

APPENDIX 3B: Survey and Submission Framework



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



European Union

European Structural
and Investment Funds

EU Cohesion Funds 2021 to 2027 Consultation Programme

Introduction and Instruction

The Department for Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) and the Department of Education & Skills (DES), together with the three Regional Assemblies (NWRA / EMRA / SRA) are undertaking a public and stakeholder, engagement exercise to help identify the priorities for the 2021 to 2027 Partnership Agreement and Operational Programmes for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). This survey is designed to receive your submissions on the subject and will help to ensure all information and data is captured and processed in a systematic way.

- * 1. You are strongly encouraged to read the guidance document and background information available on this site www.esif.ie in advance of completing the survey.

There is no requirement to respond to all of the questions unless you wish to do so.

If you wish to use the MS Word version of the survey to make your submission please email consultation@nwra.ie to get a copy of the questionnaire. You can return your completed copy to the same address.

Consent and data protection

Please note that, in the interests of transparency, all submissions will be published on this website www.esif.ie and other official publications portals. By proceeding with this submission you consent to the publication of your submission (including the name of the organisation or, if relevant, individual responding) Please read the addendum relating to privacy and data protection in the link here www.esif.ie/privacy

Please indicate your understanding and consent to proceed with submission by ticking the agree box here.

Approve

2. Please tell us how you heard about this public consultation

- Social media
 Word of mouth
 Direct invitation by email
 Other (please specify)

Section A: Organisation, Group or Individual

3. Is your submission on behalf of:

- An organisation
- An interest group or multi-partner body
- An individual (yourself) *please skip to Q.5*
- Other (please specify)

4. If you answered (a) or (b) above, please state the name and address of your organisation

Organisation

Address

Address 2

City/Town

County

5. If you answered (c) above, please state your name and provide your email address

6. Which of the following categories best describe your interest in this consultation programme: (please select multiple categories if applicable)

- My organisation has been involved in managing or administering ERDF or ESF funding under previous Operational Programme's
- We are current recipients of ERDF/ESF funding or have been in the past
- I/we advise or support organisations in receipt of EU funding
- I have been a participant on an EU funded training or development programme
- I am a public representative with an interest in the development of my region or a sector of society
- Other (please specify)

7. Are you, or your organisation, represented on any other national or regional development networks, boards, committees or partnerships?

- Yes (Please Specify Which)
- No
- Don't Know

Details of Representation

Section 2: Thematic & Spatial Focus

Cohesion policy is the EU's strategy and instrument to promote and support the 'overall harmonious development' of its Member States and regions. It is an important tool to stimulate economic growth, promote social cohesion and to reduce disparities between the regions of the EU. It is a concrete demonstration of European solidarity, ensuring the benefits of increased economic activity are more equally shared.

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), is the Member State Authority for Ireland with overall responsibility for EU cohesion policy and the Department of Education and Skills (DES), have overall responsibility for the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme in Ireland. Both ERDF and ESF+ are co-financed programmes, meaning that EU funding must be matched by a set percentage of national funding. This co-financing rate varies by region. Ireland will have three NUTS 2 regions in the 2021-2027 round, with two different rates of co-financing. As 'more developed' regions, the Southern and the Eastern & Midlands regions will receive 40% in EU financing, while as a 'transition' region the North-Western region will receive 55% in EU financing.

The draft Common Provision Regulations provides that each of the funds as a whole shall support the following broad Policy Objectives:

1. A smarter Europe – innovative and smart economic transformation.
2. A greener, low-carbon Europe
3. A more connected Europe – mobility and regional ICT connectivity
4. A more social Europe – implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights
5. Europe closer to citizens – sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas through local initiatives.

8. Please indicate which of the five strategic policy objectives best aligns with the focus or principles of your submission. Please tick multiple priorities if appropriate.

- A smarter Europe
- A greener, low-carbon Europe
- A more connected Europe
- A more social Europe
- Europe closer to citizens

The Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies (RSES) are the primary development framework and policy for each of the regions under National Planning Framework – Project Ireland 2040

If your submission relates to a specific region please use the ranking dropdown lists in questions 9 to 11 below to indicate which priority from the (RSES) is most relevant to your submission. (select No. 1 for most relevant and if appropriate rank the other priorities in order of relevance)

9. Northern & Western Region: Strategic Themes / Growth Ambitions



Economy & Employment – Vibrant Region



Environment – Natural Region



Connectivity – Connected Region



Quality of Life – Inclusive Region



Infrastructure – Enabling our Region

10. Eastern & Midlands Region: Strategic Themes / Principles



Healthy Placemaking

- Sustainable travel/transport
- Recreation & open space
- Sense of place
- Strong Inclusive communities
- Physical infrastructure
- Public Realm



Economic Opportunity

- Clustering
- Orderly Growth
- Placemaking
- Smart Specialisation



Climate Strategy

- Sustainable Transport
- Energy & Waste
- Flood Resilience & Water
- Green Infrastructure & Eco-system
- Built Environment

11. Southern Region: Strategic Themes

,

Strengthening and growing our cities

,

Regional accessibility

,

Strengthening the quality of life of Rural Areas

,

Transforming transport systems

,

Building a competitive, innovative & productive economy

,

Optimising our international connectivity

,

Strengthening the region's diversity, language, culture and heritage

,

Safeguarding and enhancing our environment – climate action and low carbon

,

Providing infrastructure & services in a sustainable manner

,

Improved education, health & public services for citizens

12. Please use the text box below to (a) describe the issues that your submission seeks to address on a national or regional basis and (b) the priorities for investment, resources and supports that could be developed or enhanced by future EU Cohesion Funding.

If your submission relates to a specific region please indicate which region(s) by including the appropriate regional reference (NWRA, EMRA, SRA)

Section 3: The Funds

ERDF

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion by investing in growth-enhancing sectors to improve competitiveness and create jobs. Its primary focus will be on Policy Objectives 1 and 2 (A smarter Europe and a greener, low-carbon Europe). However, Policy Objective 3 (A more Connected Europe) will also have relevance under ERDF funding. Within these broad areas there are a number of specific objectives which ERDF may address.

Please use the text boxes below each of the Priority Objective's targeted actions to provide your submission, or elements of your submission, that specifically relate to these action themes. Use this opportunity to specifically identify the types of projects or programmes that you would like to see developed to address these themes.

PO1. A smarter Europe – innovative and smart economic transformation

13. Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

14. Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments

15. Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs

16. Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship

PO2. A greener, low-carbon Europe

17. Promoting energy efficiency measures

18. Promoting renewable energy

19. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level

20. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience

21. Promoting sustainable water management

22. Promoting the transition to a circular economy

23. Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

PO3. A more connected Europe

24. Mobility and regional ICT connectivity

PO5. Europe Closer to its Citizens

25. Sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas through local initiatives.

ESF+

PO4 (A more social Europe)

The ESF+ is the EU's instrument for investing in people. It aims to improve employment and education opportunities, to enhance social inclusion and to tackle poverty. The ESF+ will primarily address Policy Objective 4 (A more social Europe). Within this there are a number of specific objectives which ESF+ may address.

Please use the text boxes below each of the Priority Objective's targeted actions to provide your submission, or elements of your submission, that specifically relate to these action themes. Use this opportunity to specifically identify the types of projects or programmes that you would like to see developed to address these themes.

Employment Measures

26. Improving access to employment of all jobseekers, in particular youth and long-term unemployed, and of inactive people, promoting self-employment and the social economy

27. Modernising the labour market institutions and services to assess and anticipate skills needs and ensure timely and tailor made assistance and support to labour market matching, transitions and mobility

28. Promoting women's labour market participation, a better work/life balance including access to childcare, a healthy and well-adapted working environment addressing health risks, adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, and active and healthy ageing

Education and Training

29. Improving the quality, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems, to support acquisition of key competences including digital skills

30. Promoting equal access to and completion of, quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, and to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all

31. Promoting lifelong learning, notably flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account digital skills, better-anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility

32. Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability

Social Inclusion and Health

33. Promoting socioeconomic integration of third country nationals and of marginalised communities such as the Roma

34. Enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection; improving accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems on long-term care services

35. Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived and children

36. Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures

Cross-cutting Themes

Please use this section to address local development issues and localised initiatives including Smart Communities / local partnerships / integrated territorial plans / best practice to addressing thematic barriers. For example, peripherality and rural decline or challenges faced by coastal communities.

37. Use the text box here to make your submission

Section 4: Recovery & Resilience

38. Considering the economic and social impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic and the threat of Brexit on sectors and regional economies we recognise the need to build capacity to support recovery, and build resilience against structural shifts in markets. With this in mind we would like to hear your ideas and suggestions on projects and interventions that tackle and address these challenges.

Please use the text box below and reference specific case studies or examples if available

Section 5: Delivery Mechanisms & Financial Instruments

39. Please comment below on the most effective delivery model to ensure maximum leverage of funds from public and private sectors to regional investments?

40. What can be learned from the design and delivery of the current and previous European Cohesion Funding Programmes in Ireland?

41. European Cohesion Funding is also delivered through a number of Financial Instruments (FIs) in addition to grants. These include loans, guarantees, equity and other risk-bearing mechanisms. What role, if any, do you see for the use of financial instruments in the next programming period?



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Northern & Western
Regional Assembly



Tionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt
Southern Regional Assembly



Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly