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| European Union Logo | Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014-2020  Citizens Summary 2021 |
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| **In This Issue**   * What is ERDF? * Objectives * Press Releases * Case Studies   **Useful links**   * NI [IGJ website](http://www.jobsandgrowthni.gov.uk/) * [Invest NI website](http://www.investni.com/)   **Contact Us:**  [igjni@economyni.gov.uk](mailto:igjni@economyni.gov.uk) | 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.  The programme has three key priorities:  **Priority 1 – Research Technological Development and Innovation**  €128.72*m* ERDF is allocated to Invest NI for administration of grants to support R&D and to provide consultancy support for business through the Design Service. 1,425 enterprises have benefitted from this assistance and the number of Companies engaged in R&D since 2014, has doubled, 495 in 2014: 990 in 2021.  **Priority 2 – SME Competitiveness (Invest NI)**  €129.59*m* ERDF is allocated to Invest NI to implement Financial Instruments (equity and loan funds) and provide support for entrepreneurship and development of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs). 402 SMEs have been supported and employment within micro and small business is now at 323,000 against a baseline of 297,000. The number of SME high growth companies has increased from a baseline of 695 in 2013 to 745 in 2021.  **Priority 3 – Energy from Renewable Sources (DfI and DfC)**  €45.1m ERDF assigned in total. €22.15*m* ERDF support for the Belfast Rapid Transit System was delivered through Department for Infrastructure. A further c€23m is allocated for improved energy efficiency in NI Housing Executive’s social housing stock. |

|  | Press Releases  Invest NI publishes press releases to promote ERDF funded activity, a selection of which can be accessed through the following links:   * [Paul Millar | Whiterock Capital | Access to Finance - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tT7g-QGgl8g) * [[Neil Simms | Clarendon Fund Managers | Access to Finance - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWQWwvdP8UU)| Clarendon Fund Managers | Access to Finance - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWQWwvdP8UU)   Case Studies  **Elemental Software**   * Invest NI R&D support is enabling this Derry based company to grow its business in Great Britain and ROI. * The Department for the Economy’s 10x Vision identifies companies like Elemental Software as vital for Northern Ireland’s economic future due to their use of innovative technologies to develop healthcare solutions.   **CADshare**   * Support from Invest NI via Access to Fiance has benn offered to this Company through a Techstart Proof of concept grant. * Cadshare enable equipment manufacturers to digitise there spare parts processes which ultimately allows them to provide better customer service and sell more parts. * This support has been key to the creation of 3 more jobs: enabled the company to build a prototype of their product, get it out to market and have their product validated.   **Datactics**   * Datactics has been supported by Invest NI Access to Finance programme via Equity fund Kernal Capital. * This company develop business-user focused data quality and matching technology, making access to clean and usable data within easy reach of the people who need it. * This support has been key in helping to accelerate product development & business accelearation and to hire new Developers in the rapidly growing AI team.   The Managing Authority regularly updates the dedicated [**Programme Website**](http://www.jobsandgrowthni.gov.uk/case-studies/) highlighting the benefit that ERDF funding makes in Northern Ireland  Further Reading  [Annual Implementation Report 2021](http://www.jobsandgrowthni.gov.uk/publications/annual-implementation-report/)  Read the full version of the Annual Implementation Report for 2020  [The Northern Ireland ERDF IGJ Programme Citizens Summary 2014-2020](http://www.jobsandgrowthni.gov.uk/downloads/Master_Citizens_Document_-_Draft_5.pdf)  Read a summary of the Programme and its role within Northern Ireland |
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