



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

# Your County



## Message from Mairead McGuinness

Commissioner for Financial Services,  
Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union



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## 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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**WICKLOW**

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## Environment



**Agriculture & Rural  
Development**

**Research and Innovation**

**Business Support**

**Social Inclusion**



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## Environment



**Small Streams SSNET Project**

**Back from the Brink**

**Community Training on  
Biodiversity**

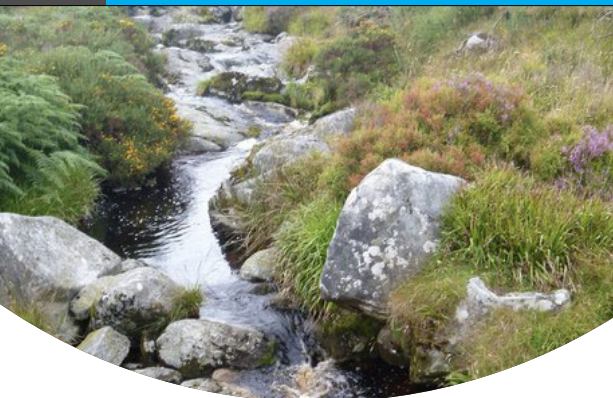
**Support for Local  
Communities and Businesses**



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## Small Streams SSNET Project



The European Water Framework Directive requires member states to improve and sustainably manage water quality. To meet these objectives, the Environmental Protection Agency has funded the Small Streams Project that investigates the importance of Ireland's small stream networks, including the Cloghoge River in Wicklow.

**More 1:**

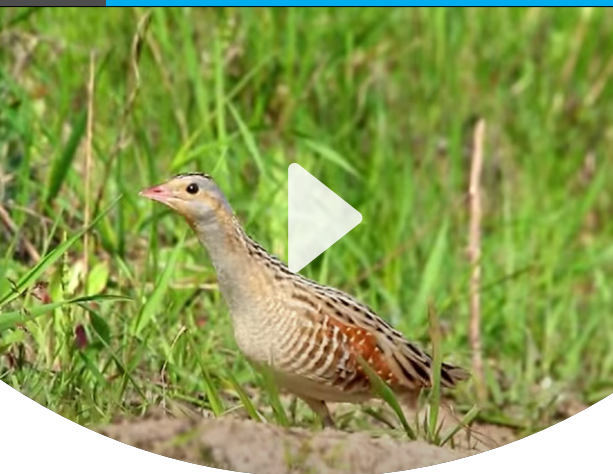
**More 2:**



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## Back from the Brink



Corncrakes were once numerous across Ireland but are now confined to Donegal and West Connaught. Strongholds include Inishboffin, Tory and the mullet Peninsula. Birdwatch Ireland in Newtownmountkennedy is involved in Corncrake conservation measures.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Community Training on Biodiversity



County Wicklow Partnership are offering free training courses for community groups through out the county. The courses upskill and teach volunteers about how to protect and enhance the biodiversity in their local areas and also give them a plan to help support long term biodiversity in their areas.

**More:**





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## Support for Local Communities and Businesses



County Wicklow Partnership announced a new EU-funded Leader Development Programme in 2021. Supports are available to all sectors of Wicklow under a range of headings, with a strong emphasis on new projects, new business markets and climate change.

**More:**



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## Agriculture & Rural Development



**Support for Wicklow Farmers**

**Along the Wicklow Way**

**Tinahely Hall tops Leader  
funding**



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## Support for Wicklow Farmers



Irish Agriculture received EU support worth over €1.7 billion in 2020. In Wicklow, basic payments to farmers alone amounted to almost €27 million in 2019, with an average payment of €13,341 per recipient, which is the ninth largest in the country.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Along the Wicklow Way



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development backs a pilot project, which is taking place on an upland farm in Wicklow to address the complex challenges associated with the management of commonages and farms in Wicklow and Dublin Uplands.

**More:**



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## Tinahely Hall tops Leader funding



As the Leader programme for 2014-2020 came to a close in March 2021, Wicklow Partnership announced that the most funding had been awarded to the refurbishment project of Tinahely Hall.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Research and Innovation



HORIZON 2020

**Socially accepting Renewable Energy**

**Sharing a toolbox for modelling energy systems**

**Building Climate Change into Construction**



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## Socially accepting Renewable Energy



Many Member States including Ireland are witnessing increasing levels of local opposition to renewable energy projects, particularly for wind energy. Coillte (a state-owned company based in Newtownmountkennedy) is helping to come to grips with this dilemma, through a project supported by the Horizon 2020 programme.

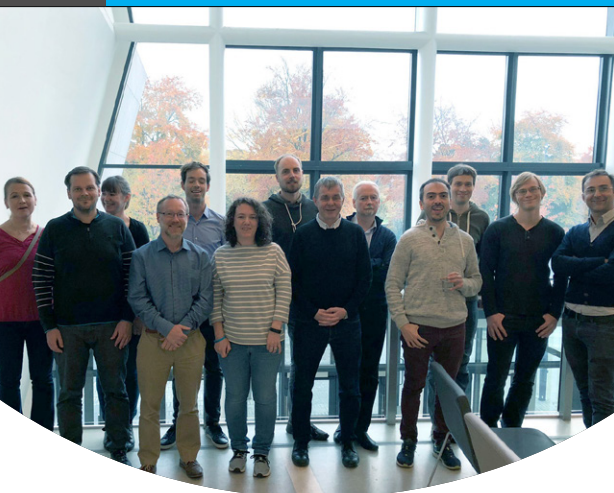
**More:**



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## Sharing a toolbox for modelling energy systems



Planning European energy grids is complex and expensive so sharing software tools to enable models to be built makes sense.

A European Team is creating this, including Energy Reform Limited in Bray.

**More:**





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## Building Climate Change into Construction



Reaching of the 2020 and 2030 energy and climate objectives is a huge challenge to the construction sectors so a major effort to increase the number of qualified construction specialists is needed. Mozart Landscape Architecture Research Ltd in Rathnew is assisting to fill this gap as partner in a EU-funded project.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Business Support



**The flavour of real Ireland in  
Glendalough**

**Telling award winning stories**



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## The flavour of real Ireland in Glendalough



A Geographical Indication is a status attributed to goods that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, reputation or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that place of origin. Glendalough Distillery produces two of these in Wicklow – Irish whiskey and poitín.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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Telling award winning stories



Ireland has a great storytelling culture, so it shouldn't be a surprise that one of the country's leading documentary filmmakers has picked up multiple global awards. Based in Wicklow, Crossing the Line is just one of many creative companies in Ireland supported by Creative Europe MEDIA.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**

**More 3:**



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## Social Inclusion



Warm new for homes in  
Wicklow

Creative Communities in Bray

Bray gets a Jigsaw



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## Warm new for homes in Wicklow



Wicklow will receive €1.5 million towards making 42 social homes more energy efficient thanks to the European Regional Development Fund.

**More:**



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## Creative Communities in Bray



CREATE

Bray Area Partnership is running a number of free creative community workshops co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

They are all available online and cover fashion recycling, waste reuse, furniture upcycling and local folklore storytelling.

**More:**



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## Bray gets a Jigsaw



A new Jigsaw youth mental health project for County Wicklow recently opened in Parnell Road in Bray, which was funded through the EU Social Inclusion and community Activation Programme. Jigsaw's youth mental health services are currently in 13 communities across Ireland, and are staffed by professionals across a number of disciplines.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**







## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND

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