



**Interreg**

**Atlantic Area**

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

# ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2016

INTERREG ATLANTIC AREA PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Managing Authority/ Joint Secretariat

July 2017



## PART A

### DATA REQUIRED EVERY YEAR ('LIGHT REPORTS') (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

#### 1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	Objective concerned <b>European Territorial Cooperation</b>
Title	<b>Atlantic Area 2014-2020</b>
Version	2
Reporting year	2016
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	22 June 2017

#### 2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

The year of 2016 has been the first implementation year for the programme, officially approved on 17 November 2015 by the European Commission (EC). In what concerns the progress of the programme, actions have been taken to start implementing two important strategic decisions assumed in 2015: the reorganization of the joint secretariat (JS) and the development of an integrated information system, based on the system from the previous period. Moreover, the MA designation process started and member states (MS) began reporting on their national control systems.

The recruitment for the position of director, communication officer, project officer and financial officer was completed in April 2016. The shortlisted candidates were invited to an interview at Porto on 15-16 February, conducted by a transnational panel composed by representatives of the five MS.

The first monitoring committee (MC) meeting was held in Porto, on 20 January, and marked the start of the programme. The main procedures for the programme strategy were settled, including the first call for projects. The second meeting was in Dublin, on 7-8 September, mainly to select the applications to present a full proposal in the second stage of the first call and discuss the documents and the timetable for this second stage. Apart from the project selection, the formal adoption of the MC rules of procedure took place and the estimated technical assistance (TA) budget was approved for the period 2014 - 2020.

Other preparatory meetings were organised: the national correspondents (NC) meeting in Lisbon, 16 March; the working meeting with the MS, JS and EC in London, 7 July; and the NC meeting in Porto, 30 August.

The first call was launched in April, in two stages, and was open to all priorities. The first stage ran from 26 April to 31 May, receiving 425 expressions of interest (EOI). The MC selected 102 EOI to present a full project application. The second stage of the call ran from 31 October 2016 to 11 January 2017.

The launching event took place in Porto on 24 May, officially opening the programme and providing information about Atlantic Area thematic priorities and the first call.

The programme new website ([www.atlanticarea.eu](http://www.atlanticarea.eu)) was launched in May 2016, providing online the standard functionalities needed for the call. Several documents needed for the

implementation of the Atlantic Area were elaborated such as the application form, the eligibility and assessment reports, the programme manual and the communication strategy..

During 2016 it was also constituted the group of auditors.

## **MEMBERS STATES ACTIVITIES**

The **French NC** participated in five seminars and meetings at national or local level, on issues of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), where the Atlantic Area was promoted. At least one meeting with each of the French candidates in the framework of the first call was held. 226 French structures were involved (including 10 lead partners) during stage 2 of the call for projects. Around 60 bilateral meetings were organized (by phone or *visu*) with organisations and institutions interested in the programme.

Contacts (e-mail or telephone) were established between the French NC and the JS/managing authority (MA) for solving the technical difficulties encountered in implementing the programme on French territory.

**Ireland** assumed the presidency in 2016. The programme was promoted at various events to highlight the opportunities available to develop transnational projects. Presentations were delivered at 12 events from Irish MC members. The national contact point (CP) also continued to work closely with the special EU Programme Body throughout 2016 in the review and monitoring of participation in EU Atlantic Area projects. Meetings were held with Irish organisations involved in the development of transnational projects to the opening call. Assistance was furnished on project development issues. Sixteen bilateral meetings were organised.

The Irish CP worked closely with the JS on strategic and technical issues. With Ireland assuming the programme presidency in 2016, there was much contact and engagement throughout 2016 with the programme MA and JS on issues related to the opening call for projects, the launch event in Porto in May, as well as the organisation of the programme MC in Dublin in early September.

The **Portuguese NC** participated/co-organised two promoting events. The Agency of Cohesion and Development also promoted the activities of the Atlantic Area programme and projects, through its website. It also provided information by email and telephone concerning several issues: the first call for projects; eligibility of expenses; public procurement rules and SME's participation.

The Portuguese NC also supported the MA regarding: JS staffing and resource management; description of the management and control system; the preparation of the Portuguese presidency of Atlantic Area for 2017; active participation in written consultations and on the main issues of the programme.

The **Spanish NC** participated in 11 events at regional and national level and contributed to the dissemination of the programme through their website. Also the regional governments of the eligible regions contributed to the dissemination of the programme through their websites.

These bodies provided assistance to potential partners through phone calls and emails, answering to questions related to the first call. The Spanish NC liaised closely with both the MA and the JS, being the level of coordination good. The Spanish NC provided comments and exchanged views on a number of key issues on the programme implementation and follow-up: governance and management issues, decommitment issues, technical assistance budget, etc.

The **United Kingdom NC** had a CP in post between July 2015 and September 2016, who organized 100 meetings with stakeholders promoting the programme, mailshots to over 200 potential project partners and meetings with relevant agencies within the different areas. The CP has also maintained a Twitter account and used the WEFO website to promote the programme.

Since September 2016 the UK have dealt with 118 queries from project partners, through either 1-2-1 meetings, telephone or email. All UK lead partners were offered support during the stage 2, through discussions around the project design. The CP also provided constructive criticism on the project proposals before submission, as well as clarification on the process for online submission.

The UK NC has also continued to discharge its functions in relation to day-to-day business with the JS/MA.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

#### 3.1. Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1.	Stimulating innovation and competitiveness	As the programme was adopted on 17 November 2015 by the Commission and no projects were approved during 2016, there is no information to provide regarding the implementation of the priority axis during this specific year.
2.	Fostering Resource Efficiency	As the programme was adopted on 17 November 2015 by the Commission and no projects were approved during 2016, there is no information to provide regarding the implementation of the priority axis during this specific year.
3.	Strengthening the territory's resilience to risks of natural, climate and human origin	As the programme was adopted on 17 November 2015 by the Commission and no projects were approved during 2016, there is no information to provide regarding the implementation of the priority axis during this specific year.
4.	Enhancing biodiversity and the natural and cultural assets	As the programme was adopted on 17 November 2015 by the Commission and no projects were approved during 2016, there is no information to provide regarding the implementation of the priority axis during this specific year.

5.	Technical assistance	<p>The year 2016 marked the first implementation year of the Atlantic Area programme. The first MC meeting was organised in Porto on 20 January and discussed the setting and staffing of the JS, the planning of 2016 activities and the MC rules of procedures and the technical assistance budget.</p> <p>As mentioned in section 2, during the second meeting in Dublin on 7 and 8 September, 102 stage one projects were approved in the framework of the first call. Apart from the project selection procedure and approval, MC approved the technical assistance budget</p> <p>As far as the programme tools are concerned, the Atlantic Area programme was actively involved in the development of the electronic platform, to ensure an efficient and effective programme management and to guarantee a solid support to project applicants and beneficiaries, enhancing the visibility and capitalisation of projects results.</p>
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### 3.2. Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Data for common and programme-specific indicators by investment priority transmitted using the tables 1 to 2 below.

**TABLE 1: Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective);** applies also to technical assistance priority axis

SO1.1: Programme specific result indicators for specific objective 1.1																
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
1.1	Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for the development of regional innovation systems	Index 0 100	To be defined	2016	100% regions show an improvement	0	0	0								<i>An action plan will be implemented to establish baselines</i>

SO1.2: Programme specific result indicators for specific objective 1.2																
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
1.2	Financing absorptive capacity index addressing the access of business, social and public organisations to innovation results	Index 0 100	To be defined	2016	100% regions show an improvement	0	0	0								<i>An action plan will be implemented to establish baselines</i>

SO2.1: Programme specific result indicators for specific objective 2.1																
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
2.1	Percentage of population covered by local sustainable energy action plans	Index 0 100	To be defined	2016	100% regions show an improvement	0	0	0								<i>An action plan will be implemented to establish baselines</i>

SO2.2: Programme specific result indicators for specific objective 2.2

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
2.2	Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for eco-innovation and green growth.	Index 0 100	To be defined	2016	100% regions show an improvement	0	0	0								<i>An action plan will be implemented to establish baselines</i>

SO3.1: Programme specific result indicators for specific objective 3.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
3.1	Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for the resilience of land and maritime areas	Index 0 100	To be defined	2016	100% regions show an improvement	0	0	0								<i>An action plan will be implemented to establish baselines</i>

SO4.1: Programme specific result indicators for specific objective 4.1

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
4.1	Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for the improvement of biodiversity and ecosystems services.	Index 0 100	To be defined	2016	100% regions show an improvement	0	0	0								<i>An action plan will be implemented to establish baselines</i>

SO4.2: Programme specific result indicators for specific objective 4.2																
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
4.2	Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for cultural and natural assets as factor of local economic development.	Index 0 100	To be defined	2016	100% regions show an improvement	0	0	0								<i>An action plan will be implemented to establish baselines</i>

Programme-specific result indicators for priority axis 5 (technical assistance)																
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
																<i>Not applicable</i>



**TABLE 2: Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority);** applies also to technical assistance priority axes).

1b: Common and programme specific output indicators for investment priority 1b														
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	Number	30	0	0	0								
CO28	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Number	10	0	0	0								
CO29	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Number	10	0	0	0								
CO41	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Number	30	0	0	0								
CO42	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects	Number	30	0	0	0								
PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	33	0	0	0								
PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	132	0	0	0								
PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	66	0	0	0								
PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	165	0	0	0								
PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	10 725	0	0	0								

4a: Common and programme specific output indicators for investment priority 4a														
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
CO30	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	Mw	10	0	0	0								
CO34	Greenhouse gas reduction	Tons of CO2 equivalent	80 000	0	0	0								
PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	10	0	0	0								
PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	40	0	0	0								
PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	20	0	0	0								
PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	50	0	0	0								
PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	3 250	0	0	0								

6g: Common and programme specific output indicators for investment priority 6g														
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	11	0	0	0								
PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	44	0	0	0								
PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	22	0	0	0								

6g: Common and programme specific output indicators for investment priority 6g														
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	55	0	0	0								
PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	3 575	0	0	0								

5b: Common and programme specific output indicators for investment priority 5b														
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
CO2 0	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Number	500 000	0	0	0								
CO2 1	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	Number	500 000	0	0	0								
PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	9	0	0	0								
PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	36	0	0	0								
PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	18	0	0	0								
PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	45	0	0	0								
PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	2 925	0	0	0								

6d: Common and programme specific output indicators for investment priority 6d														
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
CO2 2	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	Hectares	1	0	0	0								
CO2 3	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	2 500	0	0	0								
PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	12	0	0	0								
PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	48	0	0	0								
PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	24	0	0	0								
PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	60	0	0	0								
PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	3 900	0	0	0								

6c: Common and programme specific output indicators for investment priority 6c														
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
CO0 9	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	3 000	0	0	0								
PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	number	14	0	0	0								
PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	number	56	0	0	0								

PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	number	28	0	0	0								
PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	number	70	0	0	0								
PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	number	4 550	0	0	0								

Output indicators for priority axis 5 (technical assistance)														
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
5.1.1	Number of managing documents, instruments and services developed and implemented	Number	-	0	0	3								(TA budget version approved by the MC + TA IT system + TA internal dashboard and expenditures registration)
5.1.2	Number of meetings organized by programme bodies	Number	-	0	0	8								
5.1.3	Number of participants in meetings organized by programme bodies	Number	-	0	0	200								
5.1.4	Number of information and capitalisation seminars and conferences organized by programme bodies	Number	-	0	0	8								
5.1.5	Number of participants in information and capitalisation seminars and conferences organized by programme bodies	Number	-	0	0	1 113								
5.1.6	Number of studies, surveys and evaluation actions	Number	-	0	0	0								

Output indicators for priority axis 5 (technical assistance)														
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
	implemented													
5.2.1	Number of workshops and training events organized by programme bodies	Number	-	0	0	0								
5.2.2	Number of participants in workshops and training events organized by programme bodies	Number	-	0	0	0								
5.2.3	Average time delay of projects' reporting and payment claims	Days	-	NA	NA	NA								
5.2.4	Average time for the validation of projects' reporting and payment claims	Days	-	NA	NA	NA								
5.2.5	Average time of project partners reimbursements	Days	-	NA	NA	NA								
5.2.6	Number of system and operations audits performed	Number	-	0	0	0								
5.3.1	Number of employees whose salaries are co-financed by TA	FTE	-	NA	NA	9								(JS + 2 MA members for closure )

### 3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – submitted in annual implementation reports from 2017 onwards

**TABLE 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework**

Priority axis	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
1	Output indicator	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	3	33	0	0	0								
1	Output indicator	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	6	66	0	0	0								
1	Financial indicator	PI06	Total eligible expenditure certified and submitted to EC	Euros	5 564 628	62 822 988	0	0	0								
2	Output indicator	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	2	21	0	0	0								
2	Output indicator	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	4	42	0	0	0								
2	Financial indicator	PI06	Total eligible expenditure certified and submitted to EC	Euros	3 825 436	39 659 206	0	0	0								
3	Output indicator	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	1	9	0	0	0								
3	Output indicator	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	2	18	0	0	0								

Priority axis	Indicator Type	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Observations (if necessary)
3	Financial indicator	PI06	Total eligible expenditure certified and submitted to EC	Euros	2 259 385	20 356 053	0	0	0								
4	Output indicator	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	2	26	0	0	0								
4	Output indicator	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	4	52	0	0	0								
4	Financial indicator	PI06	Total eligible expenditure certified and submitted to EC	Euros	3 983 889	52 644 961	0	0	0								

*\* Member States submit cumulative values for output indicators. Values for financial indicators are cumulative. Values for the key implementation steps are cumulative if the key implementation steps are expressed by a number or percentage. If the achievement is defined in a qualitative way, the table should indicate whether they are completed or not.*



### 3.4. Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**TABLE 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level** as set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014<sup>1</sup> [Model for transmission of financial data]<sup>2</sup> and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
The financial allocation of the priority axis based on the operational programme [extracted from Table 18a of the operational programme]						Cumulative data on the financial progress of the operational programme					
Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of Union support* (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Total funding (EUR)	Co-financing rate (%)	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%) [column 7/column 5 × 100]	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries (%) [column 10/column 5 × 100]	Number of operations selected
Priority axis 1	ERDF		total eligible cost	62 822 988	75	0	0	0	0	0	0
Priority axis 2	ERDF		total eligible cost	39 659 206	75	0	0	0	0	0	0
Priority axis 3	ERDF		total eligible cost	20 356 053	75	0	0	0	0	0	0
Priority axis 4	ERDF		total eligible cost	52 644 961	75	0	0	0	0	0	0
Priority axis 5	ERDF		public eligible cost	9 883 284	85	1 614 273	16,33%	1 614 273	0	0,00%	1
<i>Total</i>	ERDF	NA		185 366 492	76	1 614 273	16,33%	1 614 273	0	0,00%	1
<i>Grand Total</i>	All Funds			185 366 492		1 614 273	16,33%	1 614 273	0	0,00%	1

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 286, 30.9.2014, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Structured data required for the report on YEI which is to be submitted in April 2015 in accordance with Article 19(3) and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013.

**TABLE 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013) as set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 [Model for transmission of financial data] and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes**

Priority axis	Characteristics of expenditure		Categorisation dimensions								Financial data			
	Fund	Category of region	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohe sion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension (*)	8 Location dimension (**)	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1	ERDF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	ERDF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	ERDF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	ERDF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	ERDF	NA	121 - Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	01 - Non-repayable grant	07 - Not applicable	07 - Not applicable	NA		24	(***)	1 459 673 €	1 459 673 €	0	1
5	ERDF	NA	122 - Evaluation and studies	01 - Non-repayable grant	07 - Not applicable	07 - Not applicable	NA		24	(***)	120 000 €	120 000 €	-	1
5	ERDF	NA	123 - Information and communication	01 - Non-repayable grant	07 - Not applicable	07 - Not applicable	NA		24	(***)	34 600 €	34 600 €	-	1

(\*) According to Regulation (EU) 184/2014 - code 24: Other unspecified services

(\*\*) The programme is transnational, NUTSII and III indicated are the NUTS covered by the programme. There are three new Irish regions resulting from the reform that came into force in 2015. An application will have to be made to EUROSTAT by the Irish National Authorities to re-classify Ireland's new regions. The Northern and Western Regional Assembly now acts as managing authority for the BMW Operational Programme 2014-2020 and the Southern Regional Assembly acts as managing authority for the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020

(\*\*\*) IE01, IE02, ES11, ES12, ES13, ES21, ES22, ES612, ES615, ES618, ES70, FR23, FR25, FR51, FR52, FR53, FR61, PT11, PT15, PT16, PT17, PT18, PT20, PT30, UKD1, UKD3, UKD4, UKD6, UKD7, UKK1, UKK2, UKK3, UKK4, UKL1, UKL2, UKM3, UKM6, UKNO.

**TABLE 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area**

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support (*) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0	0

(\*) ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

#### **4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Nothing to report for 2016.

#### **5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken:

Measures have been taken by the MS in order to improve the programme management, in particular to reinforce the JS. As already mentioned, a new recruitment process has been launched to appoint a new director, a communication officer, a project officer, as well as a financial officer.

The MA has defined the terms of references for the new web portal of the programme in August 2015, in order to improve internal information flows and the whole management of the programme.

The first MC meeting was specifically dedicated to the start of the programme, also discussing issues related to monitoring and management (20 January 2016, Porto). The main procedures for the programme strategy were settled, including the first call for projects.

The MA designation process started and member states (MS) began reporting on their national control systems. Moreover, it has also started the work to set the conceptual framework to establish output and result indicators of the programme, their definitions and scopes.

A more complete description of the AA performance in 2016 is provided in sections 2 and 9 of this report.

b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1 (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013). An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

Not applicable.

#### **6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

The Atlantic Area programme was approved on 17 November 2015 by the European Commission. The legal document that sets the programme's strategic framework, the cooperation programme, was drafted based on the findings of the *ex-ante* evaluation carried out in 2014 and on the contributions received under a public consultation addressed to public and private programme stakeholders in 2013.

The first monitoring committee (MC) meeting was held in Porto, on 20 January 2016, and a second meeting took place in Dublin, on 7-8 September 2016.

The kick-off event was organised in Porto on 24 May 2016, with around 350 participants from the five MS. It was the moment to launch officially the programme and also to provide further information about the thematic investment priorities and the first call for projects.

The first call was launched in April 2016, in two steps, and was open to all priorities of the programme. The first step ran from 26 April to 31 May 2016 and 425 expressions of interest (EOI) were presented. The MC selected then 102 EOI to present a full project application on a

second stage, that run from 31 October 2016 to 11 January 2017. A third MC was planned for the first semester of 2017 to approve the first projects.

In total, around 2.400 institutions from the Atlantic Area regions and beyond applied for funding under this call, with 149 projects on priority 1 innovation and competitiveness, 88 projects on priority 2 resource efficiency, 42 projects on priority 3 territorial risks and 146 projects on priority 4 biodiversity, natural and cultural assets.

Several informative workshops were carried out by national contact points at local/ regional level, to inform potential beneficiaries and guide them on this first call for projects.

The MA carried out the public procurement to develop a new website of the programme. The website was launched in May 2016 with a more attractive and user-friendly layout, providing online the standard functionalities needed for the call for projects.

The MA designation process also started and MS started reporting the information concerning their national control systems.

## **7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the managing authority decided to use financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report.

Not applicable.

8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (Article 101(h) and Article 111(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Not applicable.

8.1. Major projects

TABLE 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP 1. completed 2. approved 3. submitted 4. planned for notification/ submission to Commission	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/ submission date (if applicable) (year, quarter)	Date of tacit agreement/ approval by Commission (if applicable)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority axis/Investment priorities	Current state of realisation – financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation - physical progress Main implementation stage of the project 1.completed/in operation; 2.advanced construction; 3. construction; 4. procurement; 5. design	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract <sup>4</sup> (if applicable)	Observations (if necessary)
<type='S' input='G'>	<type='S' input='G'>	<type='S' input='S'>	<type='N' input='M'>	<type='N' input='M'>	<type='D' input='G'>	<type='D' input='G'>	<type='D' input='G'>	<type='D' input='G'>	<type='S' input='G'>	<type='P' input='M'>	<type='S' input='S'>	<type='S' input='M'> maxlength=875	<type='D' input='M'>	<type='S' input='M'> maxlength=875

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them.

<type='S' maxlength=3500 input='M'>

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

<type='S' maxlength=3500 input='M'>

<sup>4</sup> In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

## 8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

As the programme has been adopted on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015 by the Commission, this section is not applicable.

**TABLE 8: Joint action plans**

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP 1. completed 2. > 50% implemented 3. Started 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP 1. normal 2. pilot 3. YEI	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations (if necessary)
<type='S' input='G'>	<type='S' input='G'>	<type='S' input='S'>	<type='N' input='M'>	<type='N' input='M'>	<type='N' input='M'>	<type='S' input='G'>	<type='S' input='S'>	<type='D' input='M'>	<type='D' input='M'>	<type='D' input='M'>	<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>	<type='N' input='M'>	<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

Nothing to report

## PART B

### REPORTING SUBMITTED IN YEARS 2017, 2019 AND FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

#### 9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

##### 9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

FOR EACH PRIORITY AXIS - Assessment of the information provided above and progress towards achieving the objectives of the programme, including the contribution of the ERDF to changes in the value of result indicators, when evidence is available from evaluations.

No projects were selected in 2016.

##### 9.2 Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations.

The Atlantic Area programme does not develop specific actions uniquely aimed at the promotion of equal opportunities and gender equality and the prevention of discrimination. Therefore, no specific priority axis has been devoted to this end. Moreover, and considering its main objectives and foreseen operations, the Atlantic Area does not target specific groups concerned by discrimination risks. However, the principle of non-discrimination will be approached and addressed in specific fields of action where programme activities will have a high social impact.

For instance, with projects, aiming to guarantee renewable energy affordability for local communities (under specific objective 2.1); with activities to empower vulnerable local communities to confront and recover from natural threats in order to increase the safety and security of those communities (under specific objective 3.1); and with projects aimed at enhancing and promoting traditional economic activities, contributing to create new jobs and economic development opportunities for groups facing employment problems (under specific objective 4.2). The principle of gender equality will be also and particularly taken into consideration for priority axis, such as priority axis 1 or specific objective 1.1 and 1.2, to promote innovation by implementing actions contributing to raising the number of women in the R&D sector. The equality and non-discrimination principles are integrated into the template of the application form of the full application (4.9.1 and 4.9.2). Partners have to indicate the expected effects and the specific actions foreseen to avoid discrimination and promote equal opportunities, as well as to promote gender equality. All partnerships bidding for funding must explain to which extent their project contributes to these principles. Based on the explanation provided in the programme manual (section 1.3 horizontal principles), partnerships must select the option “negative”, “neutral” or “positive” (with regards to equal opportunities and non-discrimination and equality between men and women) to be approved. These criteria is fully taken into account in the evaluation.



### **9.3 Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article.

At a programme level, specific attention has been devoted to choosing specific thematic objectives clearly focused on sustainable development.

In this respect, the Atlantic Area supports six specific objectives (out of seven) under which transnational cooperation projects will address environmental needs and challenges, and will contribute to improve and enhance regional policies and strategies related to sustainable development. In particular, the programme seeks to promote resource-efficiency regions and territories by enhancing renewable energy (specific objective 2.1) and fostering green-growth and eco-innovation (specific objective 2.2), to improve the environmental management for climate change adaptation and risk prevention by strengthening integrated territorial management and risk prevention and resilience (specific objective 3.1), to capitalise on the attractiveness of the Atlantic natural and cultural heritage through the enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage exploitation (specific objective 4.1) and the promotion of biodiversity protection and ecosystems' services (specific objective 4.2).

Moreover, the cooperation programme through its targeted actions on the reduction of greenhouse gases to promote a low carbon economy will also contribute to air quality and the reduction of PM<sub>2,5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> as defined in the Directive 2008/50/EC, which in contrast to CO<sub>2</sub> are directly harmful to the health of citizens, ecosystems, crops and buildings.

### **9.4 Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

As stipulated in section 2 of the cooperation programme, the Atlantic Area addresses climate change through the priority axis 3, "Strengthening the territory's resilience to risks of natural, climate and human origin. For more information please see section 3.1 of this report. The call launched in 2016 included also this priority axis.

Priority axis	Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
Total	0.00	0.00%

### **9.5. Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme.

The MC is the key decision making body of the cooperation programme. It is composed of representatives of the relevant MS authorities but also of representatives of the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The MC rules of procedure lists the advisory members who are playing the role of partners of the programme:

- the European Commission,

- one representative of the RTA Network of Economic and Social Partners,
- one representative of the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities,
- one representative of the Atlantic Arc Commission of CPMR,
- the chair of the Atlantic Strategy,
- the joint secretariat.

The representative of the RTA, the representative of the Conference of the Atlantic Arc Cities and the chair of the Atlantic Strategy receive all the documents concerning the programme implementation and are invited to the MC meetings, in order to ensure the principle of transparency and good practice. Simultaneously, in avoidance of eventual conflict of interest, the advisory members, as all members of the MC, are bound by rules of confidentiality.

## **10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (a) AND (b), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013**

### **10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations**

The programme officially started at the beginning of 2016 with the launch of the first call in April and the communication strategy approved by the MC in June 2016. Until the end of the year it was concluded the first stage of the first call and was launched the second stage. Therefore, it is premature to evaluate the impact of the measures adopted. However, the big amount of Expressions of Interest (EOI) received under the first stage of the first call, 425 EOI, engaging around 2.400 partner institutions from 18 countries, can be considered as a relevant indicator of lobbying that has been done by the programme bodies on the promotion and dissemination of the programme activities on events and on the digital platforms.

The following target audience was among these partner institutions:

- public-private organisations (according to the definition provided by the World Bank, these correspond to a “long term contract between a private party and a government entity, for providing a public asset or service, in which the private party bears significant risk and management responsibility, and remuneration is linked to performance”),
- small, medium and large enterprises;
- universities and higher education,
- business networks and associations,
- international organisations,
- local, regional and national public organisations,
- public enterprises,
- research and innovation organisations,
- civil society and third sector organisations,
- education and training organisations,
- transnational and cross-border organisations.

The progress in the implementation of the Atlantic Area can be measured by the achievement of the following objectives defined in the communication strategy:

1. Reinforcement of the relationships and internal consistency among programme bodies and strengthening of their management capacity, through the organization of NC and MC meetings and the provision of all the documents and necessary information to support their work;
2. Increase the knowledge about the programme added value through the promotion and dissemination of programme related activities on the website and social networks, organization of a kick-off event and workshops by the NC, participation on events promoted by strategic stakeholders and on exhibition stands;
3. Strengthen linkages with other transnational programmes and networks, reinforcing the communication channels through meetings, online platforms, emails and telephone.
4. Attract relevant potential beneficiaries and strengthen their capacity to present high quality potential proposals, by promoting information events and providing the necessary tools, guidance and forms to apply to the call. For example, the programme manual contain all the necessary information to prepare a good quality project proposal. Guidance to potential beneficiaries was also given by email and telephone.

The other three objectives of the strategy are related with the beneficiaries and projects implementation and, therefore, are not considered for 2016.

## **10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy**

The following communication actions were adopted in order to attain the communication objectives defined:

**Website:** the programme website ([www.atlanticarea.eu](http://www.atlanticarea.eu)) provided the main information and documents related with its implementation, promoted the launch of the first call for projects and the main initiatives, news and events related with the programme's scope. It also provided the necessary information and documentation to support the potential beneficiaries to apply to the first call.

**Social networks:** The programme manages a Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/AtlanticArea>) and a Twitter account (<https://www.twitter.com/AtlanticArea>) with good interaction with the audiences. In December 2016 these were the social networks indicators:

- total page likes on Facebook: 692,
- nr. of posts on Facebook: 48,
- total followers on Twitter: 957,
- nr. of tweets and retweets: 70,
- nr. of impressions: 50.956 (nr. of times the posts were seen),
- nr. of visits to the profile: 7035.

**Events:** the JS/MA organized the kick-off conference with around 350 participants from the five MS. The secretariat participated in 15 events organized by relevant stakeholders: in 3 of these events the programme was present in a stand exhibition (European Maritime Days 2016 in Turku; Third Atlantic Stakeholder Conference in Dublin and Business2Sea in Porto); in 6 of these events some members of the secretariat participated as speakers. The secretariat also participated in 4 network meetings promoted by Interact and two training sessions.

The events in which the JS/MA participated are the following:

- AtlanticTies workshop, March, Liverpool;
- Transnational communication network meeting, March, Vienna;
- Project monitoring and reporting workshop, April, Sofia;
- Programme launching event, May, Porto;
- European Maritime Days 2016, stand exhibition, May, Turku;
- Seminar on the first call, May, Santiago Compostela;
- Comunicar eficazmente a Política de Coesão da União Europeia em Portugal, June, Lisbon;
- General Assembly of the Atlantic Arc Commission of CPMR, June, Pamplona;
- Conference Atlantic Strategy In Action, June, Brussels;
- Interreg annual meeting, June, Brussels;
- Workshop somos atlánticos, June, Vigo;
- Third Atlantic Stakeholder Conference, September, Dublin;
- Workshop Interreg Espacio Atlántico, October, La Coruña;
- Interreg communication officers meeting, October, Brussels;
- Business2Sea without losing North, November, Porto;
- European tourism day, November, Brussels;
- Workshop first call for projects, November, Santiago Compostela;
- Blue Skills thematic network meeting, November, Rostock;
- State Aid in the management of structural funds, November, Brussels.

The other programme bodies organised the following events:

- the Portuguese NC organised one seminar for Portuguese journalists about Interreg programmes,
- the UK NC organized 5 workshops with around 100 attendees each and 8 application clinics and project meetings to provide information about the programme and support project applicants,
- the Spanish NC organized one workshop to address the first call for projects with 243 attendees and promoted the work and progress of the programme in other 10 events,
- the Irish NC promoted the work and progress of the programme in 12 events and provided assistance to applicants on projects related issues in 19 meetings with Irish institutions,
- the French NC promoted the work and progress of the programme in 7 events and promoted around 10 meetings with French candidates to provide assistance to applicants on projects related issues.

**Brand material:** folders, pens, notepads, envelopes and personal cards with the new programme identity were produced and distributed. It was also produced a brochure and thematic factsheets with the programme main information. These materials were distributed in the programme launch event and in other events organized or participated by the JS or the NC. It was also designed and published on the web the brand identity manual.

To improve the efficiency, effectiveness and the coherency of the communication actions implemented, a set of communication assessment indicators were defined in the communication strategy, which results are presented in Table 2 of this document “Output indicators for priority axis 5 (technical assistance)”.

## **11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (Article 14(4), subparagraph 2 (a), (b), (c) and (f), of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

### **11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme**

The programme applies an integrated approach to territorial development by building on Atlantic Area territorial assets, national and regional territorial strategies and challenges.

The projects which will be approved by the programme address territorial challenges, link to relevant national and European territorial development policies (e.g. smart specialisation strategies, regional ERDF programmes) or follow a cross-sectoral approach.

In 2016 at step 1 of the application process launched in April 2016, the applying projects were requested to describe the common challenge they are aiming to tackle and how relevant the issue / challenge is to the Atlantic Area territory. The partnerships also needed to give an overview of the transnational approach. One of the most important quality selection criterion of step 1 assesses the need for transnational cooperation in view of contributing to face common territorial issues (i.e. why the project objectives cannot be reached acting only on a national/regional/local level).

The specific approach on integrated actions for sustainable urban development or the community-led local development instruments, as defined in Article 8(3) of the ETC Regulation, are not applied in the Atlantic Area programme. However, social innovation projects (development of pilot actions on knowledge exchange and collaboration tools: e.g. social innovation platforms, social innovation clusters, observatories, web-based platforms) are included on the specific objective 1.1 “strengthening the transfer of innovation results to facilitate the emergence of new products, services and processes”.

### **11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF**

In 2016, the programme began to implement the simplification measures adopted by the MC and detailed in the programme manual.

In particular, the programme offers the possibility of the following simplified costs options which to facilitate the reporting of costs for all beneficiaries:

- a lump sum for preparation costs for all projects approved in step 2,
- staff costs calculated as a 20 % flat rate of direct costs (all costs other than staff costs and office & administration costs),
- a flat rate for the budget line ‘office and administration’ (15% of staff costs).

### **11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)**

The Atlantic Area programme contributes to the implementation of the Atlantic Strategy.

The priority axis 1 of the Atlantic Area is clearly coherent and will contribute to the PA1 of the action plan of the Atlantic Strategy as both of them aim at promoting innovation by enhancing capacities,

encouraging networking and cooperation between the institutional, research and private actors and promoting knowledge transfer.

The contribution of the Atlantic Area to the second priority axis of the action plan will come through operations financed under priority axis 3.1, providing territorial management and risk prevention tools for climate change adaptation and risk prevention, specific objective 4.1 to enhance the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services and priority axis 2, seeking to contribute to a better resource efficiency in the Atlantic Area.

Actions to improve accessibility and connectivity have not been prioritised under the Atlantic Area since the ongoing evaluation of the Atlantic Area transnational cooperation programme 2007-2013 showed a very scarce demand of projects under former priority 3 related to accessibility and transport.

Finally, operations under specific objective 4.2 will seek to enhance the natural and cultural heritage, leading to an enhanced attractiveness of the Area allowing the region to attract new visitors and develop new local jobs, economic activity, therefore contributing to the fourth priority of the action plan, which aims at creating a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development.

In the year 2016, the programme participated also in several meetings related to the sea basin strategy:

- made a presentation and attended the assembly of the Atlantic Arc Commission on 2 and 3 June 2016 in Pamplona,
- participated in the conference “Atlantic Strategy in action” on 8 June 2016 in Brussels at the Committee of the Regions,
- a stand was also organised in the third Atlantic stakeholder conference in Dublin on 27 September 2016.

Four projects of the Atlantic Area programme 2007-2013 were awarded in the framework of the first Atlantic awards, for the excellent and innovative work developed by these partnerships:

- AtlanticBlueTech (coordinated by Technopôle Brest Iroise), awarded on category entrepreneurship & innovation;
- ArcopolPlatform (coordinated by Centro tecnológico del Mar - CETMAR) on category Atlantic marine and coastal environment;
- Batterie (coordinated by Action Renewables) on accessibility and connectivity;
- AtlanticPowerCluster (coordinated by SODERCAN-Sociedad para el Desarrollo de Cantabria) on category sustainability..

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)  EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)  EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)  EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

**ATLSBS**

Priority(s) and objective(s) that the programme is relevant to:	Priority	Objective

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.1 - Sharing knowledge between higher education organisations, companies and research centers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.2 - Enhancement of competitiveness and innovation capacities in the maritime economy of the Atlantic Area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Promote entrepreneurship and innovation	1.3 - Fostering adaptation and diversification of economic activities by promoting the potential of the Atlantic Area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.1 - Improving maritime safety and security
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.2 - Exploring and protecting marine waters and coastal zones
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.3 - Sustainable management of marine resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment	2.4 - Exploitation of the renewable energy potential of the Atlantic Area's marine and coastal environment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Improve accessibility and connectivity	3.1 - Promoting cooperation between ports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.1 - Fostering better knowledge of social challenges in the Atlantic Area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4 - Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development	4.2 - Preserving and promoting the Atlantic's cultural heritage

**Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the Atlantic SBS**

**A. Are the Sea Basin Strategic coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Priority Area Coordinators or members, and/or Objective coordinators or members) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?**

Yes  No

**Name and function**

The chair of the Atlantic Strategy in 2016, Marcella Smyth from the Irish presidency of the Atlantic Strategy: Marcella.Smyth@dfa.ie

**B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the ATLSBS?**

Yes  No

**C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the ATLSBS?**

Yes  No

**Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSAIR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)**

Not at this stage as decided by the MC.

**D. Obtained results in relation to the ATLSBS (n.a. for 2016)**

Not available/ applicable for 2016.

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

Social innovation projects are relevant for funding and can be selected under the specific objective 1, priority 1 (“strengthening the transfer of innovation results to facilitate the emergence of new products, services and processes”). Actions envisaged this aim at the entire Atlantic Area territory. Development of pilot actions on knowledge exchange and collaboration tools: e.g. social innovation platforms, social innovation clusters, observatories, web-based platforms can be financed.

**12. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT PRIORITY AXIS AND PROGRAMME LEVEL (Articles 21(2) and 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013**

Not applicable this year.

For the purpose of assessing progress towards the achievement of milestones and targets set for financial indicators in the years 2018 and 2023, table 4 of Part A of this Annex shall have the following two additional columns:

13	14
Data for the purpose of the performance review and performance framework	
Only for report submitted in 2019: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries and certified to the Commission by 31/12/2018 Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013	Only for final implementation report: Total eligible expenditure incurred and paid by beneficiaries by 31/12/2023 and certified to the Commission Article 22(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013