



**Mid-Term Evaluation Update of the 2000-06
Northern Ireland Community Support
Framework (CSF)
Final Report**

**A Report prepared by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency for
the CSF Managing Authority**

Section	Page
1 Executive Summary	2
2 Background.....	12
3 Review of MTE recommendations	22
4 Analysis of Outputs and Results	33
5 Analysis of Impacts	61
6 Conclusions and recommendations	88

Deleted: 61
Deleted: 60
Deleted: 88
Deleted: 87

Annex 1	94
Annex 2	96
Annex 3	101
Annex 4	105
Annex 5	107
Annex 6	110
Annex 7	111

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the 2003 Mid Term Evaluation of the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework. The overall aim of the CSF is to achieve a transition to a more peaceful, stable, prosperous, fair and outward looking society, sustained by a better physical environment. The CSF is an overarching framework which is implemented in Northern Ireland through the Building Sustainable Prosperity (BSP) and Peace II Operational Programmes. The CSF is not, therefore, a funding stream in its own right.
- 1.2 The MTE and this Update were both required under Article 42 (4) of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1260/99. The detailed requirements of the Update are described in Commission Working Paper No. 9. In summary, the Mid-term Evaluation Update (MTEU) seeks to prepare for subsequent assistance programmes and to analyse the impact, or likely impact, of the current programmes.
- 1.3 The overall aims of the mid-term evaluation update of the CSF are, therefore:
- (a) to build on the work of the mid-term evaluation thus providing information which can help, where possible, further demonstrate the added value of the NI CSF through the BSP and Peace II Programmes; and
 - (b) to provide information which can help inform development strategies in the next programming period.
- 1.4 In line with the requirements of Commission Working Paper 9 and the Terms of Reference for this Update, the following objectives and key issues are addressed in this report.
- Review of the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2003 mid-term evaluation (MTE) of the NI CSF.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Tab after: 1.27 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.27 cm

- Analysis of the outputs and results achieved to date, in light of the NI CSF targets and financial performance.
- Analysis of impacts achieved to date and the likely achievement of objectives.
- Conclusions on efficiency, effectiveness and impact and recommendations for the future.

1.5 This section provides an overview of the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of this Update.

Review of the Implementation of the MTE Recommendations

1.6 The recommendations of the MTE can be grouped into several themes:

- CSF and Sui Generis Indicators
- Horizontal Principles
- Implementing Provisions
- Common Chapter and North/South Linkages
- Central Database/Programme Closure

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 2.54 cm + Tab after: 3.17 cm + Indent at: 3.17 cm, Tabs: Not at 3.17 cm

1.7 Section 3 of the report demonstrates that a considerable amount of effort has been deployed in addressing, and building on, the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation. A number of important steps forward have been made which are likely to improve the overall impact of the CSF through the two Operational Programmes.

- 1.8 The indicators for the CSF have been reviewed as part of the mid-term review for BSP and as a consequence of the amendments to the Peace II Programme as a result of its extension to 2006. All recommendations have been taken into consideration where possible.
- 1.9 The implementation of the Development Path Analysis (DPA), within the context of environmental monitoring, has been reviewed in light of the MTE recommendations. As a direct result of the MTE, research was carried out into the application of DPA. This was followed by a series of actions by the Managing Authority to improve the understanding and application of DPA. Whilst coverage has improved, inconsistencies remain around the actual path assigned to projects. This reflects the relatively subjective nature of this type of analysis and the range of implementing bodies involved in making these decisions.
- 1.10 Following from the MTE, research was also carried out to examine ways of assessing the impact of the programmes on the Section 75 equality groups. The Mainstreaming Equality Working Group (MEWG) has now made a number of recommendations arising from the research to the CSF Managing Authority for consideration.
- 1.11 A number of initiatives have been taken forward by the Managing Authority in order to improve the operations of the Monitoring Committee in light of the MTE recommendation. A seminar was held to establish Member's views and a new induction pack was developed for new Members. In addition, a grant from Technical Assistance was approved for the Northern Ireland Local Government Association to employ a European Officer to help support Local Government members. The new mapping from the Operational Programmes to the CSF has also been adopted for monitoring progress.

- 1.12 Progress on the Common Chapter has been slower than expected as a result of the suspension of devolution. The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) takes this area forward and two Common Chapter reports are currently under consideration with the North South Ministerial Committee Joint Secretariat.
- 1.13 Since the MTE in 2003 there has been significant progress regarding coverage on the Central Database, especially with regard to financial information which is now complete. However, non-financial monitoring coverage remains comparatively low across both of the CSF OPs. It is important that this information is collated quickly and accurately before the end of the Programming period as the risk of not obtaining these data grows. The Managing Authorities of both Programmes continue to stress the importance of this aspect of monitoring.
- 1.14 From the findings in Section 3, it is clear that a number of difficulties have been identified with current processes and significant action has already been taken to address these. To obtain maximum benefit from this work, the key lessons from the CSF and its two OPs should be clearly incorporated into the development of any future Programmes.

Outputs, Results and Impacts

- 1.15 Generally there has been significant progress in the outputs and results across the CSF Priorities since the 2003 MTE. Section 5 of this report provides detailed progress on the CSF impact indicators. This demonstrates that many of the CSF's key objectives are likely to be met, again representing significant progress since the MTE when there was little activity to report on. There are, however, a number of areas which will require much effort in the final years of the Framework to ensure that targets are met and impacts achieved.

- 1.16 The CSF Priority 1, Economic Growth and Renewal, has seen the highest levels of commitment and expenditure across the CSF priorities, at 92% and 72% respectively. Most of the output, result and impact indicators for this CSF Priority are reporting progress which is either consistent with or above the 72% expenditure level. The one important exception to this is the figure for the number of gross jobs created. This indicator is currently reporting achievement which is slightly below that reported in the CSF MTE. Since the MTE, there has been substantial effort placed on verifying and improving the reporting of this indicator. The relevant Implementing Body believe the current reporting level to be more accurate and realistic than that provided previously. Obviously it is of concern that there may have been difficulties associated with this important indicator previously. However, it is encouraging that these difficulties have been identified and addressed whilst the Framework is still in operation. Available evidence would also suggest that the Priority 1 impact indicators are likely to be achieved.
- 1.17 Priority 2 (Employment, Human Resource Development and Social Inclusion) has also progressed well and is on course to meet the majority of its targets for both financial and physical achievement. Commitment and expenditure rates across this Priority currently stand at 88% and 45% respectively. Whilst this is significantly higher than at the MTE stage, much effort is still needed to spend over half of the available funds in the final years of the Programme. Progress against the outputs and results is generally at or in excess of the 45% level, suggesting that overall targets should be attained provided expenditure is achieved. Progress against the targets for the Lifelong Learning policy field remains relatively low. This reflects the loss of activity in this area from the BSP Programme following the closure of the Individual Learning Accounts Scheme. However, new activity in this area has recently been identified. Spend should be incurred through 2005 and 2006 with outcome progress information likely to be available in 2006.

- 1.18 CSF Priority 3 is Balanced Regional, Urban and Rural Development. This Priority covers an array of activities at the CSF and OP levels. Generally progress has been good in relation to outputs, results and impacts across the Priority. Expenditure commitment and spend levels, in particular, are of concern in the final stages of the Programmes.
- 1.19 North-South and Wider Co-operation is Priority 4 in the NI CSF. In common with the mapping developed in the CSF MTE, reporting on this Priority is drawn solely from the Peace II Programme. Expenditure levels for this Priority are particularly low at less than 35%. It will be a significant challenge to fully spend the remaining 65% in the final two to three years of the Programme.
- 1.20 Priority 5 Sui Generis. Section 4 provides detailed updates on the types and ranges of groups, sectors and areas supported by the Peace II Programme. Existing indicator data, coupled with individual evaluations, suggest that the Peace II programme is more distinctive than its predecessor and that there is a specific focus on Peace and Reconciliation, which will be strengthened in the extended period 2005 and 2006.

Horizontal Principles

- 1.21 In terms of the horizontal principles (HPs), it can be seen from Section 5 that there have been a number of initiatives taken forward following the publication of the MTEs. The most positive steps forward have been under the equality, environment and publicity horizontal principles. In addition, the work undertaken both by the respective working groups and the Managing Authority have helped reinforce and bring to the forefront of the BSP and Peace II Programmes the principles of equality and the environment. The lessons learned from these initiatives will play a significant role in the development and delivery of any future European Programmes in Northern Ireland.

1.22 However, it has also been found that the potential influence of the Horizontal Principles was reduced in two ways. Firstly, the scores attributed to the HPs in the selection process were unlikely to result in a rejection. Secondly, the total number of HPs in some ways reduced their potential impact because there were too many to be taken into consideration by the applicant. Therefore, it may be useful in future Programmes to reduce the number of horizontal principles on which to focus. In addition, it may be useful for the main HPs to carry greater weights for scoring in the selection process. Many of the project promoters across BSP and Peace II have indicated that they would have been following many of the Horizontal Principles even if they were not explicit in the Programme. With this in mind, it would be useful for the future to separately identify which principles could be addressed by means of eligibility checks and which should feed in to the scoring of individual projects.

Added Value of the CSF

1.23 The CSF MTE concluded that the overall effect of the two OPs is comprised of the sum of their parts rather than achievement through being combined within the CSF. It also stated that it was not obvious that the CSF exerted any influence on the direction taken by the BSP and Peace II Operational Programmes. There is no evidence through this report that this position has changed. The Horizontal Principles should, in theory, have brought about added value from the CSF. However, as noted above, many project promoters indicated that they would have been pursuing these principles anyway and they were of insufficient weight in the scoring framework to influence the shape and direction of projects.

1.24 It would appear, however, that Northern Ireland is not unique in having minimal added value from the CSF. In the current draft regulations for 2007-2013 the Commission have removed the need for a detailed overarching framework in the form of the CSF. In future funding the Member State will be required to produce a National Strategic Reference Framework.

1.25 As also noted in the CSF MTE, it is important to acknowledge that the political context in which the Northern Ireland CSF operates changed substantially since its introduction. That is, at the outset there was a clear link between the CSF and the Northern Ireland Executive with both the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the CSF Monitoring Committee drawn from the Executive. Essentially, this provided an important locally based political link to the North South Ministerial Council as well as wider policy context through the Programme for Government. The subsequent suspension of devolution and the loss of this link affected the CSF Monitoring Committee's capacity to fulfil the co-ordination role that was established for it at the outset. The political context is important for any CSF, but perhaps more so for Northern Ireland where the Structural Funds are targeted towards facilitating a process of transition that is political as well as socio-economic.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1.26 The main conclusions for the CSF are discussed in detail in Section 6. In summary, the main findings of this report are as follows.

- Section 3 (Review of MTE Recommendations) demonstrates a considerable amount of effort in addressing, and building on, the recommendations of the MTE. The improvements made should go some way to improve the overall impact of the CSF through the Peace II and BSP Operational Programmes whilst ensuring that the key objectives for the CSF should be met.
- Section 4 (Outputs and Results) shows that achievement has generally been good across the CSF for both financial and physical targets. However, EAGGF remains a challenge in terms of both expenditure and physical achievements.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Outline numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: Bullet + Aligned at: 0 cm + Tab after: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 0.63 cm, Tabs: Not at 0.63 cm

- Section 5 (Impacts) demonstrates that a number of key objectives across the CSF are likely to be met. This represents considerable progress from the MTE position when there was little progress on the ground to report. However, there are a number of areas of activity where the reporting against impacts is not yet available, which will make it difficult to ensure that the objectives for these activities will be met.

1.27 The main recommendations are discussed in detail in Section 6. A summary of the main recommendations is included below.

- It is essential that the non-financial monitoring coverage on the EU Structural Funds Central Database be improved. This is necessary to ensure accurate reporting and planning for the CSF and the BSP and Peace II Operational Programmes. The Managing Authorities should continue to be proactive in ensuring that the Implementing Bodies continue to make progress under this area in order to improve coverage from 56% of approved projects with monitoring information to 100%.
- It is recommended that the impact for the EAGGF activities across the CSF be kept under review. The need for this is because of relatively low spend for these activities and the pressures of N+2 which obviously has a potential to impact on the achievement of impacts and therefore the achievement of the CSF Objectives.
- N+2 systems are now in place to accurately monitor likely achievement. It is important that these systems continue for the remaining period of the Programmes.
- If Horizontal Principles remain in any future programmes, they should have a greater influence on activities. This could be enabled by a reduction in the number of principles and the increased weighting of scores in the selection process.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Tab after: 1.27 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.27 cm

- It is also recommended that an assessment be made of the measurement and likely reporting period for the impact indicators due to the lack of information available across the CSF Priorities. It is essential that a high level of reporting is available for the closure of Programmes to ensure that the added value of the BSP and Peace II Operational Programmes through the CSF can be accurately measured.

2 BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In March 1999, at the European Council meeting in Berlin, it was decided that for the period 2000-2006 Northern Ireland would receive support from the European Union's (EU) Structural Funds as an Objective 1 in Transition Region. It was also decided that the Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland would be continued over the period 2000-2004. The Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity and the new Peace Programme (referred to as 'Peace II') operate together under the authority of the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework (CSF). The Peace II Programme has subsequently been extended by Commission decision to 2006 providing for a further €144 million with a possibility of an additional €16 million.
- 2.2 The Peace II Programme covers all of Northern Ireland and also the Border Region of Ireland. The NI CSF encompasses only the Northern Ireland portion of Peace II, with the Border Region component falling under the aegis of the National Development Plan/Community Support Framework (NDP/CSF) in Ireland. Table 2.1 below shows the financial allocations for the CSF and the two Operational Programmes. A detailed financial table for the CSF is included at Annex 1.

Table 2.1 CSF Financial Table Summary

	Total costs		EU contribution	
	€m	%	€m	%
BSP	1,490	69	929	67
Peace II	679	31	467	33
CSF	2,169	100	1,396	100

Sources: CSF Document, BSP Operational Programme, Peace II Operational Programme

2.3 During 2003, a mid-term evaluation was completed on the CSF. This current report provides an update on that evaluation, as required by Article 42 (4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/99. The detailed requirements of the update are described in Commission Working Paper number 9. The mid-term evaluation update (MTEU) aims to prepare for subsequent assistance programmes and to analyse the impact, or likely impact, of the current programmes. Across the EU, the mid-term evaluations were largely unable to address this latter issue due to the delayed start to many of the 2000-2006 Programmes. Updates of the mid-term evaluations of the Northern Ireland BSP and Peace II Operational Programmes are available as separate documents.

AIM OF THE UPDATE

2.4 The overall aims of this mid-term evaluation update of the CSF are, therefore:

(a) to build on the work of the mid-term evaluation thus providing information which can help, where possible, further demonstrate the added value of the NI CSF through the BSP and Peace II Programmes; and

(b) to provide information which can help inform development strategies in the next programming period.

OBJECTIVES OF THE UPDATE

2.5 In line with the requirements of Commission Working Paper 9 and the Terms of Reference for this Update, the following objectives and key issues are addressed in this report.

- **Review the implementation of recommendations made in the 2003 mid-term evaluation (MTE) of the NI CSF.**

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Tab after: 1.27 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.27 cm

Section 3 of this report provides an overview of developments and action taken in response to the mid-term evaluation recommendations for the NI CSF. Particular emphasis is given to those areas which were identified as having the potential for, or requiring, improvement.

- **Analysis of the outputs and results achieved to date, in light of the NI CSF targets and financial performance.**

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Tab after: 1.27 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.27 cm

This is a principal focus of the update as there was relatively little progress information available at the time of the mid-term evaluation. The latest available information as at August 2005 was extracted from the relevant monitoring databases and analysed in relation to Programme targets and financial performance.

- **Analysis of impacts achieved to date and the likely achievement of objectives.**

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Tab after: 1.27 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.27 cm

As for the analysis of outputs and results, there was little to no information available for likely impacts at the time of the mid-term evaluation. The Update attempts to address this in so far as possible. It should be noted that whilst significant progress has been made since the time of the MTE, the knock-on effect of the delayed start to the Programme means that assessing impacts remains challenging.

- **Conclusions on efficiency, effectiveness and impact and recommendations for the future.**

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Tab after: 1.27 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.27 cm

2.6 Finally, and on the basis of the preceding sections, this Update draws conclusions on the added value, efficiency, effectiveness and potential impact of the CSF in the region. Implications for the future are also provided.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND CSF

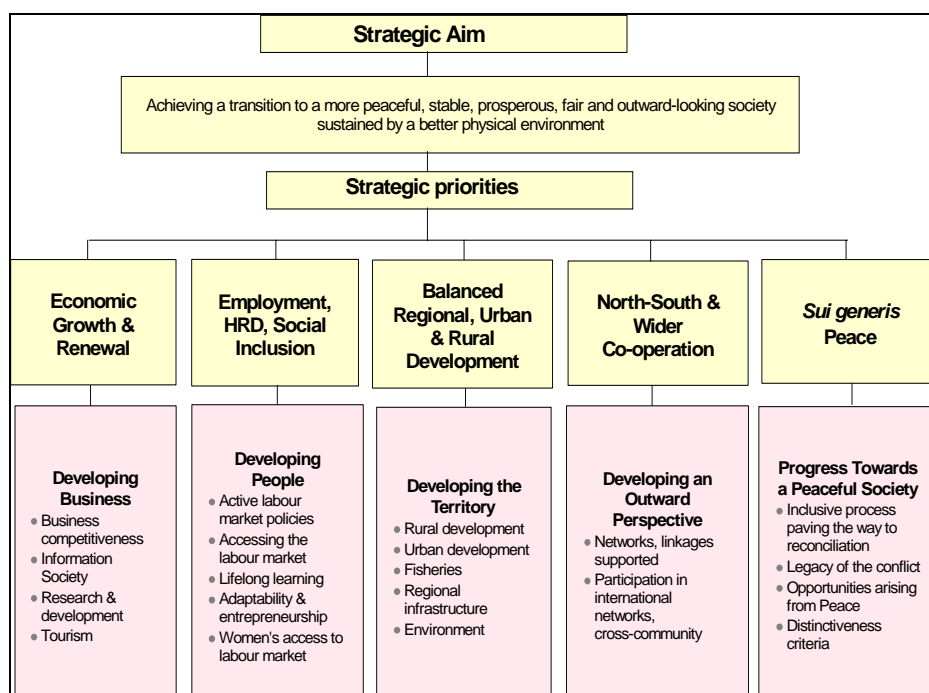
2.7 The Peace I Programme operated as a Community Initiative, delivered separately from the Northern Ireland Single Programme 1994-1999 (NISP). At the European Council meeting in Berlin, it was decided that the BSP Programme, Northern Ireland's transitional Objective 1 Programme, and the Peace II Programme would operate together under the authority of the Northern Ireland CSF. This merging of support for the NI peace process with Structural Funds support for social and economic cohesion is reflected in the overall aim of the CSF, which is as follows:

To achieve a transition to a more peaceful, stable, prosperous, fair and outward looking society, sustained by a better physical environment.

PRIORITIES

2.8 The five functional CSF Priorities and their associated objectives are summarised in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1 CSF Priorities and Objectives



2.9 The CSF Priorities summarised in Figure 1.1 above address five broad themes, that is:

- **Developing business.** This theme derives from the need identified in the ex-ante evaluation¹ for “the creation of a modern self-sustaining European regional economy taking advantage of new political and economic opportunities created by peace”.
- **Developing people.** The objectives under this heading are aligned with the ESF Policy Fields and the policy framework provided by the European Employment Strategy.
- **Developing the territory.** This theme focuses on regenerating the regional economy, environment, urban and rural society and tackling sub-regional imbalances. It provides an opportunity to reflect the indicative guidelines in the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) for balanced and sustainable development within the EU.
- **Developing an outward perspective.** There are two elements in this theme. Reflecting the Common Chapter of the two Structural Funds Plans presented by Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, this theme provides an opportunity for closer socio-economic co-operation between the two jurisdictions. Second, it encourages greater involvement in wider European and international networks of co-operation.
- **Progress towards a peaceful society.** The overall aim is to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation. This aim is distinguishable from the other CSF themes in that it is *both* socio-economic and political in nature.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0 cm + Tab after: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 0.63 cm

¹ NISRA, DFP, DTZ, 1999. Ex-ante Evaluation of the Northern Ireland Structural Funds Plan 2000-06.

2.10 The Peace II Programme has been integrated into the CSF, alongside BSP, by designating the Peace Priority as a *sui generis* Priority. Thus, unlike the other CSF Priorities, the Peace Priority *per se* does not have a specific financial allocation. Rather, the task of implementing the Priority falls to one Operational Programme only, that is, Peace II. Similar to its predecessor, Peace II addresses socio-economic development needs. In the CSF the financial allocation of the Peace II OP is mapped to the socio-economic development Priorities (1 to 4), but with the specific requirement that in addressing socio-economic need, all Peace II actions must contribute to the CSF Peace Priority objectives.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

2.11 As can be seen from Figure 1.2, the Peace II OP addresses broadly similar socio-economic needs as the BSP, but with specific objectives and guidelines for distinguishing actions in support of the CSF Peace Priority from those that contribute solely to the socio-economic development themes of the CSF. As set out in the CSF, the Peace II OP is to be distinguished from the BSP in two main respects, as follows:

- Addressing the legacy of the conflict and taking the opportunities arising from peace.

These *specific objectives* of the Peace Priority in the CSF are assigned to the Peace II Operational Programme. They are intended to shape the *outputs* from the Programme so as to promote social and economic development with a special focus on those groups, sectors, activities and areas that have been most affected by the troubles.

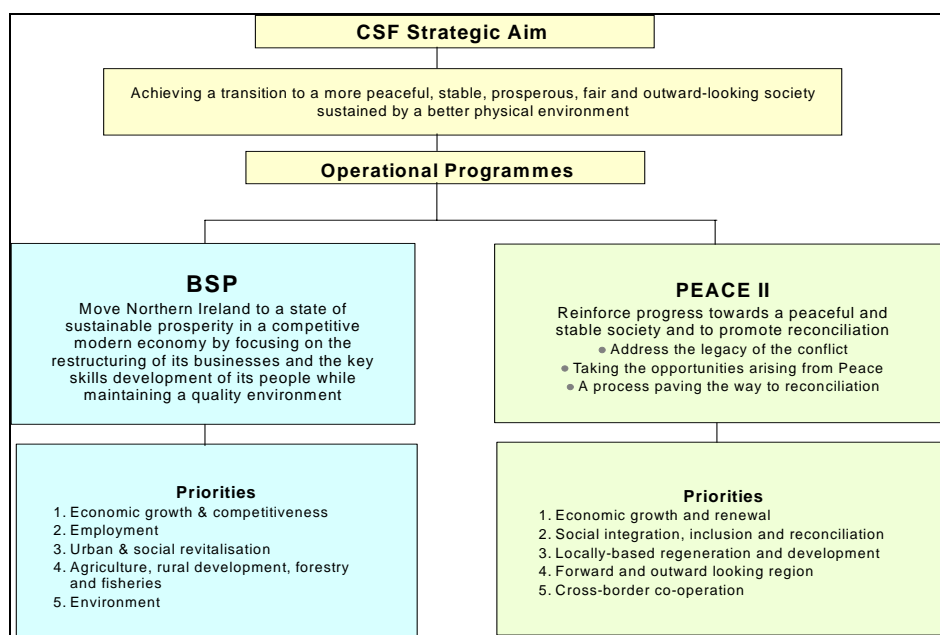
- Promoting an *inclusive process* 'paving the way to reconciliation'.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0 cm + Tab after: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 0.63 cm, Tabs: Not at 0.63 cm

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0 cm + Tab after: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 0.63 cm, Tabs: Not at 0.63 cm

This has two components – the creation of inclusive, bottom-up and cross-border *structures* and the *projects* supported by the Programme. According to the Peace Programme Document, “projects financed under the Peace Programme should facilitate in one way or another co-operation or joint action between different parts of the community or build cohesion and confidence within a community with the perspective that this is a first step in breaking down community divisions”.

Figure 1.2 CSF Operational Programmes



2.12 The CSF Programme Document also includes a framework for the application of the Peace and Reconciliation Priority, comprised of guidelines for criteria to address the specific objectives of the Priority and for paving the way to reconciliation. Briefly, the criteria related to the two objectives of the Priority demand that Peace II projects target their actions on sectors, groups or areas most affected by the conflict while the reconciliation criteria seek to encourage cross-community links. Taken together, these criteria correspond to the Peace II *distinctiveness criteria* for project selection.

- 2.13 As a transitional programme, the BSP operates on a lower financial scale than did the NISP, with a 27 per cent reduction in the EU financial commitment². Within this smaller financial allocation, the distribution of BSP resources by Priority has more to do with activities that fit best in terms of co-financing by the Structural Funds, rather than a fundamental shift in the focus of government economic development policy.
- 2.14 In particular, the BSP includes existing government schemes and projects that were already in place or ready to be implemented when the OP was drafted. As will be seen when examining progress to date, in Section 4, this has had important implications for the current position for achievement in respect of expenditure, outputs and results

APPROACH TO MID-TERM UPDATE

- 2.15 This mid-term evaluation update involved each of the steps outlined below.

- Project Initiation
- Document Review
- Data collection and analysis
- Analysis and Reporting

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Tab after: 1.27 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.27 cm

- 2.16 The above stages in the approach to the Mid-term Evaluation Update are described in further detail below.

Project Initiation

- 2.17 The Project Steering Group met on 22nd February 2005 and agreed the project remit paper outlining the aims, objectives and methodological approach for this exercise.

² This is in nominal terms, without adjusting for increases in the price of goods and services.

Document Review

- 2.18 The document review contributed to a number of stages of this update. Information from the 2004 CSF Annual Implementation Report (AIR) provided detail with regard to expenditure as well as an initial picture of progress on output and results indicators. The Mid-term evaluation report of the NI CSF was also used to provide a baseline for measuring achievement to date as well as the likely impact of the framework. Reviews of completed evaluations on individual aspects of the CSF helped to inform the analysis of progress and likely impact. Finally, the Mid-term Evaluation Update reports for BSP and Peace II were used as the main reference basis for completing this report.

Data Collection and Analysis

- 2.19 Following an initial analysis of progress based on the 2004 AIR, updated project level information, financial and physical, was extracted from the EU Structural Funds Central Database in mid August 2005. Attempts were made to fill all gaps in this information through contact with the relevant Implementing Body.

Monitoring Committee Survey

- 2.20 A short questionnaire was issued to each member of the CSF Monitoring Committee in June 2005. Three out of twelve questionnaires were returned, giving a disappointing response rate of 25%. However, this response rate should be seen in the context of the Monitoring Committee members being asked to complete a number of similar questionnaires throughout the past year. The full content of the questionnaire is included at Annex 2. The main aim of the questionnaire was to collect members' views on:

- BSP and Peace II Programme Implementation
- Impact of the Priorities within the CSF
- Horizontal Principles

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 1.27 cm + Tab after: 1.9 cm + Indent at: 1.9 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.9 cm

- Workings of the Monitoring Committee

Other Data Sources

2.21 Other data sources used in this report include the research projects undertaken by the CSF Mainstreaming Equality Working Group (MEWG) and the Environment Working Group (EWG). The MEWG research examined ways of assessing impact on equality for the CSF. The EWG research examined the appropriateness of the Developmental Path Analysis as a way of monitoring and encouraging environmental sustainability. Both of these pieces of research led directly from recommendations made by the Mid-term evaluation.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

2.22 The remainder of this report follows the structure of the key objectives and issues outlined above.

2.23 **Section 3** reviews the MTE recommendations and analyses the progress made in the implementation of these recommendations.

2.24 **Section 4** provides an updated analysis of the outputs and results that the Priorities within the CSF have achieved to date.

2.25 **Section 5** provides an analysis of the likely impacts of the Priorities within the CSF and some details on the progress of the CSF Horizontal Principles.

2.26 **Section 6** presents the conclusions and recommendations.

3 REVIEW OF MTE RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

3.1 The Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) of the CSF was completed towards the end of 2003. As a direct result of the delayed start to the BSP and Peace II Programmes, the MTE focused primarily on the CSF strategy and process issues. The evaluation made a series of recommendations, the full list of which is included at Annex 3.

3.2 The recommendations of the MTE can be grouped into several themes:

- CSF and Sui Generis Indicators
- Horizontal Principles
- Implementing Provisions
- Common Chapter and North/South Linkages
- Central Database/Programme Closure

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 2.54 cm + Tab after: 3.17 cm + Indent at: 3.17 cm, Tabs: Not at 3.17 cm

3.3 An overview of the recommendations and the response to these is provided below, grouped by each of these themes.

CSF AND SUI GENERIS INDICATORS

3.4 The primary recommendation from the CSF MTE in this area was that indicators should be specified in relation to CSF-OP Priority linkages for which an indicator does not presently exist. The rationale for this was that the coherence of the indicators was not satisfactory in that there was too little information on what was happening at Operational Programme level. Amendments to the CSF indicators have been made taking on board, where possible, the MTE recommendations. The BSP-linked indicators were amended as a result of the Mid-term review of the BSP Programme whilst

Peace II-linked indicators have been reviewed as part of the Peace II extension process. All amendments to indicators have been approved by the relevant Monitoring Committees before inclusion in the CSF document.

- 3.5 The CSF MTE also highlighted a number of inconsistencies and gaps on the mapping for Peace II indicators from Operational Programme level to the CSF. As noted above the Peace II indicators were both reviewed and amended as part of the Peace II extension process. This also led to the development of a new CSF document.

HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

- 3.6 The MTE recommended that the implementation of Development Path Analysis (DPA) within the CSF should be reviewed with a view to ensuring that an appropriate level of capacity exists within Implementing Bodies (IBs) to meet the requirements for environmental monitoring. As a direct result of this, research into the application of the DPA was commissioned by the CSF Environment Working Group. The research completed by DTZ Piedad³ highlighted that DPA as a tool is usable and suitable for the purposes of measuring environmental sustainability but the application of it has proven to be the weakness.

- 3.7 As a result, the CSF Managing Authority:

- Withdrew the availability of Path 0 from the system;
- Circulated new guidance;
- Facilitated user training in the application of DPA for Implementing Bodies in the CSF, i.e., the BSP and Peace II Programmes;

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.11 cm + Tab after: 0.74 cm + Indent at: 0.71 cm, Tabs: Not at 0.74 cm

³ Review of the Implementation of Development Path Analysis under the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework 2000-2006. DTZ Piedad Consulting.

- Made available targeted one-to-one support to those Implementing Bodies having difficulty applying DPA reasonably.

3.8 The coverage of DPA across the CSF now stands at around 100% which represents significant achievement since the MTE. However, there are some remaining concerns over the interpretation of the paths. This is somewhat inevitable with a relatively subjective analysis such as DPA. Further, the problem is exacerbated simply by the number of implementing bodies across the CSF who are trying to apply this analysis. Obviously the greater number of different people involved in applying the technique, so the greater the risk of inconsistencies of interpretation.

3.9 The CSF MTE also recommended that a formal update of the CSF Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) should be undertaken. However, the Managing Authority has not undertaken this, as an update is only required if there is a significant change in policy, which has not been the case. The Mainstreaming Equality Working Group (MEWG) has instead commissioned research⁴ to identify methods for assessing the impact of the CSF Programmes across the Section 75 equality categories.

3.10 The research was undertaken via a documentary review; a selection of case studies; discussions with Government Departments and other Implementing Bodies; and an analysis of the existing information collated from the equality monitoring questionnaire. In conclusion, this research recognises the difficulties of such impact assessment and proposes a multi-faceted approach to assessing the impact of the CSF across the Section 75 categories. The MEWG has recently made a number of recommendations to the CSF Managing Authority for consideration.

⁴ The Northern Ireland Community Support Framework: Research Project to Examine Ways of Assessing the Impact of EU Programmes on the Section 75 Groups. Economic Research and Evaluation, June 2005.

- 3.11 In relation to provision for the Voluntary and Community Sectors, the CSF MTE recommended that a stock-take exercise should be undertaken. This would aim to better identify the nature and scale of the issue within the CSF with a view to informing the ongoing considerations of the NI Taskforce on resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector. An outcome allied to this particular recommendation is the extension of the Peace II Programme to the end of 2006 which was agreed in early 2005. This will provide an additional €144 million with the possibility of a further €16 million and will extend the life span of projects providing important support to many in the voluntary and community sector.
- 3.12 However, it should be noted that EU Structural Funds are only one of many sources of funding to the Voluntary and Community sector. The Task Force on Resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector was established by the Department for Social Development with the aim to identify how the medium and long-term sustainability of the Voluntary and Community sector could be achieved. Following publication of the Investing Together report in October 2004, the Government issued their response in the document Positive Steps containing actions which collectively outlined a significant agenda for change and investment. A more detailed Action Plan will be incorporated in the next "Partners for Change" strategy which will issue for formal consultation later this year. To ensure that the momentum generated by the Task Force is maintained, an Implementation Group consisting of Senior Officials within each Government Department with responsibility for oversight of relationships with the voluntary and community sector will meet twice annually to oversee the implementation of agreed actions.

- 3.13 In addition the Gershon Review, published in July 2004, recognises the need to improve funding relationships between the Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector in order to deliver more efficient public services. The actions outlined in Positive Steps build on this work and a number of the actions will provide the framework to support a vibrant and innovative voluntary and community sector, taking account of a changing funding environment.
- 3.14 A Modernisation Fund of £3 million has been made available over the next three years to promote modernisation and change within the sector and strengthen the service delivery role of organisations. A further £15 million over the next three years is also being made available to support capital projects delivered through the voluntary and community sector. In addition to the £18 million already mentioned a further £5 million is being made available through the establishment of a Community Investment Fund that will complement existing Government programmes and will be targeted towards community development activity with an emphasis on building more cohesive and sustainable communities.

IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS

- 3.15 Under this theme, the CSF MTE recommended that a programme be put in place to manage turnover within the Monitoring Committee in order to minimise the impact on the Working Groups and Monitoring Committee itself. In addition, the report recommended that training and development of new members (especially Social Partners) should be conducted as soon as possible.

- 3.16 The CSF Managing Authority subsequently commissioned a review to identify areas requiring further support. As a result, a seminar was held on 30 March 2004 leading to the production of a number of specific recommendations. Most of these recommendations have since been addressed but members of the Monitoring Committees agreed that the recommendation paper should be a standing item at each meeting.
- 3.17 A revised and more comprehensive induction pack for new Monitoring Committee members has been produced followed by an invitation to an informal familiarisation discussion with the Managing Authority.
- 3.18 Further, in September 2004 the Managing Authority agreed a grant from Technical Assistance for the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) to employ a European Officer. This post provides dedicated support to the Local Government MC members. Also in February 2005 the Managing Authority commenced a refreshment exercise for the membership of Monitoring Committees. Whilst the NILGA European Officer has been in post for a relatively short time it is clear that the support is having an impact as Local Government attendance at the recent BSP and Peace II Monitoring Committees was extremely high.
- 3.19 In addition to the above, the Concordia Group, made up of a number of social partners, commissioned their own recent research into social partner effectiveness and their role particularly in European Programmes. All Monitoring Committee (MC) members were asked to complete a questionnaire. The aim of this research is to help focus future social partnership development in Northern Ireland.

- 3.20 The second MTE recommendation under this theme was that the mapping from the OPs to the CSF which was developed in the MTE should be adopted for reporting progress to the MC. Specifically, it was recommended that progress reports should adopt this format in respect of approvals, payments, outputs and results. The new mapping model has since been adopted with the regular progress reports following the recommended format (see Annex 4 for details of the mapping).
- 3.21 The final MTE recommendation made in relation to this theme was that each Working Group should develop a work plan with specific objectives and time bounded outputs with support from the Managing Authority. This has been taken forward and work plans have been produced by each Working Group.

Table 3.1 – Working Group Progress, 2004-2005

Working Group	Output
Communication and Information	Produced <i>CSF Communication Action Plan</i> . Accepted by CSF Monitoring Committee 20 October 2004
Mainstreaming Equality	Produced <i>Mainstreaming Equality Guide</i> in April 2004. Engaged consultant September 2004 to produce report on <i>“Ways of assessing the impact of EU Programmes on Section 75 groups in Northern Ireland”</i> . Report completed in June 2005
Information Society	Organised Best Practice ICT conference <i>“eEurope4all”</i> in June 2004 in City Hotel Londonderry. Report from conference published on DFP’s website. Follow-up conference currently being planned. Commissioned research to review Information Society Activity within the EU and Mainstream Programmes in 2002/03
Environment	Produced report on <i>“Implementation of Development Path Analysis in the EU Programmes”</i> in 2004 Produced <i>“Guidance for Implementing Bodies on Development Path Analysis in BSP and PEACE II”</i> in 2005 and commissioned associated training.
Fisheries	Consulted with DARD Fisheries Division on allocation within sub-Measures of BSP Fisheries Measure.

3.22 Analysis of the key outputs from the working groups demonstrates the significant input they have had to the CSF Programmes throughout 2004 and continuing in 2005. Some of the outputs from the Working Groups are included in table 3.1 above.

COMMON CHAPTER AND NORTH/SOUTH LINKAGES

3.23 The MTE recommended that a joint action plan should be prepared by the Authorities which should

- Clarify roles and responsibilities with respect to the Common Chapter,
- Discuss with the N/S IBs which are still in operation, and
- Identify thematic areas that exist within BSP and where cooperation is of mutual benefit e.g. Infrastructure developments within the context of the two spatial strategies that currently exist within the island of Ireland as well as R&TD where collaboration opportunities may exist.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0 cm + Tab after: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 0.6 cm, Tabs: Not at 0.63 cm

3.24 The rationale behind this was that implementation of the North/South element had lost its impetus following the suspension of North South Ministerial Council (NSMC). The CSF MTE stated that there was a significant political dimension to this problem but that the North/South Authorities should agree a way forward because currently only Peace II allocations link to the physical outputs and results for the CSF North/South Priority.

3.25 The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has responsibility for promotion and monitoring of the Common Chapter. The suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly has had a direct impact on this activity. However, the SEUPB commissioned consultants to produce the Common Chapter activity report for 2002 and 2003. The report has been completed.

- 3.26 On 22 June 2005, SEUPB issued a draft Action plan/ Discussion paper to the two Sponsor Departments (The Office for the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, OFMDFM, in Northern Ireland, and the Department for Foreign affairs and the Taoiseach's Office in the Republic of Ireland). The paper includes recommendations on future development of the Common Chapter. The NSMC Common Chapter Joint Steering Group is currently considering approval of the two Common Chapter Activity reports (2000/2001 and 2002/2003) before onward transmission to NSMC Joint Secretariat. It is anticipated that both reports would be published by the end of 2005. There is, however, a limit to progress that can be made in this particular area with the continued suspension of the Executive.
- 3.27 The CSF MTE also noted the absence in the BSP Programme Complement of any envisaged N/S linkages in the BSP Priorities for agriculture, rural development, forestry and fisheries and the environment. The report also stated that the Common Chapter clearly envisaged a contribution from these areas. The BSP Managing Authority has consulted with DARD on the identification of possible North-South linkages.

DATABASE AND PROGRAMME CLOSURE

- 3.28 The final recommendation from the MTE was that the Managing Authority should examine the utility of the database in meeting closure requirements sooner rather than later. The rationale for this recommendation was that closure of the previous round of Structural Funds was described as '*drawn-out and painfully slow*'. The CSF MTE stated that the EU Structural Funds Central Database has the potential to help with future closure but only if Implementing Bodies ensure that it is kept up to date with accurate and reliable information.

- 3.29 Since the MTE, there has been a significant improvement in the population of the Central Database by Departments and Implementing Bodies in relation to financial data. The expenditure data recorded on the database is now the source data for all interim claims for payment. The Managing Authority has established a user group of Implementing Departments, which meets as required to resolve all outstanding database issues. This Database Working Group has been effective in helping ensure this improvement. New procedures have been introduced which provide Implementing Bodies with feedback on the database coverage of their Measures so that they can carry out any necessary checks and to ensure that the Central Database is updated on at least a quarterly basis. The coverage of all information on the database is a regular item on the agenda of the Managing Authority's bilateral meetings.
- 3.30 Closure procedures are currently under consideration by a United Kingdom working group, at which Northern Ireland is represented. The Central Database currently has full coverage for financial monitoring purposes. The current status of the non-financial monitoring coverage of the database shows that the Peace II programme has coverage of 58% (that is 58% of approved projects have monitoring information recorded against them) whilst the coverage for BSP is lower at 44%. The position across the CSF shows coverage at almost 56%. Whilst this is a significant improvement since the MTE position it is vital that momentum is maintained in the early part of 2006 to ensure that information is not lost.

CONCLUSION

- 3.31 The information presented above demonstrates a considerable amount of effort in addressing, and building on, the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation. A number of important steps forward have been made which are likely to improve the overall impact of the CSF through the two Operational Programmes.

- 3.32 As noted it is essential that the non-financial monitoring coverage on the EU Structural Funds Central Database be improved. The Managing Authorities should continue to be proactive in ensuring that the Implementing Bodies continue to make progress under this area. At the time of the drafting of this report, the BSP MA was addressing this issue, among others, with the Implementing Bodies through a series of bilateral meetings. The Peace II MA routinely reminds Implementing Bodies of the need for this information – this should continue.
- 3.33 It is clear that a number of lessons have been learned through the current CSF and Operational Programmes. It will be important that these lessons are incorporated into the development of any future programmes in the pursuit of best practice.

4 ANALYSIS OF OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 This Section of the report assesses the progress that has been made towards achieving the quantified targets for expenditure, gross outputs and results. The impacts are discussed in section 5.
- 4.2 The first part of this section details the financial achievement of the CSF against each Priority and for each structural fund. Following that is an assessment of applications and approval rates for each Priority of the CSF as well as achievement to date in terms of output and result indicators relative to financial spend.

FINANCIAL PROGRESS BY STRUCTURAL FUND

- 4.3 Financial details for each structural fund are included in Table 4.1 below. Whilst it can be seen that almost 85% of the total funding in the CSF has already been committed, only 48% of the total funding has actually been spent. The MTE reported committed funding of 63% with only 20% of funding actually claimed for. Therefore, there has been substantial progress in spend over the past 18 months of the Operational Programmes. These figures will not include all commitments and expenditures for the 2005 year. However, it can be seen that there is still some way to go before the programme achieves full commitment as well as complete spend. ERDF must be fully spent by the end of 2007 whilst the other Funds must be fully spent by the end of 2008. As the momentum of spend has build up after the slow start the Managing Authorities are confident that the remaining N+2 targets will be met.

- 4.4 In relation to financial achievements by Structural Fund, ERDF records the highest percentage commitment figure as well as the highest spend figures amongst the four Funds to date. The achievement of the ERDF is an obvious reflection of the pressure to fully spend one year before the other Funds. However, it is also a reflection of the nature of the expenditure (much of which is linked to government schemes) and of the phasing out of Northern Ireland's Objective One status.

Table 4.1 – CSF Financial details by Structural Fund, 31 October 2005

Fund	Total Fund Value (€)	Commitments (€)	%	Expenditure (€)	%
ERDF	1,213,077,055	1,079,998,298	89.03	637,098,365	52.52
ESF	655,590,870	572,960,955	87.40	285,793,240	43.59
EAGGF	251,188,958	151,442,540	60.29	88,281,149	35.15
FIFG	49,271,562	35,304,179	71.65	20,152,737	40.90
Total	2,169,128,445	1,839,705,972	84.81	1,031,325,491	47.55

Source: EU Structural Funds Central Database

Note: These figures include the EU element as well as the [Matching Contributions](#)

Deleted: Government

- 4.5 The EAGGF has the lowest levels of financial commitments and spend. To date, some 60% of its funds are committed but only 35% of the total funds are actually spent. This creates obvious problems for the fund in meeting its N+2 targets. However, a pro-active approach to dealing with N+2 has been adopted by both the Managing Authority and the relevant Government Department. The responsible Department, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), has drawn up an action plan and believes that they have identified sufficient expenditure to enable the EAGGF N+2 target to be met.

FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT BY PRIORITY**Table 4.2 – Financial Achievement by Priority, 31 October 2005**

	Total Priority Value (€)	Commitments (€)	%	Expenditure (€)	%
Priority 1 – Economic Growth and Renewal	443,143,005	466,455,717	105.26 ⁵	320,587,321	72.34
Priority 2 – Employment, HRD and Social Inclusion	848,650,491	748,310,556	88.18	380,805,737	44.87
Priority 3 – Balanced Regional, Urban and Rural Development	711,316,513	492,129,200	69.19	281,074,009	39.51
Priority 4 – North/South and Wider Co-operation	97,014,069	82,035,358	84.56	33,245,426	34.27
Technical Assistance	69,004,367	50,775,141	73.58	15,612,998	22.63
Total	2,169,128,445	1,839,705,972	84.81	1,031,325,491	47.55

Source: EU Structural Funds Central Database

4.6 Table 4.2 above, shows the financial achievement for the CSF Priorities up to 31 October 2005. The highest performing Priority in terms of financial achievement is Priority 1 with over 105% of funding committed and 72% of funds spent. Priority 2 also has performed well to date with 88% of funds committed and 45% expenditure. Excluding Technical Assistance, the weakest Priorities from a financial perspective have been Priority 3 with 69% of funds committed and Priority 4 with just under 35% expenditure incurred to the end of October 2005.

⁵ Priority 1 shows commitment in excess of 100%. This is due to over-commitment of money in Priority 1 of the PEACE II Programme, in anticipation of potential underspending or termination.

APPROVALS**Table 4.3 – Funding Applications by Priority, 21 October 2005**

	Total Number of Applications	Total number of approved applications	%
Priority 1 – Economic Growth and Renewal	1,259	683	54.25
Priority 2 – Employment, HRD and Social Inclusion	4,500	2,301	51.13
Priority 3 – Balanced Regional, Urban and Rural Development	4,078	2,107	51.67
Priority 4 – North/South and Wider Co-operation	828	415	50.12
Total	10,665	5,506	51.63

Source: EU Structural Funds Central Database

- 4.7 Table 4.3 above, shows the number of applications for funding held on the EU Central Database as well as the number that were approved for each Priority. Priority 1 has had the highest success rate. A large factor in this is that the majority of the projects are funded under BSP Priority 1 and are existing Government Schemes identified as suitable for European assistance. Priority 4 has the lowest success rate to date although only marginally less so than Priorities 2 and 3. The success levels under the CSF Priorities are much lower than those for BSP alone. The CSF success levels are affected, in part, as an out-working of the Peace II Programme which is more dependent upon external applications than, for example, BSP Priority 1.

OUTPUT AND RESULT INDICATORS

- 4.8 The CSF MTE highlighted a number of problems with the set of indicators at the level of the CSF and its Operational Programmes. Specifically, it noted inconsistencies between CSF, OP and Programme Complement (PC) level indicators and targets. Much effort has gone into addressing these issues through reviews of the indicators at every level.
- 4.9 The situation has improved but some problems remain. This is, in large part, reflective of the mechanisms for drawing up the CSF, its constituent OPs, their relative PCs and in turn the detailed indicator set. The original indicator set was developed in an attempt to reflect the Commission Working Paper 2 (2000-2006) which stated that impact assessment should be based on “..(or) *concrete analysis of results and impacts at specific strategic priorities and measures level.*” That is, there was a concerted effort to capture the exact outcomes that could be attributed to the CSF and its Programmes. However, the development of the documents from the top-down, i.e. from the CSF to the OPs and then the PCs, meant that the detail required to develop the indicators in this way was not always available at the CSF or OP stages. As a result, any subsequent changes in measure level indicators often had direct consequences for Programme and CSF level indicators which are of course more complex to change due to the need for a Commission decision. The number of Implementing Bodies also exacerbates management of these processes across the CSF Programmes. It can be said that the complexity of the Northern Ireland CSF’s OPs is particularly apparent in the indicator sets at all levels. The advantage of the approach adopted is that it should provide good detail on what the CSF and its OPs actually achieved but there are a number of lessons to be learned for the development of future monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

- 4.10 The substantial revision of OP level indicators and targets since the MTE means it is difficult to make direct comparisons between outcomes then and the situation now. The analysis below will report on the revised OP level indicators and targets, supplemented with additional analyses where available.

Sui Generis

- 4.11 The assessment made under this heading is based solely on the achievement of the Peace II Programme and all references to Priorities and Programmes are references to Peace II. Analysis was carried out on a download of the CSF Database containing projects approved on or before 21 October 2005. There were a total of 5,412 approved projects, however, this analysis has excluded all Peace II Priority 6 (Technical Assistance) projects. Excluding Priority 6, there were a total of 5,343 approved projects recorded, with a total value of approvals of £508m. Of these approved projects, 817 (15%) were in the Border Region, with a value of approvals of £66m (13%). In Northern Ireland, there were 4,526 (85%) approved projects, with a value of approvals of £443m (87%). The following paragraphs provide information on the NI approved projects. An exchange rate of £1 = €1.55 has been used to provide figures on the value of projects.

Output: Number and value of projects with a principal focus on targeted groups/sectors/areas

- 4.12 Of the 4,526 projects approved in Northern Ireland, 3,611 (80%) contained information on the groups, sectors and areas being targeted. In terms of the financial value, these accounted for 84% (£372m) of the total value of approved projects.

4.13 Table 4.4 below provides Priority level information on the proportion of projects for which targeting information is available. Priority 5 has the highest proportion of projects reporting on distinctiveness with 97% of the total number of projects reporting. Priority 1 was second with 91% reporting. Priority 3 had a total of 85% reporting on distinctiveness, Priority 2 had 66% and Priority 4 had 58%. (Annex 5 provides a more detailed Measure level breakdown).

Table 4.4 – Projects with Targeting Information

Priority	Projects with targeting information	Total approved projects	% of projects with information
1	1,119	1,227	91
2	1,028	1,560	66
3	1,122	1,324	85
4	90	156	58
5	252	259	97
Total	3,611	4,526	80

Source: CSF Central Database

4.14 Analysis was carried out on the 3,611 projects, to assess the proportions of the projects directly targeting the groups/sectors/areas specified in Section 3.7 of the Peace II Operational Plan (see Annex 6 for detailed results).

4.15 Overall 74% of projects are targeting 'Area(s) where social and economic development has been inhibited by the conflict' and 70% are targeting 'Young people, women and older workers'.

Figure 4.1 – Groups Targeted by Projects

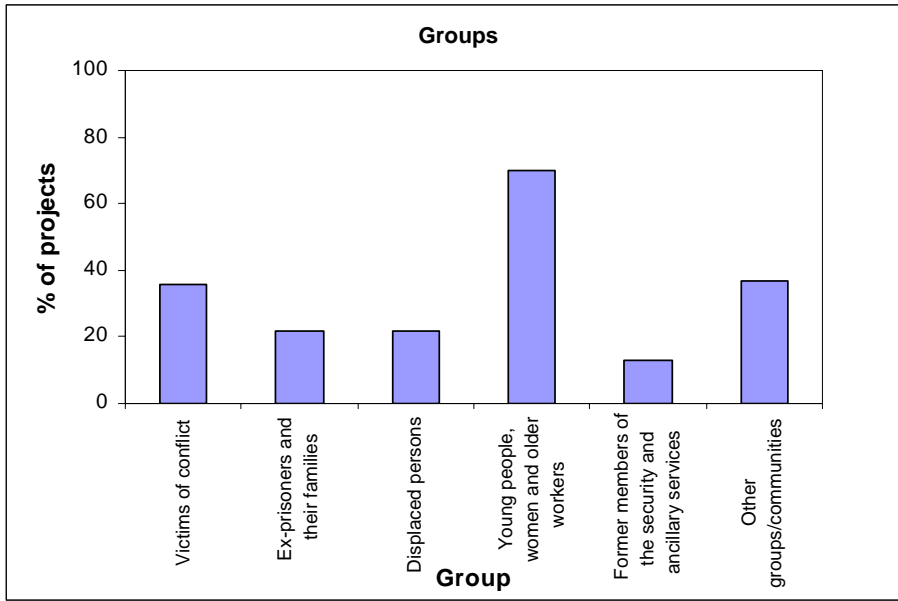


Figure 4.2 – Areas Targeted by Projects

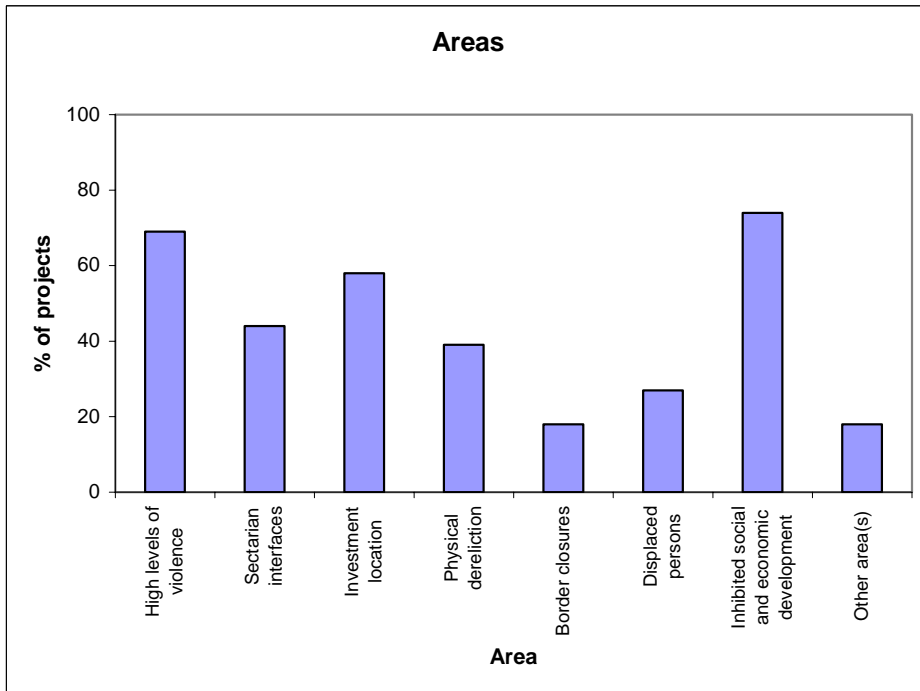
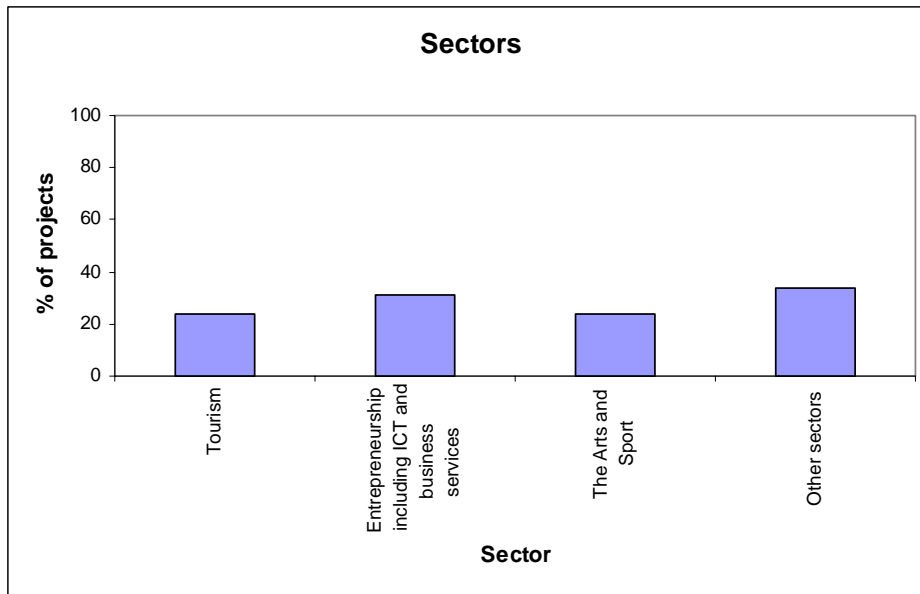


Figure 4.3 – Sectors Targeted by Projects



4.16 Section 3.7 of the Operational Programme states that the Entrepreneurship and Arts and Sport sectors will be targeted ‘particularly in the context of those areas, groups and communities also targeted in the Programme’. In order to examine if this was in fact the case, additional analysis was carried out on those projects, which have stated they are targeting sectors (See Annex 7). Four fifths (80%) of those projects targeting the entrepreneurship sector also targeted ‘Area(s) where social and economic development has been inhibited by the conflict’, while 77% of projects targeting the arts and sports sector also targeted ‘Young people, women and older workers’.

Output: Number and value of projects under local partnerships / IFB / Government management

4.17 Intermediary Funding Bodies are the implementing body for the highest proportion of projects (38%), while the value of projects implemented by government departments account for over half (52%) of the total approvals.

Table 4.5 – Projects by Type of Funder

Type of funder	Northern Ireland	
	% of projects	% of value ²
Local Govt.	33	17
IFBs ¹	38	31
Govt. Depts.	29	52
Base	4,526	£442,978,704

Source: CSF Central Database

¹ IFBs includes SEUPB.

² Percentage of total value of approvals.

Output: Number and value of cross-community/single identity projects

- 4.18 Of the 4,526 projects on the database, 3,256 (72%) specified whether they were cross-community or single identity projects. Of these, 82% were cross-community, accounting for 90% of the total value of approvals.

Table 4.6 – Projects by Cross-community / Single Identity

Type of project	Northern Ireland	
	% of projects	% of value ¹
Cross-community	82	90
Single identity	18	10
Base	3,256	£344,459,786

Source: CSF Central Database

¹ Percentage of total value of approvals.

Results

- 4.19 There were over 1 million participants in projects that identified as cross-community, 89% of all participants in the Programme. For those projects specified as single-identity, 59% of the project promoters are involved in cross-community networks.

Table 4.7 – Participants

Indicator	Northern Ireland
Number of participants in cross-community projects	1,067,964 instances of people participants in cross community projects (89% of all participants)
Number of project promoters from single community projects involved in cross-community networks	335 (56% of all single identity projects)
Number of final beneficiaries by Community	This information will be taken from the Equality Monitoring Returns once coverage is acceptable
Number of new/continuing cross-community resources or facilities resulting from the Programme	To be confirmed whether this information can be obtained from current data recorded on monitoring database.
Numbers involved in local community management	863 members on LSP Boards.

Source: CSF Central Database

Priority 1 - Economic Growth and Renewal

4.20 A substantial component of this Priority relates to supporting SMEs and directly creating jobs. Progress is currently only available to end 2003 for the BSP element. The latest available information shows that around 76% of the target for SMEs supported has been met whilst 63% of the target for gross jobs created has been met. These figures are slightly below the expenditure levels for this particular aspect of Priority 1 of around 84%. However, the expenditure figures reflect current position whilst most of the indicator achievement does not include updates for 2004 or 2005.

4.21 The information presented for these indicators is slightly lower than that reported in the CSF MTE. This is due to ongoing work to improve the reliability of performance data reported for BSP Measure 1.1 (i.e., Support to Businesses). This also explains the delay in the provision of more recent figures. We understand this work is being advanced urgently and this must continue to be the case as it is vital that accurate, reliable and timely achievements are available for these important indicators

Table 4.8– Priority 1 Indicator Achievement, Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
Support to SMEs		
SMEs supported	7,950	6,032*
Gross jobs created	11,830	7,456*
Research and Development		
Research and development projects supported	286	276
% of supported projects completing successfully	80%	52% completed 8% abandoned 40% ongoing
Tourism		
Marketing Initiatives supported per annum across key markets	15	75 marketing initiatives (Cumulative over first 5 years of the Programme)
Over the period of the programme to create gross additional jobs in tourism	1,400	2,000

Source: DETI; EU Structural Funds Central Database

*achievements to end 2003 only for the BSP element of these figures

4.22 The R&D element of this Priority has progressed well with almost 97% of the target for projects already met. The latest position for projects completing successfully, at 52%, is below its target of 80%. However, the timing of the projects being assisted influences achievement of this particular target. As 40% of supported projects are currently ongoing it would not reasonably be expected to have met this target at this stage of the programme.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

4.23 The total allocation for the R&D element of this Priority is almost €87 million (€65 million from the ERDF). This includes a performance reserve allocation of €15 million from the ERDF as recommended in the BSP Mid-term Review. To end June 2005 some €72 million had been committed to the 276 approved projects resulting in expenditure totalling almost €63.4 million. This means that commitment represents 82.8% of the total funds and expenditure equates to 73.2%. With the target number of R&D projects supported already at 97% it is likely that this target will be surpassed.

4.24 Recent information regarding the orientation of the funded R&D activities shows that of the 19 R&D projects supported since April 2005, the focus of funding was on software R&D projects. Other areas funded include; engineering; electrical, electronic and optical equipment; life and health technologies; and business and financial services, among others.

4.25 Regarding the tourism aspect of this Priority, the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak and the events of September 11th had a significant impact on tourism activity in 2001 and 2002. However, the target number of marketing initiatives supported in key markets has continued to be achieved up to the end of June 2005.

4.26 The total value of the Tourism element of Priority 1 is almost €57 million, of which €42.7 million comes from the ERDF. Over €43.9 million has been spent under these activities to the end of June 2005 representing 77.2% of the total funds available. Most indicators at the Measure level are already close to achieving their targets. Overall it is highly probable that this element of the Priority will achieve its objectives.

4.27 The Tourism sector has also benefited from the creation of 2,000 gross additional jobs from the beginning of the programme until June 2005 whilst tourism pure visitor numbers have increased by 33% from the 2000 baseline. This demonstrates significant advancement for the tourism sector following the events of 2001.

Priority 2 - Employment, Human Resource Development and Social Inclusion

4.28 The CSF MTE identified particular problems with these indicators at CSF and OP level. Efforts to clarify the indicators were ongoing through 2004 and 2005 resulting in the production of an explanatory paper by the responsible Department.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

4.29 Overall, progress to date under this Priority with regard to outputs and results has been very positive. Achievement on the ground has been reported across all the indicators for which there have been supported activities. The Priority is now well on target to meet its objectives. The identification of a new scheme for BSP under the Lifelong Learning policy field has been a particularly positive step. The Priority will now impact across all the policy fields that were identified as objectives at the outset. Some analysis of performance to date against each of the policy fields is discussed below.

Table 4.9 – Priority 2 Indicator Achievement, Summer 2005

Indicator	Target (as revised at June 2005¹)	Achievement (figures in brackets represent the % of females)
All policy fields		
Participants	236,300	164,218 (43% female)
Achieving qualifications	89,550	51,839 (41%)
Active labour market measures		
Participants	48,100	31,774 (35% female)
Achieving qualifications	7,400	3,969 (37%)
Equal opportunities for all in accessing the labour market		
Participants	51,000	30,537 (39% female)
Achieving qualifications	24,800	15,072
Lifelong Learning²		
Participants	55,000	18,117 (42%)
Achieving qualifications	22,700	6,253 (42%)
Adaptability and entrepreneurship		
Participants	61,700	60,757 (28% female)
Achieving qualifications	28,250	21,144 (25%)
Improving women's access to the labour market		
Participants	20,500	23,033 (100% female)
Achieving qualifications	6,400	5,401

Source: DEL; EU Structural Funds Central Database

¹DEL identified the need to revise the targets for the above indicators following the April 2005 BSP Monitoring Committee meeting and the issues highlighted by some of the members. The above indicators and associated discussion use the revised BSP targets and not those currently contain within the BSP Operational Programme or the CSF document. A paper explaining the rationale for the changes was presented to the BSP PMC in September 2005.

²Peace II only. The Lifelong Learning Activity for BSP has only begun in 2005 and progress should be available in 2006.

Active Labour Market Policy

- 4.30 Progress towards the target for beneficiaries for this field has been good with achievement currently at 66% of the target. The number of qualifications obtained is currently at 54% of the target figure. Female participation stands at 35% amongst the beneficiaries.

4.31 These latest indicator figures demonstrate considerable progress under this policy field. The total value of the funds under this policy field is €182.3 million (of which €117.8 million comes from the ESF). Financial information at the end of August shows that 51.7% of the total available funds has been spent. With the indicator achievement in a similar position at this stage of the programme it is likely that should the total funds available be spent then the objectives for this policy field will be met or even surpassed. DEL is confident that all funds will be spent.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Promoting Equal Opportunities for all in Accessing the Labour Market

4.32 This policy field has shown good progress with 60% of the target for beneficiaries already met. The qualifications target has achieved 61% of its target. Women accounted for 39% of all beneficiaries under this field. Progress has also been positive under this policy field. Almost 44% of the total allocation under this policy field has been committed whilst spend currently stands at 27%. With the target for beneficiaries already at 60% achievement, this would suggest that the target would be exceeded.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Lifelong Learning

4.33 There have been over 18,000 participants in this policy field representing 33% of the relevant target. This shows significant achievement and currently represents achievement for Peace II only. However, with the inclusion of a new project under this Priority for BSP, expenditure will occur in 2005 and there will be further progress to report by 2006. This is a considerable achievement from a position where there was nothing identified for this policy field for BSP following the loss of the Individual Learning Accounts. The qualifications achievement currently stands at 28% of the target of 22,700. Nevertheless, current commitment stands at 70% of the total allocation whilst spend is at 47%. This represents good progress which should improve further once outcomes for the BSP element become available.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Adaptability and Entrepreneurship

4.34 Progress in this policy field has been good. The actual beneficiaries and qualifications figures represent 98% and 75%, respectively, of their set targets. The female participation rate is currently 28%. This is quite low compared to the other policy fields. However, 2004 information from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor for Northern Ireland shows that female entrepreneurship activity stands at 2.3% (down from 3.5% in 2003) of the total female adult population compared to a rate of 7.8% for males. In addition, only 6% of females in employment are self-employed. These findings would suggest that a lower female participation rate might be expected under this policy field and the male / female split in this element of the Programme appears to be neither significantly better than nor more extreme than the general pattern within Northern Ireland.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

4.35 The total funds under this policy field are currently 56% committed accounting for 32% spend. This would suggest, given the current progress of the beneficiaries and qualifications for this policy field, that these targets will be exceeded by some degree given the current levels of expenditure and commitment.

Improving Women's Access to the Labour Market

4.36 This field has an actual beneficiaries (23,033) figure now at 112% of its target, which demonstrates significant achievement. The qualifications achieved indicator has reached 84% of target. This policy field has demonstrated significant achievement at this stage of the Operational Programmes. The current financial commitment stands at 47% of the total allocation of funds to this Policy field with spend at 27%. There is substantial effort still required to ensure that all funds are committed and spent under this Policy field.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Table 4.10 – Priority 2 Indicator Achievement, Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
New grant maintained integrated schools built	3	3
Existing grant maintained integrated schools expanded and improved	2	2
Pupil places provided	1,900	1,487
New jobs created	120	206
Projects focusing on reconciliation, community relations or diversity	50	50
Networks or links established	40	40

Source: DE; EU Structural Funds Central Database

4.37 Achievement under the other aspects of this priority has also been good with the majority of targets already met. This would suggest that the objectives from these elements should be achieved. The target for new grant maintained integrated schools built has been achieved. This is also the case for the integrated schools expanded or improved target. The provision of pupil places achievement is currently at 78% of the target. The targets for reconciliation, community relations or diversity projects and networks or links established have been met.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Priority 3 – Balanced Regional, Urban and Rural Development

4.38 This Priority is particularly disparate at the OP levels. At the level of the CSF this Priority encompasses activities in the areas of Regional Infrastructure; The Environment; Agriculture, Rural Development, Forestry and Fisheries; and Social Development. Detailed progress is reported below by each of these specific thematic areas.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

4.39 Overall this Priority has made reasonable progress, although as noted above there remains much to achieve in terms of financial expenditure.

4.40 Under the infrastructure element of the Priority targets have already been achieved with 3 water treatment schemes and 2 sewerage treatment schemes completed at the end of June 2005. The result targets for average increase in the capacity of water treatment and sewerage treatment have also been met.

4.41 Under the roads and transport element of the Priority, five road by-pass schemes had been completed accounting for 14.4km of new carriageway. The target for the number of bypasses was met, although the total km of new carriageway completed has fallen short by 4.3km. The bypass schemes are located at Newtown Stewart, Limavady, Comber, Toome and Strabane. In addition, funding has been provided to strengthen the Foyle Bridge whilst a throughpass at Omagh is currently ongoing. These activities will fully subsume the funding allocated to them.

Table 4.11 – Priority 3 Indicator Achievement, Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
Infrastructure		
Water treatment schemes	3	3
% increase in capacity	Average 30%	Average 30%
Water Quality Improvement (variable up to 100%)	No Target	Water quality complies with EC Directive standards
Sewerage treatment schemes	2	2
% increase in capacity	Average 275%	Average 275%
Effluent quality improvement (variable up to 100%)	No Target	Effluent quality complies with EC Directive standards
Roads		
By-pass schemes	5	All 5 Bypasses completed
Km of new carriageway	18.7km	14.4km of new carriageway completed
Through-pass scheme	1	Commenced September 2004, work is ongoing
Link Road Scheme	1	Activity is not to be funded and funding has been allocated to other schemes in BSP
Rural Transport Infrastructure		
Rural public transport infrastructure projects	4	3
New rural bus stations	3	2 completed and 1 with Economic appraisal under consideration
Urban Transport Infrastructure		
Urban bus depot projects	3	3 projects are now complete
Compliance with H&S standards and upgrade of urban bus depots	3	Projects are now compliant with H&S standards

Source: DRD; DOE DETI; EU Structural Funds Central Database

4.42 Under the transport infrastructure element of the Priority, there have been 2 new rural bus stations supported whilst a further project is under consideration. One replacement rural bus station has also been completed. Work has been completed on 3 urban public transport projects therefore meeting the target.

4.43 Within the environment element of the Priority, 68% of the total funds available (€62.1 million) have been declared, the vast majority of which is attributable to water infrastructure. The Water Service expects that their allocation will be fully spent and the focus at this stage of the Programmes is on the sustainable environment activities.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Table 4.14 – Priority 3 Indicator Achievement (cont'd), Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
The Environment Air quality project for the 26 District Councils in Northern Ireland	1	1 st year of a 3 year project completed. In addition 13 applications were received for year 2 of the scheme. 9 letters of offer were sent out.
Capital infrastructure projects to enable District Councils to measure, monitor and improve air quality	No Target	Four new air quality monitoring stations have been erected. Two additional monitors have been located in existing stations. 2 applications received consisted of low cost capital projects. 4 applications requested to relocate existing capital equipment.
Staff resource projects to enable District Councils in the carrying out of all appropriate air quality activities	No Target	District council staff who perform Air Quality duties have received training in the use of monitoring instruments. This initial training, funded under BSP, was to bring staff up to the requisite standard of training. BSP part funding of Staff costs is helping ensure district councils employ sufficient staff resources to enable them to carry out their Air Quality responsibilities. All 13 applications requested further staff costs for 05/06.
Contribute towards the achievement of national and EU air quality standards and objectives	No Target	District councils are responsible for managing local air quality. This includes the identification of areas not likely to meet air quality objectives and the preparation of plans in pursuit of their achievement. To date 8 councils have declared Air Quality management areas and are in the process of developing action plans. BSP part funding is contributing towards enabling councils to achieve the requisite standards and objectives

Source: DoE EU Structural Funds Central Database

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

4.44 Progress under the sustainable environment projects element of this Priority has been very slow to date. A performance reserve allocation was given to this element of the Priority and an air quality project is under way but outputs will not be seen from this project until 2006. There has been little expenditure incurred under this element of the Priority so far and therefore a significant amount of work needs to be done in order to achieve both the financial and physical targets.

4.45 However, discussions with the Environment and Heritage Service demonstrated that they are now in a position to deliver on this aspect of the Measure and it is expected that significant expenditure will start to accrue from 2005 onwards. This area should be kept under review to ensure that progress is made.

Table 4.12 – Priority 3 Indicator Achievement (cont'd), Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
Agriculture, Rural Development, Forestry & Fisheries		
Number of projects and programmes receiving support for local regeneration, sectoral development, fleet modernisation and food/fish processing	420	347
Number of gross full-time equivalent jobs	220	175.5
Number of vessels decommissioned	30	48
Scrap and build of vessels	18	0
Number of training days	87,500	57,306
Number of beneficiaries	50,500	40,904
Number of people participating in EAGGF programme	18,000	12,946
Number of people obtaining positive outcomes	10,000	6,223

Source: DARD; EU Structural Funds Central Database

4.46 Progress under the agriculture, rural development, forestry and fisheries element of this Priority has continued to improve. These indicators refer to those activities supported through Priority 4 of the BSP Programme. Commitment and expenditure levels for these activities are the lowest amongst the BSP Programme. However, physical achievement for the training Measure shows that over 57,000 training days had been delivered by the end of June 2005 resulting in 40,904 people acquiring increased competency by benefiting from the training. Since the MTE, and despite the comparatively lower expenditure figures, there has been significant achievement under this aspect of the Priority in terms of outputs and results. It appears likely that all funds will be committed and spent and consequently all outputs and results should be achieved.

4.47 Further information provided by DARD for the outcomes of training provided show that from April 2003 to March 2005, 2,697 qualifications have been achieved. These figures include qualifications awarded to participants on one day courses, for example, National Proficiency Test Council certificates for those completing Pesticide Award units; those obtaining LANTRA certificates (e.g., telehandler operation); those achieving Good Business Sense and Beef Quality Initiative units; and those achieving Challenge programme qualifications. The type of training provided falls into 3 areas. Almost 46% of all training falls into the Practical Skills or legislative areas. Business management training takes up 35% of all training whilst the remaining 19% is training in technical or quality areas.

4.48 Almost 13,000 people have participated in the EAGGF Programme for Peace II representing 72% of the target number. The number of people obtaining positive outcomes is currently at 62% of its relevant target. Financial achievement shows that commitment is at approximately 100% for these activities but spend is currently at 39% of the total funds allocated. There has been significant progress since the MTE but it remains a challenge for all funds to be spent under the EAGGF element.

4.49 Under the remainder of this element of the Priority, 347 projects and programmes have been supported, over 80% of the set target. There have also been 175.5 full-time equivalent jobs created by the end of June 2005. Table 4.12 above, details the performance of the Priority against its set indicators and targets for this element. Decommissioned fishing vessels have exceeded their original target. The scrap and build activities are no longer to be funded under BSP and the allocated funds have been moved across the other Sub-Measures within the BSP Programme.

Table 4.13– Priority 3 Indicator Achievement (cont'd), Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
Social Development		
Social and economic urban regeneration schemes	4	4
Arts/Cultural events per year	120	330
Groups/young people from socially disadvantaged areas participating in arts related events	1,000	7,442
Number of projects / organisations / schemes funded/assisted	No target	7 projects have been funded under BSP Measure 3.1 which has exhausted the budget for this Measure. Eight organisations have been supported for delivering services at a local level under BSP Measure 3.2.
Increase in employment in local area	No target	To be reported at the end of the programme.
Neighbourhood renewal schemes developed	12	40
Community groups funded	117	148
Children supported	900	Not reported
Facilities developed or improved	16	Not reported
Environmental projects supported	17	1
Town centre development plans created	3	1
Environmental projects implemented	8	Not reported
Belfast City Centre retail maps distributed	200,000	200,000
'heritage' street signs erected in Belfast City Centre	80	Currently out to tender
Delegates visiting Belfast for the BCSC conference	1,000	1,000

Source: DSD; EU Structural Funds Central Database

4.50 The target for social and economic urban regeneration schemes has been met whilst the other associated targets have all been exceeded. For example, the arts/cultural events have exceeded its targets by almost threefold. This represents significant achievement under this aspect of the Priority and it is likely that the associated objectives will be met. DSD are responsible for a number of the above activities under Peace II Measure 2.11. Current financial achievement shows that there is 100% commitment with spend at 52%. This represents significant progress since the MTE.

4.51 Similarly, there was significant progress in the BSP element of this Priority in the latter part of 2004 after a slow start. By the end of 2004, letters of offer were issued and accepted by 7 Projects under BSP Measure 3.1. The first 5 projects dealt with the regeneration of an extensive inner city area within Belfast. These projects include a number of regeneration activities such as the enhancement of 1,370 square metres of space at Cathedral Close in Belfast to create a versatile public performance area which caters for up to 1,000 people. The Old Bank Building in Royal Avenue, Belfast was refurbished to accommodate artists, crafts people and community organisations in flexible, high quality buildings. In addition, dredging activity for the River Lagan in Belfast was supported to improve the river environment and quality.

4.52 The remaining two projects have impacted across 5 areas of Belfast, as well as in 18 other towns and cities across Northern Ireland through support for Jobs and Benefits Offices. The expenditure within the 7 projects has fully exhausted the funds for BSP Measure 3.1 and therefore represents significant progress under this aspect of the Priority.

4.53 Achievement has been good under the neighbourhood renewal schemes where the target has been surpassed. This has also resulted in the target for community groups funded being surpassed. One town centre development plan has been created and some 200,000 Belfast City Centre retail maps have been distributed. A number of indicators under these two elements of

this Priority are still awaiting confirmation of achievement and it is hoped that there will be some level of reporting available for the next progress report.

Priority 4 - North-South and Wider Co-operation

4.54 Sixteen new/existing NI networks have been supported under this Priority (160% of the target) demonstrating the extent by which the priority has progressed. The target of 75% of networks to participate in international networks has been surpassed with 94% achieving this aim. Further to this the North/South and Wider Co-operation priority reports 130 new or existing cross-border linkages/networks as being supported, surpassing the target of 50. However, the reported proportion of these linkages/networks that are participating in cross-community projects is disappointingly low at only 13%. In addition to the above-mentioned outputs, 12 SME to SME clusters or linkages have been created as a result of the networks.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

4.55 This Priority has an allocation of some €97 million and current achievement shows that commitment is at 85% of this total with spend at 34%. The activities under this Priority relate to Peace II and there is still significant work to be done to ensure that all funds are committed and spent.

Table 4.16 – Priority 4 Indicator Achievement, Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
New/existing NI networks supported	10	16
% New/existing NI networks participating in international networks	75%	94%
% Satisfaction rate of participant network organisations in local and international networks	75%	Assessed at the end of the Programme
New/existing cross-border linkages / networks supported	50	130
New/existing cross-border linkages / networks participating in cross-border / cross-community projects	18	17
SME-SME linkages or clusters created as a result of the networks	20	12
% Additional finance to be levered to the Border Region	20%	Not Reported
Technical assistance projects funded	130	77
% Recommendations to be accepted	75%	Assessed at the end of the Programme

Source: EU Structural Funds Central Database

Conclusions

4.56 There has been a significant amount of progress regarding financial and physical indicators across the CSF. However, there are some areas where progress has been consistently slow.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

4.57 EAGGF achievement remains difficult. However, the Managing Authorities has taken forward initiatives with the Implementing Bodies involved in an attempt to ensure that N+2 targets are met and progress is improved in the future.

4.58 The ESF element is progressing well and with the inclusion of the BSP element for Lifelong Learning in 2006 this should ensure that the targets are met across all the policy fields. The infrastructure elements of Priority 3 have progressed steadily and it will be important for the transport element to improve to ensure that financial and physical targets are met.

4.59 The Peace Priority (Sui Generis) has also progressed well and is on course to meet the majority of its targets for both financial and physical achievement. This should help to ensure a legacy for the Programme in regard to peace and reconciliation within Northern Ireland.

4.60 Overall, performance against financial and physical targets has been good. However, there still is a number of indicators that have no progress reported against them and it was noted in the Peace II mid-term evaluation update⁶ that the 'recent review of indicators and current work to update the data has made it difficult to examine progress across the [Peace II] Programme'.

⁶ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Update of Mid-Term Evaluation of Peace II 2000-2006 Final Report. October 2005.

4.61 In addition, much of the information presented in this Section was obtained from the relevant Implementing Bodies mainly because the EU Structural Funds Central Database currently has indicator coverage for fewer than 60% of all supported projects. It will be important for the Managing Authorities and the relevant Implementing Bodies to address this issue to ensure both compliance with EC Regulations and to improve the method of reporting progress across the CSF.

5 ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS

INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 This Section analyses the progress that is being made towards achieving the planned CSF impacts, based on the achievement to date of the operational objectives. It also includes some analysis of the progress to date against the main horizontal principles and their impact across the CSF.
- 5.2 The previous section, outputs and results, has demonstrated that, in relation to the output and result indicators, the CSF is generally expected to achieve, and in some cases, exceed the targets set. The main area for concern is the EAGGF funded activity under BSP Priority 4 both in terms of physical and financial performance. However, it is expected that the financial targets for the remainder of the Funds will be met. Section 4 also noted that the output and result targets are, generally, well on course to achievement.
- 5.3 Impacts, by their nature, are more difficult to measure or assess by the fact that they tend to be, in some cases, measured by qualitative or attitudinal indicators. They also tend to be longer-term outcomes and therefore it is not possible to provide a comprehensive analysis of impacts prior to an ex-post evaluation. Nevertheless, *progress* towards the achievement of impacts can be discussed and will be outlined in this section. This assessment is based on any available impact indicator data as well as the results of the BSP and Peace II mid-term evaluation updates.

PEACE (SUI GENERIS) PRIORITY

5.4 The information discussed in section 4 demonstrates substantial progress made against financial and physical targets within the Peace II Programme. An analysis of this achievement with previous evaluation reports, qualitative research and interviews with implementing bodies also shows the progress that has been made in meeting the objectives of the Programme. The Peace II mid-term evaluation update reported that the Programme has:

- Supported activity in areas, sectors and groups affected by the conflict;
- Contributed towards building peace and reconciliation;
- Developed new ways of working together;
- Contributed towards building capacity;
- Promoted innovation;
- Facilitated cross-border development;
- Acted as a catalyst for development.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Outline numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: Bullet + Aligned at: 0 cm + Tab after: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 0.63 cm, Tabs: Not at 0.63 cm

PRIORITY 1 - ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RENEWAL

5.5 The latest reported position in relation to the impact indicators for Priority 1 is shown in Table 5.1. Whilst there is little information available on the achievement of the Priority against its agreed impact indicators, there are a number of sources that can provide some insight into potential achievement.

- 5.6 For example, a recent evaluation⁷ on the Invest NI Start a Business Programme suggests that there was deadweight in that Programme of around 34% for all outcomes (i.e., 64% net). Using this figure to proxy for net achievement regarding jobs created with the support of the CSF suggests that the target for net jobs could be exceeded. A number of studies by ERINI on other Invest Northern Ireland support for small businesses suggest net effects in the region of 50%. The net jobs target in the CSF is set at around 50% of the total gross jobs and it is expected that the target number of gross jobs will be met. Obviously a specific analysis of deadweight within the CSF will be required to accurately report on this particular impact indicator. However, as noted above, existing evidence suggests that the net effect of supported activities is somewhere between 50% and 64%. It would, therefore, be reasonable to suppose that the net jobs target will be met, provided the target for gross jobs is achieved.
- 5.7 The impact indicator for the R&D element of the Priority is to increase Business Expenditure on R&D (BERD) by 15% over the life of the Programme. Whilst programme-specific information will not be available until the end of the BSP programme, it can be noted that total BERD in Northern Ireland in 2003 was 18% higher than in 1999. This would suggest that this particular impact target is likely to be achieved. However, it should also be noted that total BERD actually decreased by 22% between 2002 and 2003. This illustrates the year-on-year volatility of this particular indicator at the overall Northern Ireland level.

⁷ PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP. Invest NI Start A Business Programme (2001-2004) Evaluation Report, December 2004.

Table 5.1– Priority 1 Impact Indicator Achievement, Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
Net jobs created	6,000	On target
Increase in Business Expenditure in R&D	15%	On target
Over the period of the programme to create 1,000 net additional jobs in tourism	1,000	On target

Source: DETI

- 5.8 The two case studies examined under this element for the BSP Mid-term evaluation update were actively pursuing further R&D projects to ensure they remained at the cutting edge of their respective technologies. This is a positive finding in relation to the sustainability of such projects. However, at a more general level, interviews with the Measure leaders involved identified a lack of financial capacity for completing R&D projects within many NI businesses. This has implications, not only for this target but also for potential future funding in Northern Ireland given that one of the key themes of the Competitiveness Objective is on enhancing innovation. Further, it can be argued that this is an area within which Northern Ireland has a particular need for support. A comparison of the Northern Ireland position against the Lisbon target for innovation, illustrates this point: the target set under the Lisbon Strategy for Gross expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GVA is 3%. In Northern Ireland in 2002, the Gross expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GVA was 1.2%.
- 5.9 Regarding the impacts for the tourism element of this Priority, there has been reasonable progress on the back of relatively poor performance in 2001 and 2002 as a result of the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak and the events of September 11th, both of which had a significant impact on tourism activity. Section 4 of this report highlighted that the outputs and results of the tourism element continue to perform well and are on course for meeting their respective targets.

- 5.10 Whilst it has not been possible to provide actual progress against the net tourism jobs impact indicator, the gross jobs achievement has already exceeded its target. It is likely, therefore, that the target number of net jobs should be met.

PRIORITY 2 – EMPLOYMENT, HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 5.11 The Priority level impact indicators for employment are set out in table 5.2, below. Consistent with the objectives of the European Employment Strategy, the CSF aims to promote a labour market open to all through the development of innovative ways of overcoming disadvantage and exclusion. There is therefore overlap between the CSF's ESF policy fields and the Employment Guidelines, as for example, increasing labour supply and gender equality cuts across all policy fields in the programme. ESF funded activity under the CSF adds value to the range of Northern Ireland Government employment programmes and initiatives, including those described in the UK National Action Plan for Employment. Included below is some detail on the latest achievement against the impact indicators for each ESF policy field for the CSF.
- 5.12 The *active labour market policy* field impact indicators show that 70% of the target for entering/progressing within employment / training / further education had been achieved. This represents substantial progress against the target.
- 5.13 Around 36% of the target for entering/progressing within employment / training / further education has been achieved under the *equal opportunities for all* policy field.

Table 5.2 – Priority 2 Impact Indicator Achievement, Summer 2005

Indicator	Target (As revised at June 2005¹)	Achievement
All Policy Fields Number entering/progressing within employment / training / further education	45,800	23,036 (51% female)
Active labour market measures Number entering/progressing within employment / training / further education	14,100	9,872 (36%)
Equal opportunities for all in accessing the labour market Number entering/progressing within employment / training / further education	5,600	2,033 (37%)
Lifelong Learning² Number entering/progressing within employment / training / further education	19,400	3,772 (37%)
Adaptability and entrepreneurship Number entering/progressing within employment / training / further education	2,900	1,588 (23%)
Improving women's access to the labour market Number entering/progressing within employment / training / further education	3,800	5,771 (100%)

Source: DEL; DE

¹DEL identified the need to revise the targets for the above indicators following the April 2005 BSP Monitoring Committee meeting and the issues highlighted by some of the members. The above indicators and associated discussion use the revised BSP targets and not those currently contained within the BSP Operational Programme or the CSF document. A paper explaining the rationale for the changes was presented to the BSP PMC in September 2005.

²Peace II only. The Lifelong Learning Activity for BSP has only begun in 2005 and progress should be available in 2006.

5.14 Activities under the BSP element *lifelong learning* policy field have only begun in January 2005 following the collapse of the original activity intended for this Measure (i.e., the Individual Learning Accounts). Therefore, it will be the end of 2006 at the earliest before there is any indication of the likelihood of the Priority objective being achieved for this policy field.

5.15 The Measure Leaders within DEL are optimistic that all targets, financial and physical, will be achieved. However, activities have progressed under the Peace II element and achievement currently stands at over 19% of the target for people entering/progressing within employment / training / further education. The success of this policy field will be better assessed once progress is available for the BSP element.

5.16 The impact indicators for the *adaptability and entrepreneurship* policy field* show that the number of trainees entering/progressing within employment / training / further education is at 55% achieved. The number of females entering/progressing within employment / training / further education currently stands at 23% of the total but this is reflective of female participation in general across this policy area, as noted in paragraph 4.24 above.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.17 Progress under the *improving women's access to the labour market* policy field has been good. The number of women entering/progressing within employment / training / further education through the CSF support has surpassed its target by over 50%. It is therefore expected that the objective for this policy field will be met.

Indicator	Target	Achievement
Pupils from the two major traditions educated together will have an enhanced understanding, respect and appreciation of each others culture and beliefs	No Target	To be assessed at the end of the Programme
Strategies developed by communities, areas and groups for promoting reconciliation in the longer term	10	10
Source: DE; EU Structural Funds Central Database		

5.18 Table 5.3 above shows the progress against the integrated schools activities and those relating to projects focusing on reconciliation, community relations or diversity. Information will not be available until the end of the Programme regarding an enhanced understanding of cultures for pupils attending the supported integrated schools.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.19 The target for strategies developed by communities, areas or groups for promoting reconciliation in the longer term has been met suggesting that the objectives for this element of the Priority should also be met.

PRIORITY 3 – BALANCED REGIONAL, URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Table 5.4 – Priority 3 Impact Indicator Achievement, Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
Infrastructure		
Water Quality Improvement (variable up to 100%)	No Target	Water quality complies with EC Directive standards
Effluent quality improvement (variable up to 100%)	No Target	Effluent quality complies with EC Directive standards
Roads		
Reduced peak journey times	by an average of 35% for each scheme	Newtownstewart Bypass = 47% Limavady Bypass = 32% Comber Bypass = 44.5% Toome Bypass = 35% Strabane Bypass = 35%
Transport		
Improvement in accessibility, social inclusion and more sustainable movement of people	No target	DRD are currently working with NISRA and Translink to finalise the systems necessary to collect data to measure progress against targets.
More efficient movement of people and improved urban public transport system	No target	

Source: DRD; DOE

5.20 Section 4 of this report has noted that the infrastructure element within this Priority has met all its indicator targets and is on course to meet its financial targets. Table 5.4 above also shows that the infrastructure element has met the targets for the impact indicators and thus the objectives for this element of the Priority. The infrastructure projects will contribute to correcting existing environmental problems and managing the growing pressures on Northern Ireland's environment. This aspect of the Priority will make an important positive impact on the local environment.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.21 The completion of the new carriageway at Newtownstewart, Limavady, Comber, Toome and Strabane bypasses has resulted in a significant reduction in journey times with only the Limavady bypass journey reduction currently at less than the 35% target. These outcomes go some way to meeting the CSF objective to improve the regional infrastructure.

5.22 There is no information available at present to assess the achievement of the impact indicators for the transport element of CSF Priority 3. However, qualitative information from DRD demonstrates that, for the completed projects, the outcomes have been positive so far. DRD are currently developing a suitable system to collect and provide these outcomes for future progress reports to the CSF Monitoring Committee and the European Commission.

Table 5.5– Priority 3 Impact Indicator Achievement (cont’d), Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
<p>The Environment</p> <p>Contribute towards the achievement of national and EU air quality standards and objectives</p>	No Target	<p>District councils are responsible for managing local air quality. This includes the identification of areas not likely to meet air quality objectives and the preparation of plans in pursuit of their achievement. To date 8 councils have declared Air Quality management areas and are in the process of developing action plans. BSP part funding is contributing towards enabling councils to achieve the requisite standards and objectives</p>

Source: DRD; DARD

5.23 Under the sustainable environment element of this Priority there is only one impact to measure the achievement of the supported projects. This impact refers to the support given to the 26 Councils to enable them to take forward activities that will contribute towards the EU air quality standards and objectives. This project has received support for the first time in 2005 and therefore there is nothing to report on the overall impact at this stage.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.24 Nevertheless, the Councils are taking forward activities with the aim to improve air quality in their local areas but it will be some time before the impact of these activities could be measured.

5.25 As discussed previously in Section 4 there have been a number of difficulties surrounding the EAGGF element of this Priority. Table 5.5 below, presents the impact indicators for the BSP funded EAGGF element of Priority 3.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Table 5.5 – Priority 3 Impact Indicator Achievement (cont'd), Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
Agriculture, Rural Development, Forestry & Fisheries		
Maintain employment in food and related sectors	24,700 employed	23,770 (2002 figure)
Improve Income per head in rural areas	No target	Information will be available at the end of the Programme
People securing additional income	3,680	561

Source: DARD

5.26 The impact indicators for this element of the Priority are at a particularly high, global level. It is, therefore, useful to go below these Priority level impacts and assess progress towards Measure level results and impacts within the BSP Programme. Unfortunately, however, there is no information available for the impact indicators at the Measure level within BSP. It is therefore difficult to comment at this stage on the likely impact of these activities.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.27 The final indicator in table 5.5 above refers to the EAGGF activities support under the Peace II Programme. Achievement is currently at 15% of the target which suggests that it will be difficult for this target to be met given that the output indicator achievement is currently at 72% of its target.

5.28 Evidence from the primary research undertaken as part of the BSP Mid-term evaluation update highlighted the need to move towards an innovative and sustainable approach for future EU funding. This is especially the case for any future rural development activities.

Table 5.6 – Priority 3 Indicator Achievement (cont'd), Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
Full-time jobs created, safeguarded and maintained	8	13
Freelance jobs created, safeguarded and maintained	30	38
Visitors attending arts / cultural related events	65,000	Not reported
Evidence of a positive impact in the local area attributed	No Target	Quarterly progress reports reflects positive impact as do Groups Annual reports. Further information will be reported at the end of the Programme
Jobs created	200	Not reported
% Residents registering improvement in perception of the areas	No target	Not reported
Jobs created	3	Not reported
% Increase in usage of town centre	3%	Not reported

Source: DSD; EU Structural Funds Central Database

5.29 As can be seen from table 5.6, there is some level of reporting against these impact indicators. The targets for full-time and freelance jobs created, safeguarded and maintained have been exceeded. These impacts relate to the social and economic urban regeneration schemes funded under the Peace II Programme and the achievement suggests that these activities should meet their objectives.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.30 The 'Evidence of a positive impact in the local area attributed to assisted projects / organisations / schemes' refers to activities funded under BSP Measure 3.1 and whilst there is qualitative information to suggest a positive impact, there is no independent information available to confirm this.

5.31 There is no information available to report against the rest of the impacts of this element of CSF Priority 3 and therefore it is difficult to provide an assessment of the likelihood that objectives will be achieved.

PRIORITY 4 – NORTH/SOUTH AND WIDER CO-OPERATION

5.32 There is no progress to report against the impact indicators for this Priority although currently achievement has been good against the output and result indicators, as can be seen in Section 4. It is difficult to make any assessment of the likelihood that the objectives for these activities will be met.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Table 5.8 – Priority 4 Indicator Achievement, Summer 2005

Indicator	Target	Achievement
% Participant organisations obtaining positive outcomes	50%	Not reported
% New networks still in operation by 2006	50%	Not reported
% New linkages / networks to still be in operation in 2005	50%	Not reported
% Technical assistance studies resulting in improved implementation of the CSF or OP	50%	Not reported

Source: EU Structural Funds Central Database

5.33 The information presented through section 4 and the Peace II mid-term evaluation update clearly demonstrate that the Programme is well on its way to achieving the majority of its objectives.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

5.34 The following text provides an overview of the impact of the CSF across the following horizontal principles:

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

- Environmental Sustainability
- Balanced Intervention / Equal Opportunity
- New Targeting Social Need (NTSN)
- Publicity

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Outline numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: Bullet + Aligned at: 0 cm + Tab after: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 0.63 cm, Tabs: Not at 0.63 cm

5.35 The Horizontal Principles were established to help guide the NI CSF to the type of funding that would be most beneficial within Northern Ireland. Therefore, they embody the aspirations of the NI and UK Governments, and the European Commission, as to the way they would like the programme to be delivered and some of the key policy issues that they would like it to impact upon. The Horizontal Principles were established for the CSF and therefore also run through the Peace II and BSP Programmes.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

5.36 A recent report by DTZ Pieda Consulting⁸, commissioned on behalf of the CSF Environmental Sustainability Working Group concluded that Developmental Path Analysis (DPA) has had little impact on project selection, and DPA results in the central monitoring database were unreliable. The report noted that these problems were a manifestation of the manner in which DPA has been implemented rather than any inherent weakness with the tool.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.37 The objectives of the research were to uncover how the horizontal principle of environmental sustainability is being interpreted and implemented using DPA during project selection; and comment on the overall value of DPA as an approach to environmental impact assessment and the monitoring of environmental impacts.

5.38 The research recommended a number of key actions be taken to improve the understanding of DPA within the Implementing Bodies and the accuracy of the scores input onto the EU Central Database. In response to these recommendations, the Managing Authority (MA) undertook an extensive work programme in which they tendered for a consultant to provide comprehensive guidance on the application of the DPA.

⁸ Review of the Implementation of Development Path Analysis under the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework 2000-2006. DTZ Pieda Consulting.

5.39 The guidelines were issued to IBs who then attended training sessions at several locations throughout Northern Ireland. Following training, IB staff re-examined and amended, where necessary, their allocated DPA scores. After a period of six weeks, the consultant reappraised the DPA scores on the database to assess compliance with the guidelines and undertook site visits, where necessary.

5.40 This approach was to provide reasonable assurance to the Working Group and the Managing Authorities of the completeness and validity of allocated scores and will assist in the MAs monitoring requirements. The comprehensive guidance has provided support for all IBs in both Peace II and BSP. In addition, the consultant has been contracted until end November 2005 to provide on going support to the Implementing Bodies. At the end of this period the Managing Authority will assess the take-up of this support and decide how best this role can be taken forward.

5.41 DTZ Pieda provided an update of the reliability of the scores of the Database at the end of July 2005. This involved an assessment of the DPA scores before the issuing of guidance and the completion of training, after the activities were completed. A period of 2 months was left for IBs to update their DPA scores for their projects.

5.42 Their conclusion, based on the sample used, was that the database is at best 61% reliable for BSP and 96% reliable for Peace II. These findings are based on adding the number of approved projects in the database associated with each Implementing Body included in the sample, and applying a percentage against these projects based on the results of the sample. The calculation excludes Implementing Bodies that were not part of the sample, and for whom no assessment of reasonability can therefore be made. Nevertheless, this questions the reliability of the DPA scores on the database at present, especially in the case of the BSP Programme.

5.43 The Managing Authority has taken further steps to improve the DPA scores on the database following the recommendations from DTZ. This involves targeted, one-to-one support for those Implementing Bodies having difficulty applying DPA reasonably.

5.44 Table 5.9 below shows the current level of funding for each DPA score for the CSF⁹. However, caution must be used when discussing the latest position given the issues highlighted in the preceding paragraphs.

Table 5.9 – All Approved Applications and Funding by DPA score

DPA Path	No of approved projects	Total Funding (Stg)	Funding as a % of Total
1	4,636	979,224,876	87.90%
2	148	33,327,412	2.99%
3	154	41,806,283	3.75%
4	28	1,553,513	0.14%
5	261	30,803,124	2.77%
6	5,503	27,318,743	2.45%
Group Total	5,503	1,114,033,951	100%

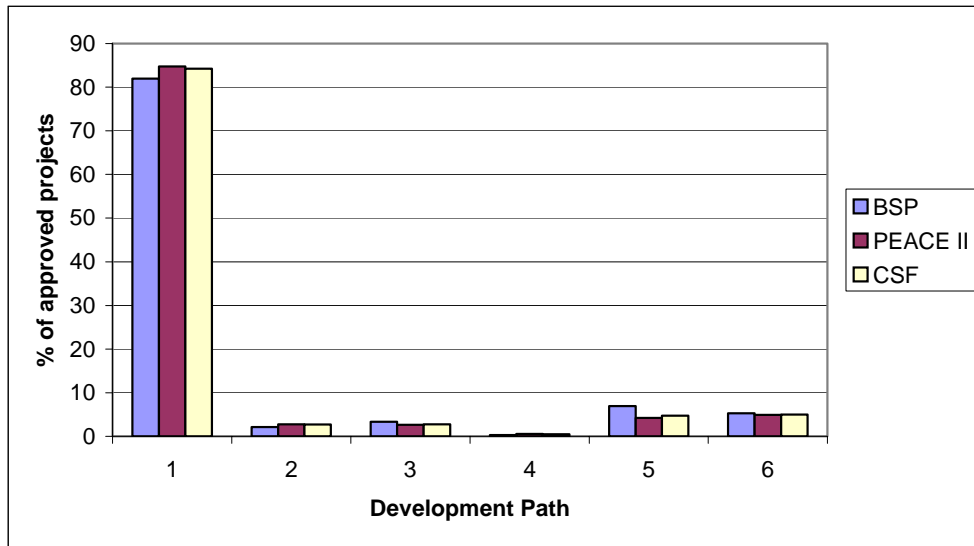
Source: EU Structural Funds Central Database

5.45 The research by DTZ highlighted that the high number of findings for DPA Path 1 were potentially the result of the removal of Path 0 from the database in that a number of projects have been automatically designated a Path 1 score and some of these scores were not yet reviewed. Figure 5.1 below provides the latest position for DPA scores against the CSF as well as the BSP and Peace II Programmes.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

⁹ Environmental Assessment of the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework Operational Programmes 'PEACE II' and 'Building Sustainable Prosperity'. ECOTEC Research and Consulting.

Figure 5.1 – CSF Development Path Analysis



5.46 In addition, Priority 1 DPA scores are potentially skewing the overall findings for the Programme as the majority of scores within this Priority are allocated at scheme level. Therefore, there is a strong possibility that environmental benefit, as currently measured by DPA within this Programme, is not obvious. The research completed by DTZ highlights that DPA as a tool is usable and suitable for the purpose of measuring environmental sustainability but the application of it has proven to be the weakness. These are important lessons to learn for future programmes.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.47 Findings from the BSP mid-term evaluation update primary research demonstrate that the majority of projects and IBs are aware of the environmental sustainability horizontal principle. However, the majority also believe that it has been quite ineffective and has had no real impact on the Programme overall. The Measure Leaders commented that this was due to the low weighting given to the horizontal principles in the selection criteria for approving projects. Therefore, projects were unaffected by a low score against the horizontal principles in the selection process. In order for the environment sustainability principle or any other HP to have an impact on a

funding programme it was argued that it should have a larger weighting in the selection process.

5.48 Parallel to the work described above in relation to DPA, the Environment Working Group (EWG) has also been involved in a number of areas in assessing the effectiveness of the environmental sustainability horizontal principle.

5.49 The EWG, under its terms of reference, has a commitment to ensure that the CSF Programme supports only economic activity that is at least environmentally neutral and includes much that seeks to protect and enhance the environment. EWG agreed a work programme examining how the sustainable environment horizontal principle had been addressed and to what extent the objectives had been achieved.

5.50 EWG are investigating in greater detail the application of this horizontal principle in Priority 3 of the CSF (focusing initially on BSP Priorities 4 and 5). Results from these two exercises will aid the development of DPA as a tool that can allow for predictive environment performance within the structural funds.

5.51 Additional activities that will be addressed by the EWG include the following:

- Investigate the integration of the Sustainable Environment Horizontal Principle (SEHP) within BSP Priorities relating to CSF Priority 3.
- Analysis of Environmental Flag information.
- Analysis of project selection criteria and indicators with regard to SEHP.
- Analysis of BSP Measures with regard to SEHP.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.27 cm, Hanging: 0.95 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Tab after: 0.63 cm + Indent at: 0.63 cm, Tabs: Not at 0.63 cm

- Assessment of current monitoring measures in place in NI which will provide feedback information for assessing success of CSF at meeting targets.
- Assess success of BSP Measures and monitoring measures at addressing the weaknesses in NI environment identified in ex ante eco audit 1999.

Marenco Consulting have taken this work forward with outputs expected by June 2006.

BALANCED INTERVENTION / EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

5.52 In the CSF the balanced intervention/equal opportunities horizontal principle reflects two key components, EU Structural Funds regulations concerning equality of opportunity between women and men and section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.53 For the current EU programming period (2000-06), there is a requirement to incorporate the consideration of gender equality between men and women into all projects supported under EU Structural Funds. This in turn reflects the strengthening of the EU's commitment to promoting equal opportunities. This has become known as Gender Mainstreaming (see box below).

5.54 Standing alongside the European Union requirements is section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Section 75 places a statutory duty on public authorities to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

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

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 1.9 cm + Tab after: 2.54 cm + Indent at: 2.54 cm, Tabs: Not at 2.54 cm

- Between persons with dependents and persons without.

Gender mainstreaming

The term 'gender mainstreaming' means putting a gender equality perspective into mainstream policies. The Council of Europe defines it as 'the (re)organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy-making' ([Group of Specialists Report, 1998](#)).

Underlying the concept of mainstreaming is recognition of the fact that not all groups or individuals in a society have the same ease in accessing opportunities. In order for all groups of people to be equally able to access the services and facilities, mainstream policies need to take account of the different ability of different groups to benefit, and plan for this. In this case we are concerned about the ability of women and men to access services and facilities provided by mainstream policies.

Source: NDP Gender Equality Unit.

5.55 The Act also requires public authorities to "have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group". An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) of the CSF was undertaken at the outset of the programmes.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.56 In 2003, a section 75 Monitoring Questionnaire was developed for Implementing Bodies to issue to beneficiaries of the programme in an attempt to measure the impact of the Programme for equality groups. In order to preserve confidentiality, the questionnaire is anonymous and a prepaid envelop for return to NISRA is provided. Completion of the questionnaire is not compulsory.

5.57 In the CSF, to date, some 38,900 forms have been completed with the addition of equality information for around 52,600 individuals under mainly BSP Priority 2 (Employment). The gender breakdown for all returns shows that 37% of all beneficiaries to date, are female. These figures should, however, be treated with caution as they are based on returns attributable to only 21% of all approved projects under the CSF and are not representative of all CSF activities. There is a general lack of returns for the vast majority of Measures within BSP which is compounded by the difficulty of determining beneficiaries for large infrastructural projects. The coverage for Peace II is much better.

5.58 This difficulty in determining the beneficiary and in measuring the impact of this horizontal principle led to research being commissioned by the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group (MEWG) to examine potential ways for determining impact on equality groups¹⁰.

5.59 The resulting research proposed a way forward for measuring the impact of the CSF with regard to the Section 75 groups. The approach used in the research included a documentary review; a selection of case studies; discussions with Government Departments and other Implementing Bodies; and an analysis of the existing information via the equality monitoring questionnaire.

5.60 The main conclusions from the research were:

- The assessment of CSF section 75 equality impacts will require a 'bottom-up' approach, building the overall picture from Measure-level upwards.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.27 cm, Hanging: 0.95 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 1.9 cm + Tab after: 2.54 cm + Indent at: 2.54 cm, Tabs: Not at 2.54 cm

¹⁰ The Northern Ireland Community Support Framework: Research Project to Examine Ways of Assessing the Impact of EU Programmes on the Section 75 Groups. Economic Research and Evaluation, June 2005.

- A mixed approach needs to be taken to the collection of data on the section 75 characteristics of CSF beneficiaries.

5.61 In addition to the above the research had a number of recommendations regarding the equality monitoring questionnaire, data collection strategy and assessment methods for the BSP and Peace II Programmes. The MEWG has made a number of recommendations for consideration by the CSF Managing Authority.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.62 The findings of the BSP mid-term evaluation update primary research demonstrate that all groups are aware of the importance of equal opportunities in their projects and organisations. Whilst not all projects are targeted at individuals those projects that do are active in promoting equality. In addition, organisations involved in projects not directed at individuals are aware of their statutory duty and do ensure that everything possible is done to ensure that the impact on the Section 75 groups is as positive or neutral as possible.

NEW TARGETING SOCIAL NEED

5.63 The horizontal principle, New Targeting Social Need (NTSN), when applied should mean that funding is skewed to areas that are in most need. Whilst this should be relatively straightforward to apply, in practice it can be much more difficult to implement.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.64 Firstly, there are no established objective NTSN areas as the areas of need are very closely linked to the areas of activity and the associated policy objectives. For example, areas of particular educational need may not be exactly the same as the areas most in need of infrastructural improvements.

5.65 Further, the geographical scope of the activities impacts on the application of the NTSN principle. For example, actions that are targeted at specific areas or sectors will necessarily apply the NTSN principle. However, projects that are aimed at Northern Ireland in its entirety will have a less obvious link to NTSN. In table 5.10 below, the approved projects across the CSF are compared for NTSN by using their postcodes to allocate funding to areas based on the Measures of Deprivation¹¹.

Table 5.10 – Total funding by level of deprivation

Noble ward deciles	Number of approved applications	Total funding (£stg)	% of total funding
1 Most deprived	1,214	£356,922,390	32.34%
2	755	£96,646,060	8.76%
3	455	£65,473,541	5.93%
4	661	£51,401,781	4.66%
5	528	£34,630,252	3.14%
6	466	£161,486,291	14.63%
7	447	£41,744,972	3.78%
8	366	£58,599,479	5.31%
9	284	£32,574,075	2.95%
10 Least deprived	249	£204,222,829	18.50%
Group Total	5,425	£1,103,701,670	100%

Source: EU Structural Funds Central Database

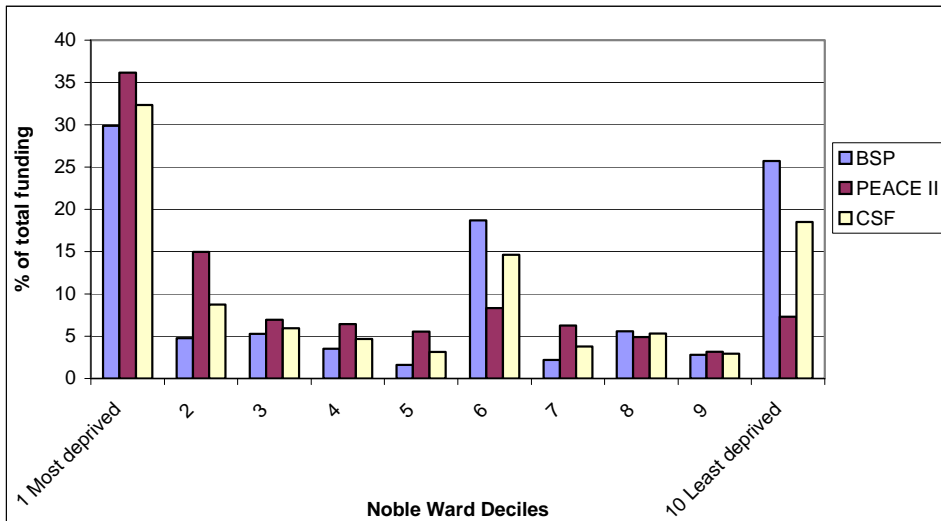
¹¹ Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2001. Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Occasional Paper No.18. The analysis was conducted against this version of the Noble Measures as these were the Measures in place throughout the implementation of BSP to date.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.66 A very general analysis has been conducted to approximate the New TSN impact of the CSF. This has assessed the location of all BSP and Peace II projects approved up to 21 October 2005 against levels of deprivation as defined by the Noble Measures of Deprivation. The analysis was conducted using the postcode of the project address as provided on the central applications database. If the project address was insufficient to allocate a postcode, the address of the applicant organisation was used as a proxy.

5.67 It should be noted that deprivation is not the main focus of the CSF and therefore it would not be expected that all funding should be allocated to deprived wards. However, because New TSN is a horizontal principle of the CSF the funding would be expected to be skewed towards these areas. The analysis presented in the table above shows that 32% of the funding allocated has been awarded to projects with addresses in the 56 wards (10%) that have the highest multiple deprivation scores. This proportion increases to 41% when the analysis is extended to the 20% most deprived wards. A comparison of the NTSN position against the CSF as well as the BSP and Peace II Programmes is provided in figure 5.2 below.

Figure 5.2 – Total Funding by level of Deprivation



5.68 These results should be treated with caution due to the effect of projects run by both central and local Government. For example, there are 90 projects from the BSP Programme in the upper decile, accounting for 85% of the funding in this decile. The majority of these projects are based on organisation headquarters addresses and not necessarily the targeted area addresses, e.g. programmes that are being run by local councils under Measure 1.4 (Local Economic Development) use the address of the council headquarters. However, many of the projects being run by the councils are aimed at the whole council area and therefore target various deprived areas. This is also the case for a number of projects such as Invest Northern Ireland R&D schemes and Graduate Training programmes. The current development work being carried out on the database to include project level information for the central Government schemes should allow more informative analysis to be carried out in the future which will better reflect the impact on NTSN.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.69 Findings from the BSP mid-term evaluation update primary research demonstrate that the majority of projects were aware of this horizontal principle but it's effect on the design and conduct of the project was very much related to the nature of the project itself. For example, one of the case studies highlighted the need to target their training programmes on deprived areas. However, another case study, completing an R&D project on gasification, stated that there was no geographical targeting but if the project were successful it would benefit the whole community.

PUBLICITY / TRANSPARENCY

5.70 The publicity of the CSF through the BSP and Peace II has produced a mixed outcome. Recent results from the Omnibus Survey (a Northern Ireland-wide survey) have shown that, whilst awareness of the EU and EU Programmes amongst the general public in Northern Ireland has increased, overall awareness of BSP remains relatively low. Results from the July Omnibus Survey shows that recognition of the BSP Programme across the NI

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

population was at 11%. This is an increase from 8% in 2003, when the questions were first included in the Omnibus Survey. This compares with the Peace II Programme, of which 59% of those surveyed in 2005 had heard of that Programme. However, the Peace Programme has enjoyed a much higher profile than BSP throughout its life and the high levels of awareness are also likely to be reflective of the high level of local delivery of that Programme.

5.71 Both the Peace II and BSP Managing Authorities have been proactive in promoting Europe through their Programmes and supported projects. Recent publicity actions under the BSP Programme included the Bus Wrap Campaign and the BSP Newsletter. In addition, a CSF information booklet was inserted into 220,000 copies of the three major local newspapers in March 2005. The Managing Authority also contributed to an exhibition at St Georges Market, entitled *Opportunity Europe* which took place in early October 2005. The Peace II Programme has had a number of events this year which helped promote the Programme and the EU. A public consultation was carried out on the Peace II extension as well as an extension launch. There was also a number of open days in Brussels, the *Making a Difference* Conference and *Celebrating Success* events. In addition, the Peace II and BSP Managing Authorities continue to make sure that all projects adhere to the Article 4 checks including publicity.

CONCLUSIONS

5.72 The previous discussion in this section demonstrates, through the impact of supported activities, that a number of key objectives across the CSF are likely to be met. This represents considerable progress from the MTE position where there were few activities on the ground to help inform any reporting. However, there are a number of areas that will require significant effort in the final years of the programme in order to ensure that targets are met and impacts achieved.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

5.73 All Priorities are, on the whole, likely to meet most of their respective impact indicator targets. There has been substantial progress to date and continued progress should ensure that all targets are met. There has been considerable progress since the MTE for EAGGF activities however difficulties around meeting N+2 targets and in gaining substantial achievement on the ground under the RDP element demonstrate the issues in achieving the set targets for the impact of the CSF.

5.74 It is recommended that the impact for the EAGGF activities across the CSF be kept under review. The need for this is because of relatively low spend for these activities and the pressures of N+2. This obviously has a potential to impact on the achievement of impacts and therefore the achievement of the CSF Objectives.

5.75 Because of the low level of reporting against the impact indicators across the CSF, it is recommended that an assessment be made of the measurement and likely reporting period for these indicators. It is essential that a high level of reporting is available for the closure of Programmes to ensure that the added value of the BSP and Peace II OPs and the CSF can be accurately measured.

5.76 In terms of the horizontal principles, it can be seen from the preceding text that there have been a number of initiatives taken forward following the publication of the MTEs. The most positive steps forward have been under the equality, environment and publicity horizontal principles. In addition, the work undertaken both by the respective working groups and the Managing Authority have helped reinforce and bring to the forefront of the BSP and Peace II Programmes the principles of equality and the environment. The lessons learned from these initiatives will play a significant role in the development and delivery of any future European Programmes in Northern Ireland.

5.77 It was also found that the potential influence of the Horizontal Principles was reduced in two ways. Firstly, the scores attributed to the HPs in the selection process were unlikely to result in a rejection. Secondly, the total number of HPs in some ways reduced their potential impact because there were too many to be taken into consideration by the applicant. Therefore, it may be useful in future Programmes to reduce the number of horizontal principles on which to focus. In addition, it may be useful for the main HPs to carry greater weights for scoring in the selection process.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

6.1 This Section details the conclusions and recommendations made as a consequence of the analysis contained in the previous Sections. This is set within the context of the current proposals for funding in the 2007-2013 period.

6.2 The overall aim of this mid-term evaluation update of the CSF was:

- (a) to build on the work of the mid-term evaluation thus providing information which can help, where possible, further demonstrate the added value of the NI CSF through the BSP and Peace II Operational Programmes; and
- (b) to provide information which can help inform development strategies in the next programming period.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 3 + Aligned at: 5.08 cm + Tab after: 5.74 cm + Indent at: 5.74 cm, Tabs: Not at 5.74 cm

6.3 This Section is presented under the headings of the original objectives for the Mid-term Evaluation Update, that is:

- Review of the MTE recommendations for the NI CSF.
- Analysis of the outputs and results achieved to date, in light of the CSF targets and financial performance.
- Analysis of impacts achieved to date and the likely achievement of objectives.
- Conclusions on efficiency, effectiveness, impact and recommendations for the future.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm, Hanging: 1 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm + Tab after: 1.27 cm + Indent at: 1.27 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.27 cm

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MTE Recommendations

- 6.4 The information presented in section 3 demonstrates a considerable amount of effort in addressing, and building on, the recommendations of the CSF mid-term evaluation. A number of important steps have been made which are likely to improve the overall impact of the CSF through the BSP and Peace II Operational Programmes.
- 6.5 It is essential that the non-financial monitoring coverage on the EU Structural Funds Central Database be improved. The Managing Authority should continue to be proactive in ensuring that the Implementing Bodies continue to make progress under this area. At the time of writing this report, both Managing Authorities were addressing this issue, among others, with the Implementing Bodies through a series of bilateral meetings. It is essential that this information be recorded on the database to ensure accurate reporting and planning for the Programme, as well as to offer significant help to Programme closures.
- 6.6 It is also important that the key lessons from the current Operational Programmes and CSF are incorporated in to the development of any future programmes.
- 6.7 The CSF MTE concluded that the overall effect of the two OPs is comprised of the sum of their parts rather than achievement through being combined within the CSF. As noted above, there is no evidence through this report that this position has changed. Indeed, the European Commission, through the current draft regulations, have removed the requirement for an overarching framework in the form of the CSF for the 2007 to 2013 Structural Funds period.

- 6.8 It is also important to acknowledge that the political context in which the CSF operates changed substantially since its introduction. This has clearly affected its capacity to fulfil the co-ordination role that was established for the framework and the CSF Monitoring Committee at the outset.

Outputs and Results

- 6.9 There has been a significant degree of progress regarding financial and physical indicators across the CSF since the 2003 MTE. However, there are some areas where progress has been consistently slow.
- 6.10 Parts of CSF Priority 3 continue to have low levels of spend and achievement, although progress has been made very recently. EAGGF achievement remains difficult in general, particularly from a financial perspective. The effect of this on outputs and results is less obvious as many such indicators have reported reasonable progress. The Managing Authority is taking forward initiatives with the Implementing Bodies involved to ensure that N+2 targets are met and progress is improved in the future.
- 6.11 The ESF element is progressing well and with the inclusion of the BSP element for Lifelong Learning in 2006 this should ensure that the targets are met across all the policy fields. The infrastructure elements of Priority 3 have progressed steadily and it will be important for the transport element to improve to ensure that financial and physical targets are met.
- 6.12 The Peace Priority (Sui Generis) has also progressed well and is on course to meet the majority of its targets for both financial and physical achievement. This should help to ensure a legacy for the Programme in regard to peace and reconciliation within Northern Ireland.

- 6.13 Overall, performance against financial and physical targets has been good. However, there still are a number of indicators that have no progress against them and it was noted in the Peace II mid-term evaluation update¹² that the 'recent review of indicators and current work to update the data has made it difficult to examine progress across the [Peace II] Programme'.
- 6.14 This evaluation update found that significant progress has been made on the achievement of outputs and results and indeed on some impacts. It is worth noting, however, that much of this information is not yet recorded on the central monitoring database. This is regrettable as it restricts the management capacity of the Managing Authority and Government Departments with responsibility for other implementing bodies. Further, it would appear that each time an update is required, significant resource effort is required by all those involved to bring this information together. It is essential that this is taken forward urgently to ensure complete coverage for monitoring progress against N+2 and physical achievements. In addition, it is also very important for the closure of the Operational Programmes.

Impacts

- 6.15 Section 5 above demonstrates, through the impact of supported activities, that a number of key objectives across the CSF are likely to be met. This represents considerable progress from the MTE position. However, there are a number of areas that will require significant effort in the final years of the programme in order to ensure that targets are met and impacts achieved.

¹² PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Update of Mid-Term Evaluation of Peace II 2000-2006 Final Report. October 2005.

- 6.16 Priorities are, on the whole, likely to meet most of their respective impact indicator targets. There has been substantial progress to date and continued progress should ensure that all targets are met. There has been considerable progress since the MTE for EAGGF activities however difficulties around meeting N+2 targets remain.
- 6.17 It is recommended that the impact for the EAGGF activities across the CSF be kept under review. The need for this is because of relatively low spend for these activities and the pressures of N+2 which obviously has a potential to impact on the achievement of impacts and therefore the achievement of the CSF Objectives.
- 6.18 It is also recommended that an assessment be made of the measurement and likely reporting period for the impact indicators due to the lack of information available across the CSF Priorities. It is essential that a high degree of reporting is available for the closure of Programmes to ensure that the added value of the BSP and Peace II OPs through the CSF can be accurately measured.
- 6.19 In terms of the horizontal principles, positive steps have been taken under the equality and environment horizontal principles. In addition, the work undertaken both by the respective working groups and the Managing Authority have helped reinforce and bring to the forefront of the BSP and Peace II Programmes the principles of equality and the environment. The lessons learned from these initiatives will play a significant role in the development and delivery of any future European Programmes in Northern Ireland.

6.20 Section 6 also concluded that the potential influence of the Horizontal Principles (HPs) was reduced in two ways. Firstly, the scores attributed to the HPs in the selection process were unlikely to result in a rejection. Secondly, the total number of HPs in some ways reduced their potential impact because there were too many to be taken into consideration by the applicant. Therefore, it may be useful in future Programmes to reduce the number of horizontal principles on which to focus. In addition, it may be useful for the main HPs to carry greater weights for scoring in the selection process.

Annexes

Annex 1

Table 5: CSF FINANCIAL PLAN - BREAKDOWN BY PRIORITY AND FORM OF ASSISTANCE

Priority/Year 2000-2006	Total Cost	Total Eligible Cost	Total PUBLIC	Total EU	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total Eligible National	Private		Member State Instruments
	(1) 1=2+11+12	(2) 2=3+10	(3) 3=4+9	(4) 4=5-8	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	Eligible (10)	Associate (11)	
Sui Generis Priority: Peace & Reconciliation	<i>Allocations corresponding to the PEACE II Programme (see Table 6 below)</i>											
Priority 1: Economic Growth & Renewal	€ 443,143,005	€ 439,143,005	€ 439,143,005	€ 309,357,248	€ 309,357,248				€ 129,785,757			€ 4,000,000
Priority 2: Employment, Hum. Res., and Social Inclusion	€ 848,650,491	€ 831,650,491	€ 831,650,491	€ 543,769,600	€ 125,936,485	€ 417,833,115			€ 287,880,891			€ 17,000,000
Priority 3: Balanced Regional Urban and Rural Development	€ 711,316,513	€ 681,916,513	€ 584,809,513	€ 422,789,541	€ 286,385,012		€ 107,404,529	€ 29,000,000	€ 161,819,972	€ 97,307,000		€ 29,400,000
Priority 4: North/South and Wider Co-operation	€ 97,014,069	€ 97,014,069	€ 97,014,069	€ 72,760,489	€ 55,269,550	€ 14,956,267	€ 1,777,500	€ 757,172	€ 24,253,580			
Technical Assistance	€ 69,004,367	€ 63,404,367	€ 63,404,367	€ 47,438,522	€ 47,438,522				€ 15,965,845			€ 5,600,000
ERDF Related	€ 1,213,077,055	€ 1,171,277,055	€ 1,170,977,055	€ 824,386,817	€ 824,386,817				€ 346,590,238	€ 300,000		€ 41,800,000
ESF Related	€ 655,590,870	€ 641,390,870	€ 641,390,870	€ 432,789,382		€ 432,789,382			€ 208,601,488			€ 14,200,000
EAGGF Related	€ 251,188,958	€ 251,188,958	€ 164,979,958	€ 109,182,029			€ 109,182,029		€ 55,797,929	€ 86,209,000		
FIFG Related	€ 49,271,562	€ 49,271,562	€ 38,473,562	€ 29,757,172				€ 29,757,172	€ 8,716,390	€ 10,798,000		
Value of CSF 2000-2006	€ 2,189,128,445	€ 2,113,128,445	€ 2,015,821,445	€ 1,396,115,400	€ 824,386,817	€ 432,789,382	€ 109,182,029	€ 29,757,172	€ 619,706,045	€ 97,307,000		€ 56,000,000

Table 6: CSF FINANCIAL PLAN - BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAMME AND FORM OF ASSISTANCE

Priority/Year 2000-2006	Total Cost (1) 1=2+11+12	Total Eligible Cost (2) 2=3+10	Total PUBLIC (3) 3=4+9	Total EU (4) 4=5-8	ERDF (5)	ESF (6)	EAGGF (7)	FIFG (8)	Total Eligible National (9)	Private		Member State Instruments (12)
										Eligible (10)	Associate (11)	
Peace and Reconciliation Operational Programme (PEACE II Programme)	€ 678,693,045	€ 622,693,045	€ 622,693,045	€ 467,000,000	€ 287,257,417	€ 147,803,382	€ 31,182,029	€ 757,172	€ 155,693,045			€56,000,000
Building Sustainable Prosperity (BSP) Operational Programme	€ 1,490,435,400	€ 1,490,435,400	€ 1,393,128,400	€ 929,115,400	€ 537,129,400	€ 284,986,000	€ 78,000,000	€ 29,000,000	€ 464,013,000	€ 97,307,000		
ERDF Related	€ 1,213,077,055	€ 1,171,277,055	€ 1,170,977,055	€ 824,386,817	€ 824,386,817				€ 346,590,238	€ 300,000		€41,800,000
ESF Related	€ 655,590,870	€ 641,390,870	€ 641,390,870	€ 432,789,382		€ 432,789,382			€ 208,601,488			€14,200,000
EAGGF Related	€ 251,188,958	€ 251,188,958	€ 164,979,958	€ 109,182,029			€ 109,182,029		€ 55,797,929	€ 86,209,000		
FIFG Related	€ 49,271,562	€ 49,271,562	€ 38,473,562	€ 29,757,172				€ 29,757,172	€ 8,716,390	€ 10,798,000		
Value of CSF 2000-2006	€ 2,169,128,445	€ 2,113,128,445	€ 2,015,821,445	€ 1,396,115,400	€ 824,386,817	€ 432,789,382	€ 109,182,029	€ 29,757,172	€ 619,706,045	€ 97,307,000		€56,000,000

Notes:

Annex 2



**Community Support Framework (CSF)
Mid-Term Update
Monitoring Committee Questionnaire**

The questionnaire is anonymous and all information will be treated in strictest confidence.

To ensure maximum value of this information to the Mid Term Update, please elaborate on your views where possible.

Monitoring Committee (MC)

1. Overall, how effective do you think the MC has been in undertaking its role in relation to the CSF?

<i>Very Effective</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Quite Ineffective</i>	<i>Ineffective</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How adequate or otherwise would you rate the following:

	<i>Very adequate</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Quite Inadequate</i>	
Understanding of role	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Explanation of role	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of information provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timeliness of information provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organisational arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Have you any suggestions as to how the effectiveness of the MC could be improved?

Implementation

4. How effective do you think the implementation of the Peace II Programme has been to date?

<i>Very effective</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Quite Ineffective</i>	<i>Ineffective</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. How effective do you think the implementation of the Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme has been to date?

<i>Very effective</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Quite Ineffective</i>	<i>Ineffective</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. How effective do you think the implementation of the CSF has been to date?

<i>Very effective</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Quite Ineffective</i>	<i>Ineffective</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Have you any suggestions as to ways to improve the effectiveness of the CSF?

Horizontal Principles

8. Do you consider that the horizontal principles have helped to guide the CSF?

<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Which of the following horizontal principles do you consider have had a positive impact on the CSF? (tick all that apply)

- 1. Accountability
- 2. Partnership
- 3. Co-ordination
- 4. Locally-based Decision-making
- 5. Economic and Social Sustainability
- 6. New Targeting Social Need
- 7. Environmental Sustainability
- 8. Balanced Intervention / Equal Opportunities
- 9. Publicity / Transparency

10. Which of the following horizontal principles do you consider have had a negative impact on the CSF? (tick all that apply)

- 1. Accountability
- 2. Partnership
- 3. Co-ordination
- 4. Locally-based Decision-making
- 5. Economic and Social Sustainability
- 6. New Targeting Social Need
- 7. Environmental Sustainability
- 8. Balanced Intervention / Equal Opportunities
- 9. Publicity / Transparency

11. Have you anything further to add about the impact of the horizontal principles on the CSF?

Impact

12. Please indicate how effective you think each of the Priorities of the CSF has been to date:

		<i>Very Effective</i>	<i>Effective</i>	<i>Quite Ineffective</i>	<i>Ineffective</i>
1	<i>Economic Growth and Renewal</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<i>Employment, Human Resource Development and Social Inclusion</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<i>Balanced Regional Urban and Rural Development</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<i>North/South and Wider Co-operation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Which Priority do you think has had the most positive impact to date? *Please tick one only.*

1	<i>Economic Growth and Renewal</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<i>Employment, Human Resource Development and Social Inclusion</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<i>Balanced Regional Urban and Rural Development</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<i>North/South and Wider Co-operation</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Please provide further information on what the main impact of the CSF has been.

15. Do you think the CSF has had any negative impacts? Yes No

If **Yes** please explain:

16. Have you any further comments to make on the CSF?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME

Please return to Gerard Colgan, NISRA, in the freepost envelope provided.

If you have any questions about this survey or require anything else please contact

Gerard Colgan
Statistician
McAuley House,
Belfast
BT1 1SA
Tel – 028 90 348123
Fax – 028 90 348126
Email – gerard.colgan@dfpni.gov.uk

Alternatively, contact James Sampson at the same address on telephone number 028 90 348207 or email at james.sampson@dfpni.gov.uk

Annex 3

Item	Recommendations	Rationale
CSF Indicators		
1.a	a) Indicators should be specified in relation to CSF-OP Priority linkages for which an indicator does not presently exist	Coherence of indicators is not satisfactory. Too little info on what is happening at OP level.
1.b	b) The consistency of the Peace II jobs target from Measure-level to OP priority level needs to be addressed	
1.c	c) The lack of consistency in the Peace II contribution to the employment ,HRD and social inclusion indicators needs to be rectified. The problem is in the link from Measure to OP level	Significant inconsistencies iro Peace II contribution to CSF Employment , HRD and social inclusion priority. Originally developed in a ' <u>top- down</u> ' fashion, Mid-term stage presents an opportunity for a more '<u>bottom- up</u>' development of the CSF indicator set, better informed by the experience of delivery and implementation of the OPs.
1.d	d) The main gap on the Peace II side is the link from social; integration, social inclusion and reconciliation. In specifying a link from this Peace II Priority careful consideration should be given to the choice of ESF indicators to be used for this Peace II Priority. This needs to better reflect the mix of activities in this Peace II Priority than would be achieved from a mechanistic application of the standard 'progression' model that is presently used.	Coverage problem stems mainly from the Peace side. Less than half of the PII OP is represented in the CSF level indicators for addressing socio-economic development needs. Partly this is a question of the absence of indicator linkages from P II priorities to the CSF priorities. But linkages are also missing on BSP side. (3.210)

Item	Recommendations	Rationale
Sui Generis Priority Indicators		
2	Further work to better develop the Sui Generis indicators and to better link from outputs to results through to impacts	This reinforces the recommendation made in PWC MTE that an evaluation plan should be prepared for the Peace II OP -To re-assess the socio-economic indicators that are to be linked back to the Peace II specific objectives. Greater clarity needed in relation to the model for the quantifying the legacy and opportunity objectives. Need to take account of overlaps that exist between different categories in the targeting framework and the fact that projects generally seek to meet both of the specific objectives (3.181)

Item	Recommendations	Rationale
Horizontal Principles		
3.a	a) The implementation of Development Path Analysis within the CSF should be reviewed with a view to ensuring that an appropriate level of capacity exists within IBs to meet the requirements for environmental monitoring.	DPA assessments coverage remains too low needs to be improved. Further training to enable IBs to undertake assessments. Very high incidence (66%) of zero score may reflect some lack of capacity across the CSF. (Is this because environmental effects are not being identified or is it a true reflection of the environment principle in CSF)
3.b	b) That a formal update of the CSF EQIA should be undertaken	EO monitoring still at an early stage. The longer the programmes progresses without assessment of the equality impact the less time there will be to address this issue before Closure. IBs now in a better position to reflect on potential effects from their measures.
3.c	c) That a stock-take exercise be undertaken to better identify the nature and scale of the issue within the CSF with a view to informing the ongoing considerations of the NI Taskforce on resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector	Sustainability remains a challenge for a large proportion of projects in the CSF particularly Peace II which ends 2004. A clear need for a more urgent and proactive consideration of the issue of sustainability of projects and groups

Item	Recommendations	Rationale
Implementing Provisions		
4.a	a) That a programme be put in place to manage turnover within the MC so as to minimise impact on WGs and MC – training and development of new members (Social Partners) to bring them up to speed asap	CSFMC meets the requirement for a wide association of partners but struggles to be an effective partnership. Downward trend in attendance esp in Local Government Sector. -need to keep them fully engaged. Level of turnover has effected the effective functioning of WGs
4.b	b) The mapping from the OPs to the CSF used in MTE should be adopted for reporting progress to the MC	To enhance the role of the MC in taking an overview of all SFs and
4.c	c) OP progress reports should adopt this format in respect of approvals, payments, outputs and results	to ensure meetings are coherently and consistently focused on the CSF aims and objectives.
4.d	d) That each Working Group develop a work plan with specific objectives and time bounded outputs with support from MA	There has been relatively little in the way of output from the WGs – partly due to member turnover and geographic distribution of members has made attendance a problem

Item	Recommendations	Rationale
Common Chapter and North/South Linkages		
5.a	<p>a) Joint Action plan should be prepared by the Authorities. It should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify roles and responsibilities with respect to Common Chapter, • Discuss with the N/S IBs which are still in operation, • Identify thematic areas that exist within BSP and where cooperation is of mutual benefit e.g. Infrastructure developments within the context of the two spatial strategies that currently exist within the island of Ireland as well as R&TD where collaboration opportunities may exist. 	<p>Implementation has lost impetus with the suspension of NSMC. Significant political dimension to this problem. - N/S Authorities to agree way forward. Only PII allocation links to physical outputs and results for the CSF Priority.</p>
	<p>Address the absence in the BSP Programme Complement of any envisaged N/S linkages in the BSP Priorities for agriculture, rural development, forestry and fisheries and the environment. Common Chapter clearly envisaged a contribution from these areas.</p>	<p>The real issue is to provide a strategic framework within which N/S linkages can be identified and built in to projects in such a way that there is a distinctive contribution to the Common chapter. – An identifiable level of co-operation between N/S that makes a difference to the overall impact and effectiveness of a project.</p>

Item	Recommendations	Rationale
Database and Programme Closure		
6.a	<p>That the managing Authority should examine the utility of the database in meeting closure requirements sooner than later.</p>	<p>Closure of last round of SF was drawn – out and painfully slow. Database – potential help so long as IBs ensure that it is kept up to date with accurate and reliable information</p>

Annex 4

Mapping post-Mid-term Review and PEACE II extension to 2006

NI CSF Priorities



BSP Priorities

Priority	Measure	Fund
Priority 1 Sub Priority 1A	1.1 - 1.5	ERDF

Priority	Measure	Fund
2	2.1 - 2.4 & 2.6 - 2.8	ESF
2	2.5	ERDF
3	3.2 - 3.4	ERDF

Priority	Measure	Fund
Priority 1 Sub Priority 1B	1.6 - 1.8	ERDF
3	3.1	ERDF
4	4.1 - 4.12	EAGGF
4	4.13	FIFG
5	All	ERDF

Sui generis Peace Priority

1. Economic Growth & Renewal
ERDF
€309.357m

2. Employment, HRD & Social Inclusion
ERDF & ESF
€543.770m

3. Balanced Regional, Urban & Rural Development
ERDF, EAGGF & FIFG
€422.790m

4. North-South & Wider Co-operation
ERDF, ESF, EAGGF & FIFG
€72.760m



Peace II Priorities

Priority	Measure	Fund
1	1.1A - 1.1C, 1.2, 1.8 & 1.1(ext.)	ERDF

Priority	Measure	Fund
1	1.3 - 1.5	ESF
2	2.1 & 2.6 - 2.8	ERDF
2	2.2 - 2.5	ESF
3	3.2	ESF

Priority	Measure	Fund
1	1.1D, 1.11(ext.)	ERDF
1	1.6, 1.7, 1.9 & 1.10	EAGGF
2	2.9 - 2.10	EAGGF
2	2.11	ERDF
3	3.1	ERDF

Priority	Measure	Fund
4	All	ERDF, ESF, EAGGF & FIFG
5	All	ERDF, ESF, EAGGF & FIFG

Annex 5

Priority 1: Economic Renewal

Measure Description	Number of Projects reported on	Total number of Projects	% of projects reported on
1.1A Business Competitiveness and Development - Economic Revitalisation	38	40	95
1.1B Business Competitiveness and Development - Trade Development	3	3	100
1.1C Business Competitiveness and Development - Financial Engineering	2	2	100
1.1D Business Competitiveness and Development - Business Competitiveness	10	10	100
1.1E Business Competitiveness and Development in the Border Region	0	0	0
1.2A Sustainable Tourism Development based on shared natural and cultural resources (NI) - Water Based Tourism	63	64	98
1.2B Sustainable Tourism Development based on shared natural and cultural resources (NI) -Natural Resource Rural Tourism-	263	328	80
1.3 New Skills and New Opportunities	162	173	94
1.4 Promoting Entrepreneurship	0	1	0
1.5 Positive Action for Women	154	161	96
1.6 Training for Farmers (NI)	205	215	95
1.7A Diversification of Agricultural Activities and Activities close to Agriculture to provide Multiple Activities or Alternative Incomes (NI) - Obtaining Alternative employment	10	10	100
1.7B Diversification of Agricultural Activities and Activities close to Agriculture to provide Multiple Activities or Alternative Incomes (NI) - Part-Time Employment	1	1	100
1.8A Technology Support for the Knowledge-based Economy (NI) - Innovative Technology and Networking	18	20	90
1.8B Technology Support for the Knowledge-based Economy (NI) - Information Age	35	35	100
1.9 Investment in Agricultural Holdings (NI)	57	60	95
1.10A Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Population (NI) - Retail Services	79	84	94
1.10B Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Population (NI) - ICT	19	20	95
6.21 Total	1,119	1,227	91

Source: CSF Central Database

Priority 2: Social Integration, Inclusion & Reconciliation

Measure Description	Number of Projects reported on	Total number of Projects	% of projects reported on
2.1 Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace	75	79	95
2.2 Developing Children and Young People	125	145	86

2.3 Skilling and Building the Social Economy (NI)	41	41	100
2.4A Pathways to Inclusion, Integration and Reconciliation of Victims - Pathways to Inclusion	55	56	98
2.4B Pathways to Inclusion, Integration and Reconciliation of Victims - Integration and Reconciliation of Victims	48	54	89
2.4C Pathways to Inclusion, Integration and Reconciliation of Victims - of Target Groups in the Border Region	0	0	0
2.5 Investing in Childcare	194	277	70
2.6 Promoting Active Citizenship	41	44	93
2.7 Developing Weak Community Infrastructure	42	89	47
2.8 Accompanying Infrastructure and Equipment Support	84	402	21
2.9A Renovation and Development of Villages and Protection and Conservation of the Rural Heritage (NI) - Single Identity	114	115	99
2.9B Renovation and Development of Villages and Protection and Conservation of the Rural Heritage (NI) - Village Pride	26	27	96
2.10 Encouragement for Tourist and Craft Activities (NI) - Local Identity Culture and Heritage	28	29	97
2.11 Area-based Regeneration - Belfast, Londonderry and Regional Towns (NI)	155	202	77
6.22 Total	1,028	1,560	66

Source: CSF Central Database

Priority 3: Locally-based Regeneration & Development Strategies

Measure Description	Number of Projects reported on	Total number of Projects	% of projects reported on
3.1 Local Economic Initiatives for Developing the Social Economy (NI)	620	729	85
3.2 Locally-based Human Resource, Training and Development Strategies (NI)	502	595	84
3.3 Building Better Communities (Border Region)	0	0	0
3.4 Improving our Rural Communities (Border Region)	0	0	0
6.23 Total	1,122	1,324	85

Source: CSF Central Database

Priority 4: Outward and Forward Looking Region

Measure Description	Number of Projects reported on	Total number of Projects	% of projects reported on
4.1 Outward and Forward Looking Region	19	19	100
4.2A Outward and Forward Looking Tourism - Marketing the Region as a Tourism Destination	0	35	0
4.2B Outward and Forward Looking Tourism - Enhancing the Region as a Tourism Destination	71	102	70
6.24 Total	90	156	58

Source: CSF Central Database

Priority 5: Cross Border Co-operation

Measure Description	Number of Projects reported on	Total number of Projects	% of projects reported on
5.1 Increasing Cross-border Development Opportunities	82	82	100
5.2 Improving Cross-border Public Sector Co-operation	34	36	94
5.3 Developing Cross-border Reconciliation and Understanding	37	38	97
5.4 Promoting Joint Approaches to Social, Education, Training and Human Resource Development	39	41	95
5.5 Education, Cross-border School and Youth Co-operation	7	7	100
5.6A Agriculture and Rural Development Co-operation - Cross-border Community Development	52	53	98
5.6B Agriculture and Rural Development Co-operation - Cross-border Diversification	0	1	0
5.7 Cross-border Fishing and Aquacultural Co-operation	1	1	100
6.25 Total	252	259	97

Source: CSF Central Database

Annex 6

Groups	Northern Ireland	
	% of projects	% value
Victims of conflict	36	31
Ex-prisoners and their families	22	24
Displaced persons	22	26
Young people, women and older workers	70	70
Former members of the security and ancillary services	13	13
Other groups/communities	37	26
Base	3,611	£372,328,017

Source: CSF Central Database

Sectors	Northern Ireland	
	% of projects	% of value
Tourism	24	18
Entrepreneurship including ICT and business services	31	44
The Arts and Sport	24	14
Other sectors	34	32
Base	3,611	£372,328,017

Source: CSF Central Database

Areas	Northern Ireland	
	% of projects	% of value
Disadvantaged area(s) experiencing or which have experienced relatively high levels of violence	69	67
Area(s) such as sectarian interfaces where inter-community conflict and dispute is high and community relations are correspondingly poor	44	48
Disadvantaged area(s) whose image and attractiveness as an investment location has been adversely affected by local violence or community tension	58	54
Area(s) suffering the effects of physical dereliction (including damaged infrastructure) as a consequence of the conflict	39	41
Area(s) isolated by border closures	18	23
Area(s) with high concentrations of displaced persons as a result of the Troubles	27	28
Area(s) where social and economic development has been inhibited by the conflict	74	62
Other area(s)	18	12
Base	3,611	£372,328,017

Source: CSF Central Database

Annex 7

Groups	% of projects	% value
Victims of conflict	38	28
Ex-prisoners and their families	24	22
Displaced persons	25	47
Young people, women and older workers	64	75
Former members of the security and ancillary services	20	14
Other groups/communities	37	26
Base	860	£66,721,927

Source: CSF Central Database

Areas	% of projects	% of value
Disadvantaged area(s) experiencing or which have experienced relatively high levels of violence	70	85
Area(s) such as sectarian interfaces where inter-community conflict and dispute is high and community relations are correspondingly poor	39	60
Disadvantaged area(s) whose image and attractiveness as an investment location has been adversely affected by local violence or community tension	68	85
Area(s) suffering the effects of physical dereliction (including damaged infrastructure) as a consequence of the conflict	49	65
Area(s) isolated by border closures	28	34
Area(s) with high concentrations of displaced persons as a result of the Troubles	29	49
Area(s) where social and economic development has been inhibited by the conflict	82	86
Other area(s)	9	5
Base	860	£66,721,927

Source: CSF Central Database

ENTREPRENEURSHIP INCLUDING ICT AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR

Groups	% of projects	% value
Victims of conflict	42	39
Ex-prisoners and their families	25	32
Displaced persons	29	43
Young people, women and older workers	69	75
Former members of the security and ancillary services	16	21
Other groups/communities	31	21
Base	1,127	£164,710,854

Source: CSF Central Database

Areas	% of projects	% of value
Disadvantaged area(s) experiencing or which have experienced relatively high levels of violence	68	72
Area(s) such as sectarian interfaces where inter-community conflict and dispute is high and community relations are correspondingly poor	47	54
Disadvantaged area(s) whose image and attractiveness as an investment location has been adversely affected by local violence or community tension	64	69
Area(s) suffering the effects of physical dereliction (including damaged infrastructure) as a consequence of the conflict	45	57
Area(s) isolated by border closures	21	32
Area(s) with high concentrations of displaced persons as a result of the Troubles	31	43
Area(s) where social and economic development has been inhibited by the conflict	80	77
Other area(s)	14	12
Base	1,127	£164,710,854

Source: CSF Central Database

ARTS AND SPORT SECTOR

Groups	% of projects	% value
Victims of conflict	38	37
Ex-prisoners and their families	25	29
Displaced persons	27	34
Young people, women and older workers	77	81
Former members of the security and ancillary services	20	21
Other groups/communities	27	25
Base	850	£51,577,794

Source: CSF Central Database

Areas	% of projects	% of value
Disadvantaged area(s) experiencing or which have experienced relatively high levels of violence	72	79
Area(s) such as sectarian interfaces where inter-community conflict and dispute is high and community relations are correspondingly poor	46	53
Disadvantaged area(s) whose image and attractiveness as an investment location has been adversely affected by local violence or community tension	67	74
Area(s) suffering the effects of physical dereliction (including damaged infrastructure) as a consequence of the conflict	49	57
Area(s) isolated by border closures	21	27
Area(s) with high concentrations of displaced persons as a result of the Troubles	34	37
Area(s) where social and economic development has been inhibited by the conflict	78	75
Other area(s)	10	8
Base	850	£51,577,794

Source: CSF Central Database

OTHER SECTOR (S)

Groups	% of projects	% value
Victims of conflict	37	28
Ex-prisoners and their families	22	18
Displaced persons	23	18
Young people, women and older workers	71	64
Former members of the security and ancillary services	16	9
Other groups/communities	63	42
Base	1,216	£119,673,428

Source: CSF Central Database

Areas	% of projects	% of value
Disadvantaged area(s) experiencing or which have experienced relatively high levels of violence	71	70
Area(s) such as sectarian interfaces where inter-community conflict and dispute is high and community relations are correspondingly poor	42	46
Disadvantaged area(s) whose image and attractiveness as an investment location has been adversely affected by local violence or community tension	62	51
Area(s) suffering the effects of physical dereliction (including damaged infrastructure) as a consequence of the conflict	40	31
Area(s) isolated by border closures	18	20
Area(s) with high concentrations of displaced persons as a result of the Troubles	29	22
Area(s) where social and economic development has been inhibited by the conflict	77	53
Other area(s)	39	21
Base	1,216	£119,673,428

Source: CSF Central Database