

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

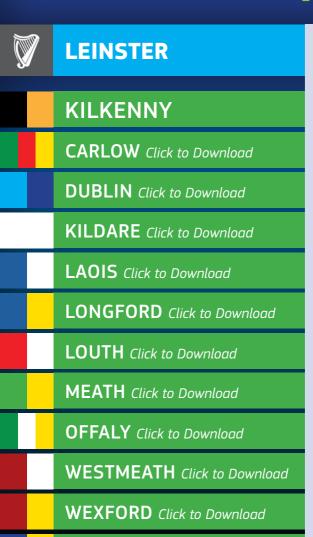
Mairead McGuinness

Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets





Your County



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Kilkenny

Environment



Agriculture & Rural Development

Research and Innovation

Education

Social Inclusion





Kilkenny

Environment



Kilkenny Street Lights in the spotlight

Zero-Energy Housing Solutions





Kilkenny

Kilkenny Street Lights in the spotlight



Kilkenny County Council is spearheading street light refurbishment through a 9-region, European project that is studying street lights and their energy performance, with cost saving benefits. The Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency is also involved in the STREETLIGHT-EPC project co-founded by the EU Intelligent Energy Europe programme.



Kilkenny

Zero-Energy Housing Solutions



The 3 Counties Energy Agency is involved in the Interreg North West Europe Housing 4.0 Energy project that is trying to find new, affordable, zero-energy housing solutions for the Irish market.



Kilkenny

Agriculture & Rural Development



Support for Kilkenny Farmers

Sustainable dairy processing and the circular bio-economy

Maximising organic production

Ballykeefe Distillery





Kilkenny

Support for Kilkenny Farmers



Irish Agriculture received EU support worth over €1.7 billion in 2020. In Kilkenny, basic payments to farmers alone amounted to over €48 million in 2019, with an average payment of €14,801 per recipient, which is the second largest in the country.

More 1:

More 2:



Kilkenny

Sustainable dairy processing and the circular bio-economy



Milk production in Ireland has grown substantially in recent years, both as a result of the removal of milk production quotas in the EU in 2015, and the increasing demand for whey protein globally. Millions of tonnes of whey are processed annually throughout Europe. A whey project is underway in Ballyragget, run by Glanbia.

More: PAGE 13



Kilkenny

Maximising organic production



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



Kilkenny

Ballykeefe Distillery



An ancient brew that was once illegal now holds a European Protected Geographical Indication. Poitin dates back to at least the 6th century, an ancient farm-based spirit that is made in a single pot still. This is now being produced in Ballykeefe.

More 1:

More 2:



Kilkenny

Research and Innovation



Improving the quality of our food production

'Bringing 5G solutions to Ireland's broadband





Kilkenny

Kilkenny companies producing smart food



It is undeniable that protein is an indispensable part of the human diet, but the way we produce and consume it today presents many challenges. However, Kilkenny-based Glanbia and Beotanics are working on identifying ways of producing protein rich foods that can be produced without having a negative impact on the environment thanks to the EUfunded SMART PROTEIN project.



Kilkenny

Bringing 5G solutions to Ireland's broadband



As Ireland moves swiftly towards a more online world for everyone, solutions are needed to bridge the gap between existing services. to enable Irish industry to keep pace with a fast changing digital world. By participating in the EU-funded 5G-SOLUTIONS project Glanbia in Ballyragget are playing their part to assist a 5G project to establish a range of forward-looking services that will bring the 5G vision closer to realisation.



Kilkenny

Education



KCAT Art Centre

Kilkenny school promotes culture across Europe



Kilkenny

KCAT Art Centre



KCAT is a multi-disciplinary
Arts Centre in Callan, (backed
by Erasmus+) dedicated to
the fostering and nurturing
of creative ambition and
professional development in the
arts. A new initiative is being
launched between the Butler
Gallery and KCAT in 2021 where
the Learning Centre at Butler
Gallery will host a series of
engaging and experimental art
courses bringing participants on
a creative journey through art
making.



Kilkenny

Kilkenny school promotes culture across Europe



Students from St Canice's School, the largest primary school in Kilkenny, are involved in a 2-year Erasmus+ project with three other European schools that aims to promote their cultures. The project is executed through various projects such as painting and music.



Kilkenny

Social Inclusion



Kindred spirits create a community

New Start for Migrants in Kilkenny





Kilkenny

Kindred spirits create a community



Kilkenny has a reputation for creativity and a strong presence of successful creative people. This stimulated an EU funded project, Kindred, that has developed around people who feel distant from this creativity and indeed from mainstream society. This experimental, creative group is composed of mainly young, disadvantaged people who are building their own community.



Kilkenny

Bringing 5G solutions to Ireland's broadband



The Kilkenny Newstart programme is targeted at supporting migrants into employment. Supported by the European Social Fund, the Newstart programme incorporates English and ICT skills into the successful Kick Start programme.

More 1:

More 2:





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