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EU Just Transition Fund

2021-2027

Mid Term Review

As per Article 18 of Regulation (EU)
2021/1060 (Common Provisions Regulation)

Adopted by PMC on December 10th 2025

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Introduction

In accordance with Article 18 Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the EU Just Transition Fund (EUJTF) Member State and Managing Authority have completed an assessment of the 2021-2027 EUJTF programme under the mid-term review process. Over a number of months, the Member State and Managing Authority have engaged with various stakeholders, intermediate bodies, and beneficiaries to review progress on the implementation of the nine actions under the three Programme Priorities that comprise the programme.

This report compiles the analysis and findings of the mid-term review and proposes potential routes forward for the remainder of the programming period.

Since the programme was adopted in December 2022 the EU Just Transition Fund (EUJTF) programme has navigated through many cycles of development. In 2023 the programme underwent phase one where much emphasis was placed on building relationships and laying solid foundations with all our delivery partners. Achieving the objectives set down in the programme would effectively be determined by the collaborative efforts of all key stakeholders involved. The Managing Authority has invested much time and energy in building the capacity of our delivery partners over the past two and a half years and we facilitated regular meetings with all of them; Department of Transport (DoT), Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEV), Pobal, Fáilte Ireland, the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Department of Climate, Energy, and the Environment (DCEE), the Audit Authority, the European Commission and of course our Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC).

In **phase one**, emphasis was also placed on the administrative elements of the fund, drafting Implementation Plans alongside service level agreements. Call documents were designed, checklists and guidance documents issued, and training was initiated. The new Enterprise Project and Portfolio Management (EPPM) system was brought to life with many testing and training elements requiring attention.

Phase two saw the finalisation and formal sign off by the PMC of the nine Implementation Plans moving the EUJTF from programme design to project delivery. Significant effort was placed on initiating call launches, establishing appraisal processes, designing grant agreement templates, facilitating training for Intermediate Bodies and beneficiaries and development of management and control systems. The EPPM system underwent further refinement to ensure it was fit for the purposes set. Much of this work happened throughout 2024 but as is always the case in programme management and particularly with the tight timelines involved there has been crossover between tasks across phases and many features of programme implementation have had to happen simultaneously.

A comprehensive training strategy was devised to build the capacity of the Intermediate Bodies and Delivery Partners of the Programme. Workshops were designed and delivered based on a needs analysis and then tailor made to respond to the priority issues identified by the Managing Authority.

Legal expertise was secured to review implementation plans and to deliver tailor made training. This training was subsequently published online as a resource for Intermediate Bodies and project applicants. Summary documents and checklists were also developed to facilitate understanding of complex topics such as state aid and procurement.

Moving forward into 2025, our **phase three** focus is firmly on monitoring project delivery and associated spend, ensuring our spending timelines are adhered to. Management and verification checks are a substantial part of the work, and we have maximised the visibility of the EUJTF on the ground in the territory by highlighting (and launching) the work of our Operations of Strategic Importance.

At this juncture in the programme, there are 172 selected operations with formal grant agreements in place. These projects have been brought to life through the various schemes rolled out under the EUJTF banner. These projects are diverse and varied in nature ranging from regenerative tourism, training courses on green job skills (EV chargers and wind turbines for example), large bioeconomy and circular economy projects, peatland restoration and trail building.

Key Tasks achieved since Programme adoption December 2022

- ✓ Between May 2023 and November 2023, nine Implementation Plans were developed in collaboration with our Intermediate Bodies and formally approved by the PMC.
- ✓ Since programme inception, over 300 meetings have been facilitated with our delivery partners; the Department of Transport, ZEVl, Pobal, Fáilte Ireland, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and the Marine and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- ✓ Between July 2023 and November 2025, 15 calls for funding have been run across the programme priorities. These include three calls facilitated through strategic partnership agreements that Fáilte Ireland has established with Local Authorities and State Agencies, namely Waterways Ireland, Coillte, the Office of Public Works, Bord na Móna and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, for investments to enhance tourism infrastructure, facilities, and visitor experiences.
- ✓ 172 projects have been allocated EUJTF funding to date all of which have completed grant agreements in place and are formally considered selected operations.
- ✓ The total allocation to selected operations now amounts to €121,150,172.09 across the 3 priorities (see table in annex III at the end of the document).
- ✓ Six Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) meetings have taken place since programme inception.
- ✓ The Managing Authority has developed a comprehensive “knowledge hub” for the EU Just Transition Fund. Building on the extensive collection of training materials, the hub consolidates the information from our customised training sessions and a variety of other resources as well as insights and queries from delivery partners. It serves as an accessible platform to enable intermediate Bodies and relevant public sector beneficiaries to reference training materials and supporting information in an evolving programme manual.
- ✓ 35 Training workshops and capacity building events have been facilitated by the Managing Authority. Key areas covered include State Aid, Procurement, Equality and Human Rights, Fraud Prevention, EPPM, CPR, Evaluation, Communications and Visibility, N+3, Risk Based Management Verifications, and Project sustainability. Externally, the Managing Authority

has attended OLAF training on the irregularity management system, and Indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation of EU Funds, plus KR4 Management Verifications.

- ✓ To date over 200 participants have engaged specifically in the procurement and state aid training offered. One-to-one advice clinics were also facilitated by the Managing Authority in conjunction with our legal experts to ensure recipients of EU JTF Funding are aware of their legal obligations and the necessary requirements to comply with them.
- ✓ The Managing Authority has established the management and control systems necessary to accurately manage fund delivery, including producing risk-based management verifications processes, and a comprehensive range of programme checklists, covering once off checks, annual checks, per claim checks, on-the-spot checks, procurement checklists and the Managing Authority checklist.
- ✓ The introduction and utilisation of a brand-new EPPM platform has been an ongoing challenge. Significant effort was put into determining the systems capabilities and defining requirements for intermediate bodies. The Managing Authority also developed comprehensive training materials and supports for EPPM users including a user manual and video tutorials as well as facilitating a training series for those who are required to engage with the system.
- ✓ The Managing Authority explored the use of Simplified Cost Options (SCOs), and Financing Not Linked to Costs (FNLCs) as potential tools for use in easing the administrative burden for the intermediate bodies and beneficiaries. Two SCO's have been compiled with the first of those featured as part of our first programme amendment. It is hoped the second SCO can be progressed in early 2026. The Managing Authority continues to dedicate time to reviewing different perspectives and developing approaches that may prove effective in the EUJTF context.
- ✓ Projects funded under the EU Just Transition Fund were represented at a major regional showcase event in Westmeath on November 5th, 2025. The event celebrated the 172 projects that have been funded to date through the fund representing a total allocation to innovative actions of over €121 million.

Early Preventative Systems Audits

An Early Preventative Systems Audit (EPSA) took place in October 2024 at which point auditors from the European Commission examined the processes within the EUJTF programme. The preliminary assessment categorised each Key Requirement (KR) as either “Works” or “Works Well” and the preliminary findings from the auditors’ report were classified as “Important: Corrective action is needed to address a weakness or an irregularity with no or limited (potential) financial impact,” which is the lowest possible category of finding. The tables below outline the findings and their category.

The preliminary assessment of the audited key requirements is as follows:

Key Requirement	Category ¹
KR1: Appropriate separation of functions	2
KR2: Appropriate selection of operations	2
KR3: Appropriate information to beneficiaries	1
KR4: Appropriate management verifications	2
KR5: Effective system to ensure the audit trail	2

The Commission EPSA was carried out on actions being delivered by Fáilte Ireland (1.1 and 2.3), Pobal (1.2) and DAFM (1.3). Where findings have been identified, the Managing Authority is working with the Intermediary Bodies to address these findings in a timely manner by the deadlines outlined by the Auditors.

In December 2024 and January 2025, EPSAs were commenced by the Irish EUJTF Audit Authority on the Department of Transport (Intermediary Body for Actions 3.1 and 3.2), and EMRA (who are directly managing Action 2.1 (NPWS is the beneficiary)).

In June 2025, there was also a national systems audit on KR7: Effective implementation of proportionate anti-fraud measures. All recommendations arising from the audit findings are currently being implemented.

All findings from across the audits conducted on the EUJTF are considered reasonable and due to their low category rating, they do not pose a significant risk in terms of programme delivery.

Programme Overview

The following section will give a short status update on each of the actions outlined in the Programme before specifically responding to the seven points of reference (a-g) outlined in article 18.

Priority 1: Generating employment for former peat communities by investing in the diversification of the local economy by supporting productive investments in enterprise, SMEs and community actions, focusing on sectors and activities which can address the economic challenge of the transition.

Action 1.1: Foster the economic diversification of the territory by supporting productive investments in micro-enterprises, SMEs and economic stakeholders in key sectors

In Action 1.1 of the EU Just Transition Fund Programme, Fáilte Ireland is delivering on a group of schemes (EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme for Ireland's Midlands 2023-2026) worth over €38m in funding to diversify the regional economy through the sustainable development of tourism. Their funding schemes include an Investment Grant-Aid scheme for SMEs (scheme B); an Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Local Authorities and State Agencies

¹ Category 1. Works well. No or only minor improvements needed. There are no deficiencies or only minor deficiencies found. These deficiencies have no, or minor impact on the functioning of the assessed key requirements / authorities / system.

Category 2. Works, but some improvements are needed. Some deficiencies were found. These deficiencies have a moderate impact on the functioning of the assessed key requirements / authorities / system. Recommendations have been formulated for implementation by the audited body.

(schemes C & D respectively); appointment of tourism activators to each Local Authority in the Territory (scheme E); and an Enterprise Supports Scheme (scheme F). This range of schemes are all designed to work together to help build a Regenerative Tourism industry in the region, create jobs, support habitats and biodiversity, and sustain communities.

Action 1.1 has been delivering on the above group of schemes, holding four open calls for funding (schemes B, E, and two intakes in scheme F) and working directly with strategic partners (schemes C & D) to develop viable projects that can be delivered in the period of the programme.

Eight County Tourism Activators (one per county or part-county with a mix of full-time and part-time roles) were appointed in 2024, to establish a series of high performing tourism business clusters and networks.

To date, Fáilte Ireland has made 4 announcements of project selections with anticipation of making one last announcement of the last batch of projects in November 2025. These announcements amount to 74 projects being selected worth around €13 million in funding for the Territory for regenerative tourism projects. These are in addition to the 22 projects that received €27.1 million in the first round of investment approvals announced in June 2024 and the 66 tourism businesses that are participating in a €5 million Digital Transformation Programme.

A further call for expressions of interest (EOI) in the Investment Grant-Aid scheme for Private and Community SMEs (scheme B) closed in June 2024 with a date for submission of final applications in January 2025, 171 applications were received with 84 of those formally approved. This scheme, worth €17m in total, supports private and community-based micro enterprises and SMEs in the tourism sector, designed to create new jobs and grow the visitor economy. These range from innovation and community hubs to education and training programmes, and from green energy projects to heritage initiatives.

Additionally, 7 projects have been implemented² with a number of official opening events held where work has been completed. For example, Kildare County Council held an opening event of Emily Square on the 12th of September 2025. Also, on that day a new glamping facility called Making Tracks in Ballybrophy, Co. Laois held their own opening event.

Action 1.2: Support the implementation of bottom-up local and regional economic strategies

Projects under the Local and Regional Economic Strategies Support Scheme (LRESSS) span numerous sectors, such as the circular economy, peat replacement for horticulture/bioeconomy, innovation in energy and resource efficiency, retrofitting, training, and upskilling, infrastructure development and scientific research. This scheme is the first of its kind in Ireland that brings direct financial support from the European Union to these Regional and County-level Economic Strategies. The action is dedicated to bottom-up, local project ideas that have the potential to be multipliers in local communities. Beneficiaries to date include SMEs, community groups, social enterprises, local authorities and research institutions.

² These projects have finished the physical implementation of their projects. At this stage of the present report, none of the projects have had their claims fully processed and projects are not yet considered “complete” or “closed.”

The LRESSS projects approved for funding will deliver significant benefits to the region, including:

- investments in enhancing the circular economy, such as through waste prevention, reduction, resource efficiency, reuse, repair, and recycling.
- the preservation, repurposing and refurbishment of local infrastructure and heritage assets – for use as enterprise spaces.
- support to green technologies, including renewable energy and sustainable energy practices.
- support to upskilling, education and training opportunities for the economic development and environmental sustainability of the EU JTF territory.

Over €20m in grant funding was announced across 19 projects that align with Local Economic and Community Plans and two projects that align with Regional Enterprise Plans under the first call of the LRESSS.

In August 2024, 15 additional projects were approved under Call 2, the Community and Enterprise scheme, amounting to €3.8m. These projects received between €50,000 and €300,000 to invest in ideas from the community that create employment and diversify the local economy of the Territory. Two projects that were successful under this call were designated as operations of strategic importance, namely the Peatlands for Prosperity project and the EV-WT Training Programme. The launch for Peatlands for Prosperity project was held at the Paludiculture ‘Showroom’ in Shinrone, Co. Offaly on Wednesday 21 May 2025.

A third competitive call for proposals to support projects implementing Local Economic and Community Plans was launched in August 2024. This final call was initiated to utilise the remaining funding under the LRESSS. The call was aimed at a subset of counties from within the EUJTF Territory most impacted by the transition, which received proportionately less funding (following an evidence-based analysis of impacts and funding distribution) under the previous calls.

Call 3 projects were once again required to demonstrate close alignment with locally defined Regional Enterprise Plans (REPs) and Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs). The outcome of the call was that 10 more projects were successful in this round and awarded a total of almost €6m to implement tangible EUJTF actions across the territory.

Action 1.3 - Support research, development, and innovation activities to contribute to the development of the green and circular economy

For the 2023 first call for funding under this initiative, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine invited eligible applicants to submit proposals for ‘Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiatives’.

The €10m funding opportunity was designed to pilot and demonstrate the ‘bioeconomy in action’ supporting the development of two bioeconomy piloting and demonstration initiative projects which were required to be anchored in the designated EUJTF Territory. The funding offered the opportunity to support close collaboration between stakeholders along the entire bio-based value chain, including SMEs, research performing organisations, universities, local authorities, clusters, primary producers, bioprocessing industries, and consumer brands. It sought the active involvement of local actors (e.g.,

NGOs, local and regional authorities, community, and local action groups) alongside the bio-based industries.

Applicants seeking grant-aid could apply for funding under the following thematic areas:

- Optimised and integrated industrial bio-based systems based on agriculture and/or forestry-based value chains.
- Processing and co-processing of bio-based waste and mixed bio-based waste.

In October 2024, the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine announced the award of €10m to projects under the Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiative.

Funding of €5m was awarded to 'The Lisheen Bioeconomy Scaleup Initiative (BioScaleUp)'. Led by Tipperary County Council, it will demonstrate six innovative technologies at the national pilot biorefinery facility at the National Bioeconomy Campus, Lisheen Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

A further €5m was awarded to 'The Mount Lucas Circular Bioeconomy Aquaculture Initiative' which is led by the Technological University of the Shannon. It will demonstrate the production of new feeds and food ingredients from cultivated-duckweed and macroalgae at scale, using agri-food waste streams produced at a circular peatland integrated aquaculture site at Mount Lucas in Co. Offaly.

Both projects will also include significant training and upskilling opportunities in both facilities across a range of scientific, technical, and engineering, facilitation, business and finance areas related to biorefinery and biomanufacturing.

Call two under this action was launched on Thursday, 12th June 2025, and allowed for two piloting and demonstration projects to be funded, up to a value of €5 million each. The Call sought proposals under four topics; Topic A: Developing biochar products to promote its use in agriculture and industry, and Topic B: Innovative bio-based food and feed ingredients, Topic C: Biobased materials for the construction sector and Topic D: Bio-based value chains for valorisation of sustainable crops.

Four proposals were submitted under the Call, one under each topic. The appraisal process concluded in October 2025. Two projects were successful in this round and contract negotiations are currently being finalised. There were an additional two projects that exceeded the funding threshold, and further consideration is to be given to potentially funding these depending on Intermediate Body capacity and other operational considerations.

Priority 2: Supporting the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands and regeneration and repurposing of industrial heritage assets to enable the transition towards climate-neutrality while also facilitating the diversification and modernisation of the economy of the Territory.

Action 2.1 – Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands

In September 2024, the NPWS commenced Tóchar, a three-year wetlands restoration project. Taking its name from the hundreds of ancient paths or toghers laid across the bogs by our ancestors, the project will serve the community, bringing participants on a nature restoration journey. Since then, the project has been establishing its team and defining a detailed works programme. They have identified specific wetland sites to restore and have been working closely with community groups. A successful

call for Expressions of Interest from landowners, communities, and local groups in the EU Just Transition Territory was launched to identify wetland sites to be restored and for public participation in wetland restoration works.

The project has been very active in 2025 in relation to its communication and community engagement activities. Having been designated one of three operations of strategic importance of the EU JTF, the project had its official launch event on 22nd May 2025. The project launched a dedicated website during the first half of 2025 and has held several events and workshops to provide information on the project's wetland restoration work. There has also been significant engagement with children through a school art initiative where primary school children created artwork based on the biodiversity in bogs.

The Tóchar project has also participated in the Just Transition Peers Exchange programme with visits from Finland in March 2025 and a return trip to Finland in September 2025 to learn about how each country approaches wetland restoration.

Action 2.2 - Research, knowledge transfer and monitoring activities on rewetting measures and overall land management improvements for farmed peat soils

Significant challenges were encountered in implementing Action 2.2, the proposed Midlands Carbon Catchment Study, managed by DAFM, which sought to provide funding to management of farmed soils on former peatlands. The intention was to provide for research, knowledge transfer and monitoring activities on rewetting measures, and overall land management improvements for farmed peat soils. DAFM, the Managing Authority and Member State worked in close collaboration to progress the implementation of this Action, including facilitating solution focused workshops. However, insurmountable implementation challenges raised significant concerns around achieving the expected deliverables within the intended time limit, resulting in the proposed removal of this €15m Action from the Programme.

Action 2.3 - Regeneration and repurposing of industrial heritage assets

Further to the schemes Fáilte Ireland are running in Action 1.1, they are undertaking a Trail Network Development Scheme (scheme A). Through this action, Fáilte Ireland is working with Bord na Móna as strategic partner to develop universally accessible trails on former industrial peatlands across public lands in the EU JTF Territory. Bord na Móna were awarded €3.6m in June 2024 as an initial investment to design and seek planning permission for up to 79 km of new walking and cycling trails in the following areas:

Longford – between Lanesborough and Cloondara
Roscommon – between Termonbarry and Roosky
Westmeath – between Athlone and Ballinahown
Offaly East – between Grand Canal Greenway and Mount Lucas
Offaly West – around Clonmacnoise, Ballinahown and Lough Boora
Tipperary – between Littleton/Lough Doire Bhuile

The trails identified under this action were the ones that had the highest likelihood of getting planning permission, being built, and completed by the August 2026 deadline, while also delivering the most impact on the tourism, economic and sustainability objectives of the EUJTF programme. As of November 2025, three schemes have received planning permission and work has commenced on the Longford, Westmeath and Offaly West trails. Bord na Móna has submitted a further funding application to Fáilte Ireland for the development of the approved walking and cycling trails, valued at €5.7 million.

Discussions are ongoing to develop a simplified cost option under this action which it is proposed would be included in a future programme amendment.

Priority 3: Providing former peat communities with smart and sustainable mobility options to enable them to benefit directly from the green transition by supporting clean, green mobility to build regional attractiveness and support economic development.

Action 3.1 – Decarbonisation of public local rural bus route(s) including scoping, installation of electric charging points, and purchase of electric buses.

A key goal of this action is to demonstrate how electrification of bus routes can provide equitable, low carbon and accessible transport solutions for rural communities, while enhancing connectivity. The selection process developed with the PMC by the Department of Transport and the National Transport Authority (NTA) looked at ensuring alignment with EUJTF objectives, geographical coverage, sustainability & feasibility, community & stakeholder engagement and expected impact & benefits. As a result, Route 865 (Granard to Longford) has been identified as a priority service for electrification. This service will enhance connectivity between rural communities and Longford town and supports increased access to employment, healthcare, and education.

Bus procurement is ongoing with contracts being signed to allow works to begin at the depot. The NTA procurement team aims to have the tender for electric buses live by January 2026. The buses will be procured as part of a broader procurement the organisation is undertaking.

Action 3.2 – Support to private bus operators in the territory to move to electric vehicles including consultancy support and support for specific aspect of the electrification upgrade

The NTA have undertaken engagement with private operators interested in upgrading their bus fleets with the formalisation of this engagement happening at a conference titled ‘Accelerating the Transition to Electric Buses (EU-JTF)’ which took place in October 2024. The event provided detailed insights into available funding, eligibility criteria and opportunities to transition to electric vehicles. Operators who participated in this event were invited to further engage with the NTA, before the 31st of January 2025, for funding to carry out work which will enable them to take steps to electrify their buses. Eight Operators initially engaged and were approved to participate in the planning and implementation process. Out of the original eight operators three have now proceeded to have works carried out with tender packs for lighting and design due by mid-November, and the NTA are aiming for contract awards in early 2026.

Action 3.3 - Installation of publicly available fast and high-powered charge point infrastructure at community centre sites, including consultancy support, support to infrastructure work (civil and electrical work) and purchase of necessary equipment and related installation measures

Significant challenges were encountered in implementing Action 3.3, the ZEV Community Charger Scheme, managed by the Department of Transport. The Department of Transport, the Managing Authority and the Member State responded to changes to the risk profile, and emerging challenges by redesigning of the Scheme and amending the implementation plan. However, insurmountable implementation and delivery challenges raised significant concerns around achieving the expected deliverables within the intended time limit, resulting in the proposed removal of this €15m Action from the Programme.

Funding distribution considerations; STEP, N+3 and the use of SCO's/FNLC's

Single Specific Objective and STEP

The introduction of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Regulation EU 2024/795 in February 2024 has meant that the single specific objective (Article 2 of regulation EU 2021/1056) of the EU Just Transition Fund has been updated accordingly: “The JTF shall contribute to the specific objective of enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement. *The JTF may also support investments contributing to the objectives of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) referred to in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council.*”

The inclusion of the STEP regulation in the EUJTF Specific Objective reflects the European Commission’s commitment to decarbonising under the Green Deal. Actions under the EUJTF, in particular those resulting in training courses to close the skills gap, as well as new supply chains being developed through the bioeconomy, align with this ethos.

Positive Impact of STEP on Decommitment Thresholds

Another consequence of regulation EU 2024/795 is that an additional point 4 was added to article 10 of the EUJTF regulation, three subparagraphs of which are highlighted here: “The Commission shall pay 30% of the JTF allocation, including amounts transferred in line with Article 27 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, to a programme as set out in the decision approving the programme as exceptional one-off pre-financing in addition to the yearly pre-financing for the programme provided for in Article 90(1) and (2) of that Regulation. That exceptional pre-financing shall be paid as from 1 March 2024.”

And

“In accordance with Article 90(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the amount paid as exceptional pre-financing shall be cleared from the Commission accounts no later than with the final accounting year.”

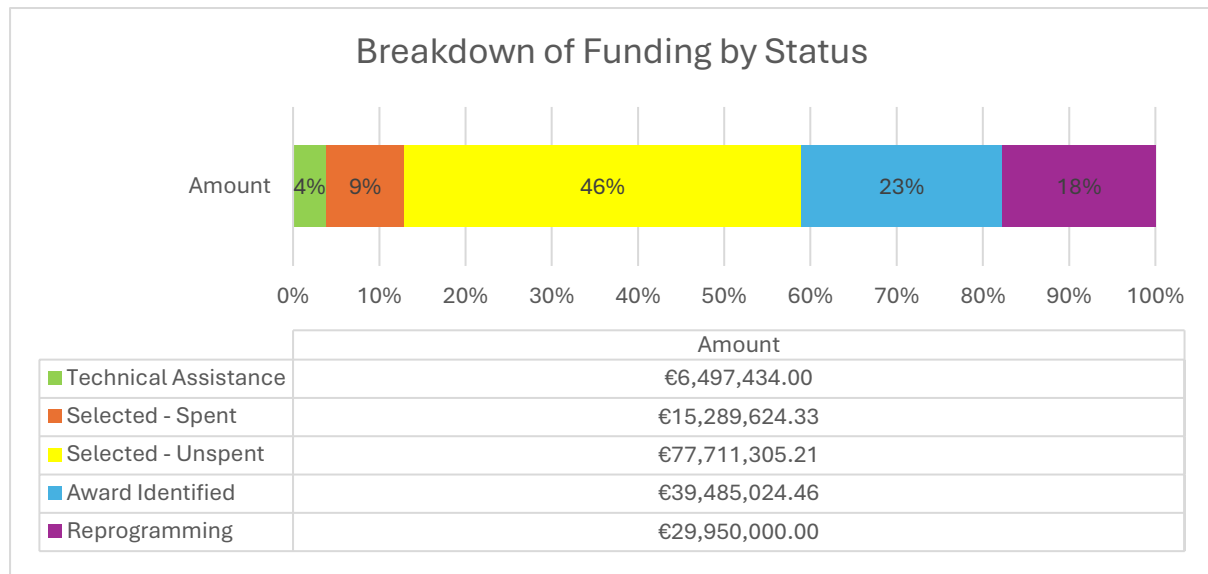
And

“In accordance with Article 105(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the pre-financing to be taken into account for the purposes of calculating amounts to be de-committed shall include the exceptional pre-financing paid.”

This welcome addition to the regulation has substantially modified the thresholds for decommitment post 2026, in a positive manner, as evidenced in the following section.

Current Distribution of Funding

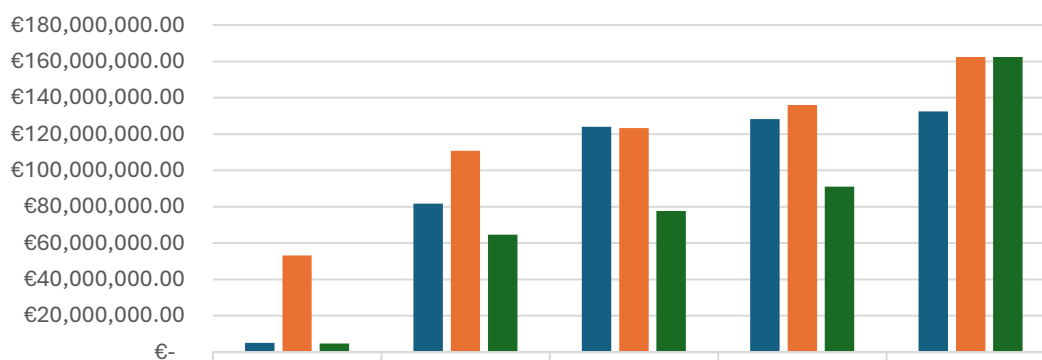
Significant progress has been made towards distribution of Ireland’s funding allocation to beneficiaries. The below chart provides a breakdown of the status of the full €168,933,388 allocation for Ireland.



Aside from the 4% of funding which is allocated to Technical Assistance, 55% of the funding has been awarded to selected operations and is under grant agreement. Of this, 9%, over €15m has been spent. A further €39m is allocated to specific beneficiaries and the associated grant agreements are under negotiation. The remaining 18% of funding is to be reallocated from the decommitted Actions 2.2 & 3.3 and reprofiling of the spend in other actions.

With over €15m having been distributed to beneficiaries for expenditure, dispersed funds outstrip the N+3 target of €4.8m for 2025. In Q1 of the year, we are already contributing towards the more challenging €60m target for the end of 2026. Current projections indicate that €5m will be claimed by the end of 2025 and we estimate that €81m will be claimed by the end of 2026. The forecasted claims against the pre and post STEP Decommitment Thresholds for the length of the fund are visualised below.

Impact of STEP on the Decommitment Threshold



	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
■ Projected Claims (Cumulative)	€5,093,529.28	€81,695,289.96	€124,077,165.58	€128,143,475.97	€132,485,950.00
■ Decommitment Threshold (Pre STEP, Cumulative)	€53,218,211.93	€110,737,774.32	€123,282,657.11	€136,030,419.51	€162,435,950.00
■ Decommitment Threshold (Post STEP, Cumulative)	€4,835,857.40	€64,689,988.96	€77,736,573.46	€90,994,339.96	€162,435,950.00

NB: Prefinancing was added to decommitment threshold for 2026 to cover whole fund Excl. TA

As STEP significantly alleviated the original N+3 targets of the fund, it presents an opportunity to allocate the unallocated €30m. Expenditure reprofiling models were developed to assess areas for absorption within the fund with a view to ensuring 100% drawdown of allocations by programme close.

Use of SCO's and FNLC's

Article 54 flat rates: Flat rates are being used across the Programme in relation to the indirect costs of operations, especially for smaller operations in actions 1.1 and 1.2. Both the "up to 7 %" of eligible direct costs or the "up to 15 %" of eligible direct staff costs are being used as the Member State was not required to perform a calculation to determine this rate, hence they were possible to use in the tight timeline to develop Implementation Plans and Call documentation.

Article 53 National level SCO's/FNLC's: These SCOs could be deemed ineligible by either European Commission Auditors, or the European Court of Auditors, hence there is a risk to the Exchequer, so there is no appetite for their use at the National Level without a corresponding SCO agreed between the member state and the EU under Article 94.

Article 94 EU level SCO's: The Programme is currently pursuing two SCOs under this article thanks to the positive contribution of Fáilte Ireland to the process. These SCOs will concern payments to final recipients of the Digital Transformation stream of action 1.1, and some payments to Bord na Móna under action 2.3. The Digital Transformation SCO has been developed and is awaiting approval, while the Bord na Móna SCO is at drafting stage. These SCOs are considered less risky to the Exchequer than solely using Article 53 as they are agreed in advance with the European Commission. Pending approval, beneficiaries will be reimbursed via corresponding national level SCOs with the same terms and value of the Article 94 SCOs.

Article 95 EU level FNLC's: The possible use of FNLC's has been considered. The main barriers to their uptake have been related to: 1. Resourcing, as the staff capacity is not present in the EUJTF cascade to dedicate the required time to developing out FNLCs; 2. There are conflicts within the existing system as National Level circulars currently require all expenditure to be vouched, which limits the passing on of any reduction in administrative burden to the Beneficiary and; 3. As this is a new tool, there is reluctance on the part of some Intermediate Bodies and Beneficiaries to modify their way of working, especially as it would be solely for use on this fund.

Claims Processing and Spending Forecast

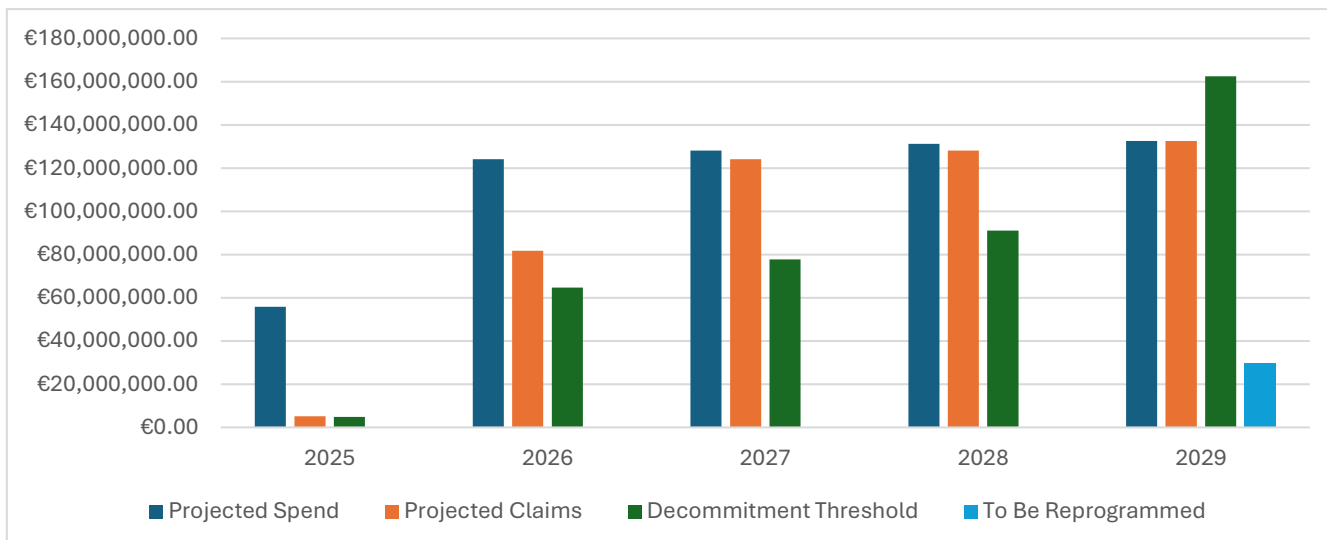
Active monitoring of expenditure remains a focus of EMRA's work as Managing Authority to ensure that we remain on track to meet the decommitment thresholds. As implementation has accelerated, expenditure on the ground has ramped up and current estimates of project spend is €55.8M by the end of the year. However, this expenditure is not yet represented by declarations on the EPPM System. This lag in declarations is the result of:

- Work ongoing to finalise development of the document repository on the EPPM grant management platform.
- Resourcing issues in some intermediate bodies
- Development of the management & verification checklists
- Engagement of third party supports for intermediate bodies

While these issues have impacted claims to date, they have mostly been overcome as follows:

- The development of the document repository is nearing completion, and we are working to resolve the final issues which were identified during user acceptance testing. In the interim a placeholder storage solution has been put in place to allow processing of claims.
- The Intermediate Bodies who are taking on additional processing resources have completed the recruitment process and are in the process of onboarding their new staff, most of whom attended training on EPPM on the 23rd of September.
- Following the initial release of management & verification checklists our intermediate bodies requested further engagement to allow them to procure third party supports for some checks. These engagements are now complete, and the checklists released for use by intermediate bodies, and their third party supports.
- As the checklists were a dependency for closing the procurement process for third party supports and that dependency is now met this process has been finalised and the engagement with the successful bidders is now ongoing.

The below chart and table present the current financial estimates for the fund. All figures are cumulative.



Year	Projected Spend	Projected Claims	Decommitment Threshold	To Be Reprogrammed
2025	€55,838,399.24	€5,093,529.28	€4,835,857.40	
2026	€124,077,165.58	€81,695,289.96	€64,689,988.96	
2027	€128,143,475.97	€124,077,165.58	€77,736,573.46	
2028	€131,146,382.34	€128,143,475.97	€90,994,339.96	
2029	€132,485,950.00	€132,485,950.00	€162,435,950.00	€29,950,000.00

Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (Common Provisions Regulation)

Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 provides for Member States to undertake a mid-term review of all cohesion policy programmes, including EU JTF Programmes, and for an assessment on the outcome of the review to be submitted to the Commission. The mid-term review provides an overview of the progress made in implementing the EU JTF Programme.

Article 18(1) of the Common Provisions Regulation provides for the following elements to be taken into account when undertaking the mid-term review:

- a. the new challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in 2024;
- b. the progress in implementing the integrated national energy and climate plan, if relevant;
- c. the progress in implementing the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights;
- d. the socioeconomic situation of the Member State or region concerned, with special emphasis on territorial needs, taking into account any major negative financial, economic or social development;
- e. the main results of relevant evaluations;
- f. the progress in achieving the milestones, taking into account major difficulties encountered in the implementation of the programme;

- g. an assessment of the progress made by each Member State towards meeting its objectives, targets and contributions and implementing the policies and measures set out in its integrated national energy and climate plan;

A detailed assessment of each of the above follows below.

This mid-term review also serves as an implementation evaluation, prioritising the relevance and coherence criteria (Article 44 refers). This assessment process and document fulfils the mid-term review portion as outlined in the EUJTF programme's Evaluation Plan as it is evaluating programme delivery to date. The mid-term review also includes a proposal for definitive allocation of the flexibility amount.

(a) The new challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in 2024;

Ireland's 2024 Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs)³ relate to fiscal sustainability, delivery of the Recovery & Resilience (RRP) plan, acceleration of the implementation of cohesion policy programmes, improvement in wastewater treatment, and increasing the capacities of the national energy grid.

2024 CSR 1 recommends Ireland maintain a neutral fiscal policy in the coming year to safeguard its fiscal sustainability into the future. Although this CSR is outside the remit of the EUJTF, fiscal prudence and value for money are key considerations when funding activities in the Programme.

CSR 2 recommends Ireland redouble efforts to implement its RRP plan. This recommendation is supported by continued knowledge sharing between bodies responsible for the delivery of Cohesion Policy Funds in Ireland. As CSR 2 also requires Ireland to monitor the potential opportunities offered by the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform initiative, Ireland actively monitors arising opportunities with a view to taking advantage of them using STEP where possible.

CSR 3 recommends increased investment in water treatment with a particular emphasis on reducing leakages and improving water quality. Peatland rehabilitation projects undertaken in Priority 2 of the EUJTF Programme serve to improve water management and peatland hydraulics. In particular, the work undertaken by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) under Action 2.1 of the Programme contribute to the sustainable management of Ireland's water supply through rehabilitation of Irish peatlands. Peatlands serve as a natural filter, purifying water, and mitigating flooding by absorbing excess precipitation while also playing a key role in Carbon Storage. This work contributes to work already being undertaken by Uisce Éireann (formally Irish Water) to improve wastewater treatment.

CSR 4 recommends Ireland improve its grid capacity and energy capacities. The EUJTF regulations mandate that projects demonstrate commitments to energy efficiency, sustainability, and emission reductions, with these actions contributing to reductions of energy requirements in the Midlands Region.

³ 2024 European Semester: Country Specific Recommendation / Commission Recommendation - Ireland https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/0b937573-bf5a-4b4c-8160-aa88f472527a_en?filename=com_2024_607_1_en.pdf

The European Semester Country Report for Ireland⁴ highlights the need to boost productivity and competitiveness in domestic businesses, particularly SMEs, by:

- Pursuing diversification strategies to mitigate risks in the multinational sector,
- Addressing skills shortages, especially in the construction and green sectors, and
- Enhancing employment and social inclusion for disadvantaged groups.

The EUJTF Programme is delivering on these goals in several of its actions:

- The Programme is supporting Regenerative Tourism and Bioeconomy initiatives as indigenous place-based economic activities: Regenerative Tourism takes advantage of the unique ecological character of the Territory to provide an accessible route to the tourism market into which local small businesses can diversify, while the Bioeconomy is laying the foundations for local business to access a completely new supply chain into the innovative manufacturing of high value sustainable end products providing a base from which these sectors can grow in the coming years.
- Upskilling and skills shortages are being addressed through: Learning Networks in Action 1.1, and in 1.2 through projects such as: ReShape, CycleUP, Tipperary Migrant Traineeship Project, EV-WT Training, Computer Science in Every School and Generation Ireland Green Skills Reboot.
- Several of the training projects mentioned have an emphasis on employment and social inclusion for disadvantaged groups (e.g. CycleUp and Tipperary Migrant Traineeship Project), while the Poets Cottage (Laois) is helping to create sustainable employment while combatting social isolation in a sparsely populated village. The Tóchar project is establishing a Women in Nature Restoration Working Group and has also engaged with Lions Clubs in the Territory to explore other avenues of including socially disadvantaged people in their work.

The 2023 Country Report⁵ identified the transition from carbon-intensive energy to renewable sources as a challenge. The EUJTF Programme facilitates this transition in the Territory through its pivotal role in supporting the:

- Diversification of the local economy,
- Restoration of degraded peatlands,
- Regeneration of industrial heritage assets, and
- Promotion of smart and sustainable transport options.

Where required, any amendment to the Programme will give due regard to where the Programme is successfully addressing the CSRs and Report, and to where it could contribute further.

⁴ 2024 Country Report – Ireland: https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/9f14e528-de10-41aa-8b4d-01c5848784c8_en?filename=SWD_2024_607_1_EN_Ireland.pdf

⁵ 2023 Country Report – Ireland: https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/61ad0b86-2eea-4e27-a4ed-ddb148ce6186_en?filename=IE_SWD_2023_607_en.pdf

(b) The progress in implementing the integrated national energy and climate plan, if relevant;

Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)⁶ for 2021-2030 was formally adopted by the Commission in July 2024. Ireland received an assessment of its NECP on 28 May 2025, with this assessment evaluated in section (g) of this document.

The EU JTF Programme plays a supporting role in the delivery of Ireland's NECP. Actions 3.1 and 3.2 support the decarbonisation of the public transport fleet by providing supports for public and private providers respectively.

Bioeconomy projects funded as part of Action 1.3 of the EU JTF Programme support sustainable economic development and innovation in the bioeconomy sector which will assist in the commitment made in the NECP to deliver 5.77TWh of sustainable alternative fuels for use in the heating sector.

Actions undertaken by Pobal under Action 1.2 of the Programme support the development of new, sustainable, enterprises to provide employment as more carbon intensive operations cease. Action 1.2 also provides essential funding for upskilling workers in the Territory to meet the skills requirements of the green transition both in the Territory and the country at large.

Action 2.1, the National Parks & Wildlife Service's Tóchar Wetlands Restoration scheme, is making a meaningful contribution to reducing carbon emissions in the LULUCF sector through restoration of degraded peatlands to facilitate carbon catchment.

(c) The progress in implementing the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights;

Ireland's EU Just Transition Fund (EUJTF), which falls under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), was designed to meet certain conditions in relation to sustainable development, gender equality, non-discrimination and inclusion of underrepresented groups, including those that are culturally distinct, such as Irish Travellers and Roma. It is also framed by the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the European Pillar of Social Rights, and the principle not to cause significant harm. These in addition to national policy pillars form the enabling conditions. By integrating these concepts into the allocation and implementation of funds, the EU fosters social justice and equal opportunities across its regions.

Responding to the needs of displaced peat workers is a socio-economic project intended to create balanced development between regions. Without balance, poverty and inequality can become entrenched. The EU Just Transition Fund aims to enable regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the 2030 and 2050 targets for energy and climate-neutrality. EMRA Staff and implementing partners have undertaken public sector duty training under the guidance of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission. Category five of Fáilte Ireland's Economic Diversification provides "Accessibility Audits" from a

⁶ Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2023-2030: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a856a-national-energy-and-climate-plan-necp-2021-2030/>

procured specialist with a view to improve both the physical accessibility of indoor and outdoor visitor experiences, access to information, online and offline access, information guides, planning and booking tools.

However, the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights extend beyond the horizontal principles. Access to training, secure and adaptable employment and work life balance all align strongly with the fund's objectives of reducing the social and economic costs associated with Ireland's transition away from commercial peat extraction. Priority 1 of the programme squarely aims at diversifying the economy of the territory and building a secure and stable source of local employment through training and investment.

To evaluate the contribution of the EU JTF to the implementation of the principles outlined in the European Pillar of Social Rights, Annex 14 of the Country Report for Ireland was analysed. This annex addresses employment, skills, and social policy challenges in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Each of the 20 principles was examined, identifying relevant aspects and targets mentioned in the report. These were then compared with the actions of the EU JTF Programme to determine its contribution, if any, to the implementation of each principle and the impacted principles are listed in the table below.

Principle	Progress	Status	Contribution from the EU JTF
1. Education, training and life-long learning	Participation in adult learning increased to 48.3% in 2022, above the EU average.	Good progress, but low participation in upskilling remains a challenge.	The EUJTF supports multiple adult learning and upskilling initiatives to support a diverse and resilient skills economy in the midlands. e.g. through action 1.2
3. Equal opportunities	Despite labour shortages in skilled trades, Ireland performs above average in most labour market headline indicators, though the income quintile ratio needs monitoring.	Generally, a high performer but labour shortages persist for skilled trades and income inequality requires monitoring.	The EUJTF supports multiple adult learning and upskilling initiatives to support a diverse and resilient skills economy in the midlands.
4. Active support to employment	Active labour market policies (ALMPs) face administrative challenges, fragmented provisions.	Need for more responsive ALMPs.	The EUJTF supports multiple adult learning and upskilling initiatives to support a diverse and resilient skills economy in the midlands.
5. Secure and adaptable employment	Employment rate reached 79.1% in 2023.	Above EU average, surpassing national target.	The EUJTF is committed to fostering job security in a changing environment. Following the cessation of commercial peat extraction 54% of EUJTF Funding is being invested in diversifying the economy within the territory.
9. Work-life balance	Not specifically addressed in annex 14 of the country report.	-	While not specifically addressed by the EUJTF, Investments in a diverse and resilient local economy will allow residents to find fulfilling work within their community, reducing the need for extensive commutes.
17. Inclusion of people with disabilities	Employment situation improved, but highest disability employment gap in the EU.	Significant challenges remain.	The EUJTF mandates that beneficiaries respect horizontal principles, including accessibility for people with disabilities, requiring, where possible, inclusive design for all investments such as vehicle chargers, buses, and capital projects as well as digital accessibility such as the accessibility audits in action 1.1.

(d) The socioeconomic situation of the Member State or region concerned, with special emphasis on territorial needs, taking into account any major negative financial, economic, or social development.

The Territory

To support the development of Ireland's Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP) and the EU co-funded EUJTF Programme, the European Commission financed an analysis through the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP). To ensure the TJTP and Programme focus on the communities most adversely affected, the Member State commissioned a complementary study to identify the hardest-hit areas based on key socio-economic, demographic, and environmental indicators.

These territorial analyses identified the counties of Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath⁷ Roscommon⁸, and the Municipal Districts (MDs) of Ballinasloe (Co. Galway), Athy, Clane-Maynooth (Co. Kildare)⁹, and Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles (Co. Tipperary)¹⁰ as the most impacted by the green transition. This defined contiguous territory—including one complete NUTS 3 Region (Midlands) and parts of three others (Mid-East, West & Mid-West)—provided a baseline for the geographical context, to ensure an evidence-based approach was applied in the selection of Programme operations and the allocation of the fund.

The territory is predominantly located within the Eastern and Midland NUTS 2 region i.e. Midlands and the MDs of Athy, and Clane-Maynooth, with Roscommon and the MD of Ballinasloe located in the Northern and Western NUTS 2 region and the MDs of Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles located in the Southern NUTS 2 region.

Ireland's Territorial Just Transition Plan

Ireland's TJTP sets out the impacts on the region as a result of the ending of peat extraction for energy production and identifies the development needs and priorities for the territory in order to address these impacts. The accelerated transition away from peat-fired power generation in the Territory presents challenges for a predominantly rural geography that faces a number of socioeconomic disparities, amplifying existing economic, social, and territorial disparities. The Midlands region has had persistently low levels of GDP per capita compared to national averages and a high level of disparity compared to more affluent geographies¹¹.

⁷ Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath are located within the NUTS 3 Midland region.

⁸ Roscommon and the Municipal District (MD) of Ballinasloe (Co. Galway) are located within the NUTS 3 West Region.

⁹ The MDs of Athy and Clane-Maynooth (Co. Kildare) are located within the NUTS 3 Mid-East Region.

¹⁰The MDs of Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles (Co. Tipperary) are located within the NUTS 3 Mid-West Region.

¹¹ EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-27, page 5. Accessed online www.emra.ie

The TJTP also notes limited sustainable public transport options and an increased reliance on private cars to access alternative employment and key services leading to further environmental and air quality degradation within the Territory¹².

Based on the analysis of the impacts on the Territory identified in the TJTP, four key developmental needs were identified for the Territory, each of which is currently being addressed through Programme funding, as follows:

1. Enhance the Business Environment and Create Employment Opportunities

This developmental need is being addressed primarily through Priority 1 of the Programme. Funding schemes under Fáilte Ireland's Regenerative Tourism Scheme, under Action 1.1, including the Investment Grant-Aid scheme for SMEs, and Enterprise Supports Scheme, aim to create and sustain employment in the territory. In addition, the Local and Regional Economic Support Strategies Scheme, under Action 1.2, supports the implementation of bottom-up local and regional initiatives, which align with the priorities of the eight Local Economic and Community Plans and four Regional Enterprise Plans in the territory, providing targeted support to projects that will create employment opportunities in the territory.

2. Enhance the Skills Profile

This developmental need is also being addressed primarily through Priority 1 of the Programme. The Bioeconomy Demonstrations Initiative Scheme, under Action 1.3, is funding projects which will provide significant training and upskilling opportunities across a range of scientific, technical, engineering, facilitation, business, and finance areas related to biorefinery and biomanufacturing. Additionally, Actions 1.1 and 1.2 are funding projects which address upskilling and skills shortages, with several of the training projects having an emphasis on employment and social inclusion for disadvantaged groups.

3. Promoting Environmental Sustainability and Industrial Heritage

This developmental need is being addressed primarily throughout Priority 2 of the Programme but is also addressed by projects supported under Priority 1. The Tóchar Wetland Restoration Project, which is being delivered by the NPWS under Action 2.1, is providing funding towards survey and restoration planning, as well as interpretation, education, and restoration actions on the ground. Through the Trail Network Development Scheme, under Action 2.3, Fáilte Ireland is working with Bord na Móna to develop universally accessible trails on former industrial peatlands across public lands in the Territory.

4. Enhancing potential of region as a place to live, work, invest and visit

This developmental need is being addressed throughout the Programme, across all 3 Priorities. Projects funded under the Regenerative Tourism Scheme, the Local and Regional Economic Support Strategies Scheme, Bioeconomy Demonstrations Initiative Scheme and Tóchar Wetland Restoration Schemes all support the enhancement of the region as a place to live, work, invest and visit. Additionally, Schemes under Priority 3 are providing communities with smart and sustainable mobility options to enable them to benefit directly from the green transition by supporting clean, green mobility to build regional attractiveness and support economic development. Under Actions 3.1 and

¹² Ibid, page 6. Accessed online www.emra.ie

3.2, the NTA are progressing the decarbonisation of public local bus routes and supporting the decarbonisation of fleet for private bus operators.

Bord na Móna, a commercial semi-State body under the aegis of the Department of Climate, Energy, and the Environment, has transitioned from the largest fossil fuel provider in Ireland, to a leading renewable energy provider. It is continuing its transition into a climate solutions company, with a focus on renewable energy and peatlands restoration, and is committed to helping Ireland achieve its renewable energy targets by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. Bord na Móna has commenced development of a pipeline of renewable energy projects across wind, solar and hydrogen, and has developed amenities as part of its infrastructure projects, including facilities for park runs, educational school tours and sensory gardens. Through the Enhanced Decommissioning, Rehabilitation and Restoration Scheme, supported by Ireland's Recovery and Resiliency Programme, Bord na Móna is implementing the largest peatland rehabilitation programme in Europe.

As outlined below, the key challenges, needs and areas for development identified in the TJTP remain relevant for the region, and the use of European Union Just Transition Fund (EU JTF) funding is still required to assist with alleviating these issues.

Socioeconomic Overview

The 2024 Country Report recognises that Ireland's competitiveness is strong and is facilitated by a supportive business environment, high levels of education, skills and digitalisation and low regulatory burden. Ireland's ability to attract foreign direct investment has contributed to the country having one of the highest levels of productivity in the EU¹³, However, the Country Report goes on to note that competitiveness challenges still remain:

- Infrastructure bottlenecks: Delays in critical infrastructure development, particularly in housing, energy, and water, create capacity constraints and hinder the integration of new renewable energy production and industrial processes. These issues are worsened by labour and skills shortages, especially in the construction sector and green skills, which are essential for infrastructure expansion¹⁴.
- Economic concentration risk: A high reliance on a few multinational sectors increases Ireland's vulnerability to downturns in these industries¹⁵.
- Weak R&D investment: Limited investment in research and development restricts innovation, productivity, and growth, particularly in the domestic sector¹⁶

The most critical competitiveness deficit remains Ireland's Infrastructure performance, in particular its performance under Basic Infrastructure where in 2024 Ireland ranked at 38th (down from 29th in 2023). This includes management of water infrastructure, our energy infrastructure and relatively high

¹³ Commission staff working document 2024 Country Report – Ireland. Accompanying the document Recommendation for a Council recommendation on the economic, social, employment, structural and budgetary policies of Ireland, page 3.

¹⁴ Ibid, page 3.

¹⁵ Ibid, page 3.

¹⁶ Ibid, page 3.

electricity costs¹⁷. Similar competitiveness challenges and deficits are observed at a NUTS 3 level as expounded upon in the OECD Regional Development Papers¹⁸.

Social Context

At a Member State level, the 2024 Country Report notes that Ireland is advancing its fair transition towards climate neutrality, as outlined in the 2022 Council Recommendation. The Just Transition framework, embedded in the climate action plan, is implemented by key administrative bodies, and supported by the EUJTF and national funds, particularly in affected regions. Stakeholder engagement is a priority in policy planning. Occupational safety regulations align with green economy trends, while Green Public Procurement guidance promotes sustainability. Ireland also plans to gradually raise carbon tax rates until 2030, using the revenues to support the green transition¹⁹.

Both the Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF) and cohesion policy funds back initiatives that tackle climate adaptation needs while ensuring a fair transition for citizens. The EU JTF assists Ireland's Midland Region and the Territory as a whole, in managing the shift away from peat-based electricity generation by funding worker reskilling and fostering entrepreneurship for economic transformation²⁰.

Across the Eastern and Midland's sub-regions included or partly included in the Just Transition Territory²¹, it is noted that the **Mid-East region** boasts a high quality of life, robust transport infrastructure, and strong digital connectivity but lags in labour market performance and natural capital. Expanding job opportunities and green spaces would enhance regional well-being²². The **Midlands region** benefits from strong social cohesion and rich natural capital but faces obstacles in economic development, innovation, labour market conditions, housing, education, and healthcare, underscoring the need for targeted investment²³

The **West Region**, part of which is located in the Territory, excels in innovation and social cohesion but struggles with economic performance, education, and infrastructure. The sub region as a whole requires strategies to strengthen economies, education, and infrastructure²⁴.

In the **Mid-West**, part of which is located in the Territory, strong economic performance, housing, tourism, and social cohesion are standout features; however, the regional labour market, transport-connectedness, and environmental preservation efforts require further improvement²⁵.

¹⁷ [National Competitiveness and Productivity Council \(NCPC\)](#), Bulletin 24-4 IMD World Competitiveness Rankings.

¹⁸ OECD Regional Development Papers (2023) Towards Balanced Regional Attractiveness in Ireland Enhancing the Delivery of the National Planning Framework, page 21.

¹⁹ Commission staff working document 2024 Country Report – Ireland. Accompanying the document Recommendation for a Council recommendation on the economic, social, employment, structural and budgetary policies of Ireland, page 48.

²⁰ Ibid, page 8.

²¹ Please note that the OECD Regional Development Papers (2023) Towards Balanced Regional Attractiveness in Ireland Enhancing the Delivery of the National Planning Framework from which the following commentary relies on for some elements of source material, provides comparative analysis at the NUTS 3 level. Part of the programme territory is located within the NUTS 3 regions referred to in this section.

²² OECD Regional Development Papers (2023) Towards Balanced Regional Attractiveness in Ireland Enhancing the Delivery of the National Planning Framework, page 21.

²³ Ibid, page 21.

²⁴ Ibid, page 21.

²⁵ Ibid, page 22.

Each sub-region possesses unique strengths that complement one another, reinforcing the need for a coordinated strategy²⁶

Demographic Indicators

The baseline, Census 2016, established the population of the Just Transition Territory as 525,079, 11% of that of the State. The population was distributed across eight local authority areas as follows: Westmeath (17%); Kildare (16%); Laois (16%); Offaly (15%); Roscommon (12%); Tipperary (11%); Longford (8%); and Galway County (5%). The area covers nineteen municipal districts (MDs). Their populations range in size from 10,674 in Granard to 58,167 in Clane-Maynooth, and the median population across the MDs is 25,476²⁷.

An overall intercensal **increase in population and density** is observed in the Territory. Census 2022²⁸ shows an increase of 45,568 or 8.7% to 570,647 (11.1% of State population). The population distribution in 2022 across the eight local authority areas is as follows: Westmeath (17%); Kildare (17%); Laois (16%); Offaly (15%); Roscommon (12%); Tipperary (10%); Longford (8%); and Galway County (5%). The area covers nineteen municipal districts (MDs). In 2022 the populations of the 19 Municipal Districts range in size from 11,500 in Granard to 66,412 in Clane-Maynooth, and the median population across the MDs is 27,004.

The baseline overall population density for the Territory was reported as persons per km, while the corresponding value for the State was 68.1 persons per km²⁹. In 2022³⁰ the population density is higher with 44.1 persons per km², while the corresponding value for the State is 73 persons per km².

Dependency ratios provide insight into the age structure of a population, with higher values signifying a greater degree of **age-related dependency**.

The baseline established that individuals aged 0-12 years accounted for 19.8% of the EU JTF Territory's population, while the corresponding figure for Ireland was 18.5%. Young people aged 13-17 made up just over 7% of the territory's resident population, a proportion comparable to that of the Midlands Region (NUTS 3) and higher than the corresponding values for the State and the Eastern and Midland Region (NUTS 2). Just over one in seven (13.4%) people in the territory were aged over 65, aligning with the State value and slightly exceeding that of the Midlands (NUTS 3) Region³¹.

By 2022, the proportion of those aged 0-12 years had slightly declined to 17.8% of the territory's population, with the corresponding figure for Ireland at 16.8%. Young people aged 13-17 now represent 7.5% of the territory's resident population, a proportion consistent with that of the Midlands Region (NUTS 3) and higher than the corresponding values for the State and the Eastern and Midland

²⁶ Ibid, Page 21.

²⁷ EU Just Transition Plan Territory Statistical Analysis and Territorial Profile (March 2022), People & Place Limited | We Know Ireland | <https://peopleandplace.ie> A Maynooth University Spin-Out Company, page 18.

²⁸ [CSO Census of Population 2022](#). Sourced from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) from Census 2022 (aggregate Municipal District results),

²⁹ EU Just Transition Plan Territory Statistical Analysis and Territorial Profile (March 2022), People & Place Limited | We Know Ireland | <https://peopleandplace.ie> A Maynooth University Spin-Out Company, page 19.

³⁰ [CSO Census of Population 2022](#). Sourced from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) from Census 2022 (aggregate Municipal District results)

³¹ EU Just Transition Plan Territory Statistical Analysis and Territorial Profile (March 2022), People & Place Limited | We Know Ireland | <https://peopleandplace.ie> A Maynooth University Spin-Out Company, pages 19 and 20.

Region (NUTS 2). Under one in seven (15.2%) individuals in the territory are aged over 65, matching the State value and slightly exceeding that of the Midlands (NUTS 3) Region³².

Economic Indicators

Labour Force:

In 2016, 84.9% (207,481) of the EU JTF Territory's **labour force** is classified as being 'at work'. This was lower than the corresponding values in the State and Eastern and Midland (NUTS 2) Region. A stronger employment performance is noted in 2022, with 91.1% (246,500) of the territory's labour force classified as being 'at work'. This is in line with corresponding values in the State and Eastern and Midland (NUTS 2) Region³³.

A modest intercensal decline of 500 persons is noted in 2022 (14,500)³⁴, of people in the Territory **working in the primary sector** (agriculture, peat harvesting, forestry & fishing). This constitutes 5.9% of the workforce – a proportion that is 2.3% higher than the State as a whole. In 2016 the figure reported was 15,000 which constituted 7.5% of the workforce – a proportion that was over 3% higher than the State as a whole³⁵.

Unemployment:

The figures for unemployment in the territory have shown improvement over time. In 2016, 30,072³⁶ were recorded as unemployed in the territory, while in 2022, it stands at 23,500, or 8.9% of the labour force classed as **unemployed**. This is marginally higher than the State (8.3%) and Eastern and Midland (NUTS 2) Regional (8.3%) averages. Of the 23,500 classed as unemployed in the EU JTF territory, half (51% or 12,309) are **long-term unemployed**. This accounts for 4.6% of the labour force.

At a NUTS 2 regional-level data reveals that in quarter 3, 2024, the Eastern and Midland reports an unemployment rate of 4.4%. A rate that is lower than the State, 4.6% and the lowest of the three NUTS 2 regions in Ireland. The Midlands (NUTS 3) persists in having a higher unemployment rate at 5.3% than the State at 4.6%. The Midlands has the 2nd highest unemployment rate reported for this quarter, with only the South-East NUTS III region reporting a higher rate. The quarter 3, 2024 unemployment rate for the Midlands reports an improvement over quarter 3, 2021 rate of 6.1%³⁷.

GDP Performance:³⁸

³² [CSO Census of Population 2022](#). Sourced from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) from Census 2022 (aggregate Municipal District results),

³³ EU Just Transition Plan Territory Statistical Analysis and Territorial Profile (March 2022), People & Place Limited | We Know Ireland | <https://peopleandplace.ie> A Maynooth University Spin-Out Company, page 100.

³⁴ [CSO Census of Population 2022](#). Sourced from the CSO Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) from Census 2022 (aggregate Municipal District results),

³⁵ EU Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-27, page 6. Accessed online www.emra.ie

³⁶ EU Just Transition Plan Territory Statistical Analysis and Territorial Profile (March 2022), People & Place Limited | We Know Ireland | <https://peopleandplace.ie> A Maynooth University Spin-Out Company, page 110.

³⁷ [The Regional Development Monitor \(RDM\) Hub](#).

³⁸ Please note that a number of economic indicators, including GDP are not available below a NUTS 3 level. This section includes statistics at a NUTS 2 or NUTS 3 level, where either the entire NUTS region is included in the EU JTF Territory (i.e. Midland) or a part of the Territory is located in the mentioned NUTS 3 region. In some instances, references and statistics for the NUTS 2 region of EMRA or NUTS 3 regions of Dublin and the Border are included for comparison purposes.

In 2023, the GDP of the Eastern and Midland region, reported at 245% of the EU average, was ranked first across the EU NUTS 2 regions. The exceptionally high GDP per capita in this region can be partly attributed to the presence of major multinational enterprises³⁹. Ireland maintains strong competitiveness, driven by a supportive business environment, high levels of education, advanced skills and digitalisation and a low regulatory burden. The country's ability to attract foreign direct investment has resulted in one of the highest productivity levels in the EU. The Northern and Western region, areas of which comprise the Just Transition Territory⁴⁰, shows a relatively weaker GDP performance at 100% of the EU average⁴¹

Notwithstanding the reported strong economic performance of the Eastern and Midland region at a NUTS 2 level, across a range of metrics, several competitiveness challenges persist. The relatively high overall GDP per capita levels on a NUTS 2 level for the Eastern and Midland obscures significant sub-regional income disparities as well as other multi-dimensional territorial inequalities.⁴² A focus, therefore, is required at a NUTS 3 level for a more granular appreciation of performance.

Disposable income per person highlights a significant divergence between the Dublin and the Midlands regions. While the latter enjoyed an increase of 19.2% over the period 2019 to 2023⁴³ the reported increase for the Dublin region for the corresponding time period was a significant, 30.4% gain. In 2023, according to the CSO regional accounts, the Midlands region's disposable income per person is 73.8% of that in the Dublin region. GDP at NUTS 3 level unfolds deeper insight into relative performance within the Eastern and Midland region. The 2023 EUROSTAT figures at a NUTS 3 level report the Midlands GDP as 75% of the EU average and the Mid-East⁴⁴ at 87%. After the Border region with a 2023 GDP average of 68%, the Midlands stands 2nd lowest among the Irish NUTS 3 regions in terms of GDP performance⁴⁵.

Environmental Indicators

An analysis of the **main source of fuel for household central heating**, shows reductions across the period in the use of Peat and Coal, however a modest increase in the use of home heating oil is observed.

The 2016 baseline set out the usage as follows⁴⁶:

Peat - Throughout much of the EU JTF Territory, peat was the primary source of home heating. Over a fifth (**21.8%**) of all households in the EU JTF Territory used peat to heat their homes. This is two percentage points lower than is the case in the Midlands (NUTS 3) Region, but it is almost four times the level across the State.

³⁹ [EUROSTAT](#)

⁴⁰ Territorial Just Transition Plan, EU Just Transition Fund 2022

⁴¹ [EUROSTAT](#)

⁴² OECD Regional Development Papers (2023) Towards Balanced Regional Attractiveness in Ireland Enhancing the Delivery of the National Planning Framework (page 11).

⁴³ [The Regional Development Monitor \(RDM\) Hub](#).

⁴⁴ Please note that part of the EU JTF Territory is located in the NUTS 3 region of the Mid-East

⁴⁵ [EUROSTAT](#).

⁴⁶ EU Just Transition Plan Territory Statistical Analysis and Territorial Profile (March 2022), People & Place Limited | We Know Ireland | <https://peopleandplace.ie> A Maynooth University Spin-Out Company, page 58.

Coal - The use of coal, as the primary household fuel, was less prevalent than peat throughout the territory. Fewer than five percent (**4.5%**) of households used coal to heat their homes. This was slightly lower than the percentage across the State (**5.1%**).

Oil - Almost half (**48.4%**) of households in the territory used oil as their primary source of heating. This was over eight percentage points higher than in the State, as many households in Ireland's main urban centres had access to the national gas network.

The 2022 usage is reported as⁴⁷:

Peat - More than 1 in 6 (**15.7%**) households in the territory use peat to heat their homes. This is one percentage points lower than is the case in the Midlands (NUTS 3) Region, but it is almost four times the level across the State (**3.7%**).

Coal - Just over 3% of households burn coal to heat their homes. This is in line with the percentage across the State (**3.5%**).

Oil – As noted a slight increase to 48.5% of households in the territory use oil as their primary source of heating. This is almost ten percentage points higher than in the State (38.9%).

Conclusion

The programme strategy remains valid, with no major socio-economic factors necessitating significant shifts in resource allocation. The Programme for Government 2025 *'Securing Ireland's Future'* notes the plan to "invest in regenerative tourism projects in the Midlands with the help of the EU Just Transition Fund"⁴⁸ underscoring the commitment to the Programme.

With first calls occurring in H2 2023, following a Programme approval in late November 2022, it is too early to establish material impact of implementation on the Territory, but the level of approval of applications for funding is a strong testament to the demand for funding under the programme.

(e) The main results of relevant evaluations

Several key steps towards impact evaluation work have been carried out to date. A draft evaluation plan was submitted to the Programme Monitoring Committee for discussion in November 2023 and again in November 2024, at which point it was approved. The present mid-term review report fulfils the mid-point assessment of programme delivery, especially in terms of relevance and coherence criteria, as scheduled in the evaluation plan. An evaluation working group has since been established to provide direction on future evaluation work, including evaluation scope, evaluation methodology, procurement of independent experts, monitoring quality control, and the analysis and communication of evaluation outcomes. The working group is made up of representatives from the Member State, the Managing Authority, delivery partners, including intermediate bodies and public body beneficiaries, and members of the PMC.

To upskill in the area of evaluation, EMRA coordinated a comprehensive training series in 2024 for Managing Authorities, Implementing Bodies and beneficiaries to support programme implementation.

⁴⁷ [National Census Atlas \(2022\)](#)

⁴⁸ Draft Programme for Government 2025 Securing Ireland's Future (page 21)

This included capacity building around evaluation. EMRA organised a two-day targeted training event with facilitators from the Evaluation Helpdesk. The training was provided to the three Regional Assemblies, who manage the ERDF and EUJTF programmes in Ireland, and took place in Dublin during March 2024. This training provided the teams implementing European programmes with guidance and direction on evaluation work required throughout programme implementation. This training was further complemented by EMRA staff's participation at the Evaluation Helpdesk Summer School, in June 2024 and July 2025.

The EU JTF programme collaborated with several other EU funds operating in Ireland – specifically the ESF+, ERDF SEM and N&W programmes, and EMFAF – to conduct a National Public Awareness Survey. Conducted in Q1-Q2 of 2025, the survey aimed to establish awareness, perceptions and interests of the general population in EU Cohesion Policy Funds. Measures on awareness of the EU emblem and the overall impact of EU funding were also included. The research was structured on a sample of Irish adults at a NUTS III and national level. The overall awareness of the EU JTF was the lowest of the four Funds in the survey (at 25%, compared to 45% awareness in ERDF, 35% in ESF+, and 35% in EMFAF) while there were high levels of interest (57% nationally and 71% of respondents in the Midlands) in finding out more about the EU JTF. Some of the key learnings from the survey were:

- There is a general positive sentiment towards EU (with 82% of adults perceiving that Ireland's membership of the EU is a 'good thing'), but general knowledge around EU, its policies and programmes is more modest (43% feeling they are at least 'somewhat knowledgeable' around this).
- There was an encouraging overall awareness of EU Cohesion Policy Funds with 2 out of 3 adults aware of at least one EU Cohesion Policy Fund.
- Online channels had equal reach of national newspapers and radio
- While perception of the impact of EU funds is extremely positive at county (75% of respondents) and national (60% of respondents) levels, perceived impact at the individual level is lower (40% think EU funds benefits them individually)
- There is strong interest in finding out more about EU Cohesion Policy Funds (67% reporting interest in finding out more information).
- Supports towards EU and its Funds is high but marginally declined in comparison to 2020 (from 88% to 82% respondents reporting perception that Ireland's membership is a 'good thing'; and 82% to 75% perceiving that Ireland has benefited from the EU funds).

Learnings from this survey will be integrated into the communication strategy and activities going forward. For example, the communication strategy will:

- Focus on communicating one big theme to lead the messaging, making it memorable, relatable and relevant
- Go to where the people are – especially younger, more digitally engaged audiences
- Cross-promote each other's funds
- Focus on story telling highlighting communities and individuals that are benefiting from the Fund.

A separate survey was conducted by NPWS to ensure its activities are well-targeted and to better understand the local and national population views on rewetting and restoration works. The research indicated that the public has a high level of experience with wetland areas in Ireland and this is

especially the case for those in Wetland Restoration Target counties, with 1 in 3 ever visiting these areas for recreation activities. There is broad acknowledgement that wetland restoration has many benefits, and nature preservation is high on the public's list of priorities, but recognition by 2 in 5 that restoration projects will negatively impact turf cutters. When it comes to wetland restoration, there is trust in the NPWS and those who feel passionately that this is the right way forward, but there are some concerns about the size and scale of the restoration projects and that these projects unfairly penalise small turf cutters. The results of the research are now informing the communication strategies for both the project and the overall EU JTF Programme. In line with this research, there needs to be open communication with those in the Territory affected by wetland restoration projects, and that the many benefits to wetland restoration should be broadcast.

Key learning points and insights

Reflecting on the mid-term review process and the outcomes described in this report, particularly in sections (a) through (d) and (f), the Managing Authority has evaluated the relevance and coherence of the EUJTF programme to date. Taking into account the analysis in the previous sections of this document it is evident that the **relevance** of the programme priorities and actions remain appropriate. The programme responds to the current needs and problems identified in the EUJTF territory and in the Country Specific Recommendations. Though it is too early to establish material impact of implementation, as noted in the previous section, implementation to date suggests that the internal **coherence** of the programme remains. The various actions within the programme priorities work together to amplify delivery and impact.

In terms of programme implementation, there have been many lessons learnt since programme inception; some pertinent ones include:

1. The importance of building and maintaining relationships. A programme of this nature requires collaborative yet robust engagement with stakeholders up and down the implementation chain. Clear honest communication between all parties is crucial to determine the success of our collective objectives.
2. The need to adopt a creative approach to problem solving and be prepared to adapt to emerging challenges in a flexible manner exploring all options and avenues where progress can be achieved.
3. The importance of tapping into and exploiting all resources, training and supports available. The Managing Authority has procured and now has access to a wide range of experts and facilitators who work with us to address any identified knowledge deficits particularly in relation to the complex areas of state aid and procurement.

(f) The progress in achieving the milestones, taking into account major difficulties encountered in the implementation of the programme;

One of the purposes of milestones is to inform the mid-term review. Progress against key indicators has been positive, with some 2024 milestones (RCO01, RCO02, PSO1) being exceeded, while some others are behind schedule (RCO38, PS02, RCO10). The milestones are broadly reflective of the

position of corresponding priorities in terms of their implementation status, and reflective of the challenges and opportunities the fund has faced. It should be noted that the required date for achieving the defined output targets is end of 2029. As many projects are still in the early stages of implementation and delivery in 2025, many of these targets have not yet been reached.

Priority	Fund in Priority	Unit	2024 Output Target	Output Reached	% of Target Reached
1: Economic Diversification	€87 million	Enterprises	58	139	240
		Strategies	1	9	900
2: Peatland Restoration	€57 million	Hectares	1506	0	0
3: Smart & Sustainable Mobility	€18 million	Passengers	0	0	N/A
		Chargers	16	0	0
		Enterprises	12	12	100

Explanation of Existing Data

The tables below outline the achievement of milestones and targets in 2024/2025.

Priority 1: The figures for RCR01 and RCR02 are a sum of SMEs and Social Enterprises supported directly by Fáilte Ireland (114) and Pobal (25) to date. Remaining progress on this indicator is tied to the assessment of final Scheme B applications in Action 1.1.

The Figure for RCO10 is based on SME's collaborating in projects selected to date in Action 1.3.

Priority 2: RCO38 is reported as zero. The NPWS (Action 2.1) have identified sites, however the Restoration/Rehabilitation plans are not yet in place, and so this cannot be counted towards the 2024 milestone yet. These sites amount to 1472Ha (e.g. Slieve Bloom mountains, Pollardstown Fen etc. The NPWS has also run a call for private and community owned sites, and from applications received to date, they expect to hit their portion of RCO38 (currently with a 2029 target of 2500Ha).

This, in any case, would not give a full impression of this indicator, as the challenge to hit the 2026 target is heavily dependent on Action 2.2 which is not contributing to the 2024 milestone figure. As outlined in the Programme Overview section of this document, is it proposed to remove this action from the Programme, and as such this portion of RCO38 will not be met (currently with a 2029 target of 10,000 Ha). This indicator will need to be reviewed.

Priority 3: PSO2, and PSR3 relate mainly to Action 3.3. As outlined in the Programme Overview section of this document, is it proposed to remove this action from the Programme, and as such these indicators will not be met and will need to be reviewed/removed.

RCO57, and RCR29 relate to the Electric Bus Route as part of Action 3.1. As such it is currently on track. It should be noted that 2 of the chargers in PSO2 relate to Acton 3.1.

RCR04 is based on participation by small private bus operators at the Conference on "Accelerating the Transition to Electric Buses (EUJTF)" which took place in October 2024. Reaching the RCR02 target is dependent on companies that applied for assistance after this conference. Eight companies applied and were assessed, with 3 companies proving eligible for support. The NTA is currently working on developing agreements with these companies.

Priority 1 Indicators

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Milestone 2024	Target 2029	Achieved
RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	n/a	n/a	58	453	139
RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	n/a	n/a	58	453	139
RCO10	Enterprises cooperating with research organisations	enterprises	n/a	n/a	8	16	5
PSO1	Local and regional economic strategies supported	Local & regional economic strategies supported	n/a	n/a	1	5	9
RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Annual FTEs	0	2022	n/a	109.25	0
RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation	enterprises	0	2022	n/a	266	111
RCR04	SMEs introducing marketing or organisational innovation	enterprises	0	2022	n/a	16	5
PSR1	Population covered by local or regional economic strategies supported	Number of inhabitants	0	2022	n/a	292,301	553,337

Priority 2 Indicators

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Milestone 2024	Target 2029	Achieved
RCO38	Surface area of rehabilitated land supported	Hectares	n/a	n/a	1506	12530	0
RCR52	Rehabilitated land used for green areas, social housing, economic or other uses	Hectares	0	2022	n/a	130	0
PSR2	Rehabilitated land used to support the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and/or improve hydrological status	Hectares	0	2022	n/a	12400	0

Priority 3 Indicators

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Milestone 2024	Target 2029	Achieved
RCO57	Capacity of environmentally friendly rolling stock for collective public transport	passengers	n/a	n/a	0	95	0
PSO2	Alternative fuels infrastructure (refuelling/ recharging points)	Refuelling/Recharging Points	n/a	n/a	16	62	0
RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	n/a	n/a	12	12	12
RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	n/a	n/a	8	8	0
RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	n/a	n/a	12	12	12
RCR29	Estimated greenhouse emissions	tonnes CO2 eq./year	91.1	2022	n/a	63.6	0
RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation	Enterprises	0	2022	n/a	4	0
PSR3	Annual active usage time of newly installed EV charging points	Hours/year	0	2022	n/a	438	0

(g) For programmes supported by the JTF, the assessment carried out by the Commission, pursuant to point (b) of Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.

Article 18(1) (g) of the CPR requires Ireland to consider the Commission’s assessment of Ireland’s NECP pursuant to point (b) of Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. Ireland’s NECP was published in June 2024 and the Commission’s assessment was received on 28 May 2025⁴⁹. This assessment builds upon the Commission’s assessment of the draft plan which was received in February 2024⁵⁰ which includes 23 recommendations to be incorporated into the final NECP. Of these recommendations, the Commission found that Ireland has at least partially addressed 22, with the JTF directly contributing to 6 of these.

Ireland’s EU JTF Programme makes contributions to delivery of Recommendations 1, 3, 7, 9, 16, and 19. Action 2.1, the Tóchar Wetland Restoration Project contributes to reductions of LULUCF emissions as required under Recommendation 3. The Local and Regional Economic Strategies Support Scheme, under Action 1.2 supports renewable energy ambitions set out in Recommendations 7 and 9. Action 1.3, the Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiative Scheme contributes to the innovation and competitiveness requirements under Recommendation 16. All the above contribute to Recommendation 1, relating to the overall emission reductions required by the Effort Sharing Regulation, and Recommendation 19, which requires the phasing out of turf and coal as a source of energy.

On review, Recommendations 10 and 11 were identified as areas where the EU JTF may be able to make further contributions. Recommendation 10 relates to meeting Ireland’s emissions reductions under the Energy Efficiency Directive while Recommendation 11 is considered with national energy efficiency targets. Any future amendment to the Programme will consider these possibilities with a view to meeting the objectives set out in the NECP.

Conclusion

Significant progress has been made to date in programme implementation. Most actions are performing well and hitting milestones. However, going forward there are three main conclusions which can be drawn from this Mid-Term Review:

1. Action 2.2 - “Research, knowledge transfer and monitoring activities on rewetting measures and overall land management improvements for farmed peat soils”, is not feasible in the timeframe of the Just Transition Fund, nor in the management and verification framework of the Common Provisions Regulation.

⁴⁹ Commission Assessment of the Final Updated National Energy and Climate Plan of Ireland:

https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/69fabaf4-87eb-4195-bb83-66a2b019ccbf_en?filename=IE_Extract_SWD%202025_140.pdf

⁵⁰ Commission Recommendation, Assessment (SWD) and Factsheet of the draft updated National Energy and Climate Plan of Ireland https://commission.europa.eu/publications/commission-recommendation-assessment-swd-and-factsheet-draft-updated-national-energy-and-climate-20_en

2. Action 3.3 – “Installation of publicly available fast and high-powered charge point infrastructure at community centre sites” is not feasible in the timeframe of the Just Transition Fund, nor in the management and verification framework of the Common Provisions Regulation.
3. A programme amendment is now required to reallocate the funds currently allocated to actions 2.2 and 3.3. It is proposed to facilitate this through the introduction of a new Priority (4) and an associated action.

The Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP) is also being updated to reflect and align with these updates to the programme.

1. Removal of Action 2.2 from the Programme

Significant challenges were encountered in implementing Action 2.2, the proposed Midlands Carbon Catchment Study, managed by DAFM, which sought to provide funding to management of farmed soils on former peatlands. The intention was to provide for research, knowledge transfer and monitoring activities on rewetting measures, and overall land management improvements for farmed peat soils. DAFM, the Managing Authority and Member State worked in close collaboration to progress the implementation of this Action, including facilitating solution focused workshops. However, insurmountable implementation challenges raised significant concerns around achieving the expected deliverables within the intended time limit, resulting in the proposed removal of this €15m Action from the Programme.

2. Removal of Action 3.3

Significant challenges were encountered in implementing Action 3.3, the ZEVI Community Charger Scheme, managed by the Department of Transport. The Department of Transport, the Managing Authority and the Member State responded to changes to the risk profile, and emerging challenges by redesigning of the Scheme and amending the implementation plan. However, insurmountable implementation and delivery challenges raised significant concerns around achieving the expected deliverables within the intended time limit, resulting in the proposed removal of this €15m Action from the Programme.

3. Programme Amendment

The reallocation of funding following the removal of Actions 2.2 and Action 3.3 has been carefully assessed with a firm proposal for the inclusion of a new action under a new priority 4 now being put forward for approval.

Inclusion of a New Action

As noted above, while implementation of the Programme has progressed well, it has become increasingly clear that further support will be needed to assist the climate transition in the Midlands Region to meet national GHG reduction targets. The single objective of the EU JTF is to enable regions and people to address the social, employment, economic, and environmental impacts of the transition towards climate neutrality by supporting affected territories to avoid inequalities and ensure no one is left behind.

To date, the Programme has performed well in addressing the challenges encountered due to the termination of peat harvesting for solid fuel and electricity generation, but the overall emissions in the

Territory are still high. Under Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, each Local Authority was required to develop a Baseline Emissions Inventory to monitor and prioritise emissions reductions in their local area. Based on these inventories, it was found that the average emissions of Local Authorities in the Territory were 16.30 tonnes of Co2 equivalent per person compared to a national average of 14.62. As is noted above, the Territory also records higher levels of solid fuel use and higher levels of deprivation than the country at large and it is essential that emissions reductions are not pursued in a manner that results in inequalities widening.

As such, it is concluded that a new Priority should be integrated into the Programme, aimed at supporting the climate transition of the territory. In delivering on this Priority, the Member State and the Managing Authority have identified Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAPs) as a mechanism to ensure emissions reductions are both pursued strategically and are not at the detriment of social inclusion and equality.

Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, each Local Authority is required to produce such a plan to reduce emissions in their area in order to achieve the national target of reducing GHG emissions by 51% by 2030. These plans are designed to lead to a reduction of GHG emissions in each Local Authority area. They will address mitigation and adaptation in an integrated way and strengthen alignment between climate policy and the delivery of effective climate action at local and community levels. In doing so, they will play a significant role in reinforcing the commitment by the local government sector to lead climate action and in delivering a Just Transition through a practical, plan based, delivery mechanism.

In supporting the implementation of the LACAPs, the Programme can provide funding for an existing strategic and holistic plan to deliver emissions reductions through actions identified at the grass roots level as being high impact.

Review of the Modernised Cohesion Policy package

Regulation (EU) 2025/1914, which amends the Regulations governing Cohesion Policy Funds, including the EU JTF, has been adopted by the Commission and came into force on 20 September 2025.

This Regulation includes the potential for Member States to avail of a one-year extension to EU JTF delivery timeframes, where Member States amend their EU JTF Programmes to align with, and invest in, certain EU strategic priorities, including affordable housing and/or the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

The Managing Authority and Member State have assessed this Regulation in the context of Ireland's EU JTF Programme. Aligning these priority areas with Ireland's EU Just Transition Fund Programme, whose intention is to support the just transition process in the Midlands, proved challenging.

In light of this, it will not be possible for Ireland's EU JTF Programme to avail of the one-year extension provided for in this Regulation.

Annex 1: Text of Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060

Mid-term review and flexibility amount

1. For programmes supported by the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the JTF, the Member State shall review each programme, taking into account the following elements:

- (a) the new challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in 2024;
- (b) the progress in implementing the integrated national energy and climate plan, if relevant;
- (c) the progress in implementing the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights;
- (d) the socioeconomic situation of the Member State or region concerned, with special emphasis on territorial needs, taking into account any major negative financial, economic or social development.
- (e) the main results of relevant evaluations;
- (f) the progress in achieving the milestones, taking into account major difficulties encountered in the implementation of the programme.
- (g) for programmes supported by the JTF, the assessment carried out by the Commission, pursuant to point (b) of Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999.

2. The Member State shall submit an assessment for each programme on the outcome of the mid-term review, including a proposal for the definitive allocation of the flexibility amount referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 86(1), to the Commission by 31 March 2025.

3. If deemed necessary following the mid-term review of the programme or in the event that new challenges are identified pursuant to point (a) of paragraph 1, the Member State shall submit to the Commission the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 together with the amended programme.

The revisions shall include:

- (a) the allocations of the financial resources by priority;
- (b) revised or new targets;
- (c) the amounts to be contributed to the InvestEU Programme per Fund and per category of region, where applicable.

The Commission shall approve the revised programme in accordance with Article 24, including a definitive allocation of the flexibility amount.

4. Where, as a result of the mid-term review, the Member State considers that the programme does not need to be amended, the Commission shall either:

- (a) adopt a decision within 3 months of the submission of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 confirming the definitive allocation of the flexibility amount; or
- (b) request the Member State within 2 months of the submission of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article to submit an amended programme in accordance with Article 24.

5. Until the adoption of the Commission decision confirming the definitive allocation of the flexibility amount, this amount shall not be available for selection of operations.

6. The Commission shall prepare a report about the outcome of the mid-term review and submit it to the European Parliament and to the Council by the end of 2026.

Annex 2: List of Projects

As of 3rd November 2025 (includes selected and announced awarded projects)

Operation Name	Intermediate Body and Action	Amount	Beneficiary Name
Lisheen Bioeconomy Scaleup Initiative	DAFM 1.3	€ 4,995,704.00	Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, University College Dublin, University of Galway, Technological University of the Shannon, Tipperary County Council
Demonstrating high-value commercial bio-products at scale utilizing local agri-food waste streams at a circular peatland IMTA site in midlands Just Transition Territory	DAFM 1.3	€ 4,917,710.49	University College Cork, University of Galway, Technological University of the Shannon, TEAGASC, Indigo Rock, Derilinx
Making Tracks	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 250,000.00	Ian Hyland ta Making Tracks
Emily Square, Athy	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 2,735,425.00	Kildare County Council
Digital Transformation	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 4,260,000.00	Fáilte Ireland
Ethical Tours Ltd. Purchase of Biking Equipment and Electric Vehicle	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 135,200.00	Ethical Tours
Robert Crilly Tours Development of Sustainable Visitor Experiences for the purchase of biking equipment	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 25,776.00	ROBERT CRILLY Bike Hire & Tours Ltd
Blueway Bike Hire	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 47,200.00	Tom Treacy T/A Blueway Bike Hire
Shannon Bridge Marina	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 150,000.00	Waterways Ireland
Pod Umna	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 168,000.00	Pod Umna
Watershed Fly Fishing	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 41,520.00	Watershed Fly Fishing
Sustainable food and well being academy	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 57,600.00	The Sustainable Food & Wellbeing Academy Company Limited
Barnane Rectory - Development of self catering and glamping accommodation	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€ 300,000.00	ELY HAVEN LTD

Greenway Animation and Interpretation - Royal Canal Greenway	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	487,500.00	Waterways Ireland
Hodson Bay	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	1,067,719.52	Roscommon County Council
Carrick on Suir Riverside Regeneration	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	185,027.00	Tipperary County Council
Roscrea Castle Street and Public Realm	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	581,687.00	Tipperary County Council
Belvedere House	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	187,500.00	Westmeath County Council
Clondra Village Enhancement and Cycleway	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	84,000.00	Longford County Council
Clondra Village Enhancements Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	370,000.00	Longford County Council
Birr Town Enhancement Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	188,183.00	Offaly County Council
Shannonbridge Urban Plaza and Shannon Callows Reserve Walkway project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	218,275.00	Offaly County Council
Galway County Council Tourism Activator	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	198,278.00	Galway County Council
Kildare County Council Tourism Activator	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	198,278.00	Kildare County Council
Laois County Council Tourism Activator	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	290,462.00	Laois County Council
Roscrea Castle	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	2,976,548.00	Office of Public Works
Emo Court & Estate Development	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	187,500.00	Office of Public Works
Corlea Trackway	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	262,500.00	Office of Public Works
Athlone Castle Visitor Journey	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	3,226,770.00	Westmeath County Council
Longford County Council Tourism Activator	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	290,462.00	Longford County Council
Offaly County Council Tourism Activator	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	290,462.00	Offaly County Council
Roscommon County Council Tourism Activator	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	290,462.00	Roscommon County Council
Tipperary County Council Tourism Activator	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	198,278.00	Tipperary County Council
Westmeath County Council Tourism Activator	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	290,462.00	Westmeath County Council
Shannonbridge Moorings Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	150,000.00	Waterways Ireland

Torleh Tourist Accommodation Planning Application	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	48,400.00	Torleh Limited
Grand Canal Getaway	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	13,474.45	Grand Canal Getaway Ltd
Athlone Riverside Boardwalk	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	561,803.00	Westmeath County Council
Glamping Under the Stars - Development of Treehouses & Eco Lodge Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	Glamping under the Stars
Ballymahon Greenway Cycles	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	64,878.00	Ballymahon Greenway Cycles
Kildare Agritourism, Glamping and Cycling	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	43,000.00	James O'Dwyer t/a Cycling Trails and Tours in Irelands Midlands
Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park Accessibility enhancements project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park CLG
Kinnitty Trailhead Centre	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	53,436.00	Kinnitty Development Group
Athlone Baysports Limited	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	192,160.00	ATHLONE BAYSPORTS LTD TA BAYSPORTS
Galway's Living Bog	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	29,056.00	Galway Telework
Tides of Time" Carrick-on-Suir Heritage Centre	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	352,647.00	CARRICK-ON-SUIR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
Firecracker Lakeside Sauna	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	19,331.00	Firecracker Sauna
Forest Lane Lodges	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	Don and Ann Maher
The Forum Mountmellick (Square) Coach House Sustainable Tourist Accommodation	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	220,000.00	Required The Forum - Mountmellick
The Sportsmans Inn	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	89,930.00	The Sportsmans Inn Portdrine Limited
Clynan Mill Ltd	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	269,000.00	Clynan Mill Ltd
Studio Arts & Crafts	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	40,000.00	Studio Arts and Crafts Limited
Croghan Hill Glamping	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	80,766.00	Croghan Hill Glamping
Noan Estate Self Catering Lodges	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	248,000.00	JEAN TOUHY NOAN
Lough Ree Tours	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	Lough Ree Tours Ltd

Rathcroghan Visitor Centre	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	19,610.00	Rathcroghan Visitor Centre
Arigna Mining Experience	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	256,000.00	ARIGNA MINING EXPERIENCE COMPANY CLG
The Old Mill Visitor Centre	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	40,000.00	Ahascragh Distillers Ltd
Royal Canal Eco Village	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	298,026.00	ROWAN HOLIDAY VILLAGES LTD
Foxglove Farm	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	FOXGLOVE FARM LTD
Glamping Emo Court Gate Lodge	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	Catoca Ltd
Viewmount Manor House and Gardens	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	Viewmount House
Clonbrin Farm Accommodation	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	284,170.00	Neville Mills
Athy Waterways: Adventure & Accommodation (Boat Tours)	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	48,000.00	CLIFFORD REID TA BOAT TRIPS
'Eye on Nature' Observation Unit	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	122,560.00	Sean Farrell T/A Eye on Nature
Lough Key Forest Park	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	1,109,066.00	Coillte
Shannonbridge Harbour Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	520,000.00	Waterways Ireland
Royal Canal Bike Tours	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	25,776.00	ROBERT CRILLY Bike Hire & Tours Ltd
Lough Sallagh Lodges	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	LOUGH SALLAGH LODGES LTD
Killashee Eco Lodge Ltd	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	210,000.00	KILLASHEE ECO LODGE LTD
Development of Sloe Blossom farm	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	SLOE BLOSSOM FARM LTD
Clonmacnoise Visitor Center	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	7,800,000.00	Office of Public Works
Development of Banagher Open Water Pool	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	616,700.00	Shannon Bank Park Trustees Community Group
Development of The Lodge	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	275,000.00	Lodgetown Ltd
Glessons Townhouse and Restaurant Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	189,750.00	TOWNHOUSE & RESTAURANT ROSCOMMON LTD T/A Glessons Townhouse and Restaurant
The Old Coach House and Gardens Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	AIDAN SHORTALL T/A Up Close and Personal Promotions
Upgrade to Visitor Centre at Ballykilcavan Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	18,256.00	BALLYKILCAVAN BREWING COMPANY LIMITED T/A Ballykilcavan Brewing Company

Greenhills Farm Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	10,000.00	PATRICK JOSEPH NOONE T/A Greenhills Farm
Clonalis House Signage Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	10,000.00	Pyers O’Conor Nash T/A Clonalis House
Clonalis House Signage Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	10,000.00	Pyers O’Conor Nash T/A Clonalis House
Equipment Purchase Project - Paulo Roberto T/A Gone Fishing Ireland	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	9,998.67	Paulo Roberto T/A Gone Fishing Ireland
Littlebuds Natural Wellness Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	9,950.00	CAROLINE HOFSTAD YOUNG T/A Littlebuds Natural Wellness
Mullingar Bike Hire Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	8,130.00	MULLINGAR BIKE HIRE LIMITED
Durrow Development Forum Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	9,840.00	DURROW DEVELOPMENT FORUM COMPANY LTD
Hightown Forest Camp and Farm Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	9,770.00	HIGHTOWN FOREST CAMP AND FARM LTD
Tullamore Signage Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	1,990.00	Tullamore Tidy Towns
Upgrades to the visitor centre Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	40,000.00	Ahascragh Distillers Ltd
Eco Cabins and Shackleton Garden	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	JAMES FENNELL T/A Burtown House and Gardens
Accessibility enhancements at Abbey Hotel Project	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	53,480.00	The Abbey Hotel (Roscommon) Ltd
Kingston Hall	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	Kingston Hall
Mid Ireland Rib Adventure / River Shannon Rib Safari	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	100,000.00	
The Sportsman Inn Accessibility Enhancements	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	157,704.00	
Brackloon Castle Experience and Archive	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	176,000.00	Brackloon Castle
Gleasons Townhouse Accessibility Enhancements	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	189,750.00	TOWNHOUSE & RESTAURANT ROSCOMMON LTD T/A Glessons Townhouse and Restaurant
The Carraig Accessibility Enhancements	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	300,000.00	The Carraig
Strokestown Park - The Great Outdoors: Sustainable Cultural Heritage	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	1,200,000.00	Irish Heritage Trust
Tourism Learning Network Programme	Fáilte Ireland 1.1	€	1,120,000.00	Fáilte Ireland
Electric Bus Routes	NTA 3.1	€	1,947,130.00	National Transport Authority

Regional Skills Horizon and Pathways to Employment - ReSHAPE	Pobal 1.2	€	4,154,602.09	Munster Technological University
Migrant Traineeship and English language to meet Construction Skills Gaps	Pobal 1.2	€	999,791.00	Tipperary Education and Training Board
FilmOffaly Development Resource Project	Pobal 1.2	€	252,985.00	Offaly County Council
Kilcormac Renewable Energy Centre of Excellence	Pobal 1.2	€	294,056.00	Kilcormac Development Association
EV-WT Training Programme	Pobal 1.2	€	569,037.00	Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board, Roscommon County Council
Ballaghaderreen Just Transition Hub	Pobal 1.2	€	1,000,000.00	Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board, Roscommon County Council
Biomethane for Carbon and Community (BCC) Project	Pobal 1.2	€	993,011.00	Tipperary County Council
Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan Pathway for Just Transition	Pobal 1.2	€	3,970,587.42	Laois County Council
Final Phase Development of the Junction 17 National Enterprise Park	Pobal 1.2	€	1,000,000.00	Laois County Council
Rathcroghan Heritage Farming Project	Pobal 1.2	€	886,634.00	Farming Rathcroghan CLG
Computer Science in Every Secondary School in Co. Longford – Creating the Demand – Shaping Our County’s Future	Pobal 1.2	€	840,933.33	Longford County Council
Poet's Cottage Community Cafe	Pobal 1.2	€	256,403.00	Camross Heritage Ltd
MARC (Mycelium and Recycled Cardboard)	Pobal 1.2	€	249,999.08	Ethica Planet Foods Ltd.
The Tipperary Renewables Project (“TRP”)	Pobal 1.2	€	206,717.31	SCT CONSULTANCY LIMITED
Social Enterprise Exchange – a Regional Approach	Pobal 1.2	€	129,966.00	Cluster Centre Platform Limited
AquaQuiet – Development and deployment of an offshore piling noise mitigation system	Pobal 1.2	€	299,439.50	Justin Cunningham Limited
Sphagnum Farming	Pobal 1.2	€	300,000.00	Derrymore Peat Limited

All About Trees Arb employment & education center	Pobal 1.2	€	296,774.19	All About Trees Ltd
Peatlands For Prosperity Project: Cultivating Paludiculture for Resilience	Pobal 1.2	€	299,054.46	Green Restoration Ireland Co-operative Society Ltd
Initiative for the recycling of green waste and the recycling of used/waste compost, to extend its usable lifespan.	Pobal 1.2	€	299,995.90	Kelly's Nursery
RWN CycleUp Textiles Skills and Product Innovation	Pobal 1.2	€	188,649.41	County Roscommon Women's Network Company Ltd
Composting Bark for the Horticultural Market	Pobal 1.2	€	300,000.00	Ecochip Energy Ltd
Upgrading of facilities, and staff up-skilling/training for conversion & maintenance of electric vehicles	Pobal 1.2	€	171,732.86	PRIMO Coachworks Limited
To introduce a new format straw product to market that can be used as a horticultural peat replacement	Pobal 1.2	€	300,000.00	Strawchip Ltd
TUS Just Transition Academy (TUS-JTA)	Pobal 1.2	€	768,265.35	Technological University of the Shannon
Community Retrofit Coordination	Pobal 1.2	€	172,152.00	Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative Company Limited by Guarantee
Fiesta Hall - Green Enterprise and Climate Action Centre	Pobal 1.2	€	325,733.09	Offaly Integrated Local Development Company Limited By Guarantee
Longford Circular Economy Centre of Excellence	Pobal 1.2	€	200,860.00	Longford County Council
M&E Training and Employment Centre	Pobal 1.2	€	793,970.00	MANORHAMILTON INNOVATION & DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
Activation of a publicly owned landbank in the town of Templemore for the purposes of providing lands to meet the employment and recreational needs of those within the Just Transition area	Pobal 1.2	€	344,085.25	Tipperary County Council

Lisheen Master plan and associated works	Pobal 1.2	€	1,000,000.00	Tipperary County Council
Fisherstown Plastics-to-Hydrogen Facility: A Sustainable Energy and Pollution Solution.	Pobal 1.2	€	300,000.00	Alister Future Technologies (AFT) Limited
Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub: Empowering Local Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Employment	Pobal 1.2	€	263,478.56	Ballinasloe Area Community Development Company Limited by Guarantee Allenwood Community Development Association CLG
Wetlands Wastewater treatment plant	Pobal 1.2	€	328,652.73	Westmeath County Council
Kinnegad Co-working Hub and Enterprise Centre	Pobal 1.2	€	1,000,000.00	Westmeath County Council
Athlone Smart Innovation & Co-working Hub	Pobal 1.2	€	929,960.34	Westmeath County Council
Longford Enterprise and Energy Centre	Pobal 1.2	€	793,822.00	Longford County Council
The Dalton Centre – Enabling the Transition to Net Zero	Pobal 1.2	€	1,000,000.00	Offaly County Council
Kildare's Green Upskilling Programme	Pobal 1.2	€	709,314.00	County Kildare Leader Partnership Company Limited By Guarantee
GreenSkills Reboot: Empowering the transition to a sustainable future through skills bootcamps	Pobal 1.2	€	200,914.00	Generation: You Employed, Ireland Company Limited By Guarantee
RegenTEC – Regeneration Training and Education Centre	Pobal 1.2	€	998,802.00	Kildare County Council
Development of Canal Road Business Park, Portarlinton	Pobal 1.2	€	999,963.25	Laois County Council
Glas don Saol	Pobal 1.2	€	299,490.86	The County Kildare Local Employment Service Network Company Limited By Guarantee
Kilcormac Sustainable Development Project	Pobal 1.2	€	231,787.68	Kilcormac Development Association
BNM Development Grant	Fáilte Ireland 2.3	€	3,641,408.00	Bord na Mona
The Trails Network Delivery Project in Longford	Fáilte Ireland 2.3	€	3,345,089.00	Bord na Mona
The Trails Network Delivery Project in Westmeath	Fáilte Ireland 2.3	€	2,437,170.00	Bord na Mona

Tóchar: Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Peatlands	NPWS 2.1	€ 12,000,000.00	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
Support to Private Bus Operators	NTA 3.2	€ 1,025,000.00	National Transport Authority

Annex 3: Number of operations selected to date and amounts

As of 3rd November 2025

Action	Number of Projects Selected	Total Project Amounts within Actions
1.1 Economic Diversification through Regenerative Tourism (Fáilte Ireland)	119	€ 56,271,315.03
1.2 Implementation of local and regional economic strategies (Pobal)	44	€ 30,077,422.57
1.3 Research, development and innovation in the Bioeconomy Sector (DAFM)	2	€ 9,913,414.49
2.1 Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Peatlands (NPWS)	1	€ 12,000,000.00
2.3 Regeneration and Repurposing of Industrial Heritage Assets (Fáilte Ireland through Bord na Móna)	4	€ 9,915,890.00
3.1 Decarbonisation of public local bus routes (NTA)	1	€ 1,947,130.00
3.2 Decarbonisation of fleet for private bus operators (NTA)	1	€ 1,025,000.00
Total	172	€ 121,150,172.09