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ATLANTIC AREA 2020 TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2014-2020

OUTPUT AND RESULTS INDICATORS CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

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This document sets a conceptual framework to establish output and result indicators and their definitions and scopes; it describes the sources and assurance of information soundness and outlines approaches to fix baselines and targets.

According to article 27^o or Regulation (CPR) 1313/2013, output indicators relate to the operations supported and result indicators relate to the Priority Axis concerned. Thus, **output indicators** are defined in terms of projects deliverables obtained in exchange of ERDF support. **Result indicators** are defined in terms of Programme impact on changes delivered for a Specific Objective and attaining the cooperation territory as a whole.

In compliance with annex II of Regulation (CPR) 1313/2013, **milestones and targets** established for each output and result indicator are defined in view of being:

- Realistic, achievable and relevant, capturing essential information on the progress of objectives;
- Consistent with the nature and character of each specific objectives;
- Transparent, with identified source data publicly available whenever possible;
- Verifiable objectively, without imposing a disproportionate administrative burden;

A. Output Indicators

Output indicators refer to direct deliverables of projects affecting their capacity to produce impacts on the performance of Programme results. In view of monitoring projects' deliverables that may potentially influence Programme results, are defined five output indicators covering comprehensive and complementary aspects of such impact process. Such definitions are established in general terms in order to ensure their applicability to all Specific Objectives. The following output indicators will be applied to monitor each of the Specific Objectives:

PI01-Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented

PI02-Number of technical and scientific publications produced

PI03-Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced

PI04-Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results

PI05-Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results

Rationale

For each specific objective, the projects contribution to Programme results with products and services delivered during implementation shall be monitored. Such contributions begin with case studies and pilot actions implemented in view of

systematising the understanding of common problems and the answers to the needs and challenges of the cooperation territory. The most relevant conclusions of studies and pilot actions shall form the base for the production of technical or scientific papers able to be published in specialised journals. Based on such work one expects the production of proposals useful for public and private stakeholders under the form of policy, strategy and operational methodologies and instruments. However the mere presentation of such proposals will not be sufficient. Projects shall promote active actions aiming to disseminate and capitalise proposals with the goal of widely amplifying their introduction in practices across the Atlantic Area territory.

Specific Output Indicators

PI01-Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented:

Includes relevant case studies and pilot actions implemented during the project lifetime. **Case studies** are research strategies supported by descriptive exploratory or explanatory methods for the analysis of a phenomenon or problem affecting the territory of cooperation in view of producing results useful to deal with them and develop policy-driven theories or even concrete solutions. **Pilot actions** are structured activities implemented to test, steer or control the course of measures addressed to respond to a phenomenon or problem under study in view of producing guidance, planning indications and other elements useful to develop appropriate solutions.

PI02-Number of technical and scientific publications produced

Includes technical and scientific papers produced in the context of studies or experiments developed within project implementation and published or accepted for publication in recognised peer-reviewed journals and magazines.

PI03-Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced

Includes structured contributions of projects as solutions to face a phenomenon or problem under analysis useful and available for use without any kind of restrictions in the Atlantic Area territory. It includes policy and strategy driven models and instruments, action plans, methodologies, integrated software packages, databases, information systems, education and training materials, monitoring observatories and other relevant operational tools.

PI04-Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results

Count of actions addressed to the promotion of project products and services in view of amplifying the number of users. Dissemination and capitalisation actions include awareness raising and training events, scientific and dissemination seminars and conferences, trade and creative shows events, networking linkages for the exchange of

knowledge and best practices and other means for the active promotion and publicising of projects results.

PI05-Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results

Count of the people participating in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results.

Common indicators

From the list of common indicators, firstly were excluded indicators related to areas outside the scope of the Programme intervention: productive investment (indicators 1 to 8), ICT (indicator 10), transport (indicators 11 to 16), social infrastructure (indicators 35 and 36) and labour market and training (indicators 43 to 46).

Secondly, were considered areas with some relation with the Programme scope (sustainable tourism, ETC specific indicators for productive investment, environment, innovation, energy and urban specific indicators). From that list, were excluded indicators related to sub-areas not covered by the Programme objectives: water supply (indicator 18), research (indicators 24 to 27), smart grids (indicator 33), GHG reduction (indicator 34) and rehabilitation of housing and public and commercial buildings (indicators 39 and 40).

Concerning the common indicators 28 and 29, the possibility of having enterprises supported to introduce new products to the market or to introduce new products to the enterprise portfolio will occur only as case studies, and not as direct productive investment. That is why the indicator 1 related to the number of enterprises receiving support was not considered jointly with indicators 28 and 29.

Similarly, it was taken in consideration that all actions related to indicators 30 to 32 (referred to renewable energy and energy efficiency) will be programmed only as case studies, without relevant impact on GHG reduction. That is why it was not considered the indicator 34 concerning GHG reduction.

Therefore, apart from specific output indicators, the following table identify the common output indicators to be used for monitoring each specific objective:

SO	Common indicator
1.1	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects
1.1	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects
1.2	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products
1.2	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products

SO	Common indicator
2.1	Additional capacity of renewable energy production
3.1	Population benefiting from flood protection measures
3.1	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures
4.1	Total surface area of rehabilitated land
4.1	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status
4.2	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions

Performance framework

Having in consideration the weak relevancy of common output indicators to transnational cooperation deliverables, they will not integrate the performance framework. Only specific output indicators integrate the performance framework. However, in view of focusing on what is most relevant, while ensuring effectiveness in the follow-up and analysis of the Programme progress, only the two most pertinent specific output indicators will be included in the performance framework, as well as a financial indicator, all are broken down by priority axis:

- Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented (PI01)
- Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced (PI03)
- ERDF certified and submitted to EC (PI06)

Targets, sources of information and follow-up

Targets are established having in consideration the information available in the monitoring system of the 2007-2013 Atlantic Area Transnational Programme.

The quantification and follow-up of output indicators will be made annually, based on information reported directly by projects.

Milestones and targets for the Output Indicators

2023 targets for Specific Output Indicators were established, according to 2007-2013 OP performance, concerning the number of case studies and pilot actions implemented, of technical and scientific publications produced, of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced, of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation

of results, and the number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results, and in terms of the expected number of projects per specific objective as follows:

SO	ERDF by project forecast	Expected number of projects
1.1	1394741	16
1.2	1387573	17
2.1	1480765	10
2.2	1388312	11
3.1	1694539	9
4.1	1565673	12
4.2	1422244	14

2023 targets for Common Output Indicators were established according to the following assumptions, based on the criteria of one pilot action per investment priority involving all MS:

- Indicators CO28 and CO29: Pilot action involving one participation per MS introducing new to the market.

- Indicator CO30: Pilot action involving tests in all 5 MS for the production of renewable energy of 2 Mw (total of 10 Mw).

- Indicators CO20 and CO21: Pilot action defining strategies or testing operational instruments in 5 towns (one per MS) of about 100 000 habitants (total of 500000 habitants).

- Indicator CO22: Pilot action involving tests in all 5 MS in a small area of intervention of about 0.2 hectares (total of 1 hectare).

- Indicator CO23: Pilot action defining strategies or testing operational instruments addressed to habitats (or part of habitats) of about 500 hectares (total of 2500 hectares).

- Indicator CO09: Pilot action involving one participation per MS addressed to a cultural or natural site with a small number of visitants (about 6000 per year) and aiming to test solutions to increase by 10% the number of visitants.

IP	ID	Indicator	Unit	Target value (2023)
1b	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	33
1b	PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	132
1b	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	66
1b	PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	165

IP	ID	Indicator	Unit	Target value (2023)
1b	PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	10725
1b	CO41	Number of enterprises participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects (common indicator N° 41)	Number	16
1b	CO42	Number of research institutions participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional research projects (common indicator N° 42)	Number	16
1b	CO28	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	Number	5
1b	CO29	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	Number	5
4b	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	10
4b	PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	40
4b	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	20
4b	PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	50
4b	PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	3250
4b	CO30	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	Mw	10
6g	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	11
6g	PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	44
6g	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	22
6g	PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	55
6g	PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	3575
5b	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	9
5b	PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	36
5b	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	18
5b	PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	45
5b	PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	2925
5b	CO20	Population benefiting from flood protection measures	Number	500 000
5b	CO21	Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures	Number	500 000
6d	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	12
6d	PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	Number	48
6d	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	24
6d	PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	60

IP	ID	Indicator	Unit	Target value (2023)
6d	PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	Number	3900
6d	CO22	Total surface area of rehabilitated land	Hectares	1
6d	CO23	Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status	Hectares	2500
6c	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	number	14
6c	PI02	Number of technical and scientific publications produced	number	56
6c	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	number	28
6c	PI04	Number of actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	number	70
6c	PI05	Number of participants in actions for the dissemination and capitalisation of results	number	4550
6c	CO09	Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	visits/year	3000

Milestones and targets for the Performance Framework

Milestones and targets for the Performance Framework were established according to the following assumptions:

-2023 targets: All approved projects will be soundly achieved and all ERDF approved, for each priority, will be completely certified. No underspent funds shall be returned to EC.

-2018 milestones: ERDF certified concerning the number of project expected to be concluded (physical activities) until 31-12-2018. Projections were based on 2007-2013 OP implementation performance in terms of average projects' funding and closure rates.

The number of projects expected to be closed until the end 2018, by priority axis are the following:

PA	Number of projects expected to be closed at 31-12-2018
1	3
2	2
3	1
4	2

Based on the assumptions described above, the 2018 milestones and 2013 targets were defined as shown in the following table:

PA	ID	Indicator of key implementation step	Unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
1	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	3	33
1	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	6	66
1	PI06	ERDF certified and submitted to EC	Euros	4 173 471	47 117 240
2	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	2	21
2	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	4	42
2	PI06	ERDF certified and submitted to EC	Euros	2 869 077	29 744 404
3	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	1	9
3	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	2	18
3	PI06	ERDF certified and submitted to EC	Euros	1 694 539	15 267 039
4	PI01	Number of case studies and pilot actions implemented	Number	2	26
4	PI03	Number of policy, strategy and operational instruments produced	Number	4	52
4	PI06	ERDF certified and submitted to EC	Euros	2 987 917	39 483 720

B. Result Indicators

Result indicators refer to achievements attained through the influence of the Programme in each specific objective. Achievements concern the global changes in the whole Atlantic Area territory independently of partnerships funded to deliver projects' outcomes. Changes refer to progress attained in the well-being of society and in the performance of the economy. The question is about how to measure such changes, and particularly how to measure changes influenced by programmes.

Generally, programmes may influence three kind of changes:

- Changes in behaviours (e.g. populations, economy).
- Changes in awareness or attitudes (e.g. populations, economy)
- Changes in policies and processes

Taking into consideration the scope and resources involved, transnational cooperation programmes have limited capacity to significantly produce direct influence on behaviours or attitudes in the whole intervention area. That is why results indicators were defined in view of following changes on policies and processes and of their impact and consequently in the well-being of society and economic progress. Effectively, by directly influencing policies and processes, it is expected that

transnational cooperation may indirectly induce impacts, including on behaviours and attitudes (through the influence on policies and processes impacting on those behaviours and attitudes).

Furthermore, in compliance with annex XI of Regulation (CPR) 1313/2013, result indicators were defined taking in consideration the following quality criteria:

- Robustness and identification of sources (accuracy and soundness of information may be confirmed through statistical validation mechanisms)
- Clarity of normative interpretation (No misunderstanding about the nature and the sense of changes)
- Responsiveness to policy (changes likely to be linked to Programme effects)
- Timely collection of data (information collected in due time to be useful and effective)
- Publication and public availability (information should be made publicly available in the appropriate aggregated form)

For each result indicator is discussed the rationale justifying options and explaining how they should capture changes in policies, defined concepts and described data sources and measures used for quantifying impacts. Generally, it is not possible to capture achievements on specific objectives through a single indicator. The complexity of changes to be measured involve multidimensional quantifications, which put the question about the monitoring approach to be adopted: aggregation approach through a composite indicator or a multidimensional one through a panel of indicators.

Frequency of reporting of results indicators

All results indicators shall be reported in relation to the following achievement years:

- 2014: with baselines
- 2016: with 2017 annual implementation report in view of answering to the article 50.4 of Regulation (CPR) 1303 whereby progress made towards achieving the objectives of the programme shall be assessed.
- 2018: with 2019 annual implementation report in view of answering to the article 50.5 of Regulation (CPR) 1303 whereby progress made towards, achieving the objectives of the programme and its contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth shall be assessed.
- 2023: with final implementation report in view of answering to the article 50.5 of Regulation (CPR) 1303 whereby progress made towards, achieving the objectives of the programme and its contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth shall be assessed.

Result indicators baselines:

The list of results indicators defined below requires specific actions to be organized in view of their quantification. Result indicators were constructed specifically for the Programme follow-up and they are not directly available in any information system. As a consequence, almost all result indicator baselines require a survey implying a resource and time consuming procedure. The following indicative timeline shows the main actions involved to be developed in the months following EC approval of the OP:

Nº	Action	Months							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Designing and developing the e-questionnaire								
2	List of regional authorities contact persons								
3	Survey								
4	Analysis and treatment of survey results								
5	Definition of baselines and targets								
6	PMC approval and submission to EC								

List of result indicators:

Results indicators are defined, for each specific objective, according to the following concepts:

Specific Objective	Result concept
1.1	Comprehensiveness of public policies in the development of the Atlantic Area innovation systems
1.2	Financing effectiveness for the diffusion of innovation results
2.1	Degree of political commitment to foster local dynamics aiming to increase energy efficiency and develop renewable energy sources
2.2	Comprehensiveness of public policies for eco-innovation and green growth
3.1	Comprehensiveness of public policies in view of improving the resilience of land and maritime areas to climate and nature changes
4.1	Comprehensiveness of public policies in view of improving the biodiversity and the ecosystems services.
4.2	Comprehensiveness of public policies valuing the cultural and natural assets in view of local economic development

1.1 - Comprehensiveness of public policies in the development of the Atlantic Area innovation systems

Indicator: Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for the development of regional innovation systems

Sources of information: Regional administrations

Targets: Percentage of Atlantic Area regions with improved policies for the development of regional innovation systems influenced by the Programme and projects activities

Data collection: 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2023

Rationale:

Projects approved under this objective shall develop dynamics fostering business, social and public sectors to work closely with research institutions in view of strengthening skills and building capacity on innovation. Through the development and dissemination of appropriate strategies, tools and methodologies, projects should create positive dynamics and favourable conditions, generating positive influence over regional innovation policies, with a scope going far beyond their own partnerships. Thus projects shall adopt communication plans aiming at promoting the capitalization of their outcomes through dissemination actions addressed to a wide set of stakeholders outside the partnerships. By contributing to influence changes in policies, the Programme will influence favourable context factors and synergies that may contribute to induce at medium term added skills and capacities in innovation and fostering competitiveness in business, social and public sectors.

Definitions:

This result indicator is a composite concept pooling, for each Atlantic Area region, information about how regional innovation policies cover the following features of well performing regional research and innovation systems as is established in the self-assessment tool provided in the EC communication "Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative: Innovation Union". The indicator is obtained based on an aggregation approach of the following quantifications scored in a scale from 1 to 5, related to the degree of coverage ensured by regional policies and services:

1. Promoting research and innovation as a key policy instrument to enhance competitiveness and job creation, addressing major societal challenges and improving quality of life and ensuring adequate communication to the public
2. Design and implementation of research and innovation policies is steered at the highest political level and based on a multi-annual strategy. Policies and instruments are targeted at exploiting current or emerging national/regional strengths within an EU context ("smart specialisation")
3. Innovation policy is pursued in a broad sense going beyond technological research and its applications

4. There is adequate and predictable public investment in research and innovation focused in particular on stimulating private investment
5. Excellence is a key criterion for research and education policy
6. Education and training systems provide the right mix of skills
7. Partnerships between higher education institutes, research centres and businesses, at regional, national and international level, are actively promoted
8. Framework conditions promote business investment in R&D, entrepreneurship and innovation
9. Public support to research and innovation in businesses is simple, easy to access, and high quality
10. The public sector itself is a driver of innovation

1.2 - Financing effectiveness for the diffusion of innovation results

Indicator: Financing absorptive capacity index addressing the access of business, social and public organisations to innovation results

Sources of information: Data warehouse of the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission and External Common Research Data Warehouse E-CORDA of the Directorate General Research and Innovation of the European Commission

Targets: Percentage of Atlantic Area regions with improved financing absorptive capacity influenced by the Programme and projects activities with the aim of supporting the access of business, social and public organisations to innovation results

Data collection: 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2023

Rationale:

Projects approved under the Specific Objective 1.2 shall develop dynamics fostering the access of business, social and public organizations to innovation results in view of creating new products, services and processes or enhancing their performance with cutting-edge research outputs. Projects should produce useful outputs for the definition of new or enhanced strategies and policies aiming at supporting access to innovation for business, social and public actors, as well as creating dynamics favourable to such processes. Thus, projects shall adopt communication plans aiming to promote the capitalization of their outcomes through dissemination actions addressed to stakeholders outside the partnerships with the aim of influencing positive adjustments in policies. By contributing to increase the number of new or enhanced strategies and policies aiming to promote the access to innovation results it is expected to create favourable context factors contributing to the uptake of innovation in new business opportunities and in the upgrade of social and public services.

Definitions:

Results will be measured through new and enhanced strategies and actions plans eligible for EU financing instruments supporting the introduction of innovation in public, social and business sectors. The absorptive capacity of EU funds is taken as a leading indicator of the effective financing means allocated for the introduction of innovation results into practice. The concept does not include research development, but only the use of research results in public, social and business innovation. According to the OECD Oslo Manual **innovation in business sector** is defined as “the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service), or process, a new marketing method, or a new organisational method in business practices, workplace organisation or external relations”. Following definitions used in the Innobarometer 2010 the **public sector innovation** includes “new or significantly improved service, communication method, process or organisational method. Adopting the concept described in Open Book of Social Innovation (Murray, Calulier-Grice and Mulgan, March 2010) **social innovations** are new ideas (products, services and models) that simultaneously meet social needs (more effectively than alternatives) and create new social relationships or collaborations. This result indicator is a composite concept pooling, for each Atlantic Area region, the following **quantifications**:

- The region’s absorptive capacity of the in attracting EU funds for public innovation, measured by the per capita amount of EU funds financing innovation in public organizations
- The region’s absorptive capacity of the in attracting EU funds for social innovation, measured by the per capita amount of EU funds financing innovation in social organizations
- The region’s absorptive capacity in attracting EU funds for business innovation, measured by the per capita amount of EU funds financing innovation in business organizations
- The region’s leverage power to raise additional funds from further public or private sources to support public innovation, measured by the per capita amount of additional funds financing innovation in public organizations
- The region’s leverage power to raise additional funds from further public or private sources to support social innovation, measure by the per capita amount of additional funds financing innovation in social organizations
- The region’s leverage power to raise additional funds from further public or private sources to support business innovation, measured by the per capita amount of additional funds financing innovation in business organizations
- The strength of public sector as innovation actor, measured by the total number of participations from the public sector (per thousand inhabitants) in EU funding programmes on innovation
- The strength of social sector as innovation actor, measured by the total number of participations from the social sector (per thousand inhabitants) in EU funding programmes on innovation

- The strength of business sector as innovation actor, measured by the total number of participations from the business sector (per thousand inhabitants) in EU funds programmes on innovation

2-1 - Degree of political commitment to foster local dynamics aiming to increase energy efficiency and develop renewable energy sources

Indicator: Percentage of population covered by local sustainable energy action plans.

Source of information: Covenant of Mayors Committed to Local Sustainable Energy

Targets: Percentage of Atlantic Area regions having increased the portion of population covered by a Local Sustainable Energy Action Plan through the influence of Programme and projects activities.

Data collection: 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2023

Rationale:

Projects approved under this objective will develop dynamics fostering public, social and business actors to work closely in view of contributing to the development of renewable energy and of energy efficiency solutions and practices. Through the development and dissemination of appropriate strategies, tools and methodologies, projects should create positive dynamics and favourable conditions, generating positive influence over regional and local sustainable energy policies, seeking to go beyond their own partnerships. Thus projects will adopt communication plans aiming at promoting the capitalisation of their outcomes through dissemination actions addressed to a wide set of stakeholders outside the partnerships. By contributing to influence changes in regional and local policies, the Programme will influence favourably context factors and synergies that may contribute locally in the medium term to increase energy efficiency solutions and develop renewable energy sources.

Definitions:

This result indicator is based on information related to local authorities' signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, a mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities in the fight against climate change and the CO2 reduction objective through increased energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources. The indicator will be based on data concerning all local authorities of the Atlantic Area. The local authorities signatories of the Covenant of Mayors and whose Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) has been accepted will be considered. For each Atlantic Area region, the following ratio presented under the form of percentage will be computed:

$$\frac{\text{Population of municipalities of region i with a SEAp accepted}}{\text{Population of municipalities of region i}} \times 100$$

2.2 - Comprehensiveness of public policies for eco-innovation and green growth

Indicator: Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for eco-innovation and green growth.

Sources of information: Regional administrations

Targets: Percentage of Atlantic Area regions with improved policies for eco-innovation and green growth influenced by Programme and projects activities

Data collection: 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2023

Rationale:

Projects approved under this objective will develop dynamics fostering public, social and business actors to work closely in view of contributing to the enhancement of eco-innovation, eco-efficiency and green growth. Through the development and dissemination of appropriate strategies, tools and methodologies, projects should create positive dynamics and favourable conditions, generating positive influence over regional eco-innovation policies, seeking to go beyond their own partnerships. Thus projects will adopt communication plans aiming at promoting the capitalization of their outcomes through dissemination actions addressed to a wide set of stakeholders outside the partnerships. By contributing to influence changes in regional policies, the Programme will influence favourably context factors and synergies that may induce in the medium term the development of eco-innovation and eco-efficiency and foster green growth.

Definitions:

This result indicator is a composite concept pooling, for each Atlantic Area region, information about how eco-innovation policies cover the following recommendations proposed by the ECOPOL transnational public partnership supported by the EC in the roadmap paper “Championing Eco-Innovation Policy”. The indicator is obtained based on an aggregation approach of the following quantifications scored on a 1 to 5 scale, related to the degree of coverage ensured by regional policies and services:

1. Existence of a simple, cost-efficient platform for transfer and scaling-up of good practices.
2. Existence of means of analysing and measuring the connections between policies and eco-innovation.
3. Focus on intelligent policy mix and multi-dimensional policy instruments.
4. Ensure a stable and clear legal framework for investment security in the field of eco-innovation.
5. Existence of a comprehensive policy framework for supporting new business models based on waste prevention and re-use.
6. Focus on positive discrimination for eco-innovators.

7. Design standards in a way they can support eco-innovations, using dynamic standard-setting.
8. Develop early stage open dialogue on “real needs for eco-innovation” with all stakeholders.
9. Qualify and create new opportunities in the procurement organisations.
10. Implement instruments supporting the raise of the total waste recovery rate with special focus on initiatives aiming to change people’s behaviour.

3.1 - Comprehensiveness of public policies in view of improving the resilience of land and maritime areas

Indicator: Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for the resilience of land and maritime areas.

Sources of information: Regional administrations

Targets: Percentage of Atlantic Area regions with improved policies for the management of risks to achieve an improved resilience as a result of Programme and projects activities

Data collection: 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2023

Rationale:

Projects approved under this objective will develop dynamics fostering public, social and business actors to work closely in view of contributing to strengthen management risks systems to achieve an improved resilience. Through the development and dissemination of appropriate strategies, tools and methodologies, projects should create positive dynamics and favourable conditions generating positive influence over regional risk management policies, seeking to go beyond their own partnerships. Thus projects will adopt communication plans aiming at promoting the capitalisation of their outcomes through dissemination actions addressed to a wide set of stakeholders outside the partnerships. By contributing to influence changes in regional policies, the Programme will influence favourably context factors and synergies that may induce in the medium term the development of more effective and coordinated risks management systems and improving the resilience of populations and territories.

Definitions:

This result indicator is a composite concept pooling, for each Atlantic Area region, information about how risks management policies cover the following principles adopted by the Council of the European Union Justice and Home Affairs meeting of 5 June 2014 and summarised in the “EU Council conclusions on the post 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action: Managing risks to achieve resilience”. The indicator is obtained based on an aggregation approach of the following quantifications scored on a 1 to 5 scale, related to the degree of coverage ensured by regional policies and services:

Improving accountability, transparency and governance

a.1 - ensure that different actors can be held accountable for their actions through a set of non-binding standards and/or guidelines and mechanisms to support implementation;

a.2 - establish voluntary peer review mechanisms, for instance peer reviews successfully conducted in the EU context;

a.3 - encourage the collection and sharing of non-sensitive data on disaster losses, hazards and vulnerabilities in an open data policy;

a.4 - develop systematic actions to raise public awareness of risk and develop a culture of risk management and disaster resilience;

a.5 - enhance governance for disaster management at all levels and across all sectors, building effective coordination mechanisms and long-term partnerships between different public authorities and relevant stakeholders, including local level actors, civil society, academia, research institutions and the private sector;

a.6 - ensure that regional inter-governmental organisations support the national authorities to implement the new framework, including the Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Role of targets and indicators to measure progress and encourage implementation

b.1 – adopt a framework based on delivering results, measuring progress and encouraging implementation by setting targets with an appropriate time frame, which are politically acceptable, operationally feasible, measurable and achievable;

b.2 - adopt a monitoring system performing the tasks of an effective tool for encouraging implementation at different levels, sharing successes and measuring progress, including through indicators that measure the changes in the impact of disasters over time and contribute to the tracking of progress towards building resilience to disasters and reducing vulnerabilities.

Strengthening the contribution to sustainable and smart growth

c.1 - promote disaster-proofing in economic and financial decisions and strategies, in both the public and private sectors and promoting risk sensitivity as well as climate and disaster resilience for all major infrastructure and projects;

c.2 - promote disaster risk assessment and scenario-based capability analyses;

c.3 - develop and implement actions in close partnership with the private sector, international financial institutions and major investors as well as promoting new initiatives for the engagement of all businesses, including encouraging the use of the insurance/reinsurance value chain;

c.4 - promote the use of innovative technologies and instruments to support disaster management;

c.5 - encourage a more systematic and reinforced science-policy interface, including foresight to address future risks and challenges;

c.6 - ensure long-term sustainable, inclusive and green growth through a joint approach with climate change adaptation as part of a risk management approach to

address the risks of climate change and other environmental policies, with a strengthened focus on the reduction of the underlying risk drivers in ecosystem management and on building the resilience of ecosystems for adaptation, as well as on resource efficiency, land use, spatial planning including urbanisation, environmental monitoring and promoting impact assessment;

c.7 promote the implementation of disaster risk management measures and strengthening the capacity at local level through the application of horizontal and vertical approach in developing sectorial policies.

Addressing vulnerabilities and needs in a comprehensive framework

d.1 - address vulnerabilities and needs where it matters most in an overarching framework, factoring in conflict and fragility as well as technological risks alongside natural hazards, including slow-onset natural disasters, local disasters, as well as global shocks and stresses;

d.2 - target and empower the poorest and most vulnerable, harness the important potential of civil society and the private sector to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development objectives, and have a specific focus on the local level and on building urban resilience.

Ensuring coherence with the international agenda

e.1 ensure close coherence with related ongoing international processes, in particular with discussions on the post 2015 Hyogo development agenda and on the design of the 2015 agreement on climate change.

4-1 - Comprehensiveness of public policies in view of improving the biodiversity and the ecosystems services

Indicator: Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for the improvement of biodiversity and ecosystems services.

Sources of information: Regional administrations

Targets: Percentage of Atlantic Area regions having improved the policies for the development of biodiversity and ecosystem services as a result of Programme and projects activities

Data collection: 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2023

Rationale:

Projects approved under this objective will develop dynamics fostering public and private actors to work closely in view of contributing to the protection of biodiversity, and of the ecosystem services provided, as essential element of the existence of human life and the well-being of societies. Through the development and dissemination of appropriate strategies, tools and methodologies, projects should create positive dynamics and favourable conditions, generating a positive influence over regional biodiversity policies, seeking to go beyond their own partnerships.

Thus projects will adopt communication plans aiming at promoting the capitalisation of their outcomes through dissemination actions addressed to a wide set of stakeholders outside the partnerships. By contributing to influence changes in regional policies, the Programme will influence favourably context factors and synergies that may induce a contribution of regions to 2020 EU biodiversity targets in the medium term.

Definitions:

This result indicator is a composite concept pooling, for each Atlantic Area region, information about how biodiversity policies incorporate the following international Aichi targets, which are the base for the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2020. The indicator is obtained based on an aggregation approach of the following quantifications scored on a 1 to 5 scale, related to the degree of coverage ensured by regional policies and services:

A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.

Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services 51

Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

4-2 - Comprehensiveness of public policies valuing the cultural and natural assets in view of local economic development

Indicator: Degree of coverage of regional policies in relation to most relevant EU recommendations for cultural and natural assets as factor of local economic development.

Sources of information: Regional administrations

Targets: Percentage of Atlantic Area regions having improved the policies for the natural and cultural assets as driving factors of economic development as a result of Programme and projects activities

Data collection: 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2023

Rationale:

Projects approved under this objective will develop dynamics fostering public, social and business actors to work closely in view of contributing to the enhancement of cultural and natural assets, as key factors of local economic development. Through the development and dissemination of appropriate strategies, tools and methodologies, projects should create positive dynamics and favourable conditions generating positive influence over regional heritage policies, seeking to go beyond their own partnerships. Thus projects shall adopt communication plans aiming at promoting the capitalization of their outcomes through dissemination actions addressed to a wide set of stakeholders outside the partnerships. By contributing to influence changes in regional policies, the Programme will influence favourably context factors and synergies that

may to induce, in the medium term, the enhancement of cultural and natural assets and the development of related local economic activities and jobs.

Definitions:

This result indicator is a composite concept pooling, for each Atlantic Area region, information about how heritage policies cover the following recommendations adopted by the Council of The European Union meeting of 20 May 2014 and included in the “Conclusions on cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe”. The indicator is obtained based on an aggregation approach of the following quantifications scored on 1 to 5 scale, related to the degree of coverage ensured by regional policies and services:

1. recognise the intrinsic value of cultural heritage and deploy the potential of culture and cultural heritage as a shared strategic resource for developing a society based on democratic, ethical, aesthetic and ecological values, in particular in a moment of crisis;
2. reinforce dialogue with the cultural heritage stakeholders to identify and implement coordinated policies and actions for the sustainable management and development of cultural heritage, as well as promote collaboration with international and intergovernmental organisations, in particular with the Council of Europe;
3. mobilise available resources for supporting, enhancing and promoting cultural heritage via an integrated, holistic approach, while taking into account its cultural, economic, social, environmental and scientific components;
4. contribute to the mainstreaming of cultural heritage in national and European policies;
5. identify and build on the synergies created between the EU and national public policies beyond cultural policy, such as regional development, cohesion, agriculture, maritime affairs, environment, energy and climate change, tourism, education, research and innovation with a view to creating added value;
6. where possible, improve access to funding, make full use of available programmes for the public and private sector, and encourage investment in cultural heritage as a part of integrated strategies for sustainable local and regional development within available national and EU programmes, as well as within the EU Structural Funds in accordance with partnership agreements;
7. continue to support the EU action for the European Heritage Label (initiative designed to highlight heritage sites that celebrate and symbolise European history, ideals, and integration. It aims to strengthen the support of European citizens for a shared European identity promoting cultural property, monuments, natural or urban sites, contemporary and traditional heritage that have played a key role in building and uniting Europe);
8. continue to promote education on cultural heritage, raise public awareness on the potential of cultural heritage for sustainable development and to encourage public participation, especially of children and young people, in cooperation with civil society;
9. improve the collection and analysis of qualitative evidence and quantitative data, including statistics, on cultural heritage;

10. encourage the funding, development and dissemination of digital cultural content as well as the availability of innovative heritage-related services of cultural and educational value to citizens, and promote public access to those digital heritage resources and services, including via Europeana.
11. promote long-term heritage policy models that are evidence-based and society- and citizen driven;
12. enhance the role of cultural heritage in sustainable development, focusing on urban and rural planning, redevelopment and rehabilitation projects;
13. encourage networking and partnerships between cultural heritage and other policy fields, between public and private actors in all relevant domains and on different levels of governance;
14. consider including cultural heritage in the framework of the next Council Work Plan for Culture which will be implemented from 2015 onwards;
15. enhance cross-border, interregional and transnational cooperation on cultural heritage issues with relevant stakeholders,
16. foster traditional knowledge and skills that are necessary to the safeguarding, sustainable management and development of cultural heritage and that should be handed down to future generations, so as to improve human capital and ensure the continuous protection of and access to Europe's cultural assets;
17. further cooperate on a research agenda for cultural heritage and strengthen support for cultural heritage research initiatives within the EU framework programme for research and innovation Horizon 2020 such as the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change.

Annex 1: Composite Indicators

Composite indicators are increasingly recognized as significant tool in policy analysis, as they may combine multiple information summarized within a single indicator, able to compare cross-section and temporal performances, either quantitatively or qualitatively. With a composite indicator approach it is possible to assess the relative position of regions in a certain moment, as well as point out the direction of change across different regions and through time.

Composite indicators combines multiple indicators capturing different views of reality in a single and synthetic one. Individual indicators quantifies from reliable information sources complementary aspects of changes over each specific objective. Generally such indicators are defined in different scales and unities, which puts the question of normalization (to rend them comparable). A wide diversity of normalization methods are available, having properties adapted to different fields and theoretical background.

Having in consideration the nature of adopted result indicators it was taken the normalization approach based on the Min-Max method, which normalizes indicators to have an identical range [0, 1] by subtracting the minimum value and dividing by the range of the indicator values. The following transformation normalizes x_{qr}^t , the value of an individual quantification q for a region r at time t:

$$I_{qr}^t = \frac{x_{qr}^t - \min(x_{qr}^{t_0})}{\max(x_{qr}^{t_0}) - \min(x_{qr}^{t_0})}$$

A second issue on composite indicators approach is about weighting. The following expression gives the composite indicator for region r at time t:

$$CI_r^t = \sum_q w_{qr} \times I_{qr}^t$$

w_{qr} being the weight associated to individual quantification q and region r. Weighting is a sensitive option that may influence results. What should therefore be the criteria supporting weighting options? Given the generalization of the principle of insufficient reason of Bayes and Laplace, whereby, in the absence of sufficient reason to adopt a certain weighting criterion over another one, the same weights are assigned to all individual quantifications. Thus $w_{qr} = 1/n$ for all individual quantifications and regions, where n is the number of individual quantifications in the composite indicator.

The composite index for a single country or the entire Atlantic Area at time t is obtained through the following formula:

$$CI^t = \sum_r w_r \times CI_r^t$$

w_r being the weight associated to a region r , corresponding to the number of residents in that region at time t_0 .

The following sections describes for each result indicator the rationale, definitions, individual quantifications and sources of information. An **action plan** will be established with the aim of producing baselines, to be constructed according to the methodology described above. **Targets** will be established in terms of percentage of Atlantic Area regions having verified an improvement in the corresponding composite index as a result of Programme implementation.

Annex2: Programme Specific Objectives

2.A.1 Priority Axis 1 – Stimulating innovation and competitiveness

Specific Objective 1.1

Enhancing innovation capacity through cooperation to foster competitiveness

The main change sought will be the achievement of an improved cooperation framework to support linkages such as clusters and networks between public, private and research actors, to foster innovation in key regional areas of smart specialisation and to support capacity building to upgrade innovation skills and knowledge in public, social and business sectors.

To achieve an improvement in a reference situation with relatively low innovation standards of relevant sectors of the Atlantic Area, networking and co-operative activities between research centres, higher education, business and the social and public sectors in the five Member States are meant to create those favourable circumstances which can allow the upgrade in their innovation capacity.

The Programme can help to achieve this objective of improving the general conditions to encourage innovation in the Atlantic business community, the public sector, and among social actors, by contributing to transnational collaboration between businesses/social sector/public sector and research/higher education institutions, by facilitating transnational clustering of businesses, by facilitating cooperation with public and social actors and by facilitating transnational business networks. These transnational cooperation links will also contribute to improve the access to technological core facilities in various sectors for researchers and firms working in the respective fields, and to offer technological and knowledge based services accessible to the private, social and public sectors.

As a result of transnational cooperation, the Atlantic Area 2014-2020 seeks to contribute to the creation of better cooperation frameworks between firms/social organizations/public institutions and R&D related bodies across the Atlantic in a number of sectors that show clear potential and where significant opportunities can be identified. Cooperation will therefore foster private, public and social innovation.

Specific Objective 1.2

Strengthening the transfer of innovation results to facilitate the emergence of new products, services and processes

The main change sought is an improved cooperation framework linking research organisations, industry and social and public sector entities in order to improve the existing mechanisms for knowledge transfer. This will contribute to enhance the uptake of all types of innovation (social innovation, product innovation, service innovation, public sector innovation...) facilitating the joint development of activities leading to new products, processes and services.

The Programme will be making a contribution to a reference situation whereby companies and firms and social and public organizations are experiencing the common difficulty of transforming European research into high value added and high profit products and services and more competitive processes.

The Programme will facilitate the market access of innovation results by contributing to the creation of spin-offs and to the consolidation of existing niches of excellence linked to those sectors and fields of activity having a high potential, but also to implement social and public innovation results aimed at developing new solutions to address social and public needs. The Programme will contribute to enable companies, public services institutions and third sector organisations to work together and cooperate with research institutions to facilitate the transfer of knowledge with a view of accessing and using innovation results. This activity will mean in practice that through transnational cooperation, a better knowledge of the existing market, business opportunities and social needs in a number of key area and market niches will be achieved and the exploitation of research outcomes for the development of new technologies, products and services will be enhanced. In other words, the Programme

Specific Objective 1.2

will be supporting firms and the public and third sector to work closer with end-users, to know their needs and limitations, connect with sources of knowledge and promote the uptake of all types of innovation and strategic processes.

As a result of transnational cooperation the Atlantic Area 2014-2020 seeks to contribute to reduce, in certain public and social areas or high potential market segments, the gap between the existing innovation potential and the actual innovation undertaken in the Atlantic area, by supporting the development of business/social/public support strategies and solutions to overcome these challenges.

Priority Axis 2 – Fostering resource efficiency

Specific Objective 2.1

Fostering renewable energies and energy efficiency

The main change sought is a generally improved cooperation framework contributing to an adapted institutional and technical environment to enable the development of favourable conditions for the sector of local renewable energy leading to a better position of the Atlantic Area in the sector of renewable energies and the adoption of energy efficiency patterns and policies.

The common reference situation is the important challenge that the territories are facing due to the pressure that the industry, the economy and the society is putting on the environment and to the abundance of natural resources (sea, rivers/estuaries, wind, biomass...), with already installed and/or planned wind, wave and current energy production capacities and existing energy efficiency strategies and policies, and with a solid number of potential investors and enterprises already operating in the area. Energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy are the main pillars of sustainability in the energy sector. In the present scenario, most of the Atlantic regions have still a long way to go before they can claim to have significant renewable energy capacities installed in the foreseeable future and before adequate energy efficiency patterns are adopted

In the context, the main efforts of the Programme will be concentrated to support three different aspects: a policy-driven strand, a social-driven strand, and technological-driven strand. As far as the institutional environment is concerned, the Programme will contribute to enable the development of favourable conditions for the rise of the local renewable energy sector through promoting exchanges on local policies for the development of renewable energies with regard to research, resource mapping (joint mapping projects of renewable energy resources, structuring of centres of excellence), sharing of reference as concerns clusters, and the legal framework provided for the sector, as well as for the promotion of ultra-low energy buildings, high energy savings and super-efficient appliances. The Programme will contribute to joint work on the development of common local policies supporting all renewable energy market actors in overcoming their many barriers, in establishing governance frameworks for energy efficiency and defining training standards, identifying of specific competences, and promoting the ex-change of know-how. Transnational cooperation will also contribute to develop common methodologies concerning social acceptability (ways of engaging in dialogue with the different categories of users and consumers) and the involvement of coastal communities concerning the development of offshore renewable energies. Cooperation could also contribute to the development of social driven and technological-driven instruments like those related to the provision of information addressed to the industry and end-users about energy saving opportunities and about technical assistance to help making choices on energy efficiency options.

As a result of transnational cooperation, the Programme seeks to contribute to improve the institutional, technical and social framework to promote favourable conditions for the sector of local renewable energy and for the adoption of energy efficiency strategies, including R&D, technology transfer, cluster building, demonstrators, testing's and dissemination of results.

Specific Objective 2.2

Fostering green growth, eco-innovation and environmental efficiency

The main change sought is a strengthened cooperation framework to facilitate awareness raising on eco-innovation and eco-efficiency, the promotion of efficient organisation of businesses and organisations to include the two concepts, and to facilitate an enhanced response to market/public demand of green products and services, through the support to the introduction of an efficient policy mix of supply and demand measures to stimulate research and innovation favourable to green growth.

The reference situation features a fragile environmental balance with a number of threats as a result of anthropic activities, including economic activities. Any approach able to contribute to minimizing these impacts, is likely to provide some relief to the Area while contributing to reduce the use of resources, to limit pollution, to optimise the use of eco-system services and raise the general public, local communities and businesses awareness to the need to make a more efficient and sustainable use of our territory's resources. Promoting green growth and eco-innovation is an efficient manner to go into this direction whilst contributing to smart and sustainable growth. There is also a growing demand for environmental products and services, a strong natural resource base (especially those coming from the sea), the existence of consolidated research groups in environmental themes, proximity of knowledge structure and the fact that mainstream policy support for sustainable development already exists in the Atlantic regions. However uncertainty surrounding the market demand, the profitability of investments, the fact that market prices do not exactly reflect the environmental costs and benefits and the rigidity of the economic structures are major barriers.

In this context, where a wide range of aspects constrain the development of environmentally friendly technologies and the adoption of more sustainable production and consumer patterns, there is no single policy measure that can support eco-innovation and eco-efficiency. The Programme will contribute with the promotion of a comprehensive policy mix addressing the development of innovative products and processes that reduce environmental impacts (producers view), but also putting the focus in the social and cultural acceptance of environmental efficiency as a main principle of usage (consumers view). The Programme will promote joint work supporting the definition of local strategies and policies for the sustainable production and consumption (SPC), the creation and dissemination of consumer information tools on eco-efficiency, the development of instruments and guidelines to facilitate the implementation of cradle to cradle/circular economy initiatives, building eco-innovation triple helix, pilot and demonstration projects, the dissemination of eco-efficiency analysis tools allowing companies to assess and improve the environmental performance of products and services and promoting the adoption of management tools like environmental management systems, life cycle management, design for environment and environmental supply chain management.

As a result of transnational cooperation, the Programme seeks to contribute to better directing investments in eco-innovation and promote favourable conditions for the reduction of material intensity of goods and services and waste, promoting recyclability and improving the durability and the service intensity of goods and services, boosting business cooperation in the area and finally, contributing to the creation of better and more efficient transnational support networks and structure that informs, promotes and fosters eco-innovation, eco-efficiency and green growth within the Atlantic Area.

Priority Axis 3 – Strengthening the territory's resilience to risks of natural, climate and human origin

Specific Objective 3.1

Strengthening risks management systems

The main change sought will be an improved cooperation framework contributing to reduce risks and their impact, to reinforce the safety of the population and the environment, by strengthening resilience and planning

capacity of Atlantic Regions at local and regional level for the management of natural and climatic risks as well as those derived from human activities.

This positive change will be attained from a reference situation whereby the Atlantic façade is exposed to several threats and pressures characteristic of its large coastal area and the effects of climate change. Moreover, a limited regional policy initiatives and cooperation to cope with these important challenges can be observed and the adaptive capacity differs between the regions of the programme area and no region is among those holding highest capacity.

This positive contribution of the Programme will be an increased capacity and the production of enhanced risk management action plans and strategies of the Atlantic territories in order to provide an adequate and coordinated answer to potential arising risks. Thus, the programme will contribute to develop and improve Integrated management plans, local risk management, prevention and mitigation plans the preparation of efficient surveillance, assessment, warning, reporting, planning, coordination and response mechanisms to threats, the development, testing and deployment of new risk management tools and the development and dissemination of awareness raising tools directed at local communities on the benefits of the prevention and management of risks such as coastal erosion, submersion, flooding, marines marine and inland water pollutions, land pollutions, eutrophication, drought, fires etc.

As a result of transnational cooperation, the Atlantic Area 2014-2020 seeks to contribute to a better cooperation framework and to an increase in the number and quality of action plans and coordinated strategies for the prevention and management of risks deriving from several threats as those related to climate change and economy related activities.

Priority Axis 4 - Enhancing biodiversity and the natural and culture assets

Specific Objective 4.1

Improving the protection of biodiversity and enhancing ecosystems' services

The main change sought will be the attainment of a better protected and preserved biodiversity while enhancing environmental resources through an improved cooperation framework able to better coordinate environmental management systems. As a result, measures adopted in the various Atlantic Area territories will be made more compatible. Cooperation will therefore contribute to improved management capacities in the territories both as concerns the environmental protection and the preservation of biodiversity and the enhancement of ecosystems' services.

The impact of the current expanding and increasingly diversified human activities on similar or shared natural ecosystems, in particular marine and coastal ones, and the evolution of physical conditions in a climate change context, which constitutes the reference situation, justify the development of common methodologies for surveillance, monitoring, learning and management adapted to the preservation of this common natural asset.

The Programme will contribute to achieve this objective of promoting and protecting the biodiversity and the sustainable management of ecosystems through more intensive cooperation. This will support the improvement of the state of conservation of natural habitats and terrestrial, aquatic and marine species, contributing to stopping the extinction of endangered species and develop and valorise ecosystem services, including those of the marine environment. It will also help to improve the acquisition, organisation and dissemination of knowledge on biodiversity (support to research, facilitation, management, training and awareness raising schemes).

As a result of transnational cooperation, the Atlantic Area Programme 2014-2020 seeks to contribute to a long term sustainable development by improving the preservation and the compatibility with human use of natural ecosystems, in particular regarding marine, coastal and river basin areas through strengthening and/or enlargement of protected areas. The development of initiatives within this transnational framework will help to achieve a more integrated environmental approach, considering economic and social issues in the management of resources and natural spaces.

Specific Objective 4.2

Enhancing natural and cultural assets to stimulate economic development

The main change sought is an improved cooperation framework in view of a better exploitation and preservation of the Atlantic natural and cultural assets leading to an enhanced attractiveness of the Area allowing the region to attract new visitors and to generate new products and services contributing to develop economic activities, create new local jobs, fix and attract people and create synergies contributing to the improvement of the social well-being of populations.

The main challenge, due to a reference situation where key assets of the area (a well preserved and quality natural landscapes, rich biodiversity and important cultural heritage, with around 30 UNESCO world heritage sites, are confronted to natural, climate change, demographic, economic and urban pressures, will be to enhance the Atlantic Area identity and improve its attractiveness.

The Programme will provide the framework for the exchange and interaction of local communities and authorities and organisations involved in the protection and promotion of the natural and cultural heritage in order to develop adapted and joint strategies, tools and models. Joint actions should be designed in view of promoting and developing the Atlantic territories and natural landscapes (marine and coastal environments, geoparks, forestry resources, green areas, inland waterways etc....) as well as the cultural heritage (tradition, history, gastronomy, cultural industries...) and identity with a sought economic and social impact on local communities. Common strategies will be promoted in order to direct the exploitation of the cultural and natural heritage towards higher added value products and services, including tourism. The Programme will also facilitate the valorisation of local traditional economic and productive activities, services and sectors, and increase the economic return of cultural and environmental based economic activities.

As a result of transnational cooperation, the Atlantic Area 2014-2020 seeks to achieve an enhancement and capitalization of its vast natural and cultural assets to create new sources of wealth. Improving the attractiveness of the territories will contribute to generate more visits and tourists coming to the Atlantic Area, develop new local economic activity and jobs and increase the well-being of citizens.
