

Accessing EU Funds – 2015 to 2020

Research Project for the Wheel

by

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2014-2020

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

In September 2013, the Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) agreed to fund a project proposed by thirteen of its grantees¹ to “*Build capacity to access European Union funds 2014 and beyond*”. The first phase was a research project, undertaken to assess the potential for AP grantees to access EU funds. A report on this phase was completed in April 2014 and presented to Atlantic Philanthropies.

In January 2015, the Wheel decided to undertake a similar task that would involve:

- Updating the report done for AP grantees in April 2014 to take account of developments since then, especially on recent decisions in Ireland on how the various EU programmes would be operated.
- Extending the range of EU programmes that might offer some funding potential to take account of the wider range of interests of the members of the Wheel.

The Atlantic Philanthropies and their grantees gave approval to use the original report prepared for them as a foundation for this report, on the understanding that the final report for the Wheel would also be made available to AP grantees for their own use.

The methodology for this report included:

- 1) *An updated review of the budget lines in the EU budget to identify those most relevant to the community and voluntary sector in Ireland.*
- 2) *Meetings with key decision-makers at EU and national level with responsibilities for managing the funds and programmes that were considered to have the most potential, especially those related to the EU structural Funds.*
- 3) *An analysis of the results of a survey of its members by the Wheel to assess the degree of engagement by them in EU programmes to date and their interest in and capacity to apply for funding under current and future calls for proposals under EU programmes for the period 2015-2020.*

This Report is in five parts, including this introduction as Part 1.

Part 2 gives an overview of the policy and financial system of the EU as essential context for its funding programmes. Part 3 uses the results of the above-mentioned survey, to give an

¹ **Northern Ireland:** Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ); Law Centre NI; Lifestart; Early Years NI; National Energy Action (NEA); Age Sector Platform

Republic of Ireland: Immigrant Council of Ireland; Age and Opportunity; Irish Penal Reform Trust; Irish Council for Civil Liberties; Foroige; Barnardos; Free Legal Advice Centres

assessment of the current state of readiness of the members of the Wheel to prepare successful applications under EU programmes. Part 4 - the key section of the report - presents an analysis of EU programmes that are considered to offer the best potential for funding. It is based on detailed programme descriptions contained in Appendix 1. Part 5 brings together the analysis of the preceding sections of the report. It presents overall conclusions on what action might be taken by members of the Wheel to enhance their ability to access funds and sets out suggestions for the activities to be undertaken by the Wheel to support its members in this context.

Work began on the project in February. A progress report was submitted to the Wheel at the end of March. A draft final report was completed at beginning of May. Following comments from the Wheel on this draft, the final report was completed in June.

Throughout this report, hyperlinks are used where possible to connect with more detailed information on EU funding sources, whether at EU, national or regional level. This is particularly the case for Appendix 1. This Appendix is intended to be an interactive tool to allow users quick and easy access to up-to-date, detailed information. The report is therefore better read in electronic format than in hard copy. In this format the report can also be regularly kept up to date as EU developments proceed over the coming months and years.

The overall conclusion of the report is that EU programmes could be a source of increased funding for the community and voluntary sector in Ireland in the period to 2020. However, considerable effort would be required to achieve this. For many Wheel members, especially smaller organisations, external support would be needed to assist them through the administrative processes that are involved in monitoring opportunities as well as applying for and managing EU funds.

PART 2: EU POLICY AND FINANCIAL CONTEXT

The policy background underpinning all EU programmes and funds is the Europe 2020 initiative adopted by European heads of state in 2010 - [Europe 2020](#). Europe 2020 is the EU's ten-year growth strategy. It is about more than just overcoming the crisis that continues to afflict many parts of Europe. It is about creating the conditions for a different type of growth that is smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive. The strategy sets out five key targets to be achieved by 2020 for the EU as a whole:

1. Employment
 - 75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed
2. R&D
 - 3% of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&D
3. Climate change and energy sustainability
 - greenhouse gas emissions 20% (or even 30%, if the conditions are right) lower than 1990
 - 20% of energy from renewables
 - 20% increase in energy efficiency
4. Education
 - reducing the rates of early school leaving below 10%
 - at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education
5. Fighting poverty and social exclusion
 - at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

National targets for each of the 28 member states have been set in line with this overall EU strategy. Progress towards these targets for most member states has been generally slower than forecast, mainly because of the financial crisis that is now referred to as the 'Great Recession'. A review of Ireland's performance so far can be found at [Ireland's performance](#). The main weakness has been in fighting poverty and social exclusion where Ireland's position relative to the EU targets has worsened over recent years.

As a key part of the overall strategy, the EU has identified seven flagship initiatives to boost growth and jobs. Within each initiative, both the EU and national authorities have to coordinate their efforts so they are mutually reinforcing. All EU programmes – and projects funded under them - must demonstrate that they contribute to achieving the targets set out above and how they link to one or more of the flagship initiatives. The following are the hyperlinks to detailed descriptions of each of the flagship programmes.

- [Digital agenda for Europe](#)
- [Innovation Union](#)
- [Youth on the move](#)
- [Resource efficient Europe](#)
- [An industrial policy for the globalization era](#)
- [An agenda for new skills and jobs](#)
- [European platform against poverty](#)

It is important for any organisation seeking funding under an EU programme to be familiar with the links between that specific programme and the policy objectives set out for the flagship programmes and the 2020 strategy to which they are related.

In November 2013, after long and difficult negotiations over the previous two years, the EU Parliament and Council agreed to budget estimates for the period 2014-2020, known in EU jargon as the *Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF)*. These estimates set out the provisional income and expenditure for the EU over the seven-year period.

The MFF sets a maximum EU expenditure of €960 billion for the seven years. It is divided into six broad categories, corresponding to different areas of EU activity:

1. Smart and Inclusive Growth

- a. Competitiveness for growth and jobs: includes research and innovation; education and training; trans-European networks in energy, transport and telecommunications; social policy; development of enterprises etc.
- b. Economic, social and territorial cohesion: covers regional policy which aims at helping the least developed EU countries and regions to catch up with the rest, strengthening all regions' competitiveness and developing inter-regional cooperation.

2. Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources: includes the common agricultural policy, common fisheries policy, rural development and environmental measures.

3. Security and citizenship: includes justice and home affairs, border protection, immigration and asylum policy, public health, consumer protection, culture, youth, information and dialogue with citizens.

4. Global Europe: covers all external action ('foreign policy') by the EU such as development assistance or humanitarian aid with the exception of the European Development Fund (EDF) which provides aid for development cooperation with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, as well as overseas countries and territories. As it is not funded from the EU budget but from direct contributions from EU Member States, the EDF does not fall under the MFF.

5. Administration: covers the administrative expenditure of all the European institutions, pensions and European Schools.

6. Compensations: temporary payments designed to ensure that Croatia, which joined the EU in July 2013, does not contribute more to the EU budget than it benefits from it in the first year following its accession.

Each annual budget proposed by the Commission must fit within the MFF estimates. The budget for 2014 was adopted in November 2013. This budget is the starting point for the analysis of EU funding opportunities in this report.

There are 52 chapters listed in the 2014 budget and some of these cover several different funds (see Appendix 3). There are up to 450 headings and sub-headings in the budget under

which the EU can fund activities. Of the many programmes and sub-programmes listed in the budget, 21 specific programmes have been identified that offer the most potential for EU funding for the community and voluntary sector in Ireland. These are listed below. For each programme the Table gives an estimate of the likely level of funding available to Ireland over the period 2014-2020. Overall the total will be around €3.2 billion.

Table 2.1 Most Promising EU Programmes for Funding

No.	Title	Estimated funds for Ireland 2014-2020 (€million)
1	Horizon	1,250
2	Erasmus	100
3	Easi	8.5
4	ESF	542
5	ERDF	409 ²
6	Interreg (north-south)	240
7	Interreg (east-west)	79
8	Transnational cooperation	35
9	Peace	229
10	Rural Development (Leader)	250
11	Asylum Migration and Integration	25.5
12	Justice	5
13	Rights and Citizenship	4.5
14	Europe for Citizens	1.8
15	Health for Growth	5
16	Consumer Programme	2
17	Instrument for Pre-Accession	na
18	European Neighbourhood Instrument	na
19	Life+	35
20	COSME	3
21	Creative Europe	15

Part 4 of the report explains how the 21 programmes were selected and how the information in each programme profile (contained in Appendix 1) should be used to assess funding possibilities for the community and voluntary sector and to prepare applications.

The Republic of Ireland's estimated share of EU funds over the period 2014-2020 is based on a set of complex criteria. The main sources of funding will come from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (around €10 billion) and the Structural Funds (€1.5 billion). The

² Includes part contributions to Interreg, Transnational Cooperation and Peace Programmes

allocations for member states are fixed in advance for these two areas. For other funds like the huge Horizon research and development fund, Ireland's share will be determined by the quality of proposals submitted for funding. The Irish Government's stated target for Horizon is €1.25 billion over the next seven years. The remainder of the EU funding under other programmes, outside the CAP, the Structural Funds and Horizon, will be relatively small (around €200 million in total) and Ireland's share will again be largely dependent on the quality of the proposals that are submitted.

How much of this total will be available for activities of the community and voluntary sector is difficult to determine. Much of the funding under the CAP and the Structural Funds will go to farmers and to State agencies. Much of the Horizon funds will go to private companies, universities and research institutes. The balance left for the not-for-profit sector will probably be quite limited but nonetheless significant.

PART 3: THE CAPACITY OF WHEEL MEMBERS TO ACCESS EU FUNDS

The first important indicator of how well positioned an organisation is to apply for EU funds, is the extent to which they have been successful in the past. Information on this is difficult to come by. This report uses two main sources. First, in preparing the report for the Atlantic Philanthropies group referred to earlier, each of the 13 organisations that formed the group was interviewed in detail to gain an insight into their experience of and capacity for seeking EU funding. Second, The Wheel circulated a short questionnaire to its members in April seeking some basic information on their previous experience of applying to EU programmes and preliminary responses were received from around 25% of its membership

The Atlantic Philanthropies Group

For confidentiality reasons, detailed information cannot be revealed on the 13 organisations that were interviewed but some general indications may be useful. Two of the thirteen have been very active in recent years in seeking EU funding. Several others have been reasonably active. Eight had no previous experience of EU funding. Overall funding received from EU sources over the three years 2011-2013 was around €6 million for all thirteen organisations combined. Two organisations, one large and the other medium sized, accounted for over 75% of this total.

A crude measure of the benefits of EU funding would compare the total cost of preparing applications and subsequent management of projects with the total revenue generated by each organisation. Data were not available to allow this to be calculated. However, one organisation provided the team with estimates for a recently completed project. This gave at least a broad indication of costs and benefits. The project was international and the Irish organisation was the project leader. It estimated that the value to the organisation of its share of the overall project was around €82,000 whereas the costs of application and administrative amounted to €11,200, or 13.5% of the total. It was also necessary to take on additional staff to deliver certain parts of the project at a cost of €22,200. So the net revenue to fund existing core activities was €48,000. A critical factor in assessing how beneficial EU funding can be is the degree of overlap between an organisation's existing activities and the project or projects agreed by the EU for funding. Taking on new tasks just to get EU funds is not generally a wise strategy.

Another measure of the capacity of an organisation to access EU funds is the number of staff with experience of EU funding. For the Atlantic Philanthropies group, this was very small relative to the total staff resources of the group as whole – 21 with EU experience compared with a total staff complement of around 800. One interesting factor here was the small number of staff with EU funding experience in the three largest organisations surveyed,

only 10 of a total staff of over 700 had EU funding experience. Six of the smaller organisations had no previous experience at all.

Active engagement at EU level with similar organisations is a key asset when it comes to applying for funds that are managed directly by EU Commission or its agencies e.g. Horizon. For the majority of EU programmes, it is now a prerequisite to have a partnership of participants from at least three Member States. It is also invaluable when applying for EU funds that are managed directly by national authorities e.g. Erasmus, Asylum and Migration, Interreg, etc. For these too, having partnerships across several Member States is often a condition for applying. Two organisations stood out as being active in EU networks – and these were the two that had been most successful in getting EU funds. Somewhat surprisingly, another two larger organisations in the group had very little interaction with EU counterparts. Most of the smaller organisations had very little EU network experience.

Table 3.1 gives an overview of areas most targeted in applying for funding in the past under the 16 programmes selected as offering the best potential for AP grantees in the years ahead. These sixteen are also included in the list of 21 considered of most relevance to members of the Wheel.

Table 3.1: Overview of EU Programme Experience

No	Programme	Sample of AP Organisations	Sample of Wheel Organisations
1	Horizon	2	2
2	Erasmus	1	6
3	Easi		
4	ESF	3	
5	ERDF		
6	Interreg	1	3
7	Peace	1	
8	Rural Development (Leader)		1
9	Asylum and Migration	2	
10	Justice	3	
11	Rights and Citizenship		
12	Europe for Citizens		
13	Health for Growth	1	
14	Consumer Programme		
15	Instrument for Pre-Accession	1	
16	European Neighbourhood Instrument		

The Wheel Survey

A questionnaire was sent to all members of the Wheel in April seeking basic information on their previous involvement in accessing EU funds. By the deadline for completing this report a total 261 responses was received. The responses to the questionnaire were quite often incomplete so it would be unwise to interpret too much into the results. However, a brief analysis of responses received may give some tentative pointers to what is happening in this area for Wheel members.

Of the 261 organisations that replied, 50 or 19% of the total indicated that they had any experience of applying for EU funding. Among these 50 the results varied greatly. Between them they had submitted 70 applications for EU funds over the period 2012-2014 of which 37 had been successful. Total funding approved was around €10 million but this comprised three very large grants of €4 million, €3 million and €1.4 million respectively with the remainder mainly grants under €100,000.

Three programmes accounted for almost all the funding: Interreg/Peace, Development Aid and Erasmus (the last accounted for most of the small grants). It is surprising that there was not more mention of Leader and of some ESF supported programmes as sources of funding, but this may have been because some respondents confined their responses to programmes run by the EU directly rather than through national authorities.

Echoing the results of the more detailed survey of AP grantees referred to earlier, only 13 of the 50 organisations had any meaningful involvement in EU networks and most of these were among the successful applicants.

When asked if they had the support of any external experts in preparing applications, most referred to Leargas, the managing agency for Erasmus, as the source of support.

Finally, around 80 respondents or 30% of the total indicated that they were considering submitting applications under EU programmes in the future; almost all of those that had been successful in the past said they would apply again under future calls for proposals if they were relevant to their fields of activity. The main programmes they would target (in order of frequency of mention) were: Erasmus, Interreg/Peace, Horizon, Life+, Leader and Creative Europe.

Overall, the information available, limited as it is, about the experience and capacity of community and voluntary in Ireland suggests a number of key issues Wheel Members would need to address if they are to enhance their capacity to access EU funding.

- They will have to invest time and financial resources in becoming familiar with funding opportunities. The results of the research carried for this report is only a starting point. For the smaller organisations with few staff and limited finances,

collaboration with similar organisations will be essential and external support will also be required. Larger organisations should in principle have sufficient internal resources to be able to do this on their own but collaboration with other similar organisations could also help.

- A thorough understanding is also needed of what is involved in applying for and managing EU projects, even as a junior partner. This would require participation in specifically designed training courses where the realities of participation in EU funded activities are explained in detail. There should be no doubt that the disciplines arising from EU funding are demanding. At the practical level - keeping detailed accurate accounts, close monitoring of time and other inputs, maintaining detailed records of travel and subsistence costs and observing European Commission ceilings for these. Even more important is the ability to demonstrate through regular reports that project targets and objectives are being met. But these are far from insurmountable and are the kinds of requirements that will increasingly apply to all community and voluntary organizations under the Charities Act in any event.
- Organisations would have to become more active at the national and EU level in searching out networks of similar organisations, becoming familiar with EU policies in the fields in which they are active and monitoring the development of EU programmes and the publication of calls for proposals.
- Most important, and probably most challenging, each organisation would have to decide if participation in EU programmes is consistent with their own strategic objectives. In general, the EU will not provide core funding for any organisation. Finance will only come for specific projects that contribute to overall EU objectives. Unless there is a substantial degree of overlap between these objectives and the specific activities that are already being carried out or planned by any individual organisation, receiving EU funds will only result in resources being diverted from core activity or new resources being employed to deliver the project.
- Also, an organisation's ability to put up matching funding, if the conditions of the programme require this, will depend critically on whether the activity is already earmarked for funding from within the organisation's other resources. Each programme profile in Appendix 1 gives information on the level of co-financing that is required to participate.

Overall, it will be difficult for smaller organisations on their own to devote the resources necessary to address the above points effectively. The majority of the members of the Wheel are small organisations and have a staff of less than ten that on the whole have little or no previous experience of applying for EU funds. It is unlikely that they will be able to realistically apply for EU funding unless: (a) they have external assistance to go through the initial steps suggested in the next section to help them decide if EU funding is worth going after, and (b) they become junior partners in a project led by another organisation whether within Ireland or from another Member State, at least for initial applications.

PART 4: THE EU FUNDS WITH THE MOST POTENTIAL

This part of the report draws heavily on Appendix 1, which contains detailed profiles of the 21 programmes that offer the best potential for EU funding over the period 2014-2020.

As mentioned earlier, the EU budget is presented in 52 chapters grouped under five main headings. Appendix 4 lists the chapters. Having reviewed the aims and objectives of each chapter in the budget, 21 programmes have been selected that are most closely related to the activities of one or more of the members of the Wheel. The 21 programmes are listed in the Table 2.1 above. It should be noted that other programmes might also offer opportunities. The list of 21 programmes is not exhaustive but they have been selected on the basis of a number of key criteria:

- The eligible activities listed in the legislation underpinning the programme cover some or all of the activities carried out by one of more members of the Wheel
- Not-for-profit organisations are listed among the types of beneficiaries that can participate
- Ireland and Northern Ireland are included in the areas covered the programme
- There is a substantial budget for the programme for the EU as a whole and a reasonable prospect of a significant share for Ireland.

Each programme profile in Appendix 1 follows a standard template where the information is presented in eight sections.

Section 1 gives the title of the programme, the relevant heading of the EU budget and the EU legislation reference, which is the underlying legal basis for the programme. A hyperlink connects to the detailed regulation that sets down the policy background, the objectives, the types of activities to be funded and the broad funding arrangements.

Section 2 summarises the basic financial information. Each programme normally has a seven-year financing schedule that covers the period 2014 to 2020. What share Ireland is likely to get from this overall budget can only be estimated in most cases. Only in the area of the structural funds are national allocations fixed in advance for the regional, social and rural development programmes. Where no national allocations have been decided, the likely allocation for Ireland is estimated as roughly 1% of the total EU allocation. This is based on the fact that Ireland's population is approximately 1% of that of the EU as whole. Clearly other factors come into play such as the geographical or sectoral bias of each programme. The quality of projects submitted for funding under each is a big factor in determining how much funding each member state eventually receives.

Section 3 outlines the management arrangements for each programme. There are two main types of arrangement: (a) direct management where the Commission assesses and decides on what projects to fund (sometimes with the help of a EU-level management agency), and

(b) indirect management, where the Commission delegates responsibility to the national authorities. For the period 2014 to 2020, the Commission has pushed more of the management of EU programmes to the national level. The national authorities in Ireland manage most of the programmes profiled in Appendix 1. Even in the case of Horizon, for example, which the European Commission directly manages, a substantial part of the promotion and technical support for the programme is provided at local level – through Enterprise Ireland in the South and Invest in Northern Ireland in the North. Both devote very substantial resources to the promotion of the programme and supporting applicants, and both have ambitious targets for funding over the coming years.

Section 4 sets out the likely timetable and key steps for each programme. The planning for all programmes began in 2011 when the European Commission presented to the European Parliament and Council the draft regulations needed to give legal effect to each fund. Negotiations on these regulations continued right up to the end of 2013. In an intensive spate of decision-making, the financial estimates for the period 2014 to 2020 were adopted in November 2013, the draft budget for 2014 was adopted a few days later and during the following six months most of the regulations giving effect to funding programmes were finally agreed.

For directly management programmes, the most important stage is the adoption of the work programme by the European Commission. Work programmes have now been published for all directly managed programmes. The next key stage is the publication of calls for proposals. The work programme normally indicates when and how frequently calls for proposals will be issued (annually, biennially, etc.). Sometimes calls remain open for a long time; others have a short period before they close, usually of several months.

For indirectly managed programmes (i.e. those managed by national authorities), the process is more complicated. In the case of funds such as the ESF, ERDF, Interreg and Peace, for example, the national authorities must draw up a partnership agreement setting out the main policy objectives they will seek to achieve and their overall priorities, consult with key social partners and then finalise and agree it with the European Commission. In Ireland this work was not completed until late 2014. The next step is to finalise detailed Operational Programmes (OP) for each of the Funds. The Irish authorities have only published OP's for each fund in the past few months. Then will follow the publication of calls for proposals for each programme, if the provisions of the programme include this. These will start to appear over next few months.

Section 5 gives a summary of the type of activities that are eligible for funding. This is a key section for any prospective applicant. Only if the activities of an organisation come within the scope of eligible activities does it make sense to invest the time to explore the likelihood and benefit of EU funding. The basic regulation for each fund gives a broad indication of the kind of activities that can be funded. The work programmes (or operational programmes)

give a more detailed description of these activities and, finally, the calls for proposals set out very specific details of the kind of activities that will be funded. This section of each programme profile includes extracts from the relevant regulations and related work programmes. It also gives hyperlinks that connect directly to the relevant documents.

Section 6 gives details of other information that is available on each programme. For all programmes managed directly by the European Commission, guides are published to help prospective applicants prepare their submissions. Some European networks in specific sectors also provide this information but generally only to their own members. Private companies also provide guidance but at a price. Where information is publicly available and on the Internet, this section provides hyperlinks to the relevant sources.

Section 7 contains an assessment of the potential for successful applications from one or more members of the Wheel. This assessment has to be quite general given the very broad range of organisations that are members. Also even at this stage quite a few calls for proposals have yet to be issued. Only when the specific activities of an organisation are assessed against the detailed description of eligible activities set out in a call, can an accurate assessment be made of the potential for EU funding.

Section 8 sets out recommendations for the group on how to assess potential eligibility and, if eligible in principle, what the first steps should be in deciding if it is worth the investment required to prepare an application. These recommendations are also quite generic. However, the first stage in deciding whether to apply is to identify the kind of activities within an organisation's own work programme or planned future programme that could be eligible under the broad description of fundable activities set out in the basic regulation.

How Should Wheel Members Assess Potential?

So which programmes offer the best potential? This has to be judged by each organisation based on its own activities and priorities. At the risk of oversimplifying what is a quite complex process, the following is a recommended 8-step process that each organisation should follow to decide if and where it should focus its efforts.

1. The current and planned future activities of the organisation should be reviewed to see if they could be broken up into discrete projects that could be proposed for funding.
2. These projects should then be filtered by asking the question: how might they be of interest to the EU – do they involve the development of, or research on, some new idea that may be beneficial to other organisations in the EU or to policy makers?; do you think that some current activity you carry out may be an innovation you could transfer to other organisations in the EU?; are there new developments you are

aware of taking place elsewhere in the EU that you wish to link into through participation in a joint project.

3. The eligible activities in the most relevant EU programmes (given either in the basic regulation, the work programme, the operational programme or the call for proposals) should then be screened to see if there is a potential match between what emerged from steps 1 and 2 and those listed as potentially eligible for EU funding.
4. Assistance should be sought from the relevant Commission or managing agencies, technical assistance bodies, EU networks or other support services (voluntary or private) to get an idea of the level of funding that might be available and to seek out potential partners in EU projects. Forming partnerships can be one of the most challenging steps in project design and preparation. There are basically two types of partner - the leader who has overall responsibility for delivering the project, and the other partners who are responsible only for their own activities. The amount of funding available will vary depending on whether an organisation is a leader or a partner. The costs will also vary accordingly.
5. A first rough estimate should be then be made of likely costs and benefits. Bear in mind how much of the funding could be attributed to existing activities, and how much would involve taking on new activities by your organisation. If a substantial net benefit is estimated, and if there are sufficient resources to meet the up-front cost of preparing an application, then it makes sense to proceed. Otherwise, the process should be aborted at this stage.
6. If it is decided to proceed, as much work as possible should be done on project preparation before a specific call is issued. Often there is a short delay of several months between call and closing which allows little time to put complicated partnerships together. Also, it is possible to seek advice from the European Commission and national authorities before a call is issued but once it is published no further advice can be sought. Calls for proposals request standard information on, for example, legal status of partners, bank details, audited accounts, staffing structure and organisation. Much of this can be gathered well in advance.
7. Once a call is issued, the final preparation of the project can begin. In most cases applications are submitted in electronic form so it is important to become familiar with the application system used for the relevant programme. This can also be done in advance of a call.
8. Once a proposal is submitted, nothing further can be done until the European Commission or the national authorities make their decisions. Depending on the programme, this can often take three to six months. A project can be approved subject to certain conditions or changes to the initial proposals. This can involve negotiation with the Commission that can add a further delay to the final decision.

This multi-step process should also be applied more or less in the same sequence for programmes that are managed at national or regional level. There may be some small differences in procedures but the overall sequence of steps is broadly the same.

What is the level of EU funds likely to be available for which members of the Wheel could apply? This is a very difficult question to answer. Table 2.1 above shows the likely funds available to Ireland under each of the 21 programmes that have been shortlisted. This comes to a total of €3.2 billion. The bulk of this funding will go to State agencies, private companies and research institutions. A target of 10% for the community and voluntary sector would yield a total of over €320 million. Given that most of the Leader funds are earmarked for local development, that a portion of ESF funds are allocated to the activation of local development and that as yet unspecified shares of the other funds are in principle open to civil society organisations under EU regulations, a target of at least 10% of the total funds for the community and voluntary sector seems achievable. This estimate is based on the critical assumption that a substantial number of organisations in the sector as a whole would engage in the eight step process outlined above for identifying possible opportunities, and that there would be a system of support in place to help smaller organisations to scope possibilities and assist in the preparation of applications.

A crucial question is what % level of EU funding will be made available to co-finance projects. This can vary from 50% to 100%. In some cases national authorities will provide part or all of the matching funding required for projects but, in the current economic climate, this will be the exception rather than the rule. This raises the question of where the matching funding can come from. In the case of directly managed EU programmes, the level of matching funding will be set down in the basic regulation. For the others, the national governments must indicate what level of financial input they will provide and how much of this non-State bodies will be able to draw on. It is only with the publication of specific calls for proposals that the precise level of funding is made clear, although work programmes and operational programmes do give a good indication.

This report deals with access to EU funds and for that reason concentrates on the likely financial costs and benefits. Nonetheless, it should be pointed out that participation in EU programmes brings a number of other less tangible but important benefits. Organisations become involved with other partners in various aspects of EU policy-making. This raises their profile nationally and internationally and enhances their credibility when interfacing with national and European policy makers. Further, it exposes them to new ideas and ways of doing things that can add considerably to their productivity and performance. It also imposes high standards of management practice, which can stand participants in good stead when seeking funds from other potential donors.

PART 5: CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Applying for EU funds and subsequently managing them is not for the faint hearted. Gone are the days when Ireland was the beneficiary of huge transfers from Europe. Aside from the CAP, net EU transfers to Ireland are now a small fraction of what they were in the early 1990's. There are two reasons for this. First, Ireland is now a much wealthier country than it was 25 years ago, despite the difficulties of the recent past. Second, 13 more member states have joined the EU since 2004, all of them more deserving of net transfers than Ireland since they are all considerably poorer. In fact, if it were not for the funds received under the Common Agricultural Policy, Ireland would now be a net contributor to the EU.

Nonetheless, the total transfers to Ireland from the EU over the current financing period 2014-2020 are still substantial, even excluding the CAP. It is estimated that these will amount to around €3.2 billion or around €430 million annually. How much of this will be available to the community and voluntary sector can only be a rough guesstimate because it will depend critically on how actively the sector works to seek its share. Based on past experience and on the conditions of the various programmes that are open to the sector, it is possible to achieve a total of around €50-€60 million per year from EU funded programmes for the community and voluntary organisations in Ireland, if there is sufficient engagement by the sector in applying for such funds.

The main conclusion of part 3 of the report, which looks at a small sample of organisations in the sector is that, apart from a limited group of mainly larger organisations, experience in the community and voluntary sector of applying for, receiving and managing EU funds is scarce. If this is to change, some kind of support service is needed to encourage and support organisations to monitor opportunities and to apply for funds. But such a service can only be part of the picture; ultimately organisations have to be more pro-active in assessing opportunities for funding and more open to working together with similar minded groups in this process. Ideas for how this might be done are set out in parts 3 and 4 of the report.

At first sight, the scale of the EU annual Budget is tantalizing – a total of over €130 billion each year! But once this is divided up into 28 different shares, one for each Member State (not to mention its various external action programmes), and then allocated across 52 different chapters, the sums available for some activities can be relatively small. This report goes through the EU budget and assesses which budget lines are most relevant for members of the Wheel. A total of 21 programmes have been shortlisted. Detailed profiles of each these programmes are given in Appendix 1 to the report.

Appendix 1 is the most important output of this project. It is designed to be read in electronic form. It is also designed to be a long-term working tool that can be developed and

extended as further information becomes available and the experience of successful and unsuccessful applicants is fed into the system. Much of the detailed information on each programme is given in attached documents that are connected through hyperlinks. Since the overall decisions on the 2014-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework were only taken in late November 2013, the past year or so has been spent on putting detailed regulations in place for each programme. For many of the EU funded programmes that are managed at national level (e.g. ESF, ERDF, Peace, Interreg, EARDF/Leader,) final decisions have only been taken in recent months, so calls for proposals will start to be issued shortly.

If and how an organisation engages in the process of seeking funds is a matter for each to decide based on its own plans and circumstances. Parts 3 and 4 of this report give guidance on how they might go about making this decision. Appendix 1 is an important and useful tool to help organisations work their way through the complicated maze of EU funding possibilities and assist them in getting EU funds for the first time or improving their existing level of EU support.

As to the support to its members that might be provided through the Wheel, Appendix 4 gives an outline of how this might be structured and resources it would require. The report does not make any suggestions on how this might be financed. However, costs can be kept modest by working collaboratively with other bodies active in this area and by seeking help from technical support offices set up to promote participation in some of the major EU programmes.

Another option worth exploring for the future would be to follow the example of the Welsh Community and Voluntary Association (WCVA). This association has a membership of over 3000 community and voluntary organisations in Wales and has a long history going back to the great depression in the 1930's when it was set up to provide support and advice to the poor and unemployed. It is a much larger organisation than the Wheel with a much wider mission. Some of its functions are similar to those of Pobal in Ireland in that it manages a number of state funded schemes aimed at the community and voluntary sector. It has an annual budget of over €25 million and a staff of almost 100 people. It has, however, a Specialist European Team (SET) of four people whose mission is to assist its members to connect with Europe and gain access to EU funding programmes. It works closely with the Welsh European Funding Office, the authority responsible for the management of the EU structural funds in Wales, and also with local and regional authorities. Details of what this team does and how it operates can be found on the WCVA web site at [SET](#).

At the end of 2013, WCVA published an evaluation report prepared by independent consultants on the work of SET since it began operations in 2008. This report can be found at [Evaluation Report](#). It gives an excellent, detailed account of the services it provides to its members and an insightful analysis of the effectiveness of its work. SET has an annual budget of around €400,000 about half of which is funded by the EU from the technical

assistance budget of the structural funds. The Wheel should consider options for cooperation with the WCVA and with its counterparts in Northern Ireland and Scotland. A pilot project for such cooperation could be considered for submission under the Interreg programme that covers parts or all of the four geographical areas. A common theme that will become an important issue in the next phase of EU development is how EU funds and programmes can be more effectively used to support the development of the community and voluntary sector and whether parts of the budgets for the major programmes (e.g. Structural Funds and Horizon) should be ring fenced specifically for the sector. Working on such a common objective could be an important galvanising force for the different national umbrella bodies working in this area.

APPENDIX 1 - PROGRAMME PROFILES

No.	Title
1	Horizon
2	Erasmus
3	Easi
4	ESF
5	ERDF
6	Interreg (north-south)
7	Interreg (east-west)
8	Transnational cooperation
9	Peace
10	Rural Development (Leader)
11	Asylum Migration and Integration
12	Justice
13	Rights and Citizenship
14	Europe for Citizens
15	Health for Growth
16	Consumer Programme
17	Instrument for Pre-Accession
18	European Neighbourhood Instrument
19	Life+
20	COSME
21	Creative Europe

1. Competitiveness for Growth & Jobs

(Horizon 2020)

1. Regulation:

The Regulation establishing Horizon 2020 – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) – was adopted on 11 December 2013 [Horizon Regulation](#) .

2. Budget:

Year	Financial Programming							
	DB 2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
EU: (€m)	8826	9560	10251	10921	11589	12376	13522	79401

ROI: The overall target funding is €1.25 billion for 2014-2020.

NI: Est: £200m

EU co-funding rate: 100%

3. Management: Direct

This programme is managed directly by the Commission and there is a wealth of information on the Commission's web site for prospective applicants. See information sources below. ROI and N. Ireland have allocated very significant resources to help applicants prepare applications for funding and to support them in exploring opportunities.

ROI Support Agency: Enterprise Ireland, Horizon Director: Dr Imelda Lampkin.

NI Support Agency: Invest Northern Ireland, Horizon Director: Dr Simon Grattan.

4 Timetable:

Regulation: Adopted December 2013

Work programmes: The first phase of the programme covers the period 2014-2015. It was adopted on 11 December 2013 and is available through the Horizon web site (address below). [Work Programme](#) .

Calls for Proposals: Calls for proposals for the 2014-2015 phase have been published in stages since December 2013. These will continue over the coming months to the end of 2015. Current open calls can be reviewed at: [Calls for proposals](#). In parallel with this, the Commission is currently working on the work programme for 2016/17 that will set out the strategic priorities for this period. This is likely to be published in Autumn 2015.

5. Eligible Activities:

Horizon has three mutually reinforcing priorities dedicated to:

- (a) Excellent Science
- (b) Industrial Leadership
- (c) Societal Challenges

“Excellent Science” will strengthen the excellence of European research by pursuing the following specific objectives:

- (a) Strengthening frontier research, through the activities of the European Research Council (ERC);
- (b) Strengthening research in Future and Emerging Technologies;
- (c) Strengthening skills, training and career development, through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions ("Marie Curie actions");
- (d) Strengthening European research infrastructures, including e-infrastructures.

“Industrial leadership” will strengthen industrial leadership and competitiveness by pursuing the following specific objectives:

- (a) Boosting Europe's industrial leadership through research, technological development, demonstration and innovation in the following enabling and industrial technologies: (i) Information and communication technologies; (ii) Nanotechnologies; (iii) Advanced materials; (iv) Biotechnology; (v) advanced manufacturing and processing; (vi) Space;
- (b) Enhancing access to risk finance for investing in research and innovation;
- (c) Increasing innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises.

“Societal Challenges” will pursue research, technological development, demonstration and innovation actions which contribute to the following specific objectives:

- (a) Improving the lifelong health and wellbeing;
- (b) Securing sufficient supplies of safe and high quality food and other bio-based products, by developing productive and resource-efficient primary production systems, fostering related ecosystem services, alongside competitive and low carbon supply chains;
- (c) Making the transition to a reliable, sustainable and competitive energy system, in the face of increasing resource scarcity, increasing energy needs and climate change;
- (d) Achieving a European transport system that is resource-efficient, environmentally friendly, safe and seamless for the benefit of citizens, the economy and society;

- (e) Achieving a resource-efficient and climate change resilient economy and a sustainable supply of raw materials, in order to meet the needs of a growing global population within the sustainable limits of the planet's natural resources;
- (f) Fostering inclusive, innovative and secure European societies in a context of unprecedented transformations and growing global interdependencies.

For most actors in the community and voluntary sectors, the Societal Challenges priority will be the most relevant.

6. Information Sources:

The key information source for this major programme is the Commission's Horizon web site [Horizon Guide](#). In order to access call information you need to register on the Commission's ECAS system. This gives access to all information about current calls [Calls for Proposal](#).

In ROI the key managing agency is Enterprise Ireland (EI). The director of the Horizon Programme in EI is Dr Imelda Lambkin. EI have a team of working on Horizon to support potential participants [EI Horizon Support Network](#). The key staff dealing with the parts of the programme of most relevance to the community and voluntary sector are: Kay Duggan and Ciaran Duffy (see [Support team](#)). In N Ireland the key agency is Invest Northern Ireland. The person assigned to advise on the Societal Challenges area is Inmaculada Higuera (i.higuera@qub.ac.uk). The Horizon website in N Ireland is at: [Horizon NI](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

Horizon has a huge budget much of which is targeted at academia and companies that are at the leading edge of basic research in Europe. There may, however, be some limited opportunities for the not-for-profit sector especially under the heading of "Societal Challenges". This is where the sector should focus. Large-scale projects of at least €4-6 million in scale will be favoured so normally smaller bodies could expect to become involved as partners only, rather than as project leaders. While the scale of this programme may be daunting for newcomers at first, it is well worth investing some resources initially to assess if there is real potential. A big advantage of the Horizon programme is the financing rate of 100%; no matching funding is required. At least 20 civil society organisations in Ireland have successfully applied for funding under the previous EU research programme (FP7).

8. Actions proposed:

The main point of entry for the community and voluntary sector would be through strategic alliances with the universities. Those organisations that don't currently have such alliances should start to build them.

Members should also actively explore membership of relevant EU networks. Almost all calls for proposals under Horizon require applications involving partners from at least three member states.

As with other EU programmes, the first step for any organisation should be to review its activities and identify what might be eligible for funding under the specific terms of the work programme – mainly the sub-programme “Societal Challenges”. A short outline of possible projects should be drafted and then contact made with the relevant team in Enterprise Ireland in ROI and INI in Northern Ireland to get specific advice on possibilities. Several community and voluntary organisations have already bid successfully under the previous FP7 programme (2007-2013) so these would be useful advisers for any organisation starting to explore funding opportunities under Horizon.

2. Competitiveness for Growth & Jobs

Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport (Erasmus+)

1. Regulation:

The regulation establishing "ERASMUS +" the Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport was adopted in December 2013 and can be found at: [Erasmus+ Regulation](#).

2. Budget:

EU: (€m)	Financial Programming							
	DB 2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Total	1320.3	1533.7	1760.5	2052.4	2288.4	2 591.9	2 908.1	14 774

ROI: The estimated annual budget is €20 million.

N. Ireland: Est. €6 million.

Co-funding rate: Upwards from 50%. This varies according to the activity funded. See EU programme guide for details.

3. Management: Indirect (mixed)

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	DG for Education and Culture	Department of Education and Skills
Executive Agency/Contact Point	EACEA	Leargas/HEA

While the Commission, through its executive agency [EACEA](#), manages the overall programme, it has delegated much of the day-to-day management to national contact points. In ROI these are: **Leargas** which manages the strands of the Erasmus+ programme that concern Youth and Lifelong Learning [Leargas](#); the **Higher Education Authority** which handles the university exchange programmes [HEA](#). Sports programmes under Erasmus, that are new and will have a small budget, are managed directly from Brussels.

The Erasmus+ UK national agency is a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK. Each partner manages a different part of the programme, with the British Council responsible for schools and higher education, and Ecorys UK responsible for adult

education and vocational education and training, with both organisations managing different aspects of youth funding. The national authority is the UK government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

4 Timetable:

Regulations: Adopted in December 2013.

Commission Work Programme: Programme guidelines can be found at: [Programme Guide](#)

Calls for Proposals: Calls for proposals are issued each year. Those for 2015 can be found at [Calls for 2015](#).

5. Eligible Activities:

Three key types of action will be funded:

KEY ACTION 1–MOBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS (63% of budget)

This supports:

- Mobility of learners and staff: opportunities for students, trainees, young people and volunteers, as well as for professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, staff of education institutions and civil society organisations to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in another country;
- Joint Master Degrees: high-level integrated international study programmes delivered by consortia of higher education institutions that award full degree scholarships to the best master students worldwide
- Master Student Loan Guarantee: higher education students can get a loan backed up by the Programme to go abroad for a full Master Degree. Students should address themselves to national banks or student loan agencies.

KEY ACTION 2–COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES (28% of budget)

This supports:

- Transnational Strategic Partnerships aimed to develop initiatives addressing one or more fields of education training and youth and promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types of organisations involved in education, training and youth or in other relevant fields. Certain mobility activities are supported in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the project;
- Knowledge Alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises which aim to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange and/or multidisciplinary teaching and learning;

- Sector Skills Alliances supporting the design and delivery of joint vocational training curricula, programmes and teaching and training methodologies, drawing on evidence of trends in a specific economic sector and skills needed in order to perform in one or more professional fields;
- Capacity Building projects supporting cooperation with Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth. Capacity Building projects aim to support organisations/institutions and systems in their modernization and internationalization process. Certain mobility activities are supported in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the project;
- IT support platforms, such as eTwinning, the European Platform for Adult Learning (EPALE) and the European Youth Portal, offering virtual collaboration spaces, databases of opportunities, communities of practices and other online services for teachers, trainers and practitioners in the field of school and adult education as well as for young people, volunteers and youth workers across Europe and beyond.

KEY ACTION 3 – SUPPORT FOR POLICY REFORMS (4.5% of budget)

This supports:

- Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth for evidence -based policy making and monitoring in the framework of Europe 2020, in particular: specific and thematic analysis, including through cooperation with academic networks; peer learning and peer reviews through the Open Methods of Coordination in education, training and youth;
- Prospective initiatives to stimulate innovative policy development among stakeholders and to enable public authorities to test the effectiveness of innovative policies through field trials based on sound evaluation methodologies;
- Support to European policy tools to facilitate transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as the transfer of credits, to foster quality assurance, support validation of non-formal and informal learning, skills management and guidance. This Action also includes the support to networks that facilitate cross-European exchanges, the learning and working mobility of citizens as well as the development of flexible learning pathways between different fields of education, training and youth;
- Cooperation with international organisations with highly recognized expertise and analytical capacity (such as the OECD and the Council of Europe), to strengthen the impact and added value of policies in the fields of education, training and youth;
- Stakeholder dialogue, policy and programme promotion with public authorities, providers and stakeholders in the fields of education, training and youth are necessary for raising awareness about Europe 2020, Education and Training 2020, the European Youth Strategy and other European sector-specific policy agendas, as well as the external dimension of EU education, training and youth policies. They are also essential to stimulate the effective exploitation of the Programme results and generate tangible impact.

To help participants and beneficiaries of former programmes to find their way into Erasmus+, for the purpose of communication and dissemination, the following names may be used for those Actions targeting a specific sector, in addition to the common Erasmus+ brand name, as follows:

- "Erasmus+: Comenius", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of school education;
- "Erasmus+: Erasmus", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of higher education and targeting Programme Countries;
- "Erasmus+: Erasmus Mundus", in relation to the Joint Masters degrees;
- "Erasmus+: Leonardo da Vinci", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of vocational education and training;
- "Erasmus+: Grundtvig", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of adult learning;
- "Erasmus+: Youth in Action", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of youth non-formal and informal learning;
- "Erasmus+: Jean Monnet", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively associated with the field of European Union studies;
- "Erasmus+: Sports", in relation to the activities of the Programme exclusively related to the field of sport

6. Information Sources:

Details of the Erasmus programme can be found on the Commission's web site at: [Erasmus programme](#). Leargas has details on its web site regarding the various activities it carries out to promote the programme and assist applicants [Leargas](#). The British Council also has a special website to support applicants in N Ireland: <https://erasmusplus.org.uk/>.

7. Assessment of Potential:

This programme has a significant annual budget for Ireland – around €20 million (about €6 million for NI). Organisations that are involved in any type of educational activity are eligible to apply. So in principle any training activity in the community and voluntary sector could be eligible for funding. A number of community and voluntary organisations have received funding in the past under previous programmes and the Leargas web site gives a list of organisations that have already been approved for funding under Erasmus+ to date. Both Leargas in ROI and The British Council give extensive support and advice to potential applicants and run regular workshops on calls for proposals as they arise.

8. Actions proposed:

Potential applicants should:

- invest some time in scoping the programme to make a preliminary assessment of funding opportunities.

- identify activities of their own organisation that come within the description of key actions set out above in section 5 and in the Regulation, in the published work programme and in recent calls for proposals.
- contact the support agencies to get advice on whether projects identified could be eligible for funding and to get assistance in seeking out national and EU partners.
- identify potential partners through relevant EU networks.

3. Competitiveness for Growth & Jobs

European Union Programme for Social Change and Innovation (EaSI)

1. Regulation:

The Regulation on a European Union Programme for Social Change and Innovation, was adopted in December 2013: [EaSi](#).

2: Budget

EU: €919 million over 2014-2020

ROI: Est. €1.2 million per annum

NI: Est. €0.5 million per annum

Co-funding rate: From 80% to 100% depending on the activities

3. Management: Direct

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	DG Employment and Social Affairs	ROI: Dept of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation NI: DETI
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	Egbert Holthuis	ROI: Paul Cullen

4 Timetable:

Legislation: Adopted in December 2013

EU Work Programme: See [EaSI Work Programme](#)

Calls for Proposals: [Calls for Proposals 2015](#)

5. Eligible Activities:

The Programme aims to achieve the following general objectives:

(a) Strengthen ownership of the Union objectives in the employment, social and working conditions fields among key Union and national policy-makers, as well as other interested

parties in order to bring about concrete and coordinated actions at both Union and Member State level;

(b) Support the development of adequate, accessible and efficient social protection systems and labour markets and facilitate policy reform, by promoting good governance, mutual learning and social innovation;

(c) Modernise Union law in line with the Smart Regulation principles and ensure that Union law on matters relating to working conditions is effectively applied;

(d) Promote workers' geographical mobility and boost employment opportunities by developing Union labour markets that are open and accessible to all;

(e) Promote employment and social inclusion by increasing the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises and by increasing access to finance for social enterprises.

Specific Objectives

Specific Objective 1: Support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Union employment and social policy and legislation on working conditions and promote evidence-based policy-making and innovation, in partnership with the social partners, civil society organisations and other interested parties (**PROGRESS Axis**)

Specific Objective 2: Promote workers' geographical mobility and boost employment opportunities by developing Union labour markets that are open and accessible to all (**EURES Axis**)

Specific Objective 3: Facilitate access to finance for entrepreneurs, especially those furthest from the labour market, and social enterprises (**MICROFINANCE and Social Enterprise Axis**).

A detailed description of the types of actions to be funded under each axis is given in the basic regulation

6. Information Sources:

The Commission's Directorate General for Employment directly manages the programme. The DG's website is therefore the main source of information on EaSI [Overview](#). The latest programme is available at [Annual Work Programme](#). Information on current and previous calls for proposals under EaSI can be found at [Calls for proposals](#). There is no local contact point in Ireland.

7. Assessment of Potential:

This programme is a merging of several pre-existing programmes (Eures, Progress) and new initiatives to promote finance for small enterprise and for social enterprises. It has a substantially increased budget and the combined allocation for ROI and NI should be around €2 million per year. In principle, any organisation that is working in the area of social innovation and change should be eligible to apply. Overall, this should be a programme of interest to a number of larger organisations in the community and voluntary sector and would deserve an assessment to gauge if some parts of it, especially Progress, can be targeted for funding. In general, the Commission will be seeking path-breaking ideas and solid EU partnerships covering a number of different Member States. Often calls require applicants and/or partners to be “social partners”, employers(ees) organisations etc. So applying under this programme might require partnerships with that type of organisation in Ireland

8. Actions proposed:

Potential applicants should:

- review the published Regulation and work programme to identify projects that may be eligible for funding.
- make contact with EU umbrella bodies and networks that are active in the relevant fields.
- watch for publication of calls for proposals to identify specific opportunities.
- unless a project is already well in preparation, the aim should be target the first calls in 2016.

4. Cohesion Policy

European Social Fund

1. Regulation:

The Regulation on the European Social Fund was adopted by the Council on 17 Dec 2013 [ESF regulation](#) .

2. Budget:

EU: €80.3 billion (2014-2020)

Ireland (ROI): The overall budget for Ireland is €542 million over the 7 years

NI: Est €150 million over 7 years

Co-financing rate: The ESF contributes at varying levels to each of the programmes it funds in Ireland. The national contribution also varies. Most of these programmes are managed by State agencies such as Solas, Intreo and Tus and the ETB's. The total co-financing rate for activities, combining the national and EU contributions, will usually be 50%.

For the first three years, the ESF will be supplemented at EU level by €6 billion under the Youth Employment Initiative to help tackle the problem of high youth unemployment in Europe. Ireland's share of this fund is estimated at ROI: €68m and NI: £15m.

3. Management: Indirect

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Directorate General for Social Affairs.	ROI: Department of Education and Skills NI: Dept. of Employment and Learning
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	F Butz	ROI: Vincent Landers (Vincent_Landers@education.gov.ie)
Desk Officer:	R Schopf	NI: John Noble

4 Timetable:

EU Regulation: Adopted on 17 December 2013.

Partnership Agreement: The Partnership Agreement between Ireland and Commission which sets out the overall strategy to be followed by Ireland in the use of EU structural and investment funds over the period 2014-2020 was published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in November 2014. [Partnership Agreement](#). The partnership agreement with UK (incl. NI) was adopted in October 2014: [UK Partnership Agreement](#).

Operational Programme: The ESF Operational Programme for ROI was published by the Department of Employment and Skills at the end of March 2015 [ESF OP](#).

Calls for Proposals: ROI: To be decided. NI: A first call was published in January 2015.

In N. Ireland, the Department of Employment and Learning has overall responsibility for the implementation of the ESF [DEL N Ireland](#).

5. Eligible Activities:

The Operational Programme for Ireland sets four main priority objectives for the ESF for 2014-2020. These are outlined in the following table together with the related investment priorities for the period.

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	ESF Amount allocated
Priority 1: Promoting the attainment of sustainable and quality employment through relevant up skilling measures and labour market mobility	Access to employment for job-seekers and inactive people, including the long-term unemployed and people far from the labour market, also through local employment initiatives and support for labour mobility	€162.778m.
Priority 2: Promoting Social Inclusion and combating discrimination in the labour market	Active inclusion, including with a view to promoting equal opportunities and active participation, and improving employability	€182.949m.
	Combating all forms of discrimination and promoting equal opportunities	€10.859m.
Priority 3: Investing in Education, Training and Life Long Learning with a view to up skilling and re-skilling the labour force	Improving the quality and efficiency of, and access to, tertiary and equivalent education with a view to increasing participation and attainment levels, especially for disadvantaged groups	€11.20m.

	Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning for all age groups in formal, non-formal and informal settings, upgrading the knowledge, skills and competences of the workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences;	€96.499m.
Priority 4: Youth Employment Initiative	Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee;	€68.145m. ESF €68.145m. YEI

The main source of funding for the community and voluntary sector from the ESF will come through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). In effect, this is the successor programme to the Local Community Development Programme.

6. Information Sources:


At EU level the Directorate General for Employment is the managing authority. Its website gives up-to-date information on [ESF implementation](#). In Ireland (ROI) the Department of Education and Skills has the main responsibility. Its website is the main source of information on ESF in Ireland. The Operational Programme for Ireland for 2014-2020 can be found at [ESF OP 2014-2020](#). Pobal is providing technical assistance for the implementation of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme ([SICAP Pobal](#)). The Department of Environment Community and Local Government has overall responsibility for the implementation of SICAP. The following press release from the Department sets out latest situation on the programme [DECLG](#). In NI the responsible body, the Dept. of Employment and Learning has a useful website: [DEL](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

There is a substantial budget in Ireland for the ESF over the next seven years. However, the lion's share of this budget in ROI will go to State agencies to fund their own activities in employment promotion, training and education, e.g. INTREO, Solas, Tus, ETB's etc. As stated above the main support to the community and voluntary sector will come through the SICAP. It may be that calls for proposals in certain will also be issued by other State agencies once the details of their allocations from the ESF are available. The overall resources available to the community and voluntary sector is likely to be modest given that many State agencies will be trying to maximise their share to make up for cutbacks in funding at national level.

8. Actions proposed:

The main actions potential applicants should take are:

- Identify activities within their current or planned activities that are consistent with the investment priorities for Ireland in the OP and could be packaged as proposals under the new programme.
 - Make contact with the ESF team in the Department of Education and Skills in ROI or DEL in N Ireland to get advice on whether projects identified in this way may be eligible for funding.
 - Make contact with any previous beneficiaries that you know to get advice on how they have succeeded in getting funding under the previous ESF programme.
 - As regards SICAP, contact should be made with the Local Management Groups as soon as they are selected to get up-to-date information on how funds will be awarded in each local area.
- 

5. Cohesion Policy

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

1. Regulation:

The Regulation on the European Regional Development Fund was adopted on 17 December 2013 [Final regulation](#).

2. Budget:

EU: €197 billion for 2014-2020

Ireland (ROI): €409 million (including cross-border and transnational cooperation)

NI: Est. €150 million

EU co-financing rate: 50%

3. Management: Indirect

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Directorate General for Regional Policy.	ROI: Department Public Expenditure and Reform NI. Dept. of Finance and Personnel
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	Agnes Lindemans	ROI: Patricia Coleman
Desk Officer:	Stephen Langley	NA

The ERDF budget for ROI is managed by two regional authorities: the Border and Midlands Region (BMW) and the South and East Region (recently renamed the Southern region) although overall policy is dictated by the Department for Public Expenditure and Reform.

4 Timetable:

EU regulation adopted: 17 December 2013

Partnership Agreement: November 2014

Operational Programme: Published by BMW in December 2014 and SE in April 2015

Calls for Proposals: To be decided.

5. Eligible Activities:

In the Structural Funds Partnership Agreement for Ireland, seven strategic objectives are set for ERDF operations.

1. Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation;
2. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, Information and Communication Technologies;
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs;
4. Supporting the Shift Towards a Low Carbon Economy;
5. Promoting Climate Change Adaptation, Risk Management and Prevention;
6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency;
7. Sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key transport infrastructures.

The following lists the main objectives of the Operational Programme for the BMW region together with the main national programmes that will be supported through the ERDF for 2014-2020. The figures in brackets show the amount earmarked for each priority out of a total allocation of €160 million.

1. Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation (€52 m)

- Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation
- Programme for Research in Third level Institutions
- Smart Specialisation Strategy

2. Enhancing Access to and use and quality of ICT (€45)

- National Broadband Plan
- National Digital Strategy

3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs (€29)

- Action Plan for Jobs

4. Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy(€18)

- National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
- National Climate Change Strategy

6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency(€14)

- Capital Investment Framework 2012

The OP for the Southern region has just been published. Its priorities are almost identical to those of the Border Midlands and West region.

6. Information Sources:

The Commission's website gives a good overview of ERDF activities in Ireland including a very useful list of previous beneficiaries [ERDF](#).

The site of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform which has overall responsibility for the structural funds in ROI gives the national context [DPER](#). The geographical coverage of these two regions is given in their respective websites: [BMW](#) and [SE](#). In N Ireland it will be managed by the Dept. of Finance and Personnel [DFP](#). The OP's for the BMW and SE regions have recently been finalised and are now available on their web sites at [Southern OP](#) and [BMW OP](#).

The websites of the two regional assemblies referred to above are the key source of information on how ERDF programmes will operate in each of the regions. In N Ireland the DFP site is the key source of information [DFP](#) (contacts : Andrew Winter on Tel: 028 9052 9496 or Andrea Kelly on Tel: 028 9052 9548).

7. Assessment of Potential:

Like the other structural funds, much of ERDF resources will be channelled through State agencies and local authorities in Ireland (Enterprise Ireland, LEO's, Sustainability Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland, etc.) and will be focussed largely on private sector SME. So what remains for civil society organisations is difficult to assess at this stage but will be limited. The priority areas for investment do cover a limited range of activities that are carried out by some community and voluntary organisations and some have been successful in applying for funding in the past (e.g. environment and social enterprises). Since the ERDF will focus largely on fixed investment, only larger organisations would have the scale to realistically bid for funds. An important factor of course is the co-financing rate, which is unlikely to be no more than 50% so the question arises of where matching funding comes from.

8. Actions proposed:

Potential applicants should review their current and planned activities to assess what areas of activity and future investment projects could come within the scope of one or more of the investment priorities set out above in Section 5 and in more detail in the Operational Programmes for the two regions.

Contact should be made with the two management bodies (BMW and SE regional assemblies) in ROI and DFP in N Ireland for advice on what may be the possibilities for funding of identified projects.

6. Cohesion Policy

European Territorial Cooperation Fund

Interreg V: Ireland/N Ireland/Scotland

1. Regulation:

The Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the support of European Territorial Cooperation from the European Regional Development Fund was adopted on 17 December 2013 [Final regulation](#). This programme has 3 different components: (a) cross-border cooperation (Interreg V), (b) transnational cooperation (Peace IV), and (c) Interregional cooperation.

2. Budget:

EU: Total for period 2014-2020: €11,700m.

Cross-border cooperation: €8,569m

Transnational cooperation: €2,431m

Inter-regional cooperation: €700m

The overall EU budget for Ireland (ROI and NI) for the Interreg programme is €240 over the 7 years.

EU co-financing rate. Up to 85%.

3. Management: Indirect

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Directorate General for Regional Policy	ROI: Department of Public Expenditure and Reform NI: DFP Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	NA	Pat Colgan, CEO, SEUPB

Managing Agency. The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has overall responsibility for the implementation of Interreg and Peace in ROI and NI. The other elements of this programme are managed in Ireland as follows:

European Territorial Co-operation Programmes		National Contact Points
PEACE	SEUPB	SEUPB
Ireland-NI-Western-Scotland	SEUPB	SEUPB
		Regional Contact Points
Ireland-Wales	Wales (MA + CA)	S&E Regional Assembly
Atlantic Area	Portugal	BMW Regional Assembly
Northern Periphery	Sweden	BMW Regional Assembly
North West Europe	Sweden	S&E Regional Assembly

4 Timetable:

Regulation: Adopted on 17 December 2013.

Partnership Agreement: November 2014

Operational Programme: March 2015

Calls for Proposals: First calls are expected from May

5. Eligible Activities:

Geographical Coverage

A series of interactive maps on the Commission's Regional Policy website show the geographical coverage of Interreg [Geographical Coverage](#).

For Interreg V, the four main objectives for 2014-2020 together with the amounts allocated to each priority are as follows:

Thematic Objective 1 – Strengthening research, technological development and innovation - €60,926,835 (25%).

- €45,000,000 (19%) Investment priority 1.1; *Enhancing research and innovation*; and
- €15,926,835 (6%) Investment priority 1.2; *Promoting business investment in R&I*.

Thematic Objective 6 – Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency - €72,000,000 (30%)

- €22,000,000 (9%) ; *Protecting and restoring biodiversity*; and
- €50,000,000 (21%); *Investing in the water sector*.
-

Thematic Objective 7 – Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructure €40,000,000 (17%),

- *Developing and improving environmentally-friendly and low carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure*;

Thematic Objective 9 – Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination - €53,000,000 (22%),

- Investing in health and social infrastructure.

6. Information Sources:

At EU level, the Commission's regional policy website gives a comprehensive overview of the strategic objectives. At national level the most useful sources are the website of the Special EU Programmes Body [SEUPB](#) as well as the websites of the two Regional Assemblies in ROI – [BMW](#) and [Southern and Eastern](#). The full operational programme for Interreg has just been published and is available at [Interreg OP 2014-2020](#). A summary fact sheet can be found on the SEUPB web site that gives the essential details. Calls for Proposals under the programme will be published from May 2015 [Calls Timetable](#).

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7. Assessment of Potential:

There is a substantial budget for Interreg. As for other structural fund programmes, investment is targeted mainly at infrastructure type investments. However, the eligible activities as set out above do cover some of the activities of the community and voluntary sector, especially under the headings of environment and social inclusion so, in principle, there should be opportunities for some of their activities. Co-financing for Interreg is 85%, substantially higher than for normal ESF and ERDF funding. The one drawback for organisations in ROI is that geographical coverage is restricted to the border counties only, with some very limited exceptions. All projects funded under Interreg V must be cross-border in nature and preferably include Scottish as well as N Ireland partners. Under Interreg V the emphasis will be on larger projects of €4-€6 million. So, smaller organisations will probably need to seek out consortia to participate in. It is likely that a number of

intermediary organisations will be selected to run sub-programmes and they in turn my call for proposals from smaller organisations.

8. Actions proposed:

As for other EU programmes, each organisation should review its activities to see if any of its current or planned activities could come within the scope of the eligible activities outlined above or could do so if organised on a North-South basis. The Operational Programme for Interreg was published in March 2015 and should be examined carefully to identify possible opportunities. Contact should be made with SEUPB to get advice on possibilities for funding of projects thus identified, and to participate in seminars and workshops to be organised for potential applicants fro each call for proposals.

The list of beneficiaries of previous programmes should be reviewed to identify NGOs that have benefited in the past (see SEUPB website). These may be useful sources of information on how best to prepare for Interreg V.

Once intermediary organisations are selected for certain sub-programmes, these should be contacted to explore funding opportunities under the approved sub-programmes.

7. Cohesion Policy

European Territorial Cooperation Fund

Interreg V: Wales/Ireland

1. Regulation:

The Regulation on European Territorial Cooperation under the European Regional Development Fund was adopted on 17 December 2013 [Final regulation](#). This programme has 3 different components: (a) cross-border cooperation (Interreg V), (b) transnational cooperation (Peace IV), and (c) Interregional cooperation. The Wales Ireland programme comes under the first of these sub-headings.

2. Budget:

EU: Total for period 2014-2020: €11,700m.

Cross-border cooperation: €8,569m

Transnational cooperation: €2,431m

Inter-regional cooperation: €700m

The overall EU budget for Ireland/Wales programme is €79 million, with a total budget including national contributions of €100 million.

EU co-financing rate: 80%.

3. Management: Indirect

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Directorate General for Regional Policy	ROI Department of Public Expenditure and Reform; South and East Region.
Head of Unit/Principal Officer		

Managing Agency. The South and East Region in Ireland and the Welsh European Funding Office manage this programme jointly.

4 Timetable:

Regulation: Adopted on 17 December 2013.

Partnership Agreement: November 2014

Operational Programme: March 2015

Calls for Proposals: First calls are expected from May 2015

5. Eligible Activities:

The OP for Wales Ireland sets out three main priorities for the programme:

- Cross border cooperation in research, technology and innovation;
- Adaptation of the Irish Sea and coastal communities to climate change;
- Development of natural resources and cultural heritage (with a focus on tourism).

6. Information Sources:

At EU level, the Commission's regional policy website gives a comprehensive overview of the strategic objectives of EU territorial cooperation [EU Regional Policy](#). At national level full details of the programme have been published by the Welsh European Funding Office at [Wales Ireland Programme](#). The South and East Region is the main source of information in Ireland [Southern and Eastern](#). The full Operational Programme can be found at [OP](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

There is a substantial budget for the Wales-Ireland Programme – around €100 million. As for other structural fund programmes, investment is targeted mainly at infrastructure type investments. However, the eligible activities set out above do cover some of the activities of the community and voluntary sector, especially under the headings of natural resources and cultural heritage so, in principle, there should be opportunities for funding some of their activities. Co-financing is 80%, substantially higher than for normal ESF and ERDF funding. All projects funded under this programme must be within the designated geographical area and must be cross-border in nature.

8. Actions proposed:

As for other EU programmes, each organisation should review its activities to see if any of its current or planned activities could come within the scope of the eligible activities outlined above or could do so if organised on an East-West basis.

Contact should be made with the South and East Region to get advice on possibilities for funding of projects thus identified, and to participate in seminars and workshops to be organised for potential applicants.

The first Calls for Proposals under this programme will be launched in May. These should be examined closely to assess eligibility for project ideas.

Since cross-border cooperation is an essential feature of this programme, potential applicants should contact the South and East Regional Assembly to begin seeking out partners.

8. Cohesion Policy

Transnational Cooperation

1. Regulation:

The Regulation on European Territorial Cooperation under the European Regional Development Fund was adopted on 17 December 2013 [Final regulation](#). This programme has 3 different components: (a) cross-border cooperation (Interreg V), (b) transnational cooperation, and (c) Interregional cooperation. The transnational cooperation programmes come under the second of these sub-headings.

There are 13 programme zones for transnational cooperation in the EU, three of which are relevant to Ireland - the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme (NPA), the North West Europe Programme (NWE) and the Atlantic Area Programme (AA).

2. Budget:

EU: Total for period 2014-2020 for territorial cooperation: €11,700m.

Cross-border cooperation: €8,569m

Transnational cooperation: €2,431m

Inter-regional cooperation: €700m

The overall EU budgets for the 3 transnational programmes for which Ireland is an eligible partner are:

- Northern Periphery and Arctic - €56 million
- North West Europe - €370 million
- Atlantic Area - € 140 million.

Ireland can expect to get around €20-€50 million of the total funds available, depending on the quality of proposals submitted.

EU co-financing rate: Up to 75%.

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Directorate General for Regional Policy	ROI Department of Public Expenditure and Reform; Periphery and North Atlantic: BMW region North West Europe: South and East region Atlantic: BMW region

4 Timetable:

Regulation: Adopted on 17 December 2013.

Partnership Agreement: November 2014

Operational Programme: March 2015

Calls for Proposals: Calls have been issued since late 2014 and some are on-going.

5. Eligible Activities:

Each of the programmes has a similar set of priorities though with minor variations.

The NPA programme has the following priorities:

- Using Innovation to Maintain and Develop Robust and Competitive Communities;
- Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage;
- Fostering Energy-Secure Communities through Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency;
- Protecting, Promoting and Developing Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The NWE programme focuses on :

- Strengthening Research, Technological Development and Innovation;
- Supporting the Shift towards a Low-Carbon Economy in all Sectors;
- Protecting the Environment and Promoting Energy Efficiency.

The Atlantic Area programme prioritises:

- Stimulating Innovation and Competitiveness;
- Fostering Resource Efficiency;
- Strengthening the Territory's Resilience to Risks of Natural Climate and Human Origin;
- Enhancing Bio-diversity and the Natural and Cultural Assets.

6. Information Sources:

At EU level, the Commission's regional policy website gives a comprehensive overview of the strategic objectives of EU territorial cooperation [EU Regional Policy](#). At national level full details of the programmes are given on the SEUPB site Transnational Programmes [SEUPB](#). The South and East Region gives information on the North West Atlantic programme [Southern and Eastern](#). The Border, Midland West Region has information on the other two [BMW](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

Overall, Ireland can reasonably expect get funds of up to €50 million under the transnational cooperation programmes. As for other structural fund programmes, investment is targeted mainly at infrastructure type investments. The transnational programmes are particularly aimed at regional and local authorities but community and voluntary bodies are also eligible to apply in their own right or as partners with public authorities. The eligible activities as set out above do cover some of the activities of the community and voluntary sector, especially under the headings of natural resources and cultural heritage so, in principle, there should be opportunities for funding some of their activities. Co-financing is up 75%, substantially higher than for normal ESF and ERDF funding.

8. Actions proposed:

As for other EU programmes, each organisation should review its activities to see if any of its current or planned activities could come within the scope of the eligible activities outlined above or could do so if organised on a transnational basis.

Contact should be made with the South and East Region or the Border/Midland/West region to get advice on possibilities for funding of projects thus identified, and to participate in seminars and workshops to be organised for potential applicants.

Calls for Proposals under these programmes have already been launched or will be in April/May. These should be examined closely to assess eligibility of project ideas.

Transnational cooperation is a key element of any activity funded under these three programmes so contact should be made with the two managing agencies in Ireland to seek out potential partners.

9. Cohesion Policy

PEACE IV

1. Regulation:

The Regulation on specific provisions for the support of European Territorial Cooperation from the European Regional Development Fund was adopted on 17 December 2013 [Final regulation](#). This Peace programme is funded under this Regulation:

2. Budget:

The Peace programme is a special programme for Ireland covering N Ireland and the border counties of ROI and is aimed at supporting the on-going process of peace and reconciliation.

EU Budget: €229 million

Co-financing rate: EU financing is up to 85% - matching funding may be provided by the national authorities bring the co-funding rate to 100% in some cases.

3. Management: Indirect

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Directorate General for Regional Policy	Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)
Head of Unit/Principal Officer		Pat Colgan CEO, SEUPB

4 Timetable:

Partnership Agreement: November 2014

Operational Programme: To be adopted in May 2015

Calls for Proposals: First calls expected in May 2015

5. Eligible Activities

The Operational Programme for Peace IV has yet to be published but a summary fact sheet setting out the main features of the programme can be found at [Peace IV Fact Sheet](#).

The PEACE Programme has four key priority areas.

Shared Education:

To increase the level of direct, sustained and curriculum-based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds.

Children & Young People:

To help young people, in particular those not in education, employment and/or training (NEETs) to develop a greater understanding and respect for diversity; access new opportunities and become active citizens.

Shared Spaces & Services:

To create new shared spaces and services where people from different communities and backgrounds can come together to learn from and respect each other.

Building Positive Relations at a Local Level:

To create a society characterized by good relations and respect, where cultural identity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialize together free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

6. Information Sources:

The [SEUPB](#) and the BMW Regional Assembly <http://www.bmwassembly.ie/> are the main sources of information on the Peace programme.

7. Assessment of Potential:

The eligible activities as set out above do cover activities in the community and voluntary sector so in principle there could be significant opportunities for funding. Co-financing for Peace projects is expected to be 85%. As for Interreg, the one drawback for organisations in ROI is that geographical coverage is restricted to the border counties only, with some very limited exceptions. Unlike Interreg, cross-border cooperation is not a necessary though a preferred requirement. There will be a focus on larger scale projects so smaller organisation will have to be part of larger consortia.

8. Actions proposed:

As for other EU programmes, each organisation should review its activities to see if any of its current or planned activities could come within the scope of the eligible activities outlined above.

Contact should be made with SEUPB to get advice on possibilities for funding of projects thus identified, as soon as the operational programme is published and to take part in relevant information workshops and seminars which are now on-going.

The list of beneficiaries of previous programmes should be reviewed to identify NGO's that have benefited in the past. These may be useful sources of information on how best to prepare for Peace IV.

Once intermediary organisations have been selected for certain sub-programmes, they should be contacted to get early information on the types of activity they will fund and how sub-calls may be organised.

10. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (Leader)

1. Regulation:

The Regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development was adopted by the Council on 17 December 2013 [EARDF](#).

2. Budget:

EU: € 95,577 million (2014-2020)

ROI: €2,190 million of which **Leader budget:** €157 million

NI: Est. £450 million of which **Leader budget** est. €50 million

EU co-financing rate: generally 50% (national contribution to Leader will be around €100)

3. Management: Indirect

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Directorate General for Agriculture	ROI: Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment NI: Department of Agriculture
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	NA	

4 Timetable:

Partnership Agreement: Adopted November 2014

Operational Programme: Adopted Autumn 2014

Calls for Proposals: TBD

5. Eligible Activities:

The basic regulation sets down the following broad objectives for the Fund:

1. Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
2. Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability;
3. Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture;

4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry;
5. Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
6. Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas, with a focus on the following areas:
 - facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation;
 - fostering local development in rural areas;
 - enhancing accessibility to, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas.

Most of the RDP's funds go to farmers directly through various schemes operated by the Department of Agriculture. Leader gets less than 10% of the budget. The basic distinction between Leader and the rest of RDP programme is that the former is managed through a local bottom-up approach and is open to any group to apply and not just to farmers. The activities funded under Leader will be those listed under priority 6 above.

6. Information Sources:

In Ireland (ROI) the rural development programme is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture while the Department of Environment and Local Government manages Leader. The latest information on the programme can be found at [Leader Programme](#). In Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible [DARD](#). The EU Commission supports a network of national rural networks in the EU whose aim is to assist organisations to participate in the rural development programmes. The NRN for ROI is based in the Tipperary Institute [Irish NRN](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

There are significant possibilities for funding the community and voluntary sector under Leader. The issue at the time of completing this report is how the programme will be managed. This arises from the general policy of aligning local development schemes with the general reorganisation of local government. The latest developments on this can found at [Leader Fund Allocations by County](#). A call for tender from potential Local Action Groups was published at the beginning of April. It will be some months yet before funding begins to flow to local community groups.

8. Recommended Actions

The Leader programme will focus on local, bottom-up initiatives in rural areas so organisations that have a network of members or member organisations in rural areas should review the EU regulation, to identify areas of activity that might be eligible for funding under Leader. Until the question of how the programme will be delivered on the ground is resolved over the coming months, calls for proposals cannot be issued by Local Action Groups as that have yet to be selected. Nonetheless, contact should be made with existing Leader management companies that were responsible for the management of Leader under the 2007-2013 programme to get an update on how this is progressing and when calls for proposals from community and voluntary groups will be issued.

The Leader programme document referred to above should also be reviewed to gauge if activities carried out by your organisation are, in principle, eligible for funding.

11. Security and Citizenship

Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

DG Home

1. Regulation

The Regulation establishing the AMIF was adopted in April 2014 [AMIF Regulation](#) .

2. Budget

EU: €3.12 billion

ROI: Est. €3.5 million per year.

N. Ireland: Est. €1 million per year.

EU co-financing rate: 75% (or 90% in very exceptional cases).

3. Management: Indirect with some Direct

	EU	IrelandNI
Responsible Department	DG Home	Department of Justice and Equality (ROI) Dept of Justice
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	Martin Schieffer	John Hurley NI: Stephen Sykes

4. Timetable

Legislation. Regulation adopted April 2014

Commission Work Programme: Adopted August 2014

National Programme: Not yet adopted

National Calls for Proposals: To be decided

5. Eligible Activities

The AMIF Regulation sets out the following objectives and eligible actions for the programme:

To strengthen and develop the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension through:

- Projects aiming at improving reception and asylum systems
- Projects aiming at improving Member States' capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate their asylum policies
- Projects related to resettlement
- Persons pledged for resettlement with the lump sum
- Projects under Union actions aiming at strengthening and developing the common European Asylum System

To support legal migration to the Union in line with the economic and social needs of Member States and promote the effective integration of third-country nationals, including of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection

- Projects aiming at facilitating legal migration and increasing the number and quality of pre-departure measures,
- Projects related to integration measures, both at local and regional level
- Projects aiming at increasing the capacity of Member States to support legal migration to the Union and to promote the effective integration of third-country nationals
- Projects under Union actions within the Asylum and Migration Fund aiming at supporting legal migration to the Union and promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals.

To enhance fair and effective return strategies in the Member States with emphasis on sustainability of return and effective readmission in the countries of origin

- Projects aiming at increasing the number and quality of measures accompanying return procedures
- Projects aiming at increasing the number and quality of return measures
- Projects aiming at increasing the practical cooperation between Member States and the capacity of Member States to develop effective and sustainable return policies
- Projects under Union actions aiming at enhancing fair and effective return strategies in the Member States.

To enhance the solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States, in particular towards the most affected by migration and asylum flows.

- Projects addressing relocation
- Persons pledging for relocation with the lump sum
- Emergency actions addressing migratory pressure.

6. Information Sources

The main source is the website of the Migration and Home Affairs Directorate General [DG Home](#). As yet no information is available from the Dept. of Justice in Ireland on the national programme.

7. Assessment of Potential.

This is an important programme for organisations involved in migration, asylum and integration, with a total annual budget for Ireland (North and South) of around €5 million. Much of this budget will be managed by the Dept. of Justice in ROI and its equivalent in N Ireland. There is a risk that much of this budget will be taken up by public bodies with only a small share given to the community and voluntary sector. The EU co-financing rate is relatively high at 75% and in exceptional cases up to 90%. It remains to be seen if the national authorities in Ireland will top this up. At the EU level, calls for proposals for pan-European projects (Union Actions) will be published periodically. The amount of funding for such projects is likely to be very limited (in 2014, it was 3 million €).

8. Actions proposed

Since the Migration, Asylum and Integration Programme will be mainly managed at national level, the first step in the implementation of the programme in Ireland will be the adoption by the Irish authorities of the operational programme for Ireland. Unfortunately the Department has not yet given any details on how the programme is to be managed in Ireland.

For those organisations not already linked into EU partnerships and networks, it is important that they take steps to do so as soon as possible in anticipation of future call for proposals which will probably give priority to activities involving transnational cooperation.

12. Security and Citizenship

JUSTICE

1. Regulation

Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 was adopted on 17 December 2013 establishing a [Justice Programme](#) for the period 2014 to 2020

2. Budget

EU: € 378m for 2014-2020

ROI: Est. €650,000 per annum

N. Ireland: Est. €150,000 per annum

3. Management: Direct

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	DG Justice	Department of Justice and Equality . ROI Dept. of Justice, NI
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	Paul Nemitz	ROI: Deaglan O'Brian

4. Timetable:

Legislation. The regulation was adopted in December 2013

Commission Work Programme: The programme for 2015 has recently been published and can be found at [Justice Programme](#).

EU Call for Proposals: Information on past, current and future Calls for Proposals can be found on the same web site.

5. Eligible Activities

Objectives

The overall aim of the Justice Programme is to help create a European area of Justice, based on mutual trust. It promotes judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, helps train judges, prosecutors and other legal professionals, and supports EU action to tackle drugs. Union legislation in the area of civil law and criminal law covers a broad spectrum from contractual law and insolvencies to procedural rights and victims' rights. The Justice Programme will support their effective and consistent application, and ensure proper access to justice for people and businesses in Europe. The Justice Programme is the successor of three current funding programmes (Civil Justice, Criminal Justice and Drug Prevention and Information Programmes).

Eligible actions

To promote effective, comprehensive and consistent application of Union legislation in the areas of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, including

- Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics etc.)
- Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination
- Support to key actors

To facilitate access to justice, including

- Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)
- Training activities
- Mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination
- Support to key actors

To prevent and reduce drug demand and supply, including

- Analytical activities (e.g. studies, evaluations, collection of data and statistics, etc.)
- Mutual learning,
- Cooperation, awareness- raising and dissemination.

6. Information Sources

Details of the Justice Programme can be found on the Commission's website at: [Justice Programme](#). The work programme for 2015 can be found on this site.

7. Assessment of Potential.

Although the budget for Ireland is relatively small - around €650,000 per year - the actions it supports are directly relevant to a number of community and voluntary bodies. It should therefore be an important target for those organisations in the human rights and justice space. A number of these organisations have already been successful in applying for funding under previous programmes so there is already expertise on how to apply and also on the EU networks that might be useful to join or at least make contact with.

8. Actions proposed

- For those that have not already applied for funding under earlier programmes, they should make contact with those who have (e.g. ICCL, ICI) for advice.
- All potential applicants should review their work programmes to identify activities that are eligible under the terms of the regulation and work programme for 2015. Outline project proposals should be prepared on the basis of this review.
- If not already done work should begin on making links with EU networks and exploring potential partnerships within Ireland and in other Member States.
- Keep a regular watch on the following site to see open and planned calls for proposals [Calls for Proposals](#).

13. Security and Citizenship

Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme

1. Regulation

Regulation 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing a [Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme](#) for the period 2014 to 2020, was adopted on 17 December 2014.

2. Budget

EU: €440 million for 2014-2020

ROI: Est. €600,000 per year

N. Ireland: Est. €150,000 per year

Co-financing rate: 60% (higher in very exceptional cases).

3. Management: Direct

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	DG Just	Department of Justice and Equality ROI Department of Justice NI
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	Paul Nemitz	ROI: Deaglan O'Brian

4. Timetable:

Regulation: Adopted in December 2013

Work Programme: The work programme for 2015 has been published.

Call for Proposals: Calls for 2015 are issued on an on-going basis .

5. Eligible Activities

The Programme has the following specific objectives:

- (a) to promote the effective implementation of the principle of non -discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to respect the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter;
- (b) to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance;
- (c) to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (d) to promote equality between women and men and to advance gender mainstreaming;
- (e) to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women, as well as violence against other groups at risk, in particular groups at risk of violence in close relationships, and to protect victims of such violence;
- (f) to promote and protect the rights of the child;
- (g) to contribute to ensuring the highest level of protection of privacy and personal data;
- (h) to promote and enhance the exercise of rights deriving from citizenship of the Union;
- (i) to enable individuals in their capacity as consumers or entrepreneurs in the internal market to enforce their rights deriving from Union law, having regard to the projects funded under the Consumer Programme.

Eligible Actions

The Programme will finance the following types of actions:

- (a) analytical activities, such as the collection of data and statistics; the development of common methodologies and, where appropriate, indicators or benchmarks; studies, researches, analyses and surveys; evaluations; the elaboration and publication of guides, reports and educational material; workshops, seminars, experts' meetings and conferences;
- (b) training activities, such as staff exchanges, workshops, seminars, train-the-trainer events and the development of online training tools or other training modules;
- (c) mutual learning, cooperation, awareness-raising and dissemination activities, such as the identification of, and exchanges concerning, good practices, innovative approaches and experiences; the organisation of peer reviews and mutual learning; the organisation of conferences, seminars, media campaigns, including in the online media, information campaigns, including institutional communication on

the political priorities of the Union as far as they relate to the objectives of the Programme; the compilation and publication of materials to disseminate information about the Programme and its results; the development, operation and maintenance of systems and tools using information and communication technologies;

- (d) support for main actors whose activities contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Programme, such as support for NGOs in the implementation of actions with European added value, support for key European actors, European-level networks and harmonised services of social value; support for Member States in the implementation of Union law and policies; and support for networking activities at European level among specialised bodies and entities as well as national, regional and local authorities and NGOs, including support by way of action grants or operating grants.

6. Information Sources

Details on the Rights and Citizenship Programme can be found on the Commission's website at: [Rights and Citizenship](#). Details of the work programme for 2015 can be found at [Work Programme 2015](#). Information on past, current and planned calls for proposals can be found at [Calls for Proposals](#) :

7. Assessment of Potential.

Overall, the likely funds available to Ireland are relatively small - around €650,000 per annum. However, this programme is targeted at activities in which community and voluntary bodies in the Wheel are involved and should therefore be a possible source of potential funding. The co-financing rate is generally 60% unless the authorities in Ireland agree to some form of matching contribution. If not, finding a matching contribution from other sources will be a challenge.

8. Actions proposed

Potential applicants should review the programme and identify the broad areas that are eligible for support that coincide with activities in their own work programme.

Outline proposals for funding should be drafted as a basis for making contact with potential partners both in Ireland and in other EU Member States. If not already done, work should begin immediately to establish contact with EU networks and umbrella bodies in this field.

14. Security and Citizenship

Europe for Citizens

1. Regulation

The Regulation establishing for the period 2014-2020 was adopted on 14 April 2014. [Europe for Citizens Regulation](#).

2. Budget

EU: (€m)

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MFF	21,0	21,9	22,9	24,0	25,1	26,2	27,2

ROI: Est. €250, 000 per annum

NI: Est. €100,000 per annum

Co-financing rate: Between 70% and 90% depending on the actions.

3. Management:

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	DG Comm. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency Service	ROI: Department of the Taoiseach
Executive Agency	See: EACEA	

4. Timetable:

Legislation: Adopted April 2014

EU Work Programme: Adopted in autumn 2014

EU Call for Proposals: On-going

5. Eligible Activities

Objectives

The programme has the following specific objectives, to be implemented through actions on a transnational level or with a clear European dimension:

1. Raise awareness on remembrance, the Union's history, identity and aim by stimulating debate, reflection and networking; Progress will be measured against the number of beneficiaries reached directly and indirectly, quality of projects, and percentage of first time applicants.
2. Encourage democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process and promoting opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at Union level. Progress will be measured against the number of beneficiaries reached directly and indirectly, the perception of the EU and its institutions by the beneficiaries, quality of projects, and percentage of first time applicants.

Supported actions

1. The programme shall consist of the following two strands:
 - (a) "Remembrance and European citizenship"
 - (b) "Democratic engagement and civic participation".

The two strands will be complemented by horizontal actions for analysis, dissemination and exploitation of project results ("Valorisation" actions).

2. To achieve its objectives, the programme finances the following types of actions, implemented on a transnational level or with a clear European dimension:
 - Citizens' meetings, town-twinning
 - Creation and operations of transnational partnerships and networks
 - Support for organisations of a general European interest
 - Community building and debates on citizenship issues based on the use of ICT and/or social media
 - Union level events

- Debates/studies and interventions on defining moments in European history, in particular to keep the memory alive of the crimes committed under Nazism and Stalinism
- Reflection/debates on common values
- Initiatives to raise awareness on the EU institutions and their functioning
- Actions that exploit and further valorise the results of the supported initiatives
 - Studies on issues related to citizenship and civic participation
 - Support of programme information/advice structures in the Member States.

6. Information Sources

EACEA, the EU managing agency for the Citizens for Europe programme, is the key source of information on this programme. See [EACEA](#).

The contact point in ROI for this programme in the past has been the Institute of Public Administration. A contact point for the present programme has yet to be appointed.

The annual work programme for 2015 can be found at [Work Programme 2015](#). Calls for proposals for this year have been published and most are now closed. The next call for proposals under this programme should appear towards the end of 2015.

7. Assessment of Potential.

Overall, the potential for funding for community and voluntary organisations in Ireland is quite limited unless they are involved with some EU umbrella bodies that will be the main beneficiaries of the programme e.g. ECAS – the European Citizens Action Service [ECAS](#).

8. Actions proposed

Since potential for funding is limited, contact should be made with the Institute of Public Administration in Dublin, or whoever else is appointed as the national contact point, to make an initial assessment of funding opportunities before investing much time in drafting potential proposals.

Examples of the kind of organisations supported under this programme in 2014/15 can be found at [Bodies Supported](#).

Next Calls for Proposals should appear in late 2015 on the following site: [Calls for Proposals](#).

15. Security and Citizenship

Health for Growth

1. Regulation:

The Regulation establishing a Health For Growth Programme for the period 2014-2020, the third multi-annual programme of EU action in the field of health, was adopted in March 2014 [Reg 282/2014](#).

2. Budget:

EU: €449 million for 2014-2020, or €64 million per year

ROI: Est.: €750,000 per year

NI: Est.: €250,000 per year

Co-financing rate: Generally 60%

3. Management: Direct

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Directorate General for Health and Consumers	ROI: Department of Health
Contact point	CHAFEA	Health Research Bureau HRB

The EU Managing Agency is the Consumers Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency [Chafea](#). It issues calls and assesses applications.

4 Timetable:

Legislation: Regulation adopted on in March 2014.

Work Programme: The work programme for 2015 is expected in May 2015

Calls for proposals: Will be indicated in the EU Work Programme. Expected by early summer 2015.

5. Eligible Activities:

Objectives and activities

Contributing to innovative and sustainable health systems:

- 1.1. Develop EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment in the context of Directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare;
- 1.2. Promote the uptake of health innovation and e-Health by increasing the interoperability of e-Health applications;
- 1.3. Support the sustainability of EU health workforce by promoting effective forecasting and planning and efficient recruitment and retention strategies;
- 1.4. Provide expertise to assist Member States undertaking health systems reforms;
- 1.5. Support to the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, a pilot project under Europe 2020 flagship initiative Innovation Union;
- 1.6. Actions required by or contributing to the objectives of EU legislation in the fields of medical devices as well as e-Health and Health Technology Assessment provisions in legislation on cross border healthcare;
- 1.7. Foster a health knowledge system, including Scientific Committees, to contribute to evidence-based decision making.

Increasing access to better and safer healthcare for citizens:

- 2.1. Set up accreditation and support European Reference Networks;
- 2.2. Support action on rare diseases including creation of European Reference Networks (in accordance with 2.1), information and registries based on the common criteria for accreditation;
- 2.3. Strengthen collaboration on patient safety and quality of healthcare, by increasing the availability of information to patients, exchange of best practices and development of guidelines; support action on chronic diseases care and research including development of European guidelines;
- 2.4. Develop guidelines to improve the prudent use of antimicrobials in human medicine and reduce the practices that increase antimicrobial resistance;
- 2.5. Actions required by or contributing to the objectives of EU legislation in the fields of tissues and cells, blood, organs, patients' rights in cross-border healthcare and medicinal products;
- 2.6. Foster a health knowledge system, to contribute to evidence-based decision making.

Promoting good health and preventing diseases:

- 3.1 Exchange best practices on key health issues such as smoking prevention, abuse of alcohol and obesity;
- 3.2 Supporting the prevention of chronic diseases including cancer, by sharing knowledge and best practice and developing joint activities;
- 3.3. Actions required by or contributing to the objectives of EU legislation in the fields of tobacco products and advertisement;
- 3.4. Foster a health knowledge system, to contribute to evidence-based decision making.

Protecting citizens from cross border health threats:

- 4.1. Strengthen preparedness and response for serious cross border health threats;
- 4.2. Improve risk assessment capacity by providing additional capacities for scientific expertise and map existing assessments;
- 4.3. Support capacity building against health threats in Member States by *inter alia* developing preparedness and response planning and coordination, common approaches to vaccination, developing guidelines and mechanisms for joint procurement of medical countermeasures;
- 4.4. Actions required by or contributing to the objectives of EU legislation in the fields of communicable diseases and other health threats;
- 4.5. Foster a health knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision making.

Eligible organisations

Funding will be provided through:

- Grants for action co-financed by the competent authorities responsible for public health in the Member States (called “Joint Actions”)
- Grants for actions (projects) co-financed by other public, non-governmental or private bodies, including international health organisations.
- Grants for the functioning of non-governmental bodies.

6. Information Sources:

The main information source is the EU Managing Agency Chafea [Chafea](#). In ROI the Health Research Board can help: [H201n5RB](#). The Commission adopts an annual work programme each year. That for 2015 is currently being finalised. That for 2014 can be found at [Work Programme 2014](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

The overall budget likely to be available for ROI and NI is relatively small, estimated at around €1 million per year. Among the themes covered is active ageing, which is of

relevance to a number of community and voluntary organisations. There are also some horizontal themes that may be of relevance in other areas: childcare and early learning. The emphasis is clearly on activities that have a EU dimension, involving organisations in several member states. So, becoming of part a EU network will be a minimum requirement for any organisation in Ireland that wishes to benefit from this programme. The co-funding rate is generally 60% so getting matching funding will be a challenge.

8. Actions proposed:

Establish contact with existing or emerging networks in the relevant fields.

Make contact with the EU Managing Agency for assistance on this and also with the relevant national/regional organisations: HRB in the Republic and Dept. of Health in N Ireland.

Watch for the publication of the EU Work Programme 2015 in May/June and subsequent calls for proposals.

16. Security and Citizenship

Consumer Programme

1. Regulation:

The Regulation was adopted by the Council in February 2014 [Regulation 254/2014](#).

2. Budget:

EU budget: The overall EU budget for 2014-2020 is €188 million, or roughly €27 million per year.

Budget for ROI: Estimated at €300,000 per year.

Budget for NI: Estimated at €100, 000 per year

Co-financing rate: Generally 50% but with some exceptions where it may be as much as 95%. Conditions for higher than 50% are very stringent.

3. Management: Direct

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	DG for Health and Consumers	

Management Agency: The Health, Consumers and Food Executive Agency [Chafea](#)

3. Timetable

Regulation: Adopted February 2014

Work Programme. Work Programme for 2015 adopted in December 2014

Calls for Proposals: To be decided.

5. Eligible Activities:

The regulation sets out four main objectives for the programme:

Objective 1 - safety: to consolidate and enhance product safety through effective market surveillance throughout the Union. This objective will be measured in particular through the activity of the EU rapid alert system for dangerous consumer products (RAPEX).

Objective 2 - information and education: to improve consumers' education, information and awareness of their rights, to develop the evidence base for consumer policy and to provide support to consumer organisations.

Objective 3 - rights and redress: to consolidate consumer rights in particular through regulatory action and improving access to redress including alternative dispute resolution.

Objective 4 - enforcement: to support enforcement of consumer rights by strengthening cooperation between national enforcement bodies and by supporting consumers with advice.

Eligible activities to fulfil these objectives are as follows:

- (a) Under objective 1 - safety:
 - (1) scientific advice and risk analysis relevant to consumer health and safety regarding non-food products and services including support for the tasks of the independent scientific committees established by Commission Decision No 2008/721/EC setting up an advisory structure of Scientific Committees and experts in the field of consumer safety, public health and the environment;
 - (2) coordination of market surveillance and enforcement actions on product safety with regard to Directive No 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on general product safety, and actions to improve consumer services safety;
 - (3) maintenance and further development of databases on cosmetics;
- (b) Under objective 2 – information and education:
 - (4) building the evidence base for policy-making in areas affecting consumers;
 - (5) support to consumer organisations;
 - (6) enhancing the transparency of consumer markets and consumer information;
 - (7) enhancing consumer education;
- (c) Under objective 3 – rights and redress:
 - (8) preparation by the Commission of consumer protection legislation and other regulatory initiatives, monitoring the transposition by Member States and the subsequent evaluation of its impact, and the promotion of co-regulatory and self-regulatory initiatives;
 - (9) facilitating access to and monitoring of the functioning and the effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms for consumers, in particular of alternative dispute resolution schemes, including on-line, also through the development and maintenance of relevant IT tools;
- (d) Under objective 4 – enforcement:

(10) coordination of surveillance and enforcement actions with regard to Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 of 27 October 2004 on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws;

(11) financial contributions for joint actions with public or non-profit bodies constituting Union networks which provide information and assistance to consumers to help them exercise their rights and obtain access to appropriate dispute resolution, including out of court online resolution schemes (the European Consumer Centres Network).

Beneficiaries eligible for grants

1. Grants for the functioning of consumer organisations at Union level may be awarded to European consumer organisations which comply with all of the following conditions:

- (c) they are non-governmental, non-profit-making, independent of industry, commercial and business or other conflicting interests, and have as their primary objectives and activities the promotion and protection of the health, safety, economic and legal interests of consumers in the Union;
- (d) they are mandated to represent the interests of consumers at Union level by organisations in at least half of the Member States that are representative, in accordance with national rules or practice, of consumers, and that are active at regional or national level.

2. Grants for the functioning of international bodies promoting principles and policies, which contribute to the objectives of the Programme, may be awarded to organisations which comply with all of the following conditions:

- (e) they are non-governmental, non-profit-making, independent of business or other conflicting interests, and have as their primary objectives and activities the promotion and protection of the health, safety, economic and legal interests of consumers;

they carry out all of the following activities: provide for a formal mechanism for consumer representatives from the Union and third countries to contribute to political discussions and policies, organise meetings with policy officials and regulators to promote and advocate consumer interests with public authorities, identify common consumer issues and challenges, promote consumer views in the context of bilateral relations between the Union and third countries, □ contribute to the exchange and dissemination of expertise and knowledge on consumer issues in the Union and third countries, and produce policy recommendations.

3. Grants for the functioning of Union-level bodies established for the coordination of enforcement actions in the field of product safety may be awarded to bodies recognised for this purpose by Union legislation.

4. Grants for action to Union-wide bodies for the development of codes of conduct, best practices and guidelines for price, products quality and sustainability comparison may be awarded to bodies which comply with all of the following conditions:


they are non-governmental, non profit-making, independent of producers of goods and service providers, free of conflicting interests, and have amongst their primary objectives and activities the promotion and protection of consumer interests; they are active in at least half of the Member States.
5. Grants for action to Member States' authorities responsible for consumer affairs and to corresponding authorities of third countries may be awarded to authorities notified to the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 or Directive 2001/95/EC by a Member State or by a third country referred to in Article 7 of this Regulation.
6. Grants to enforcement officials from Member States and third countries may be awarded to officials from authorities notified to the European Commission for the purposes of Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and of Directive 2001/95/EC by a Member State or by a third country referred to in Article 7 of this Regulation.
7. Grants for action may be awarded to a public body or a non-profit-making body selected through a transparent procedure and designated by a Member State or a third country referred to in Article 7 of this Regulation. The designated body shall be part of an Union network which provides information and assistance to consumers to help them exercise their rights and obtain access to appropriate dispute resolution (the European Consumer Centres Network).
8. Grants for action may be awarded to complaint handling bodies established and operating in the Union and in countries of the European Free Trade Associations participating in the European Economic Area, which are responsible for collecting consumer complaints, or attempting to resolve complaints, or giving advice, or providing information to consumers about complaints or enquiries, and which are a third party to a complaint or enquiry by a consumer about a trader.. They do not include consumer complaint handling mechanisms operated by traders and dealing with enquiries and complaints directly with the consumer or mechanisms providing complaint-handling services operated by or on behalf of a trader.

6. Information Sources:

The main source of information is the EU Managing Agency, Chafea. Contact details can be found at [Chafea](#). The work programme for 2015 is at: [Work Programme 2015](#). Details of past and current calls for proposals can also be found on this site.

7. Assessment of Potential:

Overall the budget is small and is likely to be taken up by consumer groups well organised at the EU level. Unless the eligible activities are particularly relevant to a specific organisation, or it is already linked into an existing EU network, the attractions of this programme are not high. The main beneficiary in Ireland is the European Consumers Centre [ECC](#).



17. Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

DG ENLARG

1. Regulation:

The Regulation on the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance was adopted by the Council on 11 March 2014 [231/2014](#).

2. Budget:

The EU budget for 2014-2020 is €11.7 billion.

It is targeted at those neighbouring countries that have already begun the process of preparing for EU accession or have been recognised by the EU as potential applicants. There is some scope for civil society organisations in Ireland to participate in this programme by providing technical assistance, mainly in partnership with public authorities in the EU who are the main source of technical assistance to their counterparts in the pre-accession countries.

The current eligible countries are: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey.**

3. Management: Direct

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Directorate General for Enlargement	NA
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	NA	

4 Timetable:

Partnership Agreement: There is a separate partnership agreement between the EU and each IPA country. These can be found on the DG for [Enlargement website](#).

Operational Programme: NA

Calls for Proposals: In some cases the Commission will publish calls for technical assistance. In others, the IPA countries themselves will publish calls.

5. Eligible Activities:

Assistance will be given to the following specific objectives according to the needs of each beneficiary country and their individual enlargement agenda:

- A Support for political reforms, *inter alia*:
 - (i) strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law, including its implementation;
 - (ii) promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, enhanced respect for minority rights, promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and freedom of the press, and promotion of good neighbourly relations;
 - (iii) the fight against corruption and organised crime;
 - (iv) public administration reform and good governance;
 - (v) the development of civil society and social dialogue;
 - (vi) reconciliation, peace building and confidence building measures.
- B Support for economic, social and territorial development, with a view to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, *inter alia* through:
 - (i) the achievement of Union standards in the economy and economic governance;
 - (ii) economic reforms necessary to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union, while pursuing economic, social and environmental goals;
 - (iii) fostering employment and developing human capital;
 - (iv) social and economic inclusion, in particular of minorities and vulnerable groups;
 - (v) development of physical capital, the improvement of connections with Union and regional networks.
- C Strengthening of the ability of beneficiary countries to fulfil the obligations stemming from membership by supporting progressive alignment with and adoption, implementation and enforcement of the *aquis communautaire*, structural, cohesion, agricultural and rural development funds and policies of the Union.
- D Regional integration and territorial cooperation involving beneficiary countries, Member States and, where appropriate, third countries within the scope of Regulation (EU) No [...] establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument.

6. Information Sources:

Latest news can be found on the DG Enlargement site [Enlargement](#) and that of its technical assistance service [TAIEX](#).

The following site of the Europeaid body which manages the administration of the EU's external budgets gives a very useful and comprehensive view of current calls for tender related to its work [Europeaid](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

As for all external aid programmes of the EU, civil society organisations can participate by providing technical assistance mainly in partnership with public authorities in the EU member states to their non-EU counterparts. Becoming involved as a service provider in development aid is a specialised area. For small organisations it is probably beyond their capacity unless they can identify a specific niche, or partner with another organisation that is already involved in this type of activity. For larger organisations there can be several benefits – (a) additional revenue can be earned by using existing expertise (several community and voluntary organisations already do so), and (b) experience working with different partners outside Ireland can build valuable networks and be a very useful learning experience. Also, where an organisation is facing rationalisation, aid activities can be a way of usefully deploying what would otherwise be surplus resources.

8. Actions Proposed:

There are several ways to express an interest in providing services under the programme. First, contact can be made with the managing agency for development aid – DG Enlargement ([Enlargement](#)) setting out your areas of expertise and expressing interest to make this available to IPA countries.

The same should be done with TAIEX the coordinator of technical assistance for this programme [TAIEX](#).

Contact can also be made with the EC delegations in any of the countries listed above. It is also possible to make contact with one or more of the listed countries through their embassy or consulate in the UK or Ireland or their designated contact points [Contact Points](#).

There are also a number of private companies in Ireland whose main business is providing consultancy under EU and other aid programmes. Partnering with these on specific projects may be a possibility.

18. Global Europe

European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

1. Regulation:

The Regulation establishing a European Neighbourhood programme was adopted Council on 11 March 2014 [232/2014](#).

2. Budget:

The budget for this programme is €15.432 billion.

This is targeted at the 16 countries that are neighbours of the EU but not involved in a pre-accession programme. See the list of countries under Heading 7 below. EU Member States may be funded under the programme for the technical assistance they provide to these countries but the bulk of the funding goes directly to the neighbourhood countries themselves. See the DG DEVCO site for details of ENP: [DEVCO](#).

Civil society organisations in EU Member States can become involved in providing assistance and advice to counterpart organisations in the neighbourhood countries.

3. Management

	EU	Ireland
Responsible Department	Europeaid	NA
Head of Unit/Principal Officer	NA	

4. Timetable:

Legislation: Regulation adopted in March 2014

Work Programme: Not applicable

Calls for Proposals: Not applicable

5. Eligible Activities:

The following are the key objectives of the ENP:

Specific Objective 1: Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, principles of equality, establishing deep and sustainable democracy, promoting good governance and developing a thriving civil society including social partners.

Specific Objective 2: Achieving progressive integration into the Union internal market and enhanced sector and cross-sectional cooperation including through legislative approximation and regulatory convergence towards Union and other relevant international standards, related institution building and investments notably in interconnections.

Specific Objective 3: Creating conditions for well managed mobility of people and promotion of people-to-people contacts.

Specific Objective 4: Sustainable and inclusive development in all aspects, poverty reduction, including through private-sector development; promotion of internal economic, social and territorial cohesion, rural development, climate action and disaster resilience.

Specific Objective 5: Promoting confidence building and other measures contributing to security and the prevention and settlement of conflicts.

Specific Objective 6: Enhancing sub-regional, regional and Neighbourhood wide collaboration as well as Cross- Border Cooperation.

Community and voluntary sector organisations in Member States can be involved in providing technical assistance in any of these areas if they have the required expertise.

6. Information Sources:

The main information sources for this programme the Commission's managing DG – DEVCO ([Europeaid](#)), and the European External Action Service (<http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/>). Also useful is the Neighbourhood Info Centre [Neighbourhood Info Centre](#). The EU Technical Assistance Service [TAIEX](#) coordinates technical assistance to Neighbourhood countries and is an important point of contact for any organisation wishing to explore possibilities in this area. Examples of calls for proposals currently open at Europeaid can be found at [Calls for Proposals](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

The countries listed below are partners with the EU in ENP. Becoming involved as a service provider in development aid is a specialised area. For small organisations it is probably beyond their capacity unless they can identify a specific niche, or partner with another organisation that is already involved in this type of activity. For larger organisations there can be several benefits – (a) additional revenue can be earned by using existing expertise (several AP grantees already do so), and (b) experience working with different partners outside Ireland can build valuable networks and be a very useful learning experience. Also,

where an organisation is facing rationalisation, aid activities can be a way of usefully deploying what would otherwise be surplus resources.

[Algeria](#)
[Armenia](#)
[Azerbaijan](#)
[Belarus](#)
[Egypt](#)
[Georgia](#)
[Israel](#)
[Jordan](#)
[Lebanon](#)
[Libya](#)
[Moldova](#)
[Morocco](#)
[Palestine](#)
[Syria](#)
[Tunisia](#)
[Ukraine](#)

8. Actions proposed:

There are several ways to express an interest in providing services under the programme. First, contact can be made with the managing agency for development aid – Europeaid (http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm) setting out your areas of expertise and expressing interest to make this available to ENP countries. The same should be done with TAIEX. Contact can also be made with the EC delegations in any of the countries listed above. It is also possible to make contact with one or more of the listed countries through their embassy or consulate in the UK or Ireland. There are also a number of private companies in Ireland whose main business is providing consultancy under EU and other aid programmes. Partnering with these on specific projects may be a possibility.

19. Sustainable Growth

LIFE+

1. Regulation:

The Regulation establishing the LIFE+ programme was adopted on 11 December 2013 [Life Regulation](#).

2. Budget:

EU: The budget for this programme for 2014-2020 is €3,456 billion.

Ireland: Est. €7.5 million annually

Cofinancing: Rates range from 60% to 75% (the latter in exceptional cases).

3. Management: Direct

	EU	Ireland
	DG for Environment	DECLG
Head of Unit/Principal Officer		

4. Timetable:

Legislation: Regulation was adopted in December 2013.

Work Programme: Adopted for 2014-2017 in autumn 2014.

Calls for Proposals: Calls for proposals for 2015 not yet published.

5. Eligible Activities:

The work programme for Life+ covers the period 2014-2017 and can be found at [Life+ Work Programme](#).

The LIFE Programme is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and climate action projects throughout the EU. It will contribute to sustainable development and to the achievement of the objectives and targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the 7th Union Environmental Action Programme.

The programme has two sub-programmes, one for Environment, covering three priority areas: environment and resource efficiency; nature and biodiversity; and environmental governance and information; and one for Climate Action, covering the following areas: climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; and climate governance and information.

Sub-programme for Climate Action. This sub-programme will support efforts for better implementation and integration of climate-related objectives in the following areas:

- Climate Change Mitigation will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Climate Change Adaptation will focus on increasing resilience to climate change;
- Climate Governance and Information will focus on increasing awareness, communication, cooperation and dissemination on climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

The sub-programme will have a budget of approximately EUR 864 million over the duration of the Programme (or 25% of the overall LIFE budget 2014-2020).

Sub-programme for Environment. This sub-programme will support efforts for better implementation and integration of environmental objectives in the following areas:

- Environment and Resource Efficiency will focus on implementation of environment policy and include market replication-oriented innovation;
- Nature and Biodiversity will develop best practices for wider biodiversity challenges, while keeping its focus on Natura 2000;
- Environmental Governance and Information will promote knowledge sharing, dissemination of best practices, and better compliance, in addition to awareness raising campaigns.

It will have a budget of approximately EUR 2.6 billion over the duration of the Programme (or 75% of the overall LIFE budget 2014-2020).

6. Information Sources:

The Commission's Directorate General for Environment is responsible for the overall management of the programme and makes project selection. A detailed description of its activities on Life+ can be found at: [Life+ Overview](#). In Ireland, the national contact point for the programme is the DECLG. Their web site gives information on the programme and on whom to contact for advice: [Life+ Ireland](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

This is an important programme for any organisation involved in the area of the environment. Community and voluntary bodies are eligible to apply. In the past a significant number of Irish projects involving mainly public sector bodies and private companies have been funded. See the following for a list of previously successful projects in Ireland [Previous Projects](#). There is no requirement that projects are transnational in nature but they will get preference if they are. In general projects funded are of quite a large scale so smaller organisations would probably have to join forces with others to reach the required scale. EU funding is normally 60% so putting up matching funding is a challenge.

8. Actions proposed:

Potential applications should first review the work programme for 2014-2017 to assess if any of their activities could potentially come within scope of Life+.

Contact should then be made with the national contact point - [National Contact](#) - to get advice on how whether there would be a realistic prospect of success if an application were submitted.

Calls for proposals for 2015 will be published within the next few months. These should be carefully screened to see if the projects identified through the two previous steps would be eligible for funding under the call.

Contact should be made with relevant EU networks and umbrella bodies to gauge whether it would make sense to join with other EU partners in the preparation of an application.

20. Competitiveness for Growth

COSME

1. Regulation:

The Regulation establishing the Cosme programme was adopted on 11 December 2013
[Cosme Regulation](#).

2. Budget:

EU: The budget for this programme for 2014-2020 is € 2,294 million.

Ireland: Est. €5 million annually

Cofinancing: Not applicable. Assistance is mainly in the form of loan guarantees and other financial instruments.

3. Management: Direct

	EU	Ireland
Managing agency	DG for Internal Market and Industry	Enterprise Ireland
Contact point		

4. Timetable:

Legislation: Regulation adopted in December 2013.

Work Programme: The work programme for 2015 was adopted in autumn 2014.

Calls for Proposals: Calls for proposals for 2015 not yet published.

5. Eligible Activities:

COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with a budget of €2.3bn and a leverage effect able to provide up to €25bn in loans and other financial supports. The programme will support SMEs in the following areas: better access to finance for SMEs, access to markets and promotion of the entrepreneurial culture.

COSME has four main axes.

- Facilitating and improving access to finance for SMEs.
- Helping SME access international markets both inside and outside the EU.

- Promoting entrepreneurship
- Reducing administrative burdens and supporting the exchange of best practice

Access to Finance

The Loan Guarantee Facility

The COSME budget will fund guarantees and counter-guarantees for financial intermediaries (e.g. guarantee organisations, banks, leasing companies) to help them provide more loan and lease finance to SMEs.

By sharing the risk, the COSME guarantees will allow the financial intermediaries to expand the range of SMEs they can finance. This will facilitate access to debt finance for many SMEs who might otherwise not be able to raise the funding they need. **The**

Equity Facility for Growth

The COSME budget will also be invested in funds that provide venture capital and mezzanine finance to expansion and growth-stage SMEs in particular those operating across borders. The fund managers will operate on a commercial basis, to ensure that investments are focused on SMEs with the greatest growth potential.

Access to Markets

Cosme funds the Enterprise Europe Network that works through 600 partner organisations in 54 countries and has built a capacity to reach out to more than 2 million SMEs to provide support to penetrate export markets.

Promoting Enterprise

Initiatives under this heading include:

- *Entrepreneurship education* – exchanges among European educators and trainers to support best practice in entrepreneurship education in the EU.
- *Improving the business environment so entrepreneurs can grow and flourish* – together with improving the legal and fiscal environment, experts can also develop recommendations on the best support for businesses throughout their lifecycles. Specific support for Web entrepreneurs will be provided.
- *Role models and outreach to specific groups* –such as young people, women or senior entrepreneurs can benefit from mentoring or other tailored programmes.

Promoting a better business climate

This axis aims at a reduction of administrative and regulatory burden and improving the data and analytical tools available to policy makers for better and more effective decision-making

6. Information Sources:

The Commission manages this programme directly. Its web site gives an overview of the programme [Cosme Overview](#). The Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) has been set-up by the European Commission to manage on its behalf several EU programmes including COSME. The 2015 work programme can be found on the EASME web site at: [COSME Work Programme 2015](#). In Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices are the contact points for the European Enterprise Network and will provide help on how to go about accessing Cosme funding [Cosme Ireland](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

This programme is very much targeted at private sector small and medium size companies. For the community and voluntary sector the opportunities will probably be limited to larger social enterprises. Funding is mainly provided in the form of loans on special terms and few grants are available, with some exceptions such as small research grants for researchers and business support agencies and market access grants to companies. Overall this programme will be of limited interest to the community and voluntary sector in Ireland but some grant assistance may be available to social entrepreneurs under the fourth heading of the eligible measures listed above.

8. Actions proposed:

If you are large social enterprise it may be worth contacting Enterprise Ireland to get advice on what possibilities might be available as regards preferential loans or market access help.

Regularly review the Commission's calls for proposals to see if any are relevant to the work of social enterprises [Calls for Proposals](#).

21. Security and Citizenship

Creative Europe

1. Regulation:

The regulation establishing the programme was adopted on 11 December 2013 [Regulation 1295/2013](#).

2. Budget:

EU: The budget for this programme for 2014-2020 is €1,462 million.

Ireland: Est. €2 million annually

Co-financing: Up to 80%

3. Management: Direct

	EU	Ireland
Managing agency Contact point	Education Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency	The Arts Council

4. Timetable:

Legislation: Regulation adopted in December 2013.

Work Programme: The work programme was adopted in autumn 2014.

Calls for Proposals: Calls for proposals are on-going.

5. Eligible Activities:

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme of assistance to the culture and audiovisual sectors. It supports:

- Culture sector initiatives such as those promoting cross-border cooperation, platforms, networking, and literary translation;
- Audiovisual initiatives such as those promoting the development, distribution, or access to audiovisual works;

- A cross-sectoral strand including a Guarantee Facility and transnational policy cooperation.

Under the Culture sub-programme, opportunities exist for:

- Cooperation between cultural and creative organisations from different countries;
- Initiatives to translate and promote literary across the European Union;
- Networks helping the cultural and creative sector to operate competitively and transnationally;
- Establishing platforms to promote emerging artists and stimulating European programming for cultural and artistic works.

The MEDIA sub-programme, which supports the audiovisual and multimedia sector, provides opportunities for:

- Initiatives that aim to promote the distribution of works and access to markets;
- Initiatives for the development of projects or set of projects (slate funding);
- Support for the production of television programmes or video games;
- Activities to increase in and access to video works http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/opportunities/audiovisual-support/audience-dev_en.htm;
- Activities that promote interests in films, such as cinema networks of film festivals
- Measures that facilitate international cooperation http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/opportunities/audiovisual-support/inter-coprod_en.htm;
- Activities to build skills of audiovisual professionals.

6. Information Sources:

Creative Europe is managed directly by the EU Commission. An overview of the programme can be found on the web site of the Directorate General for Education and Culture at [Creative Europe Overview](#). The detailed organisation of the programme is handled by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency [EACEA](#). Calls for proposals can be found at [Calls for Proposals](#). The local contact point for advice and assistance is the Arts Council [Creative Europe Ireland](#).

7. Assessment of Potential:

This programme is targeted mainly at businesses in the culture and audio-visual sectors but organisations in the community and voluntary sector can apply under certain headings. Again social entrepreneurs in the arts field should find a number of headings under which funding may be available. Under most headings of the programme, transnational cooperation is an important theme so any prospective applicant should already have or begin searching for EU partners. The normal co-funding rate is high at 80% but a matching contribution of the remainder is still required of funded organisations.

8. Actions proposed:

The Arts Council help desk should be the first port of call for any organisation wishing to explore opportunities under this programme.

The web site of the Commission's Executive Agency gives up-to-date information on the programme's priorities and lists all current calls for proposals. Any prospective applicant should review this carefully.

If not already a member, interested organisations should make contact with EU networks and umbrella organisations to seek out potential EU partners. The Arts Council will help refer organisations to the relevant EU contacts.

APPENDIX 2 – ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED DURING THE PROJECT

Republic of Ireland

Dept. of Finance

Dept. of Public Expenditure and Reform

Dept. of Education and Skills

Dept. of Environment and Community Affairs

Dept. of Justice

Dept. of Agriculture and Marine

Southern Regional Assembly

North Western Regional Assembly

Pobal

Leargas

Health Research Bureau

University College Dublin

Enterprise Ireland

Philanthropy Ireland

Atlantic Philanthropies

EU Commission Representation in Ireland

Northern Ireland

Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister

Dept. of Finance and Personnel

Dept. of Employment and Learning

The British Council

Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust

NICVA

Special EU Programmes Body

University of Ulster

Queen's University Belfast

Cooperation Ireland

International Fund for Ireland

EU Commission Office

European Union

Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy

Directorate General for Employment, Social affairs and Inclusion

Directorate General for Education and culture

Directorate General for Justice

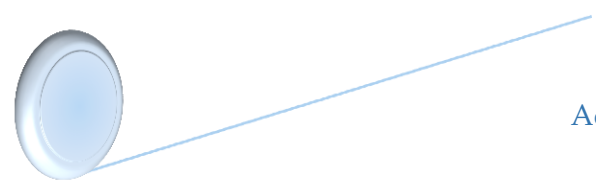
Directorate General for Home Affairs

Directorate General for Health and Consumers

Directorate General for Internal Market

DG for Agriculture

Directorate General for Research



TAIEX

ECAS

APPENDIX 3 – EU BUDGET 2014

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Implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems (EGNOS and Galileo).

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

European Earth Observation Programme (Copernicus)

Nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia

The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020)

Euratom Research and Training Programme

Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME)

The Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport (Erasmus for All)

European Union Programme for Social Change and Innovation (EAsI)

Action programme for customs in the European Union (Customs 2020)

Action programme for taxation in the European Union (Fiscalis 2020)

Programme to promote activities in the field of the protection of the European Union's financial interests (Hercule III)

Exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (Pericles 2020)

Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS)

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

Standards in the fields of financial reporting and auditing

Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA)

European statistical programme (ESP)

European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)

Heading 1b – ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

European Social Fund (ESF)

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

³ Headings in bold are those which have been selected as providing the main funding opportunities for the community and voluntary sector in Ireland

Cohesion Fund (CF)

Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

Heading 2 – SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: NATURAL RESOURCES

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Compulsory contributions to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other international organisations and Sustainable Fisheries Agreements (SFAs)

Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Heading 3 – SECURITY AND CITIZENSHIP

Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF)

Internal Security Fund (ISF)

Justice Programme

Rights and Citizenship programme

Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Europe for Citizens

Food and Feed

Health for Growth Programme

Consumer Programme

Creative Europe Programme

Statement on Financial Intervention of the Communication Policy Area

Heading 4 – GLOBAL EUROPE

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

Instrument of financial support for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community (TCC)

European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

Partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries (PI)

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

Instrument for Stability (IfS)

Humanitarian aid

Common foreign and security policy (CFSP)

Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)

Macro Financial Assistance (MFA)

Union Civil Protection Mechanism

European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps EU Aid Volunteers (EUAV)

Cooperation with Greenland

APPENDIX 4 – BUILDING THE CAPACITY TO ACCESS EU FUNDS

Background

One of the main conclusions of this report is that some form of support service is highly desirable, if not essential, for community and voluntary sector organisations in Ireland, especially the smaller organisations, if they are to engage seriously in assessing opportunities for and accessing EU funding. This Appendix sets out options to consider in this context.

Services Required

The main services a support system could provide include:

1. *Maintaining and developing the embryo database contained in Appendix 1 of this report.* Appendix 1 to this report includes detailed information on the 21 shortlisted. In time, and in the light of further experience, other programmes may be added. The information on the shortlisted programmes will also change frequently as a new phase of each programme is launched, sometimes on an annual basis or on a biennial basis. Staff dealing with programmes at EU and national level also change quite frequently. Regular updating of existing data and maintaining good links with programme managers will therefore be required.
2. *Assisting organisations to identify, within their work programmes and future plans, potential projects for EU funding.* In the 8-step process for accessing EU funds, set out in Part 4 of the report, it is recommended that, at an early stage, each organisation should aim to identify specific activities, current or planned, that could, in principle be eligible for EU funding. For those few organisations with a lot of experience already, this can be relatively straightforward. For others the job of matching potential projects against eligible activities in a range EU programmes can be onerous.
3. *Assisting potential applicants to find suitable partners, either at national level, or EU level or both.* This is a complex and sometimes delicate task. Even for those programmes that do not require EU partners (e.g. ESF, ERDF) smaller organisations may need to partner with others at national or regional level to gain the kind of economies of scale needed to have a reasonable chance of success. Although no details have yet been released, it appears that there will be an effort to apply a *de minimis* principle (i.e. push for larger projects to simplify administration) in some of these programmes, such as Interreg, for example. For all directly managed programmes (e.g. Horizon) and some indirectly managed programmes (e.g. Erasmus), being part of an EU partnership is a necessary condition of application. For those organisations that are

not already members of EU networks in the fields in which they are active, it is essential they begin to seek out and become members of such organisations. The European Commission, and EU and national management agencies for specific programmes, can be very helpful in this, but partner search and matching can be time consuming and often involve travel to meet and engage with partners. Knowledge of other languages can be a distinct asset here.

4. *Screening of calls for proposals and selecting those most suitable for specific organisations.* Calls are issued on a regular basis, sometimes even daily. Many will have little relevance to the members of the Wheel. The selection and dissemination to of the most relevant calls will at times be quite labour-intensive. Substantial economies can be gained by doing this collectively.
5. *Provide support to organisations in preparing and submitting applications for funding.* Each programme, whether managed at national or EU level, has its own procedures for applying for and implementing projects. For newcomers, or those with limited experience, these can be intimidating. Estimates vary as to how much time is needed to prepare good applications. Factors such as whether the programme is national or EU managed, whether EU partners are required, if the applicant is a project leader or partner, will all be important determinants of the time and resources required. Preparation of applications can take anything from several weeks to several months. A support service that has extensive experience across a range of programmes can lighten the workload for potential applicants, but cannot eliminate it completely. For some programmes, organisations have used private consultants to advise on applications in the past. In certain circumstances this could be a useful adjunct to the support of a common dedicated service.
6. *Preparation of interim and final reports and final accounts.* These are key steps in any project but for EU funded projects the financial disciplines can be demanding and if not met can create serious problems for cash flow especially for smaller organisations. Again advice of people with previous experience of managing EU projects can help avoid pitfalls.

Resources Required

The above is a demanding list of tasks. It is almost impossible to assess with accuracy the time and resources required to provide all these services to members of the Wheel until a clearer picture emerges of the interest and potential engagement of its members. A number of simplifying assumptions must be made.

How many clients will want to avail of the service? If up to 20% of Wheel members want to go through the initial steps to decide if they will compete for funding (which is indicated by the results of the survey) this would give a starting total of around 200 organisations. Up to 100 of these may decide to go beyond this initial assessment (including those who are already experienced) and to submit applications. A 40%-50% success rate of applications is ambitious but achievable. Some organisations, will, of course, make multiple applications.

On the basis of these assumptions the following scenario could be foreseen for applications and successful projects over the period 2015-2020:

Year	Applications	Projects Approved
2015	50	20
2016	100	50
2017	100	50
2018	100	50
2019	100	50
2020	100	50
Total	550	270

A rough estimate of resources needed to provide the services outlined above is as follows:

1. *Maintaining and developing the embryo database contained in Appendix 1 of the Phase 1 report.* 25 days per year.
2. *Assisting organisations to identify, within their work programmes and future plans, potential projects for EU funding.* 50 days in year 1; 25 days thereafter.
3. *Screening of calls for proposals and selecting those most suitable for specific organisations.* 50 days in year 1; 25 days thereafter.
4. *Assisting potential applicants to find suitable partners, either at national level, or EU level or both.* 25 days per year.
5. *Provide support to Wheel members in preparing and submitting applications for funding.* 50 days in year 1 and thereafter.
6. *Assisting members in the preparation of interim and final reports and final accounts.* 25 days in year 1 and thereafter.

This gives the following estimate of resources required:

Task	Year 1 (Days)	Year (2 to 6)
1	25	25
2	50	25
3	50	25
4	25	25
5	50	50
6	25	25
	225	175

There are various options for providing these resources

1. *Maintaining and developing the embryo database contained in Appendix 1 of the Phase 1 report. 25 days.* This is already being done by the Access Europe project and could be done on a collaborative basis with the Wheel.
2. *Assisting organisations to identify, within their work programmes and future plans, potential projects for EU funding. 50 days in year 1; 25 days thereafter.* This could be done through a series of dedicated workshops and in some cases could draw on the services of technical support offices for programmes like Horizon, Erasmus Life+, etc. Collaboration with the Access Europe project is also possible.
3. *Screening of calls for proposals and selecting those most suitable for specific organisations. 50 days in year 1; 25 days thereafter.* This is already being done by the Access Europe project and could be done on a collaborative basis with the Wheel.
4. *Assisting potential applicants to find suitable partners, either at national level, or EU level or both. 25 days in year 1 and thereafter.* The Wheel would have to develop a partnership brokering service perhaps in collaboration with some EU level organisations such as ECAS, and with various national support offices for Horizon, Erasmus, Life+ and Interreg.
5. *Provide support to Wheel members in preparing and submitting applications for funding. 50 days in year 1 and thereafter.* This could also be done on the basis of dedicated workshops perhaps with the assistance of outside experts.

6. *Assisting members in the preparation of interim and final reports and final accounts. 25 days in year 1 and thereafter.* The Wheel would need to provide this in-house.

This report does not address the question of how this support service might be funded, as this is a matter for the Wheel itself to consider. It should however be possible to keep costs relatively low by working collaboratively with other similar bodies and by drawing on the help of support agencies set up to promote some of the EU programmes in Ireland. In the longer term, following the example of the Welsh Community and Voluntary Association, the Wheel should seek a share of the technical assistance budgets for some of the major EU funding programmes such as the Structural Funds and Horizon to support its work in promoting a more active involvement of the community and voluntary sector in Ireland in EU affairs.



About the Author

Professor Hugh Quigley

Hugh is originally from Co Donegal and now lives in Dublin. He is a graduate of Trinity College and University College Dublin, where he studied Economics and Politics and took postgraduate degrees in both.

After a short time in the Irish public service in the late 1970's, first in the Department of Agriculture and then as Secretary of the National Economic and Social Council, he joined the European Commission in Brussels where he spent most of his career. He worked in the Directorates General for Regional Policy, Employment and Social Policy, Information and Communications and, most recently, as Deputy Director of the Commission's European Food and Veterinary Office, set up in response to the BSE crisis in the late 1990's.

In 1980's, he was sent on special assignment by the Commission to serve as the first Chief Executive of Cooperation Ireland and was responsible for establishing that organization's wide-ranging cross-border cooperation programmes. On returning to Brussels in 1989, he took charge of setting up the EU INTERREG programme, now a multi-billion Euro initiative designed to promote cooperation and integration along all the EU's internal and external borders.

Since his recent retirement from the Commission, he has worked part-time as a pro-bono adviser to not-for-profit organizations in Ireland on EU policy and funding opportunities. These include The Hospice Foundation, The Immigrant Council of Ireland, Atlantic Philanthropies, The Wheel and the Irish Social Finance Fund.

He is also a visiting Professor on EU regulatory affairs at the University of Ulster.