

Summary of South East ERDF Operational Programme

This South East England Operational Programme (SEEOP) sets out how ERDF resources are to be used in the Region over the period 2007-2013. The Programme Document has been drawn up in accordance with EU and UK Government guidelines.

The Operational Programme combines €23.706m of support from the European Regional Development Fund with €23.706m match funding. The overall value of the programme is thus €47.412m over its 7-year life.

The aim of this Operational Programme is to: "Promote competitiveness in South East England whilst contributing to reducing the region's ecological footprint."

To achieve this aim the Programme has established three objectives:

- To raise levels of knowledge and innovation across all business sectors in order to support more resource efficient business practices, boosting profitability and long-term competitiveness;
- To stimulate innovation and job creation in new and emerging ecologically-driven market sectors
- To reduce the rate of growth of the Region's ecological footprint, whilst stimulating economic growth

These objectives will be delivered through two Priority Axes:

- Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption
- Technical Assistance

The expected outputs, results and impacts of the Programme are set out below.

Output	Target
Number of businesses assisted to improve their performance	750
Number of additional firms involved in business networks	800
Number of businesses within the region engaged in new collaboration with UK knowledge base	270
Number of businesses in the region developing R&D links with other businesses	70
Number of businesses engaged in developing sustainable mobility strategies	240
Number of energy efficient demonstrator projects	10

Result	Target
Number of businesses improving performance	1250
Gross new jobs created	180
Number of businesses making financial savings from improved energy and resource efficiency	550
Number of SMEs reducing energy, waste or water usage by 10%	550
Number of businesses achieving independent environmental accreditation	100

Result	Target
Number of businesses increasing percentage of turnover attributable to new and improved products by 5%	110
Reduction in road congestion and pollution levels attributable to sustainable mobility strategies	10% reduction on existing levels
Number of businesses tendering for public sector contracts	75
Development and dissemination of good practice expertise	Qualitative assessment
Number of businesses integrating new products, processes or services	2

Impact	Target
Net additional employment	109
Net increase in GVA	€32,000,000
Reduction in region's CO ₂ emissions	85,000 tonnes