

#### **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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# Longford

#### **Environment**



Agriculture & Rural Development

**Research and Innovation** 

**Education** 

**Social Inclusion** 







# Longford

#### **Environment**



A climate change solution beneath our feet

**Warmer Homes for the Elderly** 





# Longford

#### 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, they are home to many rare and endangered flora and fauna, and they are Ireland's greatest carbon stores. Ardagullion is one of the finest bogs in Longford.



### Longford

### Warmer Homes for the Elderly



Longford Warmer Homes
CLG. is a community-based
organisation, which aims to
improve the housing conditions
for the low-income elderly and
other marginalised groups in
County Longford. Originally
funded through a Leader
programme, the project now
offers a range of supports.



### Longford

#### Agriculture & Rural Development



**Support for Longford Farmers** 

Edgeworthstown banks on a new Enterprise Hub

Ireland's first Norman Village

Post Covid-19 Vision



# Longford

#### Support for Longford Farmers



Irish Agriculture received EU support worth over €1.7 billion in 2020. In Longford, basic payments to farmers alone amounted to over €19.3 million in 2019, with an average payment of €8,202 per recipient.

More 1:

More 2:



# Longford

#### Edgeworthstown banks on a new Enterprise Hub



The Old Ulster Bank building in the Main Street is to be redeveloped into an enterprise hub that will facilitate up to 38 people with short- and long-term working spaces.

More 1:

More 2:

More 3:



# Longford

#### Ireland's first Norman Village



A 12th-century Norman-era defensive home could become Ireland's next great tourist destination. The 12th Century Granard Motte is the remains of a *motte-and-bailey castle* and is the highest motte in Ireland. The development of a Norman Heritage Park at this location was the brainchild of the local community group and is supported by EU funding.

More 1:

More 2:



# Longford

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

More 1:

More 2:



### Longford

#### **Research and Innovation**



Free WiFi in Longford

**Turning Bread into Beer** 



### Longford

#### Free WiFi in Longford



Access to free public Wi-Fi is seen as an enabler for economic growth and Longford County Council recently welcomed the rollout of free public Wi-fi in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish, thanks to the WiFi4EU initiative.



# Longford

#### **Turning Bread into Beer**



Turning bread into beer might sound far-fetched but a small brewery in Longford developed the idea, with the technical assistance of the Irish Manufacturing Research Technology Centre through an EU co-funded programme.



# Longford

#### **Education**



**Eurolegend Detectives** 

Steps Programme for women in Longford





# Longford

#### **Eurolegend Detectives**

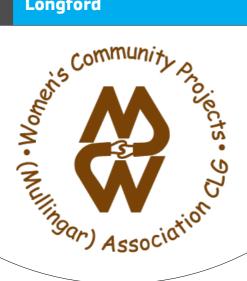


Ballymahon Vocational School is one of six schools from the EU that will showcase their countries' mythological stories. The school is taking part in an Erasmus+ project that is steeped in European culture and history.



### Longford

Steps Programme for women in Longford



Women from Longford can take advantage of a range of supports and skills for women wanting to return to work, return to education or simply find a new direction in their lives. The EU co-founded Women's Community Projects in Mullingar is available to women living in Longford.



### Longford

#### **Social Inclusion**



Kindred spirits create a community

Longford's Digital Link



# Longford

#### Kindred spirits create a community



Safety is currently seen as one of the aspects that influences the quality of living in the EU. Longford is taking part in a European project that enable cities to work together on developing solutions to common urban safety challenges. An innovative community project 'Longford Nua' is underway.

More 1:

More 2:



# Longford

#### **Longford's Digital Link**



Longford Women's Link is a partner in a recent Erasmus+ project on digital competences and skills. The project addresses the issue of low digital competences and skills and is developing training and educational resources to advance digital abilities of adults.





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