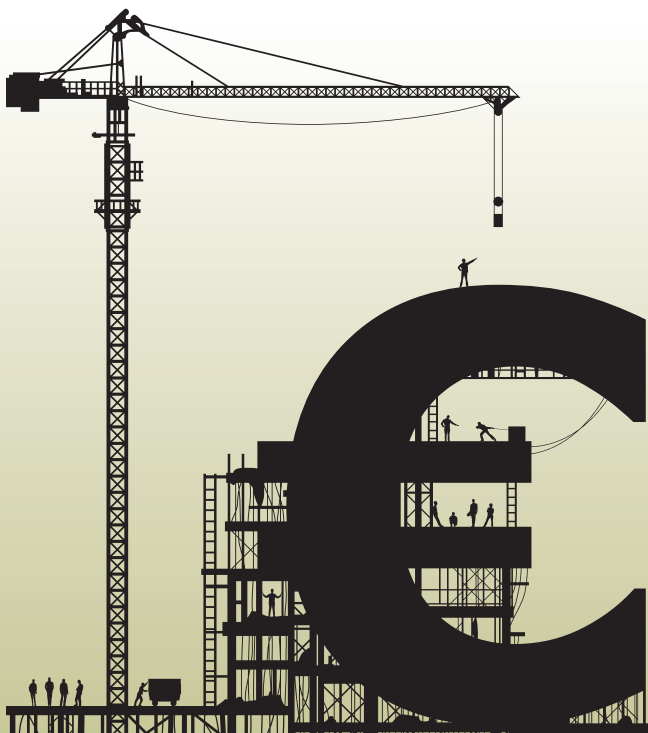




EU FUNDING

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. These include funds for agriculture and structural funds. The rest of the funds are managed centrally and directly by the European Commission - these include funds for education, research, 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:

www.europa.eu

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

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Direct payments to farmers

The Single Payment Scheme is the name of the system of payments to farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy. These payments aim to support the income of farmers and are not linked

to production. They are, however, subject to conditions in relation to environmental protection, animal welfare, food safety and keeping the land in good condition. These payments are administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Ireland. Further information is available from <http://www.agriculture.ie/>

Rural Development Programme

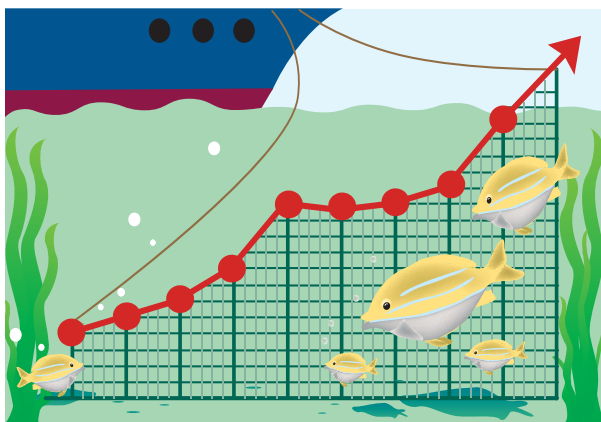
Ireland's Rural Development Programme for the period 2007 - 2013 is financed partly by the EU and partly by the Irish government.

EU rural development policy focuses on three core areas.

- Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry
- Supporting land management and improving the environment and
- Improving quality of life and encouraging diversification of economic activities.

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm

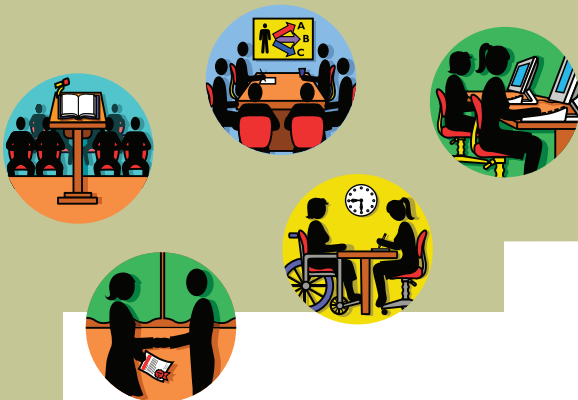
The programme is implemented in Ireland by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



European Fisheries Fund

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) for the period 2007 - 2013 provides funding for various sectors of the fishing industry including sea and inland fisheries, aquaculture businesses, producer organisations, and the processing and marketing sectors.

The fund is operated in Ireland by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The Structural Funds aim to improve the situation of the less well off regions of the EU. Ireland has been a major beneficiary in the past. Ireland will continue to receive some structural funds over the period 2007 - 2013. The National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) describes how the Irish government intends to invest this EU funding.

The aims of the NSRF for the two regions (South & East and Border-Midlands-West) are:

- Promote investment in human capital through upskilling the workforce, increasing participation in the workforce and activating groups outside the workforce. The focus will be on women, people with disabilities, lone parents, travellers and ex-offenders. A special programme will target migrants.
- Support innovation, knowledge and entrepreneurship in the regions. The objective is to boost research and development (R&D) in areas and institutions (Institutes of Technology mainly) where this capacity has been lacking in the past. The aim is to double the number of PhD graduates during the programming period.
- Strengthen the competitiveness, attractiveness and connectivity of the National Spatial Strategy through improved access to infrastructure and promoting environmental and sustainable development.

There are three operational programmes: one for South and East (supported by the European Regional Development Fund-ERDF), one for Border-Midlands-West (ERDF) and one for developing human resources (European Social Fund-ESF).



The Irish NSRF is available at: www.finance.gov.ie

The Human Capital Investment OP is available at: www.esf.ie

The Border, Midland and Western Region OP is available at:
www.bmwassembly.ie

The Southern and Eastern Region OP is available at: www.seregassembly.ie

Inter-regional Programmes

The INTERREG programmes aim to address the economic and social disadvantage in border areas. For the period 2007 - 2013, Ireland is participating in a number of programmes:

Ireland/Northern Ireland/Western Scotland Programme: the (INTERREG IV A) Programme is the Cross-Border Territorial Cooperation Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

Ireland/Wales Programme: this programme focuses on maritime co-operation.

Atlantic Area Programme: this includes Ireland, UK, parts of western France, northern Spain and Portugal.

North West Europe Programme: this includes Ireland, the UK, northern France, Benelux countries and part of Germany.



Northern Periphery Programme: this includes the south and west coast of Ireland, Northern Ireland, part of Scotland, parts of Sweden and Finland and the non-Member States of Greenland, Iceland and Faroe Islands.

There is also an **interregional programme** (INTERREG IV C) covering all 27 Member States as well as Norway and Switzerland.

Further Information on all these programmes may be obtained from: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

The list of managing authorities for the funds in each region is at: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm

PEACE III

The PEACE III programme covers the period 2007-13. It aims to complement the Northern Ireland peace process. It assists projects in Northern Ireland and in Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal. The Programme is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). www.seupb.org

EDUCATION

The individual Member States of the EU are responsible for their own education and training systems and they decide on the content of those systems. The EU may provide funding and support to supplement the actions taken by Member States. The current EU programme providing this support is the Lifelong Learning Programme. http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc78_en.htm

The Lifelong Learning Programme covers the period 2007-2013. It supports projects and activities that foster interchange, cooperation and mobility between education and training systems within the EU. There are four main parts to the programme:

- The **Comenius programme** deals with the teaching and learning needs of all those in pre-school and school education up to the end of upper secondary education, and the institutions and organisations providing such education;
- The **Erasmus programme** deals with the teaching and learning needs of all those in formal higher education, including trans-national student placements in enterprise, and the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training;
- The **Leonardo da Vinci programme** deals with the teaching and learning needs of all those in vocational education and training, other than in third level including placement in enterprise of people other than students, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education and training;
- The **Grundtvig programme** deals with the teaching and learning needs of those in all forms of adult education, as well as the institutions and organisations providing or facilitating such education.

There is also a **transversal programme** which deals with, among other things, the promotion of language learning and the development of innovative ICT-based content, services, and practice for lifelong learning.

Co-operation with Other Countries

The EU also has education co-operation programmes with the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/external-relation-programmes/doc74_en.htm

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.hea.ie>

FÁS: <http://www.fas.ie>

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

YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME 2007 - 2013

The Youth in Action programme for the period 2007 - 2013 is aimed at young people aged between 15 and 28 (13-30 for some specific actions). Particular priority may be given to young people with disabilities and from disadvantaged groups.



The main aims of the programme are to:

- Promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular;
- Develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union;
- Foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries;
- Contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field;
- Promote European cooperation in the youth field.

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.php

The programme is implemented in Ireland by the Youth Work Service of Léargas.

CITIZENS FOR EUROPE

The Citizens for Europe 2007 - 2013 aims to help bridge the perceived gap between the general public and the institutions of the EU.

It provides grants to groups promoting active European citizenship such as local authorities, European public policy research organisations, citizens' groups, civil society organisations, NGOs, trade unions and educational institutions.

Grants are provided under the following main headings:

Active citizens for Europe: this involves citizens directly, either through activities linked to town-twinning or through other kinds of citizens' projects;

Active civil society for Europe: this is targeted at Europe-wide civil society organizations, that can receive either structural support on the basis of their work programme or support for trans-national projects;

Together for Europe: this supports high visibility events, studies and information tools, Active European Remembrance: this action supports the preservation of the main sites and archives associated with the deportations and the commemoration of the victims of nazism and stalinism.

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.html

MEDIA

MEDIA is the EU support programme for the European audiovisual industry. It co-finances training initiatives for audiovisual industry professionals, the development of production projects (feature films, television drama, documentaries, animation and new media), and the promotion of European audiovisual works.

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/media/index_en.htm



CULTURE

The Culture Programme for the period 2007 – 2013 aims to

- Promote the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector;
- Encourage the transnational circulation of works and cultural and artistic products;
- Encourage intercultural dialogue.

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

LIFE+

- LIFE+ is the environmental programme for the period 2007 - 2013.

There are three strands:

- LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity - this focuses on the implementation of the EU directives on the conservation of habitats and of wild birds as well as strengthening the knowledge needed for developing, assessing, monitoring and evaluating EU nature and biodiversity policy and legislation;
- LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance covering the other 6EAP priorities besides nature and biodiversity, as well as strategic approaches to policy development, implementation and enforcement;
- LIFE+ Information and Communication on environmental issues.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>



RESEARCH

The 7th Framework Programme (FP7) is the EU's main instrument for funding research. It has five programmes:

- **Cooperation:** support for projects run by transnational consortia in ten thematic areas ranging from health
- **Ideas:** support for 'frontier research' projects implemented by research teams or individual researchers;
- **People:** researcher mobility and career development;
- **Capacities:** support for research capacities and infrastructure;
- **Nuclear Research,** including fusion energy research

Participation in FP7 is open to a wide range of organisations and individuals including research groups at universities or research institutes; companies, individual researchers, and civil society organisations. There are a number of national contact points in each Member States - the List of National Contact Points is at: www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7/get-support_en.html

There is a Research Enquiry Service:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=enquiries>

EUROPEAN GLOBALISATION ADJUSTMENT FUND

This is a fund which may be available to a Member State which is faced with sudden redundancies caused by changing global trade patterns. The Member State may ask for funding to help workers who have been made redundant to reintegrate into the labour market. The funds may be used to help with finding another job or retraining.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=326&langId=en>

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS FUNDING PROGRAMMES

The following are the main funding programmes in the area of justice and home affairs for the period 2007 - 2013.

Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows

This framework programme has four specific programmes:

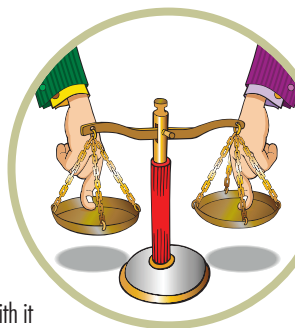
- The European Refugee Fund
- The External Borders Fund (Ireland and the UK do not participate in this)
- The European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals
- The European Return Fund

Fundamental Rights and Citizenship

The **Fundamental Rights and Citizenship programme** aims to promote the development of a European society based on respect for fundamental rights and rights derived from citizenship of the European Union.

Its further objectives are:

- to strengthen civil society and to encourage an open, transparent and regular dialogue with it in respect of fundamental rights;
- to fight against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism;
- to improve the contacts, exchange of information and networking between legal, judicial and administrative authorities and the legal professions; and
- by supporting judicial training, the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship programme will lead to better mutual understanding among such authorities and professionals.



Daphne III

The **Daphne III programme** aims to contribute to the protection of children, young people and women against all forms of violence and attain a high level of health protection, well-being and social cohesion.

Its specific objective is to contribute to the prevention of, and the fight against all forms of violence occurring in the public or the private domain, including sexual exploitation and trafficking of human beings.

It aims to take preventive measures and provide support and protection for victims and groups at risk.

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/programme/index_en.htm



Security and safeguarding Liberties

This aims to promote co-operation in the fight against crime and terrorism. There are two specific programmes under this heading:

- Prevention of and fight against crime
- Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security related risks

Further information is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm

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

Beneficiaries of Public Contracts:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_contracts/beneficiaries_en.htm

Citizens Information 

www.citizensinformation.ie

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