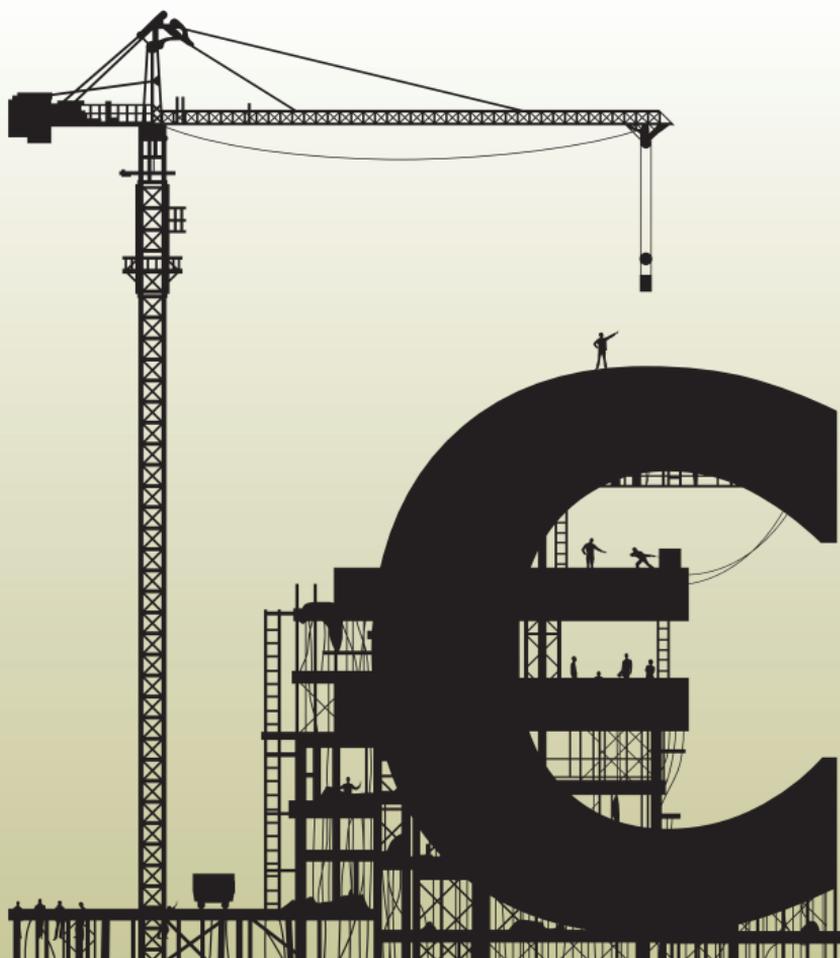




# EU FUNDING

*This leaflet is a brief guide to the main funds provided by the EU. It is one of a series of leaflets which are designed to provide information about the EU to people living in Ireland.*





## INTRODUCTION

The majority of EU funds are managed and disbursed by the government departments or agencies within the Member States. Some funds are managed centrally and directly by the European Commission - these include funds for education, research and development, youth actions and health.

### Accessing funds

You may apply to the government department or agency which is administering the funds. From time to time, the European Commission issues calls for proposals in relation to those funds which are centrally managed. These are published in the Official Journal of the EU and are available on the EU website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/contracts\\_grants/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/index_en.htm)

These are the main sources of EU funding that are likely to be of interest to individuals and the community and voluntary sector.

# AGRICULTURE

## Direct Payments to Farmers

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) aims to strengthen the competitiveness and the sustainability of agriculture and maintain its presence in all regions, in order to guarantee European citizens healthy and quality food production, to preserve the environment, and to help develop rural areas.

The main points for direct payments are:

- A single scheme across the EU, the basic payment scheme, replaces the Single Payment Scheme and the Single Area Payment Scheme as from 2014.
- Payments are dependent on farmers implementing certain agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment.
- A simplified scheme for small farmers.

Further information is available through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine:

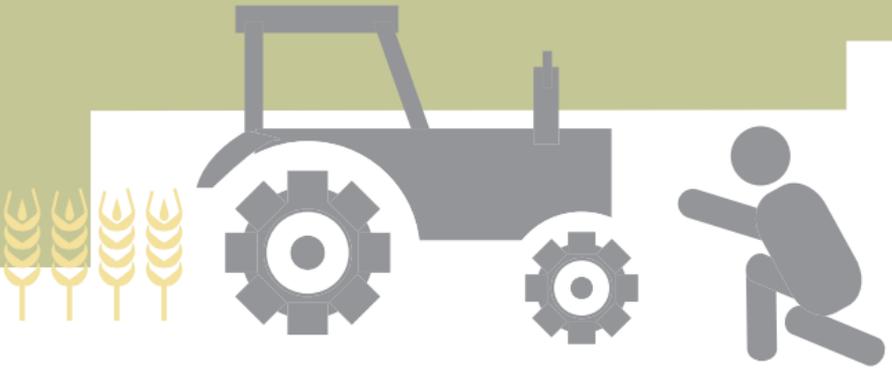
[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

## Rural Development Programme

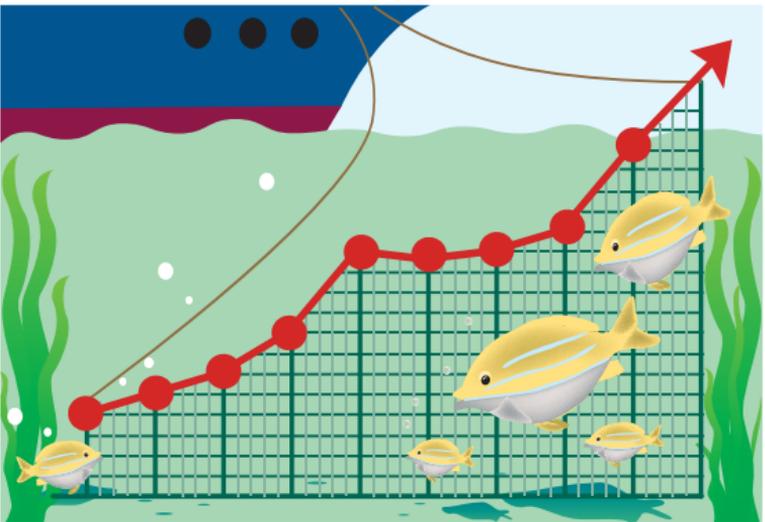
Ireland's Rural Development Programme is financed partly by the EU and partly by the Irish Government.

The programme has 6 priorities:

- Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural development;
- Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability;
- Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture;
- Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry;
- Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
- Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.



The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is responsible for implementing this programme in Ireland. Funding is available through the Leader Partnerships in Ireland and more information about local Leader Partnerships can be obtained on: <http://www.nrn.ie/networking/contact-details-for-leader-companies-in-ireland/>



## Maritime and Fisheries

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for the period 2014-2020 provides funding to the fishing industry and coastal communities to help them adapt to changing conditions in the sector and become economically resilient and ecologically sustainable. The main elements of this programme are:

- Encouraging sustainable fishing;
- Reversing the decline of coastal and inland communities dependent on fishing by adding more value to fishing and fishing related activities through diversification to other sectors of the marine economy;
- Stimulating marine knowledge, maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal management and integrated maritime surveillance.

Further information on funding is available at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/>



## CITIZENSHIP

The programme 'Europe for Citizens 2014-2020' priorities strengthening remembrance and enhancing capacity for civic participation at EU level. The programme aims to engage citizens in the democratic life of the Union through supporting organisations in this area.

The programme aims to:

- Stimulate debates, reflection and networking on remembrance, the history of the EU, identity and aim;
- Develop citizens' understanding of EU policy-making process;
- Promote opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at EU level.

Further information can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/about-the-europe-for-citizens-programme/future-programme-2014-2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/about-the-europe-for-citizens-programme/future-programme-2014-2020/index_en.htm)

## CIVIL PROTECTION

There are many measures taken by the Irish Government as well as at EU level to deal with disasters. Disasters may be due to natural causes, such as earthquakes, landslides, forest fires, floods, snowstorms, tidal waves and/or human activity, such as in the case of accidents involving chemicals, etc. For the purposes of civil protection, each of the county and city councils functions as Principal Response Agencies (PRAs) and as such has developed major emergency response plans.

EU funding supports training and exercises, the exchange of experts and cooperation projects testing new approaches to reduce the risk of disasters. It also supports the facilitation of coordinated action such as the voluntary pooling of resources, training and supporting the cost of transport to deliver assets to places of emergencies.



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION

The challenges of climate change are tackled through a number of EU policy areas, including through R & D, the CAP, transport energy and sustainable bio-economy, as well as rural development policy.

### LIFE+

Life+ is the EU environmental programme and it supports projects on mitigation, adaptation and raising awareness. The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government manage this in Ireland. Further information on this programme and funding opportunities can be obtained at <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/SustainableDevelopment/LIFEProgramme/>

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

### Horizon 2020

This is the Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation and it combines the 7th Framework Programme (FP7), the innovation part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT).

The Horizon 2020 Programme is made up of 3 parts:

#### Excellent Science

- The European Research Council: providing funding for research at the frontier of science.
- Marie Curie Actions: supporting cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers.
- Research Infrastructure: developing European research infrastructure for 2020 and beyond.

## Industrial Leadership

- Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies.
- Access to risk finances: debt and equity finance for R & D and innovation driven companies and projects at all stages of development.
- Innovation in SMEs: stimulating all forms of innovation in SMEs, targeting those with the potential to grow and internationalise across the single market and beyond.

## Societal Challenges

Funding targets research in the following specific objectives:

- Health, demographic change and well-being;
- Food security;
- Secure, clean and efficient energy;
- Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials;
- Inclusive, innovation and secure societies

Further information is available at

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm)

## DIGITAL AGENDA

The Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) aims to reboot Europe's economy and help Europe's citizens and businesses to get the most out of digital technologies. It is one of seven initiatives under Europe 2020, the EU's strategy to deliver smart, sustainable growth.

Information is available at

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm)

## COMPETITIVENESS AND SMES – COSME

The programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) runs from 2014-2020.

COSME supports:

- Access to finance for SMEs;
- Entrepreneurship;
- Enterprise Europe Network (network of business service centres);
- Improving framework conditions for the competitiveness of enterprises and policy development;
- Internationalisation of SMEs.

For further information, contact your local Enterprise Europe Network:

<http://www.een-ireland.ie/eei/>



## CULTURE

### Creative Europe

Creative Europe is the EU programme dedicated to the cultural and creative sectors. It is a framework programme made up of three strands:

- A Cross-Sectoral Strand addressed to all cultural and creative sectors.
- A Culture Strand addressed to the cultural and creative sectors.
- A Media Strand addressed to the audiovisual sector.

Information on funding is available through the Creative Europe Desk (Culture Contact Point) at:

<http://www.ccp.ie/>

## EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions.

In short, the ERDF finances:

- Direct aid to investments in companies (in particular SMEs) to create sustainable jobs.
- Infrastructures linked notably to research and innovation, telecommunications, environment, energy and transport.
- Financial instruments (capital risk funds, local development funds, etc.) to support regional and local development and to foster cooperation between towns and regions.
- Technical assistance measures.

For more information in your area:

- The Border, Midland and Western Region at:  
[www.bmwassembly.ie](http://www.bmwassembly.ie)
- The Southern and Eastern Region at:  
[www.seregassembly.ie](http://www.seregassembly.ie)

# INFRASTRUCTURE

## The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

The CEF targets investments in key infrastructures to help create jobs and to boost Europe's competitiveness. Finance is provided for projects that fill any missing links in Europe's energy, transport and digital backbone. The CEF promotes the completion of the transport core network, the energy priority corridors and the digital infrastructure that the EU and Ireland needs for future sustainable competitiveness.

Funding is available through the Trans-European Network (TEN) streams and programmes such as Marco Polo and CIVITIAS.

# EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The ESF sets out to improve employment and job opportunities in the European Union.

The ESF supports actions in Ireland in the following areas:

- Adapting workers and enterprises: lifelong learning schemes, designing and spreading innovative working organisations.
- Access to employment for job seekers, the unemployed, women and migrants.
- Social integration of disadvantaged people and combating discrimination in the job market.
- Strengthening human capital by reforming education systems and setting up a network of teaching establishments.



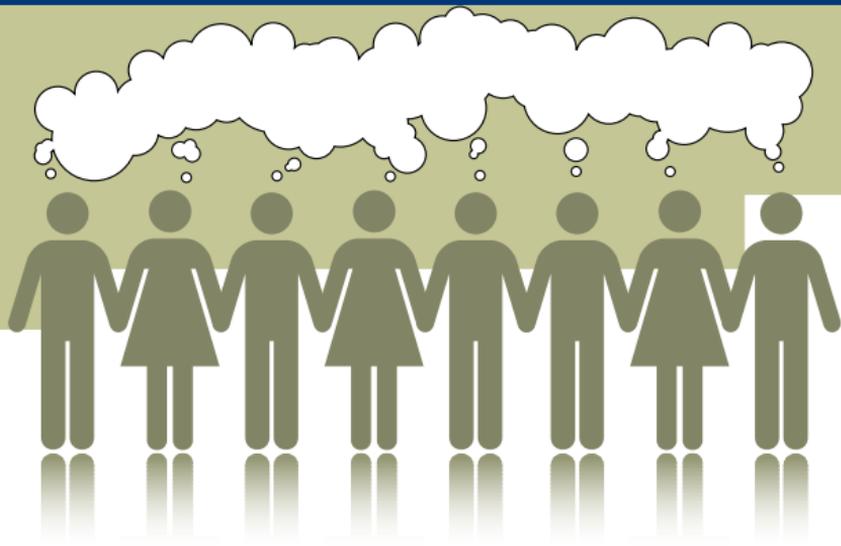
## European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)

This fund deals with industrial restructuring and redundancies. Funding is provided for:

- Workers made redundant as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, demonstrated in particular by a substantial increase in imports into the EU and/or Ireland, a rapid decline of the EU market share in a given sector or delocalisation of activities to non-member countries, where these redundancies have a significant adverse impact on the local, regional or national economy.
- Workers made redundant as a result of a serious disruption of the local, regional or national economy caused by an unexpected crisis.
- Workers changing or adjusting their previous agricultural activities during a period starting upon initialling of the trade agreement by the EU.

Information is available at:

<http://egf.ie/>



## Programme for Social Change and Innovation (EaSI)

This is an integrated programme for employment, social policy and inclusion including promoting intra-EU labour mobility and improving access to employment opportunities and supporting entrepreneurship and self-employment. This has three main elements:

- The Progress Axis: Supports the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU employment and social policy and legalisation on working conditions. This is in partnership with social partners, NGOs and other interested parties.
- The EURES Axis: Supports activities carried out by the EURES network.
- The Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship Axis: Facilitates access to finance for entrepreneurs.

More information is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1093>

## COHESION FUND

The Cohesion Fund finances activities under the following categories:

- Trans-European transport networks.
- Environment: The Cohesion Fund can also support projects related to energy or transport, as long as they clearly present a benefit to the environment such as energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting intermodality, strengthening public transport, etc.

For more information in your area:

- The Border, Midland and Western Region at:  
[www.bmwassembly.ie](http://www.bmwassembly.ie)
- The Southern and Eastern Region at:  
[www.seregassembly.ie](http://www.seregassembly.ie)

## CROSS BORDER STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The 2014-2020 programme supports two areas of funding:

- The Interreg Programme, which supports cross-border co-operation, aimed at strengthening social and economic cohesion.
- The PEACE Programme (EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland).

## EDUCATION

### *Erasmus for All*

This is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. Actions supported through Erasmus for All are:

- Learning opportunities for individuals, both within the EU and beyond, including study and training, traineeships, teaching and professional development and non-formal youth activities such as volunteering.
- Institutional cooperation between educational institutions, youth organisations, businesses, local and regional authorities and NGOs, to encourage the development and implementation of innovative practices in education, training and youth activities, and to promote employability, creativity and entrepreneurship.
- Support for policy reform in Member States and cooperation with non-EU countries, with a focus on strengthening the evidence-base for policy making and exchange of good practices.

Two further elements are part of Erasmus for All:

- A loan guarantee scheme to help Master's degree students to finance their studies abroad and to acquire the skills needed for knowledge intensive jobs.
- The creation of 400 knowledge alliances and sector skills alliances. Knowledge alliances are large-scale partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses to promote creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship by offering new learning opportunities and qualifications. Sector skills alliances are partnerships between education and training providers and businesses to promote employability by forming new sector-specific curricula and innovative forms of vocational teaching and training.

Support for sport projects that address specific objectives is also available.

More information can be found at the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus-for-all/>



## National agencies

European education and training programmes are generally managed on a joint basis by the national agencies in each of the participating countries and the European Commission itself. In Ireland, the national agencies involved are:

Léargas: <http://www.leargas.ie/>

Higher Education Authority: <http://www.heai.ie>

SOLAS: <http://wwwsolas.ie>

Department of Education and Skills: <http://www.education.ie>

## INFORMATION ABOUT EU FUNDING BENEFICIARIES

The Commission publishes information about the beneficiaries of centrally managed EU funds. This is part of the European Transparency Initiative to improve the openness and accessibility of EU institutions.

The information on centrally managed funds is provided on two websites:

Beneficiaries of Grants:

[http://ec.europa.eu/grants/beneficiaries\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/grants/beneficiaries_en.htm)

Beneficiaries of Public Contracts:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_contracts/beneficiaries\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/public_contracts/beneficiaries_en.htm)

# Citizens Information

[www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

0761 07 4000

Local Centres

Free & Confidential Service



EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND  
18 Dawson Street, Dublin 2  
[eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu)