officers will continue, prior to the programme launch so that the JS is fully operational by that time.

The Joint Secretariat will be directly managed from within Norfolk County Council, at County Hall, Norwich, Norfolk, and will be funded by the Technical Assistance budget (once approved by the Monitoring Committee). Some staff will be located within 'host' authorities within the programme area.

Recruitment will take place in order to fill in the different posts within the Joint Secretariat, with fair and impartial recruitment and selection process for all staff.

### **Joint Secretariat Structure (see chart in Annex 6)**

- Programme Manager
  - Deputy Programme Manager; Project Development
  - o Programme Facilitators
    - Deputy Programme Manager; Finance & Appraisal
    - o Finance and Appraisal Officers
      - Communications Officer
      - Programme Administrator

### **5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements**

This section is written in accordance with the general principles for management and control systems as identified in Art. 72 of regulation (EU) 1303/2013 (CPR).

#### **Overview of responsibilities**

On behalf of the Member States (MS), Norfolk County Council (NCC) will be responsible for the management and control system of the Programme as the designated Managing Authority (MA), selected by DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) in UK and CGET (Commissariat Général à l'Égalité des Territoires) in France.

The Certifying Authority (CA) and the MA will be functionally independent of each other but both will be located within NCC. The MA will be assisted in carrying out its functions by the Joint Secretariat (JS).

There is a strict separation of functions within NCC. The organisation is divided into five Directorates: Finance, Resources, Children's Services, Adult Social Services, and Communities and Environment Services. The MA is located within the Community and Environmental Services Directorate and the CA is located within the Finance Directorate. Each Director is responsible to the Managing Director who has overall Management responsibility for the functions of the County Council. The organisation is structured in this way to ensure functional separation of responsibilities and to reflect the necessary regulatory requirements.

The Audit Authority (AA) is functionally independent of the MA and is located within the Finance Department of the Authority. Norfolk Audit Services exists as an independent control unit which reports to the Head of Finance. The AA is independent from the operations and management of the FCE programme and as such, the AA will not participate in the management of FCE funds. The members of the AA will issue a 'Statement of Independence' from all other Programme bodies and Committees.

### **Monitoring Committee**

In accordance with Art. 47 and Art. 110 of the CPR, a Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) will be established by the MS to monitor the implementation of the Programme. The PMC will be set up within three months of formal approval of the Programme.

The PMC will draw up and adopt its own rules of procedure in line with Art. 11 of the Commission Delegated Reg. 240/2014 on the European Code of Conduct on Partnership and agree them with the MA. At its first meeting, the PMC shall approve detailed provision for the proper and efficient discharge of the duties assigned to it, including the frequency of its meetings, which will be not less than once per year.

The PMC will be chaired by the MA in a non-voting capacity and will include balanced representation from across the eligible region, including representatives of the MS. The arrangements for inclusion of economic and social partners; relevant bodies representing civil society, environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, bodies promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination and locally elected representatives will be determined once the PMC is established.

Particular effort will also be made to promote the balanced participation of women and men. The EU Commission shall participate in an advisory capacity.

Non-Permanent Members or other relevant organisations may be invited by the PMC or any sub-committee it establishes to attend meetings in response to specific agenda items. Other interested parties may be invited to attend as observers, including representatives of Atlantic Strategy.

The names of the members of the PMC will be published on the France (Channel) England website.

The PMC may be assisted by a number of Sub-Committees. The membership and remit of these Sub-Committees will be proposed by the MA and approved by the PMC and may operate on a limited or long-term basis.

The MA will be responsible for the preparation of documentation relating to PMC meetings including reports, agendas and summary records of meetings. In particular, the PMC will:

- Meet at least once a year and review implementation of the programme and progress towards achieving its objectives having due regard to the financial data, common and programme specific indicators and milestones defined in the performance framework
- Examine all issues that affect the performance of the programme including the conclusions of any performance reviews
- Make observations to the MA regarding the implementation and evaluation of the programme including actions relating to the reduction of the administrative burden on beneficiaries.
- Establish a selection sub-committee to select operations for funding in accordance with Art. 12 of Reg. (EU) 1299 /2013
- Review the implementation of the communication strategy
- Review the actions in relation to equality and sustainable development.

In addition the PMC shall examine and approve:

- The methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations
- The annual and final implementation reports
- The evaluation plan and any amendments to the plan
- The communication strategy and any amendments to the strategy
- Any proposal by the MA to amend the programme.

### **5.3.1 Programme Bodies involved in Management and Control; and allocation of functions within each body**

#### **Managing Authority**

The MA is overseen by the European and Economic Programmes Manager located within the Community and Environment Services Department who reports to a Programme Management Board established by NCC. The European and Economic Programmes Manager is responsible for ensuring that all functions of the MA are implemented in full and in accordance with the EU Regulations and programme rules.

The MA will delegate the implementation of some of its functions to the JS.

In accordance with Art. 125 of the CPR and Art. 23 of Reg. (EU) 1299/2013 the MA will carry out the following functions:

- Upon adoption of the CP ensure a formal Programme Launch in accordance with Art. 115 of the CPR
- Ensure the development of a Communications Plan within 6 months of the CP adoption in accordance with Art. 116 of the CPR
- Ensure that a complaints procedure is in place and is available on the website

- Produce Annual Implementation Reports by 31st May, from 2016 onwards
- Support the work of the monitoring committee and provide it with the information it requires to carry out its tasks, in particular data relating to the progress of the Cooperation Programme in achieving its objectives, financial data and data relating to indicators and milestones;
- Draw up and, after approval by the monitoring committee, submit to the Commission annual and final implementation reports;
- Make available to beneficiaries information that is relevant to the execution of their tasks and the implementation of operations respectively;
- In collaboration with SGAR, establish a system to record and store, in a secure computerised form, data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit;
- Draw up and ensure that appropriate selection procedures and criteria are applied that ensure the contribution of operations to the achievement of the specific objectives and results of the relevant priority axes, are non-discriminatory and transparent, and take into account the general principles of equality between men and women and sustainable development;
- Ensure that operations selected for support do not include activities which were part of an operation which has been or should have been subject to a procedure of recovery in accordance with Art. 71 of the CPR following the relocation of a productive activity outside the programme area;
- Draw up an evaluation plan and submit to the PMC no more than one year after the approval of the programme in accordance with Art. 114 of the CPR
- Put in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified;
- Draw up the management declaration and annual summary referred to in Art. 59 (5) (a) and (b) of the Financial Regulation;
- Ensure compliance with the information and publicity requirements laid down in Art. 115 of the
- Ensure that the CA receives all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification;
- The MA will delegate functions to the JS but will retain the overall responsibility for the delivery of these functions;
- Any questions in relation to the assessments will be examined and answered by the MA/JS. The MA may decide to refer a complaint to the PMC, should they judge it necessary. An overview of complaints examined and answered by the chair of the PMC and MA/JS will be provided to the MC in the following meeting. The same complaint procedure as described above may also apply to other stages of the project implementation controlled by programme bodies,
- or with regard to complaints submitted by other parties than applicants or beneficiaries.
- If deemed necessary, the MC may also decide to set up a separate Complaint Panel, with specific rules of procedures and representatives. Further details about the Programme arrangements for the examinations of complaints will be provided in the Programme Manual.
- The Programme complaints procedure is without prejudice to any mechanism or process for legal redress at national level, in particular with regard to unsuccessful applicants”

### **Joint Secretariat**

The JS will carry out the following functions:

- Establishing and maintaining effective and cooperative relationships with Programme bodies and stakeholders;
- Recording, implementing and following up all PMC decisions;
- Preparing and providing all necessary information to the PMC, MA and CA to allow the fulfilment of their responsibilities;
- Provide assistance in the organisation of PMC's meetings;
- Support the organisation of calls for projects;
- Assist with the fulfilment of reporting obligations to the European Commission;
- Support the AA (including with the organisation of audit consultative group meetings, etc.);
- Facilitating and proactively initiating the development of cross-border projects;
- Assisting potential beneficiaries in the development of projects and in the application phase, including by providing advice and training on technical, procedural and financial aspects;
- Appraising project applications against the Programme eligibility and selection criteria, making clearly justified recommendations to the PMC regarding project approval or rejection;
- Monitoring projects' performance and outputs with reference to the Programme objectives and milestones;
- Analysing and processing projects' progress reports and payment claims (interim and final);
- Provide trainings for partners and controllers;
- Organise activities aimed at programme promotion and dissemination;
- Assisting LP during project implementation, including with project modifications;
- Implementing the publicity strategy approved by the PMC;
- Informing the PMC of projects' closure;

### **Financial Management & Control**

In line with Art. 23(4) of Reg. (EU) 1299/2013 the verifications shall be carried out by Controllers designated by the MS.

These controllers will carry out the administrative pre-payment verifications and on-the-spot verifications are carried out in accordance with Art. 125 (4 & 5) of the Reg. (EU) No. 1303/2013. Specifically, they will:

- Verify that the co-financed products and services have been delivered and that expenditure declared by the beneficiaries has been paid and that it complies with applicable Union and national law, the CP and the conditions for support of the operation;
- Ensure that beneficiaries involved in the implementation of operations reimbursed on the basis of eligible costs actually incurred maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to an operation;
- Ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are kept in accordance with requirements;
- Carry out administrative verifications in respect of each application for reimbursement;
- Carry out on-the-spot verifications of operations, based on sampling informed by the principles of proportionality and risk;

- Ensure that the verifications last no longer than 90 days from the submission of the payment claim, in accordance with Art. 23(4) or Reg. (EU) 1299/2013.

### **Risk management and anti-fraud measures**

The MA will ensure the existence and implementation of an effective and proportionate approach to risk management and subsequent mitigation to prevent fraudulent activities. These measures will be devised taking into account the EC technical guidance on this subject (including the guidance note on fraud risk assessment and effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures and related tools) as well as NCC's corporate risk management processes.

### **Certifying Authority**

The CA and the MA will be functionally independent of each other but both will be located within NCC.

In accordance with Art. 126 of the CPR, the NCC in its capacity as CA shall be responsible for:

- Producing and submitting verified, certified statements of expenditure to the commission, which are drawn up in accordance with the CPR, (Art. 137);
- Certifying the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts and expenditure submitted for payment to the CA.
- Making payments to LP;
- Recording, maintaining and storing computerised records of expenditure (both to beneficiaries and from the European Commission), using two distinct systems:
  - Programme Management Software;
  - Corporate Accounting Software: Oracle;
- Maintaining effective systems and procedures to promptly take into account the results of any audit carried out by the AA;
- Producing a detailed debtors' ledger, through the corporate accounting software; Oracle, which will contain relevant information on funds the programme is seeking to recover.

The CA will receive ERDF initial pre-financing and annual pre-financing amounts as detailed in Art. 134 of the CPR.

The CA will submit interim payments claims to the Commission on a regular basis, and submit the final application for an interim payment by 31 July following the end of the previous accounting year, in accordance with Art. 135 of the CPR.

The CA, on behalf of the MA, will make payments to final beneficiaries upon receipt of a duly verified claim by the JS.

### **Audit Authority**

The AA for the Programme will be a unit designated for this purpose within the Norfolk Audit Services within NCC. The AA is functionally independent from the MA and the JS.

The AA anticipates adopting the same delivery model as was developed in the previous 2007-13 programme, whereby the AA had responsibility for the organising and delivery of audit activities throughout the programme territory, with the assistance of a consultative group with Member State representation.

The consultative group will provide a helpful forum to develop sound systems of audit, contribute to the annual review of the audit strategy and support a coordinated approach across the programme area. The modality of engagement between the AA and the consultative group will be documented in formal rule of procedures.

As per Art. 127 of the CPR, the AA have responsibility for delivery of the following activities:

1. The AA shall ensure that audits are carried out on the proper functioning of the management and control system of the operational programme and on an appropriate sample of operations on the basis of the declared expenditure. The declared expenditure shall be audited based on a representative sample and, as a general rule, on statistical sampling methods.

A non- statistical sampling method may be used on the professional judgement of the AA, in duly justified cases, in accordance with internationally accepted audit standards and in any case where the number of operations for an accounting year is insufficient to allow the use of a statistical method.

In such cases, the size of the sample shall be sufficient to enable the AA to draw up a valid audit opinion in accordance with the second subparagraph of Art. 59(5) of the Financial Regulation.

The non-statistical sample method shall cover a minimum of 5 % of operations for which expenditure has been declared to the Commission during an accounting year and 10 % of the expenditure which has been declared to the Commission during an accounting year.

2. Where audits are carried out by a body other than the AA, the AA shall ensure that any such body has the necessary functional independence.

The selection process of any such body will take account of the requirement for functional independence and in particular independence from control work, as required by Article 25(2) of ETC Reg. 1299.

3. The AA shall ensure that audit work takes account of internationally accepted audit standards.

4. The AA shall, within eight months of adoption of an operational programme, prepare an audit strategy for performance of audits. The audit strategy shall set out the audit

methodology, the sampling method for audits on operations and the planning of audits in relation to the current accounting year and the two subsequent accounting years. The audit strategy shall be updated annually from 2016 until and including 2024. Where a common management and control system applies to more than one operational programme, a single audit strategy may be prepared for the operational programmes concerned. The AA shall submit the audit strategy to the Commission upon request.

5. The AA shall draw up:

(a) an audit opinion in accordance with the second subparagraph of Art. 59(5) of the Financial Regulation;

(b) a control report setting out the main findings of the audits carried out in accordance with paragraph 1, including findings with regard to deficiencies found in the management and control systems, and the proposed and implemented corrective actions.

Implementing acts as adopted by the European Commission, will contain:

- Models for the Audit Strategy, Audit Opinion, and the Control Report
- The scope and content of audits of operations and accounts, and the methodology for sample-based selection of operations referred to in point 1 above.
- Detailed rules surround the use of any data collected during audits carried out by the Commission or authorised representatives.

### **Irregularities and Recoveries**

The definition of an ‘irregularity’ is any breach of Union law, or of national law relating to its application, resulting from an act or omission by an economic operator involved in the implementation of the ESI Funds, which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the budget of the Union by charging an unjustified item of expenditure to the budget of the Union.

The MA will put robust systems in place to detect, record, report to the EC and follow-up cases. These systems will be tested during checks performed as part of the first and second level of control. This testing will be audited through the systems of the AA.

Identified irregularities will be recorded in sufficient detail to check whether there is any evidence of a breakdown of systems or a need to take action to correct emerging systemic weaknesses in programme management and control arrangements.

The MA will ensure that any money paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead beneficiary in accordance with Art. 27 of Reg. (EU) No. 1299/2013.

If the MA is unsuccessful in securing repayment from the lead beneficiary, the MS on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is allocated shall reimburse the MA any amounts unduly paid. The MA shall be responsible for the reimbursement of any monies to the general budget of the Union.

In compliance with Art. 126 (h) of the CPR, where the processing of an irregularity results in the recovery of funds from an operation, the CA will keep account of amounts recoverable and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation. Amounts recovered shall be repaid to the budget of the Union prior to the closure of the CP by deducting them from the subsequent statement of expenditure.

### **5.3.2 Project selection and appraisal**

The PMC will approve a methodology and criteria used for the selection and appraisal of projects within the Programme.

Calls for projects will be published on the programme website as part of an agreed timetable throughout the programme duration. This will allow potential LP to make formal submission of a project application. The full selection and appraisal procedure is agreed by the two MS, in conjunction with the MA.

#### General Application Procedure

The general application procedure will consist of two phases. The Application Phase 1 will consist of a short application form setting out the strategic aims of the project. If this application is approved, then the project will be asked to submit an Application Phase 2, which will contain the detailed operational and strategic plans of the project.

Full details of the intended selection procedure and criteria will be made available to all potential applicants via both the website, and through detailed guidance to the beneficiaries in the Programme Manual.

The JS will conduct an appraisal of any submitted project.

Formal approval of operations will be decided upon by the Project Selection Subcommittee composed of PMC representatives from both MS,

#### Microproject Application Procedure

The programme intends to operate a micro-projects scheme. Under such a scheme the application procedure will be simplified and will consist of a single application process. The PMC will approve a methodology and criteria used for the selection and appraisal of micro-projects within the Programme. Deadline for micro-projects application submission will be published on the programme website as part of an agreed timetable throughout the programme duration.

#### Strategic Calls

As needs arise during the Programme Implementation, strategic calls may be implemented. The precise nature of these calls will be tailored to the relevant needs or issues the programme is trying to address.

Strategic Calls may include;

-Calls for projects to deliver research on specific issues affecting the programme area

-Calls for projects to deliver specific actions, or solutions to specific problems identified by the Programme

This may involve inviting only specific organisations or types of organisations to submit project applications, such as 3rd sector organisations or universities. Depending on the needs of the call, calls may have only a single Phase of application.

The MA will ensure that the implementation of projects complies with all relevant laws, including State Aid and Public Procurement rules.

Subsequently any potential LP shall be provided with a contract: “setting out conditions for support for each operation including the specific requirements concerning the products or services to be delivered under the operation, the financing plan and the time-limit for execution”.

This contract (offer of grant funding support) will inform any beneficiary of their regulatory responsibilities as defined within Reg. (EU) 1299/2013, Art. 13. Further details of this document are available in §5.3.3.

Should an application be rejected, written notification will be provided outlining reasons to the LP.

### **5.3.3 ERDF Contracts**

Once formal approval has been granted by the committee, prior to implementation of an operation the lead beneficiary is required to sign and return to the JS before funding support is released, eg the JS is in receipt of a signed contract document.

This subsidy contract will detail the responsibilities and liabilities of project beneficiaries:

1. Where there are two or more beneficiaries of an operation in a cooperation programme, one of them shall be designated by all the beneficiaries as the lead beneficiary.
2. The lead beneficiary shall:
  - (a) lay down the arrangements with other beneficiaries in an agreement comprising provisions that, inter alia, guarantee the sound financial management of the funds allocated to the operation, including the arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid;
  - (b) assume responsibility for ensuring implementation of the entire operation;
  - (c) ensure that expenditure presented by all beneficiaries has been incurred in implementing the operation and corresponds to the activities agreed between all the beneficiaries, and is in accordance with the document provided by the MA pursuant to Art. 12(5) Reg. (EU) 1299/2013;
  - (d) ensure that the expenditure presented by other beneficiaries has been verified by a controller or controllers

3. If not otherwise specified in the arrangements laid down in accordance with point (a) of paragraph 2 the lead beneficiary shall ensure that the other beneficiaries receive the total amount of the contribution from the funds as quickly as possible and in full. No amount shall be deducted or withheld and no specific charge or other charge with equivalent effect shall be levied that would reduce that amount for the other beneficiaries.

4. The subsidy contract shall include provision so that LP are responsible for the recovery of ineligible expenditure. This provision shall state that the LP is committed to pay for any reimbursement claim from the National Authority of the Member State where the LP is located.

Additionally, the subsidy contract will stipulate that lead/individual beneficiaries will have to produce, store and give access to any information pursuant to the activities of any authorised person/body required to complete any audit or control activity as specified within the Management & Control systems documentation.

### **5.3.4 Programme Management Reports**

All programme authorities (MA, CA & AA) are required to submit information on an annual basis to the European Commission from 2016 until 2025.

Some documents, such as the Management Declaration contain an assurance that information contained in Annual Statement of Expenditure is complete, accurate and correctly presented. This generates an interdependency between the Programme Authorities and the submission of information to the European Commission.

Any such programme management report, once compiled will be presented to and examined by the monitoring committee, allowing Member States opportunity to review the information presented.

The MA will provide a detailed timeline illustrating the timescales by which each Programme Authority submits information to the Commission in order to establish procedures which ensure coherence between each body.

### **Annual Implementation Reports**

Each year, the MA will draw up and submit to the Commission an Annual Implementation report throughout the '14-'20 programme period.

These will be on the basis of a template contained as adopted by the European Commission and in accordance to the obligations as per Reg. (EU) 1299/2013, Art. 14 and Arts. 50 & 111 of the CPR.

Typically, such a report will be formed by the MA, provisionally reviewed by MS delegations, formally approved by the PMC *prior* to submission to the European Commission. Each year the deadline for this report is 31st May, aside from 2017 & 2019 when the deadline shall be 30th June. The 2016 report shall cover financial information for 2014 & 2015 as well as the period between the starting date for eligibility of expenditure and 31st December 2013.

### **Annual Management Declaration**

Annual management declarations (as per Reg. (EU) 966/2012 Art. 59 (5), a) will be drawn up by the MA and submitted to the commission by the 15th February of the following financial year for the purposes of:

- i.) declaring information that pertains to management of structural funds is properly presented, accurate and complete.
- ii.) expenditure declared in annual implementation reports and statements of accounts has been used for its intended purpose, in alignment with Programme Objectives.
- iii.) Management & Control systems put in place for the purposes of programme implementation provide the necessary guarantees concerning legality and regularity of underlying programme transactions.

### **Annual Statement of Accounts**

Each year, the CA will prepare annual accounts, and in accordance with the Financial Reg. (EC) No. 966/2012 Art. 59(5), submit these to the Commission by 15th February (or may be exceptionally extended by the Commission to 1st March) of the immediate following financial year and inform the Commission that:

- Expenditure that was incurred during the relevant reference period and that was presented to the Commission for reimbursement.
- An annual summary of the final audit reports and of controls carried out.

The annual accounts must be accompanied by an opinion of an independent audit body, drawn up in accordance with internationally accepted audit standards.

### **Audit Opinion**

The AA will produce an Audit Opinion that will provide assurance that:

- Programme accounts give a true and fair view
- Expenditure for which reimbursement has been requested from the Commission is legal and regular
- Management & control systems put in place function properly

And, that in the opinion of the AA, audit work carried out doesn't put into doubt any assertion made within the management declaration, *or* quantifies areas where control systems have failed to function correctly and specifies the percentage of total expenditure affected.

### **Control Reports**

Annually, Control Reports are submitted by the AA providing details of any system audits carried out, including:

- Identification of bodies that have conducted system audits, including the AA itself
- Summary table of audits conducted, with the indication of those bodies audited, the assessment of the key requirements of each body and a comparison to the audit plan previously submitted to the Commission.

- The basis for selection of audits in the context of the over-arching Audit Strategy
- Principal findings and conclusions drawn from the audit work for the management & control systems and their functioning including the sufficiency of the management checks, certification procedures and the audit trails, adequate separation of functions and compliance with Community requirements & policies.
- Indication of whether any problems identified were considered to be of a systemic character, and of the measures taken, including a quantification of the irregular expenditure and any related financial corrections.
- Summary table, broken down by Fund indicating the eligible expenditure declared to the Commission during the accounting year, the amount of expenditure audited, and the percentage of expenditure audited in relation to total eligible expenditure declared to the Commission (both for the previous accounting year and cumulatively). Information relating to the random sample should be distinguished from that related to other (risk based or complementary) samples.
- Information on the follow-up of outstanding audit recommendations and on the follow up of results of systems audits and operation audits from earlier years.
- Summary table, broken down by Fund indicating the eligible expenditure declared to the Commission during the accounting year, the amount of expenditure audited, and the percentage of expenditure audited in relation to total eligible expenditure declared to the Commission (both for the previous accounting year and cumulatively). Information relating to the random sample should be distinguished from that related to other (risk based or complementary) samples.
- Information on the follow-up of outstanding audit recommendations and on the follow up of results of systems audits and operation audits from earlier years.

### **5.3.5 Programme Evaluation**

The FCE programme has been subjected to an ex-ante evaluation by independent evaluators in order to assess and optimise the quality of the programme, its intended outcomes, and use of budgetary resources. Also such evaluation will aim to quantify target values within Commission performance frameworks (as defined within Reg. (EU) 215.2014).

The MA will, as CPR Art. 56 and 114 produce an evaluation plan for the programme, which will be submitted to the monitoring committee for approval. Such evaluations will assess the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the programme. The evaluation plan will also specify the planned arrangements for the programme environmental monitoring, in line with the strategic environmental assessment. Once complete, each evaluation will be presented to the monitoring committee and presented to the Commission.

By 31st December 2022, the MA will submit to the Commission a report which summarises the findings of any evaluation carried out during the programme period, the main outputs and results including comments on the reported information.

### **5.3.6 Programme Monitoring**

Programme monitoring ensures effective and efficient implementation by scrutinising the progress of the programme implementation against the proposed targets/milestones.

Indicators for monitoring and performance are defined within this document, and relate to the specific objectives of the programme. Data relating to the achievement of these will be included within Project Progress reports, beneficiaries will be required to provide strong evidence of the changes that have resulted from Project Activities. Data will be subsequently compiled by the JS to establish holistic Programme information. This will be used by the MA in conjunction with relevant financial data to form the basis of the Annual Programme Reports.

### **5.3.7 Data Exchange (SFC2014)**

In order to submit annual programme implementation reports to the Commission, programme authorities will have access to the SFC2014 system (Reg. EU 184/2014), where independent access for data entry and verification facilitates the transfer of reporting information.

It is the intention of the MA that electronic data systems will operate in conjunction with an Information Management System by no later than 31st December 2015. This will allow *all* exchange of information between a beneficiary and the MA, CA and AA to comply with the stipulations of CPR Art. 112 (3) where submission occurs *only once*.

### **5.3.8 Communication Strategy**

The Communication Strategy for the 2014-2020 Programme will be drawn up and submitted to the PMC according to the provisions in art. 116 of the CPR. This is funded from within the Technical Assistance budget.

The MA will inform the PMC on an annual basis regarding the implementation of the Communication Strategy and analysis of any previously completed activities.

### **5.3.9 Management Verifications**

Each MS will be responsible for designating the First Level Controllers (FLC) on its territory and ensuring that the control they exercise is effective. Each MS shall ensure that the expenditure of a beneficiary can be verified within a period of three months of the submission of claim.

The MA will have agreements with the DCLG in England and the National Authority in France regarding the selection and management of controllers.

Where under these agreements the cost of FLC is borne by the Beneficiary this cost shall be eligible for ERDF co-financing.

On behalf of the MA, the JS will actively engage in training and quality control of controllers and provision of detailed guidance to ensure that there is sufficient guarantee of the eligibility and regularity of expenditure declared to the commission.

#### **5.4 Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission**

When a financial correction is attributable to a named operation the Managing Authority will ensure that any money paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead beneficiary in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

If the Managing Authority is unsuccessful in securing repayment from the lead beneficiary, the Member State on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is allocated shall reimburse the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid.

The Managing Authority shall be responsible for the reimbursement of any monies to the general budget of the Union.

In cases where the financial correction is not attributable to a named operation, as may be the case for systematic irregularities and corrections imposed by the Commission in accordance with Article 144 Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2103, the Member States shall make provision for repayment to the Union of any monies unduly paid, based on proportions of the national ERDF allocations made to the programme in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

#### **5.5 Use of the Euro (where appropriate)**

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

The France (Channel) England programme will operate solely in Euros (€), and throughout implementation lead beneficiaries will be required to apply a compulsory exchange rate to any expenditure which was not incurred in Euros.

In accordance with (b) of Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, and by way of derogation from Article 133 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, expenditure incurred in a currency other than the euro shall be converted into euro by the beneficiaries. The conversion will be using the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission in the month during which the expenditure was submitted for verification to the managing authority or the controller (option b), in accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

#### **5.6 Involvement of partners**

Actions taken to involve the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the preparation of the cooperation programme, and the role of those partners in the preparation and implementation of the cooperation programme, including their involvement in the monitoring committee

### **The preparation of the 2014-2020 France (Channel)-England Cooperation**

**Programme** has been jointly led by the Upper Normandy Regional Council (Managing Authority for the 2007-2013 CP) and the Norfolk County Council (Managing Authority for the 2014-2020 CP). In March 2013 they set up a programme preparation group (PPG) for the new CP in which representatives from the area's eligible territories have participated.

The preparation of the 2014-2020 France (Channel)-England CP has received strong interest and support from stakeholders across the eligible area (public authorities, economic and social partners, and bodies representing civil society; ref. article 5 of the common provisions regulation).

In order to ensure the quality of the consultation on both sides of the Channel a number of instruments have been used at the different stages of the preparation of the CP:

- Prior to the drafting of the CP, the drafting of the strategic needs analysis for the area provided a first opportunity to mobilise partners for the preparation and approval of this document.

- As set out in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, relevant stakeholders located within the eligible area were engaged in the CP preparation. The programme has ensured that the principles of openness and accountability, effectiveness and coherence have been applied when consulting its stakeholders.

- To prepare this CP, interviews were conducted at the outset of the preparatory phase (from September to November 2013), in order to gather information on the positions of institutional, economic and social partners of the eligible area: local elected politicians and officer representatives from local authorities and representatives from British LEPs (local enterprise partnerships), innovation support bodies, universities, cultural centres, environmental organisations, etc. were interviewed as part of this first phase of the consultation.

- With a view to ensuring political approval, legitimacy and agreement on the CP's strategic vision, the partnership held a high-level consultation event (6 February 2014 in London). The event was an opportunity to gather British and French local elected politicians. On the basis of discussions at this event, politicians agreed on guidelines for the CP and refined the work of the PPG. They in particular expressed the aspiration that the document includes a special emphasis on the maritime dimension of the cooperation area and the CP's strategy.

- Four consultation events were subsequently organised (March-April 2014), in order to present the CP's intervention logic developed by the 2014-2020 CP drafting team. These events in Rouen, Rennes, London and Ipswich, were attended by more than 250 participants and representatives from the following organisations: local authorities, enterprises, associations, research centres and universities, etc. The high-quality discussions during these consultation events validated the choices made for the new CP and enriched the document with new ideas for actions.

- An online consultation ran from 20/05/2014 to 17/06/2014. The CP presentation document was put online on the 2007-2013 France (Channel) England website and partners were consulted via an electronic survey, in order to obtain partner's approval for the proposals put forward and enable partners to contribute to the document.
- The outcome of the consultation was discussed at the PPG in July 2014, where it was decided which proposals have been incorporated into the documents, and how the other proposals should be addressed, such as by giving further detailed guidance to applicants. An email was sent to all participants in August and a message was inserted on the website to update on the outcome of the consultation.
- The revised version of the Cooperation Programme after consultation took into account the following points: it includes a new formulation of the overall ambition of the programme, highlights the importance of SMEs within the programme, increases the visibility of the maritime dimension within the programme, supports the financing of infrastructure within the programme where appropriate, reinforces the links with other cooperation programmes.

The drafting of the CP drew on the entire output of the above consultations.

**The implementation of the 2014-2020 France (Channel) England Cooperation Programme** will be conducted in the same spirit of partnership.

The involvement of relevant partners will be sought throughout the implementation of the programme. The specific arrangements for participative working shall be determined at the outset of Programme, in particular through the following documents: the Monitoring Committee's Rules of Procedure for the CP, project call documents, the CP communication strategy, etc.

Participation of relevant partners is carried out through the governance of the programme. Indeed, the PMC is set to bring together representatives from both national and regional/local levels from the participating countries, where appropriate. In addition, an even broader involvement of the regional and local level, as well as economic, research and social partners and non-governmental organisations, represented where relevant by umbrella organisations, is ensured through a national group established in both participating countries according to their own procedures. This national group may cover a wide agenda that goes beyond the France (Channel) England Programme, and may deal at a higher level for cohesion policy in general. Each delegation will inform the MA/JS about the setting up of the national group and will send the minutes of each meeting to the MA/JS.

Involvement of partners will also be ensured through the evaluation framework of the CP. Already during the preparation of the programme, key stakeholders were involved in order to establish the programme result indicators baselines. These stakeholders are set to be involved during the implementation of the CP in order to capture the evolution of these baselines. Generally speaking, the evaluation plan ensures their involvement whenever appropriate, notably, for instance, through the use of surveys, workshops and other participative tools, in order to inform the strategic steering of the PMC.

The involvement of partners is also foreseen in the programmes events, both directly and through the use of participative tools. In practical terms, programme authorities could take advantage of the consultation methodologies and tools used in the Programme preparation phase and re-use or adapt them during the implementation phase.

The Channel Islands will be associated where possible with an observer status.

## 6. COORDINATION

The mechanisms that ensure effective coordination between the ERDF, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and other Union and national funding instruments, including the coordination and possible combination with the Connecting Europe Facility, the ENI, the European Development Fund (EDF) and the IPA and with the EIB, taking into account the provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Where Member States and third countries participate in cooperation programmes that include the use of ERDF appropriations for outermost regions and resources from the EDF, coordination mechanisms at the appropriate level to facilitate effective coordination in the use of these resources

This section provides an overview of the coordination to be assured between France (Channel) England from 2014 to 2020 and the other instruments of European funding invested across the cooperation area that share the objectives of Europe 2020 growth strategy. Consistency of interventions of EU funds is a fundamental issue of the 2014-2020 programming period: it is a factor in the efficient management of these funds and strengthens the economic, environmental and social impact of operations supported.

Coordination of the France (Channel) England Programme with other EU funds relates to either thematic funds involved under the same priorities as the Programme (COSME, H2020, etc.) or multi-sectoral development funds at the level of one (ERDF, ESF, EMFF, etc.) or more regions (other ETC programs) common to the FCE area. It includes therefore ensuring effective coordination of the programme with three types of funds:

- With regional programmes. In fact, for the most part with regional ERDF / ESF programs in the area of cooperation, the themes of innovation, low carbon and social inclusion play an important role. The FCE program and regional programs, intervening on the same objectives should thus allow them to be mutually reinforcing: the FCE program could be extended to deliver a cross-border scale of the local development strategies which are carried out locally within the regions.
- With the thematic programmes. The France (Channel) England programme will seek to avoid overlapping and look for coherence and complementarity with other thematic programs implemented by the Union. In this context we refer to the following programs:
  - o The Atlantic Strategy and the Atlantic Action Plan aim to revitalise the marine and maritime economy in the Atlantic Ocean area. The Channel Sea is included within the wider scope of this strategy. Within the Atlantic Strategy area, stakeholders are encouraged to consider how they could take action to grow the blue economy.
  - o The Horizon 2020 programme (research and innovation). Coherence and complementarity with the latter needs to be developed, especially for priorities 1, 2 and 3 of the FCE program which aims to strengthen innovation or develop low -carbon technologies. The FCE program must thus be able to use and exploit the results of research projects supported by H2020 (in addition to its own results) for the benefit of populations, territories and the FCE economic area.
  - o The objective of the COSME programme is to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of EU enterprises, including the provision a new framework for business

cooperation in the framework of R & D, innovation, low carbon technologies and efficient use of natural and physical resources. In many ways, COSME and the FCE program are complementary: the FCE program will support the extension of the benefits of COSME to a wider cross-border area and the COSME program will allow companies in the FCE area to be more competitive and thus more likely to develop within a global context.

- o The LIFE programme covers two thematic areas also targeted by the FCE operational program "Nature and biodiversity" and "Policy and governance in relation to the environment. The coordination between these funds will, in particular, provide opportunities for beneficiaries of the LIFE programme to network across borders and to transfer best practice in relation to policies which protect, manage and enhance the environment within these networks.

- o The URBACT programme targets the sharing and dissemination of good practice in sustainable urban development, in particular with regard to connections between urban and rural areas. The FCE area of cooperation, characterized by the presence of large rural areas and major urban centres can thus benefit from the projects and results of the URBACT program. The actions of the FCE program on urban and rural regeneration, the promotion of green and blue infrastructure or on the enhancement of its heritage will be coherent with the actions supported by URBACT.

- o The ESPON / ORATE programme of the European Union provides relevant local information for regions of Europe and as such may be useful to the FCE program and its projects: ESPON can feed into a territorial diagnosis on many specific topics and shed light on projects, the context in which they are implemented and results.

- o The CREATIVE EUROPE framework programme aims at supporting culture and audio-visual sector initiatives such as those promoting cross-border cooperation, platforms and networking. These initiatives totally fit into the scope of the third priority of the Programme and its objectives with respect to the development and the commercial exploitation of the common cultural heritage of the area.

- o The Rural Development programme (RDP) aims at making agriculture and forestry sectors more competitive, and at improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversifying rural economies. Hence the FCE Programme activities under priority 3 on promotion of cultural and natural heritage and blue and green infrastructures, and of activities under Priority 4 that target inclusive development in the FCE, have potentially a strong complementarity with actions supported by the RDP Programme.

- With other European Territorial Cooperation programs working in the cooperation area of the FCE program (2 Seas in particular, Northwest Europe program, Atlantic Area program, INTERACT program). These programs subscribe generally to the same overall growth strategy as the FCE program and also target capacity for innovation, energy issues and technologies with low carbon emissions as well as social inclusion and the environment. These programs will thus be highly complementary to each other and may allow for the development of projects at different territorial levels and for dissemination of results from these cooperation areas to one another.

The coordination of these different programs will be ensured through several structures and procedures:

· In accordance with the commitments made in the partnership agreements between Member States and the Commission, these are in place to ensure coordination between the various European programs: DCLG in the UK and in France CGET, ensure coordination at a national level.

· The partner authorities of the FCE programme (French regions and departments and the UK Department for Communities and Local Government) involved in several European programs (ERDF / ESF and regional ETC) and responsible for monitoring thematic programmes, ensure the dissemination of information on the various programmes and ensure complementarity between programmes and projects. Coordination between France (Channel) England INTERREG V investments and interventions from the regional funds ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, EMFF will be provided throughout the programme by applying the following principles:

- First of all, the strategy of the cooperation program has been developed in strong coherence with the strategies of regional operational programmes. The objectives and actions set by programme partners agree and support regional strategies, addressing cross border issues or investing in areas where cross-border cooperation brings real added value to EU funds;
- The management authorities for the regional programmes may be associated if necessary in the France (Channel) England Programme Monitoring Committee, and will be able to assess the good articulation between the INTERREG support and the priorities of the regional investments at each stage of programme. In addition, regular information will be provided to the partnership implementation bodies for the ERDF-ESF programme on the progress of the FCE programme, its calls for projects, research partners, meetings and events organized by the programme etc.
- In addition, the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat of the program will be invited, if necessary, to attend meetings of the monitoring committees and programming of regional funds in order to ensure consistency between the France (Channel) England programme and regional programmes;
- The French regions and the UK Department for Communities and Local Government will use the monitoring and programming bodies for ERDF-ESF to identify projects whose development would have high added value in the framework of cooperation, in order to help the definition of targeted calls for projects, as expected for all European territorial cooperation programmes.
- Beyond these articulation mechanisms, partner authorities commit to explore any potential complementarities between regional funds and the INTERREG Programme and ways or topics on which the intervention of the latter would help to synergize with regional funds. This monitoring can be done for:
  - each specific objective of the FCE Programme;
  - economic sectors identified as priorities by the FCE Programme;
  - cross-border living areas.

· The INTERACT programme will also be an important platform in the coordination between ETC programmes. INTERACT indeed supports exchanges between programme and project stakeholders, sharing information on projects funded across Europe. This will include project partners and policy makers studying cooperation projects on similar themes, which are already completed, or in progress, joining partnerships or capitalising on the results obtained or the methods and tools developed.

· The FCE programme (in particular the JS) will ensure regular communication with other European programmes: calls for projects for the FCE programme will be relayed

for example to the JSs of other programmes by posting the information on the Interact website, there will also be exchange of information relating to programme rules with other JSs such as North West Europe, MED, 2 Seas to name a few examples.

- Projects must, at the time of submission of their grant application, indicate their contributions, their participation in other EU programmes. As such, selection criterion could be established to ensure that the proposed project is not funded by other European programmes. The project leader should also indicate how the project is linked or not with other European policies and strategies delivered at regional and national level.
- Common events in various programmes will be organized jointly by the Managing Authority, the JS and partners of the FCE program, in order to facilitate such coordination between the project partners, dissemination of results and good practices, sharing of know-how, etc.
- Specific actions of coordination with the 2 Seas programme will be held in order to exploit critical mass and avoids risks of unproductive competition, such as informal and regular contacts between the 2 JS, invitations to events, access to programme documentation, thematic meetings about specific issues or relevant fields in common between the two programmes (innovation for example).
- A representative from the Atlantic Strategy will be invited to events designed to grow the blue economy.
- Some meetings will be organised at national or PMC level to coordinate between the different programmes, including the Atlantic Strategy, where a representative will be invited to an annual review of the programme's contribution and the impact of the programme towards the Atlantic Strategy priorities.

## **7. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES**

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce the administrative burden.

The France (Channel) England Programme looked into the experience and lessons of the 2007-2013 programme and the views of project lead partners, as expressed during the public consultation (events were organised in France and England and an online survey was carried out) and on occasion of the Focus Groups and Surveys which took place in 2013.

This review identified that the administrative load and complexity could be reduced in several areas. These include:

- Simplification and streamlining of application procedures, for instance by making the application form and IT tools more user-friendly;
- Simplification and streamlining of reporting and project modification procedures;
- Providing more support and expertise to applicants and beneficiaries on complex regulatory matters - such as state aid, procurement and revenue-generating activities;
- Reducing part of the complexity associated to First Level Control, for instance by ensuring better and more harmonised competences of first level controllers.

### **■ Main actions planned to reduce the administrative burden**

The 2014-2020 France (Channel) England Programme intends to build on the experience and lessons of the previous programming period which were identified through the ‘functional capitalisation’ process (conducted jointly with the 2 Seas programme in 2013). The process was based on a joint assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the programmes’ systems and processes, while taking into account the new regulatory context and the wish to simplify rules and procedures, improve internal processes and harmonise approaches with neighbouring programmes.

On the basis of the outcomes of the ‘functional capitalisation’ process and regional HIT meetings, and with the aim of reducing administrative burden and promoting harmonisation, the Programme intends to:

- Make use of the harmonised implementation tools (HIT) developed by INTERACT in collaboration with all Territorial Cooperation Programmes;
- Make use of simplified cost options and other simplification measures established in the regulatory framework, in particular in Article 67 (simplified costs option) and Article 68 (flat-rate calculation of office and administrative costs) CPR and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 481/2014 ;
- Develop clear guidance and provide more support to stakeholders in dealing with complex rules;

- Engage with First Level Controllers to improve shared understanding of requirements and procedures;
- Work to streamline application and implementations procedures.

The JS will provide advice and support to the PMC in order to ensure the appropriate implementation of these measures.

The programme will continue to consider additional measures in view to further reducing the administrative burden on beneficiaries throughout the programme lifetime.

## ■ e-Cohesion

The Common Provision Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 stipulates that by the end of 2015 programmes should ensure that all data exchanges between beneficiaries and programme authorities can be carried out electronically. More precisely the e-Cohesion initiative for the structural funds sets the following requirements for electronic data exchange in the 2014-2020 period:

- Beneficiaries do not have to enter the same data more than once in the system.
- Interoperability is guaranteed, which means that data entered by beneficiaries is shared between different bodies within the same operational programme.
- The electronic audit trail complies with the Common Provision Regulation as well as with any national requirements on the availability of documents.
- The system for electronic data exchange guarantees data integrity and confidentiality, authentication of the sender and storage in compliance with defined retention rules.

The use of electronic data exchange in programme management, which was already piloted by the France (Channel) England Programme during the 2007-2013 period, will be in line with these principles.

## 8. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

### 8.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

This principle seeks to ensure that the Programme supports activity that promotes sustainable development and creates sustainable communities by safeguarding, and requiring the sustainable use of, existing resources to enhance the long-term management of, and investment in, human, social and environmental resources for future generations.

The Programme has been subject to a Strategic Environment Assessment.

The Programme development process has included participation of the relevant bodies responsible for sustainable development, and these bodies have contributed to the development of the programme through public consultation events.

For the France (Channel) England area two development challenges emerge from the area needs analysis in relation to sustainable growth.

1. Promote economic sustainability through responsible and green economic and territorial development and
2. Improve risk prevention and the capacity to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Responding to these challenges will ensure a significant allocation of financial resources to operations with environmental objectives. In addition other priority investment areas such as research and innovation have a positive impact on the achievement of sustainable development objectives.

All operations in all themes have to align and comply with the Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted by the European Council in June 2006; as well as the respective national Sustainable Development Strategy within each jurisdiction.

As part of the assessment of applications, consideration will be given to the projects adherence to the principles and objectives of sustainable development; as well as the associated environmental costs and benefits resulting. Where deemed appropriate, Environmental Impact Assessments will be made. To inform this assessment, all project applications will detail how their project complies with Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EEC, which requires a statement of environmental impact i.e. that either the project does not have any significant, negative environmental impact or, where this is not the case, the application should provide a full description (if possible) of the anticipated negative impact as well as of the mitigating measures.

The potential environmental impact of projects will be assessed during the selection of projects by assessing how the proposed actions take into account environmental protection requirements (including addressing soil, water and air pollution), resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management. The selection criteria will also take into account the ability of the project to address the environmental challenges and will take on board the mitigation measures highlighted in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) non-technical summary.

The projects funded under this programme could be subject to an Environment Impact Assessment if required by the Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by the Directive 2014/52/EU and the relevant national legislation.

## **8.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination**

Description of the specific 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 cooperation programme and, in particular, in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination, and in particular, the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Accordingly, the Programme will have due regard for the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- Between men and women generally;
- Between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Between persons with dependants and persons without;
- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation:

Project applicants will be required to include a statement of the likely equality impact of their project in their application and identify any differential impacts on the above mentioned categories.

It is the intention that the Joint Secretariat will, where relevant, ask the applicants to demonstrate their contribution to improving equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

### **8.3 Equality between men and women**

Description of the contribution of the cooperation programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at cooperation programme and operation level.

The Programme shall pursue the objective of equality between men and women and the take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination during the preparation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation stages of the programme.

Gender equality aims to ensure that men and women enjoy the same rights and opportunities; with equal value and weighting attributed to the different behaviour, aspirations and needs of women and men.

It is the intention is that the Joint Secretariat will:

- Educate partners and beneficiaries of the programme about challenges relating to equality between men and woman that could have a potential impact on the program;
- Where relevant, ask the applicants to demonstrate their contribution to improving equality between men and woman.

## 9. SEPERATE ELEMENTS

### 9.1 Major projects to be implemented during the programming period

**Table 23: List of major projects**

Project	Planned notification / submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority axes / Investment priorities
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### 9.2 Performance framework of the cooperation programme

**Table 24: Performance framework (summary table)**

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.	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
1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.	1	Expenditure Certified	€	18,720,012	149,760,094.00
1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0	30.00
1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems	0	10.00
1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.	1.1	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being designed	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	4	
1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area.	1.2	Number of innovative products, services, processes or systems being produced	Number of products, services, processes or systems under dev	2	
2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.	2	Expenditure Certified	€	7,488,004.63	59,904,037.00
2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.	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
2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.	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	
2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.	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
2 - Support the transition to a low carbon economy in the FCE area.	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	
3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	3	Expenditure Certified	€	11,232,007	89,856,057.00
3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	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
3 - Enhance the	3.2	Number of institutions (public	Number of institutions.	0	65.00

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.		or private) supported to enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems			
3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	3.1	Number of innovative products/services under development	Number of products/services under development	7	
3 - Enhance the attractiveness of territories within the FCE area.	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	

### 9.3 Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme

The principal partners that have participated in the drafting of the France (Channel) England cooperation programme are based in England and in France. In France these consist of the regions and the departments of the territories involved in the programme and in the UK, the Local Authorities of territories involved in the programme as well as DCLG (Territories are listed in section 1 of the Programme). Dialogue between partners started in early 2013 and this stage will be complete in September 2014 with the adoption of the final draft Programme.

There was an electronic survey, open from May 20th 2014 to June 20th 2014 (see section 5.6) which attracted 291 stakeholder responses from a wide range of stakeholders from the whole programme area. The responses covered all of the priority investment areas listed in the draft Cooperation Programme.

Additionally, Public and private partners, along with stakeholders from various sectors were consulted during public events held in Rennes, Rouen, London and Ipswich from April 2nd to April 8th 2014. The partners that attended the consultation events are listed below (in alphabetical order). This is in addition to the 291 responses by private and public organisations that took part in the online consultation which are not listed below.

#### Stakeholders

Académie de Rennes

Académie de Rouen (Délégation académique aux relations européennes et internationales DAREIC)

ACTALIA Sécurité des aliments (CENTRE D'EXPERTISE AGROALIMENTAIRE, Manche)

ADEAR Rouen Développement

ADRT Pas-de-Calais (Pas-de-Calais Tourisme) - Mission départementale Louvre Lens Tourisme

Agence d'urbanisme et de développement de la région de Saint-Omer

Agence de l'environnement et de la maîtrise de l'énergie (ADEME)

Agence des aires marines protégées, Brest

Agglomération de Lorient

Air Normand / Air-Com (association)

Amiens Métropole

Articulteurs (Ille-et-Vilaine)

Association chauffer dans la noirceur (Manche)

Association des ports locaux de la Manche (Saint-Brieuc)

Association Régionale pour l'Etude et l'Amélioration des Sols (AREAS) St Valéry en Caux

Atelier 231 Centre national des arts de la rue, Seine-Maritime

Bhagavat Educational Trust

Brest Métropole Océane/Ville de Brest

Bretagne développement innovation (Agence régionale de développement et d'innovation)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Brittany Ferries - Port du Bloscon (Roscoff, Finistère)

Bureau de Jersey (States of Jersey)

Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) - Direction régionale Haute-Normandie

CADES - Pôle de développement de l'économie sociale & solidaire du pays de Redon - Bretagne sud

Caisse des dépôts et consignations (Direction régionale de Haute-Normandie)

Caisse des dépôts et consignations (Direction régionale Nord-Pas-de-Calais)

Canterbury Christ Church University

Care Co-ops Community Services (Sussex)

Central Funding Unit

Centre de Médecine Physique et de Réadaptation de Berck sur mer

Centre européen de formation continue maritime (Finistère)

Centre national de recherche technologique matériaux (CNRT, Caen)

Centre national des arts de la rue de Bretagne (le Fourneau, Brest)

Centre social d'Arques

Cerafel - Association d'Organisations de Producteurs (AOP) légumes, fruits et horticulture - Bretagne

Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de DIEPPE

Chambre Régionale de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire de Bretagne (CRESS)

Change Consultancy & Training (Norfolk)

Chichester College (West Sussex College)

Cité des métiers de Haute-Normandie

CNRS - Délégation Bretagne, Pays de la Loire

CNRS - Délégation Normandie

Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership

Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service

Colchester Borough Councils

Comédie de Picardie (salle de théâtre, Amiens)

Comité de tourisme équestre de Normandie

Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins Basse Normandie

Comité régional du patrimoine maritime normand

Communauté d'agglomération du Boulonnais

Communauté de communes du Val d'Ille

Communauté urbaine de Dunkerque

Conseil des chevaux de Haute-Normandie

Conseil économique, social et environnemental régional (CESER) de Bretagne

Conseil économique, social et environnemental régional (CESER) Haute-Normandie

Département d'Ille-et-Vilaine

Département de l'Eure

Département de l'Oise

Département de la Manche

Département de la Somme

Département des Côtes d'Armor

Département du Finistère

Département du Morbihan

Département de Seine-Maritime

Cornwall Marine Network Ltd

Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust (CSBT)

Côtes d'Armor développement (Agence de développement des Côtes d'Armor)

CREA (Communauté de l'Agglomération Rouen Elbeuf Austreberthe)

Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement (DREAL)  
Haute-Normandie

Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement (DREAL)  
Nord Pas de Calais

Direction régionale de la jeunesse, des sports et de la cohésion sociale (DRJSCS) de  
Haute-Normandie

Direction régionale des affaires culturelles (DRAC) Haute-Normandie

East Sussex County Council

Eastern Enterprise Hub (Ipswich, Suffolk)

ECO Engineering (Pépinière IN'TECH, Basse-Normandie)

Ecole de management de Normandie, campus de Caen

Ecole européenne supérieure d'art de Bretagne (Rennes)

École nationale supérieure de techniques avancées Bretagne (Brest)

Ecole nationale supérieure maritime

Ecole normale supérieure de Rennes

École supérieure d'ingénieurs des travaux de la construction de Caen (ESITC Caen,  
Calvados)

Energie Haute-Normandie (Association, Rouen)

ESIGELEC - IRSEEM (Institut de Recherche en Systèmes Electroniques Embarqués)

ESITPA Ecole d'ingénieurs en agriculture (Seine-Maritime)

Espaces naturels régionaux du Nord-Pas-de-Calais

Essex County Council

Essex Tourism

Etablissement Public Social et Médico-social EPSOMS 80

Etudes et chantiers Bretagne et Pays de Loire

Fabrica (Visual arts organisation, East Sussex)

Fédération d'animation rurale en pays de Vilaine

Fédération du Morbihan pour la pêche & la protection du milieu aquatique

Films en Bretagne – Union des Professionnels (Lorient)

Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain - Région Basse Normandie (FRAC Basse-Normandie)

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (Hampshire)

GIP Pays de Redon-Bretagne Sud

GIP Seine-Aval (Bureau d'études environnement)

Groupe Ouest (Film Lab européen, Bretagne)

Habitat du Littoral (Boulogne-sur-Mer)

Hampshire County Council

Hastings Borough Council

IDEA 35 (agence de développement économique d'Ille-et-Vilaine)

INERIS (INERIS - UMR SEBIO) Université le Havre et Reims

INNO TSD (SARL) Ouest

INSERM U982

Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Finistère)

Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (INSERM)

Institut national des sciences appliquées de Rouen

Institut supérieur de plasturgie d'Alençon (Basse-Normandie)

Ipswich Borough Council

ISEL (Institut supérieur d'Etudes Logistiques, Université du Havre)

Kent County Council

Kent Downs AONB Unit (Areas of Outstanding National Beauty)

Kent Wild Life Trust

La Breche, Pôle national des arts du cirque de Basse-Normandie

La Carene - Salle des musiques actuelles (Brest)

Laboratoire de radioécologie de Cherbourg

Laboratoire de Chimie Moléculaire et Thioorganique (LCMT, Université de Caen Basse-Normandie)

Les 7 vents du Cotentin, la coopérative de l'énergie et du développement durable (Manche)

Locate East Sussex

Low Carbon Trust (Sussex)

Mairie du Havre

Maison de l'Emploi et de la Formation du Pays de Brest/ PLIE du pays de Brest

Maison de l'Europe de Rennes et Haute Bretagne

Maison de la chasse (Association, France)

Maison de la culture d'Amiens

Maison Pour Tous/Centre Social de Rivery (MPT/CS Rivery) Picardie

Marine Biological Association of the UK

Marine East (Support for the Leisure & Commercial Marine Sector in the East of England, Suffolk)

Medway County Council

Mémorial de Caen (Musée, Basse-Normandie)

Mission locale de l'arrondissement de Saint-Omer

Mission locale Dieppe Côte d'Albâtre

Mov'EO (Pôle de compétitivité, Seine-Maritime)

Musée des beaux-arts de la ville de Calais

Musiques et danses en Finistère (Quimper)

Nautilus Associates (Norfolk)

Nautisme en Finistère (EPIC, Finistère)

Norfolk County Council

Office de Diffusion et d'Information Artistique (ODIA) Normandie

Office de tourisme et pays d'accueil touristique du plateau de Caux Maritime

Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne

Organisme paritaire collecteur agréé (OPCALIA)

Parc naturel régional d'Armorique (Finistère)

Parc naturel régional des boucles de la Seine normande

Parc naturel régional des marais du Cotentin et du Bessin (Manche)

Pas-de-Calais Habitat (Opérateur Urbain)

Pas-de-Calais tourisme

Pays de Morlaix

Pays de Saint-Malo

Pays de Vannes

Pays de Vitré - Porte de Bretagne

Pôle image Haute-Normandie

Pôle métropolitain de la Côte d'Opale

Port Musée de Douarnenez (Finistère)

Portsmouth City Council

Projet ZEPA (Zone Européenne de Projets Artistiques)

Quimper-Cornouaille-Développement (Agence de développement économique et d'urbanisme)

Région Basse-Normandie

Région Bretagne

Région Haute-Normandie

Région Picardie

Rennes Métropole

Réso Solidaire (pôle de développement de l'économie sociale et solidaire (ESS) du pays de Rennes)

Sea Change Arts (Arts development and promotion Agency working in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk)

Secrétariat Général pour les Affaires Régionales (SGAR) Bretagne

Secrétariat Général pour les Affaires Régionales (SGAR) Haute-Normandie

SILEBAN (Société Investissement Cultures Légumières Horticoles Basse-Normandie, Manche)

Simpson Consulting Ltd (Surrey)

Somerset County Council

Station Biologique de Roscoff (Finistère)

Suffolk County Council

Surrey County Council

Syndicat Mixte d'Élimination des Déchets de l'Arrondissement de Rouen (SMEDAR)

Syndicat Mixte Synergie mer et littoral (SMEL, Manche)

Synergia - agence de développement économique Caen la mer

Technopole Anticipa Lannion-Trégo ADIT (Côtes-d'Armor)

Technopole Brest Iroise

Technopole de Cherbourg

Technopole Quimper-Cornouaille

The Health and Europe Centre (National Health Service (NHS) Kent Health Authorities)

The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty (England)

Tourisme Bretagne (Comité Régional du Tourisme de la Bretagne)

TRAJECTIO, Travailler en Normandie

Ucreative (University for the creative arts, Surrey)

Université de Brest (LEMAR-UMR 6539-CNRS-UBO-IRD-IFREMER)

Université de Caen (département HSE, laboratoire LUSAC, UMR BOREA)

Université de Lille 1 - Laboratoire LOG

Université de Picardie Jules Verne

Université de Rouen (UMR COBRA, UMR IRESE A)

Université de Technologie de Compiègne

Université du Havre

Université Rennes 1 (plateforme projets européens)

Université Rennes 2

University Campus Suffolk

University of Brighton

University of Chichester

University of Greenwich

University of Portsmouth

University of Sussex

Vigipol (Syndicat mixte de protection du littoral breton, Côtes-d'Armor)

Ville de Caen

Ville de Falaise (Basse-Normandie)

Ville de Saint-Brieuc

Ville du Havre

Voies navigables de France (Etablissement public administratif)

Waveney & Suffolk Coastal District Councils

Westcountry Rivers Trust (Cornwall)

**9.4 Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources**

Not applicable.

## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Letter Requesting Amendment of the CP October 2016	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	07-Oct-2016		Ares(2016)5811106	Letter Requesting Amendment of the CP October 2016 Letter Requesting Amendment of the CP October 2016	07-Oct-2016	ntighema

## Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Annex 5_SEA	Citizens' summary	1.2	09-Oct-2015		Ares(2015)4316738	Annex 5_SEA	15-Oct-2015	nmachhar
Annex 1_FCE ExAnte Report	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.2	15-Oct-2015		Ares(2015)4316738	Annex 1_FCE ExAnte Report	15-Oct-2015	nmachhar
Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16RFCB040 2.2	Snapshot of data before send	2.2	07-Oct-2016		Ares(2016)5811106	Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16RFCB040 2.2 en	07-Oct-2016	ntighema
Letter Requesting Amendment of the CP October 2016	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	2.2	07-Oct-2016		Ares(2016)5811106	Letter Requesting Amendment of the CP October 2016 Letter Requesting Amendment of the CP October 2016	07-Oct-2016	ntighema
Annex 3_FCE map	A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	1.2	23-Jul-2014		Ares(2015)4316738	Annex 3_FCE map	15-Oct-2015	nmachhar