**European Development Plan Exercise**

**Brainstorming Activity:**

Think about what EU funding could do for your organisation and note down what the risks and barriers are. We suggest that you do this as a group activity in your organisation in order to identify opportunities and barriers from a variety of different perspectives. This activity allows you to focus on priorities as well as the areas in which you may need more advice, training or support in order to progress.

If you decide that pursuing European funding is a worthwhile investment for your organisation, move on to the template below in order to formulate a more specific strategy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Opportunities | Risks & Barriers |
|  |  |

**European Development Plan**

By carefully considering and answering the following questions, you will have completed a European Development Plan for your organisation. This plan can be uploaded to your website and European partner finding portals or shared via email with potential partners and will present your organisation and outline its European goals.

If you are applying for a project or entering into a project as a partner, you should always consult your plan to ensure that the project complements your European strategy. While well-planned European projects offer a multitude of opportunities, committing to projects that are not in line with your organisation’s strategic goals is a mistake. It can quickly become burdensome and dilute your mission and capacity to deliver on core work. This is why it is important to develop a strong and cohesive European development plan, in line with your organisation’s strategic objectives and to stick to it.

1. Organisation Summary

*Write a short summary of your organisation:*

* *who you are,*
* *what you do,*
* *your target groups,*
* *your capacity,*
* *your goals.*

1. Previous experience

Have you already been involved in European activities? What benefits did it bring to your organisation? *(skip if this does not apply)*

1. A vision for the future  
   Outline what you want to achieve through EU funding in the next…

2 years:

5 years:

10 years:

1. Identified needs  
   What needs would European funding fulfil?

*How would it help your organisation/beneficiaries/stakeholders/field of research/etc.?*

1. Why is EU funding the best means of meeting those needs?

*Could you fund it nationally? Why should these ideas be international projects? Wat value would EU partnership bring to your project ideas?*

1. What kind of organisations are you interested in partnering with? What areas of practice would you like to learn about?

*It helps to not just partner with organisations exactly like yours. The cross-sectoral approach is favoured in European programmes. Consider partnering with a mixture of private organisations, state institutions, higher education institutes, NGOs, and other groups. Do some research about what is going on in your area of work at a European level. Are there any interesting and innovative practices you are interested in learning about with a view to introducing them in Ireland? Do you have any innovative practices you would like to strengthen and share via a European project?*