

S&E Regional OP 2007 – 2013

Draft Implementation Plan 3.1/2.3.1

Operational Programme	S&E Regional Operational Programme 2007 - 2013
Priority	Sustainable Urban Dimension
Theme	Gateways & Hub Challenge Fund
Sub-Theme	Sports & Cultural Facilities; Arts Capital Programme
ERDF Certifying Body	Department of Finance
Managing Authority	S&E Regional Assembly
Intermediate Body	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism
Level 1 Public Body	Local Authorities
Grant Rate	Sports Capital Programme the maximum level of funding can be 90% for a project in an urban disadvantaged area. The avg. contribution is around 40%. In each case depend on individual applications
EU Co-financing Rate	40%

Description

Through the Arts Capital Programme the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism assists with the development of the arts and cultural infrastructure of communities. The programme improves accessibility to and participation in the arts and culture thereby contributing towards making locations more attractive places to live and work. Facilities that have been funded to date under ACCESS include integrated arts centres, theatres and galleries, as well as arts studios and creative and performance spaces.

Objectives

The Arts Capital Programme aims to increase access to and participation in the arts through the development of high quality arts and cultural facilities throughout the country. In particular, its objectives are to:

Assist voluntary and community organisations, and local authorities to develop high quality, well-designed and sustainable facilities in appropriate locations so as to maximise access to and participation in arts and cultural activities.

The ACCESS scheme is a key element in the Government's regional arts strategy and has greatly improved access to and participation in the arts for a great many people all around the country. ACCESS has been widely acknowledged as a significant intervention in the provision of quality cultural spaces.

The primary focus of the scheme is the refurbishment and enhancement of existing arts and culture facilities with 70% of the funds available for refurbishment/enhancement projects. 30% of the funding has been granted to new build projects in strategic locations.

Responsibility of Intermediate Body

The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism is the designated Intermediate Body under this plan. The Department will be responsible for drawing up the application forms and guidelines for the Arts Capital Programme, advertising the programme, making payments to Level 1 Public Bodies. The Department will ensure that terms

and conditions of the Arts Capital Programme are fully implemented, including advertising, file management, monitoring reporting and appropriate financial management and will further ensure that the programme as implemented is in keeping with broader Government policies in relation to arts and culture. The Department also conducts post-implementation reviews to ensure full compliance with schemes guidelines and conditions.

The Department, with assistance from the Chief State Solicitors Office and a panel of consultant architects, will have responsibility for ensuring that capital projects are planned, designed and constructed to high standards and that Government investments are legally protected.

Responsibilities of Public Bodies

The Local Authorities as Public Bodies will have responsibility for all aspect of delivery of individual projects and of management of facilities once completed. The Level 1 Public Bodies will also be responsible for reporting requirements as set out under the programme guidelines.

Contribution to Horizontal Themes

Social Inclusion

The objectives of the scheme contribute to the achievement of the horizontal principle of social inclusion through the provision of facilities with universal access, including access for disabled persons. Universal access is a condition of grant-aid provided under the scheme. As part of the selection criteria projects will be expected to have an anti-discrimination policy or rules in place before funding is approved.

Broader Equality

Equality principles in Ireland are implemented through the actions against discrimination in the 9 areas of: gender, marital status, family, age, disability, race, sexual orientation, religion and the travelling community. All projects supported under this intervention will be expected to ensure compliance in this regard. As part of the selection criteria projects will be expected to have an anti-discrimination policy or rules in place before funding is approved.

Project Selection

Selection Process

- Organisations are invited to apply for the Arts Capital Programme by way of advertisements in the national press.
- An application form and guidelines, terms and conditions are made available.
- After the application deadline all applications are assessed according to strict criteria.
- An independent Selection Committee examines the evaluations and makes recommendations on projects to be funded. The selection committee includes a representative from the Arts Council and two independent members.
- Recommendations are presented to the Minister for final approval.

Selection Board Membership

- Officials from the arts capital section conduct the initial evaluation of the applications. All qualifying applications are then sent to an independent Selection Committee who make final recommendations to the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. This Committee will have representatives from the Department, Arts Council, Local Authority Sector and relevant professional body. The Committee was provided with a secretariat from the arts capital section of the Department.

Selection Criteria

When assessing applications the Department uses a number of criteria, as set out in the programme's guidelines. The criteria are weighted according to their importance and each application is scored against these criteria. The Selection Committee examines the initial evaluations and 1) approves the rejection of non-qualifying applications and 2) makes the final decision on the qualifying projects. The Selection Committee provide a list of recommended projects to the Minister who makes the final decision in relation to projects awarded funding.

Applications under the last round of the Arts Capital Programme were assessed and scored on the following criteria, which are likely to be replicated for the new round:

In the case of refurbishment/enhancement projects: -

- The extent to which the proposed enhancement or refurbishment will: -
- Improve and extend access to, or participation in, the arts within the catchment area of the relevant facility;
- Contribute to financial viability for the relevant facility, and the capacity of the facility to be self-financing, into the future;
- implement works that will ensure the continued availability of the relevant facility into the future;
- Add a new dimension to or improve the capability of the facility to stage or support arts activities, or improve facilities and workspaces for artists.
- Adhere to high standards in buildings design.

In the case of "New Build"

The extent to which the proposed new facility will: -

- address a gap in provision, or address a proven need, within the relevant area;
- impact on other similar facilities in the relevant catchment area;
- be in a position to achieve self-financing status into the future;
- be compatible with the National Spatial Strategy, or with objectives of other Government policies, including the Arts Council's strategy, 'Partnership for Arts';
- Adhere to high standards in building design;
- In applying the assessment criteria, the Department aims for a good spread of funding between:
 - different geographical areas of the country;
 - a wide range of arts disciplines; and
 - providing support to voluntary and community groups.

To qualify for EU co-financing projects serve the population of one of the NSS Gateways or Hubs in the Southern and Eastern Region.

Performance Indicators

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term Dec '09	Final
Output Provision of high quality multi-disciplinary arts and culture facilities	Arts and cultural centre built	Centres currently in	Dependant on successful applications from other Hubs and Gateways	Dependant on successful applications from other Hubs and Gateways
Result Improved	Increased and enhanced			

opportunities to participate in arts and cultural activities	number of venues.			
Impact Increased participation	Increased numbers of audiences / artists participating in arts and culture.			

Financial Management

The following conditions apply to the financial management of the projects:

- The Department's contribution to the project will be no more than 70%.
- Once a final cost for the project has been established by public tender, the Department's contribution will be calculated as a % of the total cost. Invoices submitted for payment will be paid at that rate.
- Written confirmation of all matching finance necessary to complete the project must be provided to the Department prior to the construction starting.
- A timescale for this project must be furnished, outlining expected dates for the submission of application for planning permission, the tender stage, commencement on site and estimated period for its completion. If no progress has been made within 12 months the grant may be withdrawn.
- In relation to the tendering process, it is the Department's policy that tendering for all projects which are in receipt of grant assistance should be in accordance with the public procurement guidelines and be open to competition from as wide a range of firms as practicable. A tendering report will be sought in relation to the tendering procedure used by the promoters.
- A consultant Architect will be engaged by the Department to assess the design and specifications and monitor progress of the project. A copy of drawings, Planning Permission and any other relevant technical documentation as applicable to the project will be required.
- The Department's consultant Architect will also make a number of site visits to the project. Clearance from the Department's Architect will be required prior to payment of grant aid.
- Projects will have to enter into a legal agreement which places a lien on the property so as to secure the Ministers investment.
- The application of the Per Cent for Arts Scheme must be applied. The scheme requires expenditure of up to 1% of the contract sum on an arts project subject to a specified maximum. Please note that no additional funding is available from the Department in relation to the Per Cent for Arts scheme. Photographic evidence will be required prior to the final drawdown of grant aid.
- Grant aid is paid on the basis of paid invoices accompanied by an auditor's certificate confirming that the monies have been paid out and have been applied for the purpose for which the claim is being made and will not be recouped from another source. Where several invoices are being paid simultaneously the auditor should submit a schedule setting out the detail of each invoice as follows: Name of supplier, Date of invoice, Invoice number, Amount of invoice.

- The Department requires a valid Tax Clearance Certificate before any payments can be made.
- A sign indicating that the project is being part-funded by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and under the S&E Operational Programme will be required. A temporary sign should be erected when the contract has been completed. These signs should be bilingual and the Department will require photographic evidence.
- All projects must comply with reporting requirements under the NDP 2007 – 2013 and the S&E Operational Programme 2007-2013 as directed by the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism i.e. publicity, performance indicators, horizontal impacts etc.
- Where the promoters of the project are a Local Authority, details of any borrowing requirements must be forwarded to the Department on an annual basis.
- In accordance with Article 90 of the General Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, the Intermediary Body and Beneficiary Bodies will ensure that all supporting documents regarding expenditure, verification checks, certification and audits on the interventions concerned are kept available for the EU Commission and Court of Auditors for a period of three years following the closure of the Operational Programme.

Document Retention

As per condition XV above, in accordance with Article 90 of the General Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and the Level 1 Public Bodies will ensure that all supporting documents regarding expenditure, verification checks, certification and audits on the interventions concerned are kept available for the EU Commission and Court of Auditors for a period of three years following the closure (as determined by the Certifying Authority) of the Operational Programme.

Monitoring and Reporting arrangements

Monitoring and progress reports will be submitted annually to the Monitoring Committee in a format specified by the Managing Authority.

Information and Publicity

The Department and Beneficiary Bodies will ensure compliance with the Information and Publicity requirements as set out under articles 5 to 9 of Regulation (EC) 1828/2006.

The contribution of the ERDF and Exchequer Funds will be acknowledged in all promotional material, annual reports, letters of offer etc, by use of appropriate logo and text references. The relevant Structural Funds regulations on Information and Publicity will be complied with in this regard. All Information and Publicity will be undertaken in accordance with the Communications Plan.

North/South Co-operation

If suitable applications are received for projects in the hubs and gateways located in the border region there will be a positive impact on North – South Co-operation by way of enhanced opportunities for people from the North to use the facilities provided by this measure.