



**Building
Sustainable
Prosperity**



Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity

Programme Complement

December 2008

EU Structural Funds
2000-2006

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CHAPTER 1 RATIONALE FOR THE PROGRAMME

1.1 RATIONALE

Northern Ireland faces unique opportunities and challenges over the period 2000-2006. The European Union has shown its commitment to helping Northern Ireland to meet those challenges which involve making significant transitions in the economic, social and political fields.

The European Council, meeting in Berlin in March 1999, decided that for the period 2000-2006 Northern Ireland would receive support as an Objective 1 in Transition Region and, further, that the PEACE Programme for Northern Ireland and the Border Region would be continued over the period 2000-2004. The Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity (BSP) and the PEACE II Programme will operate together under the authority of the Northern Ireland Community Support Framework. Further Structural Funds support will also be available to Northern Ireland under the Community Initiatives: INTERREG III, LEADER+, URBAN II and EQUAL Programmes.

The Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity accounts for approximately two-thirds of the total Structural Funds resources committed to the CSF. This amounts to 890 meuro. As a Transitional Objective 1 Programme funding under the BSP Programme follows a digressive profile, that is, most funding is available in the early years of the Programme but declines steadily over the life of the Programme. The intention of this arrangement is to avoid the disruptive effects of an abrupt cessation of funding.

While funding is made available to the Programme from the 4 Structural Funds, as follows:-

ESF: European Social Fund

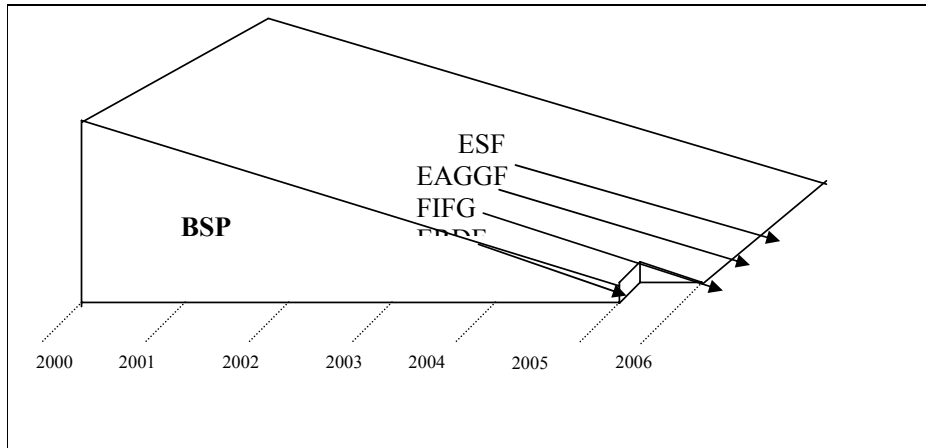
EAGGF: European Agricultural and Guidance and Guarantee Fund

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FIFG: Financial Instruments for Fisheries Guidance

ERDF: European Regional Development Fund

Diagram 1



1.2 REQUIREMENT FOR A PROGRAMME COMPLEMENT

The EU Structural Fund Regulations for 2000-2006 give rise to a wide range of changes in the way that Operational Programmes are prepared, implemented and funded as compared with the 1994-1999 period. Amongst the more significant of these changes is the requirement to produce a Programme Complement in addition to the Operational Programme. This Programme Complement has been prepared by the Department of Finance and Personnel as Managing Authority for the Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity in accordance with Article 15(6) and 18(3) of EC Council Regulation 1260/1999 laying down general provisions on EU Structural Funds.

1.3 STATUS

The Programme Complement is a planning and a working tool approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee.

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It is not a substitute for the Programme document but a further elaboration of the means by which it will be implemented. In the case of any doubt about interpretation, the provisions of the Programme take precedence.

1.4 CONTENTS

Regulation 1260/1999 requires that the Programme Complement shall contain:-

- The Measures implementing the corresponding priorities in the Operational Programme;
- Ex-ante evaluation of quantified Measures, where they lend themselves to quantification;
- The relevant monitoring indicators
- The definition of the types of final beneficiary of Measures;
- Designation, as appropriate, of Implementing Body, Managing Authority and Paying Authority;
- The financing plan specifying for each Measure, the financial allocation and a description of the arrangements for providing the co-financing of Measures.
- Measures intended to publicise the Operational Programme in accordance with Article 46;
- arrangements between the Commission and the Member State concerned for the computerised exchange, where possible, of the data (Article 18.3).

In addition details of the application of the Horizontal Principles which set the ethos for the Programme are included

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1.5 APPROVAL AND AMENDMENT

In accordance with Article 15.6 of Regulation No 1260/1999 the Monitoring Committee agreed the Programme Complement at its meeting held on 14 June 2001 and it has been adopted by Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) as Managing Authority and on behalf of the Member State.

DFP may at the request of the Monitoring Committee or on its own initiative adjust the Programme Complement provided that the total contribution from the funds granted to any Priority and its specific targets remains unchanged. Such adjustments require the approval of the Monitoring Committee

1.6 EX-ANTE EVALUATION

During 1999 a full and independent ex-ante evaluation was carried out to identify the strengths and weaknesses of Northern Ireland as a region and its sources of potential growth and development.

The ex-ante evaluation compared current levels and trends in key indicators in relation to Northern Ireland with those for the UK as a whole, for Ireland, where appropriate, and with EU 15 results. This revealed that Northern Ireland, relative to the UK average, experiences:-

- a lower level of GDP/head of population;
- a lower level of Gross Value Added per employee in manufacturing;
- a lower rate of employment, and a higher rate of unemployment, particularly long-term unemployment;
- lower rates of economic activity;
- lower levels of average earnings and of household income; and
- a higher degree of dependence on social security benefits.

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The economic impacts of the Troubles in Northern Ireland were analysed and revealed that increased expenditure took place on security and prison services as well as on Measures such as health, education and housing intended to ameliorate community divisions. While this additional public expenditure helped to sustain household incomes, it did not contribute to developing the economy's capacity for self-sustaining growth. The diversion of funds to social and security expenditure and away from public investment in areas such as economic infrastructure further undermined the development of the Supply-side of the regional economy

These effects, the very low level of development of the tourism industry, community divisions, degraded urban environments and a sense of political instability leading to a lack of business confidence have all created a context inimical to economic development.

The Troubles have produced additional employment in the police and security sectors and in other public sector occupations. However, these non-market related jobs are ultimately unsustainable and the diversion of human resources into these sectors has reduced the economy's productive potential. Community conflict has also fostered labour market inflexibility and made it more difficult to match job opportunities and job seekers, a factor which contributes to the very high rates of unemployment in particular communities.

This analysis and the opportunity identified for the Development of Northern Ireland (summarised on Table 1.1) led, following the extensive consultation to the development of the Northern Ireland Structural Funds Plan. Following negotiations with the Commission these determined the Priorities for the Community Support Framework and the two Operational Programmes PEACE II and BSP.

The Measures set out in Chapter 8 of the Programme Complement are intended to address specific difficulties or opportunities identified in the ex-ante evaluation and this link is explained in the Rationale to each Measure.

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TABLE 1.1

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>The regional workforce is set to increase at a time when, elsewhere in the EU, the workforce numbers are declining. Many potential new entrants to the Northern Ireland labour market are well-educated school leavers and graduates. Regional economic activity could therefore increase at a time when it is in decline in many other regions.</p> <p>Production costs in the region are relatively low.</p> <p>Recent investments, many EU-funded, have enhanced the regional infrastructure.</p> <p>The region is characterised by a rich and attractive environmental heritage.</p>	<p>The regional economy is over-reliant on low value-adding and declining sectors.</p> <p>A relatively large agriculture sector with a high dependence on CAP supported commodities and vulnerable to exchange rate changes.</p> <p>Regional businesses are typically small with little tendency to innovate. Business formation rates are relatively low, as is investment in human resource development or RTDI.</p> <p>High industrial and domestic energy costs.</p> <p>A significant proportion of the regional workforce is unqualified or poorly qualified and labour mobility is limited.</p> <p>Relatively high long term unemployment and economic inactivity.</p> <p>A lack of internal social and economic cohesion with marked sub-regional disparities in terms of relative deprivation.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Economic and other opportunities from stability arising from the peace process e.g. To attract more inward investment and to develop a larger, more innovative and more outward-focused private sector.</p> <p>Opportunities relating to Information Communications Technology (ICTs).</p> <p>Opportunities arising from continued economic growth in Ireland.</p> <p>Opportunities for economic growth based on capacity recently built up at community level.</p>	<p>A return to violent community conflict thus affecting political stability is possible.</p> <p>The need to meet the employment needs of a growing workforce.</p> <p>Increased competition from Eastern Europe coupled with declining EU receipts.</p> <p>The region's relatively peripheral position within the EU.</p> <p>Threats to the regional environment arising from increased economic growth and population pressures.</p>

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1.7 EX ANTE EVALUATION OF PROGRAMME COMPLEMENT

Article 41(3) of the Regulation requires an Ex Ante Evaluation of Programme Complement measures which assesses the coherence of the measures and sub-measures as presented in the Programme Complement with the Priorities as outlined in the Operational Programme, as well as the appropriateness of the quantification which has been undertaken.

Accordingly, an Economic Consultant and Statisticians who were involved in providing the initial Ex Ante Evaluation of the Northern Ireland Structural Funds Plan, have examined the current Programme Complement. In particular, they assessed

- the consistency between the rationale, objectives and measures set out in the Complement and the rationale and objectives in the Programme Document;
- the degree to which the Project Selection criteria are consistent with the Operational Programme objectives; and
- the validity and appropriateness of the quantified objectives/indicators.

The detailed results of the ex-ante assessment are included in Annex E. The general conclusions are detailed below.

“With such a wide array of measures and projects, there are obvious difficulties in drawing general conclusions. However, a number of key themes have emerged. The issues are considered below under the three categories used in the detailed assessment”.

1.7.1 Consistency

Almost without exception the Programme Complement (PC) shows “vertical” coherence with the Operational Programme (OP) and thus the original CSF Ex Ante Appraisal. The PC tends to use very similar text as

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the OP in discussing rationale and objectives. The measures in the OP and PC are generally identical.

Because the OP has been subject to a process which has ensured “horizontal” coherence, this is generally transmitted to the Programme Complement. It follows that the PC is horizontally coherent. The exceptions to this are minor. In some of the measures under the Agriculture and Rural Priority the PC has listed such a wide variety of possible projects that coherence has been potentially reduced.

1.7.2 Selection Criteria

The degree to which appropriate and testing selection criteria have been specified is variable. In the Employment Priority the criteria are somewhat formulaic, although this is perhaps driven by the assessment criteria specified at the national and European level. Some measures rely on “good practice” criteria of a somewhat general nature. However, there are examples of well specified criteria which are noted in the detailed assessment.

1.7.3 Quantified Objectives/Indicators

Specification and quantification of indicators is variable. Generalisation is difficult because of variation within measures. In **most** cases the objectives and indicators are appropriately quantified and specified but there are exceptions. Whilst the indicators are generally appropriate for the Programme and are related to the measure objectives, they could benefit from further detail and specification.”

In view of the comments on quantification the ex-ante evaluators recommended that a more detailed assessment of indicators and targets covering the scope for baseline analysis and profiling should be carried out for the benefit of the Monitoring Committee and should bring forward recommendations for any amendments to the quantification of objectives that might be appropriate.

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1.7.4 Amendment of the Programme Complement

At the Monitoring Committee meeting on 25 May 2004 Members agreed the Performance Reserve allocations and revised Measures allocations in Priorities 1 and 2. These amendments have been included in this version of the Programme Complement.

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CHAPTER 2 HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

The Community Support Framework (CSF) established a group of 9 Horizontal Principles which are intended to set guidelines for all who are engaged in the implementation of the CSF and for the two Operational Programmes which are set within its strategic context viz:- PEACE II and Building Sustainable prosperity. Together these Principles set the ethos for each Programme.

The Horizontal Principles 'are embedded in and delivered through the 5 main Priorities of the Programme. They may be divided into two main groups, the first, which affect in general the way the overall management of the Programme is conducted, and the second which are given effect primarily through the criteria by which projects are selected for support under the Programme.

2.1 PRINCIPLES NOT PRIMARILY INVOLVING PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

Accountability – concerns the safeguarding of public funds. Arrangements for its proper management and control are described in Chapter 12 (Management and Implementing Provisions) of the Programme.

Partnership – in this context is addressed to the composition of Monitoring Committees established to oversee the implementation of the Programme and requires that the Monitoring Committee shall comprise a wide and effective association of regional, local and other public authorities, the economic and social partners and other relevant competent bodies. This principle has been adopted and is demonstrated in paragraph 12.3.1 of the Programme.

Co-ordination – requires that mechanisms be put in place to ensure the complementarity of application of private and public funds and that a consistent approach be adopted to project appraisal and reporting.

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The mechanics for such co-ordination are as follows:-

- **Structural Funds Manual**

A Structural Funds Manual has been devised in accordance with paragraph 12.4.2 of the programme. This will encourage a consistency of approach to the selection and appraisal of projects. The manual is available by visiting www.europe-dfpni.gov.uk/documents/download.htm

- **One-Stop-Shop Application Process**

This is intended as a mechanism to ensure co-ordination across all EU Programmes with a common Website and single point of entry to the application process. Information common to all Programmes will be elicited from applicants from which they will be signposted to the appropriate source of funding. This will be an aid to applicants while reducing the scope for duplication among Programmes. This applications Website is accessible by visiting www.eugrants.org . There is also a fully paper-based option available to facilitate those applicants who have no access to the Internet.

- **The CSF Monitoring Committee**

The CSF Monitoring Committee is charged with supervising both the PEACE II and Building Sustainable Prosperity Operational Programmes, and of reporting on the Community Initiatives at the mid-term review. A Co-ordination Steering Group will be established under the auspices of the CSF Monitoring Committee which will promote co-ordination across these interventions (paragraph 12.3.4 of the Programme refers). The CSF itself represents in a number of its Monitoring indicators the aggregation of targets set out in the two Operational Programmes; and the Horizontal Principles are the same for the CSF as for the two Operational Programmes but set out in more detail in these two documents. The Monitoring Committee reviews reports generated

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by the two Monitoring Committees and is in a position to identify inconsistencies and discrepancies and can by recommendation promote coherence. It has representation in the chairs of both the Building Sustainable Prosperity Committee and PEACE II Committee participating in decision making with the Commission, IFI and Departments as advisors.

○ **Working Groups**

Each of the 3 Monitoring Committees have created Working Groups on particular aspects of their responsibilities. Working Groups are a mechanism which enable Monitoring Committees to bring clearer focus to the issues they have to address. At the time of writing Members of the BSP Monitoring Committee lead, or play an active part in or expect to contribute to a total of 7 Working Groups. Two of these operate on a cross-committee basis and are both chaired by members of the BSP Committee. The Working Groups are:-

- Mainstreaming Equality (**Cross-Committee**)
- Communications and Information (**Cross-Committee**)
- Finance (**BSP**)

The main function of Working Groups is to support Monitoring Committees with specialist advice. They also contribute to the overall monitoring and co-ordination of Operational Programmes and planning the actions arising from review of those Programmes

General Principles

The Monitoring Committees have agreed a number of general principles for Working Groups and in each case:-

- the Chair must be a member of a Monitoring Committee (this provides authority and preserves lines of responsibility);

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- Terms of Reference have to be drawn up and approved by the CSF (except that approval from all 3 Monitoring Committees is required in the case of Cross-Committee Working Groups);
 - a Work Programme and associated budget will be drawn up (to be funded from Technical Assistance) and agreed by the parent Monitoring Committee(s);
 - within the agreed budget relevant research and evaluation may be commissioned;
 - meetings will be held as often as required and at least once each calendar year;
 - Monitoring Committee(s) will receive regular reports and not less than once each calendar year;
 - Membership is subject to approval of the parent Monitoring Committee(s) and ideally Working Groups should include representatives of all 3 Monitoring Committees and, otherwise draw in any necessary wider expertise.
- **Oversight of Performance and Monitoring Indicators**

Each of the Programmes contains a range of performance and monitoring indicators, which share similar features. These could be used as a source of co-ordination and cross-reference between the various Programmes.

Locally-based Decision-making – demands that bodies selected as delivery mechanisms be those best placed by virtue of their scale, expertise or nature of their activities to best deliver the objectives of the Programme. Each Measure Sheet provides information on the delivery mechanisms selected for each Measure as most suited to fulfilling their obligation.

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2.2 PRINCIPLES PRIMARILY INVOLVING PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

2.2.1 Economic and Social Sustainability

This Principle requires that each project must by the end of the programming period have developed an appropriate exit strategy. That is they will have: -

- completed the task for which they have been funded;
- become self sufficient; or
- Identified alternative sources of funding.

Preference will be given to projects, which have identified an exit strategy in accordance with the bull points above.

2.2.2 New Targeting Social Need

New TSN involves the particular targeting of resources and efforts on people groups and areas objectively shown to be socially disadvantaged. Within the various Priorities contained in the Programme, this issue will be addressed in different ways according to the nature of the Measure in question. Thus those Measures addressing the unemployment/employability dimension of New TSN, as in Priorities 1, 2 and 4 will target individuals on the basis of their socio-economic status. In other instances actions may be targeted on an area/community basis, as is particularly demonstrated in Priority 3.

Consequently projects will be chosen which best address the particular dimension of New TSN identifiable with each Measure. Further, where possible, preference will be given to projects from disadvantaged areas and communities.

2.2.3 Environmental Sustainability

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Extensive details of this principle are shown in Chapters 3 and 10 and Annex 10 of the Programme. The objective of this horizontal principle is to focus on activities which protect and enhance the region's environment or which have a 'neutral' environmental impact. Where some adverse environmental impact is inevitable, this should be minimized.

A 'neutral' environmental impact may imply that the activity will have no significant impact on the environment either positive or negative. Alternatively, it may mean that any negative impacts are balanced by beneficial effects.

Where aspects of a project include activities, which may have a negative impact on the environment this will be stated. Where significant negative impacts are anticipated, a full environmental Impact Assessment, including an analysis of mitigation measures, will be required.

All projects must: -

- comply with the standards laid out in the environmental legislation;
- have secured all necessary environmental approvals prior to the final offer of funds; and
- have been the subject of a positive Environmental Impact Assessment, where appropriate

Annex D illustrates the questions to be addressed by project applicants

Monitoring and Evaluation

Structural Funds Programmes cannot, in themselves, transform the environmental profile of an entire region. However, in promoting sustainable activities, they can exert a positive influence on the regional environment and provide an example of the sustainable development model. It is intended that this Programme will have a positive environmental impact and that this will be monitored primarily by reviewing

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activities carried out under the Programme itself rather than changes in the regional environment over the life of the Programme. The regional environment will be monitored primarily so as to show the context in which the programme is operating.

The mainstreaming of environmental sustainability will be monitored over the life of this Programme using a guide suggested by DG Regional Policy in its working papers on the monitoring and evaluation of Structural Funds Programmes¹. The guide sets out a number of monitoring and evaluation techniques developed as part of DG Regional Policy's thematic evaluation of the environmental impact of the 1994-1999 round of Structural Funds support. Two of these techniques – Development Path Analysis (DPA) and Key Environmental Criteria are set out in **Annex B** to this document.

2.3 BALANCED INTERVENTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Details of this principle are set out on Chapter 10 of the Programme. All projects selected for support must comply with the requirements of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Preference will be given to those projects that can demonstrate a positive effect of the promotion of equality of the groups indicated under section 75. In order to plan for and assist with this, a range of activities were undertaken.

- Equality Impact Assessment

Firstly an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been conducted on the Building Sustainable Prosperity programme. The process for this followed the Equality Commission's guidance contained in the booklet "Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment" and involved a 7-stage process viz: -

1. Consideration of Available Data and Research.
2. Assessment of Impacts.

¹ Environment and Sustainable Development: a guide for the ex-ante evaluation of the environmental impact of regional development programmes, Evaluation Documents 6, DG Regional Policy, May 1999.

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3. Consideration of: -
 - measures which might mitigate any adverse impact;
 - alternative policies, which might better, achieve the equality of opportunity.
4. Formal Consultation.
5. Decision by Public Authority.
6. Publication of Results.
7. Monitoring for Adverse Impact in the Future and Publication of the Results of such Monitoring.

Government Departments were asked to answer the key questions drawn from the Equality Commission Guidance particularly on the first 3 stages above. A draft Equality Impact Assessment is accessible by visiting the DFP website www.europe-dfpni.gov.uk/documents_download.htm. In addition, a Conference was also held involving 107 participants, and formal written comments were requested from 650 consultees. Some 40 pages of written responses were received which contain over 100 comments.

Adjustments to the Programme Complement have been made to reflect the outcome of the EQIA and are reflected inter alia in: -

▪ **Amendments to Measures**

See for example Measure1.3B, which now includes the requirement that all projects supported must meet the requests of Category 1 of the National Accessibility Scheme.

▪ **The prominence given to Publicity measures**

This will ensure section 75 groupings are made aware of the existence of the Structural Funds.

(SEE PUBLICITY/TRANSPARENCY/PRINCIPLE)

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- **Gender Mainstreaming Strategy**

A strategy for mainstreaming gender equality in the European Structural Funds is being prepared by the Gender Policy Unit in the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister. This will be available shortly and provide not only guidance on gender equality but also provide a good model for other groupings.

- **Monitoring**

Mechanisms will be established for the gathering of section 75 monitoring data (including as between men and women) both in respect of project sponsors and the impact of activities supported. These will be reported through the Mainstreaming Equality Working Group, of the Monitoring Committee.

2.4 PUBLICITY/TRANSPARENCY

All bodies involved in the delivery of the Programme commit themselves to a high degree of transparency. Preference will be

accorded to those projects which articulate a strategy not only for the widespread publicity of the project including the link to EU intervention, but also for out reaching to people who belong to one or more of the section 75.

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CHAPTER 3 COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ACTION PLAN

3.1 BACKGROUND

The CSF Monitoring Committee developed a Communication and Information Strategy which encompasses both Operational Programmes; BSP and PEACE II, drawing upon Commission Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000 and Council Regulation (EC) 1260/1999.

In compliance with Article 18(3)(d), the Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP) European Division has developed a Communications and Information Action Plan to detail measures intended to publicise the BSP Operational Programme.

3.2 AIM

To promote a positive image of European Structural Fund Programmes in Northern Ireland.

3.3 COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES

- To promote funding opportunities offered by the European Union by providing clear information about the Programmes in Northern Ireland and the European Structural Funds, and by disseminating best practice.
- To aid transparency of the operation of the Programmes.

3.4 TARGET AUDIENCE

Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP) European Division's publicity and information measures will raise public awareness of the role played by the EU in cooperation with the Member States in the assistance concerned and its results. The measures will also provide transparency and inform the following groups of the opportunities offered by the EU Programmes: -

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- potential and final beneficiaries;
- general public;
- regional and local authorities and other competent public authorities;
- trade organisations and business circles;
- the economic and social partners;
- non-governmental organisations, especially bodies to promote equality between men and women and bodies working to protect and improve the environment and bodies working to promote equality of opportunity; and
- project operators and promoters.

3.5 KEY THEMES

In accordance with the CSF Information and Publicity Strategy, promotional themes will be adopted to help promote the objectives of EU support. These will be based inter alia on horizontal principles², which are applied across both the Programmes.

Such action will be undertaken in co-operation with that undertaken under PEACE II and the Community Initiatives, which are contained under the umbrella of the CSF. The Communication and Information Working Group (CIWG) and Monitoring Committees will seek to ensure consistency and co-ordination in communication among the bodies implementing the Programmes and will monitor the effectiveness of these actions. The consultation with regard to the Equality Impact Assessment under section 75 of the NI Act placed a strong emphasis on the quality and clarity of communication mechanisms for promoting equality of opportunity.

² CSF Horizontal Principles: Accountability; Balanced Intervention/equal opportunities; New Targeting Social Need; Economic and Social Sustainability; Partnership; Locally-based Decision Making; Publicity/Transparency; Co-ordination; Environmental Sustainability.

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3.6 PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION ACTIONS

Publicity and information activity will be targeted at individual sectors of the target audience, sectoral groupings or the entire audience. The nature of the message will determine the publicity and information measure and communication channel to be used to reach the audience.

According to the type of message and the target sector(s), one or a combination of actions will be used. If the message is intended for all sectors - e.g. announcement of amended Programme Complement – the action(s) will be global e.g. newsletter and press release. Alternatively, a specific message to a particular sector will require a specialised action e.g. workshop for those interested in a particular Fund.

3.7 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

In order to ensure compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, access to BSP information has been made available to all sectors of the Community e.g. disabled, ethnic minorities.

The Operational Programme –summary document, is available in the following languages and formats: -

- Urdu;
- Cantonese;
- Irish;
- Ulster Scots;
- Braille; and
- Audio.

All documents are available electronically and as hard copies. The above translations and formats are also available upon request, from the Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP) European Division.

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All implementing bodies will be encouraged to provide information in a common format across the two Programmes for example: -

- Contact point;
- Regularity of calls for projects;
- Indicative activities to be funded;
- Selection criteria;
- Timescale between application and selection;
- Electronic version of application forms; and
- Sources of information and advice.

3.8 WEBSITES

The rapid growth in Internet access for individuals, businesses and other organisations has confirmed the importance of a Web presence, as a tool for promoting an organisation's key messages and as a source of up-to-date information. The Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP) European Division has constructed a Website for the purpose of disseminating information relating to all EU Structural Funds support to Northern Ireland.

The European Division Website, www.europe-dfpni.gov.uk, was launched in November 2001 and has become the main communication tool. The Website contains a wealth of programme information including the following: -

- Both Operational Programmes and 4 Community Initiative Programming documents and Programme Complements;
- All published CSF and BSP related documents and reports e.g. Equality Impact Assessment, Annual Implementation Reports etc;
- Applications guidance;

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- Press releases;
- Open call for projects list;
- Publicity guidelines;
- The BSP, PEACE II and EU logos;
- All agreed Programme Monitoring Committee minutes; and
- Comprehensive list of relevant links, including key European sites.

The site is continually updated with the latest information about all European Structural Fund Programmes, latest developments and events.

The site strives to provide the widest possible accessibility both in terms of IT Internet browser software and accessibility to those with disabilities e.g. visual impairments, having sought advice and design techniques from the RNIB and Blind Centre for NI. All documents available to download are provided in accessible formats, with clear contact details for further information, including a mailbox facility to encourage feedback. The Website allows efficient and effective communication with the target audience as it is managed 'in-house' enabling a rapidly updated, latest information and documentation service.

DFP European Division recognises, however, that not all of the target audience will have access to the Internet and therefore provides information in other formats (e.g. hard copies of documents and logos on disc) to those without Web access.

A second Website has been constructed to facilitate the project application process. This is a customer friendly and efficient Internet/Web based interface with the applicant, backed up with the necessary help facilities for those unfamiliar with the Internet or with advice from Implementing Bodies. This applications Website is accessible by visiting www.eugrants.org. There is also a fully paper-based option available to facilitate those

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applicants who have no access to the Internet. The process inviting applications for support provides an opportunity for promoting awareness of EU support in general. The “one-stop-shop” process.

Both Websites contain hyperlinks to their respective sites.

3.9 RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

DFP as Managing Authority for BSP has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Communication and Information Action Plan and will carry out the central actions as detailed below. The NI Departments, as Implementing Bodies, will be responsible for the actual implementation of the Plan on the ground.

3.10 PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION MATERIAL

3.10.1 Newsletters

A newsletter will be used to inform the target audience of the latest Programme news; promote Programme events and other useful sources of information; and provide contact points for the interests of the target audience segments.

The newsletter will be published on a six-monthly basis. The format could include full colour A4 featuring photographs where possible. Articles would be sought from the European Commission and contributions welcomed from the wider partnership.

3.10.2 Programme Publications

A “Simple Guide” will be available for potential applicants and a wider public audience.

The Operational Programme Document summary has been published, providing a useful quick reference guide to the Programme, available in the languages and formats mentioned in section 7.

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Other publications will be used in consultation with Programme Implementing Bodies, in response to the needs of potential beneficiaries.

3.10.3 General Guidance and Information

Additional guidance and information will become available during the life of the Programme.

3.10.4 Poster Campaign

Posters provide a cost effective way for projects to promote the contribution from the European Union. This action has worked particularly well for ESF projects across Europe. A series of posters for all Funds will be designed for distribution.

3.10.5 Sticker Campaign

Stickers will be developed to help projects promote the contribution from Europe. Colour logos in 2 sizes will be printed on transparent stickers for projects to use on stationery, trainee application forms, certificates etc.

3.10.6 Events

A series of seminars, workshops and conferences should be held throughout the Programme period (2000-2006) by Implementing Bodies to both publicise the Programmes and enhance understanding of the new mechanisms for implementation. General publicity of events will also help raise the profile of BSP with the general public.

It will be necessary to ensure that events are held throughout Northern Ireland and that the audience are targeted carefully according to the nature of the event.

DFP European Division recognises the importance of the role, events like these can play in the process.

3.10.7 Press Campaign

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A press campaign is the main measure for targeting the general public. It is also an effective method of reaching potential beneficiaries and the business community/ private sector.

A dedicated Information Officer will co-ordinate a proactive media campaign that maximises ministerial visits, launches and photo opportunities. The Information Officer will assist Implementing Bodies to develop a press campaign including drafting and issuing press releases, placing features and editorial in targeted newspapers and journals, dealing with media enquiries and also arranging TV/radio interviews.

It is a requirement of EC Regulation (EC) No.1159/2000 that all projects display the European emblem and acknowledge the Fund involved at each appropriate opportunity. Publicity guidelines based on the new European Regulation are available on the website, including guidance for use of logos. Two versions of the BSP logo are available: -

- High resolution 300dpi version, in both .jpeg and .tiff file formats; and
- Low-resolution 300dpi version, in both .jpeg and .tiff file formats; downloadable from the Website.

A Publicity compact disc has been developed, containing both of the above logos and will shortly contain guidelines in the use of the logos and other publicity material.

Implementing Bodies must ensure the widest possible use of commemorative plaques. Furthermore, Implementing Bodies will insist projects use the European emblem on stationery, leaflets etc. DFP has made access to the emblem as easy as possible via the Website and upon request. For training type schemes, Implementing Bodies will insist project promoters ensure that beneficiaries are aware that they are participating in a project part-financed by the EU.

Collaboration with the Commission Representation in Northern Ireland and in Brussels will be sought for publicity and information measures as

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appropriate. Northern Ireland will be represented on the European Commission's informal Information and Publicity Working Group (Structural Funds Information Team (SFIT)).

3.11 INDICATIVE BUDGET

Most publicity measures are cross-Programme and cross-Fund. Therefore, the total budget includes ERDF/ESF/EAGGF/FIFG expenditure in the production of publicity and information material - newsletters, leaflets, posters, folders etc; events - seminars, workshops and conferences - including venue, catering, graphics and other supporting material; website development; photography; and press cutting evaluation. Press Office support will be provided 'in-house' by the Department of Finance and Personnel Information Officer and all Northern Ireland Departmental Press Offices.

Under Measure 6.1B, 468,333 euro has been set aside to fund Information and Publicity. This funding will be used for the actions contained in this Communication and Information Action Plan and will also contribute to the CSF Action Plan.

3.12 MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Programme Monitoring Committees (PMC) will consider the Annual Implementing Report which, in accordance with Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, must contain a section on information and publicity.

DFP European Division, as the managing authority, will provide the PMC with information on the quality and effectiveness of the publicity and information measures, supported by suitable evidence, such as photographs.

DFP European Division will also provide information for inclusion in the Programme Annual Report, in accordance with Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

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DFP European Division will inform the Commission about the implementation of this Plan at the annual meeting to verify that it is complying with Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000 on information and publicity measures.

3.12.1 Evaluation Criteria

The nature of publicity and information activity presents limitations in the measurement of effectiveness. Standard indicative measurements are both quantitative and qualitative.

Data will be collected regularly to facilitate compilation of the information and publicity section of the Annual Implementing Report to the PMC and for submission to the European Commission.

DFP European Division have commissioned a Baseline Study on the Public awareness of EU Funding which will form the basis of evaluating the success of publicity arrangements put in place by the Managing Authorities and Implementing Bodies.

The Mid Term Evaluation, to be carried out by an independent evaluator by 31 December 2003, will include a section on publicity and information. The results will provide an opportunity to review, and if appropriate increase the baseline targets, to ensure effective implementation of this Communication and Information Action Plan over the lifetime of the Programme.

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CHAPTER 4 THE PERFORMANCE RESERVE

Article 44 of the general Structural Funds Regulation makes provision for a 'Performance Reserve' and sets out the mechanisms for determining the distribution of that reserve.

The main features of that mechanism are: -

- by 31 December 2003, each Member State in close consultation with the Commission will assess the performance of the Operational Programme on the basis of a limited number of monitoring indicators;
- by 31 March 2004, the Commission in close consultation with the Member States concerned shall allocate the performance reserve to the OPs or SPDs, which are considered to be successful on the basis of the achievement of the expected values of the limited number of indicators.

The value of the Performance Reserve is set at 4%, of the value of each Programme. However, if a Programme is located in a Member State or Priority in which other Programmes are not regarded as successful under this procedure, the amount allocated will exceed 4% of the original budgetary allocation because the Performance Reserve, which would have been allocated to those unsuccessful Programmes, will be available for allocation to successful Programmes.

Because BSP is operating in a region with devolved administrative structures, Performance Reserve resources will not be reallocated out of the region. Instead, the Performance Reserve will operate at the Priority level with resources being reallocated from an under-performing Priority within the same Operational Programme.

The Commission issued further guidance on the implementation of the Performance Reserve in the form of a Working Paper. That paper discussed the procedures to be used to implement the Performance

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Reserve and the nature of the indicators appropriate for assessing whether a Programme is successful.

The indicators for the Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity which are consistent with the Commission guidelines are set out in the table below: -

4.1 PERFORMANCE RESERVE EFFECTIVENESS INDICATORS

Priority	Output	Result
Economic Growth and Competitiveness	1,400 SMEs supported. 2 by-pass schemes under construction ¹ . 3 visitor attractions enhanced/re-themed.	3,300 gross jobs created. 6km of new carriageway under construction ¹ 10% increase in baseline visitor numbers to these attractions.
Employment, Human Resources and Social Inclusion	26,000 unemployed trained or in training. 44,800 employed trained or in training.	11,900 unemployed trainees obtaining or pursuing qualifications. 25,000 employed trainees obtaining or pursuing qualifications.
Urban and Social Revitalisation	60 grants towards Programmes of work (including infrastructure Programmes). 20 capital schemes funded across all Education and Library Boards.	Private sector investment levered. 600 additional places made available for children in their immediate pre-school year.
Agriculture and Rural Development	Agri-food courses: 34,800 training days delivered ² . Support for 160 projects and Programmes addressing local regeneration, sectoral development, food/fish processing and fleet modernisation.	20,640 beneficiaries from agri-food training courses. ² 85 gross direct full-time jobs created.

¹ There are 3 distinct stages to these projects – completion of statutory procedures, construction underway, construction complete.

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Priority	Output	Result
Environment	To have substantially completed ³ 1 water treatment scheme. To have substantially completed ³ 2 sewage treatment schemes.	30% increase in capacity from 104 litres per second. 375% average increase in capacity (baseline scheme 1 = 36 litres per second and scheme 2 = 26 litres per second).

4.2 MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL INDICATORS

4.2.1 Financial Indicators

- By the end of 2003, a sum equivalent to 100% of the first two years' commitments will have been reimbursed.
- By 31 December 2003, 108 meuro, of private sector funds will have been committed to the total eligible costs of approved projects.

4.2.2 Management Indicators

- Quality of monitoring system: All projects will be required to provide regular monitoring returns and to supply sufficient data to enable financial performance and progress against Programme targets to be assessed.
- Quality of financial control. By the 31 December 2003, 5% of the funding committed, by the end of 2003, will have been the subject of a monitoring visit.

² The number of trainees refers to the total number of people attending the training events. The training days target refers to the number of days of training received by each individual attending the events (usually 1.6 training days per person). Courses differ in duration so this is used to count how much training is received, on average, by one trainee.

³ 'Substantial completion' is a term commonly used in formal conditions of contract. A project would normally be regarded as having reached substantial completion when the physical works is capable of being handed over (to the client) and all necessary tests being carried out. It is recognised that, in most cases, minor or non-critical items of work or defects would remain outstanding to be dealt with in the maintenance period (normally 12 months after substantial completion).

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- Quality of project selection systems: By 31 December 2003, 100% of approved projects will have been selected using an appropriate scoring and appraisal system acceptable to the Monitoring Committee.
- Quality of Evaluation systems: By 31 December 2003, a mid-term evaluation will have been produced and judged acceptable by the Monitoring committee and the Commission on the basis of the Means Criteria referred to in Working Paper 4.

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CHAPTER 5 NATURA 2000

Sites in the Northern Ireland Region, which form part of the Natura 2000 Network.

Section 12.29 of the Implementing Provisions to the Operational Programme contained an undertaking for the UK Government to present a list of sites to be protected under the "Habitats" Directive (Article 4(1)) together with the scientific information by January 2001. The Government and the European Commission subsequently agreed a revision to this deadline.

The UK has also made an undertaking to provide "a formal guarantee that they will not allow sites to be protected under "Natura 2000" to deteriorate during operations part-financed by the Structural Funds. They also committed themselves to providing the Commission, in their programme complement for each Programme, with information about the steps they have taken to prevent the deterioration of sites to be protected under "Natura 2000".

With the transmission of sites on 29 January, 16 March, 11 May 2001, 3 August and 10 September the UK has now substantially completed the submission of revisions to its list of candidate special areas of conservation. Scientific debate is continuing on a small number of sites and, where these conclude in the affirmative, those sites will be submitted as soon as possible after that date, to accord with the Commission's timetable for discussions at the next Atlantic region meeting.

In line with its commitments and pending presentation of the remaining sites on its list, the United Kingdom will when completing its six-yearly report, required under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, provide information about the measures that have been established to avoid cases of deterioration and/or disturbance of sites protected under Natura 2000.

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The established measures are likely to continue to be applied for 2000-2006. Any changes in the measures' application will be reported by the UK Government to the Commission.

As part of the project selection process, applicants are required to inform the secretariat about any potential effects that their project will have on protected sites, and steps taken to ensure that no damage will be done. This is over and above the steps taken to integrate environmental sustainable development as a horizontal issue in the programme.

Where sites are under consideration for designation under the Habitats Directive and have not yet been submitted to the Commission, any applications on those sites will be referred to Environment and Heritage Service for confirmation that there will not be any adverse effects, before approval is given.

Projects subject to applications for Structural Funds support will be treated fully in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. If it is not possible to ascertain that the project will not adversely affect the site, it will be rejected unless there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures are established to ensure the overall coherence of Natura 2000.

Site Name	Special Protection Area for Birds	Special Area of Conservation
Ballynahone Bog		✓
Banagher Glen		✓
Bann Estuary		✓
Belfast Lough	✓	
Binevenagh		✓
Black Bog		✓
Breen Wood		✓
Carlingford Lough	✓	
Carn/Glenshane Pass		✓
Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River		✓
Cuilcagh Mountain		✓
Derryleckagh		✓
Eastern Mournes		✓
Fairy Water Bogs		✓

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Site Name	Special Protection Area for Birds	Special Area of Conservation
Fardrum & Roosky Turloughs		✓
Garron Plateau		✓
Garron Plateau - Add Interest		✓
Garry Bog		✓
Garry Bog - Extension		✓
Hollymount		✓
Killough Bay & Strand Lough	✓	
Largalunny		✓
Larne Lough	✓	
Lecale Fens		✓
Lough Foyle	✓	
Lough Melvin		✓
Lough Neagh & Lough Beg	✓	
Magheraveely Marl Loughs		✓
Magilligan		✓
Main Valley Bogs		✓
Monawilkin		✓
Moneygal Bog		✓
Moninea Bog		✓
Montiaghs Moss		✓
Murlough		✓
North Antrim Coast		✓
Outer Ards	✓	
Owenkillew River		✓
Peatlands		✓
Pettigoe Plateau	✓	✓
Rathlin Island	✓	✓
Rathlin Island Cliffs	✓	
Rea's Wood & Farr's Bay		✓
Rostrevor Wood		✓
Sheep Island	✓	
Slieve Beagh		✓
Slieve Gullion		✓
Strangford Lough	✓	✓

Site Name	Special Protection Area for Birds	Special Area of Conservation
Swan Island	✓	
Teal Lough		✓
Turmennan		✓
Upper Ballinderry River		✓
Upper Lough Erne	✓	✓

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Site Name	Special Protection Area for Birds	Special Area of Conservation
West Fermanagh Scarplands		✓
Wolf Island Bog		✓

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CHAPTER 6 ELECTRONIC DATA EXCHANGE

The Managing Authority operates a computerised system to gather reliable data required for the management, monitoring and evaluation of the Community Assistance available through the Building Sustainable Prosperity Operational Programme in Northern Ireland.

The General Regulation EC1260/1999, and the Financial Control Regulation EC438/2001 require Managing Authorities to transmit information electronically to the European Commission.

The European Commission has set up the Structural Funds Common Database (SFC) to hold information about all Structural Funds Interventions in the 2000-2006 round. There are two ways to supply information to update this database: -

- (a) by sending formatted electronic messages to the database administrator, or
- (b) by updating the database directly on a website sited on the EC's TESTA network.

The requirements are to transmit the following information: -

- Operational programme structure and financial allocations. The structure, as initially proposed by the member state, is entered on to the EC's Structural Funds Common database and then amended as necessary by the Managing Authority throughout the life of the programme;
- Requests for interim payments, supported by statements of eligible expenditure by fund, certified by the Paying Authority for that fund. These are expected by EC Regulation 1260/1999, article 32(3) to be submitted at least three times each year and are further specified in EC Regulation 438/2001, Article 9;

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- Forecasts of applications for payments for the current and following year. These are required by EC 1260/1999, article 32(7) to be submitted by the member state once a year by 30 April;
- Annual and final implementation report financial tables. The Managing Authority is required to submit the information required by EC 1260/1999, article 37(c) by 30 June of the year following; and
- National commitments and actual expenditure (not yet certified).
The transmission of this information is optional.

and to receive Commission messages of budget commitments and payments made. This electronic information is to be sent in addition to printed versions. The format of the printed tables has been supplied by the European Commission in the form of tables attached to the Programming Vademecum.

The Managing Authority will update the EC SFC database via the TESTA network for data transmission to fulfil the above information transfers. Dial-up access to the TESTA website, using personal computer and modem, is accessible for representatives of the Managing Authority and each Paying Authority. All data input into the SFC Database by operators is validated by the system and then proposed to the European Commission for acceptance. The identity of the operator making the update is recorded and shown on the database. Responsibility for maintenance of the SFC and data security remains with the European Commission. When information is sent to the European Commission it is signed-off in printed form, and a copy passed to the EC

To facilitate these data transfers, procedures have been put in place since September 2001, which gather application, monitoring and claims data for each project approved for grant. Key features of these procedures are: -

- Capture of data electronically in the application for grant process, using a Web-based interface with the applicants/project sponsors. This approach provides a one-stop-shop approach to the

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citizen in accessing EU Structural Funds in Northern Ireland and in the Border Region of Ireland, in respect of the PEACE II Programme and Interreg IIIA Community Initiative.

- Data from the Operational Programmes is held in a single database. This will facilitate the detection and prevention of duplication and fraud. Aggregation of data from the Programmes to CSF level will also be facilitated. The system interfaces with the Central Payments system operated by the Managing Authority for Peace II to avoid duplication in the collection of data.

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CHAPTER 7 FINANCIAL PLAN

7.1 A financial plan has been prepared in accordance with Article 18 of Regulation 1260/1999 and in the format required by the Commission and is included as Table 7.1.

7.2 Sources of Public Sector Match Funding

The possible sources for public sector match funding for each Measure in the programme are detailed in the individual Measure Sheets in the Programme Complement. Table 7.2 collates this information.

In Priority 1, public sector match funding, where provided from the Department will be included in the grant offered for projects. District Councils will self match fund projects they undertake in Measure 1.4.

In Priority 2, Measures which are delivered through existing Government programmes will obtain match funding from within the particular programmes themselves e.g. Jobskills, New Deal, Lifelong Learning, INVEST NI/LEA schemes, Company Development Programme. Projects which are to be delivered by non-government organisations will have to either provide “self match funding or seek it from other sources, such as the Disablement Advisory Service (DAS) for Measure 2.3. DAS is unique within the DEL domain in that it does have a small budget of “real money” for which disability organisations can compete. Public match funding can in fact come from any central or local government body, or from any organisation, which receives more than half of its core costs from the public purse.

In Priority 3, the public sector match funding for Measures 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4 will be included in any project grant offered. Applicants will therefore not have to secure match funding separately. In Measure 3.2 applicants will be required to self match fund.

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In Priority 4, the sources of public sector match funding are either from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development or from INVEST NI. In most instances, project applicants or sponsors will be offered a percentage grant, which includes both the EU element and the match funding element. However, under the two Processing and Marketing Grant Schemes (Measures 4.1A and 4.13H), where match funding is available from INVEST NI, applicants will be required to secure this separately.

In Priority 5, Water Infrastructure projects will be match funded automatically by Department for Regional Development. For Sustainable Environment projects, Department of the Environment will automatically provide match funding or applicants will self match fund projects.

In Priority 6, match funding will be automatically provided by the Department of Finance and Personnel.

7.3 Contribution from the Funds

The percentage contribution of a fund to each Measure in the 'Nature of Aid' section on individual Measure sheets.

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Financial Table for programme complement by priority and measure
 Commission Reference No. of the related Operational Programme 1999 GB 16 1 PO 007
 Title: Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity
 Last Commission Decision of the related Operational Programme: C20045871 of 30/12/04

Priority/Measure	Field of Intervention see Measure sheets	Total Cost	Public											Private	Cohesion Fund	Other Financial Instruments (to be specified)	EIB loans	INTERVENTION RATE		
			Community Participation							National Public Participation										
			Total Public	Total EU	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF	FIFG	Total National	Central	Regional	Local	Other							
PRIORITY 1																				
Measure 1.1	Business support	161, 163, 164	€110,586,667	€110,586,667	€62,940,000	€62,940,000						€27,646,667	€0	€0	€0				0.74699998	
Measure 1.2	Research and Technology Development	181, 182	€85,253,334	€85,253,334	€63,940,000	€63,940,000						€21,313,334	€0	€0	€0				0.74699994	
Measure 1.3	Tourism	171, 172, 173	€62,600,003	€62,600,003	€46,950,002	€46,950,002						€15,650,001	€0	€0	€0				0.74699996	
Measure 1.4	Local Economic Development	163, 164	€79,999,994	€79,999,994	€39,999,998	€39,999,998						€39,999,996	€0	€0	€0				0.74699994	
Measure 1.5	Information Society	153, 163, 324	€15,866,667	€15,866,667	€11,750,000	€11,750,000						€3,916,667	€0	€0	€0				0.74699998	
Measure 1.6	Roads and Transport	311, 312, 317, 318	€113,766,667	€113,766,667	€85,325,000	€85,325,000						€28,441,667	€0	€0	€0				0.74699998	
Measure 1.7	Telecoms	321, 322	€38,973,334	€38,973,334	€29,230,000	€29,230,000						€9,743,334	€0	€0	€0				0.74699998	
Measure 1.8	Energy	331, 332, 333	€22,173,334	€22,173,334	€16,630,000	€16,630,000						€5,543,334	€0	€0	€0				0.74699997	
	Total		€ 629,020,000	€ 629,020,000	€ 376,765,000	€ 376,765,000						€ 152,255,000	€ 112,255,000	€ 39,999,996	€ 0				0.74699997	
PRIORITY 2																				
Measure 2.1	Education & Skills Development ESF	21	€194,528,825	€194,528,825	€125,738,825	€125,738,825		€125,738,825				€68,790,000	€68,790,000						0.64637615	
Measure 2.2	Tackling flows into Long-Term Unemployment	21	€9,770,822	€9,770,822	€6,345,822	€6,345,822		€6,345,822				€3,425,000	€3,425,000						0.64646544	
Measure 2.3	Promoting a Labour Market open to all	22	€104,322,460	€104,322,460	€67,023,460	€67,023,460		€67,023,460				€36,500,000	€36,500,000						0.65012872	
Measure 2.4	Improving Opportunities	23	€32,473,886	€32,473,886	€21,123,886	€21,123,886		€21,123,886				€11,350,000	€11,350,000						0.65048236	
Measure 2.5	Education/Training ICT and Infrastructure	23	€122,026,000	€122,026,000	€61,014,000	€61,014,000		€61,014,000				€61,014,000	€61,014,000						0.50000000	
Measure 2.6	Developing Entrepreneurship	24	€2,353,886	€2,353,886	€1,528,886	€1,528,886		€1,528,886				€625,000	€625,000						0.64651573	
Measure 2.7	HRD Development in Companies	24	€77,141,000	€77,141,000	€47,000,000	€47,000,000		€47,000,000				€30,141,000	€30,141,000						0.68627362	
Measure 2.8	Advancement of Women	25	€23,725,101	€23,725,101	€15,425,101	€15,425,101		€15,425,101				€8,300,000	€8,300,000						0.65016950	
	Total		€ 666,345,000	€ 666,345,000	€ 346,000,000	€ 346,000,000	€ 61,014,000	€ 284,986,000				€ 220,345,000	€ 220,345,000	€ 0						
Measure 3.1	Urban Revitalisation	35	€50,156,153	€50,156,153	€35,306,153	€35,306,153		€35,306,153				€14,850,000	€14,850,000	€0	€0	€0			0.70392461	
Measure 3.2	Advice and Information Services	36	€2,630,000	€2,630,000	€2,000,000	€2,000,000		€2,000,000				€630,000	€630,000	€0	€0	€0			0.70671371	
Measure 3.3	Community Sustainability	36	€6,573,947	€6,573,947	€4,893,947	€4,893,947		€4,893,947				€1,680,000	€1,680,000	€0	€0	€0			0.71481821	
Measure 3.4	Investing in Early Learning	22	€11,340,000	€11,340,000	€8,000,000	€8,000,000		€8,000,000				€3,340,000	€3,340,000	€0	€0	€0			0.70546772	
	Total		€ 70,900,000	€ 70,900,000	€ 50,000,000	€ 50,000,000						€ 20,900,000	€ 20,900,000	€ 0						
PRIORITY 4																				
Measure 4.1	Agricultural Training	113	€16,260,000	€16,260,000	€8,130,000	€8,130,000		€8,130,000				€8,130,000	€8,130,000			€0			0.50000000	
Measure 4.2	Improving processing and marketing	114	€113,989,000	€113,989,000	€42,281,000	€42,281,000		€37,246,000				€5,015,000	€5,015,000		€71,708,000				0.32680167	
Measure 4.3	Forestry	121, 126	€0	€0	€0	€0		€0				€0	€0						0.25000000	
Measure 4.4	Farm Relief and Management services	1303	€388,000	€388,000	€194,000	€194,000		€97,000				€97,000	€97,000			€194,000			0.25000000	
Measure 4.5	Marketing of quality agricultural products	1304	€4,712,000	€4,712,000	€2,356,000	€2,356,000		€1,178,000				€1,178,000	€1,178,000			€2,356,000			0.25000000	
Measure 4.6	Basic services for the rural economy	1305	€12,751,000	€12,751,000	€6,375,500	€6,375,500		€5,216,000				€6,655,000	€6,655,000			€1,880,000			0.42665556	
Measure 4.7	Renovation and development of villages	1306	€19,535,000	€19,535,000	€16,544,000	€16,544,000		€8,272,000				€8,272,000	€8,272,000			€2,991,000			0.42344699	
Measure 4.8	Diversification of agricultural activities	1307	€1,169,000	€1,169,000	€624,000	€624,000		€312,000				€312,000	€312,000			€545,000			0.26684782	
Measure 4.9	Development and improvement of infrastructure	1308	€15,149,000	€15,149,000	€12,016,000	€12,016,000		€6,400,000				€5,618,000	€5,618,000			€3,131,000			0.42247010	
Measure 4.10	Encouragement for tourism and craft activities	1310	€7,959,000	€7,959,000	€3,156,000	€3,156,000		€3,156,000				€3,140,000	€3,140,000			€1,852,000			0.39738953	
Measure 4.11	Protection of the environment	1312	€11,496,000	€11,496,000	€5,748,000	€5,748,000		€5,748,000				€5,748,000	€5,748,000			€0			0.50000000	
Measure 4.12	Financial engineering	1313	€6,222,000	€6,222,000	€4,470,000	€4,470,000		€2,235,000				€2,235,000	€2,235,000			€1,752,000			0.35920257	
Measure 4.13	Fisheries	142, 147, 143, 144, 145	€49,262,000	€49,262,000	€37,484,000	€37,484,000		€29,000,000		€29,000,000		€6,464,000	€6,464,000			€10,798,000			0.60688626	
	Total		€ 257,071,000	€ 257,071,000	€ 107,000,000	€ 107,000,000		€ 78,000,000	€ 29,000,000			€ 53,064,000	€ 53,064,000	€ 0		€ 97,007,000				
PRIORITY 5																				
Measure 5.1	Management, Protection & enhancement	181, 343	€62,149,400	€62,149,400	€46,350,400	€46,350,400		€46,350,400				€15,499,000	€15,499,000	€0	€300,000				0.74678993	
	Total		€ 62,149,400	€ 62,149,400	€ 46,350,400	€ 46,350,400						€ 15,499,000	€ 15,499,000	€ 0	€ 300,000					
Technical Assistance																				
Measure 6.1	Technical Assistance Measure	1, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415	€4,150,000	€4,150,000	€3,000,000	€3,000,000		€3,000,000				€1,150,000	€1,150,000						0.72281956	
	TOTAL		€ 1,490,435,400	€ 1,490,435,400	€ 829,115,400	€ 829,115,400	€ 537,129,400	€ 284,986,000	€ 78,000,000	€ 29,000,000		€ 464,013,000	€ 464,013,000	€ 0	€ 424,013,004	€ 39,999,996	€ 0	€ 97,307,000		
ERDF RELATED			€788,247,400	€787,947,400	€537,129,400	€537,129,400		€0	€0	€0	€250,818,000	€0	€210,818,004	€39,999,996	€0	€300,000				
ESF RELATED			€444,317,000	€444,317,000	€294,986,000	€294,986,000	€0	€284,986,000	€0	€0	€159,331,000	€0	€159,331,000	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0		
EAGGF RELATED			€209,609,000	€209,609,000	€123,400,000	€123,400,000	€0	€0	€0	€78,000,000	€0	€45,400,000	€0	€0	€0	€86,209,000				
FIFG RELATED			€48,262,000	€48,262,000	€29,000,000	€29,000,000	€0	€0	€0	€29,000,000	€0	€8,464,000	€0	€0	€0	€10,798,000				
Regions not receiving Transitional Support			€0	€0	€0	€0						€0	€0	€0	€0					
Regions receiving Transitional Support			€ 1,490,435,400	€ 1,490,435,400	€ 829,115,400	€ 829,115,400	€ 537,129,400	€ 284,986,000	€ 78,000,000	€ 29,000,000		€ 464,013,000	€ 464,013,000	€ 0	€ 424,013,004	€ 39,999,996	€ 0	€ 97,307,000		

TABLE 7.2

SOURCES OF PUBLIC SECTOR MATCH FUNDING

Measure/sub-Measure	Sources of Match Funding
PRIORITY 1	
1.1A Business Support – Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
1.1B Business Support – Competitiveness Excellence Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
1.1C Business Support – Small Business Support Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
1.2 Research and Technology Development and Technology Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
1.3A Tourism – Strategic Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
1.3B Tourism – Enhancing the Business of Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
1.4 Local Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Councils
1.5 Information Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
1.6A Roads and Transport – Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Regional Development
1.6B Roads and Transport - Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Regional Development
1.7 Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
1.8A Energy – Natural Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
1.8B Energy – Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
PRIORITY 2	
2.1 Education and Skills Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobskills Training Programme (DEL) • Self match funding*
2.2 Tackling the Flows into Long-Term Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Deal (DEL) • Self match funding*
2.3 Promoting a Labour Market open to All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobskills Training Programme (DEL) • Disablement Advisory Service (DEL) • Self match funding*
2.4 Improving Opportunities for Lifelong Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifelong Learning (Department of Education) • Lifelong Learning (DEL)
2.5 Education and Training ICT and Infrastructure Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Education
2.6 Developing Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INVEST NI • Local Enterprise Agencies • Self match funding*
2.7 Human Resource Development in Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company Development Programme
2.8 The Advancement of Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INVEST NI • Self match funding*
PRIORITY 3	
3.1 Urban Revitalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Regeneration Office • Londonderry Regeneration Initiative
3.2 Advice and Information Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Match Funding*
3.3 Community Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Social Development • District Councils
3.4 Investing in Early Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Education
PRIORITY 4	
4.1 Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.2 Improving Processing and Marketing of Agriculture Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development • INVEST NI
4.3 Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.4 Setting up of Farm relief and Farm Management Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.5 Marketing of Quality Agricultural Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.6 Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.7 Renovation and Development of Villages and Protection and Conservation of the Rural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.8 Diversification of Agriculture Activities and Activities Close to Agriculture to Provide Multiple Activities or Alternative Incomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.9 Development and Improvement of Infrastructure connected with the Development of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.10 Encouragement for Tourist and Craft Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.11 Protection of the Environment in connection with Agriculture, Forestry and Landscape Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

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	as well as the Improvement of Animal Welfare	
4.12	Financial Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13A	Fisheries – Adjustment of Fishing Effort. Decommissioning of Fishing Vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13B	Fisheries - Safety Equipment Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13C	Fisheries – Small Scale and Coastal Fishing Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13D	Fisheries – Scrap and Build Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13E	Fisheries – Marketing and Quality on Board Fishing Vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13F	Fisheries – Improvement of Facilities at NI Fishing Ports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13G	Fisheries – Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13H	Fisheries – Processing and Marketing of Freshwater and Marine Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development • INVEST NI
4.13I	Fisheries – Joint Marketing Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13J	Fisheries – Collective Operations by Members of the NI Fishing Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
4.13K	Fisheries – Temporary Cessation (Tie-up)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
PRIORITY 5		
5.1	Sustainable Management of the Environment and Promotion of the Natural and Built Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Regional Development (for Water Infrastructure) • Department of the Environment and Self Match Funding* (for Sustainable Environment)
PRIORITY 6		
6.1A	Management and Implementation of Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Finance and Personnel
6.1B	Programme Information and Publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Finance and Personnel

Priority 1

For all Measures within Sub-Programme 1, offers of grant will include the required element of match funding and applicants will not need to source this separately.

Contact points for general information Priority 1 can be found under implementing bodies in individual Measure sheets.

Priority 2

All New Deal monies and some aspects of Jobskills monies can count as match funding, but only through those organisations which are already directly in receipt of such monies through their contracts with the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) to deliver those particular programmes. It may be possible for other organisations to develop partnerships with these deliverers, but that can only come about through direct contact with them.

The only source of direct match funding through DEL is for organisations, which wish to deliver projects for disabled people under the “Promoting a Labour Market Open to All” Measure. The Department’s Disablement Advisory Service has a small budget for this purpose. (The contact is Tony Montgomery, Tel 90257465.) Some of the Health and Social Services Trusts may also be in a position to contribute very modestly to disability projects and applicants should explore this possibility directly with their local Trust.

INVEST NI will be involved in some aspects of the Developing Entrepreneurship and The Advancement of Women Measures. The contact point is Sharon Polson Tel 90 491031.

Self Match Funding ESF regulations permit organisations, which receive more than 50% of their overall funding from the public purse to be themselves regarded as legitimate public sector match funding sources. They can therefore provide “self match funding” from within their own resources.

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Private Sector match funding ESF regulations also permit contributions towards match funding from the private sector, although a minimum of 10% must always come from a public source.

Under certain circumstances in-kind, as opposed to cash, contributions can count towards the match funding component. Examples would include the secondment of a member of staff to the project, or the provision of training materials. However the rules are quite complicated and should be discussed fully with the European Unit, DEL in advance.

For general information on match funding please contact Jim Hyndman, European Unit – Tel (02890) 257667.

Priority 3

For general information on match funding please contact the following:-

DSD – Peter Neeson – (02890) 547864.

DE – David Bradley – (02891) 259292

Priority 4

For all Measures within Sub-Programme 4 (with the exception of Measures 4.2 and 4.13H), offers of grant will include the required element of match funding and applicants will not need to source this separately.

For Measures 4.2 and 4.13H applicants will be required to seek match funding.

Contact details for Measure 4.13H are as follows: -

Mr Mark Maguire – INVEST NI – Tel (02890) 491031 Email mark.maguire@investni.com

Priority 5

For general information on match funding please contact the following: -

DRD – Pat Delaney – (02890) 540614

DOE – Bernard McClure– (02890) 540919

Priority 6

For general information on match funding please contact the following: -

DFP –Lynsey Moore – (02890) 523885.

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CHAPTER 8
MEASURE SHEETS

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

PRIORITY 1 – ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

	MEASURES		SUB-MEASURES
1.	Business Support	1A	Enterprise
		1B	Competitiveness Excellence Support
		1C	Small Business Support Network
2.	Research and Technology Development and Technology Transfer		
3.	Tourism	3A	Strategic Marketing
		3B	Enhancing the Business of Tourism
4.	Local Economic Development		
5.	Information Society		
6.	Roads and Transport	6A	Roads
		6B	Transport
7.	Telecommunications		
8.	Energy	8A	Energy Infrastructure
		8B	Energy Efficiency

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Priority 1: Economic Growth & Competitiveness

To align with the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government requirements ie to make a difference through the **integration** of renewed infrastructure and innovative policies thereby securing the basis for a competitive, sustainable economy, this Priority has been divided into the following two sub-priorities:

Sub Priority 1 (a) Supporting Business Competitiveness

Measure 1	Business Support (ERDF)
Measure 2	Research & Technology Development & Technology Transfer (ERDF)
Measure 3	Tourism (ERDF)
Measure 4	Local Economic Development (ERDF)
Measure 5	Information Society (ERDF)

Sub Priority 1(b) Creating the conditions for regional competitiveness

Measure 6	Roads and Transport (ERDF)
Measure 7	Telecoms (ERDF)
Measure 8	Energy (ERDF)

Sub-Priority 1a (Supporting Business Competitiveness) will initially account for 75% of the ERDF resources allocated to this priority and Sub-Priority 1b (Creating the Conditions for Regional Competitiveness) will account for the remaining 25% of the ERDF resources allocated to this Priority. Should Regional circumstances change, notably in terms of the emergence of key infrastructure projects, such that it is necessary to adjust this weighting then the approval of the European Commission will be sought.

<i>Title of the State Aid Scheme or Ad Hoc State Aid</i>	<i>State Aid No.</i>	<i>Approval letter Ref</i>	<i>Scheme Duration</i>
Selective Financial Assistance (INVEST NI)	N567/92	SG (94) D/3118	Ongoing
Provision of Sites and Standard Advance Factories	N567/92	SG (94) D/3118	Ongoing
Property Development Scheme (INVEST NI)	N567/92	SG (94) D/3118	Ongoing
Property Development Agreement (INVEST NI)	N567/92	SG (94) D/3118	Ongoing
Tourism Development Scheme in Northern Ireland	NN444/ 90	SG (90) D/28204	Ongoing
Science & Technology Programme (START)	NN54/9 2	SC (92) D/9899	Ongoing
Product and Processes Development (COMPETE) Programme	NN 92/95	SG (95) D/11951	2003-2008
Small Firms Mentoring Awards for Research & Technology (SMART)*	N280/99	SG (99) D/6087	Ongoing

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Measure 1

Business Support

The promotion of enterprise, innovation and creativity as well as the creation of more sustainable business start-ups with the potential for future growth are vital if local industry is to compete and prosper in the global economy.

Business support services in particular to SMEs in Northern Ireland will enable a large number of companies to increase their competitiveness and their capacity to identify new markets whilst creating sustainable jobs.

The Community Support Framework provides a clear rationale for support to business in that it observes :-

- Northern Ireland is more dependent on small firms for employment and output than other parts of the UK;
- long-term sustainable growth can be assisted by improving the competitiveness of the productive base, particularly by support to SMEs;
- competitive and entrepreneurial businesses are indispensable to economic growth and development.

The proposed activities under this Measure meet the ex-ante requirement to diversify the industrial base, through SME development, to create a more sustainable private sector and are detailed below in the form of sub-measures. The ex-ante also emphasises the strong linkages between this Measure and the need to develop adaptability and entrepreneurship.

PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 1A	Business Support – Enterprise
Rationale	<p>There remains a lack of enterprise culture within the Northern Ireland economy as evidenced by low start-up and economic activity rates as identified in the ex-ante evaluation. A further need for action is that Northern Ireland also has the lowest VAT registration rate in the UK.</p> <p>At the international level, entrepreneurial activity is positively correlated with economic growth. Business culture and entrepreneurship are therefore vital components of any successful dynamic economy.</p> <p>Enhancing entrepreneurial activity by encouraging and assisting individuals and communities (including those under-represented in business ownership such as women) to create new businesses is an important way in which existing attitudes to risk-taking can be challenged and a truly entrepreneurial culture nurtured. Of particular importance are new technology based firms as they provide entirely new areas for wealth and job creation.</p>
Objectives	<p>The objectives detailed below will be met under existing Government schemes:-</p> <p>i. To increase start-up activity in general with a specific focus on <i>groups</i> previously not well represented in self-employment or</p>

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	<p>business ownership (e.g. women and people in the age groups of 45+) and in <i>sectors</i> able to exploit global markets;</p> <p>ii. To stimulate and promote the benefits of an enterprise culture particularly the need to celebrate entrepreneurship and the success of local small businesses;</p> <p>iii. To provide a physical and support infrastructure to encourage entrepreneurial activity;</p> <p>iv. To ensure that the skills and capabilities needed to start and develop a business are on the education “menu”.</p>
Activities	<p>i. Developing a strategy for the creation of more sustainable business start-ups particularly those with the potential for high growth;</p> <p>ii. Increasing entrepreneurship awareness and start-up activity, particularly among under-represented groups;</p> <p>iii. Identify gaps in the enterprise support network and engage in partnership initiatives to address these gaps, both in terms of infrastructure and in capacity building;</p> <p>iv. Working with other Government departments and relevant organisations to raise awareness of the importance of business and entrepreneurship within the education system;</p> <p>v. Pursuing closer links with Universities, Science Parks, Centres of Excellence and other research based organisations to accelerate the development of knowledge-based businesses;</p> <p>vi. Ensure the provision of a range of financial support options (both public and private) to meet the needs of new business starts.</p>
Categorisation	<p>163 – Business advisory services (information, business planning, consultancy services, marketing, management, design, internationalisation, exporting, environmental management, purchase of technology) – 80%.</p> <p>164 - Shared business services (business estates, incubator units, stimulation, promotional services, networking, conferences, trade fairs) – 20%.</p>
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Assistance will be dependent upon fulfilling the eligibility criteria for supported schemes set down by INVEST NI and will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All individuals with the potential and desire to start up a viable business. • Businesses with the potential to grow in external markets. • Projects that maximise the participation of under represented groups <p>“The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.”</p>

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Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurs; • would be entrepreneurs; • and SMEs. <p>Particular emphasis will be placed on groups previously not well represented.</p>																																						
Indicators	Outputs	Results	Impacts																																				
	*100 high growth potential businesses created (of which 60 in high tech sectors)	*700 Gross jobs (100 in high tech sectors)	400 Net jobs (50 in high tech sectors)																																				
	*3000 locally focused businesses created	*6000 Gross jobs	2500 Net jobs 90% survival rate in assisted businesses after year 1 70% survival rate in assisted businesses after 3 years																																				
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ERDF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <table> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>34,733,334</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">EU Contribution of ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td>-</td> <td>376,765,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>26,050,000</td> <td>((6.91% of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Match Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td>8,683,334</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possible Sources:-</td> <td></td> <td>• Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Private Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <table> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td>-</td> <td>104,200,001</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Total Value of Measure	-	34,733,334		EU Contribution of ERDF				(a) in the Priority	-	376,765,000		(b) in this Measure	-	26,050,000	((6.91% of Priority allocation)	Match Funding				(a) Public Sector	-	8,683,334		Possible Sources:-		• Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment		(b) Private Sector	-		Nil	Other Private Sector Funding	-	104,200,001	
Total Value of Measure	-	34,733,334																																					
EU Contribution of ERDF																																							
(a) in the Priority	-	376,765,000																																					
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Match Funding																																							
(a) Public Sector	-	8,683,334																																					
Possible Sources:-		• Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment																																					
(b) Private Sector	-		Nil																																				
Other Private Sector Funding	-	104,200,001																																					
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.																																						
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment through INVEST NI Point of Contact – John Hood (INVEST NI) 028 90 698562																																						
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment																																						
Nature of Aid	Grants at up to 75% of eligible public expenditure.																																						

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North/South and wider Co-operation	None envisaged

* Contributes to the Performance Reserve

Notes to indicators:

1. High tech is as defined in INVEST NI's High Tech Strategy.
2. High tech businesses would be expected to create fewer direct jobs than those in more traditional sectors – hence the disparity between the job creation targets.

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 1B	Business Support – Competitiveness Excellence Support
Rationale	<p>There remain low levels of business competitiveness as evidenced by business reliance on a small local marketplace. In addition, the exporting activity of small firms is minimal, innovation and R&D is poorly developed and the use of ICT is lagging well behind other regions.</p> <p>The biggest challenge to competitiveness is to be able to compete in markets other than ones own. This is in line with the ex-ante evaluation, which specifies a need to promote a greater degree of export orientation among indigenous industry and especially SME's as well as providing aids to local industry to overcome constraints, which will enable firms to become competitive, in local and international markets, are critical. There is a need to build on the considerable progress achieved with respect to business growth and to develop the sustainability of growth companies by improving the capacity of business owners to engage with change and the challenge of internationalisation.</p>
Objectives	<p>The objective detailed below will be met under existing Government schemes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accelerate the competitiveness and growth rates of businesses.
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Provision of a holistic approach to the analysis and identification of business growth constraints in agreement with client companies. This will be achieved through application of the Competitiveness Excellence Process which currently forms a basic tool for situational analysis and a range of benchmarking techniques. ii. Measured interventions in response to needs identified as part of the above process through selective financial assistance and trade development activities.
Categorisation	<p>161 – Investment in physical capital (plant and equipment, co-financing of state aids) – 20%.</p> <p>163 – Business advisory services (information, business planning, consultancy services, marketing, management, design, internationalisation, exporting, environmental management, purchase of technology) – 70%.</p> <p>164 – Shared business services (business estates, incubator units, stimulation, promotional services, networking, conferences, trade fairs) – 10%.</p>
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Assistance will be dependent upon fulfilling the eligibility criteria for supported schemes set down by the appropriate agency and will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a turnover in excess of £250000; • Possess the potential to sell 20% of goods and services outside N.Ireland; • Have a strong commitment to business growth in export market; • Show a net profit before grant of 3-5%. • Have a management structure in place. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>

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Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Local industry and in particular SMEs		
Indicators	Outputs	Results	Impacts
	*500 SMEs supported by INVEST NI per annum	*1700 jobs (gross)	7% growth in sales (net) per annum over the six years of the programme (as compared with 5% in 1999/2000) 8% growth in export performance (net) per annum over the six years of the programme (as compared with 6% in 1999/2000) 1300 net jobs at the end of the programme
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ERDF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <p>Total Value of Measure - 66,120,000</p> <p>EU Contribution of ERDF</p> <p>(a) in the Priority - 376,765,000</p> <p>(b) in this Measure - 49,590,000 (13.16% of Priority allocation)</p> <p>Match Funding</p> <p>(a) Public Sector - 16,530,000</p> <p>Possible Sources:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment. <p>(b) Private Sector - Nil</p> <hr/> <p>Other Private Sector Funding - 194,047,826</p>		
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.		
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment through INVEST NI Point of Contact John Hood (INVEST NI) 028 90 698562		
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment		
Nature of Aid	Grants at up to 75% to eligible public expenditure.		

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North/South and wider Co-operation	None envisaged
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- **Contributes to the Performance Reserve**

Notes to indicators:

1. Baseline data for each supported company / enterprise is available from existing monitoring systems.

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 1C	Business Support – Small Business Support Network
Rationale	As identified in the ex-ante evaluation there is clear evidence to suggest that strong links exist between high levels of entrepreneurship and economic growth. The key to maximising entrepreneurship is a shift towards less fragmentation in the delivery of support to small business and towards a more coherent and co-ordinated approach to small firm development policy.
Objectives	The objectives detailed below will be met under existing Government schemes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To develop a framework for integrated small business support. ii. To ensure that all small businesses have access to appropriate levels of support to develop their business.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Work in partnership with all those who have an interest in small business development (e.g. local authorities, community groups and other Government Departments) to develop integrated strategies to address development needs of small businesses and implement plans in a co-ordinated way. ii. Establishing a resource dedicated to the sourcing, analysis and interpretation of market intelligence to inform the development of plans to assist with the evaluation of small business support services. iii. Establishing a “gateway” service to facilitate single point of access information and ‘problem-solving’ advice for the NI small business base. iv. Work with other providers of support to build capacity and capability in the area of small business development support.
Categorisation	<p>163 – Business advisory services (information, business planning, consultancy services, marketing, management, design, internationalisation, exporting, environmental management, purchase of technology) – 35%.</p> <p>164 – Shared business services (business estates, incubator units, stimulation, promotional services, networking, conferences, trade fairs) – 65%.</p>
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Assistance will be dependent upon fulfilling the eligibility criteria for supported schemes set down by INVEST NI and will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives in support of identified small business development needs within the context of an integrated strategy. • Maximises access to support and advice for the small business base in N.Ireland, and • Creates increases in the quality of small business support and maximises the impact of support. <p>“The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.”</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMEs; • local delivery agents; and • local communities.

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Indicators	Outputs	Results	Impacts																																								
	5 regional action plans	10 regional initiatives focusing on SME development	Positive change in business base Positive change in business performance																																								
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ERDF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <table> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>9,733,333</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">EU Contribution of ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td>-</td> <td>376,765,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>7,300,000</td> <td>(1.99% of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Match Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td>2,433,333</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possible Sources:-</td> <td></td> <td>• Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Private Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td>Nil</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td>-</td> <td>29,200,001</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Total Value of Measure	-	9,733,333		EU Contribution of ERDF				(a) in the Priority	-	376,765,000		(b) in this Measure	-	7,300,000	(1.99% of Priority allocation)	Match Funding				(a) Public Sector	-	2,433,333		Possible Sources:-		• Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment.		(b) Private Sector	-	Nil		<hr/>				Other Private Sector Funding	-	29,200,001	
Total Value of Measure	-	9,733,333																																									
EU Contribution of ERDF																																											
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Other Private Sector Funding	-	29,200,001																																									
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.																																										
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment through INVEST NI. Point of Contact - John Hood (INVEST NI) 028 90 698562																																										
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment																																										
Nature of Aid	Grants at up to 75% of eligible public expenditure.																																										
North/South and wider Co-operation	None envisaged																																										

Notes to indicators:

1. A positive change in the business base is defined as a growth in the number and/or capacity of firms in the DCA directly attributable to this measure.
2. A positive change in business performance is defined as increased sales, growth in the workforce, greater use of ICT, or increased innovation directly attributable to the regional plan.

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 2	Research and Technology Development and Technology Transfer
Rationale	<p>Raising industry R&D to promote innovation and encourage greater links between indigenous SME's and inward investors while developing linkages between the business and education sectors was identified as a priority action in the ex-ante evaluation. It also encouraged firms to undertake technology transfer. The availability and accessibility of knowledge based research infrastructure, supporting and facilitating local SMEs in their development of innovative products and processes, is critical to Northern Ireland's technological advancement. Although Business R&D as a percentage of GDP has risen over the period of the NISPD from 0.4% in 1994 to 0.6% in 1999, there is still much to be done as Northern Ireland companies spend substantially less on research and development activities compared to their global competitors.</p> <p>This measure will therefore build on the successful initiatives undertaken in the NISPD with particular emphasis on the opportunities presented by the knowledge-based economy.</p>
Objectives	<p>The objectives detailed below will be met under existing Government schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Support and strengthen Northern Ireland's industrially driven research base (COMPETE and START). ii. Encourage and enhance the design and development of environmentally friendly innovative products and processes (SMART, Awareness Programme, Innovation Audit and Environmental Audit Support Schemes). iii. Provide the opportunity for university graduates to develop their capabilities both technically and managerially by undertaking key projects through work placements (TCS).
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. COMPETE Programme – Encourage and enhance innovative market led product and process development in Northern Ireland companies. Projects that demonstrate a strong environmental element will be encouraged. ii. START Programme – Provide a strong R&D capability in Northern Ireland companies and universities through participation in technology based industrially relevant pre-competitive research and development projects. iii. SMART – Support for individuals and small firms to improve competitiveness through innovate ideas for products and processes. iv. Awareness Programme – Seminars, workshops and conferences to promote R&D, innovation, technology transfer, green issues and best practice in industry and commerce. v. Innovation Audit Programme – Improve the productivity and competitiveness of Northern Ireland manufacturing industry through improved design, product development and manufacturing technology.

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	vi. Environmental Audit Support Scheme – Assist industry take the first steps to improving environmental performance and gain a competitiveness advantage. vii. TCS Programme – Provide graduates with the opportunity to develop their capabilities, both technical and managerial, by undertaking key projects within companies through graduate placement.		
Categorisation	181 – Research projects based in universities and research institutes – 20% 182 – Innovation and technology transfers, establishment of networks and partnerships, between businesses and/or research institutes – 80%		
Project Selection Criteria	Assistance will be dependant upon fulfilling the eligibility criteria for supporting schemes set down by IRTU. Projects submitted for support will be the subject of competitive application and be technically and economically appraised. Programme criteria will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An impact assessment of the projects future competitiveness. • The level of innovation and/or technology transfer of the project. • The level of risk involved and the benefit to the economy. • The project’s relevance to the strategy and objectives of the Programme. • The extent of participation and inter-connection in EU Framework and other international research programmes and networks • An analysis of the organisation’s overall business strategy and activity. • The potential for exploitation of the projects results. <p>“The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.”</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland industry (particularly SMEs); and • Higher Education Institutions. 		
Indicators	Outputs	Results	Impacts
	286 R&D projects supported (broken down by type of research orientation)	80% of supported projects completing successfully	15% increase in Business Expenditure on R&D
	350 Environmental & Innovative audits Initiated	90% of businesses undertake an audit	60% of businesses adopt audit recommendations
	150 graduate placements	130 projects involving graduates 80% of graduates successfully completing placement	60% of graduates retained by host firm

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure -	85,253,334
	EU Contribution of ERDF	
	(a) in the Priority -	376,765,000
	(b) in this Measure -	63,940,000 (16.96% of Priority allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector -	21,313,334	
Possible Sources:-	Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment.	
(b) Private Sector -	Nil	
<hr/>		
Other Private Sector Funding -	115,092,000	
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.	
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment through IRTU. Point of Contact - Nigel Carr 028 90 623144	
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	
Nature of Aid	Grant rate may be up to 75% of eligible public expenditure	
North/South and wider Co-operation	No direct co-operation.	

Notes to indicators:

1. R&D activity supported under this measure will account for a significant proportion of total R&D programmes throughout Northern Ireland. Therefore, the 15% increase in R&D expenditure will relate to all Northern Ireland and will be drawn from IRTU's triennial R&D survey. The baseline data indicates that total cash expenditure on R&D by Northern Ireland businesses was £102.7million in 1999.

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Tourism

While substantial progress has been witnessed in recent years, tourism in Northern Ireland still delivers well below its real potential. As clearly indicated in the Structural Funds Plan 2000-2006 the impact of 30 years of civil disorder has resulted in a negative media image that must now be addressed. The sector's under performance is seen in the context of the contribution which tourism makes to GDP in Northern Ireland at 2% compared with approximately 6% of GNP realised through tourism in Ireland.

Tremendous opportunities now exist for tourism to contribute more to the economic well being of Northern Ireland through further strategic marketing, business enhancement and product development. The NITB believes that the economic benefits of tourism can best be captured and realised through a dual approach that influences both demand and supply. The NITB proposes adopting a strategy that is principally focused on influencing demand (strategic and tactical marketing). Support impacting on supply will continue to be available through a range of activities aimed at increasing capacity to meet the projected demand and on the capability of the tourist industry to service the demand. Capacity and capability measures will be determined primarily by assessing the needs and requirements of "discretionary visitors".

The sub-Measures below build upon the success of the NISP 1994-99 and are consistent with the ex-ante evaluation requirement to develop the tourism business through the strategic marketing and promotion of NI and the enhancement and development of tourism amenities.

PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 3A	Tourism – Strategic Marketing
Rationale	In conjunction with the overall tourism rationale this Measure will grow tourism to the region and specifically target resources at attracting the discretionary visitor and particularly the holiday maker.
Objectives	The objective detailed below will be met under existing Government schemes: to increase the contribution that discretionary visitors make to tourism revenue through marketing and promotion that attracts a higher spending discretionary visitor to Northern Ireland.

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Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Investing in marketing activity which communicates the Northern Ireland offer within each of our key markets ii. Investing in tactical and specialist marketing activity which differentiates the uniqueness of Northern Ireland assets within the all Ireland brand. iii. Tactical marketing activity which profiles the natural and cultural resources to those sectors of the market which are most likely to respond. iv. To develop processes as a key element of the activity of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board which provide ways of communicating with the industry in Northern Ireland that are participative, yet focused on agreeing opportunities for growth market-by-market and sector-by-sector. v. Engage in partnership marketing with Bord Failte Eireann and British Tourist Authorities to maximise opportunities for the strategic marketing of Northern Ireland through all Ireland and all UK marketing mix.
Categorisation	173 – Shared business services (business estates, incubator units, stimulation, promotional services, networking, conferences, trade fairs).
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Assistance will be dependent upon fulfilling the eligibility criteria for supported schemes set down by the NITB.</p> <p>Project selection criteria will include :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Clear links to the strategic aims of NITB and its partners. iii. The capacity of projects to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow out of state discretionary tourism into Northern Ireland during and beyond the period of the programme. • Match the Northern Ireland tourism offer and to communicate this effectively. • Produce a marketing strategy which targets the consumer, market-by-market and sector-by-sector. • Undertake activity through the Regional Tourism Organisations and Tourism Ireland Ltd to profile the unique values and attributes of Northern Ireland. • Grow Northern Ireland’s market share of total visitors to the UK and Republic of Ireland consistent with NITB targets for tourism growth. • Establish clear communication channels with local and international tourism partners to grow the business of tourism. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following horizontal principle is particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and will be applied as follows:</p>

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	<u>Environmental Sustainability</u>		
	Projects must comply with NITB Environmental Sustainability Strategy which ensures that projects will not be detrimental to the environment or the people living there.		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Discretionary visitors to NI effected through working in partnership with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tourism businesses; • district councils; • public bodies. 		
Indicators	Outputs	Results	Impacts
	15 marketing initiatives supported per annum across key markets	Increase visitor numbers to Northern Ireland as a holiday destination by 7% annually by end 2006 (from 2000 baseline)	Over the period of the programme to create 1400 additional jobs in tourism Increase visitor spend by 5% annually by end 2006 (from 2000 baseline)
Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF		
	Euro		
	Total Value of Measure	-	43,173,336
	EU Contribution of ERDF		
	(a) in the Priority	-	376,765,000
	(b) in this Measure	-	32,380,002 (5.04% of Priority allocation)
	Match Funding		
	(a) Public Sector	-	10,793,334
	Possible Sources:-	• Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment.	
	(b) Private Sector	-	Nil
	Other Private Sector Funding	-	94,103,042
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.		

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Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment through INVEST NI. Point of Contact – Gillian Magee 028 90 231221
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Nature of Aid	Grant at up to 75% of eligible public expenditure.
North/South and wider Co-operation	Marketing partnerships will be developed with Bord Failte through Tourism Ireland Ltd.

Notes to indicators:

1. Data on the ‘acceptability’ of Northern Ireland as a holiday destination will be drawn from bi-annual surveys in March and September.
2. Data on the ‘intention to visit’ will be drawn from bi-annual surveys in June and December.

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 3B	Tourism – Enhancing the Business of Tourism
Rationale	In conjunction with the overall tourism rationale this Measure will enhance the competitiveness of the Northern Ireland tourism industry to achieve a balanced, competitive, innovative, knowledge based and fast growing tourism economy.
Objectives	The objective detailed below will be met under existing Government schemes: to sustain the tourism product already available and to develop product initiatives based on the Northern Ireland offer.
Activities	<p>i. The sustained development of the tourism infrastructure to secure a high quality tourism product which will enable Northern Ireland to compete in the global market place, providing where appropriate support for the provision of accommodation and the development of tourism facilities and amenities.</p> <p>ii. The development of innovative products which are based on Northern Ireland’s values and attributes as a destination including those which capitalise on the unique qualities of the natural and creative resources of the region.</p> <p>iii. The provision of relevant feasibility studies.</p>
Categorisation	171 – Physical investment (information centres, tourist accommodation, catering, facilities) - 75% 172 – Non-physical investments (developing and provision of tourist services, sporting, cultural and leisure activities, heritage) - 25%
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Assistance will be dependent upon fulfilling the eligibility criteria for supported schemes set down by the NITB.</p> <p>Project selection criteria will include:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Open and transparent selection procedures, guidance notes and application systems. ii. Clear guidelines on the strategic aims of NITB and its partners. iii. The capacity of projects to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow out of state discretionary tourism into Northern Ireland during and beyond the period of the programme. • Develop products and programmes that match the Northern Ireland tourism offer and to market these effectively. Develop tourism products that have the capacity to target the consumer, market-by-market and sector-by-sector. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following horizontal principles are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and will be applied as follows:</p>

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	<p><u>Equal Opportunities</u></p> <p>All accommodation support must be capable of meeting Category 1 of the National Accessibility Scheme.</p> <p><u>Environmental Sustainability</u></p> <p>Projects must comply with NITB Environmental Sustainability Strategy which ensures that projects will not be detrimental to the environment or the people living there.</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tourism businesses; • district councils; • public bodies; • community and voluntary sector 		
Indicators	Outputs	Results	Impacts
	50 Accommodation projects assisted	750 new bedrooms	350 net jobs created by the end of the programme
	10 visitor attractions enhanced or re-themed	10% increase in visitor numbers to the attractions by the end of the programme (from 2000 baseline)	Increase room occupancy by 2% above the regional average 2 years after opening 70% of visitor attractions still existence by the end of programme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental sustainability will be monitored using local resident impact studies. 		

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure -	19,426,667
	EU Contribution of ERDF	
(a) in the Priority	376,765,000	
(b) in this Measure	14,570,000 (3.88% of Priority allocation)	
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector	4,856,667	
Possible Sources:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment. 	
(b) Private Sector	Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding	27,577,287	
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.	
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment through INVEST NI. Point of contact - Capital Infrastructure - Andy Best 028 90 231221 Accommodation Projects – Liam McKeating 028 90 698516	
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	
Nature of Aid	Grant at up to 75% of eligible public expenditure	
North/South and wider Co-operation	None envisaged	

Notes to indicators:

1. Visitor and job numbers baseline info will be collected when visitor attractions are identified for assistance

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 4	Local Economic Development
Rationale	<p>The goal of strengthening the Northern Ireland economy is the cornerstone of the strategy of DETI and its agencies. It is widely considered that a local development approach is extremely important in strengthening business competitiveness/entrepreneurship and that sustainability can be supported through locally based regeneration that fits within and is complementary to regional, local and area-based strategies. This was acknowledged by the recent Northern Ireland Economic Council Report – “Local Development – A Turning Point” which confirmed that local economic development in NI is still in a state of transition having moved forward from an almost zero base in the early 1990s and recognised that past successes should be built upon.</p> <p>Reference is also made in the ex-ante evaluation for the need to develop further local structures and encourage bottom up economic development. District councils have a statutory role to play in the process and are well placed through their ability to raise revenue through the rates to support local economic development. District Councils are best placed to encourage sustainable local economic development through a locally based strategic approach complementing the activities of Government Departments and agencies.</p> <p>Programmes identified for the Local Economic Development Action Plan by District Councils, as key members of Local Strategy Partnerships will form a part of the Local Strategic Plan, developed as part of Priority 3 under the Peace II Operational Programme.</p>
Objectives	<p>The primary objective is to assist district councils to implement key programmes, as identified in their individual Local Economic Development Action Plans. The programmes identified should:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help drive forward economic change and stimulate sustainable economic development; and/or • contribute to greatly improved infrastructure leading to economic growth and competitiveness; and/or • enhance long-term economic prospects for the Council area.
Activities	<p>The specific activities that will be undertaken under this Measure will be dependent on the programmes identified in each Council’s Action Plan. The list of eligible activities cannot be prescriptive or exhaustive at this stage. It is anticipated that the types of activity that will be assisted may increase employment levels and numbers of new business formations.</p>
Categorisation	<p>164 – Shared business services (business estates, incubator units, stimulation, promotional services, networking, conferences, trade fairs) - 75%</p> <p>163 – Business advisory services (information, business planning, consultancy services, marketing, management, design, internationalisation, exporting, environmental management, purchase of technology) – 25%</p>

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Project Selection Criteria	<p>Programmes assisted will need to demonstrate that action plans have been produced as a result of effective consultation, locally and with Government agencies and pursue a programme approach. Funding for each district council area will among other things take account of New TSN. The Programmes assisted will be required to demonstrate that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are likely to become self-sustaining • will enhance and complement sectoral and technological strategies endorsed by DETI and its Agencies. • can demonstrate clear and measurable economic development focus. • can demonstrate the need for assistance and value for money. <p>“The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.”</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Councils working in conjunction with local stakeholders in the area of local economic development. 		
Indicators	<p>Outputs</p> <p>26 district council action plans</p>	<p>Results</p> <p>List of Programmes detailing costs and implementation details, including number and types of action envisaged</p>	<p>Impacts</p> <p>Increase in employment levels.</p> <p>Number of new business formations as a result of council participation</p> <p>Improved co-ordination of local economic development actions at sub-regional and local level.</p> <p>Specific indicators for each Council will be developed when Action Plans have been assessed and approved.</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF		Euro
	Total Value of Measure	-	79,999,994
	EU Contribution of ERDF		
	(a) in the Priority	-	376,765,000
	(b) in this Measure	-	39,999,998 (10.61 % of Priority allocation)
	Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector	-	39,999,996	
Possible Sources:-	• District Councils		
(b) Private Sector	-	Nil	
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Other Private Sector Funding	-	6,000,000	
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.		
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment through district councils. Point of Contact – Ian Kidd (European Programmes) 028 90 529237		
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment		
Nature of Aid	Grant rate up to 50%.		
North/South and wider Co-operation	Not a requirement but individual district councils may collaborate with their County Council counterparts in ROI.		

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 5	Information Society
Rationale	<p>Northern Ireland has a high dependency on declining industries and needs to restructure its industrial base. The ex-ante evaluation identified a need to focus on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and the knowledge- based economy as a means of overcoming Northern Ireland’s peripherality in traditional industrial terms. The opportunities for industries centred upon the rapid technological advances in ICTs therefore provides a real opportunity for growth. Opportunities also exist for companies to use the new technologies to improve the way they do business and so generate economic benefits. The rapid growth in the digital economy outside Northern Ireland means that to become competitive, there is a real need to take urgent actions. A regional Information Age Initiative strategic framework for business has been produced to help address these issues.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This measure is also in line with the Europe Action Plan as well as the European Commission’s Communications Strategies for “Jobs in the Information Society”.</p>

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Objectives	<p>The objectives detailed below will be met under existing Government schemes:</p> <p>To encourage NI companies, including entrepreneurs and business start-ups, to progress along the Connectivity Chain and in doing so exploit e-commerce and e-business opportunities to boost innovation; increase business confidence; build business competitiveness and address business threats.</p>
Activities	<p>Activities aim to progress NI companies along the Connectivity Chain as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. stimulating economic development generally by providing assistance toward the development of innovative e-business ideas; ii. improving access to and utilisation of e-commerce by SMEs and by larger businesses; iii. promoting new business start-ups and enhancing existing knowledge based industries; iv. increasing business ICT use and establishing activities to enhance the abilities of organisations in Northern Ireland to use the new technologies and to improve the way they do business; v. developing new sectors in the economy thriving on the rapid developments in technology and promoting greater quality jobs therein; vi. establishing North-South business links and local cross border linkages to promote e-commerce opportunities; vii. developing benchmarking abilities to measure progress and assess where there are gaps to be filled; and viii. ensuring that appropriate infrastructural, promotional, legal, and policy frameworks are in place to allow organisations in Northern Ireland to fully embrace the opportunities offered by the growth of the new technologies.

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Categorisation	<p>153 – Business advisory services (including internationalisation, exporting and environmental management, purchase of technology) - 30%</p> <p>163 – Business advisory services (information, business planning, consultancy services, marketing, management, design, internationalisation, exporting, environmental management, purchase of technology) - 30%</p> <p>324 – Services and applications for SMEs (electronic commerce and transactions, education and training, networking) - 40%</p>
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Assistance will be dependent upon fulfilling the eligibility criteria for supported schemes set down by the appropriate agency and be the subject of competitive application and consideration by an intra-Departmental selection committee – the E-Commerce Strategy Group.</p> <p>Projects will be assessed against likely impact in meeting the priorities of the Information Age Initiative;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the use by SME's and organisations of the latest ICT's; • contributing to the rapid growth of the ICT sector in NI; and • helping to enhance an environment which supports the knowledge based economy in NI. <p>Projects also need to demonstrate lack of duplication, complementarity and VFM.</p> <p>Projects will be assessed in terms of fit with and their contribution to progressing SME's along, the "Connectivity Chain", the 5 steps of which are Awareness, Access, Presence, Trading and E-business.</p> <div data-bbox="411 969 1235 1397" data-label="Diagram"> </div> <p>“The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.”</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMEs (high growth start-up, existing companies); • Existing larger businesses; • Entrepreneurs; and • Trade and business development promotion groups.

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Indicators	Outputs	Results	Impacts
	Outputs are based upon progressing NI business relating to the DTI International Benchmarking Study report on ICT		Impacts will be accessed by measurement of the progress of NI business by the DTI International Benchmarking Study report on ICT. The key targets are:
	At least 2 programmes aimed at making business aware of the benefits of ICT	4,500 engagements with SMEs by 2005	Achieve an increase in the measurement of Northern Ireland based businesses towards sophistication in the use of ICTs from 15% to 30%
	At least 2 programmes aimed at facilitating business access to ICT	700 engagements with SMEs by 2005	
	1 programme aimed at assisting business in the development of e-business strategies	70 engagements with SMEs by 2005	
			NB. These impacts are based on the cumulative effect of all the outputs.

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure -	15,666,667
	EU Contribution of ERDF	
	(a) in the Priority -	376,765,000
	(b) in this Measure -	11,750,000 (3.11% of Priority allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector -	3,916,667	
Possible Sources:-	Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment.	
(b) Private Sector -	Nil	
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Other Private Sector Funding -	,23,500,000	
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.	
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Point of Contact - Kevin Johnston (Information Age Initiative) 028 90 529577	
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	
Nature of Aid	Grant rate of up to 75% of eligible public expenditure.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	The promotion of North/South e-commerce opportunities and links.	

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 6a	Roads and Transport – Roads
Rationale	<p>Northern Ireland is almost totally dependant on a road based transport system with 98% of Northern Ireland goods transported by road. As the main means of transporting people as well as goods the road network provides mobility for businesses, tourists and residents within Northern Ireland and links the region’s economic activities with its external gateways. The quality of the road network is thus of utmost importance in ensuring the efficient transportation of Northern Ireland’s externally traded products.</p> <p>While recognising the advances and improvements in the roads infrastructure, the ex ante also recognises that as Northern Ireland faces new economic challenges and opportunities there is a need for further development of its infrastructure. The key challenge for the roads component of the Roads and Transport Measure is to build on the achievements of the NISPD and provide road improvements that support sustainable economic development, widening opportunities for work, leisure, holidays and choice of where to live. Achieving a reduction in peak hour journey times for example, will help to sustain and develop social progress, economic growth and sustainable development opportunities for the business, tourism and social sectors alike. An important theme of the Structural Funds Programme 2000-06 is to promote integrated urban and rural development. Improved road services from Belfast to sub regional growth centres will support the development of economic linkages, ensuring the exploitation of the potential of these key economic corridors, and the dispersal of economic growth opportunities to sub regional centres.</p> <p>The projects proposed under this measure are very much complementary with a number of high level transportation strategies. Both Strategy 2010 and the draft Regional Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland “<i>Shaping Our Future</i>” recognise the importance of developing a strategic transportation network in Northern Ireland. Based on the principles contained in these documents DRD is working on the creation of a 10 year Regional Transportation Plan which will highlight the need for a modern, integrated and sustainable transportation system for Northern Ireland with an emphasis on the delivery of economic, social and environmental benefits.</p> <p>These strategies have identified five Key Transport Corridors along which the clustering of urban centres, regional gateways, extensive infrastructure assets and a concentration of human resources together offer an extra growth momentum. Investment in strategic infrastructure on the key transport corridors will contribute to the overall aims of the CSF by improving the competitiveness of the NI economy, encouraging labour market mobility and access as well as promoting equality of opportunity across NI. The economic potential of these Development Corridors is further enhanced by their alignment on TENS transport corridors where there is a significant international movement of people and goods.</p>

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	Further Link Corridors have also been identified.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve peak hour journey times through the provision of several road by-passes. • To support economic growth and sustainable development, equality of opportunity in access to employment, training and education and sustainable urban and social development by investments in infrastructure projects. <p>These investments will contribute to the achievement of the overall aims of the CSF and the development of the spatial strategy outlined in <i>Shaping Our Future</i>.</p>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activities will include the provision of several single carriageway and dual carriageway bypasses that will improve peak hour journey times by an average of 35%.
Categorisation	312 – Roads
Project Selection Criteria	<p>1. Included in Roads Service Preparation Pool.</p> <p>2. Scheme located on a Key Transport Corridor or Link Corridor.</p> <p>It can take several years to progress a major road scheme through the necessary statutory procedures that can include public consultation, the publication of an Environmental Statement, the making of a Direction Order and the acquisition of land by Vesting Order. Accordingly, the highest priority schemes are progressed into a Major Works Preparation Pool, where the statutory procedures are started well in advance of funding being confirmed. The Preparation Pool includes a number of by-pass schemes, urban and rural road schemes as well as major transportation schemes such as Park and Ride sites and Quality Bus Corridors in Belfast.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other action for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following horizontal principals are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure as follows:</p> <p>Accountability – financial management and control arrangements will be in accordance with Departmental Accounting Procedures, GANI and the new EU Financial Control Regulations.</p> <p>Balanced Intervention/Equal Opportunities - All work within DRD is subject to the guidance on new TSN and Equality impact assessment as well as human rights considerations. Projects undertaken in this measure will be no different from this in that they will have originated from the various capital works programmes and will be subject to the same level of assessment.</p> <p>Economic and Social Sustainability – All projects under this measure will be substantially complete by the end of the Programme period.</p> <p>Publicity/Transparency - Publicity requirements will be followed on all</p>

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	<p>projects under this measure.</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability – The expected environmental impact of Roads Schemes is expected to be neutral. Projects may have some negative effects on areas affected by the scheme. These will however be outweighed by the positive benefits to urban communities relieved of congestion, visual intrusion, noise pollution and poor air quality. Funding for road transport systems will only be considered where the extension is part of the Regional Development Plan and where full compliance with EU and national environmental legislation and policy is envisaged.</p> <p>Partnership – Covered by the composition of the Monitoring Committee.</p>																						
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	All of Northern Ireland, users of the Key Transport Corridors / Link Corridors.																						
Indicators	<p>Output: 3 by-pass schemes 1 Through-pass scheme 1 Link Road 1 Bridge strengthening scheme</p> <p>Result: 12.1 km of new carriageway Strengthen structure to increase capacity to carry the maximum 40 tonne HGV vehicles Repainting and resurfacing the bridge</p> <p>Impact: Reduced peak journey times by an average of 35%. Bridge capable of extra carrying capacity to meet future demand, which will see the numbers of HGVs increasing from 2700 per day to 3200 per day over the next 10 years. Painting will provide required protection for next 20 years.</p>																						
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ERDF</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Euro</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure -</td> <td style="text-align: right;">69,153,334</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">EU Contribution of ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td> (a) in the Priority -</td> <td style="text-align: right;">376,765,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> (b) in this Measure -</td> <td style="text-align: right;">51,865,000 (13.76% of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Match Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td> (a) Public Sector -</td> <td style="text-align: right;">17,288,334</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Possible Sources:-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">• Department for Regional Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td> (b) Private Sector -</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding -</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> </tr> </table>		Euro	Total Value of Measure -	69,153,334	EU Contribution of ERDF		(a) in the Priority -	376,765,000	(b) in this Measure -	51,865,000 (13.76% of Priority allocation)	Match Funding		(a) Public Sector -	17,288,334	Possible Sources:-	• Department for Regional Development	(b) Private Sector -	Nil	<hr/>		Other Private Sector Funding -	Nil
	Euro																						
Total Value of Measure -	69,153,334																						
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(a) Public Sector -	17,288,334																						
Possible Sources:-	• Department for Regional Development																						
(b) Private Sector -	Nil																						
<hr/>																							
Other Private Sector Funding -	Nil																						
Implementing Body	The Department for Regional Development, through Roads Service. Contact Mr Jack Cargo, Roads Service, telephone- 028 9054 0614																						
Accountable	The Department for Regional Development.																						

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Department	
Nature of Aid	ERDF Grant (75%).
Duration	These funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000-2005 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2007.
North/South and wider Co-operation	Schemes to be considered are all internal to Northern Ireland but are located on corridors that link Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland. Most schemes under consideration are located on the TENs network.

Notes to indicators:

1. The Monitoring Committee will receive regular progress reports on these indicators as the final achievements will not be realised for a number of years.

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 6b	Roads and Transport – Transport
Rationale	<p>An effective transport network is critical to improving the competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy, to encourage labour market access and mobility and promote equality of opportunity across Northern Ireland. Almost one third of households in Northern Ireland do not have access to private transport. The ex-ante recognises that this has produced a gap in terms of access to economic and social opportunities between those members of society with and without access to private transport.</p> <p>This measure is aimed at addressing this gap by improving access to Public Transport and thus opportunity for those in peripheral rural and deprived urban areas. The delivery of a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system will have a major effect at local level on the basis of access to education, training, employment and recreational opportunities. It will improve travel choice and assist greatly in changing the travel culture in Northern Ireland so that people can adopt more sustainable and healthier travel habits and it will further enhance the development of the TENS Network.</p> <p>Activities under this measure will be complementary to a series of high level strategies relating to Northern Ireland’s transportation infrastructure. While the region will continue to place reliance on private transport, unrestrained car use, particularly in larger urban areas, is not a sustainable option in the longer term. The emphasis in the future needs to be more directed at moving people and goods rather than moving cars.</p> <p>The draft Regional Development Strategy (RDS) document is nearly finalised and it will highlight the need for a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system for NI, with an emphasis on the delivery of economic, social and environmental benefits.</p> <p>This reflects the integrated approach of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESPD) which recognises that Transport is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a basic pre-requisite for strengthening the competitive position of peripheral regions and less favoured areas. • An important factor in promoting a balanced spread of growth (Polycentric development). • Fundamental to strengthening the economic attractiveness of regional centres. <p>The draft Strategy also identifies the need to properly maintain the condition of transportation infrastructure, improve travel choice by enhancing public transport and change travel culture so that people will adopt more sustainable and healthier travel habits. The Strategies set out in these documents provide for the development of a modern integrated transport system in Northern Ireland.</p>

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Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate travel by enhancing public transport services through the development of improved bus services along key transport corridors and enhancement of bus provision in rural and isolated communities. To improve the safety of the rail network and enhance the overall provision for the transport of goods and passengers by rail on the TENS network. To support economic growth and sustainable development, equality of opportunity in access to employment, training and education and sustainable urban and social development by investments in infrastructure projects. <p>These investments will contribute to the achievement of the overall aims of the CSF and the development of the spatial strategy outlined in <i>Shaping Our Future</i>.</p>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of urban/rural transport centres/projects; Upgrading rail infrastructure on key network locations; and Enhancement of community transport services, especially in isolated rural areas.
Categorisation	311 – Rail (20%) 317 - Urban Transport (60%) 318 - Multimodal Transport (20%)
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects will be selected on the basis of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistency with the priority of tourism and infrastructure development compatibility with one or more of the strategic objectives underlying the programme compliance with the specific operational objectives at measure level supporting the creation of a more sustainable network through encouraging more efficient public transport services that provide greater accessibility and choice. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following horizontal principles are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and will be applied as follows:</p> <p>Accountability – financial management and control arrangements will be in accordance with Departmental Accounting Procedures, GANI and the new EU Financial Control Regulations.</p> <p>Balanced Intervention/Equal Opportunities - All work within DRD is subject to the guidance on new TSN and Equality impact assessment as well as human rights considerations. Projects undertaken in this measure</p>

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	<p>will be no different from this in that they will have originated from the various capital works programmes and will be subject to the same level of assessment.</p> <p>Economic and Social Sustainability – All projects under this measure will be substantially complete by the end of the Programme period.</p> <p>Publicity/Transparency - Publicity requirements will be followed on all projects under this measure.</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability – The expected environmental impact of Public Transport Schemes is expected to be neutral. Even though most forms of transport are damaging to the environment, the impact of a modal shift to more sustainable, healthier travel is expected to be more positive compared to conventional road transport. No mitigating measures are envisaged as necessary. Investment in public transport under this priority is aimed at achieving a modal shift away from private cars to the more environmental friendly public transport. Public transport can bring benefits in the form of reduced pollution, improved air quality and reduced visual intrusion as well as reducing the exploitation of non-renewable natural resources.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Members of the community in isolated and peripheral urban and rural areas of Northern Ireland as well as public and private providers of regional transport.
Indicators	<p>Output: 1 new rural bus station 3 Urban bus depot projects Introduction of Customers Information, replacement of management systems and 2 other transport related schemes</p> <p>Result: New passenger and staff facilities at 1 rural bus station Compliance with H&S standards and upgrade of 3 urban bus depots 4 innovative schemes to complement high level management strategies</p> <p>Impact: Improvement in accessibility, social inclusion and more sustainable movement of people.</p> <p>More efficient movement of people and improved urban transport systems. Enhance and modernise the operation of integrated transport across Northern Ireland</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF	
	Euro	
	Total Value of Measure	- 44,613,333
	EU Contribution of ERDF	
	(a) in the Priority	- 376,765,000
	(b) in this Measure	- 33,460,000 (8.88% of Priority allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector	- 11,153,333	
Possible Sources:-	• Department for Regional Development	
(b) Private Sector	- Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding	- Nil	
Implementing Body	The Department for Regional Development, through its Transport Division, NITHCO and Translink. Contact Mr M Pollock, Transport Policy and Support Division telephone 028 9025 7330	
Accountable Department	The Department for Regional Development.	
Nature of Aid	ERDF Grant (75%).	
Duration	These funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000-2005 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2007.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	Schemes to be considered are all internal to Northern Ireland but are located on corridors that link Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland.	

Notes to indicators:

The integrated fares and ticketing systems soon to be introduced by Translink (not funded under this programme) will be supported by a comprehensive management Information System (MIS) which will provide route specific information such as revenue, nos (including possibly social grouping) of passengers using a route/mode of transport etc. This will be supplemented with information gathered from other sources such as the Labour Force Survey on methods of travel to work and the new annual NI Travel Survey, in order to measure the overall results and impacts of this measure.



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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS
Measure 7	Telecommunications
Rationale	<p>The proposed activities under this Measure meet the ex-ante need for infrastructure investments to contribute to competitiveness, reduce costs and meet the needs of a growing economy. The Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government recognises that access to advanced telecommunications is essential to full economic inclusion. All citizens in Northern Ireland should have access to the advantages and opportunities provided by the new generation of communications technologies.</p> <p>Telecommunications infrastructure is a critical component in attracting and retaining high value added business. The most important barrier to widespread availability of broadband, is often the unwillingness of the operators to roll out to areas where there is a marginal or low priority economic case.</p> <p>The DTI Communications White Paper on 12 December 2000 highlighted the need to guard against the development of a "digital divide" thereby ensuring that irrespective of geographical location, all citizens should have access to the advantages and opportunities presented by the next generation of communications technologies.</p> <p>It is essential therefore that there is a world class telecommunications infrastructure to ensure that NI is not to be disadvantaged in its drive to establish a knowledge driven economy.</p>
Objectives	<p>The Measure will aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stimulate investment in, and accelerate the development of, cost-competitive highspeed communications infrastructure and services in peripheral, remote and less developed areas and • help develop Northern Ireland as a suitable location for knowledge-based, telecoms intensive industries.
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Encouraging the roll-out of appropriate highspeed services to existing industry throughout Northern Ireland and increase latent demand through promotional and educational programmes to create an awareness of the benefits of highspeed services for industry. ii. Enhancing the supply and demand for direct international bandwidth into Northern Ireland, encouraging increased competition leading to lower prices, raising service levels and creating an environment conducive to the attraction and development of telecoms intensive industries. iii. Providing internationally recognised exemplars of next generation highspeed projects, to demonstrate Northern Ireland's commitment to and capabilities in the provision and use of highspeed services. <p>Developing pilot projects in sectors dependent upon highspeed services which have potential for expansion and job creation in Northern Ireland and projects demonstrating the delivery of broadband services in remote rural areas..</p>

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Categorisation	321 – Basic infrastructure 75% 322 - Information and Communication Technology (including security and safe transmission measures) 25%		
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Proposals will be invited by way of open competition. The open competitive call will be technology/platform neutral. DETI in conjunction with consultants will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of individual projects. All projects will be technically and economically appraised against pre-determined relevant criteria. Programme criteria will include the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of the project to the strategy and objectives of the Programme. • Geographical coverage and population catchment of proposed services • Impact on competitiveness and innovation. • Economic and financial viability and evidence of private sector funding. • The benefit to the Northern Ireland economy. • Technical/planning viability and Value for Money. • Evidence of a marketing strategy to stimulate demand for services. <p>“The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.”</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland business; and • Industrial sector particularly SMEs. 		
Indicators	<p>Outputs</p> <p>Percentage of exchanges capable of providing enhanced telecommunications services, rising from 10% baseline in 2000 to 100% by end December 2005.</p>	<p>Results</p> <p>The percentage of NI geographical area with access to advanced telecommunications rising from 11% baseline in 2000, to 100% by end December 2005.</p>	<p>Impacts</p> <p>10 new telecoms-intensive firms to be established</p> <p>An increase in the use of enhanced telecommunications, in particular basic broadband services, from a baseline figure of 1% in 2000 rising to 12% of household take up, and 20% of business take up by the end of 2005</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF		Euro
	Total Value of Measure	-	38,973,334
	EU Contribution of ERDF		
	(a) in the Priority	-	376,765,000
	(b) in this Measure	-	,29,230,000 (7.76 % of Priority allocation)
Match Funding			
(a) Public Sector	-	9,743,334	
Possible Sources:-	•		
(b) Private Sector	-	Nil	
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	Other Private Sector Funding	-	,12,699,931
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.		
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Point of Contact – Trevor Forsythe 028 90 529670		
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment		
Nature of Aid	Grant of up to 75% of eligible public expenditure.		
North/South and wider Co-operation	Telecoms operators north and south have continued to invest significant sums in developing a world-class broadband infrastructure for the island of Ireland.		

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Energy

As clearly stated in the Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity, there is a need to build on the energy infrastructure achievements under the NISPD by seeking to strengthen gas and electricity interconnection. The progressive opening of these markets is required to help improve business competitiveness. For maximum impact this approach will be linked to a sustainable development policy that will promote action in all sectors to reduce consumption and encourage the development of renewable sources of energy.

The general policies regulating the Northern Ireland approach to energy are security and diversity of supply; progressive liberalisation and increased competition in the pursuit of lower prices; sustained energy efficiency, the promotion of renewables and Combined Heat and Power (CHP); the closer integration of energy and environmental strategies and strong independent regulation of a privatised market.

The proposed energy activities under this Measure meet the ex-ante requirement of ensuring requisite infrastructure in place to contribute to competitiveness, to offset peripherality and are detailed below in the form of sub-measures.

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS		
Measure 8A	Energy Infrastructure		
Rationale	Northern Ireland's energy market is relatively small and there is a need to build on the energy infrastructure achievements made under the NISPD by seeking to strengthen gas and electricity interconnection North/South and East/West.		
Objectives	<p>The purpose of this measure is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of the natural gas industry outside the Greater Belfast area and in particular to the SE and North/North West of Northern Ireland and further North/South interconnection in line with the opening up of the electricity market under the provisions of the EU Electricity Directive. 		
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction of gas pipelines to areas outside Greater Belfast, which will enable natural gas to be supplied to a number of towns along the route and The reinforcement of North/South electricity interconnection 		
Categorisation	331 – Electricity, gas, petroleum products, solid fuel 100%		
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects will be awarded as a result of negotiation with applicants and include the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribution to the development of energy infrastructure consistency with the priority of reducing the effects of peripherality <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following horizontal principle is particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and will be applied as follows:</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability Environmental impact studies will be carried out as appropriate.</p>		
Indicators	Outputs	Results	Impacts
	KM of gas pipeline laid: North/West – 116km	Numbers of customers connected: North/West – 9,000	Reductions in CO ₂ : North/West – 16,800t

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF	
		Meuro
	Total Value of Measure -	21,653,334
	EU Contribution of ERDF	
	(a) in the Priority -	376,765,000
	(b) in this Measure -	16,240,000 (4.30% of Priority allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector -	5,413,334	
Possible Sources:-		DETI
(b) Private Sector -	0.00	
<hr/>		
Other Private Sector Funding -		73,046,668
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.	
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Point of Contact – John Boyd (Energy Branch) 028 90 529371	
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	
Nature of Aid	Grant at up to 75% of eligible public expenditure.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	The projects have the potential for cross-border co-operation by taking gas to County Donegal and/or the South East Border region and the reinforcement of North/South electricity interconnection.	

Notes to indicators:

- 1 Gas customers will be connected via a rolling process.
- 2 Regular progress reports will be provided to the Monitoring Committee

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PRIORITY 1	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS	
Measure 8B	Energy Efficiency	
Rationale	<p>Given the importance attached to reducing energy demand and achieving sustainable development, there is scope for building upon what has been done to date and beginning to make a serious impact in the region. This Measure will address the low rate of exploitation and uptake in Northern Ireland of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current energy efficiency/conservation technologies; • renewable energies (less than 2%); and • combined heat and power. This is against a background of Northern Ireland's electricity prices being amongst the highest in the United Kingdom and other regions of EU Member States. 	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to improve energy efficiency and the uptake of renewable energies; ii. to remove barriers to increasing energy efficiency ; iii. to reduce dependency on fossil fuels; iv. to promote a cleaner environment; v. to stimulate investment in energy efficiency, renewable energies and combined heat and power; 	
Activities	<p>This is a Demonstration Scheme designed to result in innovative projects, which interested parties may visit and inspect. The Scheme will encourage the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. energy efficiency technologies (including energy storage); ii. renewable energy (including solar power); and iii. combined heat and power (including those where the fuel is from renewable sources). 	
Categorisation	<p>332 – Renewable sources of energy (solar power, wind power, hydro-electricity, biomass) 50%</p> <p>333 – Energy efficiency, cogeneration, energy control 50%</p>	
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the projects contribution to the promotion of a particular technology and the ease of replication. • An assessment of the technical feasibility and merits of the project. • The potential demonstration value of the project will be assessed. • The timeliness of the project in relation to technological developments. • The potential of the project as far as local economic development is concerned. 	

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	“The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.”			
Indicators	Outputs	Results	Impacts	
	20 demonstration projects supported over the lifetime of the programme	At least 150 information packs issued in response to requests over the lifetime of the programme	Specific positive environmental impacts directly attributable to the projects including 1,200 tonnes of CO2 emissions savings over the lifetime of the programme	
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ERDF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <p>Total Value of Measure - 520,000</p> <p>EU Contribution of ERDF</p> <p>(a) in the Priority - 376,765,000</p> <p>(b) in this Measure - 390,000 (0.1% of Priority allocation)</p> <p>Match Funding</p> <p>(a) Public Sector - 130,000</p> <p>Possible Sources: • Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment</p> <p>(b) Private Sector - Nil</p> <hr/> <p>Other Private Sector Funding - 468,000</p>			
Duration	The funds will be committed to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and available for spending up to 31 December 2007.			
Implementing Body	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Point of Contact – David Stanley (Energy Branch) 028 90 529240			
Accountable Department	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment			
Nature of Aid	Grant up to a maximum of 75%			
North/South and wider Co-operation	Details of the actions funded will be sent to the Republic of Ireland's Organisation for the Promotion of Energy Technologies (OPET) for onward distribution			



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BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

PRIORITY 2 – EMPLOYMENT

	MEASURES AND SUB-MEASURES
1	Education and Skills Development
2	Tackling the Flows into Long-Term Unemployment
3	Promoting a Labour Market Open to All
4	Improving Opportunities for Lifelong Learning
5	Education and Training ICT and Infrastructure Support
6	Developing Entrepreneurship
7	Human Resource Development in Companies
8	The Advancement of Women

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Priority 2: Employment

1. Background

The principal task of the Employment Priority will be to tackle specific labour market needs of those in education who are about to enter the labour market, those who are unemployed and those who are in employment. By doing this, the Priority will implement the European Employment Strategy in Northern Ireland through actions identified in the UK Policy Frame of Reference and the UK National Action Plan. The Priority provides a horizontal emphasis on human resource development, in keeping with the strategy set out in the CSF. Actions undertaken will complement the other Priorities within this Programme, in particular the Economic Growth and Competitiveness Priority. The Priority will pay particular attention to the ESF Horizontal Themes – gender mainstreaming; the Information Society; local development.

In pursuing its aim, this Priority will take into account the protection and improvement of the environment.

2. Relationship to the Labour Market Assessment

2.1 Needs

The analysis of Northern Ireland's Labour Market, an intrinsic element of the ex-ante evaluation, has highlighted a series of persistent weaknesses despite the growth experienced in the regional economy over the last few years. The main issues are set out below. They are discussed more fully at Annex (insert relevant number)

The region is still characterised by relatively high levels of unemployment, in particular long-term unemployment, and low economic activity rates. Social exclusion and exclusion from the labour market is an enduring problem in many parts of Northern Ireland, aggravated in pockets of deprivation and amongst a number of excluded groups.

Literacy and numeracy skills levels as well as ICT skills remain low for a large proportion of the unemployed and employed population. Lifelong learning is only slowly expanding in the education and training sectors. In the schools sector, while the most academically gifted continue to do well, there remain significant problems relating to educational underachievement and low attendance, and a high proportion of young people leave school at the end of compulsory education. Investment in human resource development in companies remains low, as are the levels of self-employment. Indeed levels of self-employment and the development of the social economy are lagging behind UK averages.

Finally, the labour market is characterised by a significant gender gap in employment, especially full-time and self-employment, economic activity, progression and pay. Obstacles such as restricted access to training or the lack of childcare facilities are perpetuating these gender gaps.

2.2 The ESF Rationale

Human Resource Development interventions in both Programmes will underpin the European Employment Strategy and will be consistent with the UK National Action Plan for

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Employment. Action will be undertaken in five key areas, which correspond with the five ESF Policy Fields.

2.3 Aims and Objectives

The Community Support Framework has identified two strategic aims under the Employment, Human Resource Development and Social Inclusion Priority. These are:

- to bring about high levels of employment, and develop a skilled, adaptable and entrepreneurial workforce;
- to promote access to the labour market for all and foster social inclusion.

ESF responses to these aims, under each of the five Policy Fields, are described below.

2.4 Promoting Active Labour Market Policies

There are three broad areas where intervention is required:

- stemming the flow into long-term unemployment while simultaneously reducing the current stock of long-term unemployed;
- ensuring high levels of skill among new entrants to the labour force, particularly in future growth sectors, especially in the area of Information and Communication Technology;
- increasing the economic activity rate, including actions to encourage the integration of young people within the labour market (particularly the ‘Status O’ group) and reducing the differences between male and female economic activity rates.

2.5 Promoting Equal Opportunity for all in accessing the Labour Market

Interventions are required which are aimed at building bridges for those at the margins of society, and developing pathways to employment for those at risk of becoming socially excluded. It is recognised that as well as assisting those who have low educational attainments and those who are disabled, there are groups of low achievers concentrated in certain geographical areas.

2.6 Lifelong Learning

Within this Policy Field, the ESF will contribute towards the creation of a learning and knowledge based society and a culture of lifelong learning in Northern Ireland. Key areas for intervention are:

- improving low levels of adult literacy and numeracy, both for the employed and unemployed;
- raising basic skills levels (particularly ICT skills) and providing re-skilling mechanisms, especially to improve the pool of qualifications/skills in deprived areas;
- widening the access to continuing education, higher education and training;

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- working in the schools and youth sectors to address the problems of educational underachievement, improving school attendance and preventing early school leaving.

2.7 Promoting Adaptability and Entrepreneurship

There is a continuing need to develop an entrepreneurial culture in Northern Ireland. In addition all employers, whether large or small, need to be able to recruit from an adaptable and flexible pool of labour, while at the same time enhancing the adaptability – and therefore the competitiveness – of their own workforces. There are two main areas for support:

- Setting aside the agricultural sector, which, compared with other UK regions, provides a high level of self-employment, the overall self-employment rate remains comparatively low. Northern Ireland has the lowest rate of business registrations in the UK. In addition there remains an issue with the operation of market forces in deprived areas, namely the fact that the local economic base is weak, service provision is limited due to low population levels and local unemployment is generally high. As a consequence there is a powerful rationale for supporting initiatives that target economic development and employment opportunities at disadvantaged communities and excluded labour markets.
- Adaptability within the workforce, particularly within SMEs, will be encouraged, both at management and operative levels. Social Partner organisations will also be encouraged to develop capacity building and to modernise the organisation of work.

2.8 Improving Women’s Access to and Participation in the Labour Market

While the improvement of women’s participation is a horizontal theme transcending all ESF priorities, there are three particular areas where actions will be focused:

- reducing barriers which prevent women from returning to the labour market, and tackling horizontal and vertical segregation which prohibits advancement for those already within the workforce;
- developing access to education, training and employment as well as promoting the self-employment option for women;
- developing progression routes for women.

It is recognised that one of the key barriers to any type of labour market activity is the provision of good quality childcare facilities commensurate with the level of demand, and complementary to the current Northern Ireland Childcare strategy. This childcare issue will be a cross-cutting theme straddling all Measures in both Programmes. As well as facilitating access, it will also ease the gender pay gap by facilitating more full-time employment.

2.9 The Horizontal ESF Themes

There are three horizontal themes: which are particular to the European Social Fund. These are in addition to the Horizontal Principles, described in Chapter 3 of the Operational Programme, which apply to the implementation of all aspects of the Programme.

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- gender mainstreaming;
- the Information Society; and
- local development.

The equal opportunities theme will be integrated across all ESF Policy Fields in each Programme, and a Gender Matrix at Annex 5 of the Operational Programme illustrates the ways in which women might be targeted. At the operational level, equality will be mainstreamed by including it as a selection criterion for all Measures. It will also feature as a topic in all evaluations.

In recognising the important significance of the Information Society in terms of employment potential, the development and application of information and communication technologies will be encouraged in the context of each Policy Field. This supports the Information Society strategy being implemented by the Economic Growth and Competitiveness Priority and is also in keeping with the European Council's recently stated ambitious objective that Europe should become "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world". As with equality, evaluations will measure the extent to which ICT themes have been addressed during implementation.

As regards the local development dimension, which will continue to develop local solutions to local problems, the ESF will encourage initiatives which recognise the lessons gained from experience of the Newry and Mourne Territorial Employment Pact, INVEST NI's local enterprise agency network, and the District Partnership mechanism which has developed under the EUSPPR. Insofar as is possible, ESF support will be directed towards locally based economic initiatives across all Policy Fields. This is particularly relevant for the following measures: Education and Skills; Labour Market Open to All; Advancement of Women.

The North/South and Wider Co-operation Priority in the CSF also has a spatial dimension, and opportunities for networking and co-operation will be encouraged, particularly in the context of the advancement of women.

2.10 Strategic Focus of the Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme

While there have been significant improvements in the overall Northern Ireland economy over the past few years, nevertheless a number of labour market weaknesses remain. These include:

- High long-term unemployment.
- The potential for additional flows into long-term unemployment.
- Low levels of female employment activity.
- 'Status O' young people – 16-17 year olds who are not involved in employment, education or training.
- Lower levels of pay for women relative to men.

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- Lower levels of economic activity experienced by people with disabilities.
- Relatively high dependence on state benefits, such as incapacity benefit and income support.
- Lower levels of formal qualifications compared with other parts of the UK.
- Lower levels of adult literacy and numeracy.
- Within companies, especially SMEs, a lower level of commitment to training, leading to a significantly lower level of involvement with NVQs, Investors in People, etc.
- Lower levels of self-employment compared with other UK regions.

Recognising the scale of the problems affecting the labour market, the Measures falling within this Priority have been drawn up in direct response to the policy implications arising from the above analysis. It is considered that the contribution of the ESF to addressing the problems of the NI labour market can best be maximised through a policy of concentrating the ESF measures under the one Priority, channelled through each of the five ESF Policy Fields. This should help ensure a more consistent approach to implementation, facilitate a common approach to monitoring and evaluation, as well as ensure direct links with the labour market and the promotion of jobs.

The Employment Priority provides a horizontal emphasis on human resource development issues, which are a vital component of the overall CSF. It is strongly inter-linked with the other Priorities of the Transitional Objective 1 Programme and with the PEACE II Programme.

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ESF Policy Field: Active Labour Market Policies

In the light of the findings of the labour market assessment outlined above, a number of policy implications arise under each of the ESF Policy Fields. In terms of developing and promoting active labour market policies, interventions are required which will complement the UK Government's Welfare to Work strategy to reduce the stock of long-term unemployed and the flows into long-term unemployment. Actions are also needed to address the problem of young people who are not involved in employment, education or training (Status 'O'). There is also a need to increase economic activity rates at both the regional and sub-regional levels.

This policy is implemented through two measures – 1 and 2

PRIORITY 2	EMPLOYMENT
Measure 1	Education and Skills Development
Rationale	<p>The vision statement within Strategy 2010, which is echoed in Priority 1 of this Programme, sees the Northern Ireland economy becoming “a fast growing, competitive, innovative, knowledge-based economy where there are plentiful opportunities and a population equipped to grasp them”. If this is to be achieved, then the skill demands from growth sector areas, such as electronics, telecommunications and the Information Society must be met. It is important therefore to ensure that actions are taken to equip new entrants to the labour market with appropriate skills and aptitudes.</p> <p>Many school leavers will have serious deficiencies in terms of basic and key skills, and their needs will be met via the Promoting a Labour Market Open to All Measure. However there is another large cohort of young people who, while not having performed particularly well in terms of formal educational qualifications, are nevertheless not lacking in the basic skills, but do need guidance and training in vocational skills if they are to be competitive in the labour market.</p> <p>At the other end of the spectrum there is another cohort of people who leave third level education very well equipped academically, but are again lacking in terms of vocational talents. They too will need a mechanism to bridge that gap, equipping them to perform well in high value jobs within growth sector areas.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide new entrants to the labour market with the skills necessary to participate successfully, particularly in growth areas where skill demands are increasing. Actions will emphasise the objectives of the European Employment Strategy, in particular Employment Guideline 4.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide guidance and training in vocational skills up to NVQ Level 3 for school leavers who are not yet equipped to find and retain employment. Provide guidance and training for third level education graduates who wish to seek employment primarily in the growth sector areas but do not yet have the vocational skills to do so.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance for dependent care/childcare where required • Encourage the dissemination of information deriving from pilot projects • Carry out labour market assessments and skill needs assessments
Categorisation	21 – Labour Market Policy
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver outcomes at least to the minimum appropriate quality standards • complement other mainstream learning and training initiatives • build upon recognised best practice initiatives • make a significant contribution towards raising skill levels, including basic skills, in areas of demand particularly in new growth areas
	<p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following ESF themes are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and applicants will be required to demonstrate in their application how they will tackle:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Gender mainstreaming</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Information Society</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Local development</p> <p>The potential for new employment opportunities offered by the Information Society should be recognised by integrating ICT skills into the context and delivery of projects. Where appropriate, steps should be taken to highlight the need to protect and improve the environment.</p> <p>Approximately 75% of this resource will support the Jobskills Traineeships Programme, but applications are also encouraged from the voluntary/community and third level education sectors.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Young persons about to enter the labour market who lack appropriate vocational skills

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Indicators	<p>The core performance indicators set out below are based on the performance of similar Measures over the last phase of funding under the Single Programme. The calculations are based on average unit costs, and estimate the performance over the six years of the BSP Programme. “Beneficiaries” are participants, whether they complete their training or not. The employment impact will measure both full-time and part-time outcomes, it being recognized that for many people – eg women returners, people with disabilities, people who are long-term unemployed – employment initially in a part-time capacity is a positive outcome.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="359 481 1204 683"> <tr> <td>Output:</td> <td>Annual participants in training</td> <td>32,550</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Individual Trainees</td> <td>20,020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Result:</td> <td>Qualifications gained</td> <td>1,410</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Individuals trainees gaining qualifications</td> <td>5,005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact:</td> <td>Number Entering Employment</td> <td>6,605</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Number achieving positive outcomes</td> <td>8,808</td> </tr> </table>	Output:	Annual participants in training	32,550		Individual Trainees	20,020	Result:	Qualifications gained	1,410		Individuals trainees gaining qualifications	5,005	Impact:	Number Entering Employment	6,605		Number achieving positive outcomes	8,808																		
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Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ESF</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="359 728 1204 1512"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Euro</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">194,528,825</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EU Contribution of ESF</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> (a) in the Priority</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">284,986,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> (b) in this Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">125,738,825 (44.12% of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Match Funding</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td> (a) Public Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">68,790,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Possible Sources:-</td> <td></td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobskills Training Programme will provide its own Match Funding • *Self Match Funding </td> </tr> <tr> <td> (b) Private Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> <p>*Organisations which receive more than 50% of their income from the public purse are regarded as legitimate public sector match funding sources and hence can provide self match funding.</p> </td> </tr> </table>			Euro	Total Value of Measure	-	194,528,825	EU Contribution of ESF			(a) in the Priority	-	284,986,000	(b) in this Measure	-	125,738,825 (44.12% of Priority allocation)	Match Funding			(a) Public Sector	-	68,790,000	Possible Sources:-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobskills Training Programme will provide its own Match Funding • *Self Match Funding 	(b) Private Sector	-	Nil	<hr/>			Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil	<p>*Organisations which receive more than 50% of their income from the public purse are regarded as legitimate public sector match funding sources and hence can provide self match funding.</p>		
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Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.
Implementing Body	The Department for Employment and Learning. Enquiries should be referred to the European Unit (tel. 02890-257667)
Accountable Department	The Department for Employment and Learning.
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 65% of eligible expenditure.
North/South and wider Co-operation	There are no specific North/South aspects to this Measure

Notes to indicators:

Beneficiaries will be disaggregated to show the numbers of school leaver and third level beneficiaries.

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PRIORITY 2	EMPLOYMENT
Measure 2	Tackling the Flows into Long Term Unemployment
Rationale	<p>The primary instruments in the UK aimed at actively tackling unemployment and preventing long-term unemployment are:</p> <p>a) the Jobskills Allowance (JSA) regime which combines benefit payment with active and continuous jobsearch; and</p> <p>b) the various New Deals – in particular the New Deal for Young People – which combines counselling, vocational advice, training and/or job placements. In Northern Ireland the Jobskills training programme for 16-18 year olds provides a further mechanism.</p> <p>While these are clearly having a positive impact, nevertheless there is scope for the ESF to add value to the outcomes from these Programmes.</p> <p>For some adults, particularly those who have been unemployed for several years, New Deal does not always provide the complete answer. Over the past year or so ESF ‘enhancements’ to New Deal under the 1994-1999 Programme – perhaps buying an additional period of time or an additional vocational or basic skills module – have begun to pilot new approaches to helping such people make a more confident transition into the formal labour market. The new Programme will allow for further development of pilot approaches in this direction.</p> <p>The ‘Status O’ group – young people who have opted out of education, training, employment and even the benefit system – present a particularly difficult challenge. Latest estimates suggest that there are some 3,000 such people, mostly from inner-city environments, who are relying upon crime or the black economy (or both) to eke out an existence. They are a risk to themselves and to society at large, and, if properly trained and motivated, could become a useful resource in a tight economy. The ESF could develop innovative ways of targeting these young people, primarily through the voluntary/community sector.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote actions to re-integrate the long-term unemployed into the labour market; and • to prevent vulnerable groups from becoming long-term unemployed. <p>In assisting such vulnerable groups, adults unemployed for less than 12 months and young people unemployed less than 6 months and the Status Zero group will be the primary targets. This is in line with the objectives of the European Employment Strategy, in particular Employment Guideline 1.</p>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancements to New Deal to assist those whose needs are not

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	<p>fully met in that context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing advice and guidance in innovative ways more likely to influence those most in need. • Innovative approaches which will target the ‘Status O’ group to assist them progress into the active labour market. • Providing assistance for dependent care/childcare where required. • Encouraging the dissemination of information deriving from pilot projects.
Categorisation	21 – Labour Market Policy
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver outcomes at least to the minimum appropriate quality standards - Complement other mainstream learning and training initiatives - Build upon recognised good practice <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following ESF themes are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and applicants will be required to demonstrate in their application how they will tackle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender mainstreaming The Information Society Local development <p>The potential for new employment opportunities offered by the Information Society should be recognised by integrating ICT skills into the context and delivery of projects. Where appropriate, steps should be taken to highlight the need to protect and improve the environment.</p> <p>None of the funds under this Measure will directly assist Departmentally managed programmes.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term unemployed persons; and • those at risk of becoming long-term unemployed.

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Indicators	<p>The core performance indicators set out below are based upon the performance of similar Measures over the last phase of funding under the Single Programme. The calculations are based upon average unit costs, and estimate the performance over the six years of the BSP Programme. “Beneficiaries” are participants, whether they complete their training or not. The employment impact will measure both full-time and part-time outcomes, it being recognised that for many people – eg women returners, people with disabilities, people who are long-term unemployed – employment initially in a part-time capacity is a positive outcome.</p> <p>Output</p> <table data-bbox="422 555 1117 862"> <tr> <td>Annual participants in training</td> <td>2,450</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Individual trainees</td> <td>1,980</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Result:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qualifications gained</td> <td>950</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Individual trainees gaining qualification</td> <td>495</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact: Number entering Employment</td> <td>295</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Number achieving positive outcomes</td> <td>692</td> </tr> </table> <p>More detailed indicators are set out in the Monitoring Targets and Indicators section of the Operational Programme</p>	Annual participants in training	2,450	Individual trainees	1,980	Result:		Qualifications gained	950	Individual trainees gaining qualification	495	Impact: Number entering Employment	295	Number achieving positive outcomes	692																			
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	*Organisations which receive more than 50% of their income from the public purse are regarded as legitimate public sector match funding sources and hence can provide self match funding.
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.
Implementing Body	The Department for Employment and Learning. Enquiries should be made to the European Unit, telephone: (02890 257667).
Accountable Department	The Department for Employment and Learning.
Nature of Aid	Grant of up to 65% of eligible expenditure
North/South and wider Co-operation	There is scope for exploring North/South solutions to the "Status 0" problem.

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ESF Policy Field: Promoting Equal Opportunity for all in accessing the Labour Market

While in global terms there have been quite significant overall improvements in the Northern Ireland economy in recent years, that does not, of itself, ensure that increasing labour market demands create equal employment opportunities for all. There are a number of groups within society, which are at risk of being excluded. These include – and the list is not exhaustive - people with disabilities, both physical and mental; young people who leave or are in danger of leaving school deficient in basic skills i.e. literacy and numeracy; single parents; those who are poorly motivated and lack self-esteem; those with substance abuse, alcohol and drugs problems; non-politically motivated ex-offenders.

Interventions are therefore required which will build bridges for those who are most disadvantaged in competitive terms. Pathways will be created which will assist people to overcome any fundamental deficiencies which impede the securing and retention of employment.

PRIORITY 2	EMPLOYMENT
Measure 3	Promoting a Labour Market Open to All
Rationale	This single Measure will respond to the needs identified above. It will recognise that such disadvantages are often concentrated in specific geographical areas and will encourage area-based solutions where appropriate, delivered by community-based organisations capable of reaching out to those in need.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote a labour market open to all through the development of creative ways of overcoming disadvantage and exclusion.
Activities	<p>Actions will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the provision of guidance and training in basic skills; the promotion of higher standards in literacy and numeracy in schools special support for schools which are low achieving or underachieving confidence building etc for disadvantaged groups, including people with disabilities encouraging the dissemination of information deriving from pilot projects.
Categorisation	22 – Social Inclusion
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliver outcomes at least to the minimum appropriate quality standards complement other mainstream learning and training initiatives build upon recognised best practice make a significant contribution towards raising skill levels, especially basic skills. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following ESF themes are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and applicants will be required to demonstrate in their application how they will tackle:</p>

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	<p>Gender mainstreaming</p> <p>The Information Society</p> <p>Local development</p> <p>The potential for new employment opportunities offered by the Information Society should be recognised by integrating ICT skills into the context and delivery of projects. Where appropriate, steps should be taken to protect and improve the environment.</p> <p>While some 50% of this resource will support the Jobskills Access Programme, the School Support Programme and the Schools Literacy and Numeracy Programme, there will be a significant input required from the voluntary/community sector if the above targets are to be achieved.</p>															
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in disadvantaged groups and communities, such as those listed within the Policy Field description above, who are at risk of social exclusion through an inability to compete equally in the labour market. • School children, particularly targeting under achievement by boys and pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and those in danger of becoming disaffected. • Schools serving pupils from areas of social need. 															
Indicators	<p>The core performance indicators set out below are based upon the performance of similar Measures over the last phase of funding under the Single Programme. The calculations are based upon average unit costs, and estimate the performance over the six years of the BSP Programme. “Beneficiaries” are participants, whether they complete their training or not. The employment impact will measure both full-time and part-time outcomes, it being recognized that for many people – eg women returners, people with disabilities, people who are long-term unemployed – employment initially in a part-time capacity is a positive outcome.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Output:</td> <td>Annual participants in training</td> <td>14,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Individual trainees</td> <td>10,923</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Result:</td> <td>Qualifications gained</td> <td>5,442</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Individual trainees gaining qualifications</td> <td>2,573</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact:</td> <td>Number entering Employment</td> <td>2,540</td> </tr> </table>	Output:	Annual participants in training	14,100		Individual trainees	10,923	Result:	Qualifications gained	5,442		Individual trainees gaining qualifications	2,573	Impact:	Number entering Employment	2,540
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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ESF	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure -	104,323,480
	EU Contribution of ESF	
	(a) in the Priority -	284,986,000
(b) in this Measure -	67,823,480 (23.80 % of Priority allocation)	
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector -	36,500,000	
Possible Sources		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobskills Training Programme will provide its own Match Funding • Disablement Advisory Service • *Self Match Funding
(b) Private Sector -	Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding	Nil	
	*Organisations which receive more than 50% of their income from the public purse are regarded as legitimate public sector match funding sources and hence can provide self match funding.	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	The Department for Employment and Learning and the Department of Education.. Enquiries should be made to the European Unit, telephone: 02890 257667.	
Accountable Department	The Department for Employment and Learning	
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 65% of eligible expenditure.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	There are no specific North/South aspects to this Measure.	

Notes to indicators:

Information on outcomes will be available on an annual basis.

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ESF Policy Field: Promoting and Improving Lifelong Learning

The rate of technological change experienced in modern economies means that even within a specific job, role change will be experienced on a continuing basis and there will therefore be a continuing need to adapt and learn new skills and aptitudes. In addition, individuals are experiencing a higher rate of change of job than in the past. Successful economies, therefore, need to promote a culture of lifelong learning and skills development. The ex-ante evaluation shows the importance of addressing the skills and learning needs of the existing labour force as well as those of entrants to the labour market.

In response to these needs the Northern Ireland Lifelong Learning Strategy mirrors the approach being taken throughout the United Kingdom.

PRIORITY 2	EMPLOYMENT
Measure 4	Improving Opportunities for Lifelong Learning
Rationale	<p>Within the schools system interventions will be needed to tackle under-achievement and absenteeism as a precursor to developing a culture of lifelong learning as a continuum.</p> <p>As for adults, around 40% of the unemployed population have no formal qualifications, and almost one quarter of the adult population are at the lowest level of literacy, as defined in the International Adult Literacy Survey. There is a need therefore to put mechanisms in place which will encourage people of any age, both employed and unemployed, to recognise the value of competency in basis skills, and the financial opportunities in terms of earning capacity which can be derived through the acquisition of nationally recognised vocational qualifications.</p>
Objectives	To contribute towards the creation of a learning and knowledge based society and the culture of lifelong learning.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to tackle educational under achievement in schools. □ Actions to improve attendance at school and prevent early school leaving. • Actions to improve basis skills and literacy and numeracy levels amongst the employed and the unemployed.
Categorisation	23 – Developing Educational and Vocational Training
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects should:</p> <p>deliver outcomes at least to the minimum appropriate quality standards build upon recognised best practice The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following ESF themes are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and applicants will be required to demonstrate in their application how they will tackle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender mainstreaming The Information Society Local development <p>All of the funds in this Measure will support programmes being delivered</p>

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	by the Department of Higher and Further Education and the Department of Education.						
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people at risk of under-achieving or dropping out of the education system. • People, of any age, both employed and unemployed who are deficient in basic and key skills, particularly in the ICT field. 						
Indicators	<p>Output: Referrals Programme - The Education Welfare Service (EWS) in each Education and Library Board will deliver a programme where schools throughout all of the education sectors may refer pupils with poor attendance to EWS for support in order to improve attendance at school</p> <p>Primary Attendance Matters Programme – From September 2004 the EWS in each Education and Library Board will deliver a programme to create an awareness of the benefits of regular attendance at school at the start of compulsory education</p> <p>Result: Referrals Programme – Approximately 11,000 pupils across all education sectors will be referred to EWS annually, with each pupil receiving individual support</p> <p>Primary Attendance Matters Programme - Twenty schools in the primary sector will be targeted each year for work on a whole school basis</p> <p>Impact: Referrals Programme - In 50% of cases to establish a pattern of attendance at school which meets the accepted minimum (i.e., 85% of the days on which a school is open); and In 30% of cases to achieve an improvement in attendance.</p> <p>Primary Attendance Matters Programme – As this programme develops the impact on attendance will be measured.</p> <p>NB – This programme will be delivered by the Education and Library Boards Education Welfare Service</p> <p>Lifelong Learning</p> <table> <tr> <td>Output – Number of Beneficiaries</td> <td>20,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Result – Qualifications gained</td> <td>8,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact – Number achieving positive outcomes</td> <td>8,000</td> </tr> </table>	Output – Number of Beneficiaries	20,000	Result – Qualifications gained	8,000	Impact – Number achieving positive outcomes	8,000
Output – Number of Beneficiaries	20,000						
Result – Qualifications gained	8,000						
Impact – Number achieving positive outcomes	8,000						

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ESF	
	Euro	
	Total Value of Measure	- 32,473,886
	EU Contribution of ESF	
	(a) in the Priority	- 284,986,000
	(b) in this Measure	- 21,123,886 (7.41% of Priority allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector	- 11,350,000	
Possible Sources:-	Department of Education – Lifelong Learning; will provide its own Match Funding	
(b) Private Sector	- Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding	- Nil	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	The Department of Education. Enquiries should be made to Special Funding Initiatives Unit telephone: 02891 559292	
Accountable Department	The Department of Education.	
Nature of Aid	Grant of up to 65% of eligible expenditure.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	There are no specific North/South aspects to this Measure.	

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PRIORITY 2	EMPLOYMENT
Measure 5	Education and training ICT and infrastructure support
Rationale	<p>The European Employment Strategy has recognised the very significant role that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) will play in terms of job creation. It is essential therefore that those about to enter the labour force should be equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills for the emerging information age.</p> <p>The main focus, therefore, under this Measure will be the support for the strategic development of ICT within Northern Ireland's secondary education system by providing a significant level of infrastructure support for ICT teaching and learning at the secondary level. Through the provision of an ICT infrastructure of high quality resources, those in secondary level education preparing to enter the labour market will develop the skills to use ICT and the effectiveness and the standards of their learning will be improved.</p> <p>There is also provision under this Measure for assistance towards the cost of general infrastructure support to cover sufficient access to the required network of equipment, learning, resources and accommodation in order to deliver the other Measures in this Priority</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the provision of adequate support infrastructure in order to enable organisations to meet the education/training needs of the target groups.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of ICT network infrastructure and learning resources • The adaptation of buildings, for example for the provision of childcare facilities • Modifications to facilitate trainees with disabilities • Provision of modern training equipment.
Categorisation	23 – Developing Educational and Vocational Training
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver outcomes at least to the minimum appropriate quality standard • complement other mainstream learning and training initiatives • build upon recognised best practice initiatives • make a significant contribution towards raising skill levels, including basic skills. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p> <p>Most of the resources in this Measure will support initiatives in secondary schools. However approximately £2m will be available over the life of the Programme for infrastructure support to voluntary/community sector organisations delivering ESF funded training projects. In view of the modest scale of this resource, no major capital projects will be supported.</p>

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Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary level schools preparing their pupils to enter the labour market • Community/voluntary sector organisations providing ESF training under the Employment Priority. 																																	
Indicators	<p>Output: All secondary schools (233) and special schools (48) to have new PCs at a ratio of at least 1 PC to 9 pupils and local area networks installed and to be linked to a wide area network and system integrator providing a managed ICT service at a cost of £115.2m.</p> <p>All successful ESF funded non-government projects to have an adequate level of infrastructural support as is required to make the project viable.</p> <p>Results: All schools to be utilising the managed service providing curricular resources and internet access with broadband connectivity.</p> <p>Impact: All pupils (155,000) will experience the use of ICT across all areas of the curriculum, including a range of applications and media and will spend, on average, 10% of the weekly timetable using ICT facilities to support learning across the curriculum.</p>																																	
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ERDF</p> <table> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Euro</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">122,028,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">EU Contribution of ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">61,014,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">61,014,000 (100% of ERDF Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Match Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">61,014,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possible Sources:</td> <td>•</td> <td>Department of Education</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Private Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <table> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td>-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> </tr> </table>			Euro	Total Value of Measure	-	122,028,000	EU Contribution of ERDF			(a) in the Priority	-	61,014,000	(b) in this Measure	-	61,014,000 (100% of ERDF Priority allocation)	Match Funding			(a) Public Sector	-	61,014,000	Possible Sources:	•	Department of Education	-			(b) Private Sector	-	Nil	Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil
		Euro																																
Total Value of Measure	-	122,028,000																																
EU Contribution of ERDF																																		
(a) in the Priority	-	61,014,000																																
(b) in this Measure	-	61,014,000 (100% of ERDF Priority allocation)																																
Match Funding																																		
(a) Public Sector	-	61,014,000																																
Possible Sources:	•	Department of Education																																
-																																		
(b) Private Sector	-	Nil																																
Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil																																
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2007.																																	
Implementing Body	The Department of Education and The Department for Employment and Learning. Enquiries should be made to the European Unit, telephone: 02890 257667.																																	
Accountable Department	The Department of Education and The Department for Employment and Learning																																	
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 50% of eligible expenditure																																	
North/South and wider Co-operation	There are no specific North/South aspects to this Measure																																	

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ESF Policy Field: Adaptability and Entrepreneurship

The Labour Market Assessment has shown that Northern Ireland has a workforce with a very low qualifications baseline. Approximately 20% of the Region's economically active are without formal qualifications, compared with a figure of 13% in both England and Scotland.

There is also comparative evidence that Northern Ireland employers record lower levels of involvement with the Investors in People (IIP) standard and National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs). They also lag behind in terms of the existence of a strategic approach to human resource management.

As far as entrepreneurship is concerned, Northern Ireland has, on the face of it, an above average level of self-employment. However this is, in the main, explained by the greater importance of agriculture in the local economy, and on balance the region is relatively under-developed in terms of VAT registered businesses in the service sectors.

PRIORITY 2	EMPLOYMENT
Measure 6	Developing Entrepreneurship
Rationale	As indicated above, Northern Ireland, in net terms, has a lower level of self-employment than other regions. In particular the services sector is particularly poorly represented, and in addition, self-employment is generally focused on those with relatively low skills levels. The potential of exploiting opportunities in the social economy is an important dimension.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage people to explore the self-employment option, and to provide them with the necessary skills and knowledge required to maximise success rates. <p>This is in line with the objectives of the European Employment Strategy, particularly Employment Guideline 10.</p>
Activities	<p>The focus will primarily be in the growth sector areas, for example –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT, telecommunications, creative industries, software, and tourism. <p>Activities will include the provision of basic business start skills for both employed and unemployed people interested in exploring the self-employment option, even in a part-time capacity.</p> <p>More detailed training will be provided for those who, as a result of the basic training, wish to pursue their business idea further. Actions under this Measure will be complemented by support under the Business Support Measure (ERDF)</p>
Categorisation	24 – Workforce flexibility, entrepreneurial activity, innovation, information and communication technologies.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliver outcomes at least to minimum appropriate quality

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	<p>standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complement other mainstream learning and training initiatives • build upon recognised best practice <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following ESF themes are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and applicants will be required to demonstrate in their application how they will tackle:</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming</p> <p>The Information Society</p> <p>Local development</p> <p>The potential for new employment opportunities offered by the Information Society should be recognised by integrating ICT skills into the context and delivery of projects. Where appropriate, steps should be taken to highlight the need to protect and improve the environment.</p> <p>About 25% of this resource will support INVEST NI's Business Start training. The remainder will be available to non-government organisations.</p>															
<p>Target Areas, Groups and Sectors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed or unemployed people who have a business idea and an interest in becoming self-employed. 															
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>The core performance indicators set out below are based on the performance of similar Measures over the last phase of funding under the Single Programme. The calculations are based on average unit costs, and estimate the performance over the six years of the BSP Programme. "Beneficiaries" are participants, whether they complete their training or not. The employment impact will measure both full and part-time outcomes, it being recognised that some people initiate their entrepreneurial careers in a part-time capacity.</p> <table data-bbox="367 1249 1181 1534"> <tr> <td>Output:</td> <td>Annual participants in training</td> <td>1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Individual trainees</td> <td>550</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Result:</td> <td>Number of Qualifications</td> <td>180*</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Individual trainees gaining qualifications</td> <td>138</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact:</td> <td>Number taking up self-employment</td> <td>140</td> </tr> </table> <p>*Most of the training in business start skills is not linked to a formal qualification. However some participants may simultaneously develop allied skills, eg ICT, which may be formally accredited.</p>	Output:	Annual participants in training	1,000		Individual trainees	550	Result:	Number of Qualifications	180*		Individual trainees gaining qualifications	138	Impact:	Number taking up self-employment	140
Output:	Annual participants in training	1,000														
	Individual trainees	550														
Result:	Number of Qualifications	180*														
	Individual trainees gaining qualifications	138														
Impact:	Number taking up self-employment	140														

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ESF	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure -	2,353,886
	EU Contribution of ESF	
	(a) in the Priority -	284,986,000
(b) in this Measure -	1,528,886 (0.54% of Priority allocation)	
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector -	825,000	
Possible Sources:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INVEST NI; will provide its own Match Funding • Local Enterprise Agencies; will provide its own Match Funding • *Self Match Funding
(b) Private Sector -	Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding	Nil	
*Organisations which receive more than 50% of their income from the public purse are regarded as legitimate public sector match funding sources and hence can provide self match funding.		
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Accountable Department	The Department for Employment and Learning	
Implementing Body	The Department for Employment and Learning. Enquiries should be made to the European Unit telephone 02890 257667	
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 65% of eligible expenditure	
North/South and wider Co-operation	There are no specific North/South aspects to this Measure	

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PRIORITY 2	EMPLOYMENT
Measure 7	Human Resource Development in Companies
Rationale	<p>There remains a need in Northern Ireland to further develop an entrepreneurial culture, particularly within SMEs. If competitiveness is to be enhanced, then workforces will need to be adaptable and flexible in order to adjust quickly to new demands within the marketplace, particularly those deriving from the knowledge based economy and the Information Society. Surveys have shown that NI employers record lower levels of involvement with the Investors in People (IIP) standard and with the National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) process. There is also evidence that they lag behind other UK regions in terms of the existence of a strategic approach to human resource management issues.</p> <p>Better economic performance can be further enhanced by exploring with the social partners, at both local and regional level, the modernisation of work organisation. It has been found that good management practices, such as teamworking and family friendly working arrangements, can enhance well-being within the workplace, which in turn leads to better outputs.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support companies, especially SMEs, to update and upgrade their employees' skills, including basic skills, complementing in particular the Economic Growth and Competitiveness Priority within the BSP Programme. <p>This is coherent with the objectives of the European Employment Strategy, especially with Employment Guideline 16.</p>
Activities	<p>Actions will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the appraisal of human resources development needs. Supporting businesses, especially SMEs, to equip their workforces with the right skills, including basic skills. Enhancing management skills. Encouraging modern approaches to the organisation of work and promoting capacity building of social partner organisations. Encouraging an awareness within the industrial setting of the need to protect and improve the environment.
Categorisation	24 – Workforce flexibility, entrepreneurial activity, innovation, information and communication technologies
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deliver outcomes at least to the minimum appropriate quality standards complement other mainstream learning and training initiatives

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build upon recognised best practice initiatives <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following ESF themes are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and applicants will be required to demonstrate in their application how they will tackle:</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming The Information Society Local development</p> <p>The potential for new employment opportunities offered by the Information Society should be recognised by integrating ICT skills into the context and delivery of projects. Where appropriate, steps should be taken to protect and improve the environment.</p> <p>All of the resources in this Measure will support Government programmes such as the Company Development Programme and the Management Development Programme.</p>															
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees at all levels with skills needs, particularly in SMEs. • The Social Partners. 															
Indicators	<p>The core performance indicators set out below are based on the performance of similar Measures over the last phase of funding under the Single Programme. The calculations are based on average unit costs, and estimate the performance over the six years of the BSP Programme. “Beneficiaries” are participants, whether they complete their training or not.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Output:</td> <td>Annual participants in training</td> <td>49,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Individual trainees</td> <td>28,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Result:</td> <td>Qualifications gained</td> <td>9,320*</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Individual trainees gaining qualifications</td> <td>7,862</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact:</td> <td>Number entering self-employment</td> <td>1,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>*Most of the in company training will be linked to NVQ 2-4. However some employees will also participate in short duration training episodes.</p>	Output:	Annual participants in training	49,000		Individual trainees	28,000	Result:	Qualifications gained	9,320*		Individual trainees gaining qualifications	7,862	Impact:	Number entering self-employment	1,000
Output:	Annual participants in training	49,000														
	Individual trainees	28,000														
Result:	Qualifications gained	9,320*														
	Individual trainees gaining qualifications	7,862														
Impact:	Number entering self-employment	1,000														

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ESF		
			Euro
	Total Value of Measure	-	77,141,000
	EU Contribution of ESF		
	(a) in the Priority	-	284,986,000
(b) in this Measure	-	47,000,000 (16.49% of Priority allocation)	
Match Funding			
(a) Public Sector	-	30,141,000	
Possible Sources:-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company Development Programme 	
(b) Private Sector	-	Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.		
Implementing Body	The Department for Employment and Learning, in conjunction with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment. Enquiries should be made to the Business Support Division of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.		
Accountable Department	The Department for Employment and Learning and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.		
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 65% of eligible expenditure		
North/South and wider Co-operation	There are no specific North/South aspects to this Measure		

Notes to indicators:

Baseline information will be required for the impact indicator and achievement of this will require a specific study following the mid-term.

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ESF Policy Field: Improving Women’s Access to the Labour Market

Though the last decade has witnessed an overall increase in female participation in the labour market, the overall activity rate still remains considerably lower than that for men (63.1% compared with 80.6%). In addition 75% of part-time jobs are taken up by females, and the percentage of working women who are managers or administrators is less than half of that of men. Women are also poorly represented among the self-employed and women’s average earnings are notably less than that of men.

It is evident therefore that barriers still exist which not only prevent women from entering the labour market but also prevent them from progressing within it.

While the advancement of women is a horizontal issue impacting upon all ESF Measures, there is need for a specific Measure focusing exclusively on the particular disadvantages and needs that women face.

PRIORITY 2	EMPLOYMENT
Measure 8	The Advancement of Women
Rationale	<p>The Policy Field rationale above sets out the need for a structured and planned set of interventions aimed at addressing vertical and horizontal segregation issues for women in the labour market.</p> <p>Access to training and/or employment remains a particular problem for women, and the provision of affordable and reliable childcare is an essential ingredient if significant progress is to be made, as is the promotion of family friendly policies.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the participation of women in training, employment and self-employment and • to support the objectives of the European Employment Strategy, in particular Employment Guidelines 18 and 19.
Indicative Activities	<p>Actions under this Measure will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the barriers that prevent women from participating in training or employment, particularly childcare. • Providing training, which would allow women to enter non-traditional occupations. • Improving the quality of information about training opportunities. • Promoting the option of self-employment for women.
Categorisation	25 – Positive labour market actions for women
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver outcomes at least to the minimum appropriate quality standards • complement other mainstream learning and training initiatives • build upon recognised best practice initiatives. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will</p>

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	<p>be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following ESF themes are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and applicants will be required to demonstrate in their application how they will tackle:</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming</p> <p>The Information Society</p> <p>Local development</p> <p>The potential for new employment opportunities offered by the Information Society should be recognised by integrating ICT skills into the context and delivery of projects. Where appropriate, steps should be taken to highlight the need to protect and improve the environment.</p> <p>None of the resources within this Measure will directly support Departmentally managed programmes.</p>												
<p>Target Areas, Groups and Sectors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women, both employed and unemployed, who are seeking to enter or advance within the labour market. • Women returners, and women who wish to consider the self-employment option. 												
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>The core performance indicators set out below are based on the performance of similar Measures over the last phase of funding under the Single Programme. The calculations are based on average unit costs , and estimate the performance over the six years of the BSP Programme. “Beneficiaries” are participants, whether they complete their training or not. The employment impact will measure both full-time and part-time outcomes, it being recognized that for many people – eg women returners, people with disabilities, people who are long-term unemployed – employment initially in a part-time capacity is a positive outcome.</p> <table data-bbox="355 1104 1197 1406"> <tr> <td>Output: Annual participants</td> <td>2,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Individual trainees</td> <td>2,300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Result: Qualifications gained</td> <td>1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Individuals trainees gaining qualifications</td> <td>575</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impact: Number entering employment:</td> <td>570</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Number achieving positive outcomes</td> <td>800</td> </tr> </table>	Output: Annual participants	2,800	Individual trainees	2,300	Result: Qualifications gained	1,000	Individuals trainees gaining qualifications	575	Impact: Number entering employment:	570	Number achieving positive outcomes	800
Output: Annual participants	2,800												
Individual trainees	2,300												
Result: Qualifications gained	1,000												
Individuals trainees gaining qualifications	575												
Impact: Number entering employment:	570												
Number achieving positive outcomes	800												

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ESF	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure -	23,725,101
	EU Contribution of ESF	
	(a) in the Priority -	284,986,000
	(b) in this Measure -	15,425,101 (5.41% of Priority allocation)
	Match Funding	
	(a) Public Sector -	8,300,000
	Possible Sources:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality Organisations funded from the public purse; • INVEST NI; will provide its own Match Funding • *Self Match Funding
	(b) Private Sector -	Nil
	Other Private Sector Funding -	Nil
	*Organisations which receive more than 50% of their income from the public purse are regarded as legitimate public sector match funding sources and hence can provide self match funding.	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	The Department for Employment and Learning in association with a range of public and private organisations and voluntary and community bodies with an involvement in human resource development. Enquiries should be made to the European Unit, telephone: 02890 257644.	
Accountable Department	The Department for Employment and Learning	
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 65% of eligible expenditure.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	An allocation of 2 meuro will be provided to develop cross-border initiatives within the framework of this Measure.	

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BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

PRIORITY 3 – URBAN AND SOCIAL REVITALISATION

	MEASURES AND SUB-MEASURES
1	Urban Revitalisation
2	Advice and Information Services
3	Community Sustainability
4	Investing in Early Learning

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PRIORITY 3	URBAN AND SOCIAL REVITALISATION
Measure 1	Urban Revitalisation
Rationale	<p>The ex ante evaluation shows the need for action for urban and social revitalisation by reference to the effect of the troubles, including the impact on the physical, social and economic conditions of cities, the creation of employment opportunities and the removal of barriers to access to employment created by occupational work force and residential segregation, the need to create more places where people can meet together and the need to address disadvantage and exclusion.</p> <p>This priority flows from the CSF- Balanced Regional Urban and Rural Development and has as its objective the reduction of the socio-economic gap between disadvantaged urban areas and the wider society by improving physical infrastructure of urban areas and enable community participation in sustainable economic development.</p> <p>Previously healthy communities near towns and city centres have experienced increasing social polarisation with those who cannot move living in a poor local environment with low employment levels low educational attainment and high crime levels. In Belfast, some areas potentially face abandonment. In the city centre there is an opportunity to protect and secure the economic sustainability and social inclusion of formerly isolated adjacent communities by working to ameliorate the barriers to movement and through the creation of safe and neutral spaces and reuse of derelict buildings. In Londonderry there is a need to stimulate and strengthen arrangements to ensure that communities are able to participate fully in the process of social and economic renewal.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote individual and community well-being by creating the physical, social and economic environment conducive to encouraging additional employment, education and other opportunities in towns and cities, particularly targeting disadvantaged or socially excluded communities. • To provide safe and neutral spaces for all sections of the community and to offer support to local community stakeholders engaged in the renewal of urban city areas.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting essential environmental and infrastructural work to stimulate private sector investment in areas of market failure, economic decline and disadvantage. • Promoting links between employment generating sites and surrounding disadvantaged communities to address the key issues of employment opportunity (including training) and access to leisure and other facilities. • Enhancing streetscapes and linkages to improve access and encourage social inclusion through the provision of neutral spaces. • Promoting the capacity of community-based youth groups to sustain local development and improvement of facilities aimed at the reintegration of disenfranchised youth.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging the socially excluded to participate in local regeneration programmes. • Through community capacity building initiatives, enable communities to take ownership of and deliver on sustainable programmes of regeneration. • Supporting the social economy, including start-up and development support for social economy initiatives. • Promoting initiatives, which will lead to increased levels of public safety and mobility, benefiting particularly those with disabilities, the elderly and women.
Categorisation	35 – Rehabilitation of Urban Areas
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects must be able to demonstrate that they will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefit those people in most need living in urban areas of deprivation; • be sustainable at the end of the funding period; • have a positive or neutral impact on the environment; and • benefit those groups who are socially excluded, particularly women, youth, elderly people with disabilities. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most deprived city areas and in particular for Belfast, those communities adjacent to Laganside. • Voluntary and Community Sector, Local Authorities and Public and Public/Private/Social Partners.
Indicators	<p>Output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of jobs/training enquiries/referrals • Number of projects assisted <p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in number of long term unemployed, women, 16-17 year olds, disabled persons and single parents registering as unemployed • Increased numbers of people, particularly women, single parents, disabled, referred for employment/training • Increase in gross employment opportunities <p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in Net employment. • Reduction in unemployment.

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure -	50,156,153
	EU Contribution of ERDF	
	(a) in the Priority -	50,000,000
(b) in this Measure -	35,306,153 (71% of Priority allocation)	
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector -	14,850,000	
Possible Sources:-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Regeneration Office; • Londonderry Regeneration Initiative;
(b) Private Sector -	Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding		Nil
Implementing Body	The Belfast Regeneration and Londonderry Development Offices of the Department for Social Development. Contact Peter Neeson, DSD telephone: 02890 547864 .	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2007.	
Accountable Department	Department for Social Development	
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 75% of eligible expenditure with matching funds available.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	None envisaged.	

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PRIORITY 3	URBAN AND SOCIAL REVITALISATION
Measure 2	Advice and Information Services
Rationale	<p>High long-term unemployment rates and a quarter of the adult population at lowest levels of literacy, hinder Northern Ireland's transition to a stable, prosperous, fair and outward looking society. The community needs access to quality advice services on a range of issues from benefits to training and employment to legal entitlements and redress opportunities. The ex-ante evaluation drawing on the Labour Market Assessment shows the need for action on social inclusion and particularly disadvantaged groups at paragraph 2.52.</p> <p>Independent research from Queen's University Law Faculty highlights serious gaps in independent advice provision, unmet need and some evidence of duplication of services. Also, research confirms that, agencies supported through Peace I have piloted new approaches by extending the use of IT.</p> <p>The potential for further strategic development of these services is high where district councils work with the sector to develop coherent local advice plans and where opportunities exist to develop more formal advice service partnerships.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve local advice services by developing and implementing a strategy. • To work in partnership with the statutory sector, local government, social partners, and the independent sector examining the quality of and access to services in areas of social need. • To stimulate new provision in areas where none exists and to achieve a more coherent approach to advice provision in areas where there are indications of duplication.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of strategy • Assistance with needs analysis • Financial support for new structures (mergers, new alliances, strengthening existing alliances) • Support for actions leading to common recording systems and quality initiatives • Financial support for demonstration projects designed to build a more strategic approach
Categorisation	36 – Social and Public Health Infrastructure
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly demonstrate that they meet objectives of Programme, Priority and Measure • Be based on rigorous and objective assessment of need

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and adopt a collaborative approach • Have regard to existing advice provision in the statutory and voluntary sector • Be designed to achieve sustainable outcomes beyond the lifetime of the project • Inform good practice in other areas • Use innovative, imaginative and distinctive approaches • Promote volunteering based on best practice • Promote gender balance in management structures of the project • Promote equality in project design, delivery, management, evaluation and dissemination of findings • Promote interagency collaboration <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>		
Target Areas, Group and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers on a regional and sub-regional basis, including District Councils. • New providers in areas without services. 		
Indicators	Output	Results	Impact
	2 Reviews and Assessments of existing services completed	Implementation of the recommendations from the reviews/assessments	3 pilot schemes undertaken
	Support given to 2 organisations to provide and promote a common statistical system	25 IAS and CAB operating a common statistical system	Evidence of improved accountability for, and delivery of, advice services
	Support given to 4 organisations to provide advice and information	Increase of 40 hours per week in the provision of advice and information in areas of greatest need	

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure -	2,830,000
	EU Contribution of ERDF	
	(a) in the Priority -	50,000,000
	(b) in this Measure -	2,000,000 (4% of Priority allocation)
	Match Funding	
	(a) Public Sector Possible	830,000
		• *Self Match Funding
	Sources :-	
	(b) Private Sector -	Nil
	Other Private Sector Funding	Nil
	*Organisations which receive more than 50% of their income from the public purse are regarded as legitimate public sector match funding sources and hence can provide self match funding.	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2007.	
Implementing Body	Department for Social Development. Contact Peter Neeson, DSD telephone: 02890 547864	
Accountable Department	Department for Social Development	
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 75% of eligible expenditure	
North/South and wider Co-operation	None envisaged	

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PRIORITY 3	URBAN AND SOCIAL REVITALISATION
Measure 3	Community Sustainability
Rationale	<p>With a high dependency on EU and other short-term funding, there is a widely acknowledged longer-term need for sustainability strategies. The Community Infrastructure measure of the PSEP Sub-Programme of the SPD (1994-1999) found that without such strategies, there is a serious risk of losing the momentum gained in setting up a community infrastructure. There is a need to target support of the sector and develop forward strategies now. The ex-ante evaluation draws upon the Labour Market Assessment and highlights the need for action on social inclusion particularly strengthening community participation and capacity building.</p> <p>Quality support services include assistance in identifying funding opportunities, accessing technical knowledge, skills and problem solving in financial management, planning, policy influence and staff management and support for management committees. Strategic support agencies such as network and resource centres can constitute effective vehicles to provide support services to a consistently high quality and achieve economies of scale whilst retaining a high degree of responsiveness and accountability.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop further strategically placed support agencies and structures relevant to meeting local needs and the interests of socially excluded groups. • To encourage communities to influence public policy and strengthen relationships with statutory agencies
Activities	<p>The following types of action could be included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support for Strategic Support organisations • Support for conferences, seminars, publications and other mechanisms which advance thinking on appropriate support arrangements • Support for local groups to help identify their support needs • Representing the needs of local groups at network and individual organisational level and interpreting and disseminating information to local groups • Providing a focus for lobbying and consultation • Networking, and providing interface, with key statutory agencies and other organisations • Promoting and facilitating training and capacity building programmes:
Categorisation	36 – Social and Public Health Infrastructure
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be based on rigorous and objective assessment of need • Avoid unnecessary duplication and demonstrate a collaborative approach • Have regard to issues of the quality of service provided, its appropriateness, accessibility and acceptability to local groups

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be designed to achieve sustainable outcomes beyond the lifetime of the project • Have the potential to inform good practice in other areas • Be backed by sound community development practice and principles • Use innovative, imaginative approaches and distinctive in relation to other projects • Promote good quality volunteering based on best practice • Promote gender balance in management of the project • Promote equality in project design, delivery, management, evaluation and dissemination of findings • Promote collaboration, working closely with Councils, Strategic Partnerships and HSS Trusts etc <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Voluntary and community sector support agencies and structures		
Indicators	Output	Results	Impact
	Support given to 35 organisations	2000 direct support hours delivered	Evidence of sustainability in the community organisations assisted
		100 consultations with statutory agencies	Evidence of improved inter-agency working and policy development in areas of need

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure -	6,573,847
	EU Contribution of ERDF	
	(a) in the Priority -	50,000,000
(b) in this Measure -	4,693,847 (9% of Priority allocation)	
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector -	1,880,000	
Possible Sources:-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Social Development • District Councils
(b) Private Sector -	Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding		Nil
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2007.	
Implementing Body	Department for Social Development. Contact Peter Neeson, DSD telephone: 02890547864.	
Accountable Department	Department for Social Development	
Nature of Aid	Up to 75% of eligible expenditure	
North/South and wider Co-operation	None envisaged	

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PRIORITY 3	Urban & Social Revitalisation
Measure 4	Investing in Early Learning
Rationale	<p>The ex-ante evaluation shows the need for action to address Northern Ireland's low qualifications levels and the related high rate of unemployment.</p> <p>Northern Ireland has a different education system to the rest of the UK with a single date for children's entry to compulsory schooling in September each year. In Autumn 1998, the long-term objective was to provide a pre-school education place for every child in his or her immediate pre-school year whose parents wished to avail of the facility.</p> <p>The roots of educational underachievement can develop in the early years and are often linked to social disadvantage. Thus the provision of pre-school education is seen as a significant step to enhance children's educational prospects and establish them on the path to lifelong learning at an early stage.</p> <p>Good quality pre-school education has important benefits for children, their families and communities, and society and the economy as a whole. Children, especially from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds and those with special educational needs, are better prepared for school and learn more quickly. In addition, the availability of pre-school education opens doors for their parents to take up employment, education or training opportunities.</p> <p>The expansion of pre-school provision will be planned and delivered in such a manner as to encourage the development of partnerships in the community between the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. The development of these partnerships will be led by the statutory education sector, which has established the Pre-School Education Advisory Groups (PEAGs). Each PEAG consists of a chairman and 12 members 2 FJB, 2 CCMS, 1 NICIE, 1 Irish Medium, 1 HSSB, 2 Health Trust, 3 voluntary sector.</p> <p>The measure will chiefly involve capital schemes within the statutory sector (grant-aided controlled, maintained, integrated and Irish medium schools). An associated revenue stream will support the new places created by the schemes and will also provide funded places within the voluntary and private sectors.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the programme of expansion and development of the infrastructure necessary to provide a year of pre-school education for all children in Northern Ireland. • The establishment of the necessary facilities will be progressive over the period 2000- 2005, with the initial focus on providing places for the most socially disadvantaged children and on the oldest children in the cohort (ie those children who will already be 4 years old on entry to pre-school education).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme will be developed with the objective that, so far as is possible, in the longer term all children throughout Northern Ireland whose parents wish it to have access to pre-school education.
Activities	<p>These will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support for projects which will secure the expansion of pre-school education facilities in local communities, especially in disadvantaged and rural communities; support for the development of community partnership approaches to the planning, development and delivery of pre-school education; support for projects which provide for integrated pre-school education; and support for pre-school education in minority languages.
Categorisation	22 - Social Inclusion
Project Selection Criteria	<p>The locations of the schemes are determined by the PEAGs established in each Education and Library Board. The PEAGs are responsible for the planning of new places in both the statutory and voluntary / private sectors. In drawing up their plans for an area, they consult widely with the statutory and voluntary sectors, and take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the level of social deprivation, using the PSM entitlement as an objective measure; existing statutory provision in the area, including schools built under the Making Belfast Work, Londonderry Regeneration and EU PEACE I Initiatives; existing voluntary / private provision in the area; the special circumstances of rural areas; the need to avoid, as far as possible, the displacement of good quality, cross-community, provision in the voluntary and private sectors. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selection projects for assistance under this Measure. In addition, while this is an all encompassing Measure which will make available funded places in their pre-school year to all children whose parents wish it, initially New Targeting Social Need will be particularly relevant as priority will be given to establishing units in the most socially deprived areas.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in their immediate pre-school year, especially the most socially disadvantaged children and those who will already be 4 years old on entry to pre-school education. <p>In addition to the direct benefits for the children themselves, collateral benefits will also be obtained;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the creation of additional employment (eg for teaching staff); and By enabling parents to take up employment, education or training opportunities. <p>The aggregate of these benefits will represent a benefit to the community as a whole.</p>

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Indicators	<p>Output:</p> <p>Capital schemes across all the ELBs.</p> <p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,700 additional places made available for children in their immediate pre-school year, especially the socially disadvantaged and 4 year olds. • Up to 130 additional posts for teachers and classroom assistants created. <p>Impact:</p> <p>Taken together with other initiatives, this measure will enable all parents who wish to have access to a funded place for their children in their immediate pre-school year. Research shows that children who have had pre-school education are better prepared to take up the advantages of education and hence their prospects of employment are increased. Pre-school education can be particularly beneficial for the socially disadvantaged.</p>																																								
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ERDF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>11,340,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">EU Contribution of ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td>-</td> <td>50,000,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>8,000,000</td> <td>(16 % of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Match Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td>3,340,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possible Sources:-</td> <td></td> <td>•</td> <td>Department of Education</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Private Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td>Nil</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td>-</td> <td>Nil</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Total Value of Measure	-	11,340,000		EU Contribution of ERDF				(a) in the Priority	-	50,000,000		(b) in this Measure	-	8,000,000	(16 % of Priority allocation)	Match Funding				(a) Public Sector	-	3,340,000		Possible Sources:-		•	Department of Education	(b) Private Sector	-	Nil		<hr/>				Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil	
Total Value of Measure	-	11,340,000																																							
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(b) Private Sector	-	Nil																																							
<hr/>																																									
Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil																																							
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2005 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/ 2007. 																																								
Implementing Body	<p>The Department of Education through the Pre-School Education Advisory Group established in each Education and Library Board area. Further information can be obtained from the Equality, Rights and Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of Education (telephone 02891 559292)</p>																																								

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Accountable Department	The Department of Education
Nature of Aid	Grants up to the maximum ERDF subvention rate of 75% of eligible expenditure.
North/South and wider Co-operation	As a complementary measure, the Department of Education has supported a cross-border childcare partnership established in the border corridor of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to develop good practice models for childcare provision in rural areas for children aged 0-12.

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BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

PRIORITY 4 – AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

	MEASURES AND SUB-MEASURES
1	Training
2	Improving Processing and Marketing of Agriculture Products
3	Forestry (<i>Closed</i>)
4	Setting up of Farm relief and Farm Management Services
5	Marketing of Quality Agricultural Products
6	Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Population
7	Renovation and Development of Villages and Protection and Conservation of the Rural Heritage
8	Diversification of Agriculture Activities and Activities Close to Agriculture to Provide Multiple Activities or Alternative Incomes
9	Development and Improvement of Infrastructure connected with the Development of Agriculture
10	Encouragement for Tourist and Craft Activities
11	Protection of the Environment in connection with Agriculture, Forestry and Landscape Conservation as well as the Improvement of Animal Welfare
12	Financial Engineering
13A	Fisheries – Adjustment of Fishing Effort, Decommissioning of Fishing Vessels
13B	Fisheries – Safety Equipment Scheme
13C	Fisheries – Small Scale and Costal Fishing Grants
13D	Fisheries – Scrap and Build Scheme
13E	Fisheries – Marketing and Quality on Board Fishing Vessels
13F	Fisheries – Improvement of Facilities at NI Fishing Ports
13G	Fisheries – Aquaculture
13H	Fisheries – Processing and Marketing of Freshwater and Marine Products

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13I	Fisheries – Joint Marketing Initiative
13J	Fisheries – Collective Operations by Members of the NI Fishing Industry
13K	Fisheries – Temporary Cessation (Tie-up)

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Priority 4

Eight of the Measures within this Priority (Measures 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12) will be delivered as part of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rural Development Programme. The Rural Development Programme provides an integrated and comprehensive strategy that will support a wide range of rural development projects. Further details are given in the Paragraphs 7.6.3 – 7.6.6 of the Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity.

In the delivery of the Measures within this Priority, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will continue to liaise closely with strategies and partnerships at local level and will continue to engage with local authorities, the community and voluntary sector and representatives of the private sector.

Further information on co-ordination and complementarity with other EU interventions, along with an EAGGF Financial Planning Table is provided at Annex A.

In addition to the indicators and targets identified at Measure level in the following pages, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development notes the guidance provided by the European Commission in the working documents VI/12004/00, VI/43507/02 and VI/43512/02 and will agree with the Commission by end of December 2001 the additional common indicators which are relevant to the NI Measures and the means of presenting such indicators. These will be annexed to the Programme Complement when agreed.

The following table summarises the State Aid Schemes of relevance to Priority 4:

Measure	Title of State Aid	State Aid No	Approval letter Ref	Duration of Scheme
4.1	Agricultural Training Scheme (NI)	17/8	Not Known	On-going
4.1	Agricultural Advisory & Technical Services in NI	17/3	Not Known	On-going
4.1	Agriculture Education & Instruction in NI	17/9	13549 94/C281/03	On-going
4.3	Woodland Grant Scheme	13/9	UCLNAN 6151	On-going
4.5	Marketing Development Scheme	270/94		On-going

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 1	Training
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority’s objective “Developing the capacity of the industry and the wider population to take advantage of opportunities provided through new technologies, new markets and the potential afforded by a return to a secure and peaceful society”. It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland’s agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>The achievement of sustained prosperity within the Northern Ireland agri-food industry will require the development of technical, management, information technology, marketing, environmental and welfare competences. Improvements in common skills such as communication and problem solving will also be necessary in a sector where there is a relatively low level of vocational education and training.</p> <p>Lack of uptake of the appropriate technology and management systems is limiting the ability of farm and horticultural businesses to meet levels of price, quality, safety and environmental sensitivity required by the customer. Innovative approaches will be necessary to counter the low uptake of traditional provision, the large number of micro-SMEs and the dispersed nature of the workforce</p> <p>Assistance is needed for enterprises within the agriculture and horticulture sector to identify, develop, demonstrate and embed commercially, new or improved technologies, which will enhance productivity and competitiveness. Assistance is also needed for the development, demonstration and embedding of sound environmental management practice.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide training to improve the productivity and competitiveness of agriculture, horticulture and equine breeding businesses through the development of various competences; • To provide appropriate training to promote the application of technologies, processes and systems identified as beneficial to Northern Ireland agricultural and horticultural businesses; and • To provide training to promote environmental best practice in agricultural and horticultural businesses

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Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery and other support for training on application of technology, environmental best practice and business management techniques. Training costs will also include the identification and selection of subjects, production methods, technology, etc., appropriate for inclusion in training courses and the provision of written support to trainees; • Support for specific training courses targeted at the assessment, development and demonstration of potentially beneficial technologies, processes and systems. Training costs will include on-farm investments on selected farms for the purpose of demonstration to the trainees of the beneficial effects of the on-farm application of the appropriate technologies, processes and systems; • Support for development of competences needed to apply beneficial technologies, processes, systems and environmental management practice.
Categorisation	113 - Agriculture – specific vocational training
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Topics for training programmes are selected by consulting industry on perceived training needs and assessing the economic, environmental and other impacts of potential programmes; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technologies, processes and systems are selected by assessing their impact on the environment, animal welfare, food safety, health and safety and production economics – only those with neutral or positive impact will be progressed. <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following horizontal principles are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and will be applied as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all training and technology programmes must demonstrate and promote environmental best practice
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This measure covers vocational training for farmers and other persons involved in agricultural activities and forestry activities, and their conversion. • All types of farms, including equine breeding enterprises and commercial horticultural business. • All farmers, growers, spouses and workers - with some activities targeted specially at women. • Usually for participants over 16 years old. <p>Requirements of participants reflected in timing and duration of courses</p>

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	and events with venues throughout Northern Ireland.
Indicators	<p>Output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trainee days delivered; Target at 31 March 2007 – 87,500 <p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> number of people acquiring increased competence; Target at 31 March 2007 – 50,500 <p>Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35% of trainees indicated that they had adopted or implemented a specific course objective (eg clean cattle production/benchmarking programmes etc.) within their business. <p>Targets are based on experience gained through implementing a similar Scheme under the 1994-1999 Structural Funds Programme and have been reassessed in light of performance to date within BSP.</p>
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from EAGGF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <p>Total Value of Measure - 16,260,000</p> <p>EU Contribution of EAGGF</p> <p>(a) in the Priority - 78,000,000</p> <p>(b) in this Measure - 8,130,000 (10.42)% of Priority allocation)</p> <p>Match Funding</p> <p>(a) Public Sector - 8,130,000</p> <p>Possible Sources:- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>(b) Private Sector - Nil</p> <hr/> <p>Other Private Sector Funding - Nil</p>
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.
Implementing Body	<p>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.</p> <p>The measure will be delivered by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development College using, where appropriate people with expertise in the industry to instruct, demonstrate and assess.</p> <p>Contact: Pauline Rooney, Service Delivery Group,, Department of</p>

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	Agriculture and Rural Development, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3SB. Telephone: 028 9052 4413E-mail: pauline.rooney@dardni.gov.uk
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Nature of Aid	Direct provision of training and technical support. 100% grant assistance of which 50% is EU grant.
North/South and wider Co-operation	None envisaged

Notes to indicators:

1. 'Investigated' refers to preliminary investigations or research carried out to examine the feasibility of initiating projects.
2. Technical articles are articles written by technical staff within the colleges. These articles will support / enable the Competence Development Programme being delivered via this measure. The articles may contain ICT information and will be distributed through a variety of media including bulletins, booklets, leaflets, newspaper articles and ICT media.

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 2	Improving Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image". It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>The agri-food sector competes in a global market place with increasing consumer demand requiring businesses to upgrade their facilities, to adopt new and innovative techniques, to improve links between producers and processors and to improve competitiveness and market orientation.</p>
Objectives	To improve the economic performance and international competitiveness of the food processing sector through the application of appropriate technology together with sound manufacturing and environment management practice.
Activities	<p>To provide assistance towards capital expenditure on buildings and new equipment including computer software and directly related general costs such as architects' engineers' and consultants' fees (to a maximum of 12% of total eligible costs). Examples of the type of investment that will benefit from aid are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock: to improve and expand plants to increase the level of added value processing, to improve packaging and to prepare new products; • Eggs: to invest in new processing facilities in line with technology advances; • Milk and Milk Products: to invest in higher value dairy products; • Potatoes: to invest in storage, packing and processing facilities to meet the requirements of the large supermarkets; • Horticulture: to improve processing facilities to meet increasing customer requirements.
Categorisation	114 Improvement of Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products.
Project Selection Criteria	Applications will be accepted at any time while the Scheme remains open and should be submitted in two stages: an initial application which will be screened to check that the project is eligible in principle; and if the project is eligible a second stage application will be requested when more detailed information will be provided including a business plan, architect plans and detailed quotations to support costings for each eligible item for which grant is being sought.

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The Scheme will operate on a competitive basis and for the purposes of short-listing for an award, eligible projects will be assessed against the extent to which they contribute to the first bullet point in the eligibility criteria and whether the project:- increases the use of raw materials listed in Annex 1 of the Treaty of Rome; increases exports (i.e. sales outside NI); involves significant value added; reduces seasonality of supply; involves organic or speciality products; promotes employment; targets social need; and will be completed within a defined timetable. In addition account will be taken of whether the applicant has received a processing and marketing grant before and the size of the project (some preference will be given to smaller projects).

Eligibility Criteria

- Each project must contribute to one or more of the following aims:
 - guide production in line with foreseeable market trends or encourage the development of new outlets for agricultural products;
 - improve or rationalise marketing channels or processing procedures;
 - apply new technologies/innovation or improve the presentation and preparation of products;
 - improve and monitor quality or health conditions;
 - protect the environment or encourage the better use/elimination of by-products/waste;
- Projects must comply with legislation on hygiene, animal welfare and the environment. (Minimum requirements are detailed in Annex C). Expert advice will be obtained on hygiene and animal welfare aspects during the assessment. The location of each project must be provided to the DOE Planning Service - assessment of environmental aspects are included in that process. Where planning approval is not required applicants will still have to submit details on environmental impact and steps they will take to remedy any adverse impact.
- Projects must benefit primary producers. Projects operated by individual producers must have 20% or more of the raw material supplied by other producers or the project must service a specialised niche market.
- Projects must primarily (at least 90%) concern the processing or marketing of products covered by Annex 1 to the Treaty of Rome, other than fishery products.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects which use any products sourced outside the EU will only be permitted if it is demonstrated that the raw materials are essential for the project and they do not represent more than 10% of the annual throughput of the project; • Applicants must be financially viable and need grant for the project to proceed. At least 25% of eligible project costs will have to be funded from the applicant's own resources. • Applicants must declare compliance with equal opportunities legislation. • A normal market outlet for the products must have been identified and applicants will be required to provide detailed information to demonstrate that a commercial market exists; • The minimum size of a project is £70,000 <p>Exclusions: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - measures falling within the scope of support schemes under common market organisations - research projects and projects to promote agricultural products or to eradicate animal diseases - projects which are upgrades purely to meet statutory requirements - projects relating to intervention stores or retail outlets - cold stores for frozen products except where part of the normal processing operation - slaughtering facilities for pigs, cattle, sheep or poultry unless equivalent capacity is abandoned or a shortage of capacity in the sector is proven - projects relating to animal feed production, starch production, or the processing of products which imitate or substitute for milk/milk products - projects to replace items grant aided in the previous 6 years - projects commenced before written approval by the Department <p>The Scheme brochure will set out ineligible items of project expenditure. The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this</p>
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	Measure.
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<p>Sectors covered: redmeat, pigmeat, poultry meat, eggs, milk and milk products, potatoes, horticulture (including fruit and vegetables) and cereals.</p> <p>Applications: open to a wide range of those involved or wishing to become involved in processing and marketing including food processors, groups of collaborating producers and individual producers who use other producers' products as well.</p>
Indicators	<p>Output Number of Projects supported Target: 95</p> <p>Result Increased value of sales Target: +5%</p> <p> Increased links between producers and processors Target: +5%</p> <p>Impact Maintenance of 24,700 employed in food and related sectors</p>
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from EAGGF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Euro</p> <p>Total Value of Measure - 113,969,000</p> <p>EU Contribution of EAGGF</p> <p>(a) in the Priority - 78,000,000</p> <p>(b) in this Measure - allocation) 37,246,000 (47.75% of Priority</p> <p>Match Funding</p> <p>(a) Public Sector - 5,015,000</p> <p>Possible sources: - INVEST NI and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>(b) Private Sector - 71,708,000</p> <hr/> <p>Other Private Sector Funding - Nil</p>
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in liaison with INVEST NI

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	Contact: Gillian Heal, Supply Chain Development Branch, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3SB. Telephone: 028 9052 4499. E-mail: gillian.heal@dardni.gov.uk
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Nature of Aid	Grants to cover costs of projects supported. Maximum EU grant is 35% of eligible costs plus an equivalent local public sector grant (normally 5%) subject to total EU and public sector grants not exceeding 50% of eligible costs. The maximum EU grant for a project will be £0.5million.
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A

Notes to indicators:

Baseline information will be determined when projects are identified.

This measure and measure 5 within this priority are complementary. This measure supports capital expenditure whilst measure 5 supports non-capital expenditure to help develop the economic performance of the agri-food industry.

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 3	Forestry
Rationale	All funds under this measure have now been reallocated to other measures in the priority.
Objectives	•
Activities	
Categorisation	
Project Selection Criteria	
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	
Indicators	
Financial Summary	
Duration	
Implementing Body	
Accountable Department	
Nature of Aid	
North/South and wider Co-operation	

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 4	Setting Up of Farm Relief and Farm Management Services Measure
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland's disadvantaged rural areas and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on and off-farm." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>LEADER II supported a project called Farm Relief Enterprises which, helped farmers to access relief workers, and assistance with administrative, managerial or specialist services. The project provided an additional source of income for under-employed farmers, and had important social and economic benefits for disadvantaged rural areas. There is a need to mainstream these activities and to build upon their benefits. The Measure is consistent with the third objective of Priority 4 – "tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland's disadvantaged rural areas/groups and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on- and off-farm".</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide farmers and farm families with access to farm relief and farm management services. • To create employment in rural areas.
Activities	<p>Support will be provided for projects and programmes of rural groups or regional or sectoral interests towards the costs of establishing services for farmers and farm families. As this Measure is designed to address the needs identified by the target groups and sectors themselves, it is not possible to give a definitive list of activities. However, examples of services which might be considered for support include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm relief services • Farm machinery services • Neighbourhood services <p>Details of delivery mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication are provided in Annex A</p>
Categorisation	1303 - Setting up of Farm Relief and Farm Management Services
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project's compatibility with the aims and objectives of the Measure • Degree to which need/disadvantage is addressed • Measurable objectives, targets and annual performance indicators • Financial, environmental and social sustainability

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality and equal opportunities considerations • Degree of innovation or originality • Private contribution • Applicant’s ability to demonstrate they can meet the total project cost and ensure spend within the Programme period. <p>Project will be deemed ineligible if it falls within the scope of any other Measure within Title II of Council regulation (EC) 1257/1999</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Development organisations; • Men and women involved in agriculture; and other rural enterprises; profit-taking and non-profit taking rural community groups and collectives. 		
Indicators	Output	Result	Impact
	2 Projects supported	90 farm families engaging with the services	90 Farm families benefiting from farm relief services
		5 jobs created 2 businesses created / supported *jobs to be full-time equivalents broken down to show men, women, young people under 25 farmers/farm families and long term unemployed	2 supported business still in existence after 2 years

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from EAGGF	
	Total Value of Measure	- Euro 388,000
	EU Contribution of EAGGF	
	(a) in the Priority	- 78,000,000
	(b) in this Measure	- 97,000 (0.12% of Priority allocation)
	Match Funding	
	(a) Public Sector	- 97,000
	Possible Sources:-	• Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
	(b) Private Sector	- 194,000
	Other Private Sector Funding	- Nil
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in association with the Rural Development Council. Contact: Vince McKeivitt, Glenree House, Unit 2, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Springhill Road, Newry, Co Down	
Accountable Department	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
Nature of Aid	Grants to cover the costs of projects and programmes. Local regeneration projects by “for profit” organisations- up to 50% Local regeneration projects by “not for profit” organisations up to 75% Support for networking up to 75% Minor infrastructure projects up to 100% Technical assistance (including administration costs) up to 100% (50% of each grant assistance will be EU funded).	
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A	

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 5	Marketing of Quality Agricultural Products
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>The agri-food industry is an important contributor to economic activity and employment in Northern Ireland. Against a background of continued low prices for farm products and substantially reduced levels of agricultural income, the improved marketing of quality agricultural products has been identified as a key means of adding value to agricultural output and improving economic returns in rural areas. Through facilitating collaboration this measure should benefit producers and primary processors helping them to become more competitive by being better placed to meet the demands of consumers and at the same time enable processors to add value to quality products. Investment is also needed to improve the market orientation of food processing companies and to increase exports.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage greater integration and collaboration between producers, processors and others in the food chain to produce and market quality products. • To improve competitiveness through better marketing; • To help create and/or sustain rural employment and increase exports of quality products.
Activities	<p>Non-capital support will be available, to those engaged in the marketing of the produce of agriculture (including horticulture) or of products derived from such produce, for the costs (excluding value added tax) of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feasibility studies (including studies into the establishment, expansion, merger or acquisition of producer groups or into joint ventures between producers and others), studies into quality assurance systems (including their integration into the business of the applicant) and market research (including the collection and collation of market intelligence and means for its effective dissemination); • the costs of establishing, expanding or merging of a collaborative marketing group including the legal and accountancy costs of group establishment, expansion or merger and the costs of recruiting new members to producer groups including the costs of meetings and the preparation and dissemination of suitable material to encourage take-

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	<p>up;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • events to demonstrate marketing innovation or excellence of marketing practice; • developing a market intelligence network for a quality product sector; • developing/marketing speciality foods or organic products; • developing quality assurance schemes (including traceability and HACCP systems); • developing new outlets for existing quality products; • key staff required for a project (including recruitment, training and travel costs outside Northern Ireland); • Outside directors (including training costs but excluding employers' National Insurance and pension costs); • introducing better business practices eg through bench-marking. <p>Eligibility criteria: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output likely to command a significant market share and project will achieve a significant marketing/commercial development; • The need for the proposal to which an application relates; • Annual turnover must be less than £75 million; • Applicants must be financially viable and need grant for the project to proceed; • Producer groups must demonstrate members' commitment; • Applicants must declare compliance with equal opportunities legislation and that the business, as appropriate, meets minimum EU standards regarding the environment, hygiene and animal welfare. <p>Exclusions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital grant projects and projects receiving similar public/EU support from other sources; • Projects falling within the scope of support schemes under common market organisations; • Projects which fall within the scope of any other Measure within Title II of Council regulation (EC) 1257/1999
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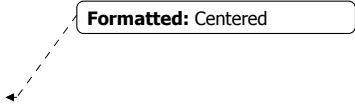
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research projects (other than market research) and projects to promote agricultural products or to eradicate animal disease; • Investments at retail level; • Projects commenced before written approval by the Department;
Categorisation	1304 -Marketing of Quality Agricultural Products.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Each application, other than in relation to a feasibility study or market research or training proposals or the appointment of outside directors will have to be accompanied by a comprehensive feasibility study incorporating specified information to be detailed in the Scheme brochure which demonstrates the aim of the proposal and the means by which it will be achieved. Where a feasibility study is not required the application will be accompanied by a reasoned case demonstrating the need for the expenditure. If shortlisting of projects is required the following will be used to prioritise projects for an award:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of the proposal in relation to the market at which it is targeted; • The likely benefit of the proposal to the agricultural or food industry; • Whether the project links more than one part of the food chain; • Whether the project concerns the marketing of products of organic farming or speciality foods; • Whether the project develops regional distinctiveness and increases exports. • Whether the project develops quality assurance schemes (including traceability systems). <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectors covered: redmeat, pigmeat, poultry meat, eggs, milk and milk products, potatoes, horticulture and cereals. • Applications: open to a wide range of those involved in the agri-food industry including individual producers or others wishing to set up a procurement group, groups of collaborating producers, food processors and industry bodies.

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Indicators	<p>Output: Number of projects supported Target: 20</p> <p>Result: Increased value of sales amongst assisted businesses Target: +5%</p> <p>Increased links between producers and processors Target: +5%</p> <p>Impact: Maintenance of 24,700 employed in food and related sectors</p> <p>Target based on number of projects which received support under a similar nationally funded Scheme.</p>																														
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from EAGGF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <table> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>4,712,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">EU Contribution of EAGGF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td>-</td> <td>78,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>1,178,000 (1.51 % of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Match Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td>1,178,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possible Sources:-</td> <td></td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture and Rural Development </td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Private Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td>2,356,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td>-</td> <td>Nil</td> </tr> </table>	Total Value of Measure	-	4,712,000	EU Contribution of EAGGF			(a) in the Priority	-	78,000,000	(b) in this Measure	-	1,178,000 (1.51 % of Priority allocation)	Match Funding			(a) Public Sector	-	1,178,000	Possible Sources:-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture and Rural Development 	(b) Private Sector	-	2,356,000	<hr/>			Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil
Total Value of Measure	-	4,712,000																													
EU Contribution of EAGGF																															
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Possible Sources:-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Agriculture and Rural Development 																													
(b) Private Sector	-	2,356,000																													
<hr/>																															
Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil																													
Duration	<p>The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008. Projects will have to be completed by that date or within 4 years from the date of approval, whichever is earlier.</p>																														
Implementing Body	<p>The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Gillian Sykes, Supply Chain Development Branch, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3SB. Telephone: 028 9052 4288.</p>																														
Accountable Department	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development																														
Nature of Aid	Grant to cover costs of projects. Grant of 50% of eligible expenditure subject to max of £150k of which EU position is 50% of the grant.																														
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A																														

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Notes to indicators:
Baseline information will be determined from projects funded.



PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 6	Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Population
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland's disadvantaged rural areas and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on and off-farm." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>As much of Northern Ireland's population lives and works in rural areas, the standard of access to basic infrastructure and services has a significant effect on the quality of life. It is therefore crucial that basic services and infrastructure are as accessible as in urban areas. The Measure is consistent with the third objective of Priority 4 – "tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland's disadvantaged rural areas/groups and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on- and off-farm".</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve access to basic services and infrastructure in rural areas. • To protect and enhance the physical environment of rural communities. • To help rural people gain access to employment, and other economic and social opportunities.
Activities	<p>Support will be provided for projects and programmes of rural groups or regional or sectoral interests towards the costs of providing basic services for local rural populations. As this Measure is designed to address the needs identified by the target groups and sectors themselves, it is not possible to give a definitive list of activities. However, examples of services which might be considered for support include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale projects to help provide basic services for the rural population eg provision of mains water and electricity • Projects to improve the operation of the labour market in rural areas eg enhancement of childcare provision • Projects to increase availability of economic and social opportunities in rural areas eg enhancing rural transport provision • Projects which consider the basic service needs of rural economy and appropriate policy responses.

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	Support would not be provided for projects which would otherwise be undertaken by the mainstream service provider or by other Structural Funds. Details of delivery mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication are provided in Annex A.		
Categorisation	1305- Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Population		
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project's compatibility with the aims and objectives of the Measure. • Degree to which need/disadvantage is addressed • Measurable objectives, targets and annual performance indicators • Financial, environmental and social sustainability • Equality and equal opportunities considerations • Degree of innovation or originality • Private contribution • Applicant's ability to demonstrate they can meet the total project cost and ensure spend within the Programme period <p>Project will be deemed ineligible if it falls within the scope of any other Measure within Title II of Council regulation (EC) 1257/1999.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Development organisations; • men and women involved in agriculture; and other rural enterprises; profit-taking and non-profit taking rural community groups and collectives. 		
Indicators	Output	Result	Impact
	Programmes supported for the development of rural women Target 1	Projects supporting the capacity building and social, environmental and economic activities of rural women -25	Evidence of rural women actively involved in rural development
	25 projects and programmes supported	12 rural housing clusters established	Develop 12 rural housing estate clusters leading to an increase in community confidence and associated decrease in disadvantage and exclusion.
		Number of Passengers availing of rural community transport	Evidence of sustained improvement in access to services

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		provision – 3000	
		30 jobs created	
		25 jobs safeguarded	
		100 - To assist Farmers/members of farm families to develop alternative enterprises	Evidence of sustained improvement in community infrastructure
		3000 - To assist individuals to access Rural Development Programmes	
		To enable rural young people to engage with rural community organisations – 60	
		Training and qualifications in traditional skills for under/unemployed individuals – 20	
		Square footage of community space developed – 28,000	
		*jobs to be full-time equivalents broken down to show men, women, young people under 25 , farmers/farm families and long term unemployed	

Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from EAGGF		
			Euro
	Total Value of Measure	-	<u>12,751,000</u>
	EU Contribution of EAGGF		
	(a) in the Priority	-	78,000,000
	(b) in this Measure	-	<u>5,216,000</u> (6.69% of Priority)

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	allocation)
	<p>Match Funding</p> <p>(a) Public Sector - 5,655,000</p> <p>Possible Sources:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development <p>(b) Private Sector - 1,880,000</p> <hr/> <p>Other Private Sector Funding - Nil</p>
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.
Implementing Body	Contact: Vince McKeivitt, Glenree House, Unit 2, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Springhill Road, Newry, Co Down Telephone: 028 3025 3259
Accountable Department	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Nature of Aid	Grants to cover the costs of projects and programmes. Local regeneration projects by “for profit” organisations - up to 50% Local regeneration projects by “not for profit” organisations - up to 75% Support for networking – up to 75% Minor infrastructure projects - up to 100% Technical assistance (including administrative costs) up to 100%. (50% of each grant assistance will be EU funded).
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 7	Renovation and Development of Villages and Protection and Conservation of the Rural Heritage Measure
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority’s objective “Tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland’s disadvantaged rural areas and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on and off-farm.” It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland’s agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>Rural communities play a vital role in the economic, environmental and social life of Northern Ireland. A core principle of rural development is that rural communities should be involved in the solution of their own problems, and in projects to protect the rural way of life and rural heritage. A focused programme of support is therefore required to help these communities become successful, self-sustaining and fully representative. Rural groups and bodies that go through the capacity building process will also be provided with financial support to undertake local regeneration projects or programmes to address those needs.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support all stages of development of rural community projects. • To support the development of community projects in rural areas. • To support projects and programmes to economically, environmentally and socially regenerate villages and rural communities. • To identify development needs and opportunities and the appropriate responses.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and strengthen capabilities of rural community groups to identify the economic, environmental, and social need, and appropriate response • Provide a specialised project planning and management service to help non-profit taking rural groups devise and implement local regeneration projects; • Provide financial support for projects and programmes of rural groups, to regenerate their economy, environment and society. Identification of development needs and opportunities of rural communities and the development and evaluation of local and sectoral programmes to respond to same. <p>Details of delivery mechanisms to ensure complementarily and avoid duplication are provided in Annex A</p>
Categorisation	1306- Renovation and Development of Villages and Protection and Conservation of the Rural Heritage.

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Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project’s compatibility with the aims and objectives of the Measure • Degree to which need/disadvantage is addressed • Measurable objectives, targets and annual performance indicators • Financial, environmental and social sustainability • Equality and equal opportunities considerations • Degree of innovation or originality • Private contribution • Applicant’s ability to demonstrate they can meet the total project cost and ensure spend within the Programme period. <p>Project will be deemed ineligible if it falls within the scope of any other Measure within Title II of Council regulation (EC) 1257/1999.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>														
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Development organisations; • Men and women involved in agriculture; and other rural enterprises; profit –taking and non-profit taking rural community groups and collectives 														
Indicators	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="399 931 590 965">Output</th> <th data-bbox="598 931 782 965">Result</th> <th data-bbox="790 931 1220 965">Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="399 965 590 1373">13 new and existing networks supported</td> <td data-bbox="598 965 782 1373">400 community groups which go on to undertake an environmental , social or economic project</td> <td data-bbox="790 965 1220 1373">Evidence of sustained improvement in community infrastructure</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="399 1373 590 1473">100 local regeneration projects and</td> <td data-bbox="598 1373 782 1473">800 community based groups active</td> <td data-bbox="790 1373 1220 1473">10 supported businesses still in existence after 2 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="399 1473 590 1659"></td> <td data-bbox="598 1473 782 1659">50 jobs created</td> <td data-bbox="790 1473 1220 1659">Evidence of improved skills among rural community groups to contribute</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Output	Result	Impact	13 new and existing networks supported	400 community groups which go on to undertake an environmental , social or economic project	Evidence of sustained improvement in community infrastructure	100 local regeneration projects and	800 community based groups active	10 supported businesses still in existence after 2 years		50 jobs created	Evidence of improved skills among rural community groups to contribute		
Output	Result	Impact													
13 new and existing networks supported	400 community groups which go on to undertake an environmental , social or economic project	Evidence of sustained improvement in community infrastructure													
100 local regeneration projects and	800 community based groups active	10 supported businesses still in existence after 2 years													
	50 jobs created	Evidence of improved skills among rural community groups to contribute													

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		25 Rural people gaining a recognised qualification broken down to show numbers of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Men •Women •Young people under 25 •Farm / farm families Long term unemployed	
	10 - Number of businesses created / supported		
	60,000 Square footage of workspace developed		
	19 - Cultural and heritage projects supported		

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	200 community development / skills events organised.	4,000 - Rural people who have successfully completed a community development / skills event broken down to show numbers of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Men •Women •Young people under 25 •Farm / farm families Long term unemployed *jobs to be full-time equivalents broken down to show men, women, young people under 25 farmers/farm families and long term unemployed	
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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from EAGGF		
		Euro	
	Total Value of Measure -	<u>19,535,000</u>	Deleted: 20,438
	EU Contribution of EAGGF		
	(a) in the Priority -	78,000,000	Deleted: 621
	(b) in this Measure -	<u>8,272,000</u> (10.61% of Priority allocation)	Deleted: 11.1
	Match Funding		
	(a) Public Sector -	<u>8,272,000</u>	Deleted: 621
	Possible Sources:-	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
	(b) Private Sector -	<u>2,991,000</u>	Deleted: 3,196

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	Other Private Sector - 400,150 Funding
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.
Implementing Body	Contact: Vince McKeivitt, Glenree House, Unit 2, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Springhill Road, Newry, Co Down Telephone: 028 3025 3259
Accountable Department	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Nature of Aid	Grants to cover the costs of projects and programmes Local regeneration projects by “for profit” organisations- up to 50% Local regeneration projects by “not for profit” organisations- up to 75% Support for networking – up to 75% Minor infrastructure projects up to 100% Technical assistance (including administrative costs) up to 100%. (50% of each grant assistance will be EU funded).
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 8	Diversification of Agricultural Activities and Activities Close to Agriculture to Provide Multiple Activities or Alternative Incomes Measure
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority’s objective “Tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland’s disadvantaged rural areas and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on and off-farm.” It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland’s agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>Although a very important sector of the rural economy, agriculture can no longer meet the economic needs of rural dwellers or farm families. Measures are therefore required to diversify the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income both on- and off-farm. To achieve this, the rural development measures will exploit the opportunities that are open to Northern Ireland’s rural areas, particularly those offered by the human and natural resources in those areas.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop and strengthen new, emerging or alternative sectors of the rural economy. • To promote sustainable employment opportunities in rural areas by improving the amount and diversity of jobs available.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for projects and programmes of rural groups or regional or sectoral interests to diversify agricultural activities or activities close to agriculture. • Support for projects to consider the opportunities for diversification and appropriate policy response. <p>Details of delivery mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication are provided in Annex A.</p>
Categorisation	7-Diversification of Agricultural Activities and Activities Close to Agriculture to Provide Multiple Activities or Alternative Incomes.
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project’s compatibility with the aims and objectives of the Measure • Degree to which need/disadvantage is addressed • Measurable objectives, targets and annual performance indicators • Financial, environmental and social sustainability • Equality and equal opportunities considerations • Degree of innovation or originality

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private contribution • Applicant's ability to demonstrate they can meet the total project cost and ensure spend within the Programme period. <p>Project will be deemed ineligible if it falls within the scope of any other Measure within Title II of Council regulation (EC) 1257/1999.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Development organisations; • Men and women involved in agriculture; and other rural enterprises; rural community groups and collectives. . 		
Indicators	Output	Result	Impact
	12 diversification projects developed by rural groups	20 businesses created or supported in new, emerging or alternative sectors	10 business activities created or supported still in existence after 2 years
	3 diversification programmes developed by regional or sectoral interest bodies	30 additional jobs created in assisted projects 20 jobs safeguarded in assisted projects	
	10 development / skills events organised	200 - Number of people who successfully attended a development / skills event *jobs to be full-time equivalents broken down to show men, women, young people under 25 farmers / farm families long term unemployed and long term unemployed	

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from EAGGF	
	Euro	
	Total Value of Measure -	1,169,000
	EU Contribution of EAGGF	
	(a) in the Priority -	78,000,000
	(b) in this Measure -	312,000 (0.40% of Priority allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector -	312,000	
Possible Sources:-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development 	
(b) Private Sector -	545,000	
<hr/>		
Other Private Sector Funding	Nil	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	Contact: Vince McKeivitt, Glenree House, Unit 2, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Springhill Road, Newry, Co Down Telephone: 028 3025 3259	
Accountable Department	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
Nature of Aid	Grants to cover the costs of projects and programmes Local regeneration projects by “for profit” organisations- up to 50% Local regeneration projects by “not for profit” organisations- up to 75% Support for networking – up to 75% Minor infrastructure projects - up to 100% Technical assistance (including administration costs) –up to 100% (50% of each grant assistance will be EU funded).	
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A	

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 9	Development and Improvement of Infrastructure Connected with the Development of Agriculture Measure
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland's disadvantaged rural areas and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on and off-farm." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>The absence of adequate infrastructure can inhibit economic development in rural areas. In addition, a poor physical environment can demoralise communities and lead to a spiral of economic and social decline.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop and improve the infrastructure of rural areas. • To protect and enhance the physical environment of rural communities. • To protect and enhance the physical and natural environment of rural areas.
Activities	<p>Support will be provided towards the costs of developing the infrastructure for local rural populations. As this Measure is designed to address the needs identified by the target groups and sectors themselves, it is not possible to give a definitive list of activities. However, examples of projects which might be considered for support include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The improvement of river crossings and the creation of lay-bys on narrow rural roads • Renewable energy production • Infrastructure to facilitate the introduction of new information technology to rural areas <p>Support would not be provided for projects which would otherwise be undertaken by the mainstream service provider or by other Structural Funds. Details of delivery mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication are provided in Annex A.</p>
Categorisation	1309- Development and Improvement of Infrastructure Connected with the Development of Agriculture.
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project's compatibility with the aims and objectives of the Measure • Degree to which need/disadvantage is addressed • Measurable objectives, targets and annual performance indicators • Financial, environmental and social sustainability • Equality and equal opportunities considerations • Degree of innovation or originality

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private contribution • Applicant's ability to demonstrate they can meet the total project cost and ensure spend within the Programme period. <p>Project will be deemed ineligible if it falls within the scope of any other Measure within Title II of Council regulation (EC) 1257/1999. The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Development organisations; • Men and women involved in agriculture; and other rural enterprises; profit taking and non-profit taking rural community groups and collectives. 		
Indicators	Output	Result	Impact
		8 - Number of new businesses created 3 existing jobs safeguarded	Evidence of improvement in community infrastructure
	60- infrastructure physical /environmental programmes / projects supported	10 additional jobs created in assisted projects*	Evidence of improvement in community infrastructure
		10 - Vernacular Buildings Restored for commercial use	Evidence of improvement in community infrastructure
		25,000 - Square footage of community space developed	
		75 km - Total length (km) of pedestrian / cycle routes created and upgraded	
	5 - Assist / Create Water Based Tourism Projects	Evidence of improvement in the physical environment/	
	15 - Projects promoting environmental / heritage / tourism		

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		issues and training	assisted rural areas
		35 - Farm Families benefiting from Willow drying and storage facilities	
		*jobs to be full-time equivalents broken down to show men, women, young people under 25 farmers/farm families and long term unemployed	
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from EAGGF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <p>Total Value of Measure - <u>15,149,000</u></p> <p>EU Contribution of EAGGF</p> <p>(a) in the Priority - 78,000,000</p> <p>(b) in this Measure - <u>6,400,000</u> (8.21% of Priority allocation)</p> <p>Match Funding</p> <p>(a) Public Sector - <u>5,618,000</u></p> <p>Possible Sources:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development <p>(b) Private Sector - <u>3,131,000</u></p> <hr/> <p>Other Private Sector Funding - 12,210</p>		
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.		
Implementing Body	Contact: Vince McKeivitt, Glenree House, Unit 2, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Springhill Road, Newry, Co Down Telephone: 028 3025 3259		
Accountable Department	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development		
Nature of Aid	Grants to cover the costs of projects and programmes. Local regeneration projects by “for profit” organisations - up to 50% Local regeneration projects by “not for profit” organisations - up to 75% Support for networking – up to 75% Minor infrastructure projects - up to 100% Technical assistance (including administrative costs) – up to 100%		

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North/South and wider Co- operation	N/A

PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 10	Encouragement for Tourist and Craft Activities Measure
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland's disadvantaged rural areas and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on and off-farm." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>Northern Ireland's countryside is one of its major resources, but tourism has been retarded by the conflict. This Measure will build on the success of earlier EU Programmes in helping to develop the tourism potential of Northern Ireland's rural areas. The craft industry offers opportunities for economic development and job creation in rural areas by utilising local physical resources areas and traditional skills. There is an opportunity to build on the early work to develop the rural craft sector undertaken under LEADER II and the 1994 -1999 SPD.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop quality rural tourism; • To increase the contribution that tourism and craft activities makes to the rural economy; • To increase the number of tourism and craft related jobs in rural areas.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support projects and programmes of rural groups to develop rural tourism • assist the creation and implementation of area based strategies for rural tourism • support projects and programmes of regional sectoral interest bodies to develop rural tourism. • support projects and programmes of rural groups to develop local crafts • support projects and programmes of regional sectoral interest bodies to develop local crafts • support projects to consider the needs of the rural tourist and craft industries and the appropriate policy response. <p>Details of delivery mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication are provided in Annex A.</p>
Categorisation	1310- Encouragement for Tourist Activities.
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project's compatibility with the aims and objectives of the Measure • Degree to which need/disadvantage is addressed • Measurable objectives, targets and annual performance indicators

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial, environmental and social sustainability • Equality and equal opportunities considerations • Degree of innovation or originality • Private contribution • Applicant's ability to demonstrate they can meet the total project cost and ensure spend within the Programme period. <p>Project will be deemed ineligible if it falls within the scope of any other Measure within Title II of Council regulation (EC) 1257/1999.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Development organisations; • Men and women involved in agriculture and other rural enterprises; profit taking and non-profit taking rural community groups and collectives. 		
Indicators	Output	Result	Impact
	40 tourism / craft projects / promotional programmes supported	60 tourism / craft businesses created / assisted	75% of businesses assisted / supported still in existence after 2 years
	Indicator combined with output above	60 additional jobs created in assisted projects	
		50 existing jobs safeguarded in assisted projects	
	150 Total length (km) of pedestrian / cycle routes created and upgraded	Evidence of improvement in the physical environment / infrastructure in	

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		10 Civic / Environmental improvement schemes	assisted rural areas.
		*jobs to be full-time equivalents broken down to show men, women, young people under 25 farmers / farm families and long term unemployed	

Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from EAGGF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <p>Total Value of Measure - <u>7,958,000</u></p> <p>EU Contribution of EAGGF</p> <p>(a) in the Priority - 78,000,000</p> <p>(b) in this Measure - <u>3,166,000</u> (4.1% of Priority allocation)</p> <p>Match Funding</p> <p>(a) Public Sector - <u>3,140,000</u></p> <p>Possible Sources:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture and Rural Development <p>(b) Private Sector - <u>1,652,000</u></p> <hr/> <p>Other Private Sector Funding - 5,425</p>		
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.		
Implementing Body	Contact: Vince McKeivitt, Glenree House, Unit 2, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Springhill Road, Newry, Co Down Telephone: 028 3025 3259		
Accountable Department	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development		
Nature of Aid	<p>Grants to cover the costs of projects and programmes</p> <p>Local regeneration projects by “for profit” organisations - up to 50%</p> <p>Local regeneration projects by “not for profit” organisations - up to 75%</p> <p>Support for networking – up to 75%</p> <p>Minor infrastructure projects - up to 100%</p> <p>Technical assistance (including administration costs) – up to 100% (50% of each grant assistance will be EU funded).</p>		

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North/South and wider Co- operation	N/A
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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 11	Protection of the Environment in Connection with Agriculture, Forestry and Landscape Conservation as well as the Improvement of Animal Welfare Measure
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority’s objective “Tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland’s disadvantaged rural areas and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on and off-farm.” It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland’s agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>Although, in European terms, Northern Ireland’s rural areas cover a relatively small geographical area, they have a rich and diverse environment that is extremely important to the whole region and helps to create the clean, green image which is one of Northern Ireland’s most important competitive resources. The quality of the environment has the potential to attract tourism and business investment and inspire economic innovation. It should therefore be protected for economic as well as environmental reasons.</p>
Objectives	To protect and enhance the natural environment of rural areas.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support projects and programmes developed by rural groups to protect or enhance the their environment; • Support projects and programmes developed by regional sectoral interest bodies to protect and enhance the rural environment; and • support projects to identify and considering the needs of the rural environment and the development of appropriate policy responses. <p>Details of delivery mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication are provided in Annex A.</p>
Categorisation	1312- Protection of the Environment in Connection with Land, Forestry and Landscape Conservation as well as with the Improvement of Animal Welfare.
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project’s compatibility with the aims and objectives of the Measure • Degree to which need/disadvantage is addressed • Measurable objectives, targets and annual performance indicators • Financial, environmental and social sustainability • Equality and equal opportunities considerations • Degree of innovation or originality

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private contribution • Applicant's ability to demonstrate they can meet the total project cost and ensure spend within the Programme period. <p>Project will be deemed ineligible if it falls within the scope of any other Measure within Title II of Council regulation (EC) 1257/1999.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>		
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Development organisations; • men and women involved in agriculture and other rural enterprises; profit taking and non-profit taking rural community groups and collectives. 		
Indicators	Output	Result	Impact
	45 locally based environmental projects and programmes	80 fragile / high value environment, archaeological, historic or cultural heritage sites protected, maintained or enhanced	Evidence of improved understanding of environmental issues in assisted rural areas
		3 Number of environmental play facilities developed	
	25 regional or sectoral projects and programmes	4,400 hectares– To undertake practical management of habitats and nature reserves 25 – Renewable energy programmes / projects benefiting rural communities and businesses	Evidence of improved environmental management of projects in assisted areas
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from EAGGF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <p>Total Value of Measure - 11,496,000</p> <p>EU Contribution of EAGGF</p> <p>(a) in the Priority - 78,000,000</p> <p>(b) in this Measure - 5,748,000 (7.4% of Priority allocation)</p>		

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	Match Funding		
	(a) Public Sector	-	5,748,000
	Possible Sources:-		• Department of Agriculture and Rural Development)
	(b) Private Sector	-	Nil
	Other Private Sector Funding	-	697,500

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Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.
Implementing Body	Contact: Vince McKeivitt, Glenree House, Unit 2, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Springhill Road, Newry, Co Down Telephone: 028 3025 3259
Accountable Department	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Nature of Aid	Grants to cover the costs of projects and programmes. Local regeneration projects by “for profit” organisations - up to 50% Local regeneration projects by “not for profit” organisations - up to 75% Support for networking – up to 75% Minor infrastructure projects - up to 100% Technical assistance (including administration costs) - up to 100% (50% of each grant assistance will be EU funded).
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
Measure 12	Financial Engineering
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Tackling the significant socio-economic differentials that exist between Northern Ireland's disadvantaged rural areas and the overall community in the region by diversifying the rural economy to provide alternative sources of employment and income for rural people, both on and off-farm." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>Rural groups which seek to regenerate their areas often find it difficult to access the necessary financial assistance. In particular, community based businesses that have received grant aid from previous Structural Funds programmes, may need financial advice and further funding to develop their projects after they have been trading for a number of years. As further grant aid may be unobtainable, alternative sources of funding and financial advice may be necessary.</p> <p>The Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) has been supported by other Government departments to provide advice and financial assistance to community based projects in urban areas. There may be a need for a similar service for rural community groups.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide community groups and collective bodies with appropriate forms of financial advice and support.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support organisations that provide community groups with financial advice; and aim to assist in the restructuring of the finances of local regeneration projects. <p>Details of delivery mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication are provided in Annex A</p>
Categorisation	1313- Financial Engineering
Project Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have received capital funding to implement a rural development project from a previous structural fund programme; or Be awarded capital funding for a project under the 2001 to 2006 Rural Development Programme. An organisation supported by other Government Departments to provide advice and financial assistance to community-based projects. <p>Project will be deemed ineligible if it falls within the scope of any other Measure within Title II of Council regulation (EC) 1257/1999. The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Development organisations; men and women involved in agriculture and other rural enterprises.; profit taking and non-profit taking rural community groups and collectives.

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Indicators	Output	Result	Impact
	25 Rural groups engaging with a financial funding mechanism	25 rural groups receiving re-structuring of finances / financial assistance	75% of projects assisted under this Measure remaining in operation after 2 years
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from EAGGF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Euro</p> <p>Total Value of Measure - 6,222,000</p> <p>EU Contribution of EAGGF</p> <p>(a) in the Priority - 78,000,000</p> <p>(b) in this Measure - 2,235,000 (2.9 % of Priority allocation)</p> <p>Match Funding</p> <p>(a) Public Sector - 2,235,000</p> <p>Possible Sources:- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>(b) Private Sector - 1,752,000</p> <hr/> <p>Other Private Sector Funding - Nil</p>		
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.		
Implementing Body	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Vince McKeivitt, Glenree House, Unit 2, Carnbane Industrial Estate, Springhill Road, Newry, Co Down		
Accountable Department	The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development		
Nature of Aid	<p>Grants to cover the costs of providing advice and support to rural groups, and financial advice on the management and strengthening of project's business activities; loans to finance their further development.</p> <p>Grants to cover advice and support- up to 100%</p> <p>Loans for local regeneration projects by "for profit" organisations - up to 50%</p> <p>Loans for local regeneration projects by "not for profit" organisations - up to 75%</p> <p>(50% of each grant assistance will be EU funded).</p>		
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A		

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13A	Adjustment of fishing effort – Decommissioning of fishing vessels
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority’s objective “Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region’s largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image.” It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland’s agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>The UK’s obligations under MAGP IV are being met predominantly by effort control. If there is a subsequent restructuring programme, it is possible that effort control will again be the preferred option. This measure will, however, provide for any further necessary adjustment of fishing effort within Northern Ireland. Grant assistance would be available on a regional competitive basis to the off shore fishing fleet and would be targeted at priority areas (based on overall segment targets) and agreed with the industry.</p>
Objectives	To reduce the Northern Ireland fishing fleet, proportionate with any reduction agreed at European level for any future restructuring of the fleet to apply to the United Kingdom as a whole and to conserve fish stocks in the Irish Sea.
Activities	Owners of eligible fishing vessels would be invited to tender for a decommissioning grant to scrap their vessels and to surrender their licences.
Categorisation	141 – Adjustment of fishing effort.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>Applications where bid to decommission vessel is at or below Department’s acceptable bid strike price (2001scheme) or lowest bid price per VCU (2003 scheme).</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	All owners of fishing vessels meeting the eligibility criteria would be able to bid for a grant.
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of decommissioning projects - Target 30</p> <p>Results: Number of vessels decommissioned - Target 30</p> <p>Impact: 1000 Gross tonnes of capacity removed 5640 KW engine capacity removed</p> <p>Targets are based on experience gained through implementing a similar Scheme under the 1994-1999 Structural Funds Programme.</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from FIG.	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure	9,333,333
	EU Contribution of FIG	
	(a) in the Priority	29,000,000
	(b) in this Measure	7,000,000 (24.2% of Priority allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector	2,333,333	
Possible Sources	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
(b) Private Sector	Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding	Nil	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact Michael O'Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 9052 2371.	
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.	
Nature of Aid	Grant aid would be paid to vessel owners who have decommissioned their fishing vessel and surrendered relevant fishing licence. FIG contribution – 75% maximum.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.	

Notes to indicators:

Included targets are in line with the relevant EU legislation.

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13B	Safety Equipment Scheme
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>This measure would continue to foster investment in safety. All fishing vessels will be required to have a current safety certificate, and therefore encouragement will be given to all fishermen in the local fleet to bring themselves up to date with a range of safety practices.</p>
Objectives	To encourage the fish catching sector to improve safety standards and to maintain the standards required for the DTI safety certificate and safety inspection.
Activities	A limited range of safety equipment.
Categorisation	142 – Renewal and modernisation of the fishing fleet.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>Applicants' ability to meet percentage of project cost.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Owner of fishing vessels beneficially owned in Northern Ireland, registered in Northern Ireland and landing at least 50% of their catch into Northern Ireland. Fishermen based in Northern Ireland and going to sea on a NI vessel.
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of vessels taking part in the Scheme - Target 30</p> <p>Results: Number of Safety items installed – Target 30</p> <p>Impact: Reduction in number of safety related incidents.</p> <p>Targets are assessed on the basis of the ex-ante appraisal of the BSP Fisheries Measure.</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from FIFG.	
	Total Value of Measure	Euro 571,000
	EU Contribution of FIFG	
	(a) in the Priority	29,000,000
	(b) in this Measure	200,000
		(0.7 % of Priority allocation)
Match Funding (a) Public Sector Possible Sources		29,000
		Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
	(b) Private Sector	342,000
	Other Private Sector Funding	343,000
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Michael O’Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 9052 2371	
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.	
Nature of Aid	Grant aid would be paid towards the cost of the installation of safety equipment on board fishing vessels: FIFG contribution – 35% maximum.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.	

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13C	Small scale and coastal fishing grants
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>Although there are 197 vessels in the under 12 metres sectors in Northern Ireland, most are dispersed around the coastline and there is only a small number of associations. Safety improvements, training in methods of production, processing and marketing and retraining are all options which these associations could take up under this measure.</p>
Objectives	To encourage existing and new associations of inshore fishermen to improve co-ordination, distribution and marketing.
Activities	Projects targeted at the under 12m fleet and associated inshore industry association aimed at improving safety production processing/marketing.
Categorisation	147 – Actions by professionals (including small coastal fishing and fishing in inland waters).
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Projects compatible with aims and objectives of sub-measure.</p> <p>Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Dispersed under 12m fleet, associated industry and their associations.
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of clusters supported - 2</p> <p>Results: Number of co-operative activities funded in areas such as safety equipment (more selective fishing gear) - 10 vessels</p> <p>Increased sales value</p> <p>Number of joint sales initiatives.</p> <p>Impact: Proportion of groups (Associations) continuing to represent industry.</p> <p>5640 KW engine capacity removed</p> <p>Targets identified by ex-ante appraisal of the BSP Fisheries Measure.</p> <p>Remainder of targets will be set on receipt of grant scheme applications.</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from FIG.	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure	1,466,666
	EU Contribution of FIG	
	(a) in the Priority	29,000,000
(b) in this Measure	1,100,000 (3.8 % of Priority allocation)	
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector	366,666	
Possible Sources	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
(b) Private Sector	Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding	Nil	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Michael O'Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 9052 2371	
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.	
Nature of Aid	Grant aid would be paid towards the cost of eligible projects, as defined under Indicative Activities: FIG contribution – 75% maximum.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.	

Notes to indicators:

1. 'Cluster' in this context means a group of fishermen, producers, organisations or associations.
2. The indicators are specific to the under 12m fleet.

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13D	Scrap and Build Scheme
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>Irrespective of MAGP targets, there is an imbalance between fishing opportunities and the fleet. This is caused, in part, by policy issues, most notably the Hague Preference. However, there remains a need to seek to continue to reduce capacity both at national and regional levels. Allocating decommissioning funds, while historically successful, is unlikely to be able to compete with the market for fishing entitlements. Scrap and build however provides a unique opportunity to both contribute to a reduction in capacity (providing it is accompanied by sufficient penalties which take account of technical creep and the accompanying quota opportunities) and to rejuvenate the fleet.</p>
Objectives	To encourage new vessels to replace the existing fleet, improve the age structure of fleet, and contribute to balancing fishing effort and stocks available for exploitation.
Activities	Construction of new vessels other than Pelagic or Beam trawlers.
Categorisation	142 – Renewal and modernisation of the fishing fleet.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Applications compatibility with aims and objectives of sub-measure. Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>Applicants' ability to meet percentage cost of project.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	NI Fishing vessel owners resident in Northern Ireland, operating from and landing into Northern Ireland port.
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of scrap and build projects - 18</p> <p>Results: Number of new vessels built - 18</p> <p>Impact: Reduction in capacity of fishing fleet consistent with the maintenance of a viable and sustainable fishing industry.</p> <p>Targets identified by ex-ante appraisal of the BSP Fisheries Measure.</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from FIG.	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure	3,142,000
	EU Contribution of FIG	29,000,000
	(a) in the Priority	
	(b) in this Measure	1,100,000 (3.8 % of Priority allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector	157,000	
Possible Sources	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
(b) Private Sector	1,885,000	
	Other Private Sector Funding	0
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: David Crawford, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 90 520042, e-mail: david.crawford@dardni.gov.uk	
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.	
Nature of Aid	Grant aid will be paid towards the cost of replacing existing vessels. FIG contribution – 35% maximum.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.	

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13E	Marketing and Quality on Board Fishing Vessels
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority’s objective “Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region’s largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image.” It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland’s agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>The Measure will improve the quality and presentation of fish landed from Northern Ireland vessels.</p>
Objectives	To improve the hygiene and refrigeration facilities on board fishing vessels.
Activities	Improvements to handling systems, fridges, ice rooms, weighing and labelling equipment on board vessels.
Categorisation	143 – Processing, marketing & promotion of fisheries products.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Applications compatibility with aims and objectives of sub-measure.</p> <p>Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>Applicants’ ability to meet percentage cost of project.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	All fishing vessels.
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of vessels participating in Scheme - Target 128</p> <p>Results: Number of vessels with improved quality standards - Target 128</p> <p>Impact: Improve quality standards</p> <p>Evidence of Public and Industry awareness of the Scheme</p> <p>Targets identified by ex-ante appraisal of the BSP Fisheries Measure.</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from FIG.
	Euro
	Total Value of Measure 2,571,000
	EU Contribution of FIG
	(a) in the Priority 29,000,000
	(b) in this Measure 900,000 (3.1 % of Priority allocation)
Match Funding	
(a) Public Sector 128,000	
Possible Sources Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
(b) Private Sector 1,543,000	
Other Private Sector Funding 857,000	
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Michael O'Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 9052 2371
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Nature of Aid	Grants will be paid in respect of the cost of improvements under Indicative Activities: FIG contribution – 35% maximum.
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13F	Improvement of Facilities at NI Fishing Ports
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>The Harbour Authority will continue to require a high level of capital grants to redevelop harbours which reflect an uncoordinated approach to development; and provide new facilities such as extended temperature controlled market facilities. These investments are vital to allow the catching sector to continue to function efficiently and to support the competition position of the Northern Ireland processing industry.</p>
Objectives	To encourage the provision of safe, modern and well maintained harbour and infrastructure facilities at NIFHA harbours.
Activities	Grant aid to material investment in such areas as ongoing maintenance, replacement of port facilities, further modernisation and development eg chilling facilities, electronic marketing, vessel repair, maintenance facilities and services to the fleet.
Categorisation	145 – Equipment of fishing ports and protection and development of aquatic resources.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Applications compatibility with aims and objectives of sub-measure.</p> <p>Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>Applicants' ability to meet percentage cost of project where appropriate.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Harbour authorities, fishermen, processors and consumers (who would gain from quality of fish through improved and more hygienic landing facilities).
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of infrastructure projects assisted - 8 Number of market upgrades assisted - 1 Number of projects assisted to improve ice quality -1</p> <p>Results: Number of facilities upgraded - 10</p> <p>Impact: Continued economic use of harbour.</p> <p>Targets identified by ex-ante appraisal of the BSP Fisheries Measure..</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from FIFG.	
		Euro
	Total Value of Measure	11,230,000
	EU Contribution of FIFG	
	(a) in the Priority	29,000,000
	(b) in this Measure	8,423,000 (29.1% of Priority allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector		2,807,000
Possible Sources	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
(b) Private Sector		Nil
Other Private Sector Funding		Nil
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Michael O’Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 90 52 2371	
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.	
Nature of Aid	Grant will be paid towards the cost of eligible projects as defined under Indicative Activities. FIFG contribution – Group 1.75% maximum - Group 2.35% maximum.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.	

Notes to indicators:

The impact of this measure will be measured through reference to NIFHA data on the use of harbours.

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13G	Aquaculture
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>Since 1998, there has been a significant growth in Aquaculture industry in Northern Ireland, primarily in shellfish cultivation. With continued reduction in national fish quotas, it is essential that Northern Ireland develop the aquaculture sector with minimal environmental impact as an alternative source of supply for processors. To this end DARD and DCAL will only consider applications for grant aid where applicants have obtained all necessary statutory consents such as planning permission, water discharge consents etc. Furthermore, when considering applications in respect of fish farms located in SPAs and/or SACs, both Departments must be satisfied that the proposed developments will be operated in a manner that does not have a detrimental affect on the conservation objectives of the designated sites.</p>
Objectives	To encourage the expansion of aquaculture production in Northern Ireland, to broaden the base of species currently being cultivated and to exploit untapped market potential through the cultivation of high value species. To increase quality through improved production methods.
Activities	Extension of existing units with some construction of new aquaculture units including investments in projects concerning the installation or improvement of water circulation. The use of new technology, particularly techniques that substantially reduce environmental impact. Cultivation of new species.
Categorisation	144 – Aquaculture.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Applications compatibility with the aims and objectives of the sub-measure.</p> <p>Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>Applicants' ability to meet percentage cost of project.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Fish Farmers.

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Indicators	<p>Output: Number of existing aquaculture businesses assisted – 10 Number of new aquaculture businesses assisted – 10</p> <p>Results: Increase output of shellfish to Bottom grown mussels – Target 5000t Rope grown mussels – Target 400t Gigas oysters – Target 700t Native oysters – Target 100t Scallops – Target 50t Other shellfish – Target 50t Salmon – Target 1500 Other finfish – Target 100 Gross increase in sales of shellfish Gross increase in full time and part time employment</p> <p>Impact: Net increase in sales of aquaculture species produce Net increase in full time employment.</p> <p>Targets are based on experience gained through implementing a similar Scheme under the 1994-1999 Structural Funds Programme. Remaining targets will be set on receipt of grant scheme applications.</p>																						
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from FIG.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Euro</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,571,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EU Contribution of FIG</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td style="text-align: right;">29,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,600,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">(5.5 % of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Match Funding</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td style="text-align: right;">228,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possible Sources</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Private Sector</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,743,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,886,000</td> </tr> </table>		Euro	Total Value of Measure	4,571,000	EU Contribution of FIG		(a) in the Priority	29,000,000	(b) in this Measure	1,600,000		(5.5 % of Priority allocation)	Match Funding		(a) Public Sector	228,000	Possible Sources	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	(b) Private Sector	2,743,000	Other Private Sector Funding	1,886,000
	Euro																						
Total Value of Measure	4,571,000																						
EU Contribution of FIG																							
(a) in the Priority	29,000,000																						
(b) in this Measure	1,600,000																						
	(5.5 % of Priority allocation)																						
Match Funding																							
(a) Public Sector	228,000																						
Possible Sources	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development																						
(b) Private Sector	2,743,000																						
Other Private Sector Funding	1,886,000																						
Duration	<p>The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.</p>																						
Implementing Body	<p>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Michael O’Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 9052 2371</p>																						

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Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Nature of Aid	Grant aid will be paid towards the cost of eligible projects as outlined under Indicative Activities: FIFG contribution – 35% maximum.
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13H	Processing and Marketing of Freshwater and Marine Products
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>This measure will continue to build on the benefits derived from the existing processing and marketing scheme. Grant assistance would be available on a competitive basis to companies and would be targeted as given priorities (agreed with the industry) such as the development of innovative projects and products, quality improvement and added value. The need for the continuation of this type of support was highlighted in the DED 2010 strategy document and is vital to help improve competitiveness in export markets, particularly as the fish processing sectors in other Member States which compete in these markets already receive significant grant assistance.</p>
Objectives	To encourage innovation and investment in the fish processing sector, to enhance market opportunities for primary producers and to increase the competitiveness of participating businesses.
Activities	Improvements in hygiene, increases in production, product quality and pollution reduction methods.
Categorisation	143 – Processing, marketing and promotion of fisheries products.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Applications compatibility with aims and objectives of sub-measure.</p> <p>Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>Applicants' ability to meet percentage cost of project.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Business processing and marketing fish, shellfish, sea vegetables and aquaculture products
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of projects assisted - 15</p> <p>Results: Number of businesses achieving product enhancement /quality – 15</p> <p>Impact: Improved standards in quality, hygiene or production.</p> <p>Targets identified by ex-ante appraisal of the BSP Fisheries Measure.</p>

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Financial Summary	This measure will be funded from FIFG	
		Euro
	Total value of Measure	7,142,000
	EU contribution of FIFG	
	(a) in the Priority	29,000,000
	(b) in this measure	2,500,000
		(8% of Priority Allocation)
Match Funding		
(a) Public Sector	357,000	
Possible Sources	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
(b) Private Sector	4,285,000	
	Other Private Sector Funding	4,286,000
	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Michael O'Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 9052 2371	
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.	
Nature of Aid	Grant aid will be paid towards the cost of eligible projects as defined in Indicative Activities. FIFG contribution – 35% maximum.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.	

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13I	Joint Marketing Initiative
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>Through facilitating collaboration, this measure would benefit producers and primary processors helping them to become more competitive by being better placed to meet the demands of buyers in terms of quality, volume, continuity etc, reduce overheads and input costs and source expert support. Such a scheme would help meet the demands arising from ministerial initiatives to encourage collaborative marketing. It would enable groups of producers to add value to their produce and establish a local identity and could include realising an added economic value from participating and quality assurance schemes. Previous evaluation of such schemes has indicated they have been effective in bringing about market improvements in the marketing performance of participating companies and groups with high levels of additionality and a good level of capital leverage.</p>
Objectives	To encourage greater integration and collaboration between producers, processors and others in the fish processing and supply chain in the development of improved marketing structures and strategies.
Activities	Collaborative marketing and promotion projects.
Categorisation	143 – Processing, marketing and promotion of fisheries products.
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Applications compatibility with aims and objectives of sub-measure.</p> <p>Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Fisheries producers and processors.
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of joint marketing initiatives/promotional programmes funded.</p> <p>Results: Number of promotional events/activities</p> <p>Impact: Increase in sales Increase in sales in new markets Increased consumption of fish based on Food Survey.</p> <p>Targets will be set on receipt of grant scheme applications.</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from FIG.	
	Total Value of Measure	Euro 3,600,000
	EU Contribution of FIG	
	(a) in the Priority	29,000,000
	(b) in this Measure	2,700,000 (9.3% of Priority allocation)
Match Funding (a) Public Sector Possible Sources		900,000
		Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
	(b) Private Sector	Nil
	Other Private Sector Funding	Nil
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.	
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Michael O'Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 9052 2371	
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.	
Nature of Aid	Grant aid would be paid in respect of eligible projects under the marketing and promotion umbrella: FIG contribution – Group 1 75% maximum, Group 3 35% maximum.	
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.	

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY & FISHERIES
Measure 13J	Collective operations by members of the NI fishing industry
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally-friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>The overall strategy identifies the need for collective action in a number of areas, and recognises that the small scale of individual businesses in the catching and processing sectors limits the ability of individual firms to compete at international level. In addition, the strategy recognises the fragmentation of the organisation support for the industry. Against that background, it is believed that assistance for collective actions could provide a stability and opportunity which would be welcomed across the industry.</p>
Objectives	To encourage collective action by the industry to improve competitiveness, in areas including training, electronic trade, fisheries management and conservation.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective operations such as training initiatives to promote increased use of IT, electronic trade, development of quality control, traceability systems and conservation. <p>Assistance with statutory training courses.</p>
Categorisation	146 – Socio economic measures (including aid for temporary stopping and other compensation).
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Applications compatibility with aims and objectives of sub-measures.</p> <p>Extensive guidance to be issued on each Scheme will describe the selection criteria to be used.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Catching and processing sector and other related industries.
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of collective operations assisted - 15</p> <p>Results: Increased use of IT Training initiatives funded Development of quality control and traceability systems Environmental/Health & Safety improvements.</p> <p>Impact: Improved traceability for selected species Increased production and sales Improved industry standards.</p> <p>Output targets identified by ex-ante appraisal of the BSP Fisheries Measure. Remaining targets will be set on receipt of grant scheme</p>

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	applications.																						
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from FIGG.</p> <table> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Euro</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EU Contribution of FIGG</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td style="text-align: right;">29,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">900,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">(3.1% of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Match Funding</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td style="text-align: right;">300,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possible Sources</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Private Sector</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Nil</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Nil</td> </tr> </table>		Euro	Total Value of Measure	1,200,000	EU Contribution of FIGG		(a) in the Priority	29,000,000	(b) in this Measure	900,000		(3.1% of Priority allocation)	Match Funding		(a) Public Sector	300,000	Possible Sources	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	(b) Private Sector	Nil	Other Private Sector Funding	Nil
	Euro																						
Total Value of Measure	1,200,000																						
EU Contribution of FIGG																							
(a) in the Priority	29,000,000																						
(b) in this Measure	900,000																						
	(3.1% of Priority allocation)																						
Match Funding																							
(a) Public Sector	300,000																						
Possible Sources	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development																						
(b) Private Sector	Nil																						
Other Private Sector Funding	Nil																						
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000 to 2006 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2008.																						
Implementing Body	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Contact: Michael O'Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW. Telephone: 028 9052 2371																						
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.																						
Nature of Aid	Grant aid will be paid in respect of collective action projects in line with Indicative Activities: FIGG contribution – Group 1 - 75% maximum; Group 3 – 35% maximum; and Group 4 – 75% maximum.																						
North/South and wider Co-operation	N/A.																						

Notes to indicators:

Impact indicators will be quantified following receipt of applications.

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PRIORITY 4	AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES														
Measure 13K	Temporary Cessation (Tie-up)														
Rationale	<p>This Measure links to the Priority's objective of "Assisting the industry to become more efficient and effective while maintaining the region's largely extensive, environmentally- friendly farming image." It addresses the needs identified in the ex-ante assessment for strengthening Northern Ireland's agri-food, forestry and fisheries sectors, diversifying rural economic activity and sustaining the rural population.</p> <p>The sub measure aims to reduce the amount of cod caught during the emergency spring cod spawning closure of the Irish Sea from 14 February to 30 April 2004.</p>														
Objectives	Encourage vessels targeting cod to tie-up during the emergency spring cod spawning closure from 14 February to 30 April 2004.														
Activities	Temporary cessation of fishing activities by vessels with proven record of catching cod.														
Categorisation	146 – socio-economic measures (including aid for temporary stopping and other compensation)														
Project Selection Criteria	<p>Scheme guidance to be issued to describe scheme and selection criteria.</p> <p>Applications will be encouraged from those with a proven record of catching at least 3 tonne of cod each year during 2001 and 2002 and must have spent at least 140 days at sea during the two reference years of 2001 and 2002.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this sub-measure.</p>														
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	All owners of fishing vessels meeting scheme criteria will be eligible for grant.														
Indicators	<p>Output: Number of vessels participating in Scheme -Target 28</p> <p>Results: Reduction in fishing will allow cod spawning stocks time to recover during their most vulnerable time.</p> <p>Impact: Reduced cod landings during tie-up.</p> <p><u>Targets identified by ex-ante appraisal of the BSP Fisheries Measure</u></p>														
Financial Summary	<p>The Measure will be funded from FIFG.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Meuro</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,436,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EU Contribution of FIFG</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td style="text-align: right;">29,000,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,577,000 (8.8% of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Match Funding</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td style="text-align: right;">859,000</td> </tr> </table>		Meuro	Total Value of Measure	3,436,000	EU Contribution of FIFG		(a) in the Priority	29,000,000	(b) in this Measure	2,577,000 (8.8% of Priority allocation)	Match Funding		(a) Public Sector	859,000
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Match Funding															
(a) Public Sector	859,000														

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	<p>Possible sources</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>(b) Private Sector Nil</p> <p>Other Private Sector Funding Nil</p>
Duration	The funds will be allocated to eligible vessel owners who have ceased from fishing activities during the period 14 February to 30 April 2004.
Implementing Body	<p>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>Contact: Michael O’Sullivan, Fisheries Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Annexe 5, Castle Grounds, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PW.</p> <p>Telephone: 028 9052 2371</p>
Accountable Department	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Nature of Aid	<p>Two rates of payment will be used in the scheme. A higher rate of grant (€23.55 per VCU* per week) will be paid to those vessel owners who have caught an average of at least 20 tonne of cod over the two reference years 2001 and 2002. A lower rate of €15.70 per VCU* per week will be paid to vessels with less than an average of 20 tonne of cod over both reference years 2001 and 2002 who meet all other scheme criteria.</p> <p>*VCU means Vessel Capacity Unit, which is the measure of UK fishing vessel capacity as defined by the formula $(L \times B) + (0.45 \times P)$ where: L is the length of the vessel measured in metres B is the breadth of the vessel measured in metres P is the engine power of the vessel expressed in kilowatts.</p> <p>The maximum FIFG contribution will be 75%</p>
North/South and Co-operation	N/A

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Northern Ireland Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity
Commission Reference No. of the related Operational Programme 1999 GB 16 1 PO 007
Summary financial table for Priority 4, Measure 4.13

		Total Cost	Total Public	FIFG	Regional	Private
4.13A	<i>Adjustment of Fishing Effort - Decommissioning of fishing vessels</i>	9.333	2.333	7.000		
4.13B	<i>Safety Equipment Scheme</i>	0.571	0.029	0.200		0.342
4.13C	<i>Small scale and coastal fishing grant</i>	1.466	0.366	1.100		
4.13D	<i>Scrap and Build Scheme</i>	3.142	0.157	1.100		1.885
4.13E	<i>Marketing and Quality on Board Fishing Vessels</i>	2.571	0.128	0.900		1.543
4.13F	<i>Improvement of Facilities at NI Fishing Ports</i>	11.230	2.807	8.423		
4.13G	<i>Aquaculture</i>	4.571	0.228	1.600		2.743
4.13H	<i>Processing and Marketing of Freshwater and Marine Products</i>	7.142	0.357	2.500		4.285
4.13I	<i>Joint Marketing Initiative</i>	3.600	0.900	2.700		
4.13J	<i>Collective operations by members of the NI fishing industry</i>	1.200	0.300	0.900		
4.13K	<i>Temporary Cessation (Tie-up)</i>	3.436	0.859	2.577		
Measure 4.13 sub-total		48.262	8.464	29.000		10.798

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BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

PRIORITY 5 – THE ENVIRONMENT

	MEASURES AND SUB-MEASURES
1	Sustainable Management of the Environment and Promotion of the Natural and Built Heritage

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PRIORITY 5	THE ENVIRONMENT																												
Measure 1	Sustainable Management of the Environment and Promotion of the Natural and Built Heritage																												
Rationale	<p>Sustainable development within a region requires the protection and management of environmental resources and the maintenance of healthy living environments. The strategy for the environment seeks to support proper stewardship of the Region’s environmental resources, its good quality air and water, its natural vegetation and wildlife, its relatively unspoilt countryside and its built heritage.</p> <p>The ex-ante appraisal identifies a number of weaknesses in Northern Ireland’s environment including diminished landscape quality, low woodland cover, loss of certain habitats, low levels of waste reduction and recycling, and nutrient enrichment of waters. Northern Ireland’s clean and green image can be maintained only by keeping environmental issues to the fore, by increasing environmental development opportunities and by focusing investment on effective remedial action. The Environment Priority of the BSP Programme will take action to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correct existing environmental problems; • understand and manage the growing pressures on the environment; and • develop a proper awareness and understanding of the environment. <p>This Measure proposes to focus on these themes by supporting activities which raise the quality of water supply and waste-water treatment in some locations to current standards, develop water quality management strategies, assist research and development in environmental monitoring, waste separation and recycling and the remediation of contaminated land and the implementation of proposals in the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy. The Measure will also assist with the sustainable management of Northern Ireland’s landscape and built heritage.</p> <p>It should be noted that many other Measures in both the Building Sustainable Prosperity and Peace II Programme Complements offer substantial opportunity for support for action to improve the environment. Notable among these are:</p> <p>Building Sustainable Prosperity</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Priority</th> <th>Measure</th> <th>Topic</th> <th>Scope</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4">1 Economic Growth and Competitiveness</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>Research & Technology Development</td> <td>Environmental research</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> <td>Local Economic Development</td> <td>Environment business</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>8B</td> <td>Energy Efficiency</td> <td>Green technology</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">2 Employment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>Education and Skills</td> <td>Environmental</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Priority	Measure	Topic	Scope	1 Economic Growth and Competitiveness				1	2	Research & Technology Development	Environmental research	1	4	Local Economic Development	Environment business	1	8B	Energy Efficiency	Green technology	2 Employment				2	1	Education and Skills	Environmental
Priority	Measure	Topic	Scope																										
1 Economic Growth and Competitiveness																													
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1	8B	Energy Efficiency	Green technology																										
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2	1	Education and Skills	Environmental																										

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			training
3 Urban and Social Revitalisation			
3	1	Urban Revitalisation	Environment enhancement
4 Agriculture, Rural Development, Forestry and Fisheries			
4	1	Training (Agriculture, etc.)	Promote best practice
4	2	Improving Processing, etc	Better waste management
4	3	Forestry	Tree planting/management
4	6	Rural Services	Environment enhancement
4	7	Villages and Rural Heritage	Environment enhancement
4	8	Agricultural Diversification	Agri-environment business
4	9	Agricultural Infrastructure	Environment enhancement
4	11	Protection of the Environment	Environment enhancement
4	13C	Small scale/Coastal Fishing Grants	Environmental training
4	13 F	Fishing Port Facilities	Better waste management
4	13G	Aquaculture	Low impact technology
4	13H	Processing Fish Products	Better waste management
4	13J	Fishing Industry Operations	Environmental training
PEACE 11			
Priority	Measure	Topic	Scope
1 Economic Renewal			
1	2A	Sustainable Tourism - Cultural	Sustainable angling, etc.
1	2B	Sustainable Tourism - Natural	Protect the environment
1	3	New Skills and New	Environmental

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		Opportunities	training
1	6	Training for Farmers	Environmental training
1	7A&B	Diversification of Agriculture	Environmental training
1	8A-C	Technology Support	Environmental showcases
1	9	Investment in Agricultural Holdings	Better waste management
2. Social Integration, Inclusion and Reconciliation			
2	6	Promoting Active Citizenship	Developing community environment policy
2	9B	Rural/Village Heritage Conservation	Environment enhancement
2	11	Area Based Regeneration	Environment enhancement
3. Locally-based Regeneration and Development Strategies			
3	1	Local Social Economy Initiatives	Environment enhancement
4. Outward and Forward-Looking Region			
4	1	Outward & Forward-looking Region	Environment networking
4	2B	Tourism Enhancement	Heritage conservation and access enhancement
5. Cross-Border Co-operation			
5	1	Cross-border Development	Environment projects
5	2	Public Sector Co-operation	Environment research
5	6A	Agricultural/Rural Community	Identification of environmental needs
5	6B	Agricultural Diversification	Agri-environment business
5	7	Fishing &	Stock

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			Aquaculture Co-operation	conservation
Objectives	<p>The Measure will seek to deliver environmental actions which comply with EC, national and regional legislation and policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve proper awareness, understanding and stewardship of Northern Ireland's natural and built environmental resources; and • to promote high environmental quality in a manner supportive of tourism, economic development and the creation of a healthy living environment. 			
Activities	<p>Through the funding of appropriate projects, the Measure will support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the promotion of better water management by the implementation of water quality strategies including that to control eutrophication; • the reduction of water pollution by improving the quality of discharges, sewerage infrastructure and treatment facilities; • the creation of healthier living environments through research into water supply, improvements to water treatment, reduction in air pollution, and remedial treatment of contaminated land; • waste management development and demonstration projects into recycling; • the bringing of contaminated land back into commercial use; • research into the biodiversity of the Region and the development of biodiversity action plans; • research into best practice management of sensitive landscape areas and the development of environment and visitor management strategies for areas of landscape importance; • the provision of infrastructure, such as long distance walking/cycling routes, associated car parks and facilities; • the conservation of scheduled masonry monuments; and • the conservation of the natural and built heritage, through promotion, education and the provision of information. 			
Categorisation	<p>Water Infrastructure projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 344 – Drinking Water (60%) • 345 – Sewerage and purification (40%) 			

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	<p>Sustainable Environment Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1306- Protection and conservation of the rural heritage 5% • 1312- Protection of the environment in connection with land, forestry and landscape conservation 5% • 181 - Research projects based in universities and research institutes 5% • 343 - Urban and industrial waste 55% • 341 - Air 30% <p>The % breakdowns by category are indicative. Approximately 1 meuro each will be allocated to projects sustaining the natural heritage, the built heritage and promoting environmental quality. Precise % spread will depend on applications.</p>
<p>Project Selection Criteria</p>	<p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure. In addition the following horizontal principles are particularly relevant to the implementation of this Measure and will be applied as follows:</p> <p>Balanced Intervention/Equal Opportunities and New TSN – All work within DRD and DOE is subject to official guidance on new TSN and Equality Impact Assessment as well as to human rights considerations. Water Infrastructure projects undertaken in this measure will be no different from this in that they will have originated from the various capital works programmes and will be subject to the same level of assessment. Sustainable environment projects should be beneficial across all communities. Those particularly benefiting section 75 groups may receive preferential consideration, other factors being equal.</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability – Infrastructure projects will be monitored to ensure that they do not cause significant damage to Natura 2000 or notable archaeological sites, or detract from the quality of important landscapes. The environmental impact of Water Infrastructure projects supported must be overwhelmingly positive and contribute to achieving the government’s objectives for sustainable development, with a strong net benefit in terms of improved water quality. Where schemes for sewage and water treatment involve land-take, new discharges, etc., compliance with all relevant EU directives and domestic legislation on the environment must be ensured. Care will be taken to see that Sustainable Environment projects, particularly those facilitating public access to the countryside, minimise potential impacts on sensitive habitats and species by avoiding vulnerable sites and by management to avoid degradation from overuse, etc..</p> <p>Partnership – At least half of the sustainable environment projects selected will involve partnerships.</p> <p>Water Infrastructure projects specifically will be required to:</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to the provision of water supply to meet increased demand; • contribute to the detection and reduction of waste; • contribute to the extension and replacement of water mains and other infrastructure associated with (a) and (b) above; • incorporate measures to ensure safe working practices at treatment works; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporate measures to ensure the environmentally safe disposal of bi-products of the treatment process. <p>Sustainable Environment Projects specifically will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fulfil the objectives of the Programme; • cover a broad geographical and community spread, where site-related; • cover a range of types to include environmental quality and conservation of both the natural and built heritage; • be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; and • comply with EU and domestic legislation and regulation; and • represent good value for money. 														
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	Public authorities, private industry, research institutions, environmental, voluntary and community organisations and owners of scheduled monuments, designated nature conservation sites and sites with protected species.														
Indicators	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="368 880 651 954">Water Infrastructure</th> <th data-bbox="651 880 919 954"></th> <th data-bbox="919 880 1220 954"></th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="368 954 651 994">Outputs</th> <th data-bbox="651 954 919 994">Results</th> <th data-bbox="919 954 1220 994">Impacts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="368 994 651 1173">3 Water Treatment schemes</td> <td data-bbox="651 994 919 1173">Average 30% increase in capacity</td> <td data-bbox="919 994 1220 1173">Water quality improvement (variable up to 100%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="368 1173 651 1350">2 Sewage Treatment schemes</td> <td data-bbox="651 1173 919 1350">Average 275% increase in capacity</td> <td data-bbox="919 1173 1220 1350">Effluent quality improvement (variable up to 100%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Water Infrastructure			Outputs	Results	Impacts	3 Water Treatment schemes	Average 30% increase in capacity	Water quality improvement (variable up to 100%)	2 Sewage Treatment schemes	Average 275% increase in capacity	Effluent quality improvement (variable up to 100%)
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Sustainable Environment

Indicators have been chosen to ensure a wide spread of projects across potential sustainable environment activities and with a good geographical spread. The Measure will support at least:

Outputs	Results	Impacts
Environmental Quality Research Projects – 1 Biodiversity conservation projects - 10	Publication and appropriate dissemination of research conclusions	The availability of at least 6 pieces of research information to environmentalists and scientists by the end of the Programme
Access / tourism projects - 4		Improved and enhanced access to the natural heritage
Waste Management Projects – 5	Production of recycling, research and waste information	Evidence of enhanced environmental awareness
1 Air Quality project for the 26 District Councils	Capital infrastructure projects to enable District Councils to measure, monitor and improve air quality Staff resource projects to enable District Councils in the carrying out of all appropriate air quality activities	Contribute towards the objectives of the Air Quality Strategy
Built Heritage conservation projects – 2	Development of 2 databases – industrial heritage sites and stone masonry buildings	Enhanced information leading to improved management of the built heritage
1 Waste Management project for the 26 District Councils	Capital infrastructure projects to support the recovery of recyclable waste Staff resource projects to support	Contribute towards the objectives of the NI Waste Management Strategy

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		waste management activities																																					
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ERDF</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Meuro</p> <table> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>62,149,400</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">EU Contribution of ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td>-</td> <td>46,350,400</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td>-</td> <td>46,350,400</td> <td>(100% of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Match Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td>15,499,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possible Sources:-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Regional Development • Department of the Environment • *Self Match Funding </td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Private Sector</td> <td>-</td> <td>300,000</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <hr/> <table> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td>-</td> <td>500,000</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>It is likely that other private sector funding will support aspects of some sustainable environment projects, the 6 meuro is indicative.</p> <p>*Organisations which receive more than 50% of their income from the public purse are regarded as legitimate public sector match funding sources and hence can provide self match funding.</p>			Total Value of Measure	-	62,149,400		EU Contribution of ERDF				(a) in the Priority	-	46,350,400		(b) in this Measure	-	46,350,400	(100% of Priority allocation)	Match Funding				(a) Public Sector	-	15,499,000		Possible Sources:-			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Regional Development • Department of the Environment • *Self Match Funding 	(b) Private Sector	-	300,000		Other Private Sector Funding	-	500,000	
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Implementing Body	<p>Department for Regional Development, through Water Service; Department of the Environment, through Environment and Heritage Service Contact for Water Infrastructure projects – Mr B Finlay telephone 028 9035 47777, and for Sustainable Environment Projects – Mr H Platt telephone 028 9054 6521</p>																																						
Accountable Department	<p>Department for Regional Development and Department of the Environment</p>																																						
Nature of Aid	<p>ERDF grant (75%) plus matching funding from the public, private and/or voluntary sectors.</p>																																						
Duration	<p>These funds will be allocated to eligible projects during the period 2000-2005 and final allocations will be available for spending up to 31/12/2007.</p>																																						
North/South	<p>None of the activities is specifically targeted towards North/South and</p>																																						

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and wider Co-operation	wider co-operation. However there is undoubtedly scope for the development of such projects within the terms of this Measure.
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BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

	MEASURES AND SUB-MEASURES
1A	Management and Implementation of Programme
1B	Programme Information and Publicity

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PRIORITY 6	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Measure 1A	Management and Implementation of Programme
Rationale	<p>Under the Structural Funds Regulations, the impact of Operational Programmes must be evaluated, publicised effectively and studies undertaken into specific aspects of the Programmes.</p> <p>The CSF also stipulates that each of the Operational Programmes will provide for Technical Assistance to cover costs of management and monitoring, control, information and publicity as well as the mid-term Evaluation of the Operational Programme. The Technical Assistance Measure provides the resources required for these requirements to be met. It contributes equally with the PEACE II Programme to the costs related to the CSF.</p>
Objectives	To support the effective management and implementation of Programme structures and achievement of Programme aims.
Activities	<p>Examples of the types of activity which might be undertaken under this Measure include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies to develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches for the Programme and the CSF; • Mid term and other evaluations of Measures, Priorities, the Programme and the CSF; • Cross-cutting studies, to ensure that the cross-cutting themes of the CSF are properly reflected in the Programme and the overall CSF; • Assessments of international best practices relevant to the implementation of the Programme and of the CSF; • Expenses associated with the Programme and CSF Monitoring Committees and other management activities and the costs of implementing Programme and CSF structures; and
Categorisation	<p>41 – Technical Assistance and innovative actions</p> <p>411 Preparation, implementation, monitoring, publicity 20%</p> <p>412 Evaluation 20%</p> <p>413 Studies 20%</p> <p>414 Innovative actions 20%</p> <p>415 Information to the public 20%</p>
Project Selection Criteria	<p>All expenditure will be received by and all projects commissioned by Department of Finance and Personnel.</p> <p>The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.</p>

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Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers of expert advice, • internal and external networks, • implementing bodies • the Managing Authority. 																																												
Indicators	<p>The table below sets out monitoring targets and indicators for this Measure: -</p> <p>Output - 30 Technical Assistance Projects to be funded</p> <p>Result - 75% of recommendations of studies to be accepted</p> <p>Impact - 50% of Technical Assistance Studies judged to have improved implementation of CSF or OP</p>																																												
Financial Summary	<p>This Measure will be funded from ERDF</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">-</th> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: right;">Meuro</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Value of Measure</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,681,667</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">EU Contribution of ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) in the Priority</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,000,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) in this Measure</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,661,446</td> <td style="text-align: right;">(88.72% of Priority allocation)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Match Funding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Public Sector</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,020,221</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Possible Sources:-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Private Sector</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><hr/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Private Sector Funding</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Nil</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		-		Meuro	Total Value of Measure	-	3,681,667		EU Contribution of ERDF				(a) in the Priority	-	3,000,000		(b) in this Measure	-	2,661,446	(88.72% of Priority allocation)	Match Funding				(a) Public Sector	-	1,020,221		Possible Sources:-				(b) Private Sector	-	Nil		<hr/>				Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil	
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Implementing Body	The Department of Finance and Personnel. Contact Colette FitzGerald, European Division telephone: 02890 523885.																																												
Accountable Department	The Department of Finance and Personnel																																												
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 75% eligible expenditure																																												
North/South and wider Co-operation	There are no specific North/South aspects to this Measure																																												

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PRIORITY 6	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Measure 1B	Programme Information and Publicity
Rationale	The Structural Funds Regulations require that publicity is given to EU funded activities particularly for informing potential final beneficiaries about the opportunities afforded by the assistance and the general public about the role played by the Community in the assistance concerned.
Objectives	To publicise the contribution of the Programme in reinforcing progress of Northern Ireland towards a state of sustainable prosperity in a competitive modern economy.
Activities	Information and publicity in relation to the Programme, its impacts, including the dissemination of best practice.
Categorisation	41 – Technical Assistance and innovative actions (ERDF) 411 Preparation, implementation, monitoring, publicity 60% 415 Information to the public 40%
Project Selection Criteria	All expenditure will be incurred by and all project work commissioned by Department of Finance and Personnel. The horizontal principles specified in Section 2 of the Complement will be applied in selecting projects/other actions for assistance under this Measure.
Target Areas, Groups and Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the general public, • news media and • experts as appropriate.
Indicators	<p>The specific outputs, results and impacts of the Measure will be monitored and evaluated by way of:</p> <p>Output – Quarterly report on media coverage. Number of publicity and information enquiries. Number of website visits. Number of promotional events held.</p> <p>Result – Access to information on the Programme and an understanding of the benefits to the region.</p> <p>Impact – Increased awareness of the EU support and the overall aim of funding.</p> <p>Baseline data and quantified targets will be determined by way of an initial baseline report to be commissioned by the Managing Authority within 3 months of the date of adoption of the Programme Complement.</p>

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Financial Summary	This Measure will be funded from ERDF		
			Meuro
	Total Value of Measure	-	468,333
	EU Contribution of ERDF		
	(a) in the Priority	-	3,000,000
(b) in this Measure	-	338,554 (11.28% of Priority allocation)	
Match Funding			
(a) Public Sector	-	129,779	
Possible Sources:-			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Finance and Personnel
(b) Private Sector	-	Nil	
Other Private Sector Funding	-	Nil	
Implementing Body	The Department of Finance and Personnel. Contact Colette FitzGerald, European Division, telephone 02890 523885.		
Accountable Department	The Department of Finance and Personnel		
Nature of Aid	Grant up to 75% eligible expenditure		
North/South and wider Co-operation	There are no specific North/South aspects to this Measure.		

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ANNEX A

PRIORITY 4 – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RELATION TO AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FORESTRY MEASURES

Co-ordination and Complementarity

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development fully endorses the need to ensure that the measures under this Programme are targeted and managed to avoid duplication and competition with other actions supported under other Programmes such as PEACE II and LEADER+.

However, the complementary nature of many of the measures under the various interventions and the “bottom-up” nature of the delivery mechanisms means that it is not always possible to provide exhaustive and definitive lists of activities or clear demarcation of roles and responsibilities in the Programmes’ texts. Nevertheless, where possible, we have delineated boundaries within the text and, in all cases, have set in place safeguards at the operational level.

To ensure complementarity and to prevent any possibility of overlap or duplication, key organisations will use common sign-posting arrangements and work with the DARD Rural Area Co-ordinators (RACs) at local level to ensure an effective partnership approach and to identify the most appropriate path for programme and project proposals. Key delivery agents will be required to establish close working relationships with relevant Government Departments, agencies, local authorities, and other relevant organisations operating in their area. At local level, the RACs will have a key role in co-ordinating the operation of BSP and PEACE II activities and measures and this will achieve a strategic approach to rural regeneration at the local level, will ensure no double funding of individual projects, and will facilitate complementarity.

There will also be policy co-ordination at inter-departmental level, through the Rural Development Steering Group.

DARD has begun work to produce a computer database of project funding which will interface with the Common Database being established at Programme and CSF level and with other Government Departments, agencies and relevant bodies. The new computer database will provide a centralised “sign-posting” facility and will provide early warning of any possible duplicate applications and/or potential double funding.

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Measure 4.3: Forestry

Supplementary information on Delivery Mechanisms, Grant rates and Environmental standards

Delivery Mechanism

Support for planting and natural regeneration of trees on non-agricultural land will be provided under the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS). This will complement the EAGGF Guarantee funded assistance toward afforestation of agricultural land approved under the Rural Development Regulation Plan (Accompanying Measures) for Northern Ireland 2000-2006. The WGS is operated by the Forest Service and its overall aims are:

- (i) To encourage people to create new woodland to increase the production of wood, improve the landscape, improve woodland biodiversity, and offer opportunities for recreation and sport.
- (ii) To encourage the sustainable management of forests and woodlands (as enshrined in the UK Forestry Standard) including their well timed regeneration.

Afforestation

Grants for afforestation are paid either as standard rate grants or may be paid as Challenge Funds. A range of additional contributions are also available in addition to the standard rate grants, in specific areas where it is intended to secure particular public benefits.

- (i) *Standard rate grants* are flat rate grants paid as a contribution to the cost of the work required;
- (ii) A *Challenge Fund* may be available to encourage an increase in the rate of afforestation in particular locations or on particular land types in order to achieve strategic objectives where these are not achieved through application of standard grants. Applicants will bid competitively for the money they require to carry out eligible operations that will meet the aims of the specific Fund
- (iii) An *additional contribution* to the overall costs of establishment will be made to encourage planting in priority locations to meet a variety of objectives. Additional contributions will be paid to encourage the establishment of new woodlands close to towns and cities that will provide facilities for public recreational access.

Rates of grant

Afforestation can be achieved either by planting trees or by providing for natural regeneration. As explained above grants are either paid as standard rate grants (with additional contributions available in specific circumstances) or through a

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Challenge Fund. In general higher rates of grant are offered for the establishment of broadleaved woodland. This reflects the higher establishment costs and the desire to encourage an increase in broadleaved woodland.

i) Standard Rate Grants

Planting trees

Grants for planting trees are paid in two instalments. 70% is paid on completion of the planting and 30% is paid five years later. Where an additional contribution is made this is paid with the first instalment for planting and with the fixed payment for natural regeneration (see below).

Natural regeneration

New woodland established by natural regeneration may receive a discretionary payment of 50% of the cost of work agreed as necessary to encourage the regeneration. A further fixed payment will be paid when the trees are established, usually around years 5-7, at which point the Forest Service is satisfied that the desired woodland will develop. The Forest Service builds a review date into all contracts (at year 4 and if necessary at year 9) which includes a follow-up inspection.

Normally, the combined discretionary and fixed payments would be less than the standard rate grants available for planting new woodland. The Forest Service will approve payments in excess of the standard grant where it is satisfied that the work is necessary to achieve successful regeneration. The total payment the applicant receives, however, will not exceed the total cost of the work required. The type of work eligible for discretionary payment includes fencing and tree protection, deer control (where fencing is inappropriate), ground preparation, direct seeding, weeding and monitoring.

Co-financing for natural regeneration is only claimed when the fixed payment is paid i.e. when the Forest Service is satisfied the woodland will grow on to become fully established. At this stage co-financing is claimed for both the fixed payment and for the discretionary payment made earlier in the scheme.

Restocking

Restocking is the re-establishment of woodland cover after felling in existing woodland. Grant for restocking is paid in a single instalment at the rates shown below when planting is complete.

The *standard rate grants* are:

New Planting	£/ha	1st Instalment £	2nd Instalment £
Conifers (any size of woodland)	700	490	210
Broadleaves (in woods up to 10ha)	1,350	945	405
Broadleaves (in woods 10ha and more)	1,050	735	315

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Natural Regeneration	
Discretionary Payment	50% of agreed costs
Fixed Payment – Conifers	£325/ha
Fixed Payment – Broadleaves	£525/ha

Restocking	
Species	£ per Hectare
Conifers	325
Broadleaves	525

ii) *Challenge Funds*

Applications will be assessed by judging which proposals offer the best value for money in delivering the aims of the Challenge Fund at the least cost. If bids exceed the availability of funds, then the bids which best meet the objectives of the challenges will be selected. When the Forest Service decides which applications are successful, the payment to each applicant will be translated into a rate per hectare.

The *rates of grant* to contribute to the costs of planting targeted by Challenge Funds are:

New Planting	£/ha	1 st Instalment £	2 nd Instalment £
Conifers (any size of woodland)	% of agreed costs	% less 210	210
Broadleaves (in woods up to 10ha)	% of agreed costs	% less 405	405
Broadleaves (in woods 10ha and more)	% of agreed costs	% less 315	315

Natural Regeneration	
Discretionary Payment	% of agreed costs less fixed payment
Fixed Payment – Conifers	£325
Fixed Payment – Broadleaves	£525

Encouragement for the creation of community woodlands

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It is government policy to seek improvement in the environment close to towns and cities. This will be achieved by encouraging the establishment of new woodlands where they will be of most benefit to the public for recreation. Public access to the woodland will be permitted immediately following planting and will be secured for a period of not less than 10 years from this date. The design of such woodland must take into account the need for pedestrian access including waymarked trails, access gates and stiles, creation and management of paths and the provision of vehicular access and car parking.

The provision of formal access in these woodlands results in higher costs of establishment including:

- (a) the use of a wider range and often more expensive tree species. This results in higher planning and implementation costs;
- (b) greater design input. This is required to ensure a quality woodland experience is developed because these woodlands are intended for intensive recreational use, often by large numbers of people;
- (c) exceptional costs experienced during the vulnerable establishment phase to safeguard and secure the woodland. In particular, the cost of additional or temporary fencing to prevent trampling damage from pedestrians and vegetation control to minimise fire risk alongside footpaths.

In order to meet these higher than normal costs, a higher contribution to establishment costs is paid. The *rates of grant* to contribute to the cost of planting specifically targeted for the provision of formal public access (i.e. community woodlands) are:

New Planting	£/ha	1st Instalment £	2nd Instalment £
Conifers (any size of woodland)	1,650	1,440	210
Broadleaves (in woods up to 10ha)	2,300	1,895	405
Broadleaves (in woods 10ha and more)	2,000	1,685	315

Natural Regeneration	
Discretionary Payment	50% of agreed costs
Fixed Payment – Conifers	£1,275
Fixed Payment – Broadleaves	£1,485

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Should it be necessary, the additional contribution to the costs of establishing community woodland may be withheld, even if planting has been completed, until such time as the work needed to provide for recreation in the woodland has been completed.

Investment in Forests

Investments in forests will be implemented by two schemes which fall under the general 'umbrella' of the WGS: the Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) and the Sustainable Forestry Operations Grant (SFOG).

Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG)

WIG is a one-off capital payment made to encourage a range of work in existing woodlands. It aims to bring the woodland back into active and sustainable management, or where the opportunity arises, to undertake work which will enhance the value of the woodland for conservation, landscape or recreation. There are two types of project under the WIG:

1) Undermanaged woodlands

Grant is paid for work that will help bring woodlands, which are undermanaged, or of low commercial value back into active management.

2) Woodland biodiversity

Grant is paid for work to assist woodland owners to manage their woods in ways that will implement the forestry aspects of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. In particular grants will be paid where the work proposed helps achieve the expansion, maintenance and enhancement or restoration targets set out in the native woodland Habitat Action Plans or benefits the habitats of those woodland species covered by the Species Action Plans.

WIG Grant rates

WIG is paid as 50% of the agreed eligible cost of the work. In situations where further operational investment work is required, Sustainable Forestry Operations Grant can also be paid (see below).

Sustainable Forestry Operations Grant (SFOG)

The SFOG is a contribution towards the ongoing costs of management work necessary to maintain and improve the environmental, social and silvicultural benefits of existing woodlands. Grant will only be paid provided:

- the public benefit from the work is judged to be greater than the grant;
- the net operational cost, including indirect costs, of the work is judged to be greater than the grant.

It will be paid where work proposed will help meet one or more of the following aims:

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- protecting woodland from grazing and squirrel or rabbit damage, by erecting fencing and/or by means of eradication such as shooting;
- one-off investments to tackle major problems of invasive species, such as rhododendron, and weeds which are ‘strangling’ the woodland and which require significant one-off action to remove the problem. Any follow-up management will not be refunded;
- removal of non-native species from native woodland;
- removal of trees from streamsides and other open ground habitats;
- small scale planting of broadleaves in the woodland;
- securing work funded by a WIG.

In order to qualify for SFOG, the Forest Service requires the preparation of a five-year investment plan describing the specific objectives and eligible activities for those areas for which grant is sought. The plan must also set out the desired state of the woodland at the end of the five-year period and may describe annualised programmes of work with agreed costs and timescales where appropriate.

SFOG Grant Rates

The rate of grant is £175 per hectare. The grant provides a contribution to the cost of the eligible work. The overall cost may vary from application to application but will always be more than £175 per hectare.

Small applications of 5 hectares or less receive the full grant in year 2. For larger schemes the payment is annualised over the five-year period of the plan of operations. This method of payment allows the applicant to spread the investment over a five-year period and allows the Forest Service to exercise greater control through the issuing of annual invitations to claim with associated compliance inspections.

Environment Standards

Environmental safeguards are an essential component of the WGS and are enforced through contract approval and monitoring procedures. On receipt, all applications are assessed to ensure that they meet the environmental standards set out in the “UK Forestry Standard” and the associated guidelines on nature conservation, landscape design, archaeology, soil and water.

In addition, proposals for new planting which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment are also subject to Environment Impact Assessment under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 (Council Directive 85/337/EEC(c) as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC(d)). These Regulations include thresholds above which a

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determination of the need for an Environment Impact Assessment is necessary for all afforestation projects. The information below shows the thresholds:-

Operation	Threshold where any part of the land is in a sensitive area	Threshold where no part of the land is in a sensitive area
Forest road works	No threshold	1 hectare
Afforestation	2 hectares where the land is in a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. No threshold in other sensitive areas.	5 hectares

A *sensitive area* includes Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), National Parks, World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, sites designed or identified as a candidate for Special Areas of Conservation, and sites classified or proposed as a Special Protection Area.

The Forest Service ensures that the application meets these standards and complies with the WGS rules and regulations. The Forest Service also consults with the relevant statutory authority i.e. Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland. The Department of the Environment can either suggest ways in which the proposed scheme can be improved upon or can object to proposals.

Any forestry activity within, or likely to affect, Natura 2000 sites must be undertaken in ways which do not damage their value for the designated habitat or species. The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 implement the Habitats Directive and require a proper assessment of the implications of proposals for any Natura 2000 site.

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International Commitments to Sustainable Forestry

1. Pan-European Ministerial conferences on the Protection of Forests

The Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests highlighted the multi-functional role of forestry and the importance of sustainable forest management. The Government's commitment to sustainable forest management which provides a wide range of benefits including economic, environmental and social benefits is demonstrated through the adoption of the UK Forestry Standard (1998).

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The UK Forestry Standard brings together in one document the criteria, indicators and standards for sustainable management of forests in the UK. It sets out the UK Government's approach to sustainable forestry and details forest management practices for use at the national and individual forest level. It also provides an opportunity to monitor UK forests and express a vision for UK woodland in the future. All applications for support under the Plan will be assessed against the UK Forestry Standard.

The Standard explains the international and domestic setting in which guidance and regulation of forestry has developed and integrates forestry in the United Kingdom with the European and global protocols for sustainable development. Specific reference is made to its compatibility with the Resolutions, Guidelines and Pan European Criteria of the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

2. UNCED/IPF/IFF - National Forest Programmes

The concept of national forest programmes was developed through dialogue in the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. They now form an important tool of global forestry policy and a means of ensuring that forestry issues are integrated into a country's overall sustainable development and land use strategies.

In the UK, the national forest programme will not be contained in one single document, but is the sum of a number of key documents, e.g. the UK Forestry Standard and the Forest Strategy for Northern Ireland that will flow from our current review of forest policy in Northern Ireland. We are in the process of preparing a UK Sustainable Forestry Programme which will set out clearly the UK's policy for sustainable forest management, building on the previously published 'Sustainable Forestry – the UK Programme' (1994).

This will fulfil our international commitment to have a national forest programme and will help us to develop a more integrated approach and improve co-ordination of the mechanisms and processes that deliver the UK's programme.

3. EU Forestry Strategy

The EU Forestry Strategy sets out how EU actions on forestry can usefully support Member States' efforts to deliver sustainable forest management. In line with that principle the forestry elements of this plan complements the Government's wider forestry activities.

Measure 4.4: Setting-up of Farm Relief and Farm Management Services

Supplementary information on Delivery Mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication

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The Central Unit of the Department's Rural Development Division will have overall responsibility for the management and monitoring of the Measure.

The Department's Rural Area Co-ordinators will provide support to the profit taking locally based collectives or co-operatives and the regional sectoral interest bodies that develop the projects and programmes supported under the Measure.

The Rural Development Council will provide support to the rural community groups and non-profit taking collectives and co-operatives that develop the projects and programmes under the Measure.

Co-ordination between this measure and other measures under the CSF and Community Initiatives will be achieved at two levels:

- At inter-departmental level, co-ordination will be through the Rural Development Steering Group. This will help avoid double financing of areas of activity.
- At local level, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rural Area Co-ordinators will have a key role in co-ordinating the operation of rural development measures. This will help ensure a strategic approach to rural regeneration at the local level and to prevent the double funding of individual projects.

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Measure 4.6: Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Population

Supplementary information on Delivery Mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication

The Central Unit of the Department's Rural Development Division will have overall responsibility for the management and monitoring of the Measure.

The Department's Rural Area Co-ordinators will provide support to the profit taking locally based collectives or co-operatives and the regional sectoral interest bodies that develop the projects and programmes supported under the Measure.

The Rural Development Council will provide support to the rural community groups and non-profit taking collectives and co-operatives that develop the projects and programmes under the Measure.

Co-ordination between this measure and other measures under the CSF and Community Initiatives will be achieved at two levels:

- At inter-departmental level, co-ordination will be through the Rural Development Steering Group. This will help avoid double financing of areas of activity.
- At local level, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rural Area Co-ordinators will have a key role in co-ordinating the operation of rural development measures. This will help ensure a strategic approach to rural regeneration at the local level and to prevent the double funding of individual projects.

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Measure 4.7: Renovation and Development of Villages and protection and conservation of the rural heritage

Supplementary information on Delivery Mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication

Co-ordination

This measure will undertake activities similar to the Urban Revitalisation Measure (ERDF) of Priority 3, which will “support actions to revitalise those parts of cities, towns and villages that are unlikely to benefit from sufficient private investment”. The Department of Social Development is responsible for that Measure. To ensure that there is no overlap between the two Measures, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Social Development have agreed that this Measure will operate only in settlements with a population of 5,000 or less and the Urban Revitalisation Measure will operate only in settlements with a population greater than 5,000.

In addition, there will be co-ordination between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Social Development to ensure that there is full complementarity and compatibility between the Measures. This co-ordination will be undertaken at Inter-Departmental level by the Rural Development Steering Group. This will help to avoid double financing of areas of activity. At local level, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development’s Rural Area Co-ordinators will have a key role in co-ordinating the operation of rural development measures at local level. This will help to prevent the double funding of individual projects.

Delivery

The Central Unit of the Department’s Rural Development Division will have overall responsibility for the management and monitoring of the Measure.

The support for community groups and locally based collective bodies in rural areas to become established and strengthen their capabilities will be delivered by the Rural Community Network and Rural Support Networks.

The Rural Development Council will deliver:

- the specialised project planning and management service for rural community groups and non-profit taking collective bodies; and
- the provision of financial support for local regeneration projects and programmes promoted by rural community groups and non-profit taking collective bodies.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development’s Rural Area Co-ordinators will:

- support the provision of specialised project planning and management service for profit taking collective bodies; and

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- deliver support for local regeneration projects and programmes promoted by profit taking collective bodies.

The Rural Community Network and the Rural Development Council, in association with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will be responsible for the identification and consideration of the development needs and opportunities of rural communities and appropriate responses.

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Measure 4.8: Diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture to provide multiple activities or alternative incomes

Measure 4.9: Development and improvement of infrastructure connected with the development of agriculture

Measure 4.10: Encouragement for tourist and craft activities

Measure 4.12: Financial Engineering

Supplementary information on Delivery Mechanisms on above Measures to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication

Delivery

The Central Unit of the Department's Rural Development Division will have overall responsibility for the management and monitoring of the Measure.

The Department's Rural Area Co-ordinators will provide support to the locally based collectives or co-operatives and the regional sector interest bodies that develop the projects and programmes supported under this measure.

Co-ordination between this measure and other measures under the CSF and Community Initiatives will be achieved at two levels:

- At inter-departmental level, co-ordination will be through the Rural Development Steering Group. This will help avoid double financing of areas of activity.
- At local level, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rural Area Co-ordinators will have a key role in co-ordinating the operation of rural development measures. This will help ensure a strategic approach to rural regeneration at the local level and to prevent the double funding of individual projects.

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Measure 4.11: Protection of the Environment in connection with Agriculture, Forestry and Landscape Conservation as well as the improvement of Animal Welfare

Supplementary information on Delivery Mechanisms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication

This measure will complement the agri-environment schemes described in the Rural Development Regulation Plan (Accompanying Measures) for Northern Ireland. Those schemes will provide support for on-farm environmental protection activities, while this measure will provide support for off-farm projects identified by community groups and collective bodies in rural areas. At local level, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rural Area Co-ordinators will have a key role in co-ordinating the operation of rural development measures at local level. This will help to prevent the double funding of individual projects.

This measure will undertake activities similar to those proposed under the Management, Protection and Enhancement of the Natural and Built Environment Measure (ERDF) of Priority 5. That Measure will support a range of actions aimed at, amongst other things, managing, sustaining and enhancing biodiversity, landscapes, habitats, the built heritage and archaeological resources in both urban and rural areas.

To ensure that there is full complementarity and compatibility between the measures, there will be co-ordination between the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of the Environment. This co-ordination will be undertaken at Inter-Departmental level by the Rural Development Steering Group. This will help to avoid double financing of areas of activity. At local level, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rural Area Co-ordinators will have a key role in co-ordinating the operation of rural development measures at local level. This will help to prevent the double funding of individual projects.

Delivery

The Central Unit of the Department's Rural Development Division will have overall responsibility for the management and monitoring of the Measure.

The Department's Rural Area Co-ordinators will provide support to the locally based collectives or co-operatives and the regional sector interest bodies that develop the projects and programmes supported under this measure.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

DEVELOPMENT PATH ANALYSIS

In the course of the thematic evaluation of the environmental impact of the 1994-1999 Structural Funds Programmes, it was proposed that Programme-funded actions could be categorized in terms of their probable environmental impact as representing one of six possible development paths. These are listed below:-

1. Activities which promote economic growth within the context of existing environmental regulations (ie “business as usual”).
2. Actions which address the environmental damage resulting from past or current economic activity.
3. Actions which put in place environmental infrastructure (eg waste treatments plans) to enable further economic growth whilst minimizing environmental damage.
4. Actions which help existing firms to meet increasing environmental standards.
5. Actions which improve the resource efficiency of existing economic activity or which use fewer environmental resources. These might include:-
 - Energy Conservation Measures
 - Environmental Management and Training Initiatives
 - Promotion of Public Transport Systems
 - Water, Energy and Waste Minimisation Initiatives
 - Development and Promotion of Cleaner Technologies

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6. Actions which encourage new types of economic activity using fewer environmental resources or causing less pollution than existing economic activities:

- Eco Tourism
- Development/Promotion of more Sustainable Products and Processes
- Development of new Public Transport systems, enhancing of existing public transport systems.
- Assisting sustainable sectors.

These 6 development paths are presented in order of *decreasing* environmental damage. The higher the number of the path, the more environmentally sustainable the action it covers.

This system of categorisation provides a basis for assessing a Programme's environmental impact from the project level upwards. The analysis involves the following stages:-

- Each Measure is assessed on the basis of the kinds of project that are or will be funded under it. These projects are assigned to an appropriate development path. The amount of funding each project receives is noted and assigned to the appropriate development path as a means of quantifying the extent to which the project is contributing to the path.
- When this has been completed for all Measures, the extent to which the Programme is contributing to each of the 6 paths can be established.
- The analysis is carried out regularly and used to establish whether the environmental focus of the Programme is appropriate, specifically whether a significant amount of the total Programme resource and therefore a sufficient amount of the Programme activity is being allocated to the more sustainable development paths.

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It is intended that an initial Development Path Analysis will be carried out at the Programme Complement stage and that annual analyses will be carried out throughout the life of the Programme as part of ongoing Programme Monitoring. In this way, the environmental direction of the Programme's development strategy can be identified and, if necessary, corrective action taken.

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

The Ecotec study identifies key environmental criteria together with appropriate indicators. These are listed below:-

Criteria	Indicators
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO2 emissions ('000 tonnes)
Acidification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO2/NOx emissions (tonnes). • Energy consumption (Tonnes of oil equivalent)
Nature and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss, damage and fragmentation of protected areas (ha). • Incidence of forest fires (number) • Wetland loss through drainage • Percentage development of Greenfield/agricultural land.
Water Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water consumption (billion litres) • Abstractions as percentage of availability.
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy metals discharges (tonnes) • Nitrates used per km2 of agricultural land (tonnes).
The Urban Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volatile organic compounds emissions (tonnes) • Share of passenger traffic by car (%).
Coastal Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage sites complying with bathing water directive. • New coastal developments (km).
Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal solid waste arisings (tonnes) • Hazardous waste arisings (tonnes)
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of cultural features (e.g. hedgebanks, dry stone walls). • Loss of areas within which there was active management of landscape features (ha).
Programme Specific	TBA

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The environmental impact of a programme on these criteria is assessed by establishing its likely measure level impact on each of the indicators listed. Measure level impacts (both qualitative and quantitative) are assessed qualitatively and are categorised as either positive, negative or neutral. A profile of the overall environmental impact of the programme is thereby established.

The criteria themselves are taken directly from the DG Regio guide and will need to be reviewed to establish which are the most relevant to the specific environmental context of the Northern Ireland region. Additional criteria, specific to this Programme, might also need to be added.

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EC MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ENVIRONMENT, ANIMAL WELFARE AND FOOD AND ANIMAL HYGIENE

1. Council Regulation 1257/1999 requires member states to apply minimum standards regarding environment, hygiene and animal welfare. These are conditions for improving processing and marketing of agricultural products (Chapter VII). Therefore, they apply to elements of Measure 4.2 of the NI Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity.
2. In some instances, funding will be available from the Programme for improvements needed to enable businesses to meet the minimum standards.

ENVIRONMENT

3. In Northern Ireland standards in respect of the environment are detailed in the table below. The table also shows the penalties applicable for any offence and the public body responsible for enforcing the legislation.
4. In addition DARD has published Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for Water, Air, Soil. Applicants for support from the Measures listed above will have to meet these codes in order to be eligible (subject to the exception referred to in para 2, above).

ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Relevant Legislation	Subject	Penalty	Enforcement Agency
The Water (NI) Order 1999	Pollution of water	Up to £20,000	Environment and Heritage Service (EHS)
Groundwater Regulations (NI) 1998	Disposal or tipping	Up to £20,000	EHS
*Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (NI) 2001	Storage and handling of these substances	Up to £5,000	EHS
The Action Programme for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones Regulations (NI) 1999	Measures to reduce nitrate leaching	Unlimited fine	EHS
Wildlife (NI) Order 1985	Wildlife offences	Up to £5,000	EHS
Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI)	Damage to sites of Special Scientific	Up to £5,000	EHS

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Order 1985	Interest		
Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985	Misuse of pesticides	Unlimited fine	Health and Safety Executive
Plant Protection Products Regulations (NI) 1995	Misuse of pesticides	Unlimited fine	Health and Safety Executive
Clean Air (NI) Order 1981	Emitting dark smoke	Up to £5,000	District Councils
Game Law (Amendment) Act (NI) 1951	Burning heather, ferns, gorse etc.	£200	EHS
Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995	Damaging ancient monuments	Unlimited fine	EHS

* New legislation coming into operation this year

ANIMAL WELFARE

5. The Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 makes it an offence to cause unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress to any domestic animal or livestock. The 1972 Act also authorises the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to issue more detailed regulations specifying detailed conditions under which livestock must be kept. It also provides for codes of recommendations for the welfare protection of farm animals. The keepers of livestock are required by law to be familiar with, and have access to, the welfare codes which encourage the adoption of the highest standards of husbandry. Although the codes are not directly applicable in law, failure to observe their provisions may be used in support of a prosecution for offences under the 1972 Act.

Enforcement

6. The 1972 Act, and its subsidiary legislation is enforced by the Veterinary Service (VS) of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The VS visits farm premises to check the welfare of the livestock, and investigates all complaints and allegations that welfare requirements have been infringed. It also liaises closely with local authorities, the police and organisations such as the USPCA in relation to prosecutions for breaches of the Welfare of Animals Act.
7. As a region of the European Union, Northern Ireland is required to implement into domestic law any Directives adopted. Other member states are also bound by the Treaty of Rome to implement legislation in their countries.
8. There are currently 3 main EC Directives laying down minimum standards for the welfare of specific farm animals:

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- 88/166/EEC (laying hens in battery cages);
- 91/629/EEC, as amended by 97/2/EC and 97/182/EC (calves); and
- 91/630/EEC (pigs).

These Directives are implemented in Northern Ireland by the Welfare of Livestock Regulations 1995 (S.R 1995, No.172) and the Welfare of Livestock (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998 (S.R 1998, No. 251). Both are made under the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.

9. Directive 98/58/EC, which sets minimum standards for the welfare of all farm animals, applies from 31 December 1999 and was implemented into Northern Ireland legislation by the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000.
10. Directive 99/74/EC sets new standards for laying hens. It bans the barren battery cage from 2012 and lays down minimum welfare standards for the keeping of laying hens in non-cage systems. This Directive applies from 1 January 2002 and will be implemented in due course.
11. Encouragement to farmers to adopt high standards of animal husbandry is given through the welfare codes and through a wide range of advisory booklets on welfare issues (e.g., lameness, heat stress, condition scoring, lamb/calf survival etc.).

FOOD HYGIENE

General

12. The minimum hygiene standards for food businesses in Northern Ireland are laid down in the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and the Food Safety (Temperature Control) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 made under the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991. This secondary legislation implements Council Directive 93/43/EEC on the hygiene of foodstuffs. The temperature control regulations also contain certain national measures.

Enforcement

13. Policy responsibility for enforcement of hygiene legislation lies with the Food Standards Agency and the hygiene standards are enforced by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) of District Councils, which are food authorities for the purposes of the legislation. In any dispute between an EHO and a food business proprietor, interpretation of the legislation rests with the courts who are able to penalise either by fine, 2 years imprisonment or both, depending on the outcome.
14. EHOs are required to pay due attention to Statutory Codes of Practice, issued under the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, which provide guidance

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on enforcement of the legislation. Formal recognition is also given to a number of Industry Guides to Good Hygiene Practice developed in accordance with the EC Directive and providing advice to various sectors of the food industry on compliance with the regulations. While these Guides are not legally binding EHOs must give due consideration to them.

Dairy

15. The Dairy Products (Hygiene) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, as amended, implement in Northern Ireland Council Directive 92/46 which lays down the health rules for the production and placing on the market of raw milk, heat treated milk and milk-based products (similar legislation applies in England and Wales and Scotland).
16. These Regulations apply to all premises which produce and place on the market raw milk, heat-treated drinking milk, milk for the manufacture of milk-based products and milk based products intended for human consumption. They do not however apply to most retail premises which sell milk and milk-based products to the ultimate consumer. Storage depots and wholesalers are subject to only minimal requirements.

Enforcement

17. All production holdings in Northern Ireland with one or more cows, goats and sheep producing milk for sale need to be licensed and inspected by dairy inspectors of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) on behalf of the Food Standards Agency.
18. All premises heat-treating milk or processing dairy products for sale are known as dairy establishments. Such premises (which may be on a farm) are subject to additional requirements to those applying to production holdings and they need to be officially approved. The Food Standards Agency has overall responsibility for the standards of hygiene in such premises in Northern Ireland and approval of these premises is undertaken by EHOs in relation to milk product plants and DARD in relation to liquid milk plants. Plants producing milk products as well as liquid milk are subject to joint inspections by EHOs and DARD.
19. Enforcement instructions are provided both for EHOs and DARD officials.
20. Five guidance booklets on the Regulations (including a Food Safety (NI) Order 1991 – Code of Practice) are available for use by interested parties.

Penalties

21. Regulation 18 of the DPHRs creates offences and prescribes penalties for infractions under these Regulations. These are part of criminal law. Enforcement measures range from supervision of activities pending correction (e.g. via Improvement Notices) through to withdrawal of licences or approvals.

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There are procedures for appeals to a Magistrates Court. In the event of prosecutions, fines and/or imprisonment may result.

Meat Hygiene: Fresh Meat

22. With certain limited exceptions (such as small on-farm poultry slaughterhouses and farm shops), premises slaughtering, cutting or storing fresh meat intended for sale for human consumption must be licensed under one or more of the following Regulations:-
 - The Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 as amended, (which implement the EC Fresh Meat Directive 64/433/EEC, as amended, and the EC Farmed Game Directive 91/495/EEC in respect of large farmed game).
 - The Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, as amended, (which implement the EC Poultry Meat Directive 71/118/EEC, as amended, and the EC Farmed Game Directive 91/495/EEC in respect of farmed game birds and rabbits).
 - The Wild Game Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997, as amended, (which implement, in part, the EC Wild Game Directive 92/45/EEC).
23. Licences are granted, on application, by DARD on behalf of the FSA if the premises meets the structural and operational standards laid down in the Regulations. Licensed premises must be supervised by a Veterinary Officer of DARD.
24. Premises which are exempt from the licence requirements in paragraphs 21 and 22 are nevertheless subject to the requirements of the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (see paragraphs 11 to 13).

Enforcement

25. DARD, acting on behalf of the FSA, has powers to take enforcement action, as necessary, in licensed premises. These include powers to seize unfit meat, to prosecute where breaches of the Regulations occur, to serve improvement or prohibition notices in relation to use of premises and equipment or the sale of product and, ultimately, to revoke the licence for the premises.
26. Enforcement officers are required to pay due attention to statutory Codes of Practice, issued under the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 which provides guidance on enforcement of the legislation. Officers also have regard to Staff Instructions and Notes for Guidance on Hygiene Assessment Systems (HAS).

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Penalties

27. The Regulations create offences and prescribe penalties for infractions. These are part of criminal law. In the event of prosecution an operator may be liable to a fine and/or imprisonment.

Meat Hygiene: Meat Products

Meat Products

28. With the exception of premises supplying only the final consumer, all premises handling, storing or re-wrapping meat products intended for sale for human consumption must be approved under the Meat Products (Hygiene) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997, as amended, (which implement the EC Meat Products Directive 77/99/EEC, as amended).
29. Approval to operate as a meat products premises is granted on application, by an EHO (or by DARD which holds the EU register on recommendation from the District Council for certain combined premises) if those premises meet the structural and hygiene standards laid down in the Regulations. The Regulations are enforced by EHOs.

Minced Meat & Meat Preparations

30. With the exception of premises supplying only the final consumer and those manufacturing minced meat and meat preparations for the national market only, all premises handling minced meat and meat preparations intended for sale for human consumption must be approved under the Minced Meat & Meat Preparations (Hygiene) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997, as amended, (which implement the EC Minced Meat & Meat Preparations Directive 94/65/EC).
31. Premises supplying the national market must be registered by DARD.
32. Approval to operate as a minced meat or meat preparations premises is granted on application if those premises meet the structural and operational standards laid down in the Regulations. This is an EHO responsibility except in the following circumstances where it is by DARD on behalf of the FSA:- minced meat premises, premises integrated with a licenced activity such as slaughtering or cutting. The Regulations are enforced by EHOs or DARD as appropriate.
33. Premises which are exempt from the Regulations in paragraphs 27 and 29 are nevertheless subject to the requirements of the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (see paragraphs 11 to 13).

Enforcement

34. The relevant enforcement authority has powers to take enforcement action when standards in approved premises deteriorate. These include powers to

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prosecute for breaches of the Regulations, to seize unfit minced meat & meat preparations and, ultimately, to revoke premises' approvals.

35. Enforcement officers are required to pay due attention to Statutory Codes of Practice issued under the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 which provides guidance on enforcement of the legislation and to relevant staff instructions.

Penalties

36. The Regulations create offences and prescribe penalties for infractions. These are part of criminal law. In the event of a prosecution an operator may be liable to a fine and/or imprisonment.

Egg Products

37. The Egg Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 implement Directive 89/437/EEC on 'hygiene and health problems affecting the production and the placing on the market of egg products'.

Enforcement

38. These standards are enforced by EHOs and egg products establishments must be approved. In any dispute between a district council and egg product establishment, interpretation of the legislation rests with the courts who are able to penalise either by fine, 2 years imprisonment or both.
39. EHOs are required to pay due attention to Statutory Codes of Practice issued under the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 which provides guidance on the enforcement of legislation.

Ungraded Eggs

40. The Ungraded Eggs (Hygiene) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990 are under review. They were made under the Food (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 and refer to the Council Regulation 2772/75 as the 'Marketing Standards for eggs as amended'. Their main purpose is to prevent the retailing of cracked eggs by farms, local markets or by door to door sales.

Enforcement

41. These Regulations are enforced by EHOs. Interpretation in dispute lies with the courts who are able to penalise infractions either by fine, 2 years imprisonment or both.

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ANNEX D

EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS APPLICATION – CHECKLIST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

1	Will the project have <i>environmental benefits</i> in:
a)	Conserving and / or improving environmental assets such as: wildlife, natural habitats (woodland, heathland, wetland, etc.) soils, agricultural land, geological features, landscapes, rural heritage, buildings, archaeological or historic features, etc.?
b)	Reducing energy consumption and / or promoting renewable energy resources?
c)	Reducing the wastage and over-use of water?
d)	Extending, improving and promoting the use of public transport?
e)	Improving environmental quality, for example through reducing and/ or treating excessive noise, pollution of land, water (including groundwater) and / or air, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, etc.?
f)	Enabling greater re-use of 'brownfield' land?
g)	Reducing waste disposal requirements through reuse, recycling and waste minimisation, etc.?
h)	Enhancing the quality of life for urban and /or rural communities for example through the provision of open space, access to the countryside, improved transport, outdoor recreation opportunities, etc.?
i)	Educating and training people in environmental skills?
j)	Other? (specify)
2	Will the project have <i>environmental costs</i> through modification, loss or pollution of:
a)	Sites of importance for nature conservation, including natural habitats such as woodland, heathland, wetland, etc.?
b)	Sites of importance for significant flora and / or fauna (as set out in the NI Biodiversity strategy, etc)?
c)	Good quality agricultural land?
d)	Landscape quality, including landscape features such as field patterns, field boundaries, significant trees, vernacular buildings, etc.?
e)	The water environment (both fresh and marine) and associated habitats?
f)	Air, including increased emissions of greenhouse gases?
g)	Archaeological Features, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, built heritage conservation areas, sites of importance for industrial and marine

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	archaeology, etc.?
h)	Other (specify)
3	Compensation / mitigation
a)	Will the project promote or deliver measures intended to avoid any negative impact?
b)	Will the project include measures and proposals to compensate for any impact on the environment?
c)	Will the project include measures and proposals to mitigate against adverse effects on the environment?
d)	Other? (specify)

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EX ANTE ASSESSMENT OF BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME COMPLEMENT

Introduction

The Ex Ante assessment of the Programme Complement is set out below. The assessment set out here considers each Priority and Measure detailed in the Programme Complement in terms of:

- The consistency between the rationale, objectives and measures set out in the Complement and the rationale and objectives in the Programme Document
- The degree to which the Project Selection criteria are consistent with the Operational Programme objectives
- The validity and appropriateness of the quantified objectives/indicators.

The above criteria are applied to each measure in turn and the assessment is set out below. Following this analysis some overall conclusions are stated.

PRIORITY 1 – ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

The overall aim of the Priority is “To produce a fast growing, competitive, innovative, knowledge based economy.” There are two main planks to the strategy - actions to *Support Competitiveness*, which are aimed at firms and actions to *Create Conditions for Competitiveness* which involve primarily infrastructure.

Measure 1A Business Support – Enterprise

Consistency According to the Operational Programme (OP), this measure aims to target support on Small and Medium Sized Enterprises to increase their international competitiveness and aims to promote an enterprise culture. These aims are repeated in the Programme Complement (PC) which proposes activities designed mainly to increase support to people starting up businesses. The PC appears to give less emphasis to “high growth” potential start ups than does the OP. The PC also makes reference to increasing entrepreneurial activity among under-represented groups, an aim which, however desirable, did not feature in the relevant section of the OP.

Overall the PC and OP are consistent though the PC could give more emphasis than it does to the issue of the growth potential of start-ups as opposed to the quantity.

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Selection Criteria The statement on selection criteria indicates that the key criteria will relate to the eligibility rules for existing INVEST NI schemes. These criteria are not inconsistent with the OP. However it may be useful to include selection criteria which relate more directly to the priorities and objectives in the OP – for example in relation to “key sectors” and the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

The PC states that cross-cutting criteria relating to sustainability, targeting social need, equal opportunities and transparency will be adhered to but does not indicate how.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators The indicators are fairly well specified, referring to high growth firms and high tech sectors. However, it is arguable that the targets under-weight the priority to be given to high growth potential businesses. High growth businesses should be defined.

Measure 1B Business Support – Competitiveness Excellence

Consistency This measure is focussed on assistance to existing firms. It emphasises the issues of use of ICT, exports and innovation and is highly consistent with the OP.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are based on general requirements for INVEST NI programmes. They are not specified in a way which would ensure that resources are applied in a manner consistent with the aims of the OP.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Though stated briefly, the quantified indicators are appropriate and rigorous.

Measure 1C Small Business Support Network

Consistency This measure is consistent at a general level with the OP and it involves one of the “indicative activities” mentioned in the OP. However, it is not tied very tightly to the analysis of the weaknesses of the small firms sector in Northern Ireland.

Selection Criteria As before, the selection criteria relate to INVEST NI rules rather than being derived from the OP.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators The indicators are well specified in terms of activities but are vague in relation to impact.

Measure 2 Research and Technology Development and Technology Transfer

Consistency Both in the OP and the PC it is stated that this measure will channel funds through a set of specified existing programmes.

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Selection Criteria The selection criteria refer to IRTU rules but also specify that schemes must serve the objectives and strategy of the BSP programme.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators The objectives and outputs are well specified, measurable and rigorous.

Measure 3A Tourism – Strategic Marketing

Consistency The OP identifies a priority requirement to exploit improved conditions for tourism by marketing the distinctive attributes of Northern Ireland as a tourism destination. This is reflected in the PC but with an additional emphasis on integration with all-Ireland and UK marketing.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are quite extensive and are broadly consistent with the OP. However, they are somewhat general and could benefit from tighter specification.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and impacts are relevant to the measure objectives and are quantified in some detail.

Measure 3B Enhancing the Business of Tourism

Consistency Both OP and PC indicate that this measure will involve existing schemes which support investment in accommodation and facilities, and are therefore consistent and vertically coherent.

Selection Criteria Selection criteria are general and relate to NITB schemes rather than being specifically derived from the OP. This may be defended on the basis that this measure will support existing NITB schemes.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators The indicators and targets for accommodation are fairly precise. However, those for visitor attractions are too imprecise to be of much value.

Measure 4 Local Economic Development

Consistency The OP identifies a need to rationalise local economic development efforts through local partnerships. The PC focuses this on the lead role of local authorities.

Selection Criteria Selection criteria are specified in terms of the required attributes of partnerships.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Objectives and indicators are expressed in vague terms. However, it is stated that specific indicators will be developed later.

Measure 5 Information Society

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Consistency This measure is concerned with increasing access to and use of ICT by businesses. The OP and the PC are highly consistent on this matter though the OP includes reference to inward investment not found in the PC.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are fairly well specified and are consistent with the aims of the OP.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and indicators are very precisely specified.

Measure 6 Roads and Transport

Consistency Measure 6 is the first of the “Creating conditions for competitiveness measures.” Both OP and PC identify the priorities in terms of key road schemes, bus improvements and rail improvements.

Selection Criteria Selection criteria could be more specific, particularly for road schemes.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Road scheme indicators are traffic measurement effects. The outputs for other transport schemes should be better quantified.

Measure 7 Telecommunications

Consistency Both OP and PC set out the argument for developing provision and use of high capacity telecoms services. There is direct coherence between the two documents.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are clear though not exhaustive and refer in broad terms to the objectives of the programme.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Service provision objectives are appropriate and quantified. Impact targets should be better defined.

Measure 8 Energy

Consistency The energy measure is concerned with developing the gas supply network and improving “energy efficiency” through use of renewable energy, Combined Heat and Power and other actions. This measure is consistent with the objectives of the OP priority.

Selection Criteria The criteria are quite general and do not refer specifically to the OP objectives.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators The indicators correspond directly to the objectives of the measure and are quantified.

PRIORITY 2 EMPLOYMENT

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The aim of this priority is to bring about a high level of employment of a skilled adaptable workforce and to promote access to the labour market for all.

Measure 1 Education and Skills Development

Consistency The OP and the PC are consistent in describing the aims of providing labour market entrants with required skills.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are set out in a formula which is used for all measures under this priority. There is no specific reference to the OP.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators These are specified fairly precisely in terms of labour market outcomes in a manner common to most labour market programmes.

Measure 2 Tackling Flows into Long Term Unemployment

Consistency Both OP and PC are consistent in describing this measure.

Selection Criteria Comments on this issue are the same as for Measure 1 under this priority.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators These are specified fairly precisely in terms of labour market outcomes in a manner common to most labour market programmes.

Measure 3 Promoting a Labour Market for All

Consistency Both OP and PC are consistent in describing the aims of this measure.

Selection Criteria Comments on this issue are the same as for Measure 1 under this priority.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators These are specified fairly precisely in terms of educational attainment and labour market outcomes.

Measure 4 Improving Opportunities for Lifelong Learning

Consistency There is direct coherence and consistency between the OP and the PC.

Selection Criteria Comments on this issue are the same as for Measure 1 under this priority.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators These are specified fairly precisely in terms of labour market outcomes in a manner common to most labour market programmes. There are also outputs specified for teacher and pupil attainment in the use of ICT.

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Measure 5 Education and Training ICT and Infrastructure Support

Consistency This measure in the PC is directly consistent with the OP.

Selection Criteria Comments on this issue are the same as for Measure 1 under this priority.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators These are specified fairly precisely in terms of the use of ICT within schools.

Measure 6 Developing Entrepreneurship

Consistency There is direct vertical coherence between this measure in the PC and in the OP.

Selection Criteria Comments on this issue are the same as for Measure 1 under this priority.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators These are specified fairly precisely in terms of employment and training outcomes in a manner common to most labour market programmes.

Measure 7 Human Resource Development in Companies

Consistency Both OP and PC describe the measure consistently.

Selection Criteria Comments on this issue are the same as for Measure 1 under this priority.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators These are specified fairly precisely in terms of employment and training outcomes in a manner common to most labour market programmes.

Measure 8 The Advancement of Women

Consistency This measure is clearly consistent between both the OP and the PC.

Selection Criteria Comments on this issue are the same as for Measure 1 under this priority.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators These are specified fairly precisely in terms of employment and training outcomes in a manner common to most labour market programmes.

PRIORITY 3 URBAN AND SOCIAL REVITALISATION

The aim of this priority is to promote the growth and vitality of urban areas and to provide improved opportunities for all communities.

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Measure 1 Urban Revitalisation

Consistency This measure supports actions to revitalise urban areas which are experiencing physical, social and economic decline and which cannot attract adequate private investment. The OP and PC describe the rationale in similar terms.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are clear though related more to general good practice than to specific aspects of the OP strategy and objectives.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Indicators are clear and well specified in terms of measures of activity, physical outputs and socio-economic impacts. More explicit links from these indicators to the BSP strategy and objectives would be desirable.

Measure 2 Advice and Information Services

Consistency This measure supports actions to improve access to a range of legal, welfare and employment advice, especially for people in deprived communities. The OP and PC describe the rationale in the same terms but the PC develops the specific objectives.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are clear and rigorous and refer to the Programme context.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Indicators are clear and well specified in terms of measures of activity and outputs though impacts are somewhat vague. More explicit links from these indicators to the BSP strategy and objectives would be desirable.

Measure 3 Community Sustainability

Consistency This measure supports actions to strengthen local community support structures and agencies so as to make them sustainable when EU funding ends. The OP and PC describe the rationale in the same terms but the PC develops the specific objectives.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are clear and rigorous and are related to the Programme objectives.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Indicators are specified rather vaguely.

Measure 4 Investing in Early Learning

Consistency This measure supports actions to expand pre-school educational provision. The OP and PC describe the rationale in the same terms.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are clear and rigorous and refer to the specifics of the initiative.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Indicators are clear and well specified in terms of measures of activity and outputs.

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PRIORITY FOUR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

The aim of this priority is to increase the efficiency of the agriculture sector, to develop the industry's capacity to take advantage of opportunities provided by new technology, new markets and a more peaceful society and to reduce the socio-economic gap between disadvantaged rural populations and the wider economy.

Measure 4.1 Training

Consistency This measure aims to provide training which will help farmers to improve their productivity and competitiveness. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC but the PC sets out rationale and objectives more clearly and concisely.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are rather general and describe a process. They could benefit from further specification.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets are defined very precisely and rigorously.

Measure 2 Improving Processing and Marketing

Consistency This measure aims to improve the competitiveness of the food processing sector. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC but the PC sets out rationale and objectives more clearly and concisely.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are described in detail under "eligibility".

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets are broadly consistent with the measure objectives.

Measure 3 Forestry

Consistency This measure aims to encourage creation of new woodlands and to regenerate woodlands. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are quite general.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets are defined precisely but economic impacts are not quantified or defined.

Measure 4 Farm Relief and Farm Management

Consistency This measure provides farmers with access to relief workers and management support. The OP and PC describe the rationale in similar terms.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are described in considerable detail and relate to the Programme strategy.

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Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets are defined precisely but economic impacts are less fully specified.

Measure 5 Marketing Agricultural Products

Consistency This measure aims to improve marketing of quality agricultural products in order to improve margins. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are described in considerable detail.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets are defined in general terms only with a few very broad targets.

Measure 6 Basic Rural Services

Consistency This measure is very wide ranging, encompassing projects to support activities from childcare to energy supply. The rationale, though very broad, is described in similar terms in the OP and PC.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are described in general terms. However, this could be defended given the diversity of activities.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets are few in number and quite general.

Measure 7 Renovation of Villages and Protection of Rural Heritage

Consistency This measure is also fairly wide ranging, giving scope to support economic, environmental and community projects of various types. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are described in general terms. Again, this could be defended given the diversity of this measure.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets are specified at some length and are framed in terms of number of participants, numbers of projects and employment. There could be further detail provided on the nature of the projects supported.

Measure 8 Diversification of Agricultural Activities

Consistency This measure is wide ranging, potentially encompassing a variety of projects to provide alternatives or supplements to farm incomes. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC.

Selection Criteria Comments here are the same as those for measures 6 and 7.

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Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets focus on broad numbers of projects and job creation.

Measure 9 Development and Improvement of Infrastructure

Consistency This measure is very wide ranging, encompassing projects to support activities from road improvements, through IT to energy supply. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC.

Selection Criteria Comments here are the same as those for measures 6 and 7.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets refer only to project numbers and numbers of jobs.

Measure 10 Encouragement for Tourism and Crafts

Consistency This measure is wide ranging, involving a variety of possible tourism and craft industry projects. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are described in general terms. This could be defended given the diversity of this measure.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets are few in number and refer only to project numbers and numbers of jobs.

Measure 11 Protection of the Environment and Animal Welfare

Consistency This measure is wide ranging, involving a variety of possible environmental protection projects which are not defined in any detail. The rationale is described in identical terms in the OP and PC..

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are described in general terms, however, there are a broad range of activities to be supported by this measure.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Outputs and results targets are related to the objectives of the measure although a small number of additional outputs / results may be useful.

Measure 12 Financial Engineering

Consistency This measure is an “enabling” measure which will allow unspecified financial advice and support to be given to community groups. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are described in general terms.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators This is a relatively small measure therefore outputs and results targets are few in number.

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Measure 13 Fisheries

Consistency This measure comprises 10 sub measures aimed at assisting the restructuring of the fishing sector, product quality, marketing, processing and fish farming. The overall rationale for the strategy is detailed at some length in the OP and highlights a need for action on:

- Fishing effort relative to stocks
- Quality of product
- Infrastructure
- Collective action.

These themes are closely reflected in the PC which focuses on restructuring, safety at sea, quality, processing (including aquaculture), infrastructure and collective action.

Selection Criteria In addition to requiring consistency with the measure objectives, the selection criteria refer to further sub-measure eligibility criteria.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators The sub-measures are relatively small therefore there are few output and result targets at the sub-measure level and these are generally related to project numbers. One exception is the aquaculture sub-measure where physical output targets are set. For the marketing sub-measure output indicators are listed but no targets detailed.

PRIORITY 5 THE ENVIRONMENT

In the OP this priority refers to stewardship of the natural, built and cultural environment and refers specifically to water and air quality and biodiversity. There is one measure only.

Measure 1 Sustainable Management of the Environment and Promotion of the Natural and Built Heritage

Consistency This measure is very wide ranging, encompassing projects from water quality through waste management and wildlife management to recreational facilities and the built environment. The rationale is described in similar terms in the OP and PC.

Selection Criteria The selection criteria are described at length but are fairly general in nature given the diversity of this measure.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Output targets are fairly precise in technical terms for water projects but otherwise quite general.

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

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With such a wide array of measures and projects, there are obvious difficulties in drawing general conclusions. However, a number of key themes have emerged. The issues are considered below under the three categories used above.

Consistency Almost without exception the Programme Complement shows “vertical” coherence with the Operational Programme and thus the Ex Ante Appraisal. The PC tends to use very similar text as the OP in discussing rationale and objectives. The measures in the OP and PC are generally identical.

Because the OP has been subject to a process which has ensured “horizontal” coherence, this is generally transmitted to the Programme Complement. It follows that the PC is horizontally coherent. The exceptions to this are minor. In some of the measures under the Agriculture and Rural Priority the PC has listed such a wide variety of possible projects that coherence has been potentially reduced.

Selection Criteria The degree to which appropriate and testing selection criteria have been specified is variable. In the Employment Priority the criteria are somewhat formulaic, although this is perhaps driven by the assessment criteria specified at the national and European level. Some measures rely on “good practice” criteria of a somewhat general nature. However, there are examples of well specified criteria as listed above.

Quantified Objectives/Indicators Specification and quantification of indicators is variable. Generalisation is difficult because of variation within measures. In **most** cases the objectives and indicators are appropriately quantified and specified but there are exceptions. Whilst the indicators are generally appropriate for the Programme and are related to the measure objectives, they could benefit from further detail and specification.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

AGRI-FOOD	Agriculture and Food
AONB	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASSI	Areas of Special Scientific Interest
BERD	Business Expenditure on Research and Development
BORD FAILTE	Irish tourist Board
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
BSP	The NI Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES	Initiatives instigated by the European Commission. viz:- INTERREG III, LEADER+, EQUAL, URBAN
CSF	Community Support Framework
CSFMC	Community Support Framework Monitoring Committee
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DETI	Department for Enterprise, Trade and Industry
DfEE	Department for Education and Employment
DG REGIO	Directorate for Regional Policy of the European Commission
DEL	Department for Employment & Learning
DFP	Department of Finance and Personnel
DOE	Department of the Environment
DPHR	Dairy Products Hygiene Regulations (NI) 1995
DRD	Department for Regional Development
DSD	Department for Social Development
EAGGF	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
EC	European Commission

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ECOTEC	Research and Consultancy Agency who compiled environmental assessments
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
ELBs	Education Library Boards
EQIA	Equality Impact Assessment
EQUAL	Community Initiative
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
EU 15/Eur 15	The 15 member states of the European Union
EUD	European Union Division (of the Department of Finance and Personnel)
EUSSPPR	European Union Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation
FIFG	Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance
FINAL BENEFICIARIES	Body responsible for implementing a project
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FSM	Free School Meals
GB	Great Britain
GCSE	General Certificate for Secondary Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HA	Hectare
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HRD	Human Resource Development
ICT	Information & Communication Technology
IIP	Investors in People award
ILO	International Labour Organisation

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IMPLEMENTING BODY	“Final Beneficiary » as defined in Article 9(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999
INTERREG III	Community Initiative with transnational focus
INVEST NI	Invest Northern Ireland (amalgamation of LEDU & IDB) – encouraging inward investment to Northern Ireland
IRTU	Industrial Research and Technology Unit
IT	Information Technology
KM	Kilometre
LEADER+	Community Initiative focused on rural development
LFA	Less Favoured Areas
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LMA	Labour Market Assessment
MEURO	Million euros
MIS	Management Information System
NAP	National Action Plan (for employment)
NATURA 2000	Designated areas of Special Areas of Conservation
NETCEN	National Environmental Technology Centre
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NI	Northern Ireland
NIO	Northern Ireland Office
NIQUID	Northern Ireland Quantified Indicators database
NISPD	Northern Ireland Single Programme
NITB	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
NITHCO	Northern Ireland Transport Holdings Company
NUTS 3	Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics, level 3 classification
NVQs	National Vocational Qualifications
ONE-STOP-SHOP	Applications Process (see Chapter 2)

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OP	Operational Programme (The NI Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity)
PEACE II	Special EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (2000-2004)
PEAGs	Pre-School Education Advisory Groups
PERFORMANCE RESERVE	Financial bonus (from EC) based upon performance of certain indicators within the Programme
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE	Funds allocated to NI Departments from UK Government
RACs	Rural Area Co-ordination
RDP	Rural Development Plan
R & D	Research and Development
R & TD	Research and Technology Development
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic and Time-bound
SME	Small or Medium-sized Enterprise
SOC	Standard Occupational Classification
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SPD	Single Programme Document (specifically the NI SPD 1994-1999)
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
STATUS O	Term used to describe young people not involved in employment, education or training
SVQs	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TENS	Trans European Networks
TESTA	European Commission Network
TCS	Teaching Company Scheme
TSN	(New) Targeting Social Need
TTWA	Travel-to-Work Area

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URBAN II	Community Initiative
UK	United Kingdom
VADEMECUM	European Commission's guide for those within Member States, involved in constructing Operational Programmes
VAT	Value-Added Tax
VS	Veterinary Service
WGS	Woodland Grant Scheme
WIG	Woodland Improvement Grant
WTO	World Trade Organisation

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