ANNEX X

Model for the implementation reports for the European territorial cooperation goal

PART A - DATA REQUIRED EVERY YEAR ("LIGHT REPORTS") (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	*2014 TC 16 RF TN 006*
Title	*Cooperation Programme Interreg North-West Europe 2014-2020*
Version	*1*
Reporting year	*2014-2015*
Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee	*25th May 2016*

2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

The year 2014 was mainly dedicated to the establishment of stronger links between the JTS, MA and the Member States in the course of preparation of the VB NWE Programme. 8 meetings of the Programme Preparatory Group (PPG) meetings of all Members States involved took place throughout the year in Brussels and London. They mainly focused on the formulation and fine-tuning of the actual text of the Cooperation Programme and issues such as the budget grant rate, the application process, eligibility and quality selection criteria as well as audit and control. In particular, the two-step application process for beneficiaries was analysed and approved at the February 2015 PPG meeting. The approach proposed is based on the recommendations provided in an evaluation study delivered in 2012 (the project development and selection procedures, SQW). Moreover, in the course of the year 2014, the Programme and Member States established the Indicator Work Group aiming to reinforce the VB NWE Programme intervention logic and the indicator framework.

In addition, the Programme was actively involved in the electronic Monitoring System group (eMS) set up by INTERACT. The system enables the monitoring of projects and Programme implementation as well as electronic exchange of data between programmes and beneficiaries. NWE, together with representatives of the Central Europe, Central Baltic

and Austria - Hungary transnational and cross-border programmes, worked closely together with Interact and an external IT company to develop and test the joint eMS. The system has been delivered and will be used by more than 20 ETC programmes to facilitate their operations in 2014 - 2020.

The year 2015 was a critical one to the Programme, as the 2007-2013 IVB Programme transitioned towards the 2014 - 2020 VB NWE. This necessitated a parallel closure of the IVB Programme and the launch of the new VB NWE. Despite this challenge and the late approval of the new Programme by the European Commission (18th June 2015), the Programme authorities decided to launch the first call in April 2015, prior to the official approval date. This decision was justified by the fact that further delays of calls would affect the Programme performance and its project pipeline in the long term.

The first NWE call for proposals 1 was launched on 7th April 2015 and closed on 18th May 2015. The call was relevant to all 3 Programme Priorities, therefore the five Specific Objectives of NWE. No specific budgetary limitations were set by the Monitoring Committee for the first call. The eligibility and quality assessment criteria were agreed by the Programme Preparatory Group prior to the official Programme approval. The application pack included the Application Form available in the electronic Monitoring System of the Programme (eMS) and the first version of the Programme Manual.

The two step application process introduced by the Programme for the VB period was welcome by the applicants. It focuses on a light application submitted at the Step 1, which embraces the project concept, expected results and long-term effects as well as a partnership structure. The Step 1 concept notes are developed by the partnerships together with the Programme Contact Points and are less time consuming for the applicants hence alleviate the administrative burden for the applicants. The bids that are approved in Step 1 get full support from the officers of the Joint Secretariat to develop a full work plan that fulfils the Programme eligibility and quality requirements in Step 2 of the application process. The degree of support provided by the Contact Points and JS officers is therefore considered high. The division of responsibilities between the Contact Points and JS officers in the application process was satisfactory.

The two-step process attracted a high number of applications and involved newcomers to the Programme. In addition, the applicants were satisfied with the new electronic submission system via the Programme eMS (electronic Monitoring System). In line with the Cooperation Programme and the Programme Communication Strategy, the TA work plan 2015 and 2016 have both set the involvement of new stakeholders and the reach out to peripheral areas and weaker performing regions as priorities. Specific efforts have therefore been made to make the information on the programme as available and easily accessible as possible, notably through the development of new communication tools. Launched in December 2015, the NWE website in particular includes tools to facilitate the understanding of our programme (a video and an infographic simplifying the application process have been created), contacts with the NWE team (possibility to “sign up for alerts”) or contacts with other potential applicants (project ideas database).

The Programme has also taken initiatives in order to identify and reach out to potential newcomers. Contact Points from the NWE area have been particularly mobilized in identifying this target audience depending on the national specificities and gaps identified in their region / countries. Three main different type of gaps were identified as

geographical, thematic as well as organisational gaps, the latter relating to a Lesser involvement of certain types of organisations. This gap analysis served as a basis to enrich and further develop the contact databases that each Contact Point manages at national / regional level. The outcome was the establishment of a global NWE database of over 7000 potential applicants used to announce Programme calls.

Out of the 82 submitted applications submitted in Call 1 Step 1, 5 did not meet the eligibility criteria. Consequently 77 were declared eligible and underwent the follow-up quality assessment process. The Monitoring Committee met on 9th and 10 July 2015 and approved 19 of them at the Step 1 of the application process. The approved projects were most promising in terms of results and change on the Programme territory, had the highest potential in terms of long-term effects and entailed a high-level of transnational co-operation. They also represented the highest value for money of all submitted projects.

The Programme recommendations for further improvement were included in the official Step 1 notification letters, to ensure that the quality of Step 2 bids meets the Programme requirements. They related to areas such as co-operation intensity, partnership quality, long-term effects, value for money, work plan, budget and risk management, applied to all 19 approved projects. Each project also had an action plan developed by the JS and the CP network to ensure that these requirements are met by the beneficiaries. The deadline for Step 2 submission was 31st December 2015.15 partnerships submitted their proposals while the remaining 4 decided to wait till the next call (which is in line with the Programme rules) to improve their projects to the required standard and submit in Step 2 of the Call 2 (June 2016).

On the 7th and 8th September 2015 the Programme organised a workshop for Step 2 applicants in Lille, France. The main aim was to reinforce the intervention logics of the projects and raise of awareness concerning new elements to be taken into consideration (e.g. Programme indicators, State Aid, risk management). The seminar was also an opportunity for the project Lead Partners to meet with their JS project development officers and Contact Points individually to kick-off the development process of the Step 2 applications, on the basis of recommendations made by the Liege Monitoring Committee.

The Programme Communication Strategy was approved at the first Monitoring Committee meeting in Liege. In line with the strategy, several Programme events were organised. Apart from the Project Idea lab that took place prior to the launch of call 1 (17th March 2015), the Programme organised additional three events in autumn 2015, separate per Priority. The Innovation Lab (6th October, Birmingham, UK) as well as the Low Carbon (15th October 2015, Leuven, Belgium) and Resource Efficiency (30th September, Rennes, France) events focused on the challenges in NWE specific to the three Programme priorities, match-making for partners as well as the explanation of the application process. Examples NWE IVB projects that were relevant to the VB thematic coverage were also provided. The events reached out to a large number of people (306 participants, of which 64% newcomers) and were deliberately organised in regions less represented in the IVB Programme.

The second call for proposals of the NWE Programme (Step 1) closed on 30 November 2015 at noon. In total, the JS received 86 applications, 7 of them declared ineligible. As the assessment process finished in January 2016 only, the results of this step of the Call 2 will be reported next year. However, it should be noted that, in total, the JS received 86

applications. 7 were declared ineligible; 79 projects were therefore assessed against the set of Quality Criteria. Among the 86 submissions, approximately 17 applications appeared to be resubmissions from Call 1 or follow-ups from NEW IVB projects. In general, most applicants understood the intention of Step 1, which was a clear improvement compared to the first call. The need to provide baselines, describe trends and quantify targets seemed to be better understood as well.

Priority 1 (Innovation) was most popular, with the highest number of applications received (40), 25 projects applied under the Low carbon economy (Priority 2) and 7 under Resource Efficiency (Priority 3).

As the projects submitted in call 1 were only approved by third Monitoring Committee of the Programme, which took place in February 2016, no projects were fully approved by the end of 2015. This implies that, even though the overall budget allocation requested by beneficiaries in 2015 amounted to 88,627,790 EUR of Total Eligible Cost, no projects were officially approved in 2015 and hence no contribution towards the Programme indicator framework or key implementation steps (number of projects approved) can be declared in this report.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)

3.1. Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems

1	*INNOVATION*	*36 projects were submitted in the first call for proposals under Priority 1, covering Specific Objective 1 of the Programme. 8 projects were approved in the Step 1 by the Monitoring Committee and hence qualified for the Step 2 of the application process. The thematic scope of submitted projects was quite wide, ranging from life science and health innovation (e.g. oncology, mental health, medical products), agro-food industry and bio-innovation support, open social innovation and establishing various types of innovation networks.* *Several weaknesses of bids were noted by the Programme. Many of the submitted projects presented generic ideas to foster competitiveness or innovation, without a specific challenge, target group, topic or sector being addressed. These included the territorial challenges relevant to the Regional Innovation Scoreboard and consequently the innovation leader-follower approach applied by the Programme in Priority 1. The required identification of market failure to prove the additionality of the funding allocation was equally problematic as well as the quantification of the project results on the Programme territory. This led to a low approval rate in Step 1 of the application process.* *The result-orientation workshop in Ghent (November 2015) brought some further insight into the call 1 findings, to ensure that these are implemented by the Programme before the launch of Step 2 of the first call for proposals. The main recommendations of the workshop related to the fact that few applicants had addressed territorial challenges, and there was little understanding of 'innovative capacity' across project geographies and/or innovation failures. The workshop confirmed that many projects were generic and broad in scope, with business support often the main activity proposed. Across the set, there was limited quantification of intended results and impacts.* *The workshop brought additional conclusions. The main one related to the improvement of the Programme wide understanding of the innovation priority, with particular focus on the scope of social innovation. For this purpose and as a follow-up to the workshop, a series of internal meetings took place between the JS and the Contact Points in 2015, with a final social innovation plan proposed for discussion at the third Monitoring Committee scheduled for 25th May 2016.* *The Step 2 development process was fairly smooth. The quality of approved Step 1 bids visibly improved. Nevertheless, not all projects implemented the Programme recommendations provided by the first Monitoring Committee. The result quantification was the main challenge for the bidders and made it difficult for the Programme to assess the change on the Programme territory (e.g. ASPECT and its impact on the manufacturing sector). One project was advised not to submit their bid due to insufficient improvements made and hence low chances of being approved. The partnership was advised to work on their bid further in order to meet the quality requirements of the Programme to submit their Step 2 application in the follow-up call 2 in June 2016. Regardless of the advice provided, the partnership submitted their bid. In total, 8 projects were submitted under Priority 1. BE-GOOD, Boost4Health, BioBase4SME, ASPECT, eMEN, Encouraging Enterprise, Foodfit and Made4Life.*

		Step 2 of the call 2 for the Programme resulted in 40 applications submitted under Priority 1 of the Programme. As the assessment process continued into January 2016, it will be reported in the next period due to greater relevance.

2	*LOW CARBON*	*In total, 29 applications were received under this Priority in Step 1 of the Call 1, 3 of them being ineligible. The spread across the 3 Specific Objectives covered by Priority 2 was fairly reasonable, with 11 projects submitted under Specific Objective 2, 6 under Specific Objective 3 and 12 under Specific Objective 4. Respectively, 10, 5 and 11 of them were found eligible. The quality of the submitted bids was higher than in the remaining two Programme priorities, which is also due to the fact that this Priorities, unlike others, covers three Specific Objectives.* *The Specific Objective 2 projects focused mainly on the testing and implementation of low-carbon strategies. They were generally well thought through and represented good quality. The applicants found it fairly easy to identify their project challenges and quantify results, which* were generally well defined. *The applicant mix was primarily public sector in composition, which may account for the quality of the submissions made. The projects covered a variety of themes. Several projects aimed to implement low-carbon/energy-efficient solutions via participatory processes, new financing mechanisms and governance models. Moreover, the scope of the submitted projects also covered energy-efficient water management, development of hydrogen economy, renewable energy applications and technologies.* *The relevance of bids submitted under Specific Objective 3 projects was fairly high; the partnership structures proposed were also consistent and complementary with project objectives. It should be noted that the partners were mainly private or research organisations (13 enterprises including 8 SMEs). 9 higher education/research organisations and only 3 regional/local authorities. The topics covered by the projects ranged from testing new ocean/tidal technologies, testing energy storage technologies, energy generation from organic waste, waste and residue valorisation and refurbishment of public buildings. Here, the long-term effects and value for money were average (or below) due to the newness of the technologies or products tested. This implied uncertainties regarding feasibility, durability and roll-out.* *However, the projects submitted under Specific Objective 4 were fairly broad in their scope, lacked focus, which was also reflected in the project partnership structures. Even though the submitted projects fitted under the umbrella of low-carbon transport, their contribution to GHG reduction was not always explicit. The range of topics covered by the Programme was wide, from cycling infrastructure, via last-mile or greener logistics to hydrogen vehicles. The partnerships consisted mainly of public authorities (58 - national/regional and local) and the private sector (17 companies, including 7 SMEs). Projects were, in general, broad in their scope which was reflected in wide partnerships. This led to the low long-term effects and low value for money.* *Out of the 8 projects approved by the Monitoring Committee for Step 2, six submitted their proposals before the deadline (CAN, CHIPS, DPOcean, E=0, CAES, EcoWins). Two others opted to postpone their submission to call 3 in order to have enough time to consider and implement all Programme requirements (TIDAL, EMPOWER). These two projects dealt with State Aid as well as investment ownership issues. As for the former project, the involvement of private partners also needed to be clarified.* *Step 2 of the call 2 for the Programme resulted in 25 applications submitted under Priority 2 of the Programme. As the assessment process*

		continued into January 2016, it will be reported in the next period due to greater relevance.
3	*RESOURCE AND MATERIAL EFFICIENCY*	*The first call for proposals attracted 15 applications under Priority 3 of the Programme, all of them being eligible. The range of projects submitted addressed the link between the resources (fossil fuels, materials and minerals, water, land, soil and waste) and resource intensive sectors (mainly agro-food production and constructions). Their main goal was the recycling nutrients such as Nitrogen, Phosphorus or Potassium as well as construction materials or buildings via the implementation of new technologies, product, services or processes.* *Nevertheless, the relevance of the submitted projects to the Specific Objective 5 was weak. The bidding partnerships struggled to define the challenge for their projects to tackle and hence had difficulties with the identification of the project result, its baseline and target values. It must be noted that the bidding partnerships were consistent with those required under the Specific Objective 5 of the Programme. Long-term effects and value for money criteria were difficult to assess due to the unclear or multi-focused objectives. Consequently, only 3 projects were approved by the Monitoring Committee at Step 1. Only one of them, submitted their proposal in the Step 2 of the application process (ARBOR II). The remaining two (NuCy and RESOLV) decided to submit their final proposals in Step 2 of the Call 2, to allow enough time for project development.* *Step 2 of the call 2 for the Programme resulted in 7 applications submitted under Priority 3 of the Programme. As the assessment process continued into January 2016, it will be reported in the next period due to greater relevance.*

3.2. Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Data for common and programme-specific indicators by investment priority transmitted using the tables 1 to 2 below.

TABLE 1: Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective); applies also to technical assistance priority axis

Automatic from SFC						ANNUAL VALUE										
ID	**Indicator**	**Measurement Unit**	**Baseline Value**	**Baseline Year**	**Target Value (2023)**	**2014**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	23	**Observations (if necessary)**
R1	*Degree of SME involvement in collaboration with other institutions (including R&D)*	*Percentage*	*15*	*2014*	*20*	*0*	*0*									
R2	*Effectiveness of the NWE public sector organisations in the implementation of low carbon strategies*	*Percentage*	*31*	*2014*	*18*	*0*	*0*									*Given the negative annual growth rate of -15% and the estimate of 9% for 2022, the Programme target value will double the 2022 estimate. Please see the Programme methodology for result indicators provided as an attachment to this report.*

R3	*Status of conditions of low carbon technology deployment in NWE*	*Percentage*	*60*	*2014*	*70*	*0*	*0*									
R4	*Status of competences of the transport sector in the use of low carbon solutions in the transport systems*	*Percentage*	*6*	*2014*	*15*	*0*	*0*									
R5	*Status of competences in the resource intensive sectors in NEW for eco-innovation diffusion*	*Percentage*	*110*	*2014*	*112*	*0*	*0*									*The baseline and target values represent 110% and 112% of the EU average respectively. Please see the Programme methodology for result indicators provided as an attachment to this report.*
TA 1	Share (%) of all supported operations that are implemented successfully, demonstrated by the achievement	Percentage	0	2013	90%	*0*	*0*									

	of planned objectives															
TA 2	Percentage of satisfaction of supporting beneficiaries in the implementation and communication of their projects	Percentage	66 %	2014	76%	*0*	*0*									
TA 3	Amount of regular expenditure in sample for audit of operation	Percentage	0%	2013	98%	*0*	*0*									

TABLE 2: Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority); applies also to technical assistance priority axes).

	ID	Indicator *(name of indicator)*	Measurement unit	Target value[1] (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	<type='S' input='G'>	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>*
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	1.01	Number of new or enhanced transnational clusters or innovation networks	No. of clusters and innovation networks	27	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	1.02	Number of technologies, products, services and processes developed and	No. of solutions tested	68	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

[1] Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]		tested in real life conditions			**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	1.0.3	Number of pilot actions implemented, focusing on social innovation	Number of actions	30	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	1.04	Number of jobs created in all economic sectors	Number of jobs	860	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	1.05	Number of jobs maintained in all economic sectors	Number of jobs	860	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	1.06	Amount of funding leveraged by the project (in €)	EUR	222,000,000	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	1.07	Number of end-users benefitting from social innovation	No. of end-users	600	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO01	Number of enterprises receiving support	No. of enterprises	540	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO26	No. of enterprises co-operating with research institutions	No. of enterprises	540	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO28	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	No. of enterprises	340	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO29	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	No. of enterprises	200	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]		Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products			**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

	ID	Indicator *(name of indicator)*	Measurement unit	Target value[2] (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	<type='S' input='G'>	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>*
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	2.01	Number of solutions facilitating the delivery of existing or emerging low-carbon, energy or climate-protection strategies	No. of solutions	**18**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

[2] Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	2.02	Number of combined mitigation-relevant adaptation solutions implemented	No. of solutions	**15**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	2.03	Number of jobs created in all economic sectors	No. of jobs	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	2.04	Number of jobs maintained in all economic sectors	No. of jobs	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	2.05	Amount of funding leveraged by the project	EUR	80,811,405	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO31	Number of households with improved energy	No. of households	**450**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO32	Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings	kWh/year	**300,000**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	**450**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

	ID	**Indicator** ***(name of indicator)***	**Measurement unit**	**Target value[3] (2023)**	**CUMULATIVE VALUE**										**Observations (if necessary)**
					2014	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	
	<type='S' input='G'>	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>*
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	3.01	Number of adopted or applied low carbon technologies	Number of adopted or applied low carbon	**44**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the**

[3] Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

			technologies												**Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	3.02	Number of jobs created in all economic sectors	No. of jobs	**220**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	3.03	Number of jobs maintained in all economic sectors	No. of jobs	**220**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations	3.04	Amount of funding	EUR	87,545,688	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the**

[forecast provided by beneficiaries]		leveraged by the project													**Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 26	No. of enterprises co-operating with research institutions	No. of enterprises	**220**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 28	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	No. of enterprises	**220**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations	CO 29	Number of enterprises	No. of enterprises	**220**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved**

[forecast provided by beneficiaries]		supported to introduce new to the firm products													**by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 30	Additional capacity of renewable energy production	MW	**120**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 31	Number of households with improved energy consumption classification	No. of households	**660**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations	CO 34		Tonnes of CO2eq.	**500**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved**

[forecast provided by beneficiaries]		Estimated annual decrease of GHG													**by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

	ID	Indicator *(name of indicator)*	Measurement unit	Target value[4] (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	<type='S' input='G'>	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>*
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	4.01	Number of implemented low carbon solutions in transport	No. of solutions	**20**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the**

[4] Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

[actual achievement]															**Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	4.02	Number of new or improved transport management systems leading to GHG reduction	No. of systems	**10**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	4.03	Number of transport operators supported implementing low carbon solutions	No. of transport operators	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	4.04	Number of jobs created in all economic sectors	No. of jobs	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the**

[actual achievement]															**Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	4.05	Number of jobs maintained in all economic sectors	No. of jobs	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	4.06	Amount of funding leveraged by the project	EUR	80,811,405	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 26	No. of enterprises co-operating with research institutions	No. of enterprises	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the**

[actual achievement]															**Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 28	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	No. of enterprises	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 29	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products	No. of enterprises	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 34	Estimated annual decrease of GHG	Tonnes of CO2eq	**500**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the**

[actual achievement]															**Programme in this period**

	ID	Indicator *(name of indicator)*	Measurement unit	Target value[5] (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	<type='S' input='G'>	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>*
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	5.01	Number of efficient natural and material resources solutions implemented and tested	No. of solutions implemented	**42**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	5.02	Number of innovative uses of waste processes/products/services	No. of solutions designed	**18**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

[5] Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]		from waste materials			**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	5.03	Amount of funding leveraged by the project	EUR	161,622,811	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	5.04	Amount of decreased raw material use	Tonnes	1,000,000	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	5.05	Amount of increased material recovery, re-use and recycling	Tonnes	1,000,000	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	5.06	Number of jobs created in all economic sectors	No. of jobs	400	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	5.07	Number of jobs maintained in all economic sectors	No. of jobs	**400**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 01	Number of enterprises receiving support	No. of enterprises	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 26	No. of enterprises co-operating with research institutions	No. of enterprises	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 28	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products	No. of enterprises	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	CO 29	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new	No. of enterprises	**200**	**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]		to the firm products			**0**										**No projects were fully approved by the Programme in this period**

	ID	Indicator *(name of indicator)*	Measure ment unit	Target value[6] (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	<type='S' input='G'>	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='G'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>*
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	6.01	Number of Transnational Cooperation projects approved	Number		**0**										
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										
Selected operations	6.02	Number of on the spot			**0**										

[6] Targets are optional for technical assistance priority axes.

[forecast provided by beneficiaries]		verifications (site visits) done by JS staff	Number/ month												
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	6.03	Average number of visits to the Programme website	Number		**0**										
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	6.04	Number of Monitoring Committee meetings	Number		**0**										
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										
Selected operations	6.05		Weeks		**0**										

[forecast provided by beneficiaries]		Duration of reimbursement of expenditure to final beneficiaries													
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	6.06	Number of appeals to calls for proposals	Number		**0**										
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	6.07	Number of evaluations, studies, surveys, experts, reports	Number		**0**										
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										
Selected operations	6.08	Number of employees	Number		**0**										

[forecast provided by beneficiaries]		whose salaries are co-financed by Technical Assistance													
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										
Selected operations [forecast provided by beneficiaries]	6.09	Staff turn-over	%		**0**										
Fully implemented operations [actual achievement]					**0**										

3.3 Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) – submitted in annual implementation reports from 2017 onwards

Reporting on financial indicators, key implementation steps, output and result indicators to act as milestones and targets for the performance framework (submitted starting with the report in 2017).

TABLE 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

Priority Axis	**Indicator Type (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate result indicator)**	**ID**	**Indicator or key implementation step**	**Measurement unit, where appropriate**	**Milestone for 2018**	**Final target (2023)**	**2014**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**Observations (if necessary)**
1	Number of approved projects under Priority 1, focusing on the new or enhanced transnational clusters and innovation networks	1.A	Key implementation step	Number of projects	5	9	*0*	*0*									The number of projects ensuring the target values of the output indicator "Number of new or enhanced transnational clusters or innovation networks" for Priority Axis 1 are delivered by the end of the Programme.
1	Number of approved projects under Priority 1,	1.B	Key implementation step	Number of projects	14	27	*0*	**0**									The number of projects ensuring the target values

	focusing on enterprises receiving support																										of the output indicator "Number of enterprises receiving support" for Priority Axis 1 are delivered by the end of the Programme.
1	Number of new or enhanced transnational clusters or innovation networks	1.C	Output indicator	Number of networks/ clusters	0	27	**0**	**0**																			Crucial output indicator for SO1 due to the focus on the reduction of the gap in the innovation performance among the NWE regions. Only transnational clusters are counted.
1	Number of enterprises receiving support	1.D	Output indicator	Number of enterprises	0	540	**0**	0																			Crucial output indicator that covers a large part of projects of SO1. The number of enterprises receiving

																										support (including social enterprises) will be the outcome of the technologies/ products/processes developed and tested in real life conditions as well as the pilot actions implementing social innovation.
1	Total amount of eligible expenditure certified to EC for Priority Axis 1	1.E	Financial indicator	EUR	32,681,033	217,873,890	**0**	**0**																		
2	Number of approved projects under Priority 2, leading to solutions facilitating the delivery of existing or emerging low carbon, energy or	2.A	Key implementation step	Number of projects	**3**	**6**	**0**	**0**																		The number of projects selected under Priority 2 will deliver the target set for the output indicator "Number of solutions facilitating the delivery of

	climate protection strategies																									existing or emerging low carbon, energy or climate protection strategies"
2	Number of approved projects under Priority 2, leading to enterprises co-operating with research institutions	2.B	Key implementation step	Number of projects	**11**	**21**	**0**	**0**																		The number of projects selected under Priority 2 will deliver the target set for the output indicator "Number of enterprises co-operating with research institutions"
2	Number of solutions facilitating the delivery of existing or emerging low carbon, energy or climate protection strategies	2.C	Output indicator	Number of solutions	**0**	**18**	**0**	**0**																		Crucial output indicator to facilitate the reduction of emissions, a decrease in the energy consumption and an increase in use of renewable energies as the main aims of SO2.

2	No. of enterprises co-operating with research institutions	2.D	Output indicator	Number of enterprises	**0**	**420**	**0**	**0**																			Crucial common output indicator to ensure the uptake of low carbon technologies/products/ processes – to justify the effectiveness of projects approved under SO 3 and SO4.
2	Total amount of eligible expenditure certified to EC for Priority Axis 2	2.E	Financial indicator	EUR	36,642,427	244,282,844	**0**	**0**																			
3	Number of projects approved under Priority 3	3.A	Key implementation step	Number of projects	10	20	**0**	**0**																			The number of projects selected under Priority 3 will deliver the targets set for the output indicator "number of enterprises supported applying new

																										eco-innovation solutions" chosen as a crucial one for Priority 3.
3	Number of enterprises receiving support	3.B	Output indicator	Number of enterprises	0	400	**0**	**0**																		Crucial output indicator that covers the entire SO5. The "number of receiving support" will be a major outcome of the enterprises supported by the resource efficient solutions and new uses of waste.
3	Total amount of eligible expenditure certified to EC for Priority Axis 3	3.C	Financial indicator	EUR	23,768,061	158,453,737	**0**	**0**																		

** Member States submit cumulative values for output indicators. Values for financial indicators are cumulative. Values for the key implementation steps are cumulative if the key implementation steps are expressed by a number or percentage. If the achievement is defined in a qualitative way, the table should indicate whether they are completed or not.*

3.4. Financial data (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

TABLE 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level as set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014[7] [Model for transmission of financial data][8] and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

Switzrerland?

[7] OJ L 286, 30.9.2014, p. 1.

[8] Structured data required for the report on YEI which is to be submitted in April 2015 in accordance with Article 19(3) and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013.

TABLE 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention (Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013**)** as set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 [Model for transmission of financial data] and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

TABLE 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support* envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	**Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area** **(%)** **(column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)**	**Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)**	**Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area** **(%)** **(column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)**
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area[9]	?	?	?	?

* ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

[9] In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the programme that have become available during the previous financial year, including the name and reference period of the evaluation reports used.

In line with the Art. 50 of the CPR regulation concerning the implementation reports, the actions taken to fulfill the ex-ante conditionalities not fulfilled at the moment of Programme adoption will be outlined in the report submitted in 2017.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN (ARTICLE 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

A few horizontal problems were noted in the Call 1 of the Programme (Step 1) which affected the volume of the project pipeline to date. They were mainly related to the switch between the requirements of the NWE IVB and VB programmes and linked to the result orientation introduced in the new programming period:

- Although all of the project ideas reflected a degree of relevance to the Programme, the rationale of the two-step application process aiming to ensure the strategic fit of the projects into the Programme and their result-orientation was not understood by many applicants. The high number of application forms received was mainly due to the fact that the Programme introduced the reimbursement of preparation costs which acted as a financial incentive for partnerships to establish quickly and bid for funding in the first call.

- Many applicants did not understand the purpose of Step 1 of the application process and submitted full applications including unnecessary details like the project work plan or full partnerships required in the follow-up Step 2. These additionally provided elements were not assessed by the Programme (for instance the selection criteria attribute only 20% of the overall score to the partnership in the Step 1).

- Applicants found it difficult to formulate the project results, which directly affected the value for money of the submitted projects as well as their long-term effects on the Programme territory and their durability.

- The need to quantify results and provide baselines and target values on the basis of existing trends was not fully understood. Consequently, this led to additional difficulties in assessments of the change that the projects will entail on the NWE territory and impact on the Programme target groups. Many applicants also struggled to understand the difference between a project result and output.

- The Programme also noted an overlap between the Specific Objectives 2, 3 and 5 of the Programme, hence the Priorities 2 and 3

In addition, due to the late approval of the Programme, the guidance available to applicants was not fully ready and mainly related to the rules applicable in the previous 2007-2013 Programming period. This also affected the quality of the Step 1 applications received.

Some technical glitches should also be noted:

- Inconsistencies in the format of the Application Form appeared between the level of information requested and the aim of the Step 1 application process. For instance, too much information was requested concerning the project partners whereas only the concept of the partnership was required. This was amended after the first Programme Monitoring Committee meeting and led to adjustments of the partnership section of the eMS Application Form. The wording of descriptions for the individual AF sections were adjusted. The work packages were also deleted from the AF, to ensure that applicants focus on the broader needs, challenges and results of the projects rather than their operational aspects. In conclusion, for call 2, the revised/reduced version of the Application Form reflects the aim of Step 1 much better. The fact that the contents of the Application Form that were initially meant to be frozen were allowed to be modified, will help refine the project results in Step 2 in particular. The Programme also produced new infographics to simplify the language used by the Programme as well as the required project intervention logic. The language used in the Programme Manual was simplified accordingly as well.

The first Monitoring Committee was followed by a workshop organised by the Programme on17th November 2015 in Ghent, Belgium with a sub-contractor SQW (UK), which delivered a mid-term evaluation of the NWE IVB Programme. Its aim was to gather the Member State delegates, National Contact Points and the Joint Secretariat to align the JS recommendations for project approvals with the MC decisions and ensure a common understanding of implications of the result-orientation. This was necessary due to the following reasons:

- The decision-making process in the 2014-2020 period is based on elements and criteria that vary greatly from those applied in the IVB Programme. In the previous programming period, the transnational cooperation was the key criterion, whereas now it is the project result that is the main element for decisions and has the highest weight in the project selection criteria. This led to varied perceptions of projects and required a common approach from all Programme authorities. The MC in Liege decided that more time needed to be given to the MSs to process and prepare for the call 1 assessments, which would impact on the decision-making rigour.

- The varied perception of the validity of Step 1 results proposed by the partnerships also brought difficulties. The results at Step 1 should be taken as indicative, rather than definitive. They are the first estimation of the project achievement profile and help assess the scope, scale and feasibility of the project at Step 1. The results proposed by the bidding partnerships only represent a commitment once redeveloped in Step 2. Results can be both tangible and intangible (and hence hard to quantify, e.g. behavioural change projects). The Programme should also be able to handle both by finding ways to combine quantification and qualification of such results.

- The content of the proposed projects should drive the partnership mix. The partners which were active in the NWE IVB programme bring track record and proven expertise, whereas the newcomers bring innovation.

- Risks related to the involvement of private partners need to be assessed. Their involvement is required, but can be indirect; they do not need to be project partners. In more general terms, the JS was asked to consider how to track the risk profile of the Programme's portfolio. This was delivered via the establishment of a complex risk matrix, which also encompasses the private partners.

- It was also agreed that the monitoring and evaluation process of the Programme should embrace the unintended effects, as part of the benefits management practice.

- The guidance provided in the Programme Manual for certain eligibility criteria allowed different levels of interpretation. This section of the Manual was revised after the first Monitoring Committee to ensure the full coherence of guidance provided to applicants.

b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1 (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate

Despite the late approval of the NWE Programme in June 2015, the dynamics of the application process indicate that the Programme is able to meet its 2018 milestones and 2022 targets. Even though the main challenge of the Programme in 2015 was the establishment of the initial project pipeline that would contribute to the Programme key implementation steps and indicator framework and stimulate the Programme spending profile, the process has successfully kicked off. Although this information does not relate to this reporting period, it must be noted that despite the low approval rates in the first call for proposals, the second call was very fruitful in terms of number of applications approved in Step 1. This demonstrates the higher the applicant understanding of the thematic and technical requirements of the Programme, a better quality of the incoming projects as well as a much higher correlation between the number of projects recommended by the JS and those actually approved by the Monitoring Committee.

To ensure the Programme meets its 2018 and 2022 milestones and targets, the Monitoring Committee proposed to perform an evaluation of the two-step approach to assess its effectiveness. The evaluation will be subject to a discussion at the May 2016 Monitoring Committee meeting.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (Article 50(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the managing authority decided to use financial instruments it must send to the Commission a specific report covering the financial instruments operations as an annex to the annual implementation report

8. WHERE APPROPRIATE, PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (Article 101(h) and Article 111(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

TABLE 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP 1. completed 2. approved 3. submitted 4. planned for notification/ submission to Commission	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/ submission date (if applicable) (year, quarter)	Date of tacit agreement / approval by Commission (if applicable)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year. quarter)	Priority Axis/Investment priorities	Current state of realisation – financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation - physical progress Main implementation stage of the project 1.completed/in operation; 2.advanced construction; 3. construction; 4. procurement; 5. design	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract [10] (if applicable)	Observations (if necessary
<type='S' input='G'>	*<type='S' inp*	*<type='S' input='S'>*	*<type='N' input*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='D' input='G'>*	*<type='D' input='G'>*	*<type='D' input='G'>*	*<type='D' input='G'>*	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='P' input='M'>*	*<type='S' input='S'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875*	*<type='D' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875*

[10] In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

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Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them.

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Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

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8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

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TABLE 8: Joint action plans

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP 1. completed 2. > 50% implemented 3. Started 4. approved 5. submitted 6. planned	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP 1. normal 2. pilot 3. YEI	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations (if necessary)
<type='S' input='G'>	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='S' input='S'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='S' input='G'>*	*<type='S' input='S'>*	*<type='D' input='M'>*	*<type='D' input='M'>*	*<type='D' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>*	*<type='N' input='M'>*	*<type='S' maxlength=875 input='M'>*

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

<type='S' maxlength=3500 input='M'>