

S&E Regional OP 2007 – 2013 Draft Implementation Plan 2.1.2

Operational Programme	S&E Regional Operational Programme 2007 - 2013
Priority	Environment & Accessibility
Theme	Risk Prevention & Water Protection
Sub-Theme	Village Sewerage System
ERDF Certifying Body	Department of Finance
Managing Authority	S&E Regional Assembly
Intermediate Body	Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government
Level 1 Public Body	Local Authorities.
Grant Rate	Grant aid will be provided as part of the existing grant structure for the provision or upgrading of Small Public Sewerage Schemes, i.e. up to 75% of the cost subject to a maximum grant aid of €750,000 per project.
EU Co-financing Rate	Not Co-Financed

Description

Funding will be provided towards the provision of or upgrading of existing Small Public Sewerage Schemes through the expansion of the collective sewerage treatment facilities in rural settlements

Objectives

The protection of rural drinking water sources and the enhancement of the rural environment by protecting surface and groundwater from pollution.

Responsibilities of Intermediate Body

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will provide funding via Block Grant Allocations to Local Authorities on an annual basis under the Rural Water Programme. It will be responsible for the collection of data, the preparation of monitoring reports and the verification of expenditure and submission to the Managing Authority.

Responsibilities of Level 1 Public Body

Projects being put forward for ERDF co-financing under the Rural Water Programme will be identified and approved by Local Authorities on the basis of protecting water sources used for the abstraction of drinking water by group water schemes, enhancement of the rural environment and contributing to the sustainable development of rural areas.

The beneficiaries will be responsible for ensuring that only actual eligible expenditure incurred, and expenditure which comes under the terms of the project as approved by the Intermediate Body is included.

Contribution to Horizontal Themes

Environmental Sustainability

Surface and ground waters within the region are vulnerable to organic pollution from agriculture and domestic waste water systems. Many of these are used as sources of

drinking water. Waste water collection and treatment systems will be provided for small villages and isolated rural settlements within the region, thereby abating pollution, protecting the environment and enhancing the physical appearance of the countryside.

Project Selection

Selection Process

The Village Sewerages Schemes will be identified and approved by Local Authorities on the basis of affording protection to surface and groundwater from the threat of pollution.

Selection Criteria

In considering the projects for approval local authorities should in particular consider situations where pollution caused by the lack of or inadequate sewerage treatment is having an adverse effect on water sources used by group water schemes for the abstraction of their raw water supply.

Performance Indicators

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term Dec '09	Final
Output	1. Number of Group Water Schemes	0	6	12
Result	1. Population equivalent served			2,800

Financial Management

Under the Rural Water Programme funding is provided by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government (Intermediate Body) to local authorities (Level 1 Public Body) by way of annual block grants that reflect the level of activity locally and are based on submissions by local authorities. Responsibility for the selection and approval of schemes, as well as the payment of grants, rests with the local authorities.

Monitoring and Reporting arrangements

The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government will provide reports and data in the required formats as required by the Managing Authority.

North/South Co-operation

The measure will make a positive contribution to the development of rural areas in border counties. Rural tourism, based on angling, the inland waterways and water based leisure activity generally requires improved water supply and waste water infrastructure in order to grow and develop in a sustainable way. The waterways and the catchments within which they are located are shared between North and South. The protection and enhancement of these invaluable resources is dependent on responsible attitudes to catchment management and the control of discharges to surface and groundwaters. The measure will provide for the implementation of source protection measures aimed at controlling pollution due to run off and percolation and by developing waste water collection and treatment systems at selected villages and isolated rural settlements.