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Lead topic: Structural Funds	Sub-topic: Technical Assistance costs of the Department and the Regional Assemblies (Subheads A4 and A5)	Contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anne Marie Caulfield Ext. 7198• Margot Dunne Ext. 5523
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FAST FACTS

- Technical Assistance (subheads A4 and A5) represents the administrative costs associated with running the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programmes
- D/PER acts as the Member State for the 2 ERDF programmes and the **A4 subhead** relate to the admin costs incurred by the Department in its oversight of the Programmes. It also includes costs associated with the Certifying Authority and Audit Authority, both of which functions sit within the Department.
- 2 of the 3 Regional Assemblies under the Local Government Structure act as Managing Authorities for the ERDF Programmes and **A5 subhead** relates to the admin costs incurred by the Regional Assemblies in the planning and day to day management of the Programmes. The 2015 outturn for this subhead was on profile.
- During 2015 work on closure of the 2007-2013 ERDF Programmes and the early phases of implementation of the 2014-2020 Programmes was underway.
- In 2017, the 2 ERDF Programmes for the 2007-2013 reached successful closure (subject to EU Commission approval). Current projections suggest that 100% of funding allocated under that round will be drawdown.
- For the 2014-2020 Programmes, the implementing authorities were formally designated in 2017 following an independent examination of their management and control systems as required under the regulations.
- Ireland is due to draw down at least **€55m** under the 2014-2020 Programmes in 2017.
- It is intended that the first claim (totalling just under **€14m**) will be made at the end of June with further claims to be submitted later in the year.

- **EU Structural Funds IT System – “ecohesion”**

The Department is currently responsible for the e-Cohesion project – a project to develop an IT system for reporting, monitoring, auditing and accounting for certain expenditure under certain European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes. Under EU Regulations, Member States must ensure that all exchanges of information between beneficiaries of EU funding and authorities delivering and implementing EU Programmes can be carried out by means of electronic data

exchange systems.

The underspend of c. €0.46m on the A4 subhead in 2015 occurred due to this project not proceeding as quickly as anticipated. The capital investment side of this project commenced in 2017 and is scheduled to be completed by end 2017.

As agreed with the EU Commission, an interim ICT arrangement has been implemented (i.e. minor modifications to the 2007-2013 ICT system) and is currently in use.