



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

# Your County



## Message from Mairead McGuinness

Commissioner for Financial Services,  
Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union



**LEINSTER**



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**Contact links & Phone numbers**

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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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mairead McGuinness', written over a white background.

**Mairead McGuinness**

Commissioner for Financial Services,  
Financial Stability and Capital Markets





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# Laois

## Environment



**Agriculture & Rural  
Development**

**Research and Innovation**

**Education**

**Social Inclusion**



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# Laois

## Environment



**Living Bog Restoration Project**

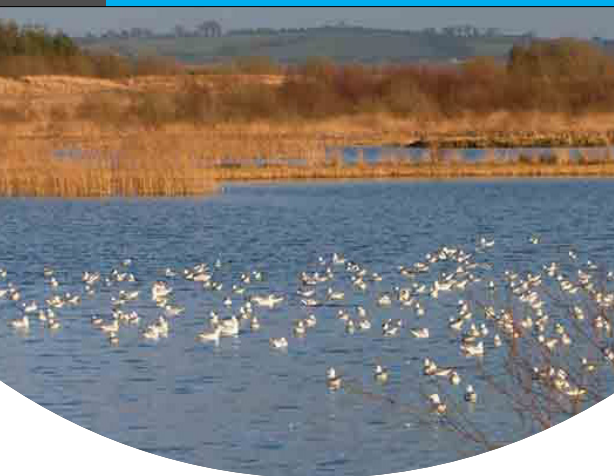
**Low Carbon Centre of  
Excellence in Portlaoise**



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## Living Bog Restoration Project



Bord na Móna is coordinating a major peatlands rehabilitation project funded by the European Union's LIFE Programme. The Peatlands and People project will contribute to the long-term implementation of Ireland's Climate Action Plan. A Peatlands Knowledge Centre of Excellence will focus on peatland restoration and rehabilitation.

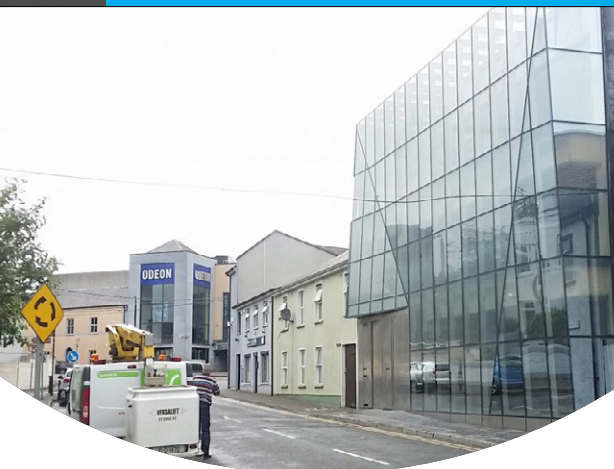
[More:](#)



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## Low Carbon Centre of Excellence in Portlaoise



Portlaoise has received funding of over €2 million from the EU to open a new low carbon centre of excellence. The Centre which will trade as 'The CUBE' will be the first dedicated low carbon facility in the region and will support and stimulate the creation of 260 jobs over the next 10 years.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Agriculture & Rural Development



**Support for Laois Farmers**

**Maximising organic production**

**Saving the Hen Harrier**

**Holistic approach to farming**





WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

# Laois

## Support for Laois Farmers



Irish Agriculture received EU support worth over €1.7 billion in 2020. In Laois, basic payments to farmers alone amounted to over €33 million in 2019, with an average payment of €12,704 per recipient, which is the tenth largest in the country.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

# Laois

## Maximising organic production



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

**More:**



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## Saving the Hen Harrier



The Slieve Bloom Mountains are found on the border between Counties Offaly and Laois and it is now a Special Protected Area for the Hen Harrier. Much of the site is over 200 metres in altitude, rising to a maximum height of 527 metres at Arderin. The Hen Harrier Project is funded by the agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI).

**More 1:**

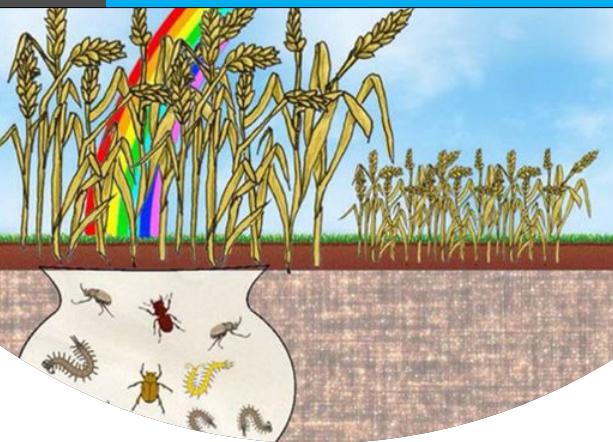
**More 2:**



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## Holistic approach to farming



Biological farming is a holistic approach to soil, crop and pasture management. It combines the best practices of conventional and organic farming. A farmer in Mountraith is leading the Danú Farming Group to pilot this method on their farms backed by the agricultural European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI).

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## Research and Innovation

A graphic for Horizon 2020 featuring a globe in the center, with a bright light source behind it creating a lens flare effect. The text "HORIZON 2020" is written in white capital letters across the middle of the globe. The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of light rays and a faint map of Europe at the bottom.

HORIZON 2020

**Workplace Innovation in  
Portarlington**

**Post Covid-19 Vision**



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## Workplace Innovation in Portarlinton



Polar Ice, a company based in Portarlinton has received funding under Start At Best a Horizon 2020 funded project from a project that focuses on workplace innovation to aid business competitiveness. The main goal is to contribute to the development of a European-led wave of workplace innovation among SMEs and to inspire small companies to adopt an innovative attitude. Read how the company used their funding:

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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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 Laois. Participants will be introduced to research facilities as well as new markets at home and abroad.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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# Laois

## Education



Shadow play

Budding Artists





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## Shadow play



Teachers from Portlaoise Educate Together National School are learning how digital teaching can improve language skills. For two years, 24 members of the staff will travel to schools in Poland, Spain and Iceland, to job shadow their European colleagues thanks to Erasmus+ programme.

**More:**



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## Budding Artists



A number of artistic events were organised in both Emo National School and Gaelscoil na Déise, thanks to funding from the Erasmus+ programme. Students of all ages are studying another European country and an artist from there to inspire their own artwork.

**More:**



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## Social Inclusion



**A garden to feed the needs of  
the Community**

**Nurturing more than crops on  
the farm**



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

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## A garden to feed the needs of the Community



Community representatives in O'Moore Place worked together with Laois Partnership Company (LPC) project officers, to identify an allotment project as a means of engaging the community in a joint initiative. With funding through SICAP, backed by European Social Fund, a community garden was established in an area of ground that had previously been used as a dump.

**More:**  
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**Nurturing more than  
crops on the farm**



Nick and Dymphna have farmed at Highfield House in Ballickmoyler since the 1990's. They are offering visitors an opportunity to enjoy their organic farm through an initiative that is supported by the EU and now runs all over Ireland. Social Farming Ireland was set up with Leader support and now receives cross-border EU funding.

**More:**





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