



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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**MUNSTER**



**LIMERICK**

**CORK** *Click to Download*

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## Environment



**Agriculture & Rural  
Development**

**Research and Innovation**

**Urban Development**

**Social Inclusion**



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## Environment



**Health & Greenspace in the City**

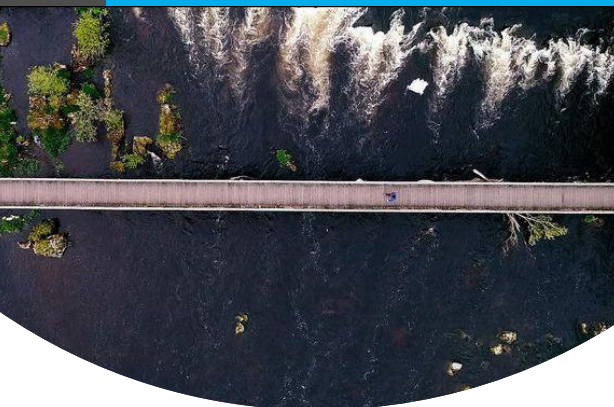
**European Green Leaf Award for Limerick**



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## Health & Greenspace in the City



As a response to the various health risks related to rapid urbanisation and the densification of cities, Limerick City and County Council is participating in a number of EU projects including the Health&Greenspace URBACT project, which promotes health-responsive planning and the management of urban green infrastructure.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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## European Green Leaf Award for Limerick



Limerick won the European Green Leaf Award 2020 for its continual involvement in several influential green projects, such as the Smarter Travel City and for recently becoming Ireland's first Lighthouse Positive Energy City.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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**Agriculture & Rural  
Development**



**Support for Limerick Farmers**

**A Place for All in Castleconnell**

**Historic Graves in East  
Limerick**

**Saving the Hen Harrier**

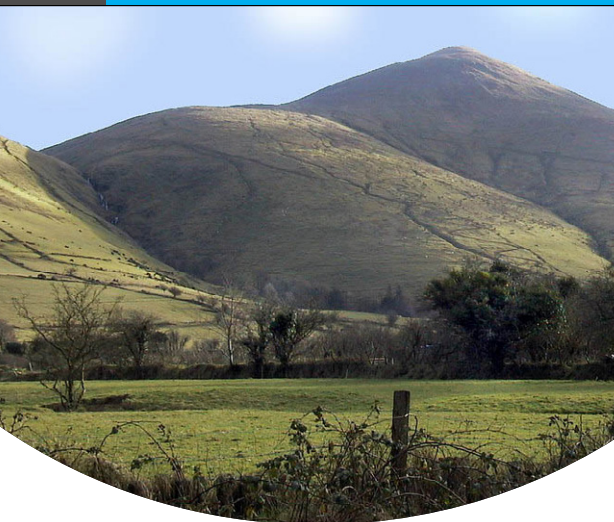




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## Support for Limerick Farmers



Irish Agriculture received EU support worth over €1.7 billion in 2020. In Limerick, basic payments to farmers alone amounted to almost €50 million in 2019, with an average payment of almost €10k per recipient.

[More 1:](#)

[More 2:](#)



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## A Place for All in Castleconnell



An EU Leader-funded project, Shannon House Community Centre in Castleconnell is an inspiring example of taking a disused, poor condition building in the heart of the village and creating “A Place for All” - the ethos of the local, voluntary ACM Community Group. Finishing touches are still underway for a full-scale opening in 2021.

[More 1:](#)

[More 2:](#)



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## Historic Graves in East Limerick



The Historic Graves training is moving to East Limerick and will begin in early 2021 with graveside surveying and story collection.

This project, supported by the EU, provides up-skilling and training for members of local community groups interested in recording their historic graveyards and the stories associated with them.

[More 1:](#)

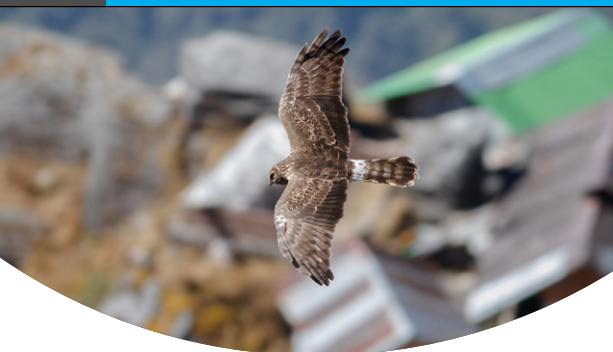
[More 2:](#)



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## Saving the Hen Harrier



Limerick boasts two Special Protected Areas that are now havens for the Hen Harrier. The Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains is an extensive upland site located in Counties Tipperary and Limerick. The Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle Special Protected Area is another very large site centred on the borders between the counties of Cork, Kerry and Limerick.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**



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**Research and Innovation**

HORIZON 2020



**Shannon Applied  
Biotechnology Centre**

**The route to a safer transport  
system**

**Green Packaging**



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## Shannon Applied Biotechnology Centre



As part of efforts for Ireland to achieve its emissions reduction targets for 2030, a new partnership is set to accelerate research into the country's emerging bioeconomy.

The partnership includes the Shannon Applied Biotechnology Centre (ABC) based at the Limerick Institute of Technology.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**

**More 3:**



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## The route to a safer transport system



Human error is estimated to play a role in 94 % of accidents, making failures or mistakes by drivers a major public safety concern. Intelligent systems that can monitor the driver's state and behaviour show promise in contributing to safety. With EU support, the University of Limerick is part of a team that aims to contribute to reducing accidents.

**More:**



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## Green Packaging



The University of Limerick is looking at converting pulp from willow into safe food quality packaging material to replace fossil derived plastics. With EU funding, selected varieties of willow are being planted.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**





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## Urban Development



**European Investment Bank  
backs rejuvenation of Limerick**

**Limerick planning to Go Green**

**Lighthouse Smart City**



WHAT IS EUROPE DOING FOR...

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**European Investment Bank  
backs rejuvenation of Limerick**



In November 2020, the European Investment Bank committed to €85 million in lending to Limerick City and County Council to be spent on transforming the Opera Site in the city centre into one of the country's top urban commercial/office developments, with the capacity for 3,000 jobs.

**More:**



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## Limerick planning to Go Green



Imagine living in a city where nature flourishes and your health is improved. With EU support, the University of Limerick is leading a project to transform environmental and human health.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**

**More 3:**



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## Lighthouse Smart City



Limerick is the only city in Ireland to receive the prestigious award of becoming a Lighthouse Smart City and received a substantial grant for a project worth €6.5million to the city. The +CityxChange (positive city exchange) is a smart city project submitted by a consortium of 32 partners including Limerick City and County Council from 11 countries.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**

**More 3:**



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## Social Support



**Making friends in West  
Limerick**

**Lifelong Learning Festival**

**European Award for Limerick  
Schools**



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## Making friends in West Limerick



The Cairde Project (Cairde meaning 'friends') focused on supporting people with disabilities in the West Limerick area. With EU support, West Limerick Resources worked with the residents of Rathfredagh Cheshire Home in Newcastle West by addressing barriers that this group encounters and that contribute to their social exclusion.

**More:**



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## Lifelong Learning Festival



A number of EU supported agencies have come together in Limerick to stimulate life long learning by organising an annual festival. Limerick's annual Lifelong Learning Festival went online in 2020. Themed 'Celebrating and Building Learning Communities', the virtual festival marked a celebration of lifelong learning promoted learning in Limerick through a wide variety of creative, enjoyable and informative.

**More 1:**

**More 2:**

**More 3:**



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## European Award for Limerick Schools



Eight schools in Limerick took part in an award-winning language learning initiative at **Mary Immaculate College (MIC)**, which supports children of migrant families in Limerick.

**More:**







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