



***EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDS
IN NORTHERN IRELAND***

***COMPETITIVENESS &
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES
MONITORING COMMITTEE
INFORMATION PACK***

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AUGUST 2007

EU Structural Funds in Northern Ireland

Information Pack

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1. WHAT ARE THE EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS?

- 1.1 The purpose of EU Regional Policy is to provide EU Member States, and regions within Member States, with assistance to overcome structural deficiencies and to enable them to strengthen their competitiveness and increase employment. The EU Structural & Cohesion Funds, the second largest item in the EU's budget have been refocused to concentrate on supporting individual Member States' activities to mobilise all national and EU resources to achieve the Lisbon goal of making Europe the most dynamic economy in the world by 2010. The UK fully supports the Lisbon objectives and national policies are consistent with this aim.

- 1.2 The last cycle of EU Structural Funds programmes in Northern Ireland came to an end in 2006. The new programmes come into effect in 2007 covering the period 2007-13, in which Northern Ireland has moved from Transitional Objective 1 status to a Competitiveness and Employment Region. Agreement on the EU Budget was reached at the European Council held on 17 December 2005 which was chaired by the UK who held the EU Presidency at that time. The Agreement, which diverts a larger share of EU resources to the new Member States, means that the UK will receive considerably reduced levels of EU funding – about half the level of Structural Funds received for 2000 to 2006. Northern Ireland which will receive in total €472m (£326m) for Competitiveness & Employment EU funding. This EU funding will be allocated between two distinct but inter-related programmes in Northern Ireland: one co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (€307m / £212m) and one co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) (€165m / £114m). This funding will be matched with national resources.

- 1.3 The European Regional Development Funding (ERDF), which aims to promote investment and correct the main regional imbalances of the EU, and the European Social Fund (ESF) aims to promote a high level of employment together with equal opportunities, sustainable development and economic and social cohesion.

Context and background to the 2007-13 funding period

1.4 The Community Strategic Guidelines¹ (CSG) contain the principles and priorities of cohesion policy and suggest ways the European regions can take full advantage of the funding that has been made available for national and regional aid programmes over the next seven years. They provide the framework for how the EU funds can be spent and set out the EU strategic priorities i.e.

- Making Europe and its regions more attractive places to invest and work;
- Improving knowledge and innovation for growth; and
- More and better jobs.

1.5 Each Member State was required to draw up a National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) setting out its main priorities for spending their Structural Funds – its purpose being to provide a reference framework for drawing up its Structural Funds Operational Programmes in line with the CSGs and the Member State's National Reform Programme (NRP) for delivering the Lisbon Agenda. The UK Government consulted on a draft NSRF in early 2006 and published its NSRF² in October 2006 – this included a Northern Ireland Chapter setting out a strategy and overall priorities for spending Competitiveness & Employment funding for the seven years 2007 to 2013.

1.6 The UK NSRF identified three key overarching themes:

- Enterprise and Innovation
- Skills and Employment
- Environmental and Community Sustainability

1.7 These themes are fully consistent with EU Priorities and will be reflected in all UK Competitiveness and Employment Programmes and contribute to

¹ http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/community_strategic_guidelines_2007-2013.pdf

² [National Strategic Reference Framework http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file34769.doc](http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file34769.doc)

achieving the national goal of making the UK the most business-friendly environment in the world.

2. COMPETITIVENESS & EMPLOYMENT (C & E) PROGRAMMES

2.1 There are 2 programmes under the EU Competitiveness and Employment objective which are distinct but complementary: the NI Sustainable Competitiveness Programme will focus on providing the essential environment for businesses to flourish and establish the links between research bodies and companies while the NI European Social Fund Programme will focus on building the skills in the workforce to take advantage of the opportunities on offer. Businesses need people with the right qualifications to succeed and people need to be able to identify good jobs or self-employment opportunities to engage in further training or acquisition of skills.

2.2 The Northern Ireland (NI) Sustainable Competitiveness Programme³

2.2.1 The Northern Ireland (NI) Sustainable Competitiveness Programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Programme budget is €613,666,878 (£423m), of which the ERDF contribution is €306,833,439 (£212m). It will support the regional strategy by promoting investment in research and technological development and encouraging enterprise and entrepreneurship in an overall context of sustainable development.

2.2.2 The Priorities in the Competitiveness Programme are:

- Priority 1: Sustainable Competitiveness and Innovation

This Priority will focus on three key areas:

- Increasing the level and quality of R & TD;
- Exploiting the commercial opportunities of the R&TD base; and
- Promotion and mainstreaming of innovation

³ Total £423m (EU + Match funding @ €1.45=£1)

- Priority 2: Sustainable Enterprise & Entrepreneurship

This Priority will focus on two key areas:

- Expanding the private sector; and
- Creating a world-class business climate in Northern Ireland.

- Priority 3: Improving Accessibility & Protecting & Enhancing the Environment

This Priority will focus on two key areas:

- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment; and
- Promoting sustainable development and creating sustainable communities.

Cross-cutting themes

2.2.3 Underpinning the key expenditure areas are the cross-cutting themes of:

- equality and good relations; and
- promoting sustainable development and the creation of sustainable communities.

These themes will act as Strategic guidelines for those engaged in the implementation of the Programmes to ensure that the activities to be funded are coherent not only with the Programme Strategy itself, but with the wider aims and objectives of Government policy in Northern Ireland.

2.3 The Northern Ireland (NI) European Social Fund (ESF) Programme

Total £285.8m⁴

2.3.1 The NI European Social Fund Programme will be co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF). The Programme budget is €414,443,250 (£285.8m), of which the ESF contribution is €165,777,300 (£114m). The overall strategic aim of the programme is to reduce economic inactivity and increase workforce skills. The ESF Programme will contribute to employment policies to make progress towards increasing the overall employment rate and reducing inactivity in Northern Ireland by extending

⁴ (EU + Match funding @ €1.45=£1)

employment opportunities in particular for those groups at a disadvantage in the labour market. It will also contribute to skills policies to increase productivity, enterprise and competitiveness by raising the skills levels of the workforce through lifelong learning and ensure the right workforce skills for future employment opportunities.

2.3.2 The Priorities in the Employment Programme are:

- Priority 1: Helping people into sustained employment

This Priority will focus on three key areas:

- Extending employment opportunities;
- Reducing barriers to work and improving employability; and
- Dedicated Innovative activity.

- Priority 2: Improving workforce skills

This Priority will focus on three key areas:

- Supporting access to and provision of Apprenticeships;
- Increasing workforce essential skills; and
- Level 2 and 3 qualifications for future employment opportunities.

Cross cutting themes

2.3.3 This Programme also has cross cutting themes of:

- gender equality and equal opportunities; and
- promoting sustainable development, including the creation of sustainable communities.

Innovative and trans-national and inter-regional activities will also be promoted under the programme.

Full details of the Programmes and how they will be delivered can be found in the Operational Programme documents.

3. OTHER EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROGRAMMES 2007-13

In addition to the C & E Programmes, Northern Ireland will also benefit from a PEACE III Programme and a Cross Border Territorial Co-operation Programme.

3.1 EU PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE BORDER REGION OF IRELAND ⁵

3.1.1 The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland⁶ (2007-2013) (hereafter the PEACE III Programme) is a distinctive European Union Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation. It will assist Northern Ireland and the Border Region and specifically focus on reconciling communities and contributing towards a shared society. The Programme will carry forward key aspects of the previous peace programmes (PEACE I and II) and will have a continued and renewed emphasis on reconciliation.

3.1.2 In the PEACE III Programme, the two strategic objectives will be implemented through two Priority areas that include:

- Priority 1: Reconciling communities

This Priority will focus on two key areas:

- Building positive relations at the local level; and
- Acknowledging and dealing with the past.

- Priority 2: Contributing to a shared society

This Priority will focus on two key areas:

- Creating shared public spaces; and
- Key institutional capacities are developed for a shared society.

⁵ (PEACE III) (£229.6m EU + Match funding @ €1.45=£1)

⁶ The Border Region includes the counties of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo in Ireland and covers the same boundaries as the Border Regional Authority, one of eight Authorities established under the Local Government Act 1991 (The Irish Regions Office, www.iro.ie). The term border areas refers to those areas adjacent to the border in both Northern Ireland and Ireland

Cross cutting themes

3.1.3 There are a number of themes relevant across all the Priorities that will act as strategic guidelines for those engaged in the implementation of the Programme. These are:

- Cross Border Co-operation;
- Equality of Opportunity;
- Sustainable Development;
- Impact on Poverty; and
- Partnership.

3.2 Cross-Border Territorial Cooperation Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland 2007-2013 (£176.55m EU + Match @ €1.45=£1)

3.2.1 The Cross-Border Territorial Cooperation Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland 2007-2013 (hereafter the INTERREG Programme) is a European Union supported Structural Funds Programme which aims to promote greater territorial cohesion. The overall theme of the Programme is to strengthen and deepen cross-border cooperation with an emphasis on supporting strategic plans and projects which will maximise the impact of the funds throughout the eligible area. Building on the successes and lessons of previous INTERREG Programmes, the INTERREG Programme aims to support strategic cross-border cooperation for a more prosperous and sustainable region. In particular, the Programme will focus on developing a dynamic economy, supporting infrastructure and promoting innovative ways of addressing specific cross-border problems.

3.2.2 The Priorities in the Cross Border Territorial Cooperation Programme are:

- Cooperation for a more prosperous cross-border region: This Priority aims to diversify and develop the economy of the eligible region by encouraging innovation and competitiveness in enterprise and business development, and promoting tourism;

- Cooperation for a sustainable cross-border region: This Priority aims to support activities that promote cross-border cooperation in policy development and improve access to services so as to improve the quality of life for those living in the eligible area.

Cross cutting themes

3.2.3 Cross cutting themes for this Programme are:

- Equality of Opportunity;
- Sustainable Development;
- Impact on Poverty; and
- Partnership.

4. ALLOCATIONS

| Programme | Funding Instrument | EU funding allocation €m (allowing for indexation) | Sterling £m (Exchange rate €1.45=£1) | Total £m (EU + Match) |
|---|--------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Northern Ireland | | | | |
| Sustainable Competitiveness | ERDF | 307 | 212 | 423 |
| European Social Fund Programme | ESF | 165 | 114 | 285.8 |
| Northern Ireland and the Border Region | | | | |
| Programme for Peace & reconciliation Ireland-Northern Ireland (PEACE II) | ERDF | 225 | 155 | 229.6 |
| Territorial Co-operation, Northern Ireland, the Border Region and West Coast of Scotland (INTERREG) | ERDF | 192 | 132 | 176.55 |

5. OTHER EU SUPPORT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2007-13

5.1 The programmes detailed in Chapters 2 and 3 are funded from the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds budget and are channelled through the Member State and Managing Authorities. In addition to these there are other initiatives funded directly from Europe.

5.2 As a result of the President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso, visit to Belfast on 7 May 2007 a special EU Commission Taskforce has been established to help Northern Ireland maximise the benefits of EU membership and to promote the exchange of experience between Northern Ireland and other EU regions.

5.3 The Taskforce will assist in identifying and exploiting EU opportunities of relevance to Northern Ireland in areas other than the Structural Funds but which will support the central objective of helping Northern Ireland develop as a sustainable, knowledge-based economy over the current EU programming period 2007-13.

5.4 With the active support of the Northern Ireland Administration, the Commission Taskforce will help Northern Ireland to benefit from key EU initiatives and policies, or to gain better access to finance.

6. THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAMMES

Structural Funds Regulations defines the key players and their roles and responsibilities. These are explained in this and the next section.

6.1 KEY PLAYERS

6.1.1 Member State

In relation to EU Structural Funds the United Kingdom (UK) is the Member State but as a result of devolved government, responsibility for the administration of the Structural Funds was transferred to the Northern Ireland Executive. The NI Executive designated the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP (NI)) this role and this continues during any period where there is suspension of devolved Government.

6.1.2 Managing Authorities

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) is the Managing Authority for the Competitiveness Programme. The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) is the Managing Authority for the Employment Programme. The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) set up under the provisions of the Belfast Agreement (1998) is the Managing Authority for PEACE III and INTERREG.

The Managing Authorities are responsible for the efficiency and correctness of management and implementation. The Managing Authorities work in close liaison with all Implementing Departments and Bodies to which tasks have been delegated.

6.1.3 Accountable Departments

Accountable Departments are all Government Departments implementing Competitiveness & Employment projects. For PEACE III and INTERREG accountable Departments are those Government Departments that are accountable for voted monies passed via grant payments to SEUPB to facilitate payments to projects.

6.1.4 Intermediate Administration Bodies

An Intermediate Administration Body is a public or private body acting under the responsibility of Managing Authorities designated to perform tasks on their behalf in relation to final beneficiaries.

6.1.5 Certifying Authorities

The Certifying Authorities are responsible for drawing up and submitting to the Commission certified statements of expenditure and applications for payment. The Certifying Authority for the Competitiveness Programme is DETI, DEL is the Certifying Authority for the ESF Programme and the SEUPB is the Certifying Authority of the PEACE III and INTERREG Programmes.

6.1.6 Audit Authorities

The Audit Authorities are responsible for ensuring audits are carried out to verify the effective functioning of the management and control system of the operational programmes. The Audit Authority for the Competitiveness and Employment Programmes is DETI. The Audit Authority for PEACE III and INTERREG is DFP.

6.1.7 Monitoring Committees

To oversee each Programme a Monitoring Committee is established. Membership is made up of representatives from the following sectors:

- political representatives;
- business;
- trade unions;
- agriculture/rural development/fisheries;
- community and voluntary ;
- education;
- research;
- environment; and
- equal opportunities.

6.1.8 Working Groups

The programme Monitoring Committees are assisted by a number of Working Groups which report directly to the Monitoring Committees. Their purpose is to support and advise Monitoring Committees on issues like the cross-cutting themes. Each Working Group will be chaired by a member of a Monitoring Committee.

An Equality Working Group will be set up to cover both Programmes. An Environmental Working Group will be set up under the Competitiveness Programme and an Innovation and Mainstreaming Working Group will be set up under the ESF Programme. The Monitoring Committee will decide on the constitution of further Working Groups or Sub-committees.

6.1.9 Expert Advisors

Managing Authorities will, when necessary, call on Agencies, Departments, or external consultants to provide expert advice and guidance on issues that impact on the operation of the programmes. In particular, advice and guidance will be sought from NISRA on statistic and research issues. The Managing Authorities will be responsible for the dissemination of such advice and guidance.

6.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.2.1 Role of the Member State

The Member State, DFP, is responsible for the management and control of operational programmes, in particular through the following measures:

- Preparation, negotiation and approval of Operational Programmes
- Ex-ante Evaluation
- Setting up of management, monitoring and control arrangements
- Publicity and information

In addition, DFP will provide the secretariat and chair the Competitiveness and Employment Programme Monitoring Committee.

6.2.2 Role of the Managing Authority

DETI, DEL and the SEUPB in their capacities as Managing Authorities have overall responsibility for the Operational Programmes, ensuring efficiency and correctness of management and implementation. They are the liaison point with the Commission and the respective Monitoring Committees for the Programmes.

The Managing Authority will be responsible for:-

- a) Ensuring that operations are selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the operational programme and that they comply with applicable Community and national rules for the whole of their implementation period;
- (b) Verifying that the co-financed products and services are delivered and that the expenditure declared by the beneficiaries for operations has actually been incurred and complies with Community and National rules; verifications on-the-spot of individual operations may be carried out on a sample basis in accordance with the detailed rules to be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 103(3);

- (c) Ensuring that there is a system for recording and storing in computerised form accounting records for each operation under the operational programme and that the data on implementation necessary for financial management, monitoring, verifications, audits and evaluation are collected;
- (d) Ensuring that beneficiaries and other bodies involved in the implementation of operations maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to the operation without prejudice to national accounting rules;
- (e) Ensuring that the evaluations of operational programmes are carried out according to Council Regulation 1083/2006;
- (f) Setting up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of Council Regulation 1083/2006;
- (g) Ensuring that the Certifying Authority receives all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification;
- (h) Guiding the work of the monitoring committee and providing it with the documents required to permit the quality of the implementation of the operational programme to be monitored in the light of its specific goals;
- (i) Drawing up and, after approval by the monitoring committee, submitting to the Commission the annual and final reports on implementation;
- (j) Ensuring compliance with the information and publicity requirements laid down in Article 69;
- (k) Providing the Commission with information to allow it to appraise major projects.

6.2.3 Role of the Accountable Departments

Accountable departments are responsible for ensuring that the necessary legal and DFP authorities for expenditure are in place and that the expenditure is applied only for the purpose intended. Departments are responsible for ensuring that the expenditure incurred complies fully with the requirements of both Government Accounting Northern Ireland and with all relevant EU regulations governing expenditure under the Structural Funds.

6.2.4 Role of the Intermediate Administration Bodies

The Managing Authority may delegate certain tasks to Intermediate Administration Bodies as outlined below:

- ***project applications***: to facilitate the process of publicising, overseeing the application process, registering new organisations and provide advice and support to prospective applicants and communicating decisions, key guidance and programme/policy changes to partners;
- ***project selection***: to undertake technical checks on applications and facilitate the assessment of challenge-fund applications and recommendations of awards to the Programme Monitoring Committee;
- ***project monitoring***: to carry out monitoring visits on all projects in fulfilment of Programme obligations; and
- ***reporting***: to monitor progress towards Programme financial targets and contribute to Programme requirements.

The Intermediate Administration Bodies will be accountable to their Sponsoring Department and through them to the Managing Authority, Member State and Programme Monitoring Committee and act in accordance with the formal financial memoranda and contractual agreements.

6.2.5 Role of the Certifying Authority

The Certifying Authority is responsible for:-

- (a) Drawing up and submitting to the Commission certified statements of expenditure and applications for payment;
- (b) Certifying that:
 - (i) The statement of expenditure is accurate, results from reliable accounting systems and is based on verifiable supporting documents;
 - (ii) The expenditure declared complies with applicable Community and national rules and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the programme and complying with Community and national rules;
- (c) Ensuring for the purposes of certification that it has received adequate information from the Managing Authority on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure included in statements of expenditure;
- (d) Taking account for certification purposes of the results of all audits carried out by or under the responsibility of the audit authority;
- (e) Maintaining accounting records in computerised form of expenditure declared to the Commission;
- (f) Keeping an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation.

6.2.6 Role of the Audit Authority

The functions of the Audit Authority include:

- Ensuring that audits are carried out to verify the effective functioning of the management and control systems of the operational programme;
- Ensuring that audits are carried out on operations on the basis of an appropriate sample to verify expenditure declared;
- By 31 December each year from 2008 to 2015:
 - Submitting to the Commission an annual control report setting out the findings of the audits carried out during the previous 12 month period ending on 30th June of the year concerned in accordance with the audit strategy of the operational programme and reporting any shortcomings found in the systems for the management and control of the programme. The first report, to be submitted by 31 December 2008 shall cover the period 1 January 2007 to 30 June 2008. The information concerning the audits carried out after 1 July 2015 shall be included in the final control report supporting the closure declaration;
 - Issuing an opinion, on the basis of the controls and audits that have been carried out under the responsibility of the Audit Authority, as to whether the management and control system functions effectively, so as to provide a reasonable assurance that statements of expenditure presented to the Commission are correct and as a consequence reasonable assurance that the underlying transactions are legal and regular;
 - Submitting, where applicable, a declaration for partial closure assessing the legality and regularity of the expenditure concerned;
- Submitting to the Commission at the latest by 31 March 2017 a closure declaration assessing the validity of the application for payment of the final

balance and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions covered by the final statement of expenditure, which shall be supported by a final control report; and

- Ensuring that the audit work takes account of internationally accepted audit standards.

The Audit Authority will require the Internal Audit Authorities of Accountable Departments to provide it with all the necessary assurances to fulfil these functions in respect of expenditure for which their Department is responsible.

6.2.7 The Role of the Monitoring Committee

The Monitoring Committee will agree its own terms of reference and rules of procedure to satisfy itself as to the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the programmes, including:

- Consider and approve the criteria for selecting the operations financed within six months of the approval of the operational programme and approve any revision of those criteria in accordance with programming needs
- Review progress made towards achieving the specific targets of the programmes on the basis of documents submitted by the Managing Authority
- Examine the result of implementation, particularly the achievement of targets set for each priority axis and the evaluations referred to in Article 48(3);
- Consider and approve the annual and final reports on implementation referred to in Article 67;
- Be informed of the annual control report, or of the part of the report referring to the OP concerned, and of any relevant comments the

Commission may make after examining that report or relating to that part of the report;

- It may propose to the Managing Authority any revision or examination of the OP likely to make possible the attainment of the Funds objectives referred to in Article 3 or to improve its management, including its financial management;
- Consider and approve any proposal to amend the content of the Commission decisions on the contribution from the funds.

The Monitoring Committee tasks will be to:

- ♦ Propose a revision of the Operational Programme, where appropriate;
- ♦ Approve the indicative annual financing plan for each priority;
- ♦ Set the criteria for selecting operations eligible for financing under each priority within six months of the Operational Programme approval to review the specific objectives of each priority at periodic intervals;
- ♦ Approve and review the plans of the Intermediate Delivery Bodies;
- ♦ Consider the annual implementation reports to be submitted for the Programme before submission to the Commission and monitor progress towards achieving the targets set for the programme, particularly at the mid-term point;
- ♦ Approve adjustments to applicant guidance;
- ♦ Monitor co-ordination of funding with European Social Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Fisheries Fund in line with the arrangements set out in Chapter 5; and
- ♦ Propose adjustments to assistance to the Managing Authority with respect to the implementation of the programme.

6.2.8 Role of EU Commission

In terms of the allocation of funding to projects and the supervision of the programme the Commission has no direct role.

The national and/or regional authorities are responsible for drawing up a Programme Complement to provide the detail and goals of the programme and subsequently for the selection and management of projects that best suit these goals.

The Commission:

- Proposes the budget for structural funding at the **EU level**;
- Defines (in agreement with the Member States) which areas are eligible for aid;
- Proposes certain common thematic guidelines for structural funds across the EU;
- Negotiates and approves the content of the programmes drawn up by each member state;
- Participates as an advisory member with consultative status in the work of the Programme Monitoring Committee;
- Examines the control systems established by the Member States and regions;
- Pays the structural fund contributions.

7. THE COMPETITIVENESS & EMPLOYMENT MONITORING COMMITTEE

7.1 Meetings of the Monitoring Committee

7.1.1 The timing of Monitoring Committee meetings will be influenced by the timetable for submission of reports and profiles which require approval prior to submission to the Commission. These are:

Annual Implementation Report – to be submitted by 30 June of the year following the Report year. The first report will be due in 2008.

Changes to Commission Decisions – as required. A Commission Decision will be required if and when funding allocations need to be moved from one priority to another.

The date of proposed meetings must be notified to the European Commission a minimum of 3 weeks before the meeting.

7.1.2 The role of Members is to collectively promote the best means of securing the objectives of the funding programmes rather than the interests of a particular sector.

7.1.3 The time commitment is normally one day per six months for Monitoring Committee meetings plus related preparation.

7.1.4 Members also participate in the Working Groups which meet as often as Members require.

7.1.5 Monitoring Committee procedures allows Members to be replaced by their Deputy if unable to attend.

7.2 Membership

| SECTOR | MEMBER | DEPUTY |
|--|---|---|
| Member State | Bill Pauley (Chair) DFP | Lynsey Moore, DFP |
| Competitiveness Programme Managing Authority | Trevor Cooper DETI | TBC |
| Employment Programme Managing Authority | Trevor Connolly DEL | Rosemary Mulholland DEL |
| Competitiveness Programme Certifying Authority | TBC | TBC |
| Employment Programme Certifying Authority | Andrea Quail DEL | Stephen Rainey DEL |
| PEACE III / INTERREG Managing Authority | Pat Colgan Chief Executive SEUPB | Adrian McNamee SEUPB |
| Equality | Bob Collins Chief Commissioner Equality Commission | Antoinette McKeown Policy & Development Equality Commission |
| Environment | Brian Murphy Deputy Chairman Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC) | Lucinda Blakiston- Houston Chairperson CNCC |
| Voluntary and Community | Lisa McElherron Policy Dev. Manager NICVA | Francess McCandless Director of Policy NICVA |
| Business | John Doran Managing Director Belfast International Airport | Doreen McKenzie Proprietor Knock Travel |
| Agriculture/ Rural/ Fisheries | John Thompson Deputy President Ulster Farmers Union | Sharon Porter UFU |
| Trade Unions | Brendan Mackin Director Belfast Unemployed Research Centre | Peter Bunting Assistant General Sec. ICTU |
| Education | Dr Audrey McKeown Southern Regional College | Leo Murphy South West College |
| Research | Margaret Connolly Head of Accounting Services | Helen Hart Head of Post Graduate Office |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| | Queen's University | Queen's University |
| Research | Prof Bernie Hannigan University of Ulster (Coleraine Campus) | Prof Norman Black University of Ulster (Jordanstown) |
| DUP | Robin Newton, MLA Belfast City Council | Christopher Stalford Belfast City Council |
| SF | Domhnall O'Cobhthaigh Fermanagh District Council | Maeve McLaughlin Derry City Council |
| UUP | Arnold Hatch Upper Bann | Joan Baird Banbridge DC |
| SDLP | Mealla Bratton Armagh City District Council | Cathal Mullaghan Belfast City Council |
| | | |
| | Advisors | |
| European Commission | David Yormesor DG Regio | |
| European Commission | Franz Pointner DG Employ | |
| DARD | TBC | TBC |
| OFMDFM | TBC | TBC |
| NISRA | Gerard Colgan | Michelle Furphy |
| DOE | Bernard McClure | Glenn Moorcroft |
| | Observers | |
| MEPs | Bairbre De Brun Jim Allister Jim Nicholson | |
| Office of NI Executive | Dept. Representative | |
| International Fund for Ireland | Peter Sangster | |

7.3 Secretariat

The Department of Finance and Personnel provide the Secretariat to the Monitoring Committee. The Secretariat is responsible for issuing the agenda and supporting papers for all the Monitoring Committee meetings. Documents are normally issued a minimum of three weeks before meetings.

7.4 Monitoring Committee Secretariat Contact Details

| NAME | PHONE | FAX | E-MAIL |
|---------------|--------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Lynsey Moore | 90 523885 | 90 523890 | lynsey.moore@dfpni.gov.uk |
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8. WORKING GROUPS

The Monitoring Committee has the ability to establish Working Groups to provide advice on particular aspects of the funding Programmes. These have to be chaired by a permanent Member of a Monitoring Committee and have a core of other Committee Members but may draw in other Members as need or expertise dictates.

9. ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO MEMBERS

Members of EU Structural Funds Monitoring Committee are entitled to claim:-

- (a) Payment at prevailing civil service rates of the costs of travel and subsistence (including the costs of meal/overnight accommodation where necessary) incurred by members of the Monitoring Committees in performing their duties, where these are not met by the individuals' sponsoring/employing organisations (where membership of the Committee is regarded as part of an individual's official duties).
- (b) Reimbursement of registered childcare and other caring expenses incurred directly as a result of an individual's participation as a member of a Monitoring Committee would also seem appropriate, and consistent with the aim of ensuring broad inclusivity among Members of the Committees.
- (c) Fixed allowances for attendance at meetings, and or for the reimbursement for loss of earnings incurred as a direct result of attendance at meetings will not be paid except where this would give rise to hardship or to a substantive and regular loss of income for an individual member. Then consideration will be given to dealing with such instances on a case-by-case basis.

10. EUROPEAN UNION: BACKGROUND

There are now 27 countries in the European Union known as Member States:-

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| France | United Kingdom |
| Germany | Denmark |
| Belgium | Ireland |
| The Netherlands | Greece |
| Luxembourg | Portugal |
| Sweden | Spain |
| Finland | Italy |
| Austria | Slovakia |
| Bulgaria | Latvia |
| Czech Republic | Poland |
| Estonia | Romania |
| Hungary | Slovenia |
| Lithuania | Bulgaria |
| Romania | |

Day-to-day activities in running the European Union are carried out by the following institutions:

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

785 members representing 492 million citizens

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Government representatives of all Member States

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Europe's Civil Service headed by 26 Commissioners appointed for 5-year terms.
- The President of the Commission is José Manuel Barroso.
- The UK has 1 Commissioner - Peter Mandelson

Other EU Institutions relevant to Structural Funds programmes are:

| | |
|--|--|
| EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE (ECJ): | Ensures observance of EU law |
| EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS (ECA): | Monitors the Community |
| EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB): | E.U's Banking System |
| EUROPEAN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: | Advises on Economic and Social Subjects |
| COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS: | Made of Local and Regional Authorities who are consulted on relevant regional matters (UK has 24 members) |

Further information on the EU and its institutions can be found via the EU web portal www.europa.eu.

11. USEFUL CONTACTS

For the Competitiveness & Employment Programme Monitoring Committee Secretariat, contact:

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Block F, Health Estates
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For the Competitiveness Programme, contact

European Unit
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Massey Avenue
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Fax
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For the Employment Programme, contact

European Unit
Department of Employment & Learning
Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
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Fax: 028 9025 7646
Email: European.unit@delni.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.delni.gov.uk>

For Peace II Programme contact:

Special EU Programmes Body
The Gasworks
6 Cromac Place
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Fax: 028 9026 6661
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For the INTERREG Programme, contact:

Special EU Programmes Body
European Union House
Castle Meadow Court
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Telephone: 0808 127 5005 (free phone from N Ireland)
1800 80 5005 (freephone from Rep.Ireland)

Fax: +44 (0) 4771258

Email: interreg@seupb.ie

Website: www.eugrants.org

12. USEFUL ABBREVIATIONS

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Northern Ireland

| | |
|---------|--|
| OFM/DFM | Office of the First Minister/Deputy First Minister |
| DARD | Department of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| DETI | Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment |
| DE | Department of Education |
| DEL | Department for Employment and Learning |
| DFP | Department of Finance and Personnel |
| DHSSPS | Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety |
| DOE | Department of Environment |
| DRD | Department for Regional Development |
| DCAL | Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure |
| DSD | Department for Social Development |

Great Britain

| | |
|-------|--|
| DTI | Department of Trade and Industry |
| NIO | Northern Ireland Office |
| UKRep | United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the European Unions |

Republic of Ireland

| | |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| DOF | Department of Finance, Dublin |
|-----|-------------------------------|

Government Bodies or Non – Departmental Public Bodies

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Invest NI | Invest (NI) formally LEDU, IDB & IRTU |
| NISRA | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency |
| NITB | Northern Ireland Tourist Board |
| SEUPB | Special EU Programmes Body |

Others

| | |
|----------|---|
| CBI | Confederation of British Industry |
| CRC | Community Relations Council |
| DC | District Councils |
| IFB's | Intermediary Funding Bodies |
| IFI | International Fund for Ireland |
| LSP's | Local Strategy Partnerships |
| MBW | Making Belfast Work |
| NIAO | Northern Ireland Audit Office |
| NICVA | Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action |
| NIC/ICTU | Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions |
| RDC | Rural Development Council |
| RPB | Regional Partnership Board |
| UFU | Ulster Farmers Union |

USEFUL EUROPEAN ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------|--|
| DG | Directorate General |
| EAFRD | European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development |
| EC | European Community |
| EFF | European Fisheries Fund |
| ERDF | European Regional Development Fund |
| ESF | European Social Fund |
| EU | European Union |

Miscellaneous Terms

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| TCN | Targeting Community Needs |
| TSN | Targeting Social Need |