**Annex 1: Thematic Objectives (TO) and Investment Priorities (IP)** - *Article 5 of the draft ERDF regulation [COM(2011) 614 final, 6 October 2011]*

***Version as on November 2012[[1]](#footnote-1)***

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| **TO (1)** | **strengthening research, technological development and innovation:** |
| IP | 1.a enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest; |
| IP | 1.b promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education, in particular product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation and public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production in Key Enabling Technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies; |
| **TO (2)** | **enhancing access to and use and quality of ICT through:** |
| IP | 2.a extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy; |
| IP | 2.b developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT; |
| IP | 2.c strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health; |
| **TO (3)** | **enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs through:** |
| IP | 3.a promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators; |
| IP | 3.b developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular for internationalisation; |
| IP | 3.c supporting the creation and extension of advanced capacities for product and service development; |
| IP | 3.d supporting the capacity of SMEs to engage in growth and innovation processes; |
| **TO (4)** | **supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors through:** |
| IP | 4.a promoting the production and distribution of renewable energy sources; |
| IP | 4.b promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises; |
| IP | 4.c supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings and in the housing sector; |
| IP | 4.d developing and implementing smart distribution systems at low and medium voltage levels; |
| IP | 4.e promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of enterprises, in particular urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures; |
| IP | 4.f promoting research, innovation and adoption of low-carbon technologies; |
| IP | 4.g promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on useful heat demand; |
| **TO (5)** | **promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management through:** |
| IP | 5.a supporting investment for adaptation to climate change; |
| IP | 5.b promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems; |
| **TO (6)** | **protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency through:** |
| IP | 6.a addressing the significant needs for investment in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union’s environmental acquis; |
| IP | 6.b addressing the significant needs for investment in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union’s environmental acquis; |
| IP | 6.c protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage; |
| IP | 6.d protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000[[2]](#footnote-2) and green infrastructures; |
| IP | 6.e action to improve the urban environment, regeneration of brownfield sites and reduction of air pollution; |
| IP | 6.f promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector, soil protection or to reduce air pollution; |
| IP | 6.g support industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy and promoting green growth; |
| **TO (7)** | **promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures through:** |
| IP | 7.a supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) network; |
| IP | 7.b enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure; |
| IP | 7.c developing environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems including river and sea transport, ports and multimodal links; |
| IP | 7.d developing and rehabilitating comprehensive, high quality and interoperable railway system; |
| IP | 7.e developing smart gas and power distribution, storage and transmission systems; |
| **TO (8)** | **promoting employment and supporting labour mobility through:** |
| IP | 8.a development of business incubators and investment support for self employment, micro-enterprises and business creation; |
| IP | 8.b supporting employment friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to and development of specific natural and cultural resources; |
| IP | 8.c local development initiatives and aid for structures providing neighbourhood services to create new jobs, where such actions are outside the scope of Regulation (EU) No […]/2012 [ESF]; |
| IP | 8.d investing in infrastructure for public employment services; |
| **(9)** | **promoting social inclusion and combating poverty through:** |
| IP | 9.a investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, and transition from institutional to community-based services; |
| IP | 9.b support for physical economic and social regeneration of deprived urban and rural communities and areas; |
| IP | 9.c support for social enterprises; |
| **(10)** | **investing in education, skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure;** |
| **(11)** | **enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration by strengthening of institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administration supported by the ESF.** |

1. DISCLAIMER: This document is for information purposes only and the wording of Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities is based on non-official documents and might be subject to changes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Set up as a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation pursuant to Article 3(1) of Council Directive 92-43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, Oj L 206, 22.7.1992,p. 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)