



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

Your County



Message from Mairead McGuinness

Commissioner for Financial Services,
Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union



LEINSTER



MUNSTER



CONNACHT



ULSTER



Contact links & Phone numbers

WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

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





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LEINSTER

WESTMEATH

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Westmeath

Environment



**Agriculture & Rural
Development**

Research and Innovation

Education

Social Inclusion



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

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Environment



Tackling Plastic Pollution

**Making the future of plastics
brighter**

**Improving Energy Performance
in Building**

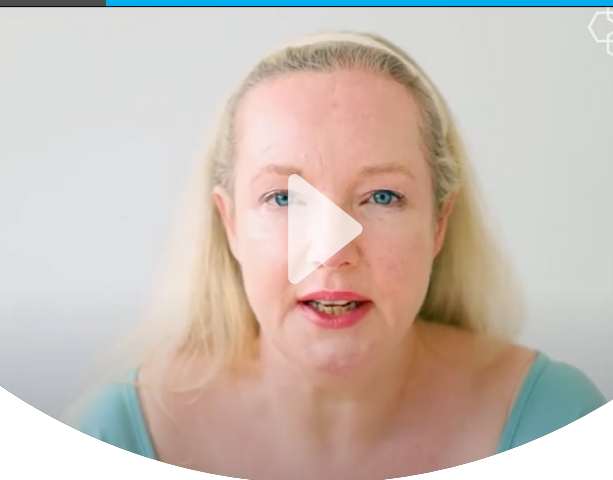
**A climate change solution
beneath our feet**



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Tackling Plastic Pollution



Researchers from Athlone Institute of Technology's Materials Research Institute are spearheading a major pan European Chinese research effort aimed at tackling plastic pollution – a global crisis of prodigious proportions.

More 1:

More 2:



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Making the future of
plastics brighter



Turmeric is playing an important role in a project that the Technology Gateway Centre for Polymer Processing at Athlone Institute of Technology is investigating the use of plant colourants in plastic packaging.

More:



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Improving Energy Performance in Building



Irish Manufacturing Research in Mullingar is part of an international team that is optimising buildings energy performance and comfort conditions. The project, which has received funding from Horizon 2020, is using a building in Lusk, County Dublin as a pilot.

More:



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**A climate change solution
beneath our feet**



Ireland's raised bogs are among Europe's oldest near-natural ecosystems, dating back over 10,000 years. Protected under the EU Habitats Directive and backed by the EU LIFE programme, they are home to many rare and endangered flora and fauna, and they are Ireland's greatest carbon stores. Garriskil Bog marks the centre of our island.

More 1:

More 2:



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**Agriculture & Rural
Development**



**Support for Westmeath
Farmers**

Supporting Rural Retail

Irish Rural Link

Post Covid-19 Vision



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

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Support for Westmeath Farmers



Irish Agriculture received EU support worth over €1.7 billion in 2020. In Westmeath, basic payments to farmers alone amounted to over €33 million in 2019, with an average payment of €10,425 per recipient, which is the fifth largest in the country.

[More 1:](#)

[More 2:](#)



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Supporting Rural Retail



How can Europe support and innovate rural innovation? Creating and growing a rural business requires interaction and a lot of personal effort. See how an organisation in Westmeath is bridging the gap between isolated rural entrepreneurs and inspirational links and supports throughout the EU, thanks to the Rubizmo initiative backed by Horizon 2020.

More:



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Irish Rural Link



Irish Rural Link in Moate is taking part in an Erasmus+ project on sustainable tourism. It is aimed at professionals and businesses in any sector of the tourism value-chain.

More:



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Post Covid-19 Vision



Supported by the European Regional Development Fund programme a new initiative to help food and drink producers become more technically efficient is helping producers in Westmeath. Participants will be introduced to research facilities as well as new markets at home and abroad.

More 1:

More 2:



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Research and Innovation



HORIZON 2020

Award winning technology in
Mullingar

A minimally invasive
treatment for lung cancer



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

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Award winning technology in Mullingar



NVP Energy Limited in Mullingar was awarded a European Innovation Council grant for its Ambi-Robic technology for treating municipal sewage wastewater.

More 1:

More 2:



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**A minimally invasive
treatment for lung cancer**



Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer-related deaths in Europe, with a dismal five-year survival rate. Teleflex Medical, a company based in Athlone, is taking part in EU-funded project to develop a minimally invasive device that can destroy the targeted tumour.

More:



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Education



**Athlone Institute of Technology
has joined 'RUN-EU'**

**Erasmus Students in Athlone
capture their times in Ireland**



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

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**Athlone Institute of Technology
has joined 'RUN-EU'**



Online resources to help all ages of society to improve their literacy skills are freely available from the Health@home website thanks to Erasmus+ programme. Aimed at encouraging family learning, it offers something for all members of the family, from comics to web challenges. Resources for adult educators and community support workers are also free.

More:



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Erasmus Students in Athlone
capture their times in Ireland



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Athlone Institute of Technology managed to keep its annual international student photography competition alive. The theme of the event was to “capture a moment during their time in Ireland” in a photograph.

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Social Inclusion



**European Citizenship in
Westmeath**

Music Generation Westmeath

**Digital Empowerment and
Covid-19**



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

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European Citizenship in Westmeath



The European Commission is aiming to put the citizen at the heart of EU policy efforts. As a result of this, Westmeath Public Partnership recently ran a public consultation on EU citizenship rights, which aims at collecting information, experiences and views on EU citizenship rights.

More 1:

More 2:



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Music Generation Westmeath



Music Generation Offaly
Westmeath is a music education
service for young people in
Offaly and Westmeath. The
Erasmus+ programme has
played an important part in
taking singers abroad. A trip to
Norway was organised on 2019
for the Singfest choir.

More 1:

More 2:



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Digital Empowerment and Covid-19



Another Erasmus+ project undertaken by Irish Rural Link in Moate addresses the issue of low digital competences and skills. It is assisting older people to stay in touch and fight isolation during the pandemic.

More 1:

More 2:

More 3:





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