



# Operational Programmes under the Goal of Investment for Growth and Jobs

TO6 – Preserving and Protecting the Environment  
and Promoting Resource Efficiency

This study has been conducted within the thematic capitalisation activities of the INTERREG IVC Programme, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

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# Executive Summary

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For the period 2014-2020, the Interreg Europe Programme will have the task of supporting delivery of European Regional Development Fund for supporting jobs and growth. The ERDF is one of the main investment tools of the European Union, for achieving the aims of the Europe 2020 Strategy, and Interreg Europe can play a vital role in ensuring long-term impact of the funds.

This report looks into the Operational Programmes of the European Regional Development Fund to investigate how regions are investing in Thematic Objective 6 of the ERDF – ‘Protecting the Environment and promoting resource efficiency’, in particular, Investment Priorities 6c and 6g:

6c – Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage;

6g – Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors.

In total, there are to be 311 Operational Programmes managing spending of the European Structural and Investment Funds – 175 of which will be for the ERDF. Through our survey, we have found that 146 of these are concerned with TO6, of which 94 are concerning IP6c, but only six are concerning IP6g. The countries of Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden have no OPs looking at TO6, at all.

We have then examined 23 Operational Programmes that contain IP6c or 6g, in depth – all six for IP6g, and a geographically spread representation of 17 Operational Programmes with IP6c (at least one from each country examining it).

Within IP6c there is far greater emphasis on Cultural Heritage than on Natural Heritage, though most Operational Programmes try to take a unified approach to the topic. The most frequently expected actions are grant investments in infrastructure and facilities, activities to raise awareness and visibility of cultural heritage, and grants for renovation and restoration of heritage sites.

In IP6g, due to the small number of relevant Operational Programmes, there was a much smaller range of actions than in IP6c. The most frequently expected action is the provision of grants to industrial actors (particularly SMEs), for the uptake of eco-innovations and existing technologies, and the funding of pilot projects for testing new technologies, production systems and industrial symbiosis.

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# Introduction

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The Interreg Europe Programme will, for the period 2014-2020, support the delivery of the European Regional Development Fund for supporting growth and jobs. To do this, Interreg Europe will aim to help regions to design and implement regional policies and programmes more effectively, in particular, EU Structural Funds programmes. The programme will facilitate ongoing EU-wide policy learning and capitalisation of practices amongst actors, as well as supporting exchange of experience and sharing of practices. In this way, Interreg Europe can allow regions to improve implementation of their Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes.

In order to maximise impact, Interreg Europe will focus on select Investment Priorities from the common Thematic Objectives of the European Structural and Investment Funds:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (IPs 1a and 1b);
- Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs (IP3d);
- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors (IP4e);
- **Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency** (IPs 6c and 6g).

This report, written by the expert team from Greenovate! Europe, presents an overview of the Operational Programmes established by the Regions and Member States of the European Union that tackle IPs 6c and 6g, and gives a mapping of the thematic orientation of the regions, and indicative information on actions that they are to implement.

This has been achieved by presenting the content and expected actions of 23 Operational Programmes – seventeen under IP6c on cultural and natural heritage (one from each country with an OP covering IP6c) and six under IP6g on resource efficiency (all of those available).

Firstly, the background of the European Structural and Investment Funds are presented, highlighting their new thematic cohesiveness and links with the Europe 2020 Strategy. Then, the Interreg Europe Programme is introduced to explain the link between the programme and the European Regional Development Fund. Then, an overview of 146 ERDF Operational Programmes tackling the topic of Environment and Resource Efficiency is presented, followed by the qualitative overview of the 23 Operational Programmes mentioned above. Finally, Conclusions are drawn on their most frequent actions and aims.

# Background

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The European Union's Regional Policy (or Cohesion Policy) aims to improve the economic performance of the 273 regions of the EU, and reduce disparities amongst them, as set out in Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). It targets all regions and cities of the European Union, to support job creation, competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and quality of life for citizens. As the European Union's main investment arm, Regional Policy must also deliver EU policy objectives.

In particular, Regional Policy for the period 2014-2020 will support the Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, which is aiming to achieve the following goals by 2020:

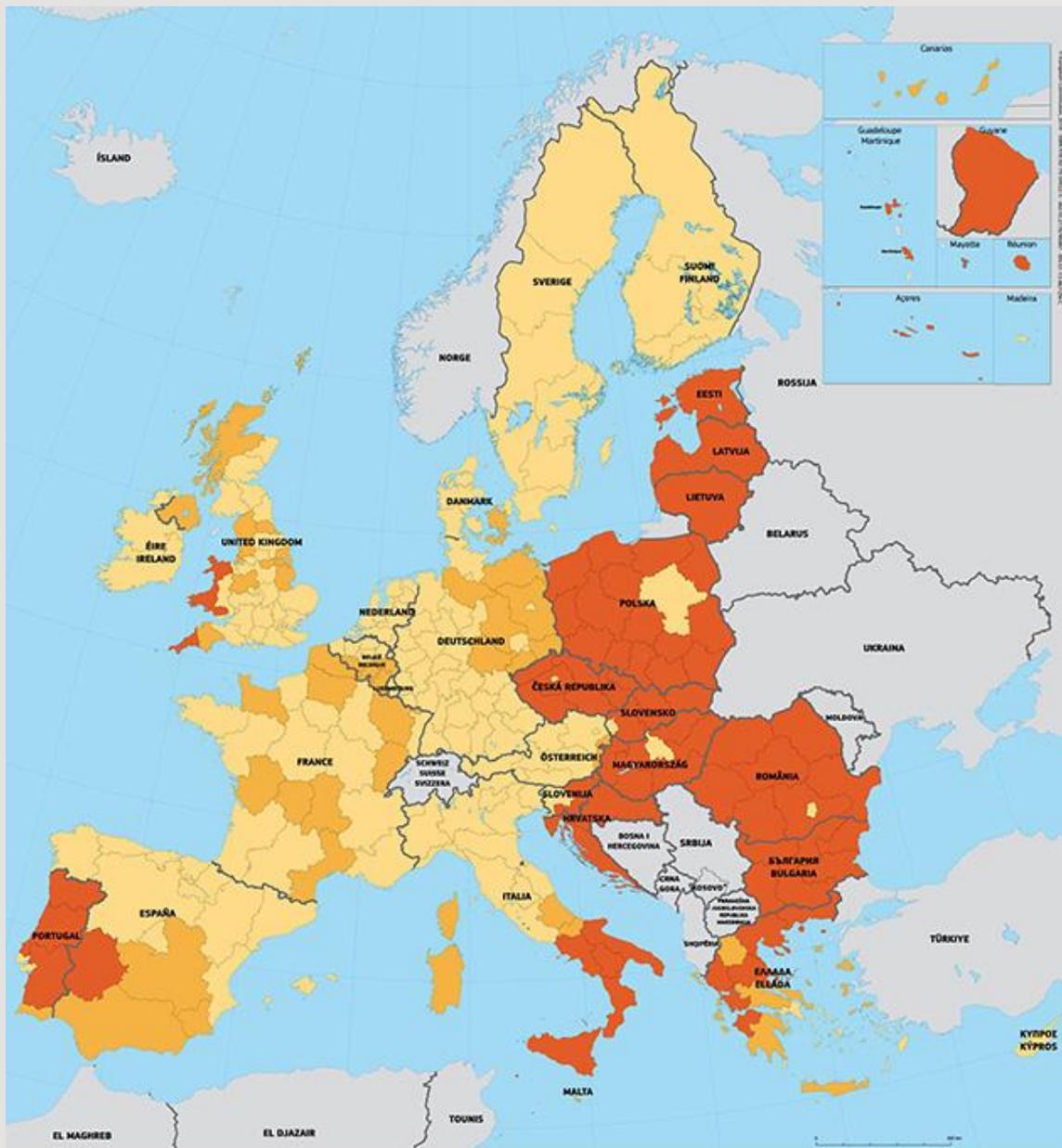
- 1. Employment:** 75% of 20-64 year olds to be employed;
- 2. Research & Development:** 3% of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&D;
- 3. Climate change and energy:**
  - Greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990;
  - 20% of energy from renewables;
  - 20% increase in energy efficiency;
- 4. Education:**
  - Reducing the rates of early school leavers to below 10%;
  - At least 40% of 30-34 year old completing tertiary education;
- 5. Fighting poverty and social exclusion:** At least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Regional Policy accounts for around a third of the EU's budget, totalling around €352.2 billion for the period 2014-2020. The vast majority of this funding (€271.9 billion) is dedicated to the Structural Funds – the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) – for the Goal of Investment for Growth and Jobs. Although all European regions are covered by the Structural Funds, regions fall into different objectives, depending on their level of economic development:

- **More Developed Regions:** GDP per capita of over 90% of the EU average;
- **Transition Regions:** GDP per capita of 75-90% of the EU average;
- **Less Developed Regions:** GDP per capita of less than 75% of the EU average;

Alongside activities to boost growth in the regions, the ERDF also funds the Goal for European Territorial Co-operation, where at least two Member States, or one Member State and a Third Country co-operate to tackle common challenges.

Figure 1 – Eligibility for the Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF)<sup>1</sup>



- Less developed regions (GDP/head < 75% of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP/head between 75% and 90% of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP/head >= 90% of EU-27 average)

<sup>1</sup> Source: European Commission, DG Regio

## Budget (2014-2020) for Structural Funds

Funding Source	Budget (Billion EUR)
Structural Funds	
<b>1. Growth and Jobs (ERDF and ESF)</b>	<b>271.9</b>
Less Developed Regions	182.2
Transition Regions	35.4
More developed Regions	54.3
<b>2. European Territorial Co-operation (ERDF)</b>	<b>10.2</b>
Other Funding	
<b>Cohesion Fund</b>	<b>65.3</b>
<b>Youth Employment Initiative</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Specific Allocations for Outermost Regions</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>352.2</b>

Alongside the Specific Regulations for each fund, a Common Provisions Regulation (1303/2013) was agreed, which aims to improve co-ordination and to harmonise implementation. One result of this was a series of Thematic Objectives, common to all European Structural and Investment Funds.

### Thematic Objectives for the European Structural and Investment Funds

- (1) Strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
- (2) Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, ICT;
- (3) Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs;
- (4) Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors;
- (5) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management;
- (6) Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency;
- (7) Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures;
- (8) Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility;
- (9) Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination;
- (10) Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning;
- (11) Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration.

These Thematic Objectives are broken down further into Investment Priorities in Article 5 of the ERDF Regulation (1301/2013), with each Thematic Objective having between one and seven Priorities.

For 2014-2020, the European Regional Development Fund puts specific investment focus on the first four Thematic Objectives:

1. Innovation and Research;
2. Digital Agenda;
3. Support for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises;
4. Low Carbon Economy.

In order to contribute to the EU's 2020 objectives, the ERDF Regulation also specifies that Operational Programmes must take account of the status of the regions, with different thematic concentrations for each classification:

- **More Developed Regions:** At least 20% of ERDF resources must be channelled towards low-carbon economy projects, and 80% of all spending must focus on at least two of the four priority objectives;
- **Transition Regions:** At least 15% of ERDF resources must be channelled towards low-carbon economy projects, and 60% of all spending must focus on at least two of the four priorities;
- **Less Developed Regions:** At least 12% of ERDF resources must be channelled towards low-carbon economy projects, and 50% of all spending must focus on at least two of the four priorities.

As a first step to deciding spending priorities, Member States draw up Partnership Agreements, in consultation with the European Commission and various levels of national governance, interest groups and civil society. The Partnership Agreements outline investment priorities, objectives, and the number of Operational Programmes that will be implemented, as well as the budget assigned to each. Once agreed by the Commission, Member States produce their Operational Programmes, outlining concrete actions for use of EU funds. Operational Programmes can cover entire Member States or regions, or can be co-operation programmes, covering more than country. Once these Operational Programmes are approved, they are then implemented by the Member States and their regions.

# Interreg Europe

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European Territorial Co-operation (ETC), for the period 2014-2020, has a budget of €10.2 billion. Under Regulation 1299/2013, ETC is required to support the effectiveness of Cohesion Policy.

## **Article 2 of the European Territorial Co-operation (ETC) Regulation (1299/2013)**

Under the European Territorial co-operation goal, the ERDF shall support interregional co-operation to reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy by promoting:

- (a) Exchange of experience focusing on thematic objectives among partners throughout the Union, including in relation to the development of regions referred to in Article 174 TFEU<sup>2</sup> on the identification and dissemination of good practices with a view to their transfer principally to operational programmes under the investment for growth and jobs goal but also, where relevant, to co-operation programmes;
- (b) Exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practices in relation to sustainable urban development, including urban-rural linkages;
- (c) Exchange of experience concerning the identification, transfer and dissemination of good practices and innovative approaches in relation to the implementation of the co-operation programmes and actions as well as to the use of EGTCs<sup>3</sup>;
- (d) Analysis of development trends in relation to the aims of territorial cohesion, including territorial aspects of economic and social cohesion, and harmonious development of Union territory through studies, data collection and other measures.

Within the €10.2 billion budget for European Territorial Co-operation, the Interreg Europe Programme will receive €359 million, with two aims:

1. To facilitate ongoing EU-wide policy learning and capitalisation of practices among actors of regional relevance in order to strengthen regional policies, and in particular the implementation of programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, European Territorial Co-operation (ETC);
2. To support exchange of experience and sharing of practices among actors of regional relevance with the aim to integrate the learning from the co-operation into regional policies, in particular through their programmes for Investment for Growth and Jobs and, where relevant, ETC.

Interreg Europe will achieve this by funding interregional co-operation projects, which allow regions to work together on a shared regional policy issue. By adopting successful approaches from other project partners, the regions involved in these projects should improve how their programmes and policies are implemented. The programme will also provide assistance to regions through Policy Learning Platforms, such as individual advice, peer reviews, thematic seminars and

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<sup>2</sup> Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

<sup>3</sup> European Grouping of Territorial Co-operation

recommendations on implementation of Structural Fund Programmes. In order to increase its impact, the programme will address only four Thematic Objectives:

- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (IPs 1a and 1b);
- Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs (IP3d);
- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors (IP4e);
- Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (IPs 6c and 6g).

For Environment and Resource Efficiency, Interreg Europe will not support all Investment Priorities of TO6, but will instead focus on two – 6c and 6g.

#### **Investment Priorities of Thematic Objective 6 – Preserving and Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency**

**6a** – Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union’s environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements;

**6b** – Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union’s environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by the Member States, for investment that goes beyond those requirements;

**6c – Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage;**

**6d** – Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure;

**6e** – Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures;

**6f** – Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution;

**6g – Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors.**

# Methodology

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In order to allow the Interreg Europe Programme to effectively support delivery of ERDF spending, this report will present an overview of IP6c and 6g in the ERDF Operational Programmes (OPs). A major challenge of the task has been to identify the appropriate Operational Programmes for study. Due to the large amount of information and OPs available, they simply cannot all be covered. This section outlines the methodology taken to ensure that a sufficient number and variety of Operational Programmes were examined, in order to give meaningful conclusions.

As Operational Programmes can cover multiple funds (ERDF, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund), it was necessary to first identify the total number of Operational Programmes containing Investment Priorities under TO6. This was done through a combination of the information on the European Commission website, and a list of Operational Programmes provided by the INTERRG Secretariat. The latter has been particularly useful for the identification of Operational Programmes which are expected to contain TO6 but have not yet been approved by the European Commission. In these circumstances, draft versions have been sought online.

Once the Operational Programmes examining TO6 were all located, they were examined to find the Investment Priorities that they cover. (The cut-off date for inclusion of Operational Programmes was 1 June 2015. Any Operational Programmes published after this date have not been included.) From there, we examined, in depth, at least one Operational Programme from each country that covers IP6c or IP6g. The next step was to provide short profiles of these core OPs. These profiles present the rationale of choosing the IP, the OP's specific objectives under the IP, its expected actions, and its budget and Managing Authority.

Internal language skills of Greenovate! Europe have allowed for examination of the Operational Programmes from Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Further countries, such as Croatia and Malta, have produced their Operational Programmes in English. For the remaining countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Romania – contacts with the ERDF Managing Authorities showed that due to the length and complexity of the documents, translations did not exist and were not envisioned. In order to include information from these Operational Programmes, we used translation software, and online dictionaries, to achieve the best understanding possible, considering these linguistic restrictions.

Finally, we have provided an analysis of these core Operational Programmes, to summarise the key trends in Specific Objectives, Actions and Beneficiaries under IPs 6c and 6g, which, whilst not exhaustive, is indicative of actions being funded throughout the European Union.

## TO6 in the Operational Programmes

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In total, there will be 311 Operational Programmes managing spending of the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund. As the European Social Fund deals only with TOs 8, 9, 10 and 11, this Overview does not take account of its Operational Programmes. As of June 2015, 198 Operational Programmes have been approved, and all Operational Programmes have been signed for 21 Member States. The countries which still need to have some of their Operational Programmes approved, are: United Kingdom, Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Spain, Italy and Sweden. Draft OPs have been sought for these countries, where available.

From our initial scoping exercise, it is our understanding that 175 of the 311 Operational Programmes are for the ERDF. The European Commission DG Regio website allows for Operational Programmes to be ordered by Thematic Objective, but not by Investment Priority. An initial filtering by TO shows that there are 132 ERDF Operational Programmes, tackling TO6. Further investigation has revealed an additional 14 draft Operational Programmes concerned with this TO. This means that 146 out of 175 Operational Programmes for the ERDF cover at least one IP from TO6. Twenty-three of the EU Member States have at least one region focusing on TO6; the countries with no regions are Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden.

The table below shows the results of the exploration of the 146 Operational Programmes for the ERDF, which cover at least one Investment Priority under Thematic Objective 6. The table presents each OP in relation to the seven TO6 Investment Priorities. As there are different types of Operational Programmes, the table indicated whether they are:

- National Operational Programmes (NOP) – covering all regions of a Member States;
- Regional Operational Programmes (ROP) – Covering one region, only;
- Interregional Operational Programmes (IOP) – Covering multiple regions.

## Overview of TO6 Priorities in Available Operational Programmes<sup>4</sup>

NOP = National Operational Programme ROP = Regional Operational Programme IOP = Interregional Operational Programme	6a – Investing in the waste sector	6b – Investing in the water sector	6c – Protecting natural and cultural heritage	6d – Protecting and restoring biodiversity	6e – Improving the urban environment	6f – Promoting innovative technologies	6g – Supporting Industrial Transition
<b>Austria</b>							
Austria NOP					✓		
<b>Belgium</b>							
Brussels ROP					✓		
Flanders ROP					✓		
Wallonia ROP					✓		✓
<b>Bulgaria</b>							
Environment NOP (Draft)	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Innovation and Competitiveness NOP							✓
<b>Croatia</b>							
Croatia NOP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Cyprus</b>							
Cyprus NOP			✓		✓		
<b>Czech Republic</b>							
Environment NOP	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Integrated ROP (Draft)			✓				
<b>Estonia</b>							
Estonia NOP		✓		✓			
<b>France</b>							
Alpes IOP			✓	✓			
Aquitaine ROP			✓	✓			
Auvergne ROP				✓	✓		
Burgundy ROP				✓	✓		
Champagne-Ardenne ROP				✓	✓		
Corsica ROP			✓				
Franche-Comté ROP			✓		✓		
French Guiana ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓			

<sup>4</sup> Operational Programmes are available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/atlas/programmes/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/)

NOP = National Operational Programme ROP = Regional Operational Programme IOP = Interregional Operational Programme	6a – Investing in the waste sector	6b – Investing in the water sector	6c – Protecting natural and cultural heritage	6d – Protecting and restoring biodiversity	6e – Improving the urban environment	6f – Promoting innovative technologies	6g – Supporting Industrial Transition
Guadeloupe ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Guadeloupe & St. Martin IOP		✓					
Île-de-France ROP				✓			
Languedoc-Roussillon ROP			✓	✓			
Limousin ROP			✓	✓			
Loire IOP			✓	✓			
Lorraine ROP				✓			
Lower Normandy ROP			✓		✓		
Martinique ROP	✓	✓	✓				
Massif Central IOP			✓	✓			
Mayotte ROP	✓	✓	✓				
Midi-Pyrénées ROP				✓			
Nord-Pas de Calais ROP			✓	✓	✓		
Pays de la Loire ROP				✓	✓		
Picardy ROP				✓	✓		
Poitou-Charentes ROP				✓			
Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur ROP				✓			
Pyrenees IOP			✓				
Reunion ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Rhône IOP			✓	✓			
Rhône-Alpes ROP				✓	✓		
Upper Normandy ROP			✓	✓	✓		
<b>Germany</b>							
Bavaria ROP			✓		✓		
Berlin ROP					✓		
Brandenburg ROP					✓		
Hessen ROP					✓		
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern ROP			✓		✓		
Lower Saxony ROP			✓	✓	✓		
North Rhine-Westphalia ROP				✓	✓		
Saarland ROP			✓				
Saxony ROP			✓		✓		

NOP = National Operational Programme ROP = Regional Operational Programme IOP = Interregional Operational Programme	6a – Investing in the waste sector	6b – Investing in the water sector	6c – Protecting natural and cultural heritage	6d – Protecting and restoring biodiversity	6e – Improving the urban environment	6f – Promoting innovative technologies	6g – Supporting Industrial Transition
Saxony-Anhalt ROP			✓		✓		
Schleswig-Holstein ROP			✓		✓		
Thuringia ROP				✓	✓		
<b>Greece</b>							
Attica ROP	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Central Greece ROP		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Central Macedonia ROP		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Crete ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eastern Macedonia-Thrace ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Epirus ROP		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ionian Islands ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Northern Aegean ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Peloponnese ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
South Aegean ROP		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Thessaly ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Western Greece ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Western Macedonia ROP		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation NOP			✓			✓	✓
Transport, Infrastructure and Environment NOP	✓	✓		✓	✓		
<b>Hungary</b>							
Competitive Central Hungary ROP			✓	✓			
Economic Development and Innovation NOP			✓				
Environment and Energy Efficiency NOP	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Territorial and Settlement Development NOP					✓		
<b>Ireland</b>							
Southern and Eastern ROP					✓		
Border, Midland and Western ROP					✓		
<b>Italy</b>							

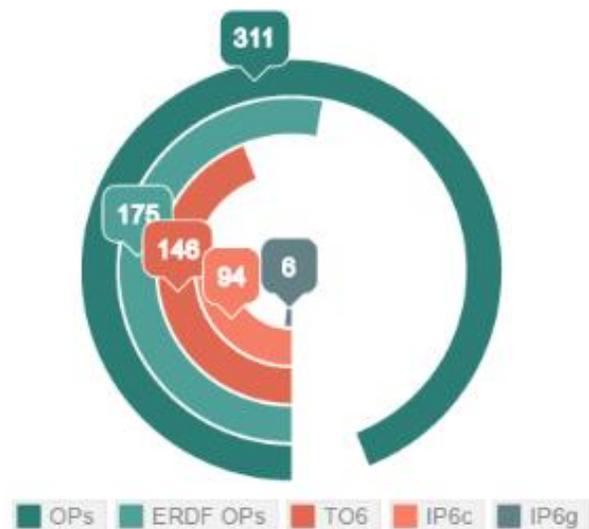
NOP = National Operational Programme ROP = Regional Operational Programme IOP = Interregional Operational Programme	6a – Investing in the waste sector	6b – Investing in the water sector	6c – Protecting natural and cultural heritage	6d – Protecting and restoring biodiversity	6e – Improving the urban environment	6f – Promoting innovative technologies	6g – Supporting Industrial Transition
Abruzzo ROP (Draft)			✓	✓			
Aosta Valley ROP			✓				
Apulia ROP (Draft)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Basilicata ROP (Draft)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Calabria ROP (Draft)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Campania ROP (Draft)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Culture NOP			✓				
Emilia Romagna ROP			✓				
Friuli-Venezia Giulia ROP (Draft)			✓				
Lombardy ROP			✓				
Marche ROP			✓				
Molise ROP (Draft)			✓				
Piedmont ROP			✓				
Sardinia ROP (Draft)	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Sicily ROP (Draft)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tuscany ROP			✓				
Umbria ROP			✓				
<b>Latvia</b>							
Latvia NOP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Lithuania</b>							
Lithuania NOP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Malta</b>							
Malta NOP	✓	✓	✓				
<b>Poland</b>							
Kujawy-Pomerania	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Łódź	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Lower Silesia	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Lublin	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Lubusz	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Małopolskie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Masovia	✓		✓	✓			
Opole	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Podkarpackie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Podlaskie	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Pomerania	✓	✓	✓	✓			

NOP = National Operational Programme ROP = Regional Operational Programme IOP = Interregional Operational Programme	6a – Investing in the waste sector	6b – Investing in the water sector	6c – Protecting natural and cultural heritage	6d – Protecting and restoring biodiversity	6e – Improving the urban environment	6f – Promoting innovative technologies	6g – Supporting Industrial Transition
Silesia	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Świętokrzyskie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Warmia-Masuria	✓	✓	✓	✓			
West Pomerania	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Wielkopolska	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Infrastructure and Environment NOP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Portugal</b>							
Algarve ROP			✓		✓		
Alentejo ROP			✓		✓		
Azores ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Centro ROP			✓		✓		
Lisbon ROP			✓		✓		
Madeira ROP			✓		✓		
Norte ROP			✓		✓		
Sustainability and resource efficiency NOP	✓	✓		✓	✓		
<b>Romania</b>							
Large Infrastructure NOP (Draft)	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Regional Programme NOP (Draft)			✓		✓		
<b>Slovakia</b>							
Environment Quality NOP	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Integrated ROP		✓			✓		
<b>Slovenia</b>							
Slovenia NOP		✓		✓	✓		
<b>Spain</b>							
Basque Country ROP				✓			✓
Castile-la Mancha ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Catalonia ROP			✓	✓	✓		
Galicia ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓			
La Rioja ROP			✓	✓			
Murcia ROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>United Kingdom</b>							
England ROP (Draft)				✓		✓	
Scotland ROP				✓			✓

NOP = National Operational Programme ROP = Regional Operational Programme IOP = Interregional Operational Programme	6a – Investing in the waste sector	6b – Investing in the water sector	<b>6c – Protecting natural and cultural heritage</b>	6d – Protecting and restoring biodiversity	6e – Improving the urban environment	6f – Promoting innovative technologies	<b>6g – Supporting Industrial Transition</b>
<b>NUMBER</b>	51	59	94	84	73	4	6

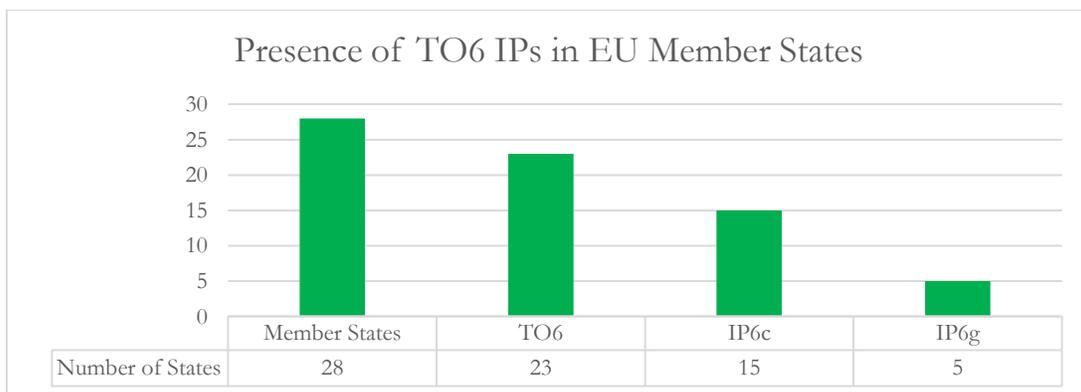
By far the most frequently occurring Investment Priority in the Operational Programmes is IP6c on Cultural and Natural Heritage. The least frequent is IP6f, on Promoting Innovative Technologies. A moderate number of OPs are examining waste and water treatment, particularly in those countries which are still converging with the European average, and adapting to the Acquis Communautaire on these issues (Poland, Greece, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania).

The initial mapping of the 146 Operational Programmes with TO6 shows that 94 OPs will cover the Priority of Protecting Natural and Cultural Heritage (6c), whilst six will cover the Supporting Industrial Transition Priority (6g).



The graphic to the right shows the total number of Operational Programmes being produced to cover all ESIFs (311), the number of OPs for the ERDF (175), and then how many are looking at TO6 and IPs 6c and 6g in particular.

The chart below shows the breakdown of the number of EU Member States with at least one ERDF Operational Programme looking at TO6, and then how many are looking at IPs 6c and 6g.



# Natural and Cultural Heritage

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In order to explore the actions being undertaken by European regions for ‘Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage’, this section will present examples from a selection of Operational Programmes with a Priority Axis directing ERDF funding towards this IP. These OPs are as follows:

1. Croatia – National OP
2. Cyprus – National OP
3. Czech Republic – Integrated Regional OP
4. France – Franche-Comté OP
5. France – Upper Normandy OP
6. Germany – Bavaria OP
7. Germany – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern OP
8. Greece – Central OP
9. Hungary – Economic Development and Innovation OP
10. Italy – Tuscany OP
11. Latvia – National OP
12. Lithuania – National OP
13. Malta – National OP
14. Poland – Mazovia OP
15. Portugal – Centro OP
16. Romania – Regional OP (Draft)
17. Spain – Catalonia OP

The aim of this section is to answer the following questions by presenting indicative examples from all of the OPs covering IP6c:

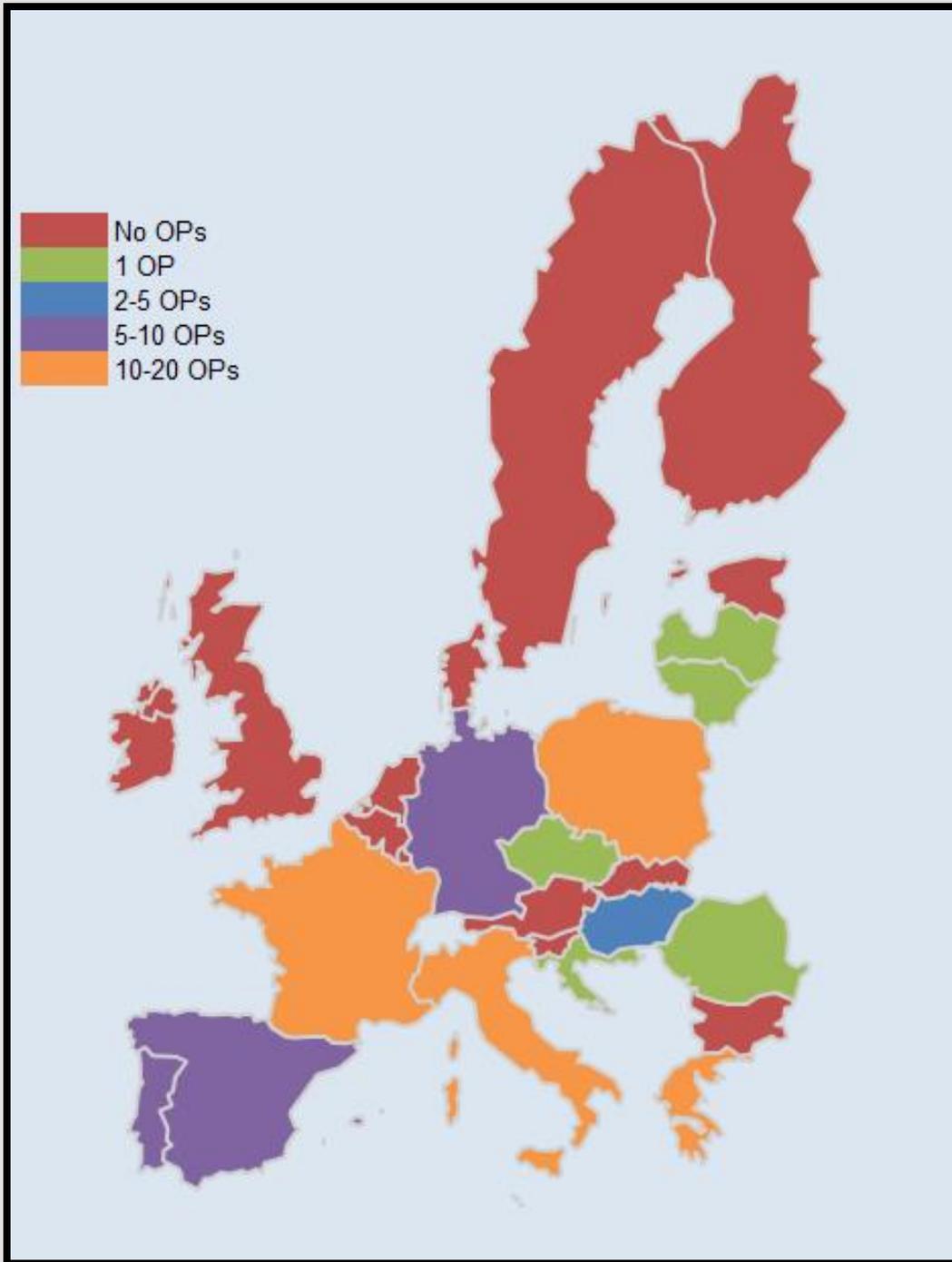
1. Which **specific objectives, measures and actions** are planned by Managing Authorities to implement IP6c?
2. Have certain OPs identified **specific bodies or allocated specific budget** for the implementation of IP6c?
3. Which OPs have planned to make use of **article 96.3 (d)** of 1303/2013 that allows for co-operation activities in the investment for growth and jobs goal? Have they already planned specific activities?

Operational Programme will be introduced with a summary of the relevant priority axis, then the specific objectives created for IP6c, actions that are expected to be funded (with examples where given) and some information on their budget and any financial instruments or large scale projects.

We found no examples of the use of Article 96.3(d) in these OPs.

The map below shows the distribution of Operational Programmes with an IP6c focus throughout the EU, as presented in the last section, ‘TO6 in the Operational Programmes’.

Geographic distribution of Operational Programmes dealing with IP 6c – Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage



Croatia's National Operational Programme establishes a Priority Axis on 'Environmental Protection and Sustainability of Resources', looking at investment priorities 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d and 6e. Croatia has around 8,000 objects on its list of protected cultural heritage, including seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 14 intangible phenomena on the UNESCO List of Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Cultural heritage presents a focal point for tourist attraction, but overall management is not sufficiently in line with national economic goals, primarily with the potential for job opportunities.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Increasing employment and tourist expenditure through enhancing cultural heritage** – This SO aims to result in preserved, reconstructed, revitalised and well-managed cultural heritage sites, to increase tourist arrivals and overnight stays and boost the performance of local SMEs. The target is to increase employment in the sector by one thousand people, and increase turnover by €120 million by 2023.
- **Increasing attractiveness, educational capacity and sustainable management of natural heritage sites** – This SO aims to improve management of visitors to heritage sites to ensure they are used sustainably, and to improve the tourist offer given by these sites. The target is to increase the number of visitors to national parks by around 230,000 and the percentage of such visitors informed about natural heritage to 30% by 2023 from 1% in 2014.

### Foreseen Actions

The main target groups of the actions of the Croatian NOP are governmental bodies and institutions, regional and local authorities, owners of cultural heritage, legal entities managing environmental resources, civil society organisations and the private sector (SMEs). Examples of actions to be financed to achieve the specific objectives are presented below.

#### **Increasing employment and tourist expenditure through enhancing cultural heritage**

- Renovation and reconstruction of cultural heritage sites (archaeological sites, industrial heritage, fortifications, castles, manor houses, palaces, ethnologic heritage) and construction of related infrastructure as well as improvement of services provided at cultural heritage sites and the creation of new services which will contribute to integrated tourism development and enhance 10 cultural heritage development programmes;
- Improvement of cultural heritage management by development of management plans, conservation analyses and guidelines for identified culture heritage sites;
- Developing new tourism products related to cultural heritage;
- Raising public awareness of cultural heritage through education and promotion in order to increase the visibility of the

sites.

#### **Increasing attractiveness, educational capacity and sustainable management of natural heritage sites**

- Investment in nature education facilities and infrastructure for visitors, school children, students, and volunteers (e.g. information and education centres, info points and other visitor infrastructure), primarily nearby or in protected and Natura 2000 areas;
- Development of innovative content and ideas based on unique natural attractions (such as multimedia presentations of historical, scientific and cultural genesis or development, digital expositions, informative and educational tours);
- Education and public awareness initiatives focused on innovative presentation and promotion of natural attractions and related knowledge, with new innovative, state of the art forms of interpretation of natural heritage.

The Ministry of Culture is preparing a call for proposal, ‘Cultural heritage – Project Management Plan Preparation’, to deliver an assessment of tourism and overall economic employment potentials. Only investments that can undeniably prove their positive contribution to the local economy and employment, as well as sustainability, will be considered for financing.

#### **Budget and Financial Instruments**

€338,020,392 from the ERDF will be distributed via non-repayable grants, representing 4.9% of ERDF spending in Croatia. No financial instruments or large scale projects are envisioned.

The Managing Authority is the Ministry of Regional Development and European Union Funds.

### **Cyprus – National OP**

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Cyprus is establishing two Priority Axes which will be looking into IP6c – Axis 4b on Natural and Cultural Resource Management (which also examines IP6d), and Axis 6 on Sustainable Urban Development (which also contains IPs 3a, 6e, 7c and 9b). ERDF funding will deal with the country's needs regarding maintenance, protection, utilisation and promotion of natural and cultural resources, and the protection and restoration of biodiversity and soil. Through these interventions Cyprus aims to fulfil Acquis Communautaire requirements in the fields of solid and liquid waste, the management of water resources, the protection and restoration of biodiversity and exploitation of natural and cultural resources, with a view to achieving sustainable development conditions through the green economy.

#### **Specific Objectives under IP 6c**

- **Improving the attractiveness of areas of natural or cultural interest** (Priority Axis 4b) – The management of natural resources and protection of the environment are important parameters for the country to contribute to differentiating and increasing the

competitiveness of the economy through tourism. The proposed interventions will protect and promote areas of natural and cultural interest and aim to improve their attractiveness for tourists. The target is to increase income from visits to areas of cultural heritage.

- **Improving the attractiveness of urban areas of natural or cultural interest** (Priority Axis 6) – The implementation of interventions in urban areas should lead to economic benefits from the coupling of the sectors of tourism and heritage. The aim of this is to increase the income received from visits to archaeological areas, monuments and museums.

## Foreseen Actions

### Axis 4

Under Axis 4, actions will focus on the conservation, promotion and enhancement of monuments and sites of cultural interest, as well as on linking and reinforcing accessibility to places of cultural interest, mainly in archaeological sites. Priority will be given to projects for UNESCO monuments. Investments will be in equipment and small-scale infrastructure scale (including cultural and tourist infrastructure) with a cost not exceeding €5m, or €10m for UNESCO sites. Actions related to tourism to be promoted under this investment priority will relate only to preserving, protecting, promoting and developing the natural and cultural heritage.

Beneficiaries will be responsible public bodies and local authorities. Under this Axis large scale projects are not foreseen.

### Axis 6

Within the framework of Strategic Sustainable Urban Development, Actions will concern the protection and enhancement of the natural environment of cities, such as green areas and coastal fronts of urban areas. Actions will also be funded that improve the attractiveness of cities, thus strengthening and upgrading their image and identity, through the promotion and utilisation of historical and cultural heritage. Again, priority is to UNESCO heritage sites, and the same spending restrictions as Axis 4 apply.

Beneficiaries will include Responsible public institutions (e.g. Ministry of Interior, Department of Town Planning and Housing, Ministry of Communications and Works, Department of Antiquities), local authorities and Enterprises. Large projects are not foreseen for this Axis.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

Axis 4b has a budget of €7million, which represents 1.25% of ERDF spending in Cyprus. Axis 6 has a budget of €60.25 million, 10.72% of ERDF spending.

The Managing Authority for Cyprus is the Directorate General for European Programmes, Co-ordination and Development

## Czech Republic – Integrated Regional OP

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The Czech Republic's national Integrated Regional Operational Programme establishes a Priority Axis on 'Good governance areas and streamlining of public institutions', covering IPs 6c, 2c and 11, with the aim of strengthening and modernising institutional and administrative capacity of public administration and supporting sustainable development of territory. A key element necessary for enhancing competitiveness and sustainable development is cultural heritage, which forms a substantial component of local employment. The Czech Republic has an extensive cultural heritage, and maintaining appropriate and effective use could improve the quality of life of the population and create a prosperous environment, with a highly positive impact on employment and economic prosperity.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Streamlining presentations, and strengthen the protection and development of cultural heritage** – The aim of the SO is to preserve, protect and develop the potential of cultural heritage, with the aim of increasing the number of visitors to monuments and heritage institutions from 21.8 million per year to 22.7 million by 2023.

### Foreseen Actions

The OP recognises that a prerequisite for economic growth will be the restoration of heritage site and modernisation of technology to make better use of information and communication technologies for streamlining administration and making heritage available to the public. The OP, in particular, regards the digitisation of cultural heritage to be important, offering a convenient way to preserve and allow access to digitised material, regardless of its physical location.

Monuments for revitalisation will include UNESCO sites and those recognised by the country's 'Indicative list of national cultural monuments', created by the Ministry of Culture and the National Heritage Institute. Project examples include restoration of monuments, boosting the security of

visitors, removing access barriers, the construction of new exhibitions, restoration of parks, digitisation of museum and library collections and improvement of security and lighting facilities. The main target groups will be visitors, owners of heritage or entities with management rights, and local residents and businesses.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

The Priority Axis as a whole has a budget of €425 million - 9.2% of the ERDF budget. No financial instruments and no large projects will be used.

The Managing Authority is the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic.

## France – Franche-Comté OP

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The region of Franche-Comté is establishing a Priority Axis on 'Promotion and sustainable touristic development of the Jura Mountains', covering IPs 3d and 6c. The Jura Mountains have many assets that could be useful for touristic development – they offer rich and contrasting natural territory, a protected environment, a wide variety of accommodation types, snow and outdoor activities with significant potential for diversification, sites and museums as well as a rich built heritage, and gourmet, local products. However, the Regional Council thinks that the mountains suffer from low awareness, a deficit in accommodation, out-of-date skiing equipment and weak protection of natural and cultural heritage.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Increase the attractiveness of the Jura Mountains** – The aim of the specific objective is to increase awareness of the Jura Mountains by developing the touristic offer of the region throughout the year, to valorise on the natural and cultural heritage, including industrial tourism, and promote the Jura Mountains as a tourist destination. This will be assessed by questionnaires from the regional authority, with the aim of increasing awareness of the mountains from 54 to 60% of respondents by 2023.

### Foreseen Actions

All actions should contribute to the attractiveness of the Jura Mountains and support diversification and strengthening of the tourism offer; the preservation and enhancement of natural and cultural assets of the territory; and communication campaigns. Beneficiaries of the actions will be public and private carriers, including museums, public authorities, associations, and businesses (particularly

SMEs). The actions within the Operational Programme are presented under three different subheadings.

#### **Diversification of services supplied**

This heading is based on the development of an accessible and diverse tourist offer, with activities available throughout the year. Diversification of the supply will take place by creating facilities conducive to outdoor activities, both in winter, with the development of all winter sports, and in summer and spring, with mountain biking, hiking, water sports, and horseback riding, to greatly improve the attractiveness of the destination. Actions include:

- Development of tourist attractions and site development for outdoor sports (climbing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, water sports, etc.);
- Improving conditions for hikers: signage, accommodation conditions, transport development, targeted actions for young people, etc.;
- Development of beginners' hiking activities, with the creation of sustainable, green, walking paths and bike paths;
- Extending and upgrading museums and cultural facilities with enhanced expertise.

#### **Natural and Cultural Heritage**

This heading aims to support the quality of the preserved environment and the rich natural and cultural heritage, of the mountain region, valuing the many natural and cultural sites in the territory. Actions include:

- Funding studies and investments related to the protection and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage. For example, development of natural areas, conservation efforts and actions aimed at removing visual pollution;
- Studies and work on the restoration of the morphology of rivers and aquatic ecological continuity for some exemplary projects.

#### **Promotion of the Jura Mountains as a tourist destination**

This heading supports the implementation of actions to promote the destination, with the aim of making it more attractive by promoting its image and reputation, to develop its clientele.

- Promotional activities and external and internal communication of the Jura Mountains, including the use of digital marketing and services, to improve responsiveness to customer demands, but also to better target different consumer profiles and to adapt services to them.

## Budget

The Budget for the Priority Axis will be €11.5 million, which will represent 6.3% of ERDF spending in the region. No financial instruments or large projects are foreseen, and spending will be through non-repayable grants.

The Managing Authority is the Regional Council of Franche-Comté.

## France – Upper Normandy OP

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The Upper Normandy Operational Programme is establishing a priority axis composed of IPs 6c and 6d on, 'Enhancing cultural heritage and preserving the natural heritage of Upper Normandy.' Upper Normandy has rich natural, cultural and architectural heritage, and a strong historical identity,

with abbeys, castles manor houses, parks and gardens. The region also has a strong industrial tradition, with a major port and industrial heritage sites. Although these assets are strong, the region believes that this heritage could be further developed to provide an improved touristic offer. The 6c priority dedicated to enhancing cultural heritage has been chosen to give cultural sites a more valuable economic role.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Increase the attractiveness of heritage in Upper Normandy** – The OP aims to increase the number of visitors to cultural sites to 3.5 million people per year by 2023, up from 2.95 million in 2012.

### Foreseen Actions

Upper Normandy intends to increase the attractiveness of its territory for tourists by emphasising unifying thematic areas. This will be achieved by enhancing the tourism potential of heritage and by supporting the emergence and strengthening of a network logic between different heritage actors and locations, by promoting synergies to define a multi-year collaboration strategy for their actions. The main beneficiaries of actions will be regional and local authorities, private owners and public institutions.

#### Cultural and tourist routes

The creation of trans-regional routes or destinations around cultural and artistic themes will consolidate existing heritage assets through networking of actors. Two example routes include:

1. **An artistic and cultural itinerary around impressionism** – including the creation of a European label to increase the attractiveness of landscapes, sites and monuments enhanced by the creativity of this artistic movement
2. **An artistic and cultural itinerary around Norman abbeys** – including the creation of a European label to increase the attractiveness of monuments and buildings and financial support to promote crafts related to the construction of such monuments and integrate contemporary artistic movements.

#### Enhancement of parks and gardens

Upper Normandy features many parks and gardens which have artistic, botanical, historic and even gastronomic value. Some currently benefit from the label, 'Remarkable Garden'. Activities for other gardens could include studies for itinerary development and for identifying measures for conservation and preservation, which could then be financed.

#### Promotion of Industrial Heritage

Industrial heritage reflects industries which are no longer found in the region, such as mills and factories, which can be promoted to illustrate local economic history and for better understanding of the landscape. Enhancement of the sites can lead to this heritage being a motor, and not a break, to tourism in the region.

### Creating a Viking Interpretation Centre

Upper Normandy's history and culture has been strongly marked by the Viking incursions, providing an appropriate framework for the implementation of an interpretive centre on the Vikings. This project calls for collaboration of recognised specialists in conducting an initial feasibility study, before any further action is taken.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

€14 million will be dedicated to this Axis, with €4 million going to investment priority 6c, through non-repayable grants.

The Managing Authority is the Regional Council of Upper Normandy.

### Germany – Bavaria OP

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Bavaria is establishing a Priority Axis on Sustainable Development of Functional Spaces, looking at IPs 6c and 6e. The Axis seeks to protect and develop cultural heritage and important monuments and sites, to make the region more attractive and competitive, for citizens, visitors and local businesses. This will also boost regional identity and increase quality of life, whilst maintaining the region as an attractive business hub.

#### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Assurance and mediation of cultural heritage through development of the Bavarian museum landscape** – Museums are regarded as local nuclei of urban cultural identity, and the promotion of museums can increase the attractiveness of the region for both local citizens and visitors, through its diverse interrelationships (tourism, liveable city centres). The effect of the interventions is measured by the extent to which the number of visitors increases in the non-state museums of Bavaria, which should rise from 12.7 million to 13.5 million by 2023.
- **Securing cultural heritage through development of architectural monuments and culturally significant historical buildings** – The SO will support measures for safeguarding cultural heritage monuments, which are anchors and identification points for sustainable development of cultural heritage. The number of approved Grade II construction authorisations will be taken as an indicator. This should be raised slightly from 10,459 in 2013 (no target figure is given).

## Actions

Actions under the first Specific Objective aim to increase the attractiveness of museums, which are responsible for collecting, preserving, researching, exhibiting and mediating cultural heritage. As many museums are accommodated in historic buildings, and there have been significant advances in standards of exhibition presentation and preservation, actions will involve building retrofitting and modernisation of presentation technology. Museum funding can be an important impetus for urban economic development and can contribute to an increase in tourism. The region will support the development and implementation of sustainability strategies for the restoration and conservation of heritage, as well as supporting knowledge transfer on restoration between research and practice. Under the second Specific Objective, monuments and culturally significant buildings will be revitalised to enable sustainable use of cultural heritage. Only the renovation of the outsides of the monuments will be funded. The cost of the interiors as well as subsequent maintenance and operation will not be covered.

The main beneficiaries of funds will be local authorities and associations, for the benefit of the local population and tourists.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

The priority Axis as a whole (including IP6e) will have a budget of €58 million, which will be distributed through non-repayable grants. No financial instruments or large projects are foreseen.

The Managing Authority is the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Media, Energy and Technology, Department Five: Investment, Finance and Structural Policy.

## Germany – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern OP

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Mecklenburg-Vorpommern has established a Priority Axis on Support for Integrated, Sustainable City Development, integrating IPs 6c, 6e and 9b. The coastal region has strong environmental potentials, and rich cultural heritage, having a number of important monuments and buildings from the hanseatic period. The Hanseatic cities of Stralsund and Wismar are included as UNESCO World Heritage sites, but the region also has a number of castles, stately homes, gardens and parks which have a high value for leisure activities, not only for tourism, but also for education, social inclusion and public services.

## Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Improve the sustainable use of cultural heritage in the top and middle-order cities of the Land** – The aim of the objective is to reduce by 15-20% the number of buildings of cultural importance which are endangered, and for which there are significant repair and modernisation needs. These buildings should be brought into a condition for sustainable, permanent use.

## Foreseen Actions

Investments will be directed towards the preservation and development of cultural and historical monuments and buildings, such as castles, mansions and manor houses with their associated gardens and parks. Projects will support re-use of these cultural monuments, for touristic purposes, or for municipal infrastructure, such as schools or day-cares. If necessary, the creation or revision of urban development plans will be supported under the measure. Investments will also be provided to ensure that heritage protection laws can be obeyed, primarily through funding training activities. Funding will also be targeted towards facilities for the protection of objects of cultural heritage.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

The budget for the Priority Axis as a whole is €161.5 million, or 17.4% of ERDF spending. The support of the project costs for cultural heritage will be provided through non-repayable grants.

The Managing Authority is the Joint Managing Authority for the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD, within the State Chancellery of the Land of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

## Greece – Central OP

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For the support of Cultural and Natural heritage, Central Greece is establishing a Priority Axis on Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency. The Axis also covers IPs 6b, 6d, 6e and 6g. Central Greece has many important sites of cultural heritage which can be used to boost tourism and contribute greatly to economic development. In addition, the region has rich and varied natural resources. Whilst the environmental situation is satisfactory, the area faces a number of natural risks, such as floods, fires and coastal erosion due to climate change in urban, forest and coastal areas. The protection and promotion of natural and cultural resources is crucial to maintaining the identity of the region, the quality of life of its residents, and for maintaining the region's attractiveness as a place of residence and tourism.

## Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Protection and development of cultural heritage and natural resources, in particular for tourism purposes** – The objective supports the protection and sustainable management of natural and cultural heritage, which will be used for developing new forms of tourism, to boost the regional economy. The aim of the objective is to increase the number of overnight stays in the region (477,600 to 488,000 per year).

## Foreseen Actions

The OP supports investments for the protection and promotion of monuments and sites (for example, Delphi, Tolofonas, Kirra, and Orchomenos), measures for the protection of natural resources, habitats, forests and landscapes, and enhancement and certification of museum infrastructure.

### Specific measures include:

- Creation of a route as a 'signature' tourism product that links the archaeological sites and attractions in a single network of cultural tourism;
- Remediation and restoration of polluted areas such as river Asopos and industrial Halkida-Oinofyton;
- Completion of regional planning for the management of waste and expansion of infrastructure for waste management, to cover most of the settlements of the region;
- Conservation and protection of the mountains, the seas, protected areas and natural habitats;
- Risk management, especially risks resulting from climate change such as fires, floods, coastal and soil erosion, and other risks such as earthquakes and industrial risks;
- Improvement of infrastructure and water resource management systems;
- Highlighting the cultural heritage of Central Greece and increasing the visibility of its cultural profile;
- Monitoring the quality of the environment, in particular the quality of water, soil and air through the use of modern technology;
- Protecting and improving the urban environment through integrated interventions, especially in comparatively larger urban centres such as Lamia and Chalkida;
- Setting strategic direction for integrated cultural action at local level and developing collaborations.

Central Greece will not fund any projects (isolated or integrated) with a budget of greater than €5m. Beneficiaries are expected to be first and second level Local Authorities, curators of archaeological sites, cultural institutions and the Ministry of Culture.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

The Priority Axis has a budget of €6.5 million, representing 6.9% of ERDF spending in the region.

The Managing Authority is the 'Management Service of the Regional OP of Central Greece 2014-2020'.

The national-wide Hungarian Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme has established a priority axis on Tourism. Tourism accounts for around 9% of GDP and around 9.2% of employment (2014 figures), and has significant growth potential. The OP regards preservation and protection of cultural heritage as being of national importance, in particular for contributing to economic competitiveness. Heritage sights are generally owned by the state, but have untapped value that needs to be unlocked by adapting to new trends in tourism. In particular, greater networking and interlinking of cultural sites has been recognised as a necessity for the country, in order to reach a critical mass and avoid replication of effort in promoting heritage.

### Specific Objectives under IP6c

- **Increasing revenues from domestic and international tourists from the cultural and natural heritage sites** – The SO aims to increase annual revenues from tourism from €3.9 billion to €4.3 billion by 2023.

### Foreseen Actions

Efforts will be made primarily towards priority projects in the less developed regions of the country, and to support networks across the country. Priority actions for cultural and natural heritage will also have to show that can be economically sustainable. The OP does not propose any large-scale investments – none will exceed €5million, except for World Heritage Sites which may receive up to €10 million – with the goal of supporting small-scale, sustainable and authentic cultural sites, which are clearly distinguishable from each other. Networking activities should not, therefore, risk local cultural characteristics.

Areas covered by priority are:

- Development of thematic networks of cultural and natural heritage of international importance;
- Development of internationally significance attractions ("magnets"), which engage regional actors to create territorial concentrations for new tourist target groups;
- Developing natural tourist attractions, taking into account the particular needs of young people;
- Promoting spa resorts to develop an internationally competitive environment.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

IP6c has been allocated a budget of €306.5 million – almost 4% of Hungary’s allocated ERDF spending. This headline figure is to be distributed in grants, broken down into the following sub-sections:

1. Promoting development of the tourism potential of natural areas – €63.65 million
2. Protection, development and promotion of national tourism assets – €213 million
3. Development and popularisation of state tourism services – €29.85 million

The Managing Authority is the Ministry of National Economy, Deputy State Secretariat, responsible for the Economic Development Plan.

## Italy – Tuscany OP

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The Regional OP for Tuscany has a Priority Axis named ‘Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting the efficient use of resources,’ which focuses only on IP6c. Cultural activities are central to Tuscany, a region that attracts a great many number of tourists. The region’s cultural heritage is seen as being of great historical and artistic value, and the region has 718 museums, with 666 of them open to the public. However, most tourists visit only the major museums in the cities of Florence, Pisa and Siena. The Axis aims to concentrate on five topics, to link major attractions together with other attractions which have lower growth potential, but homogenous themes.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Improving the conditions and standards of supply and use of cultural heritage in tourist areas** – This SO aims to boost the number of visitors to state and non-state cultural institutions.

### Foreseen Actions

The specific objective will be pursued through interventions for enhancing cultural heritage and building networks, and through the implementation of measures to support dissemination of knowledge. Actions in the OP are aimed at the co-ordination of cultural attractions, recognising the importance of main tourist attractions to build networks around five thematic areas. It is expected that this will increase the attractiveness of cultural heritage, by excluding references to individual attractions, but rather focusing on cultural areas and the five themes.

1. **The Etruscans in Tuscany – The Ancient Cities of Etruria** – The ROP intends to enhance museums and archaeological sites, to provide as complete a reading as possible of the history of Etruria.
2. **The Middle Ages – La Via Francigena** – The objective is to enhance the historic and artistic heritage of the medieval period related to the pilgrimage route of the Via Francigena, particularly, structures related to the Knights Hospitaller and to the reception of pilgrims in the city of Siena.
3. **The Renaissance in Tuscany – Villas and Medici Gardens** – The goal of interventions under this themes is to increase the number of visits to Medici villas, to promote the integrated knowledge and consumption of renaissance heritage, particularly lesser-known villas.
4. **Science** – Tuscany boasts substantial heritage in the areas of science and natural history, and interventions under this theme aim to increase access to, and use of, the heritage and collections of museums and universities.
5. **Contemporary Art** – Under this theme, the Luigi Pecci Museum will be enhanced as a centre of the regional system of contemporary art, to increase use by residents and tourists.

A limited number of interventions will be selected for each theme, ranging from €1 million to €5 million, or up to €10 million for UNESCO registered sites. Each project will involve, among the beneficiaries, one or more major, 'leading' cultural attraction, and another cultural attraction of relevance to the thematic area, with at least 40,000 visitors per year.

The types of measures to be supported are:

- Interventions in cultural infrastructure aimed at the enhancement of museums and their collections;
- Fixed investments in equipment for the renovation of museum exhibits and improvement of access and itineraries;
- Investments in ICT and services for the use of cultural content in an integrated manner, including through the use of digital technologies;
- Interventions to improve the accessibility of museums, with particular attention to overcoming the physical and cultural barriers that hinder the use of assets;
- Studies and analysis for the introduction of innovative and sustainable management models;
- Networking with other institutions and cultural sites in the region.

Extra support will be given to the dissemination of knowledge and use of cultural heritage, through the creation of innovative services and systems, and the use of advanced technology. These activities will be cross-cutting through the five thematic areas. For example, the establishment of an online information system of the established networks, allowing for ticketing, reservations and other services.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

€14,858,522 (3.75% of ERDF) will go to supporting IP6c, which is matched by the national contribution, equalling €29,717,044 total. No use of financial instruments is foreseen.

The Managing Authority is the Region of Tuscany, Directorate General of Economic Development.

## Latvia – National OP

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The Latvian OP is establishing a Priority Axis on Environmental Protection and Resource Efficiency, which covers IP 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d and 6e. It recognises natural and cultural heritage as being vital for commercial and regional development, but also recognises that it is currently an undervalued and under-used resource. Supporting the use of heritage can contribute to the development of various economic sectors in the country, thus ensuring the development of local business and fostering local government revenue growth. Cultural and natural heritage development will contribute to an increase in the number of overnight tourists, including at the Baltic Sea coast, where seasonal vacationers cause a significant negative impact on the environment. At the same time it will contribute to the areas of environmental quality and improve citizens' quality of life, which is essential to reduce the depopulation trends.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **To preserve, protect and develop the important cultural and natural heritage, as well as related services** – This SO aims to ensure that investments result in cultural and natural heritage protection, but also that heritage is deeply integrated into local economic structures, to boost their economic contributions. The success of the SO will be assessed by the number of overnight stays in accommodation in Latvia per year, seeking to increase it from 3.7 million to 4.1 million by 2023.

### Foreseen Actions

ERDF investments will be aiming to preserve, protect and develop insufficiently used cultural and natural heritage sites and objects, making them more attractive and accessible, as well as expanding the supply of content and finding new features to enhance the quality of their use. Investment in cultural and natural heritage has a direct impact on the cultural and natural growth of tourism, and, in the long run generates social and economic benefits. The Baltic Sea coast is significant both as an area of economic activity and as an internationally recognised area with a unique natural and cultural heritage, whose potential has been identified, but is not fully used.

Investments are intended for areas with untapped potential for development – primarily historic sites and landscapes with outstanding cultural and natural values. Investments will be concentrated

to ensure that they will have the largest possible impact on regional development, and growth of businesses and employment.

Indicative eligible activities include development of programmes for important cultural and natural heritage sites and related infrastructure recovery, rebuilding and restoration, and the construction of new infrastructure in order to improve the services of cultural and natural heritage sites, as well as develop new services. The target groups will be local governments, SMEs that act as service providers to heritage sites, citizens and local and international tourists.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

€430 million is dedicated to the Axis, covering the various IPs. This represents 9.8% of ERDF funding in the country. No large scale projects or financial instruments are foreseen.

The Managing Authority is the Latvian Ministry of Finance.

### Lithuania – National OP

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Lithuania's Priority Axis on Environmental protection, sustainable use of natural resources and adaptation to climate change, covers Lithuania's selected TO5 and TO6 IPs, including IP6c on Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Axis will encourage Lithuania to adapt to climate change, reduce vulnerabilities in the natural ecosystem, and improve public life and economic performance. Significant effort will be put into flood risk mitigation and coastal management, with climate change threatening the environment, human health and life, cultural heritage, economic activity and infrastructure.

#### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Increase public awareness of their environment and improve visibility and visitor numbers of cultural and natural heritage sites** – Lithuania had the lowest percentage in the EU of population that had visited at least one heritage site per year, and the OP believes this is a result of poor public awareness of Lithuania's cultural and natural heritage. The indicators for this objective are to increase the percentage of the population who are well informed about the environmental resources of the country from 55 to 65%, to increase the percentage of the population that have visited a cultural site in the past year from 53 to 60%, and to boost the number of tourists who visit heritage sites from 4.4 million to 4.8 million

## Foreseen Actions

Actions in the OP are aiming to improve the use of heritage for social, recreational and economic benefits, by increasing the environmental awareness of the population, ensuring the protection of natural and recreational resources and supporting rational use of protected areas with increased openness to the public. Making use of cultural heritage, developing effective information and labelling of infrastructure, and marketing will enhance Lithuania as an attractive destination for foreign markets and increase interest amongst the population of Lithuania.

Example actions include:

- Supporting protected and cultural and natural heritage sites through management knowledge exchange for outdoor installations, visitor centres, nature schools, visits to protected areas, infrastructure development and marketing;
- Informing the public about the environment and environmental-recreational facilities, in order to increase environmental awareness, change and raise public thinking and the culture of consumption, and promote the sustainable use of resources;
- Modernisation of parks of national importance as cultural, environmental and recreational facilities;
- Marketing activities will be funded to ensure a good image of the region for tourists. This will also involve plans to create new tourism destinations, routes and labelling systems (information boards, signs, notes, references, etc.), which will allow tourists and visitors to easily orientate themselves and get all the necessary information related to tourism resources.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

The Priority Axis – covering all IPs is €193.7 million – 12.5% of the total ERDF spending. No financial instruments will be used, but large scale projects are expected.

The Managing Authority is the Ministry of Finance, Department of the European Union Structural Assistance Management.

## Malta – National OP

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Malta is supporting IP6c in two Priority Axes: ‘Protecting our environment – investing in natural and cultural assets’, and ‘Sustainable Urban Development’. Due to Malta’s specific territorial constraints (in particular, limited land space and a high degree of urbanisation), the ROP is targeting the conservation, preservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage, as well as biodiversity

conservation. Malta has rich cultural and historical heritage, including three World heritage sites, fortifications, archaeological sites and other historical buildings. Malta is also rich in natural capital, whose potential for tourism purposes remains untapped.

#### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Improve the Maltese competitiveness standing within the tourism sector through the promotion, protection and preservation of natural/cultural/historical assets in the public domain intended to improve the Maltese cultural tourism experience whilst maintaining increased tourist flows** – This objective aims to increase tourist visits to supported sites by 12,000 a year, by valorising assets and improving accessibility.
- **Improve the urban environment in the Southern Harbour in line with the integrated urban development strategy through the preservation and promotion of cultural/historical assets in the public domain intended to improve employment opportunities in social deprived areas** – The result indicator for this SO is to reduce unemployment to 6.5% in the Southern Harbour area, down from 7% in 2013. This area has a high concentration of cultural assets.

#### Foreseen Actions

Under the Axis, ‘Protecting our environment’, interventions will largely be targeted towards public authorities and local councils, though measures will also be taken to encourage investments by private enterprises and NGOs. Investment under this Axis will cover the whole of Malta, and will be targeted towards protection, conservation and development of cultural and historical sites, as well as increasing employment in ancillary areas, such as the creative sector, and preservation and sustainable re-use of the built historical environment. Investments will provide access to sites which are not currently accessible by the public, and will support repair and restoration of existing sites.

The Government of Malta is also seeking to foster a strategic relationship between the cultural industry and technological innovation in the green economy by retrofitting cultural buildings. Further, the Government will invest in culture and arts hubs, which can enhance the tourist experience, whilst also promoting Maltese culture and encourage innovative educational and social programmes. Natural heritage will also be supported by supporting natural features as tourist destinations, whilst protecting their biodiversity and ensuring sustainable exploitation.

For ‘Sustainable Urban Development’, in the Southern Harbour area, investment will aim to conserve and support cultural heritage, whilst also stimulating economic activity in the area. A main investment priority will be to restore and promote cultural and historical buildings, involving public

administration and NGOs. Investments will also be targeted towards the creation of heritage trails, and for greening public infrastructure.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

€57.7 million will be dedicated to the achievement of the Axis, 'Protecting our environment' (9.82% of ERDF funding), all of which will be spent through non-repayable grants. €19.2 million (3.27%) is dedicated to 'Sustainable urban Development', again as grants.

The Managing Authority is the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division (PPCD) of the Ministry for European Affairs & Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto.

### Poland – Mazovia OP

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The Mazovia region has established a Priority Axis for two investment priorities: IPs 6c and 5b. Linking together the activities in the field of water management, waste management, and culture and nature conservation will strengthen the effectiveness of interventions, thus achieving greater environmental impact, and contributing to the economic development of the region and improved quality of life of residents. Rich cultural heritage resources represent enormous growth potential in the region, however, the condition of monuments in the region is considered poor.

#### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Increase availability and development of cultural resources in the region** – Planned interventions will contribute to modernisation and renovation to halt the degradation of historical buildings, and to improve their value for the region. Progress towards the objectives will be measured in the number of people per 1000 inhabitants visiting theatres, museums and other cultural institutions. Currently, this is 2,513 (representing repeat visits by some people) and the region hopes to raise this to 2,739 by 2023.

#### Foreseen Actions

The Operational Programme of Mazovia aims to preserve cultural heritage for future generations, and investments for protecting monuments will also be expected to add new services and functions for their use, as well as equipping them with effective management tools. The areas around the monuments are expected to provide public spaces for the enjoyment of the general population and tourists. This should contribute to a qualitative change in the perception of the region's cultural heritage, increasing the level of citizen involvement in cultural life.

Within the specific priority, the following types of projects will be planned:

- **Projects to increase regional tourist potential by protecting historic buildings** - Support will be given to tasks related to the adaptation and modernisation of buildings, including the implementation of innovative ideas for their use. Intervention will cover projects designed to rescue, restore and protect monuments, along with their surrounding landscapes. Support will be for renovations and modernisations that give buildings new functions, intended in particular for cultural and educational purposes, but also for fostering commercial activities. Priority will be undertaken as part of a wider tourist offer in the region, focused on the development of creative activities and various social activities.
- **Projects to improve accessibility to cultural resources through their development and effective use** - Projects aimed at developing cultural heritage resources will be associated with the improved functioning of cultural institutions. Support will be provided for investments in infrastructure for cultural activities, preserving heritage and increasing the availability of resources. This should improve the safeguarding of collections held by institutions, including their digitisation. It should be noted, however, that e-Culture actions will only be implemented when the part of a wider project.

The principle type of beneficiaries under this investment priority will be local government units, their unions and associations; organisational units of local government units with legal personality; public sector entities with legal personality; cultural institutions; NGOs; churches and religious associations; national parks and landscape parks; entities operating under the provisions of the public - private partnership. The maximum value of a single project should not exceed the total cost of €5 million.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

The total budget for the specific objectives under IP 6c is €91.4 million. There are no financial instruments or large-scale projects foreseen for these activities.

The Managing authority of the action is the Management Board of the Mazovia Voivodeship.

### Portugal – Centro OP

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The Portuguese region of Centro is establishing an axis called, ‘Confirming the sustainability of territories’, within its OP, covering IPs 6c and 6e. The aim is to make better use of cultural asserts

and natural resources, to boost tourist numbers, but also to improve the urban environment. The axis should work in co-operation with the region's OP for the European Social Funds, which are developing skills related to nature and sustainable tourism. The region has varied landscapes and several World Heritage Sites, and promotion and enhancement of cultural and natural heritage are essential to prevent degradation and neglect, and to ensure the creation of quality tourism.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Promote the development of cultural and natural heritage, confirming the region as a tourist destination of excellence** – The SO will measure its success through an increase in the number of overnight stays in hotels, resorts, etc., from 3.8 million, with a goal of at least 4.1 million per year.

### Foreseen Actions

Actions will focus on public entities and on private non-profit bodies, with the intention of enhancing cultural and natural heritage as a factor for competitiveness in the regional economy.

#### Cultural heritage

- Inventory, dissemination and animation of heritage and cultural facilities networks;
- Protection, enhancement, conservation and promotion of historical and cultural heritage with high tourist interest, including in particular World Heritage Sites;
- Modernisation of museums;
- Support for events associated with heritage, culture and cultural goods, with high potential impact in terms of attracting tourism;
- Supporting the development of network programming at inter-municipal or regional level through territorial and institutional co-operation for cultural programming of guided tours and the dissemination of equipment, cultural goods and services.

#### Natural Heritage

- Targeted support measures for hazardous areas for tourist, recreational, informational and educational re-development;
- Creation of tourist routes in natural areas;
- Qualification of classified protected areas with tourist relevance;
- Implementation of the National Program for hazardous location signalling;
- Creation and enhancement of green infrastructure in non-urban areas.

#### Tourism promotion

- Promotion of cultural and scenic areas with high natural value;
- Promotion of the tourism offer of nature, adventure tourism, religious tourism or more traditional practices of cultural tourism;
- Development of new tourist routes, focusing on resources and local products (e.g. wine), arts and knowledge (e.g. glass, wool, and ceramics) and cultural production (e.g. writers);
- Use of signage and other instruments to increase visibility of heritage.

For projects to be financed, they must contribute to local economic development, with preference being given to projects involving a World Heritage Site. No financial contributions will be made to modernise or convert premises which have already received funding in the past ten years. Activities will be in line with existing regional and national tourism strategies. Areas of interest are heritage and culture, nature, active tourism, hydrotherapy, health and wellness, astronomy, wine, the sun and sea, nautical tourism, golf, accessible tourism, religious tourism and medical tourism.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

Centro will dedicate €126,752,900 (5.88% of the ERDF spending) to this Thematic Axis. Of this, €121,752,900 will be distributed in non-repayable grants. €2 million will be distributed as loans or equivalent, €1.5 million as guarantees, and €1.5 million as interest subsidies or guarantee fees.

The Managing Authority is the Commission for Coordination and Regional Development of Centro.

## Romania – Regional OP

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The Romanian Regional Operational Programme sets up a Priority Axis on Conservation, Protection and Sustainable Use of Cultural Heritage, which covers all regions of Romania. The OP regards this priority as being of vital importance to boost development in rural and poorer areas, where the economy is based on agriculture and natural resources. The OP also seeks to tackle the rush of urbanism that hit Romania in the 1990s that damaged cultural heritage. The national OP is justified as the issues it tackles are ones that affect many areas of Romania, which has an even geographic spread of heritage resources.

### Specific Objective under IP 6c

- **Conservation, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and cultural identity for boosting local development** – A number of heritage sites are in a poor state, limiting their impact to the local economy and to tourism. The number of heritage sites regarded as being in very good or good condition should rise from 4,387 to 4,437 by 2020.

### Actions

The OP will finance the restoration, protection, conservation and sustainable use of UNESCO sites, national cultural heritage (regardless of location, urban or rural) and local cultural heritage in urban areas. Complementary objectives of the OP will finance local cultural heritage in rural areas. Although not exhaustive, the following list is indicative of expected activities:

- Restoration, consolidation, protection and preservation of historical monuments;
- Restoration, protection, and conservation of paintings, frescoes and mural;
- Restoration and remodelling fine art facades;
- Interior fittings (facilities, equipment, air conditioning, fire safety, intrusion);
- Facilities for exposure and protection of movable and immovable cultural heritage;
- Marketing and promotional activities for restored objects, including their digitisation.

Priority will be given to objects of cultural heritage located in territories which are linked to economic growth, whose restoration will directly contribute to increasing competitiveness in the area where they are located. The OP will also fund projects that implement environmentally friendly solutions, such as using environmentally friendly materials and energy and water efficient equipment, increasing green spaces, and promoting an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. The implementation of such measures will contribute to the conservation, protection and sustainable use of cultural heritage, based on a sustainable approach balanced between commercial and environmental protection, with major benefits for the environment and local communities.

Beneficiaries could be local authorities and central government, religious establishments, NGOs and partnerships between these entities.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

No financial instruments or major projects are planned. Romania will spend 4.13% of ERDF spending – €276.6 million – on this priority area. €255.3 million of this is for less developed regions, and 21.3 million for more developed regions (Bucharest).

The Managing Authority is the Ministry of European Funds.

### Spain – Catalonia OP

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Catalonia is establishing a Priority Axis on ‘Conserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency’ with IPs 6c, 6d and 6e. Under IP6c, much of Catalonia’s planned actions involve supporting tourism, which is responsible for 12% of the region’s GDP. The main attraction of the region is Barcelona, which has more fifteen million visitors a year. The remainder of tourist activity is focused on the coast and the mountains, which experience seasonal business cycles. The region recognises that appreciation of historical and cultural architectural heritage (through

measures for promotion and development) and recovery of natural areas, biodiversity and natural heritage are essential to promote more balanced and sustainable development of the territory.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6c

- **Promote the protection, promotion and development of cultural heritage** – This SO aims to recover historical architectural heritage in Catalonia, expand and improve the supply of cultural tourism and promote heritage conservation, particular in city old quarters. The indicator chosen for measuring success is the number of municipalities with actions to protect, promote and develop cultural heritage and old quarters, which is hoped to rise from 12 to 192 by 2023.
- **Protection, development and promotion of natural areas, particularly those of tourist interest** – The SO aims to encourage and promote conservation of natural areas, evaluate natural areas, biodiversity and natural heritage for use a resource, and encourage the sustainable economic development of communities surrounding natural areas where actions are funded. Performance will be measured in relation to the number of visits to sites of natural and cultural heritage, with a target of 4.7 million visits per year by 2023, up from 3.7 million.

### Foreseen Actions

Actions to be funded will have to be aligned with the smart specialisation strategy of Catalonia (RIS3CAT) and protection plans that have already been established by the Regional Administration. Priority will be given to projects that can contribute to improving tourism in the territory, especially if they can also contribute to the rejuvenation of areas suffering from depopulation and high unemployment. Projects will also be required to contribute to the conservation and recovery of protected areas (PEIN and Natura 2000).

#### Actions to promote the protection, promotion and development of cultural heritage

- Improving knowledge of heritage and its economic potential;
- Implementing and animating networks for the valuation, management and development of natural, cultural, agricultural and forestry assets;
- Designing and implementing programmes for advocacy and education in heritage;
- Applying technological innovation to heritage;
- Creating and rehabilitating infrastructure and equipment for enabling the enhancement of heritage;
- Promoting the development of plans for territorial tourism development in order to improve the competitiveness of destinations and of local companies to achieve a model of competitive, sustainable tourism;
- Improving mobility in public space, accessibility to tourist resources, urban tourism signage, recovery of public space, building new facilities and equipment requirements for obtaining tourism brands, investments in energy improvement and technological infrastructures and innovative projects to diversify seasonally-adjusted existing supply.
- Inventory, dissemination and animation of heritage and cultural facilities networks;
- Protection, enhancement, conservation and promotion of historical and cultural heritage with high tourist interest, in

particular, World Heritage Sites.

#### **Actions to promote the development and promotion of natural areas**

- Maintenance and improvement of protected natural areas - maintenance and construction of recreational areas, gazebos, walkways, driveways, signage (routes) and in general the areas of most tourist value of the natural protected areas;
- Development of strategies for sustainable development and mitigation of the environmental impact of the economic exploitation of natural areas (agricultural and forestry areas, fishing areas, tourist areas);
- Actions for improved practices and techniques related to agriculture and forestry or energy production (forest and agricultural biomass);
- Implementation of technological innovation in these sectors
- Enhancement of biodiversity and environmental advocacy may be done provided that its objective is the promotion, encouragement and development of tourism.

The target groups for these actions will be the General Administration and local administrations in charge of the management of natural and cultural heritage. Public-private agreements for the protection of natural and cultural heritage will also be promoted.

#### **Budget and Financial Instruments**

The budget for the Priority Axis as a whole will be €131,971,497 – 16.3% of ERDF spending in Catalonia. Of this, €91,212,325 is dedicated to IP6c, breaking down as €51,616,803 for the protection, development and active promotion of public tourism, and €39,595,522 for the protection, development and active promotion of culture and public heritage. This will be delivered through loans and guarantees.

The Managing Authority is the General ERDF Management Branch of the Directorate General of Community Funds, Ministry of Finance and Public Administration.

# Supporting Industrial Transition

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In order to explore the actions being undertaken by European regions for ‘Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors’, this section will present an overview of the six Operational Programmes with a Priority Axis directing ERDF funding towards this IP. These six OPs are as follows:

1. Belgium – Wallonia OP
2. Bulgaria – Innovations and Competitiveness OP
3. Greece – Central OP
4. Greece – Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation OP
5. Spain – Basque Country OP
6. United Kingdom – Scotland OP

The aim of this section is to answer the following questions by presenting indicative examples from all of the OPs covering IP6g:

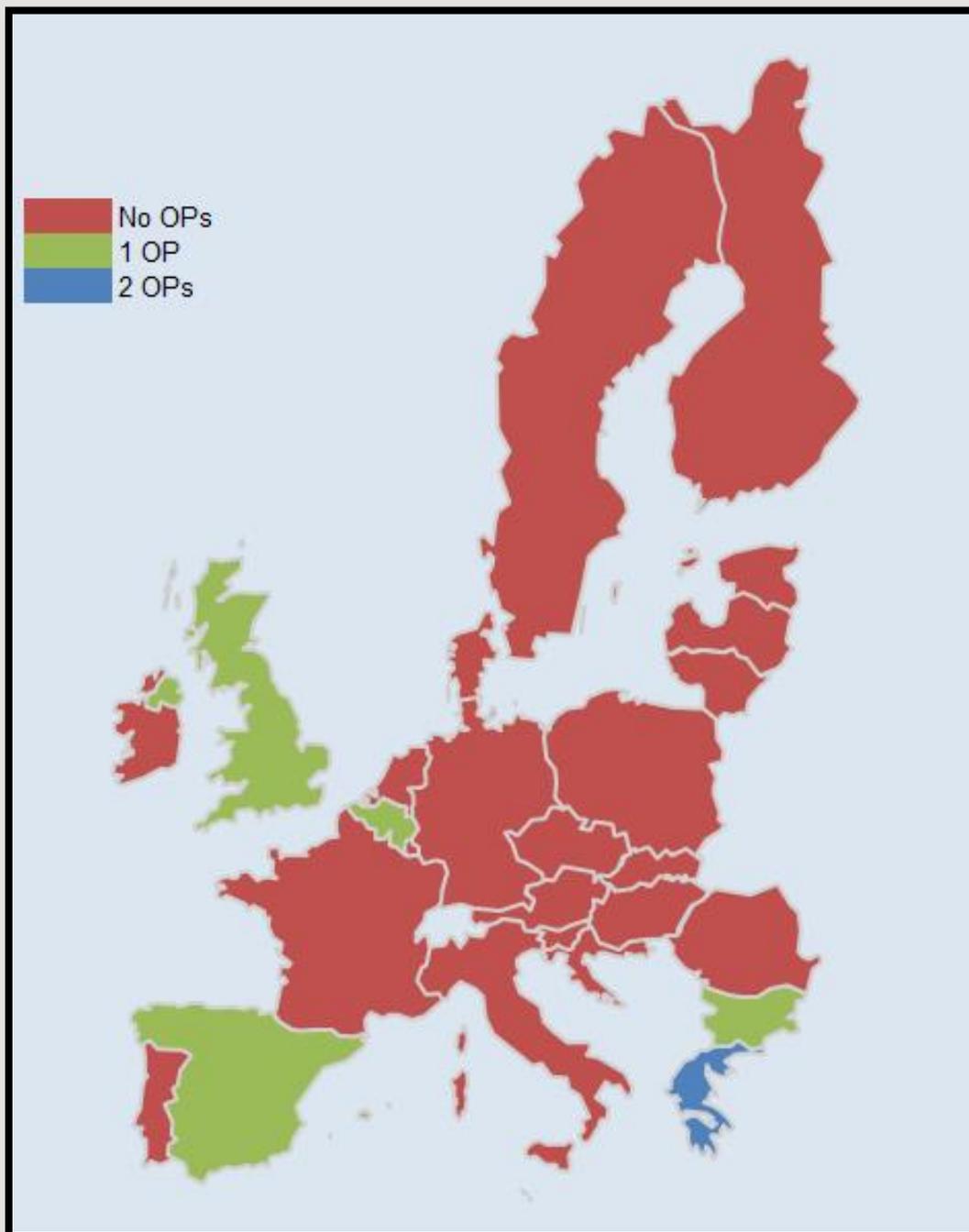
1. Which **specific objectives, measures** and **actions** are planned by Managing Authorities to implement IP6g?
2. Have certain OPs **identified specific bodies** or allocated **specific budget** for the implementation of IP6g?
3. Which OPs have planned to make use of **article 96.3 (d)** of 1303/2013 that allows for co-operation activities in the investment for growth and jobs goal? Have they already planned specific activities?

Operational Programmes will be introduced with a summary of the relevant priority axis, then the specific objectives created for IP6c, actions that are expected to be funded (with examples where given) and some information on their budget and any financial instruments or large scale projects.

We found no examples of the use of Article 96.3(d) in these OPs.

The map below shows the distribution of Operational Programmes concerning IP6g throughout the EU, as presented in the section, ‘TO6 in the Operational Programmes’.

Geographic distribution of Operational Programmes dealing with IP 6g – Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors



Wallonia has established a Priority Axis named ‘Economy 2020’, looking at investment priorities 3a, 3c and 6g. Wallonia has a lower growth rate than the European average, and a high unemployment rate. To improve this, Wallonia wants to increase the competitiveness of enterprises, and SMEs in particular. As part of the Axis, Wallonia wants to encourage decoupling of growth from resource use and environmental impacts by supporting the circular economy. The three IPs are closely linked, with the promotion of sustainable resource use seen as a key trigger for improving competitiveness.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6g

- **Stimulate the economic performance of businesses through implementation of the circular economy** – This SO will support resource efficiency actions and circular economy projects to preserve the environment and advance the transition to a green economy by limiting the consumption of resources or environmental damage.

### Foreseen Actions

ERDF funding under this Axis for IP6g will be targeted primarily at SMEs, with the aim of reducing the impact of resource price fluctuations and developing complementary economic activities for re-use of resources (value chain development). Actions will focus on specialised assistance for business pilot projects, and on providing financial support for companies to create or requalify areas of economic activity which are conducive to the installation of businesses in a framework which contributes to efficient resource use.

The main beneficiaries will be official bodies that support economic leadership (the OP quotes B.E. Fin as an organisations recognised for the purpose), inter-communal development agencies (‘Intercommunales de développement économique’), and public operators of business parks. A Task Force (continuing from 2007-2013) will be responsible for reviewing proposals and making recommendations to the Walloon government, which selects the projects to be funded. The Task Force will work with external expertise as needed. In general, projects will have to be in line with the objectives of the Axis, but also be visible, ambitious and sustainable, to demonstrate a multiplier effect.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

IP6g will receive 24.3% of ERDF funding in Wallonia. This totals €15.1 million this transition region (with national funding of €24.6 million). The Managing Authority is the Government of Wallonia.

In Bulgaria, SMEs are within the lowest parameters of resource efficiency compared to the other EU Member States. This is one of the factors that limit the productivity and competitiveness of SMEs in the country. At present, activities, procedures and products for increasing resource efficiency are lacking, and investments for environmental protection are insufficient and ineffective. Bulgaria has established an Energy and Resource Efficiency Axis in its National Innovations and Competitiveness Operational Programme, to target a complimentary improvement to resource use efficiency by SMEs. This Axis brings together IPs 4b and 6g.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6g

- **Increase the share of SMEs which have incorporated measures for the efficient use of resources** – The aim of this objective is to increase the share to more than 93% from the 2012 base level (85%).

### Foreseen Actions

Actions are aimed at increasing resource efficiency and raising awareness amongst enterprises of its potentials, by supporting activities related to the increase of waste recovery and the decrease of waste generation, and the reduction of raw materials costs through pilot and demonstration initiatives. The expected results are directly related to improving the resource efficiency of supported enterprises, and hence the manufacturing sector and the economy as a whole.

Bulgaria will focus on a number of actions for improving the efficient use of resources in SMEs and groups of enterprises, and measures related to improvement of resource efficiency and sustainable use of raw materials will be supported. These include the introduction of:

- High tech and economical solutions for optimisation of production processes and reduction of raw material use;
- State-of-the-art technologies to use waste as a raw material in new production;
- State-of-the-art waste technologies, including the replacement of obsolete and less resource-efficient equipment;
- Innovative production materials, including the use of recyclable materials, including investments to adapt existing equipment to the characteristics of new products;
- Water rotation cycles for use in production processes.

For all actions, the results should be further replicated and capitalisation effect will be considered. In this manner, it is hoped that actions will contribute to improving awareness of the efficient use of

resources in SMEs, increasing industrial symbiosis along the value chain, which will gradually lead to improved efficiency of production processes, reducing the cost of production for SMEs, and thus increasing their competitiveness.

Common and specific indicators:

- Number of implemented pilot and demonstration initiatives: 24;
- Number of enterprises receiving grants: 49;
- Supported projects related to waste management in industry sectors: 18% of supported projects.

The main target groups for the actions are SMEs, SME Organisations, Clusters and industrial zones, with specific focus on SMEs within the manufacturing and material recovering industries.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

In total, 2.64% of Bulgaria's ERDF spending will go to TO6, with €31,136,631 for IP6g. This money will be mostly targeted towards SMEs in the form of non-repayable grants. Up to 10% of the costs under this priority axis can be financed under the eligibility rules applicable to the European Social Fund, provided that those costs are necessary for proper implementation of the operation and are directly linked to it.

The Managing Authority is the Directorate General of European Funds for Competitiveness, of the Ministry of Economy and Energy.

### Greece – Central Greece OP

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For the support of Industrial Transition, Central Greece is establishing a Priority Axis on Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency. The Axis also covers IPs 6b, 6c, 6d, and 6e. Central Greece has several areas with high concentrations of industry, and some very large industries of national and international scale create a dynamic industrial environment. At the same time the area has important mining reserves such as bauxite, magnetite, nickel and chromite. Some weaknesses, however, need to be dealt with such as low competitiveness, low horizontal and vertical integration and low innovation and entrepreneurship. The new national development policy creates opportunities in this direction. As a result, the promotion of entrepreneurship, competitiveness and extroversion of the regional economy constitutes a key element of the OP.

## Specific Objectives under IP 6g

- **Extend eco-innovation applications** – The OP expects to increase investment in management of resources, materials conservation and recovery, and the development and use of new materials, to reduce production costs and to protect the environment. It will also support the emergence of green entrepreneurship, research and eco-innovation, and increase employment and quality of life. The key indicator is the percentage of businesses which incorporate eco-innovations, which should rise from 4 to 10% by 2023.

## Foreseen Actions

The efficient use of resources, to both protect the environment and improve economic efficiency is a central pursuit of the OP of Central Greece. It aims to support the transition to an industrial economy, resource efficiency, promote green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sector. Foreseen actions include:

- Strengthening technological and innovative entrepreneurship;
- Supporting and restructuring of the industrial production base of the regional economy - Diversification of products, with specialisation by region;
- Improving the business and investment and supporting SMEs - promoting new businesses;
- Improving the strategic and competitive position and attractiveness of Central Greece as a place for conducting business, thus attracting new investments;
- Creating and adding new knowledge in the local productive circuit;
- Creating local and hyperlocal partnerships to promote strategy and technology, and the introduction of innovation.

Beneficiaries will be enterprises and public entities throughout Central Greece.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

The Priority Axis has a budget of €6.5 million, representing 6.9% of ERDF spending. The possibility of use of financial instruments will be decided on the basis of the conclusions of the ex-ante evaluation carried out in accordance with article 37 (2d) of Reg.1303 / 2013 regarding actions for ICT, SMEs energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The Managing Authority is the Management service of the Regional OP of Central Greece, 2014-2020

The Greek national Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Operational Programme is tackling the issue of industrial transition through two Axes on Developing Support Mechanisms for Entrepreneurship. The first focuses on the country as a whole, and the second focuses only on Central Greece and the South Aegean. They cover Investment Priorities 1a, 2a, 4b, 4c, 6c, 6g and 7e. The OP recognises that sustainable development of the country is directly linked with the transition of the industry to an economy of green growth and eco-innovation. The environment is central, as it constitutes an area of investment and transition in the medium term to a more stable production model, that is more sustainable, participatory, socially fair, and with less intensive consumption patterns that are adapted to the productive capacity of the Greek economy.

### Specific Objectives under IP 6g

- **Improving industrial waste recoverability and increase waste reclaiming** – The basic objective of this priority is to support business activity in its transition to an economy of green growth and eco-innovation, ensuring efficient use of resources and the use of by-products and waste. The specific objective is supported under both Axes. It will pursue prevention, re-use, recycling and recovery in manufacturing; application of best available technique for recyclability and recovery of waste; and the processing and use of waste. The corresponding indicator will be the additional capacity for recycling waste, measured in tons/year.

### Foreseen Actions

The support of industrial activity needs infrastructure development and business partnerships for the management of industrial waste, in order to achieve a higher degree of exploitation of their value through reuse, recycling or energy recovery. As such, actions will finance systems and infrastructure for supporting business activity. In particular, the improvement of the business environment that will support the new innovative and sustainable model of development, requires R&D infrastructure, technology, IT and communications infrastructure, infrastructure that supports energy conservation, environmental management infrastructure and network infrastructure.

Furthermore, in Greece there are several sectors of industrial activity that need basic infrastructure and services so that they can be transformed into business parks with an eye to adopting sustainable practices of industrial partnership through the creation of cooperation networks between companies for the more efficient use of resources and recycling.

#### Actions

- Development of infrastructure for managing and recovering valuable materials from industrial wastes:
- Creation of Reuse Centres and Green Points:
- Conversion of industrial, commercial and manufacturing areas into organized business parks:
- Interventions in businesses in order to reduce the impact of their activities on the environment and to increase resource efficiency

Financial Tools may be used in the actions of a particular investment priority, combined between them or combined with grants, these include loans with low collateral for investments, and guarantees. For this investment priority, the JESSICA financial instrument could also be used. This instrument was used in the previous programming period and aims to support investment projects and urban development projects.

#### Budget and Financial Instruments

The topic of Developing Support Mechanisms for Entrepreneurship has a budget of €1.02 billion (28.1% of ERDF) in the country-wide Axis and €40.6 million (1.11% of ERDF) in the Central Greece and South Aegean Axis.

The Managing Authority is the Ministry of Development and Competitiveness.

#### Spain – Basque Country OP

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The Basque Country has previously established an Environmental Framework Programme, which has an objective to advance environmental sustainability in the region, to protect and conserve the natural environment, particularly in relation to industrial transition to a resource efficient economy. The Basque Country Operational Programme will support this through the establishment of a Priority Axis on Conserving and Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency, covering IPs 6d and 6g.

#### Specific Objectives under IP 6g

- **Support for industry transition to an efficient economy in terms of resources and promoting green growth – number of environmentally efficient companies** – The aim of the SO is to increase the number of registered companies with a certified environmental management system from 1,433 to 1,719.

## Foreseen Actions

The actions to be financed will focus on supporting industrial transition to an efficient economy in terms of resources and promoting green growth. This could include:

- Promoting public-private partnerships to integrate environmental concerns into the activities of SMEs, through support for technological development and demonstration, application of more efficient techniques and processes, and implementation of methodologies and management systems;
- Initiatives that promote implementation of quality management systems and the acquisition and incorporation of technologies, techniques and processes for more efficient processes in SMEs;
- Actions to support SMEs, to improve environmental protection, to encourage SMES to improve environmental protection and to go beyond what is established in current environmental regulations.

For a project to be selected, it will have to show that it is in line with the regional environment strategy and will have a potential impact on employment levels or competitiveness of enterprises. The beneficiaries of support will be specified at the first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the funds.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

The OP allocates a budget of €7,879,400, which is to be allocated in non-repayable grants. It is expected that 211 companies will receive aid.

The Managing Authority is the General Management Branch, ERDF DG Community Funds, Ministry of Finance and Public Administration.

## United Kingdom – Scotland OP

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Scotland has established a Priority Axis for investment priorities 6d and 6g on resource efficiency and on lowering the impact of industry on the environment. These priorities are regarded as being particularly important for two key Scottish industries: food and drink, and tourism. Evidence gathered in Scotland suggests current resource wastefulness in businesses, with up to 90% of resources not making it into the final product, although there are many good examples of resource efficient industry in the country. Green infrastructure development will be supported to address the impact of historic industrialisation on urban areas.

## Specific Objectives under IP 6g

- **Making businesses in supported sectors more competitive through increased resource efficiency** – This SO aims to secure £232.16 million in resource efficiency savings over the lifetime of the programme.
- **Grow re-processing and re-manufacturing industries through the re-use of waste** – The target of this SO is to increase employment in the circular economy by 15%, from a baseline figure of 7,200 people.

## Foreseen Actions

Scotland will focus on a number of key sectors for improving resource efficiency: food and drink; hospitality; textiles; petrochemicals; pharmaceuticals; precision engineering; oil and gas; and, non-domestic construction. The principle types of beneficiaries under this investment priority will be SMEs and communities. Structural Funds Programmes will be structured around ‘Strategic Interventions’ – groups of projects which are interlinked and support each other. Firstly, Strategic Interventions will be selected, and then individual operations will be selected that support the aims of the intervention. Interventions will have to demonstrate that they are business/demand driven, and they will have to demonstrate a clear plan for continuation without the support of Structural Funds.

There are four headings for actions:

### **Material supply and demand (focusing on key material such as plastics, glass, paper, wood and electrics)**

- Pilot regional collection and sorting hubs utilising a Resource Recovery Park model;
- Developing a national waste brokerage service to improve the availability of high quality materials already collected by public bodies.

### **Business engagement and investment**

- Resource Efficiency advice to individual businesses, particularly SMEs;
- Support for Business-to-Business mentoring of SMEs to increase uptake and peer acceptability of resource efficient solutions;
- Grant and loan funding for resource and energy efficiency demonstration initiatives by SMEs and business clusters (including large companies);
- Re-development of business premises for micro business and SMEs, where such projects directly involve businesses, go beyond statutory requirements and demonstrate or develop low-waste and low-resource models (this will also be investigated for financial instruments, as there is potential for significant savings and/or returns to the businesses involved);
- Advice, grant and loan financing on eco-innovation such as water recycling and re-use, biodiversity, carbon sinks or ecosystem services.

### New technologies

- Developing textile fibre separation and re-manufacturing;
- Developing and adopting energy and water efficiency products.

### Communities

- Advice to communities on developing and implementing Circular Economy Development Plans;
- Demonstration projects to test approaches and technologies for resource efficient, zero waste communities;
- Development of business cases to assist community anchor organisations to access other funding to improve resource efficiency of assets.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

A large amount of ERDF support is to be delivered through grant funding, as the OP recognises significant potential for returns by turning waste-as-a-resource businesses into investable propositions. The aim of the grant funding is to help to transition businesses into the mainstream, whereby tested and proven business can attract private funding. Loan funding will also be used following an initial study of the market and market failures.

Scotland is to allocate 11.75% of its ERDF funding to IPs 6d and 6g, totalling €56 million. A further €65.7 million will be allocated as a national counterpart. The total for these IPs will therefore be €121.7 million. Of the €56 million provided by the ERDF, €48.8 million will be provided through non-repayable grants, and €7.2 million will support financial instruments of loans or equivalent.

The Managing Authority is the Scottish Government, European Structural Funds Division.

## Conclusions

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In total, 311 Operational Programmes have been drawn up to plan the spending of the Structural Funds (2014-2020) covering all 28 Member States of the European Union. Of these, 175 (56%) are for the European Regional Development Fund. 146 ERDF Operational Programmes (132 finalised, 14 draft) from 23 Member States are addressing Thematic Objective 6 “Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency” and have been analysed for this report. This represents 47% of all Operational Programmes, and 83% of ERDF Operational Programmes.

A number of countries are not including TO6 in any of their Operational Programmes: Denmark, Finland, Luxemburg, The Netherlands and Sweden. Although looking into TO6, the following countries are not addressing either Investment Priority 6c or 6g: Austria, Estonia, Ireland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Only 6 Operational Programmes from Belgium (Wallonia), Bulgaria, Greece (2), Spain and the UK (Scotland) are dealing with IP 6g “Supporting Industrial Transition”.

The initial mapping of the 146 Operational Programmes with TO6 shows that 94 OPs will cover the Priority of Protecting Natural and Cultural Heritage (6c), whilst six will cover the Supporting Industrial Transition Priority (6g). Of Operational Programmes covering the ERDF, 55% are looking into IP6c, ‘Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage’, whilst only 3% are looking into IP6g, ‘Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors.’

### Natural and Cultural Heritage

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There is a significantly larger focus on cultural heritage than on natural heritage within the Operational Programmes that have been examined. Sixteen of the OPs covered matters of cultural heritage, whilst only ten looked at natural heritage. The table below presents this thematic divide.

Operational Programme	Cultural Heritage	Natural Heritage
Croatia	X	X
Czech Republic	X	
Cyprus	X	X
France – Franche-Comté		X
France – Upper Normandy	X	
Germany - Bavaria	X	

Germany – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	X	
Greece – Central Greece	X	X
Hungary	X	X
Italy – Tuscany	X	
Latvia	X	X
Lithuania	X	X
Malta	X	X
Poland – Mazovia	X	
Portugal – Centro	X	X
Romania	X	
Spain – Catalonia	X	X

### Specific Objectives under IP6c

The Operational Programmes present a variety of Specific Objectives, but in terms of their indicators, they can be divided into a few categories. Most Specific Objectives have the aim to increase the number of visitors (local and/or tourist) to both natural and cultural heritage sites. The next most frequent target was simply to increase the number of renovated monuments, or the number of monuments in a good condition. Although a few OPs were looking at the employment rate and increased tourism revenues as an indicator, these were aims which were common to all regions.

Specific Objective Indicator Type	Operational Programme
Increase Employment	Croatia Malta
Increase number of visitors to heritage sites	Croatia Czech Republic France – Upper Normandy German – Bavaria Italy – Tuscany Malta Poland – Mazovia Spain – Catalonia
Percentage awareness of heritage	France – Franche-Comté Lithuania
Number of renovated monuments	Germany – Bavaria Germany – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Portugal – Centro

	Romania
Increase revenue from tourism	Cyprus Hungary
Increase number of overnight stays	Greece – Central OP Latvia Portugal - Centro
Number of municipalities with action plans	Spain – Catalonia

## Foreseen Actions

The table below shows a breakdown of the studied Operational Programmes by their type of action. Investment in infrastructure, awareness raising and renovation of monuments and sites are the most frequently emerging types of actions.

Type of Action	Operational Programme
Investments in infrastructure & facilities	Croatia Cyprus France – Franche-Comté France – Upper Normandy Greece – Central Italy – Tuscany Latvia Lithuania Malta Portugal - Centro Spain – Catalonia
Awareness, promotion and visibility of heritage	Croatia Cyprus France – Franche-Comté Hungary Greece – Central Italy - Tuscany Latvia Lithuania Portugal – Centro Romania Spain – Catalonia
Renovation and restoration of cultural heritage sites	Croatia Czech Republic Germany – Bavaria Germany – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

	Italy – Tuscany Latvia Poland – Mazovia Romania Spain – Catalonia
Networking, routes, itineraries, multi-year strategies	France – Upper Normandy Hungary Greece – Central Italy – Tuscany Latvia Malta Portugal - Centro Spain – Catalonia
Improved management & use of sites	Croatia Czech Republic Greece – Central Italy – Tuscany Malta Poland - Mazovia Portugal - Centro
Improvement & rejuvenation of urban areas, harbours, etc.	Cyprus Germany – Bavaria Greece – Central Malta Portugal - Centro Romania Spain - Catalonia
Improved accessibility, removal of access barriers	Czech Republic Italy – Tuscany Latvia Lithuania Malta Poland – Mazovia Spain - Catalonia
Enhancement of museums and exhibitions	Czech Republic France – Franche-Comté France – Upper Normandy Germany – Bavaria Italy – Tuscany Portugal - Centro
Digitisation of sites and marketing materials	Czech Republic France – Franche-Comté Germany – Bavaria

	Italy – Tuscany Poland - Mazovia Romania
Development of new tourism products and services	Croatia France – Franche-Comté France – Upper Normandy Latvia Poland – Mazovia
Education & Training	Croatia Germany – Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Malta Portugal - Centro
Introduction of labels	France – Upper Normandy Latvia Portugal - Centro
Development of spa & wellness resorts	Hungary Portugal – Centro
Support to local products	France – Franche-Comté Portugal – Centro
Enhancement of parks and garden	Croatia France – Upper Normandy Lithuania
Restoration of rivers and remediation of environmental impact	France – Franche-Comté Greece – Central
Studies and investment in natural areas	France – Franche-Comté Italy – Tuscany
More accommodation	France – Franche-Comté
Removing visual pollution	France – Franche-Comté
Waste management & infrastructure	Greece – Central
Water resource management	Greece – Central
Risk management	Greece – Central

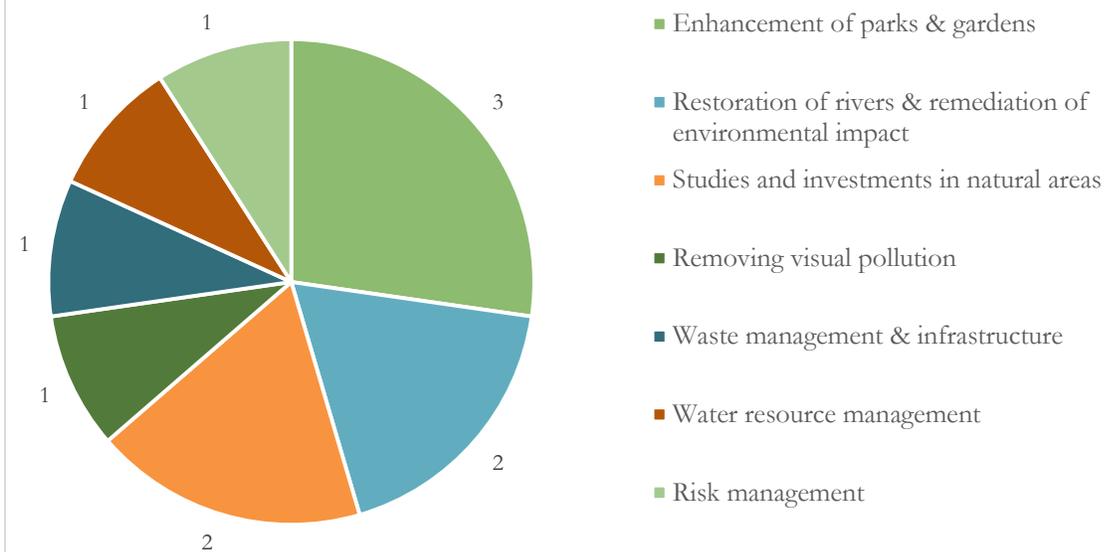
The following charts show the breakdown of actions within the Operational Programmes by division between cultural heritage and natural heritage. The first chart, for Cultural Heritage activities only, shows that renovation and restoration of sites, improvement of infrastructure, and awareness raising are the most frequently expected actions.

The second chart, which covers Natural Heritage actions, shows that enhancement of green space and parks – often in tandem with renovation of nearby buildings – as well as restoration and management of rivers and water resources are the leading actions expected. Both of these targets can, of course be used for recreational activities, showing the link between natural heritage and tourism.

### Cultural Heritage in the Operational Programmes



### Natural Heritage in the Operational Programmes



Beneficiaries are similar for all Operational Programmes, being comprised of Government bodies and institutions, regional and local authorities, owners and managers of cultural heritage, civil society and SMEs.

### Budget and Financial Instruments

Within the seventeen Operational Programmes, the majority of the budget will be invested as non-repayable grants. Some minor amounts are to be spent as loans, guarantees or interest subsidies. No financial instruments or large projects are to be financed. Throughout the Operational Programmes, investments are capped at €5million each, with the exception of World Heritage or UNESCO heritage sites, which are capped at €10million.

#### Funding for Axes containing IP6c

Country (region)	% ERDF Spending	Funding in Euro million
Croatia	4.9	338
Cyprus	11.92	67.25
Czech Republic	9.2	425
France (Franche-Comté)	6.3	11.5
France (Upper Normandy)	4.14	12
Germany (Bavaria)	11.72	58
German (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)	17.4	161.5
Greece	6.9	6.5
Hungary	4.0	306.5
Italy (Tuscany)	3.75	14.8
Latvia	9.8	430
Lithuania	12.5	193.7
Malta	13.07	76.9
Poland (Mazovia)	4	91.4
Portugal (Centro)	5.88	126.7
Romania	4.13	276.6
Spain (Catalonia)	16.3	131.9

#### Article 96.3(d)

No examples were found of OPs using Article 96.3 (d).

## Supporting Industrial Transition

Only five countries have Operational Programmes looking at IP6g, with six OPs in total. Two of these countries have national Operational Programmes – Bulgaria and Greece – whilst the remaining are regional OPs. However, it must be recognised that the issue of waste and water management (IPs 6a and 6b), which are much more widely covered, are also of relevance to the Interreg Europe Programme.

### Specific Objectives under IP6g

The six Operational Programmes that cover IP6g on Industrial Transition put forward seven Specific Objectives (Scotland has two). They are presented in the table below by typology.

Specific Objective Indicator Type	Operational Programmes
Increase usage of Environmental Management Systems	Spain – Basque Country OP
Increase Resource Efficiency in Companies	Bulgaria – Innovations and Competitiveness OP UK – Scotland OP
Support Circular Economy (Industrial Symbiosis)	Belgium – Wallonia OP
Support uptake of eco-innovations	Greece – Central OP
Support reprocessing and re-use of waste	UK – Scotland OP Greece – Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation OP

The Operational Programmes show a varying level of ambition. This reflects the level of economic development of the different regions, with Scotland, the Basque Country and Wallonia having more ambitious targets than Bulgaria and Greece.

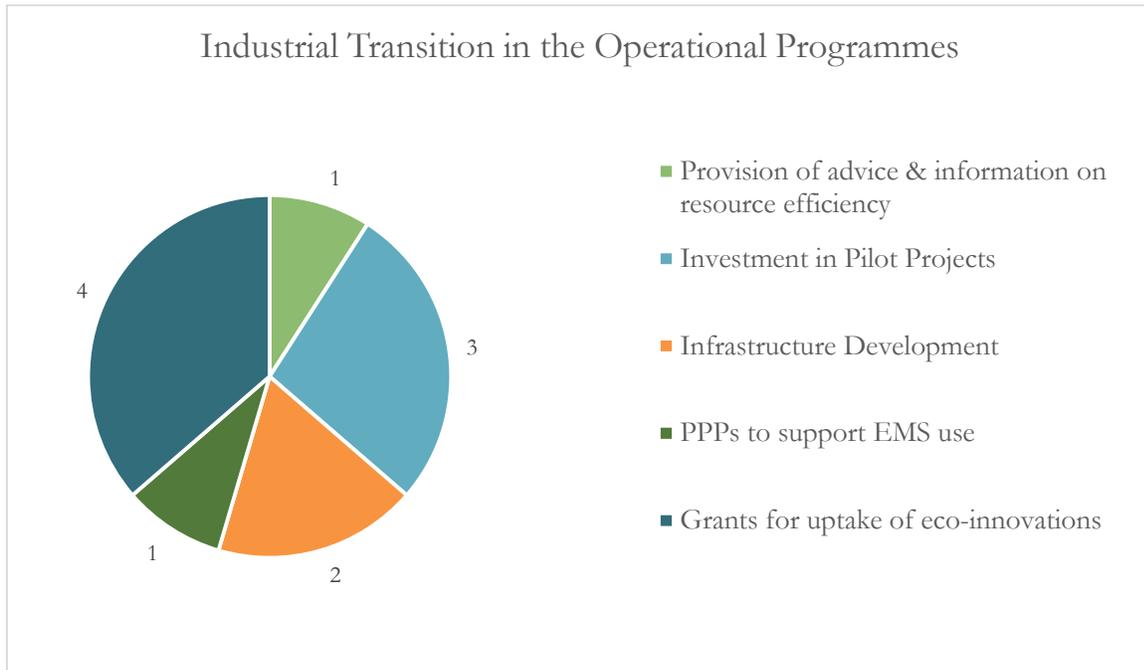
### Foreseen Actions

A wide range of activities is foreseen in the Operational Programmes, however, in many cases, they are vaguely described and do not elaborate concrete measures to be taken, instead outlining broad principles as to types of activities. However, activities can broadly be divided into the categories presented in the table below.

Type of Activity	Operational Programme
Provision of advice and information on resource efficiency	UK – Scotland OP
Investment in Pilot Projects	Belgium – Wallonia OP Bulgaria – Innovations and Competitiveness OP

	UK – Scotland OP
Infrastructure Development	Greece – Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation OP UK – Scotland OP
Establishing PPPs to support uptake of environmental management systems	Spain – Basque Country OP
Grants for supporting uptake of eco-innovations	Greece – Central OP Spain – Basque Country OP UK – Scotland OP Bulgaria – Innovations and Competitiveness OP

The most frequently cited action is the provision of grants for industries (particularly SMEs) to fund the uptake of eco-innovations – primarily existing technologies that could be integrated with a minimum of difficulty, but which businesses often lack incentive to invest in due to long payback times. Pilot Projects will be widely used, to test new technologies and models of resource efficiency, including Circular Economy principles. Despite the great impact that they can have, Environmental Management Systems are only explicitly mentioned by one Operational Programme.



The main beneficiaries of actions in all Operational Programmes are in the private sector, mostly focusing on SMEs, as well as SME organisations and clusters. Public organisations that support private enterprise are also being supported in Wallonia, Bulgaria, Central Greece and the Basque Country.

## Budget and Financial Instruments

Within the six Operational Programmes, the majority of the budget will be invested as non-repayable grants. Some regions may decide to implement financial instruments later in the funding period. Loan funding is expected in Scotland. No large projects are to be financed.

### Funding for Axes containing IP6g

Country (region)	% ERDF Spending	Funding in Euro million
Belgium – Wallonia	24.3	15.1
Bulgaria	2.64	31.1
Greece – Central	6.9	6.5
Greece	28.1	102
Spain – Basque Country	4.47	7.9
UK - Scotland	11.75	56

### Article 96.3(d)

No examples were found of OPs using Article 96.3 (d).