

# **Your County**



#### Message from Mairead McGuinness

Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union





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# **Your County**

#### Mairead McGuinness

Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union



Dear Resident,

Ireland's membership of the European Union has had a huge impact on our lives: from the use of a common currency to protecting our environment, from increased economic growth to tackling gender inequality, and from giving the country a stronger voice on the global stage to promoting social inclusion.

Communities, businesses, farmers, schools, universities and cultural organisations are just some of those who have benefitted from EU support across Ireland.

While we should never lose sight of the broader benefits of EU membership in terms of peace, prosperity and political stability, this report zooms in at a county level to illustrate just a few of the stories of how the EU has worked with partners to deliver positive results on the ground.

In many ways, these stories capture the essence of what EU membership means to people at a local level across the length and breadth of Ireland.

Yours faithfully

**Mairead McGuinness** 

Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets









## **Your County**



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### **Kildare**

### **Environment**



Agriculture & Rural Development

**Research and Innovation** 

**Culture** 

**Urban Development** 







## **Kildare**

#### **Environment**



**Biodiversity in Kildare** communities

**Nurney Farm leads innovation** in organic farming





### **Kildare**

## Biodiversity in Kildare communities



Ten community groups from Kildare have taken part in biodiversity classes, free of charge, thanks to a new initiative funded by Kildare Leader Partnership under EU LEADER programme.



### Kildare

## Nurney Farm leads innovation in organic farming



When Deirdre O'Sullivan and Norman Kenny bought a 114-acre farm near Carbury in the 1990's, they did not foresee that they would become leading organic farmers in the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) initiative.

More 1:



### **Kildare**

# Agriculture & Rural Development



**Support for Kildare Farmers** 

**Maximising organic production** 

**Social Farming** 







### **Kildare**

#### Support for Kildare Farmers



Irish Agriculture received EU support worth over €1.7 billion in 2020. In Kildare, basic payments to farmers alone amounted to over €31 million in 2019, with an average payment of €14,441 per recipient, which is the third largest in the country.

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## Kildare

# Maximising organic production



A project in Kildare is looking at maximising horticultural production and improving short supply chains for Ireland supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.



### **Kildare**

#### **Social Farming**



Social farming offers activity on family farms as a form of social support service. They are located throughout the country and have many different types of farm holdings and different farm activities to offer participants. Social Farming Ireland was set up with Leader support and now receives crossborder EU funding. There are four social farms in Kildare – Rathangan, Prosperous, Carbury and Athy.



## **Kildare**

#### **Research and Innovation**



**Smart and Healthy Ageing** 

Staying safe at home



## **Kildare**

#### **Smart and Healthy Ageing**



Europe and Ireland are facing the social and financial problems of an ageing population. A team from Maynooth University is involved in a project that is considering a wide range of digital solutions focused on improving the health, well-being, and independence of people as they get older. SHAPES (Smart and Health Ageing through People Engaging in Supportive Systems) is an Innovation Action funded by EU Horizon 2020 programme.

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## **Kildare**

#### Staying safe at home



Older adults typically prefer living at their homes as long as possible. Sadly, they often need to be institutionalised due to the age-related problems as homes are often not designed for older adults. A team from Maynooth University plans on turning the homes of elderly adults into a gentle technological coach, with EU funding.

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## **Kildare**

### Culture



ReCreating Europe in Maynooth

DANCING – protecting the rights to culture



### **Kildare**

#### **ReCreating Europe in Maynooth**



Researchers in Maynooth
University recently received
EU funding to investigate the
influence of digitisation and
the Digital Single Market on
cultural diversity and freedom
of expression. In an era where
social media and online content
influence our lives, are we
loosing sight of our cultural
identities?

More 1:



## **Kildare**

### DANCING - protecting the rights to culture



One fifth of the EU population has some form of disability. Ensuring that people with disabilities have access to culture, either as a consumer or an amateur or professional contributor, is essential to create an inclusive society. An EU funded research project in Maynooth University is exploring this.

More 1:



### **Kildare**

### **Urban Development**



Kildare makes way for the DART

European Investment Bank supports housing scheme in Naas







### **Kildare**

## Kildare makes way for the DART



The State was recently awarded more than €8.8 million EU funding to spend on studies to expand the Dart into Kildare. Support for expansion of the Dart line came under a €2.2 billion investment round from the EU which will support 140 key transport projects.



### **Kildare**

## European Investment Bank supports housing scheme in Naas



Craddockstown in Naas is gaining 74 new social houses units, thanks to a recent European Investment Bank financing scheme. It is part of a €120 million investment by the European Investment Bank in social housing for the greater Dublin area.





## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND

Europe House, 12-14 Mount Street Lower, Grand Canal Dock, Dublin DO2 W710 Tel: +353 1 6341111

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