

Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 - 2020



Citizens Summary 2020

What is the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)?

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is the main EU Structural and Investment (ESI) Fund used to support economic development in countries and regions across Europe.

The ESI funds have been specifically designed to reduce structural imbalances in economic performance within and between EU member countries.

In the UK funds are administered at a regional level to address regional issues.

Objectives

The strategic objective of the Programme is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion, and high levels of employment and productivity.

The Programme aims to:

- stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity
- encourage business growth
- compete in the global economy

The NI Programme has a total value of €522m, over €313m of which comes directly from the ERDF.



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Useful Links

[NI IGJ website](#)

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Programme Achievements

RECORD LOW ERROR RATE Of 0.04% has been achieved in respect of expenditure claimed from the European Commission (EC) in the accounting year ending 20th June 2020, this is well below the EC's materiality level of 2%.

0.04%

Priority 1:

€128.72m ERDF has been designated to Invest NI through - Provision of grants for R&D and support for Design. 1170 enterprises have benefitted from this assistance. Very encouraging is the 50% rise in the number of Companies engaged in R&D since 2014



Priority 2:

€129.58m ERDF has been designated to Invest NI via Financial Instruments, Selective Financial Assistance (SFA), & Local Economic Development (LED) - Providing a suite of Access to Finance and SME growth initiatives. 354 enterprises have been supported. There has been a significant rise in employment within micro and small businesses up by 19.6% compared to 2014; and the number of SME high growth companies is 69% than 2014.



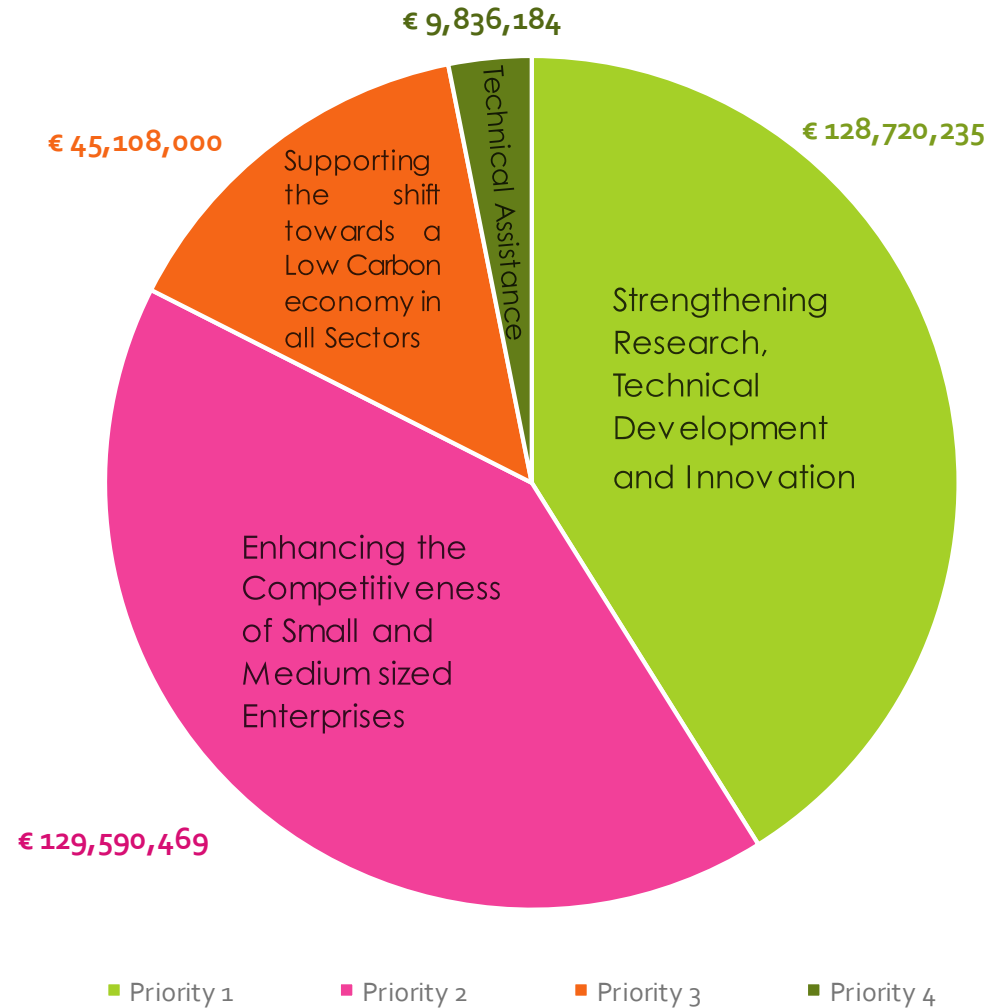
Priority 3:

€22.15m ERDF support for the Belfast Rapid Transit System has been delivered through DFI with a further designation of €23m to DFC to improve energy efficiency in NI Housing Executive's social housing stock



Programme in Numbers

Financial allocations from the European Regional Development Fund



Programme Case Studies



Crust & Crumb

- Invest NI has offered £503k of support to Fermanagh based bakery
- Support went towards 88 jobs, new equipment and marketing development activities
- Helped in developing company's product range; and was key in ensuring they are at forefront of new trends
- Has also helped to secure major deals with leading retailers



Connected Health

- £156k in support from Invest NI has been offered to the Company in the past 3 years
- This has played a significant role in supporting key projects such as Carebox, an in-home care solution which is designed to support older people with virtual care and medication.
- Carebox solution operates in tandem with a patient's own TV to provide medication reminders and direct access to their next of kin or a virtual care assistant.



Unitas Software

- In the past 5 years, £161k of support has been offered to the company from Invest NI
- Support has been key in helping to enhance, define & improve the company's software, and grow from selling in UK, to breaking into EU & US
- Utilising contacts in EU & US has led to the company winning new business and enhancing its reputation

Invest NI publishes press releases to promote ERDF funded activity, a selection of which can be accessed through the following links:

[*Belfast SME Kairos invests in R&D to develop innovate sports technology*](#)

[*Belfast firm Locate a Locum invests over £1m in healthcare software*](#)

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Annual Implementation Report 2020

Read the full version of the Annual Implementation Report for 2020

The NI ERDF IGJ Programme Citizens Summary 2014-2020

Read a summary of the Programme and its role within Northern Ireland