

Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014-2020

Citizens Summary 2017



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Programme Overview

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is the main EU Structural and Investment Fund used to support economic development in countries and regions across Europe. Part of the ERDF funding that Northern Ireland receives is delivered through the Investment for Growth and Jobs (IGJ) Programme.

In Northern Ireland the IGJ Programme supports **Research, Technological Development and Innovation, Enhancing the Competitiveness of SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) and Supporting the shift towards a Low Carbon Economy.**

The Programme value is c£454m.

Performance and Progress in 2017

The Programme aims to increase economic growth in Northern Ireland. Whilst the Programme aims to increase business expenditure on R&D over the period to 2023, the percentage of GVA has remained constant since 2012 at 1.4%. However, more encouraging is the increase in the number of companies actually engaged in R&D activity from a baseline of 495 in 2012 to 748 in 2017. The number of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) classified as high growth companies has also increased from a baseline of 695 in 2013 to 965 in 2017 and employment within micro and small businesses is now at 333,000 against a baseline of 297,000. These statistics show that many of the economic factors that we are monitoring are continuing to increase in line with the original Programme forecasts.

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Press Releases

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

[**Coleraine Company Axis Bioservices Ltd Invests in Jobs and Innovation**](#)

[**McCloskey International Demonstrates its Confidence in Mid Ulster**](#)

[**Kainos Set to Revolutionise Healthcare Delivery with Major Investment into Evolve Digital Platforms**](#)

Further Reading

[**Annual Implementation Report 2017**](#)

Read the full version of the Annual Implementation Report for 2017

[**The Northern Ireland ERDF IGJ Programme Citizens Summary 2014-2020**](#)

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

Case Studies

Repstor

The company identified an opportunity to specifically address electronic content management in an environment where very large quantities of information are grouped and managed on a casework basis, such as is required by large legal services companies. They were offered £91,497 of grant support for the "LSCIM project" to develop a platform which manages and protects case and email information within Office 365 by extending the capabilities of SharePoint to help easily manage cases. Secure and familiar case management tools are provided within Office 365 and are accessible from Microsoft Outlook. Users can use SharePoint sites and lists to store case content. Users can apply structure, metadata, workflow processes and policy to each case type easily and consistently. The company is now a Microsoft Gold partner and as a result of the project the company has secured Kana, a Verint Company, which has deployed Repstor solutions across its legal department worldwide to assist with filing, improve collaboration and provide efficient offline working. Three of the UK's top 30 legal firms and a US 1,800 person practice are currently engaged in product trials.

Causeway Sensors Ltd

The company identified an opportunity to investigate biological coupling schemes to nanostructured surfaces for the detection of proteins. The aim of the project was to establish an understanding of a suitable base layer for the detection system and then to identify protocols for the detection of specific proteins which would be of interest to academic and industrial researchers. The technology can be used for detecting cancer and other diseases in their early stages.

In October 2015 Causeway Sensors Limited were offered £98,600 of grant support for their 'Coupling schemes for nanostructured chips' project through the Programme. The company has created prototypes of an instrument that can be used by academics to identify protein detection. The purpose of the Research and Development project is to investigate a detection system that will complement the instrument and tailor its use to areas of key interest to researchers in the field of drug discovery. As a result of the technology developed in the Research and Development and project progress, the company secured £500k of equity financing from the Kernel Capital Growth Fund (also supported under the Programme). The company will use this investment to commercialise the technology both nationally and internationally and in turn create employment for the NI economy.

Case studies are regularly published on the Programme website, highlighting the benefit that ERDF funding makes in Northern Ireland. Click on the link below to see how the companies featured have used ERDF funding to improve their business:

[**Investment for Growth and Jobs Case Studies**](#)