

Health and Structural funds in 2007-2013: country and regional assessment

COUNTRY ASSESSMENT FOR HEALTH & STRUCTURAL FUNDS

UNITED KINGDOM (UK)

Table 1: Country assessment summary - United Kingdom

NSRF strategic objectives	Funding source	Direct health sector investment	Indirect health sector investment	Potential health gain Personal Economic Social Environmental	Lisbon Agenda (renewed 2005)
Enterprise and innovation	ERDF/ ESF	-	-	E, S, P	To create a more attractive investment and working environment; To enhance growth through knowledge and innovation; To create more and better jobs.
Skills and employment	ERDF/ ESF	-	-	E, S, P	
Environmental and community sustainability	ERDF	-	-	Env, S, E, P	

Table 2: Eligible regions under Cohesion Policy Objectives

Cohesion Policy Objective	Regions
Convergence	West Wales & the Valleys, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
Phasing out	Highlands & Islands.
Phasing in	South Yorkshire, Merseyside.
Regional competitiveness and employment	Lowlands and Uplands of Scotland, Northern Ireland, East Wales, South East, North East, East of England, London, West Midlands, North West, Yorkshire & Humberside, East Midlands, South West.

Table 2: Eligible regions under Cohesion Policy Objectives

Background: The United Kingdom has a population of 60.77 million. The age structure is estimated at: 0-14 years 17.2%; 15-64 years 67%; 65 years and over 15.8%. Life expectancy at birth is 78.7 years for the total population, 76.23 years for males and 81.3 years for females (Source: http://www.indexmundi.com/united_kingdom/demographics_profile.html). In comparison, life expectancy at birth for Scotland is currently 74.6 years for men and 79.6 years for women (Source: National Statistics, *Health Statistics Quarterly 37 (Spring) 2008*). The main causes of death in order are: diseases of the circulatory system, neoplasms, diseases of the respiratory system, diseases of the digestive system, external causes and diseases of the nervous system. Over the last 25 years, improvements in survival have resulted in more people living longer and an increasing proportion of deaths occurring in older ages. However, there remain substantial social and geographical variations in health status, with people who are disadvantaged in terms of their educational, employment and socioeconomic background having higher rates of reported poor health and limitations in daily activities. On average, the population in England had better reported health than the other countries (Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland) in the UK. Trends in behaviour such as smoking and heavy drinking and increases in obesity and sexually transmitted diseases which are known risk factors for disease and poor outcomes are not improving, particularly among young people (Source: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/health/>).

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**Table 3: Programme period 2007-2013 -
health investment in the NSRF and OPs**

Allocation of money in the SF 2007-2013	
Source and budget	ERDF €3 585 722 539; ESF €3 392 748 133
Total	€9 890 937 463
Health sector % of total allocated SF	None allocated (0%)
NSRF strategic themes (with OP relevance and funding source)	
1.	Enterprise and innovation (OPs 1-22 - ERDF/ESF)
2.	Skills and employment (OPs 1-22 - ERDF/ESF)
3.	Environmental and community sustainability (OPs 1-22 - ERDF)
Operational Programmes	
Convergence objective	
1.	Highlands & Islands of Scotland (ERDF)
2.	Highlands & Islands of Scotland (ESF)
3.	West Wales & the Valleys (ERDF)
4.	West Wales & the Valleys (ESF)
5.	Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly
Combined Convergence objective with Competitiveness and Employment objective	
6.	England and Gibraltar (ESF)
Competitiveness and Employment objective	
7.	East Wales (ERDF)
8.	East Wales (ESF)
9.	Lowlands & Uplands of Scotland (ERDF)
10.	Lowlands & Uplands of Scotland (ESF)
11.	Northern Ireland (ERDF)
12.	Northern Ireland (ESF)
13.	South East
14.	East of England
15.	North East
16.	London
17.	West Midlands
18.	North West
19.	Yorkshire & Humberside
20.	East Midlands
21.	South West
22.	Gibraltar
Direct health sector investment (with NSRF/OP relevance)	
None identified. Health sector priorities will be largely funded from national resources. SF resources will be used to co-finance targeted interventions that contribute more broadly to social and economic development (see Table 4).	
Indirect health sector investment (with NSRF/OP relevance)	
None identified.	

Evidence of capacity to deliver intersectoral policy and planning

In terms of maximising health gain from Structural Funds capacity building is an approach to the development of sustainable skills, organisational structures, resources and commitment to health improvement in health and other sectors. Ensuring that health gain is achieved from investments will need attention to: organisational development (ROP Managing Authorities, Regional Development Agencies); workforce development (ROP Managing Authorities, Regional Skills Partnerships, Intermediate bodies); resources allocation (ROP Managing Authorities, ROP Monitoring Committees); leadership (BERR, ROP Managing Authorities); partnerships (ROP Monitoring Committees, Intermediate bodies).

Regional planning and implementation (From OPs)

The UK has 11 regions. No direct or indirect health investment projects are currently identified.

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**Table 4: Non-health sector investment with potential health gain
2007-2013**

Strategic objective (and OP)	Relevant investments	Potential health gain
Enterprise and innovation	<p>ROP CIS (ERDF), Priority 1 “Promoting innovation and knowledge transfer”: This priority will focus on promoting innovation, knowledge transfer and the transition to a more knowledge-based economy. Examples of actions that may be supported include: supporting innovation networks, increased investment in research and development, improving Cornwall’s capacity to capitalise on research and development by supporting knowledge transfer and spin-offs (for example, building on the Combined Universities in Cornwall and the Knowledge Spa centres of excellence in academic, science and business research) (See also <i>Competitiveness and Employment ROPs; Convergence objective [ERDF] West Wales and the Valleys Priority 1 “Promoting a high value added Welsh economy by improving knowledge and innovation for growth”</i>; ROP NI [ERDF] Priority 1 “Increasing investment in research and development and promoting innovation”; ROP G [ERDF]).</p> <p>ROP CIS (ERDF), Priority 2 “Stimulating enterprise and business development”: The purpose of this priority will be to create the conditions for enterprise and the development of sectors with strong growth potential actions that may be supported include: offering technical and business advice, consultancy and investment for SMEs; supporting the growth of high-value businesses and assisting them to access global markets; improving access to finance and encouraging business investment; promoting the awareness of entrepreneurship among young people; encouraging business internationalisation; providing the necessary infrastructure for enterprise; developing new areas of activity (for example, in environmental technologies, renewable energy, creative industries, food, tourism, the health sector (See also <i>Competitiveness and Employment ROPs; ROP Highlands and Islands (Convergence objective ERDF) Priority 1 “Promoting enterprise sustainability”</i>; <i>Competitiveness and Employment ROP [ERDF] Lowlands & Uplands of Scotland, Priority 1 “Supporting innovation and entrepreneurship”</i>; <i>Competitiveness and Employment ROP [ERDF] East Wales Priority 1 Building the knowledge-based economy”</i>; ROP NI [ERDF] Priority 2 “Promoting enterprise & entrepreneurship”; ROP G [ESF]).</p>	Economic, social

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<p>Skills and employment</p>	<p>ROPCIS (ESF), Priority 1 “Tackling barriers to employment” The purpose of this priority will be to tackle barriers to employment and increase the rate of employment. Examples of actions that may be supported include: tackling the causes of worklessness, in particular for people on incapacity benefits and in the most deprived areas; increasing childcare provision; supporting community economic development; promoting diversity and equality and supporting social enterprise within deprived communities (See also <i>Competitiveness and Employment ROPs with ESF funding, Priority 1 “Extending employment opportunities” and ROP Highlands and Islands (Convergence objective ESF) Priority 1 “Accessing the Highlands and Islands labour market”</i>; <i>Competitiveness and Employment ROP [ESF] Lowlands & Uplands of Scotland, Priority 1 “Progressing into sustainable employment”</i>; <i>ROP Convergence objective [ESF] West Wales and the Valleys Priority 1 “Increasing employment and tackling economic inactivity”</i>; <i>Competitiveness and Employment ROP [ESF] East Wales Priority 1 “Increasing employment and tackling economic inactivity”</i>; <i>ROP NI [ESF] Priority 1 “Increasing and improving employment in Northern Ireland”</i>; <i>ROP G [ESF]</i>).</p>	<p>Social, economic, personal</p>
<p>Skills and employment with Environmental and community sustainability</p>	<p>There is increasing recognition that economic and social regeneration must go hand in hand if improvements are to be sustainable. Social enterprises play an important role in this. They are strongly represented in deprived areas, with half estimated to be located in the 40% most deprived areas, and contribute to many aspects of regeneration and service provision in those areas (NSRF/Strategy for Regional Economic Growth).</p>	<p>Economic, environmental, social</p>

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Table 4: Non-health sector investment with potential health gain 2007-2013

Environmental and community sustainability	<p>Competitiveness and Employment ERDF ROPs Priority 4 “Building sustainable communities”: The aim of this priority is to help to develop sustainable communities, in order to improve the growth and productivity of local economies in order to promote the regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas. Examples of actions that may be supported include: promoting social enterprises; developing local connections, particularly in deprived areas, in order to increase access to opportunities, employment and public services; regenerating and increasing the attractiveness of areas suffering from severe social, economic and environmental deprivation, thereby contributing to the Government’s liveability agenda; redeveloping brownfield land where this can support economic and social regeneration; supporting cultural regeneration; and improving the environment as a means of creating more attractive places to live and do business. Specifically, activities delivered in support of building sustainable communities will seek to promote social mobility and economic inclusion and thus contribute to economic cohesion (<i>See also Convergence objective [ERDF] West Wales and the Valleys Priority 3 “Building sustainable communities”; ROP G [ERDF]</i>).</p> <p>ROP Highlands and Islands (Convergence objective ERDF) Priority 2 “Reinforcing community sustainability”: Community sustainability is as critical to the competitiveness of the Highlands and Islands as the strength of its economy. Community regeneration can make essential contributions to the region’s competitiveness by distributing growth across the area and acting as local growth poles for a diverse region. Parts of the region have experienced severe problems of sustainability, undermining the scope for all parts of the region to contribute to a sustained and balanced economic growth. Structural Funds can support community efforts to strengthen their sources of local competitiveness, retaining population (especially young people) and attracting in-migrants from outside of the region. Examples of actions that may be supported include: building sustainable transport links, particularly with the region’s more peripheral communities such as the islands; enhancing communications technology; and supporting community economic development in pockets of deprivation (complementing ESF activities) (<i>See also Competitiveness and Employment ROP [ERDF] Lowlands & Uplands of Scotland, Priority 2 “Promoting community regeneration”</i>).</p>	Social, environmental, economic, personal
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<p>Environmental and community sustainability</p>	<p>ESF Convergence OP West Wales and the Valleys Priority 3 “Making the Connections – modernising and improving the quality of our public services”:</p> <p>This priority will support targeted investments in public services (in both the public and voluntary sectors), which will contribute to economic growth and jobs. Although this priority will only absorb a small proportion of the European funding available for West Wales and the Valleys, it will make an important contribution to developing the skills of public services managers, including the skills needed to lead and manage regeneration programmes. It will also support improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery, including through the development of shared services and electronic access to services by individuals and businesses. Finally, this priority will support improvements in governance, through better dialogue and co-operation. It will consist of two main areas of activity: firstly, by transforming service delivery through more collaborative working; and secondly, building the capacity of public service sectors to deliver higher quality services.</p>	<p>Social, environmental, economic, personal</p>
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