

Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme Northern Ireland



Citizens Summary 2021

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.

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 regionally to address regional issues.

Objectives

The strategic objective is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, 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 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](#)

[Invest NI website](#)

Programme Achievements

Programme in Numbers



Priority 1:

€128.72m ERDF is allocated to Invest NI for administration of grants to support R&D and to provide consultancy support for to business through the Design Service. 1425 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:

€129.59m 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 businesses 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.

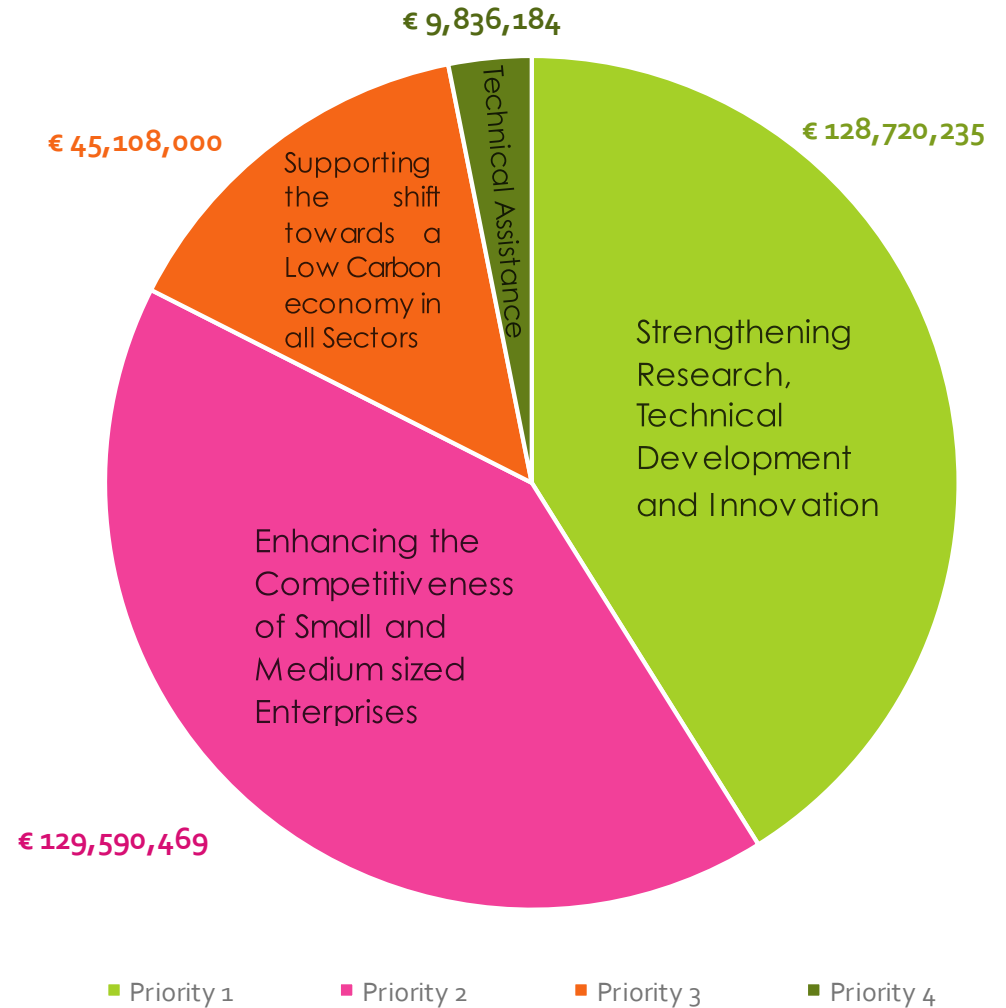


Priority 3:

€45.1m ERDF assigned in total. €22.15m support for the Belfast Rapid Transit System was delivered through the Department for Infrastructure. A further €23m is allocated for improved energy efficiency in NI Housing Executive's social housing stock



Financial allocations from the European Regional Development Fund



Programme 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 Finance has been offered to this Company through a Techstart Proof of concept grant.

Cadshare enable equipment manufacturers to digitise their 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 Kernel 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 acceleration and to hire new Developers in the rapidly growing AI team

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](#)

[Neil Simms | Clarendon Fund Managers | Access to Finance - YouTube](#)

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Annual Implementation Report 2021

Read the full version of the Annual Implementation Report for 2021

The NI ERDF IGJ Programme Citizens Summary 2014-2020

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