



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

# Your County



## Message from Mairead McGuinness

Commissioner for Financial Services,  
Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union



**MUNSTER**



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# Clare

## 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





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## Environment



## Agriculture & Rural Development

## Research and Innovation

## Tourism

## Education



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## Environment



**Burren continues to champion farming biodiversity**

**Fifty shades of Green**



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**Burren continues to champion farming biodiversity**



With EU support, the Burren High Nature Value project pioneered sustainable farming practices in Ireland and sustainable farming in this area still continues to grow.

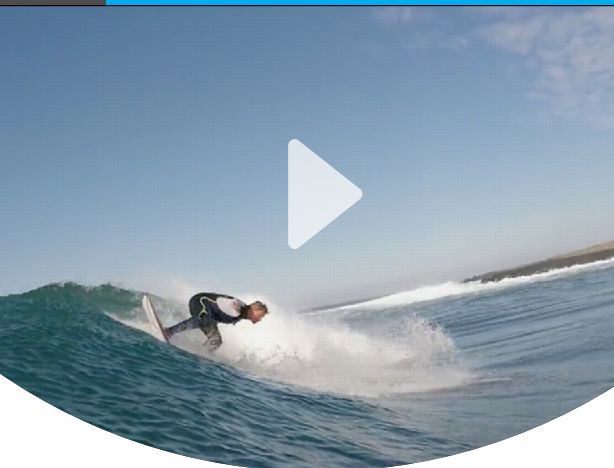
**More:**



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## Fifty shades of Green



Festivals were a part of our summers and hopefully will soon be again. However, they can have very detrimental effects on their areas and the environment. Clare County Council launched an EU-backed initiative in 2017 that is now positively impacting on local areas.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Agriculture & Rural Development



**Support for Clare Farmers**

**Support for Clare Coastal  
companies**

**Saving the Hen Harrier**





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## Support for Clare Farmers



Irish Agriculture received EU support worth over €1.7 billion in 2020. In Clare, basic payments to farmers alone amounted to over €47 million in 2019, with an average payment of almost €8k per recipient.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Support for Clare Coastal companies



There was recent good news for Ireland's whales and dolphins, as well as for 9 companies in Clare that are based in coastal areas.

**More:**



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## Saving the Hen Harrier



The Slieve Aughty Mountains extend southwards from just south of Lough Rea, County Galway to Scariff in County Clare. The peaks are not notably high or indeed pronounced; It has become a new haven for the Hen Harrier and has been designated as a Special Protected Area.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Research and Innovation



HORIZON 2020

**Fueling opportunities for biomass**

**Connecting Communities in Clare**



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## Fueling opportunities for biomass



Recent years have seen a surge in interest in what is now commonly known as biochar. Biochar is a carbon rich solid material produced by thermally converting biomass in a low oxygen environment. Loughderg Charcoal is pioneering a project supported by EU funding that is turning agricultural biomass such as rushes, gorse and hazel into valuable biochar.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Connecting Communities in Clare



Digiclare is a new EU-backed initiative of Clare County Council to support rural communities by providing flexible, affordable and local office facilities and high-speed broadband connectivity in rural locations in County Clare. A fourth hub opened in Ennistymon in late 2019. During the pandemic, a huge surge in demand for desk space at Clare's remote working digital hubs has been recorded.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Tourism



**Hidden gem wins Destination  
of Excellence Award**

**Highlighting the Burren and  
Cliffs of Moher Geopark**



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**Hidden gem wins Destination of Excellence Award**



A small, unknown island on the Atlantic coast took centre at a recent European tourism initiative that promotes sustainable tourism. Scattery Island is an uninhabited monastic island located just 2 kilometres off the coast of West Clare on the Wild Atlantic Way.

**More:**





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## Highlighting the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark



Geotourism offers a new opportunity for sustainable development in areas that may not attract many visitors. To enhance visitor experiences at the Burren and Cliffs of Moher, a new app, supported by the EU, was launched to promote locations in/around geoparks and to offer guided tours.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**





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## Clare welcomes Limerick Institute of Technology



County Clare finally got its own third level institution when the Limerick Institute of Education opened a campus in Ennis.

**More:**



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## Clare enhances STEM learning for European partners



A key priority in European and national policy is to increase knowledge and competence in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics). Two Clare education centres are leading a 3-year research project that aims to ensure that all learners can do that. School children in Portugal, Croatia, Norway and Greece as well as in Ireland will have the opportunity to engage in STEM learning through the project.

**More:**



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## Taking to the water in Clare



An educational project that encourages young people through out Europe to consider maritime industry and recreation as a career was launched in Ennis. Approximately 130 participants took to the Atlantic water and learnt about local industries.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**





## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND

Europe House, 12-14 Mount Street  
Lower, Grand Canal Dock,  
Dublin D02 W710  
Tel: +353 1 6341111

### **Website:**

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