

# IRELAND

*A Region of the European Union*





# Contents

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS REGIONS	ONE
UNITY IN DIVERSITY	TWO
THE REGION OF IRELAND	FOUR
THE CAP: A KEY POLICY FOR IRELAND	FIVE
THE STRUCTURAL POLICIES	SIX
REFORM OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS	SEVEN
WHAT WILL HAPPEN 1994-99	SEVEN
IMPACT OF THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT FRAMEWORK (CSF)	NINE
OBJECTIVE 1 REGIONS FOR THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS	TEN
IRELAND AS ELIGIBLE UNDER OBJECTIVE 1	ELEVEN
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES	FOURTEEN
THE COHESION FUNDS	SEVENTEEN
NORTHERN IRELAND & BORDER REGION PROGRAMMES	EIGHTEEN
PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF THE REGIONAL IMPACT OF EU PROGRAMMES	EIGHTEEN
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT	TWENTY TWO
FURTHER INFORMATION SOURCES	TWENTY FOUR

## *The European Union and its Regions*

A large majority of ordinary Europeans support what the European Union is doing. But the EU and member governments need to do more to explain to their citizens the Union's aims and policies. Even after 40 years, the EU is still not something with which the average European is familiar. This lack of understanding and communication was evident during the process of ratifying the Maastricht Treaty, provoking scepticism among those faced with a Europe they did not always recognise as their Europe.

To prevent this happening again, Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, has vowed to bring the European Union closer to its citizens and to set new standards of transparency and accountability.

*"Europe's citizens demand to be heard. They demand to take part in something that has become a central element in their lives - and they are right. If we cannot meet these demands, our whole endeavour will fail",* President Santer wrote shortly after taking office in 1995.

The European Union and its 15 Member States have largely succeeded in their goal of bringing peace and prosperity to the EU's 370 million citizens. In a process spanning 40 years, they have created a single market in which goods, services, people and capital move as freely as within one country. They have also set new standards for solidarity and cohesion between all categories of citizens and all geographic regions.

Following the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union in 1993, the EU is now embarked on the process of creating an economic and monetary union and a single currency. An intergovernmental conference (IGC) will be convened in 1996 to discuss possible changes in EU policy and institutions in preparation for further enlargement. EU leaders have stressed that the Union has a duty to share its achievements and values with all Europeans.

This is why preparations for future enlargements of the Union are already under way.





## Unity in Diversity

Although committed to integration, the EU is also committed to retaining the cultural and linguistic diversity of its peoples and regions.

The EU also applies the principle of subsidiarity, meaning that it takes action only in areas where it is better placed to do so than individual Member States. Fighting pollution, which is often a cross-border problem, is an obvious case where joint action at Union level is justified. Where this is not the case, action is left to national governments or regional authorities.

While citizens still belong to their country or region, the EU can add a sense of common identity and a framework for greater solidarity and mutual support. The Union and its institutions also have the task of making sure that the benefits of integration are balanced between countries and regions, between businesses, workers and consumers and between different categories of citizens. All regions have benefited economically and socially from the existence of the Union thanks to the removal of barriers to cross-border trade and the narrowing of the economic gap between outlying and central regions.

Individual citizens and the regions they live in are more involved in Union affairs than many people realise. They directly elect their members to the European Parliament, while representatives of regional and local authorities sit on the Committee of the Regions which was set up by the Maastricht Treaty. The Committee must be consulted by the Commission and the Council of the European Union on all new items of legislation with a regional impact. In addition, the European Parliament has an Ombudsman to whom citizens can take complaints against any of the EU institutions.

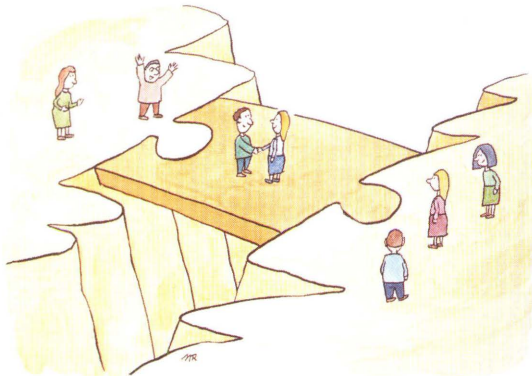


The diversity of the EU's regions is not only cultural or linguistic; it is also economic. The level of prosperity in the richest regions, measured in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is six times higher than in the poorest regions. *See Table 1 opposite page.*

Over the years, the EU has increasingly focused on evening out regional disparities by raising prosperity levels in less developed regions, by bringing them closer to richer markets for their products and by making them more attractive to investors. Now one third of the EU's 80 billion ECU\* annual budget is spent by the so-called structural funds whose aim is to foster the development of outlying regions and regions in industrial decline.

The Union has earmarked spending of 140 billion ECUs for the period 1994-1999 by the three structural funds - **the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and part of the Agricultural Guarantee and Guidance Fund.** The Commission reckons that between 1988, when budgets for structural funds underwent their first big increase, and 1993, more than 500,000 jobs were created in recipient regions.

\* At time of going to print 1 ECU = IR£0.80 approx.



**Table 1: GDP per head and Unemployment Rates in the Regions of the EU**

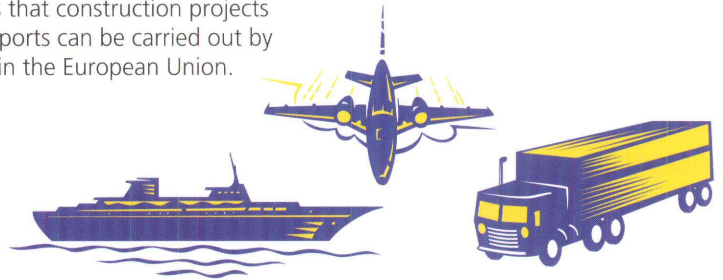
	GDP per Head (EUR =100)		Unemployment Rate (April 1992 )		GDP per Head (EUR =100)		Unemployment Rate (April 1992 )	
	1980	1992	%		1980	1992	%	
<b>BELGIUM</b>					<b>GREECE</b>			
Vlaams Gewest	105	110	5.6	Voreia Ellada	49	46	9.2	
Region Wallonne	90	88	10.8	Kentriki Ellada	52	48	-	
Bruxelles-Brussel	166	174	10.2	Attiki	59	55	-	
				Nisia Aigaiou. Kriti	42	45	-	
<b>DENMARK</b>					<b>IRELAND</b>			
	105	107	9.6		60	76	17.6	
<b>GERMANY</b>					<b>ITALY</b>			
Baden-Wurttemberg	125	131	2.9	Nord Ovest	103	120	8.2	
Bayern	137	126	3.0	Lombardia	135	134	4.2	
Berlin	130	95	7.5	Nord Est	113	119	4.6	
Brandenburg	-	44	-	Emilia-Romagna	134	128	4.5	
Bremen	150	155	7.9	Centro	111	109	7.5	
Hamburg	187	196	5.4	Lazio	107	120	10.3	
Hessen	131	149	3.7	Campania	67	73	21.3	
Mecklenburg- Vorpommern	-	41	-	Abruzzi-Molise	85	91	12.4	
Niedersachsen	104	105	5.5	Sud	68	71	16.4	
Nordrhein-Westfalen	118	113	5.7	Sicilia	69	73	21.8	
Rheinland-Pfalz	107	102	3.7	Sardegna	74	79	18.7	
Saarland	107	109	6.3					
Sachsen	-	42	-	<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>				
Sachsen-Anhalt	-	43	-		115	156	1.8	
Schleswig-Holstein	103	104	4.7	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>				
Thuringen	-	38	-	Noord Nederland	135	103	8.5	
				Oost Nederland	94	89	6.7	
<b>SPAIN</b>								
Noroeste	67	64	16.6	West Nederland	116	109	6.3	
Noreste	85	89	15.3	Zuid Nederland	95	98	6.3	
Madrid	81	97	12.5					
Centro	62	63	18.5	<b>PORTUGAL</b>				
Este	79	89	14.9	Continente	53	68	4.5	
Sur	57	60	25.9	Acores	-	-	4.1	
Canarias	59	75	24.8	Madeira	-	-	4.4	
<b>FRANCE</b>					<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>			
Ile de France	162	169	8.0	North	96	88	11.8	
Bassin Parisien	109	102	9.9	Yorkshire & Humberside	89	90	10.6	
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	99	89	12.6	East Midlands	92	92	9.4	
Est	111	104	7.5	East Anglia	93	100	8.3	
Ouest	96	93	9.8	South East	114	115	10.3	
Sud-Ouest	97	97	10.0	South West	90	93	9.8	
Centre-Est	109	107	9.5	West Midlands	89	90	11.2	
Mediterranee	99	98	12.9	North West	93	88	11.5	
Departements d'Outre-Mer	-	45	-	Wales	80	83	10.3	
				Scotland	91	96	10.8	
				Northern Ireland	74	79	16.7	

Note: The above figures are the latest available regional data

Source : Eurostat Statistics in Focus Regions 1995 1



Although these funds represent a transfer of resources from the richer to the poorer regions of the EU, the former regard their contributions as a matter of enlightened self interest. They gain new markets for their products and services as EU funding helps improve living standards and purchasing power in less prosperous parts of the Union. The liberalisation of bidding for public contracts awarded by national governments and local authorities means that construction projects on roads, ports and airports can be carried out by firms based anywhere in the European Union.



The Union is currently engaged in a vast programme to bring Europe's regions closer together. This is a multi-billion ECU infrastructure project to develop Trans European Networks (TENs). These will create cross-border links for transport and communications and for the distribution of energy. Efficient communications links can, for instance, shrink distances enabling firms in relatively remote EU regions to compete more effectively in export markets.

## *The Region of Ireland*

With 3.5 million people, Ireland is a small open economy located on the periphery of Europe. Since the 1950's, and in particular since accession to the then European Economic Community, Ireland has adopted a forward looking, export-oriented approach, developing its trade relations with a wide range of countries and reducing its dependence on the UK. It has also been successful in attracting significant European and American investment in manufacturing industry and financial services.

Considerable economic and social progress, assisted through its membership of the EU has enabled Ireland to narrow the gap with the rest of the EU.

Ireland's industrial output and productivity have been above average for both the EU and OECD countries in recent years. Nevertheless, this is still not translating into the creation of sufficient new jobs to make significant inroads on the unemployment rate which averaged 14.8% during 1994.



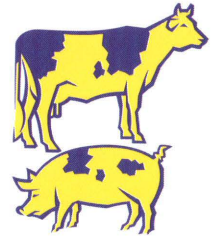


Some 12% of the national workforce is still employed in agriculture, but this proportion is much higher in the agricultural and rural sub-regions in the west and north west. These sub regions are faced with an unfavourable agricultural and demographic structure, insufficient employment opportunities in industry and services, and inadequate infrastructure. They experience significant out-migration and depopulation.

On the other hand, some urban areas, such as Dublin and Cork, have also been experiencing severe difficulties including significant manufacturing losses, out-migration, unemployment, traffic congestion, urban dereliction and pollution.

## *The CAP: A key Policy for Ireland*

One of the fundamental aims of the EU is to ensure free competition among the Member States and the free movement of labour, capital and services. But such an approach needs to be tempered with special provisions to protect and assist groups or regions which otherwise could find themselves falling further and further behind.



A range of policies were therefore designed to assist poorer groups and regions. Foremost among these was, and still is, the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, forged at a time when over 20% of the work force was in agriculture and low farm incomes were a matter of particular concern.

There are two funding elements in the CAP, the **Guarantee Section** and the **Guidance Section**. The former is designed to support, or guarantee, the prices of a range of agricultural products, while the latter is intended to bring about improvements in the structure of agriculture and to increase productivity.

While a variety of changes have been introduced to the CAP over the years, its price support element still accounts for over half of the overall budget of the EU, despite the fact that the numbers occupied in agriculture have halved.



In the latter part of the 1980's and early 1990's, the support of agricultural prices resulted in significant surpluses of products which had to be stored at high cost and subsequently sold on world markets with the aid of subsidies.

The situation also caused considerable friction with the EU's main trading partners who claimed the EU was disturbing world markets. The 1992 reform of the CAP, designed to control production by reducing guaranteed prices coupled with compensation payments to farmers, and the recent GATT agreement under which the EU is committed to reducing the volume of subsidised exports, have addressed these problems. As part of the reform process, the growth in agricultural spending will be more strictly controlled in the years ahead.



## The Structural Policies

The Guidance Section of the CAP, together with the social and regional policies of the EU, have been given the title 'structural' policies, since they are all designed to improve the structure of the EU's industries and regions.

With the accession of Ireland and the United Kingdom in 1973, structural problems and, in particular, regional disparities began to assume considerable significance.

In the case of Ireland, a special protocol included in the Treaty of Accession, referred specifically to the need to reduce regional imbalances and by 1975 the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** had been put in place to tackle this problem. Since then Ireland has been treated as a single region for regional policy purposes.

The need for social policy was also recognised in the EEC Treaty which established the **European Social Fund (ESF)** aimed at improving employment opportunities for workers and improving their mobility.

In the Maastricht Treaty these provisions were extended to cover measures to facilitate the adaptation of workers to industrial change and to changes in production systems. The focus of action under the European Social Fund is on training and retraining of workers.

The EU budget for 1995 showing expenditure on all policies, including the Structural Funds, is set out in Table 2.

**Table 2: The Composition of the EU Budget in 1995**

	<i>Million IR£</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Agricultural Policy	29,518	46.2
Structural Policies	21,063	33.0
Internal Policy	4,042	6.3
External Policy	3,899	6.1
Administration	3,199	5.0
Other Policies	2,155	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,876</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Agricultural levies	1,571	2.6
Customs duties	10,354	17.2
VAT	31,915	52.9
Additional Resources	12,356	20.4
Miscellaneous	4,155	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,351</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: *The Community Budget: The Facts in Figures*, European Commission, SEC (95) 1400 - EN, 1995 edition



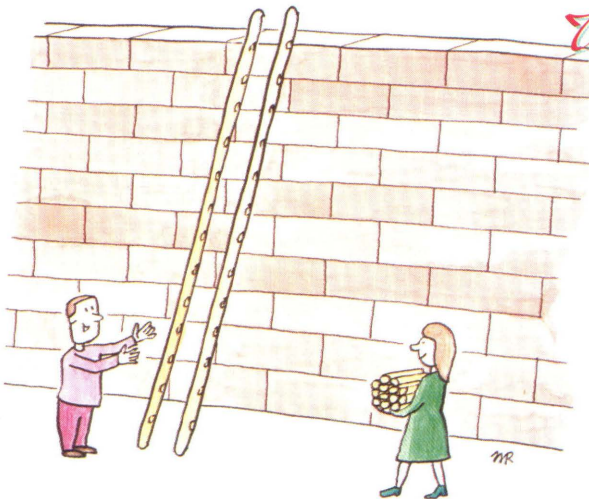
## Reform of the Structural Funds

Since the **Single European Act**, increased economic and social cohesion has come to be seen as an important stepping stone towards the establishment of the internal market.

In February 1988 the Member States decided to double expenditure on structural policies. This was accompanied by a fundamental re-orientation of Structural Funds objectives towards enabling the weaker regions prepare for the frontier-free internal market to be completed in 1992. This meant setting aside 14 billion ECU per year over the 1989-1993 period in structural funding for regions whose development is lagging behind the European average.

The money is channelled through the following funding measures, collectively known as the **Structural Funds**: the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**, the **European Social Fund (ESF)**, the **European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)** and the **Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG)**. These funds are intended to supplement or stimulate efforts by governments, regions and private investors.

A second reform of the Funds was undertaken in 1993. Six priority 'objectives' were set out in the new policy. Objective 1 aims to assist regions with a GDP per capita of less than 75% of the European average, as was Ireland at the time of the Structural Fund negotiations. The whole of Ireland is classified as Objective 1.



## What will Happen 1994-99

The Community Support Framework is essentially an agreement concluded between the European Union and the Government of Ireland on the country's economic development priorities to be cofinanced by the EU over the next six years by some IR£4.45 billion. Together with additional funds in respect of Community Initiatives and the Cohesion Fund, Ireland will receive around IR£6 billion in EU Structural Funds. The Community Support Framework identifies four priority action areas for the period 1994-99:

- **Assisting Industry, Tourism, Services, Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Funding under this heading includes specific support programmes for indigenous industry, attracting inward capabilities to the industrial

sector. It also includes aid for the development of the food industry, in particular processing and marketing support initiatives. Other measures include headage payments to farms in disadvantaged areas, on-farm improvements aid for diversification as well as a series of measures to develop forestry and fisheries. Finally it covers a range of initiatives aimed at developing the tourism sector including marketing and facilities support measures.



### • **Improving Infrastructure**

Assistance under this heading is designed to provide support for developing transport, energy and all communication, environmental and hospital infrastructure and services. The measures include aid for investment in road, rail, airports and seaports infrastructure. Improvements in the postal, energy and telecommunication infrastructure will also be funded under this heading. Two major construction projects will be carried out under this programme, a new peat field power station in the midlands and a major new teaching hospital at Tallaght, Co Dublin.



### • **Developing Human Resources**

Expenditure under this heading will focus on the provision of training for new labour force entrants, early school-leavers, the long-term unemployed and people excluded from the labour market. Training for those in employment is also included under this priority.

This priority has as a central aim the improvement and training as well as promotion of the employment prospects of the long-term unemployed. Measures to support equal opportunities between men and women and to promote prospects for people with disabilities are also included.



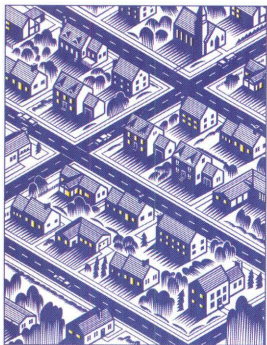
Included under this heading are courses provided in the **Universities** and **Regional Technical Colleges** and by the **National Training and Employment Authority: FÁS**.

The development of the Temple Bar Cultural Quarter as a focus for tourism and culture in Dublin is also provided for under this heading.

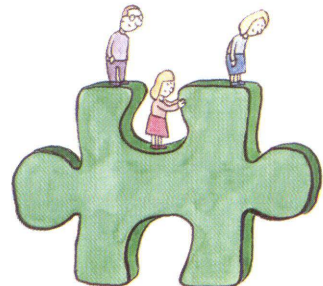
### • **Local Development**

Assistance under this heading is designed to provide support for social and economic development at local level, to involve local communities in this process and to achieve local environmental improvements. The measures include the establishment of **County Enterprise Boards** to fill the gap in the provision of support services for small enterprises.

A *disadvantaged areas programme* will provide support to communities involved in the development of their areas, focussing on promoting employment and reducing marginalisation. In addition measures to promote urban and village renewal will be carried out mainly by the local authorities.



• **The Gaeltacht Development** sub programme is contained within the Community Support Framework and is aimed at creating an economically viable employment base for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht community. The programme provides for grants to industry, training and recruitment incentives and business support services.

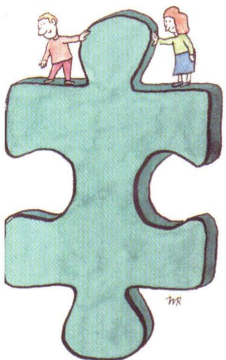


# Impact of the Community Support Framework (CSF)



Dublin Ring Road:  
Northern Cross

To assist in the implementation of the **Community Support Framework** under which the bulk of Structural Funds come to Ireland, the Government established 8 Regional Authorities. The members of these Regional Authorities are city and county councillors appointed by local authorities in each region. The Regional Authorities will be assisted by committees whose members include representatives from local and other public authorities in the region, the social partners, voluntary and community groups and representatives of Government departments and the European Commission.



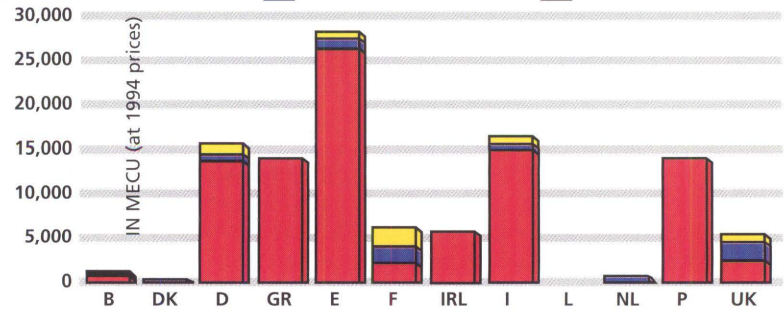
The Regional Authorities are kept informed of measures being undertaken in their regions. Their function is to review and advise the Government on Structural Fund programmes in their region.

The allocated distribution of Structural Funds among the sub-regions for the period 1994-99 is set out on Table 3 (see page 12). Expenditure is spread across all sub-regions but total expenditure per capita is significantly above the average in the predominantly rural regions of the South-West, West and the Border.

# Objective 1 Regions for the Structural Funds



Objective 1 MECU 93,810    Objective 2 MECU 6,977    Objective 5b MECU 6,134

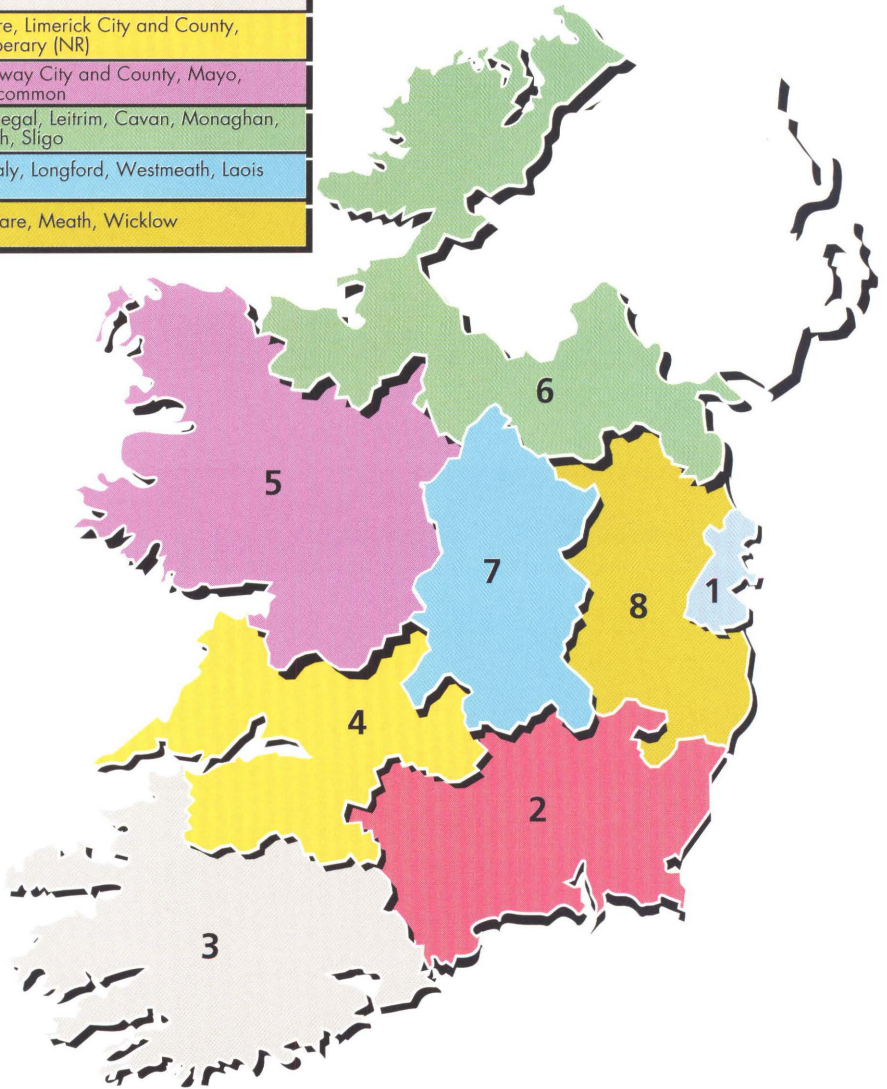


MECU = million ECU

# Ireland as eligible under Objective 1

## Ireland has 8 Regional Authority Divisions

<b>1. Dublin</b>	Dublin, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin
<b>2. South East</b>	Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Waterford City and County, Tipperary (SR)
<b>3. South-West</b>	Cork City and County, Kerry
<b>4. Mid-West</b>	Clare, Limerick City and County, Tipperary (NR)
<b>5. West</b>	Galway City and County, Mayo, Roscommon
<b>6. Border</b>	Donegal, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Sligo
<b>7. Midlands</b>	Offaly, Longford, Westmeath, Laois
<b>8. Mid-East</b>	Kildare, Meath, Wicklow





Cork based partnership funded under the LEONARDO programme

**Table 3:**

**ESTIMATED SUB REGIONAL BREAKDOWN**

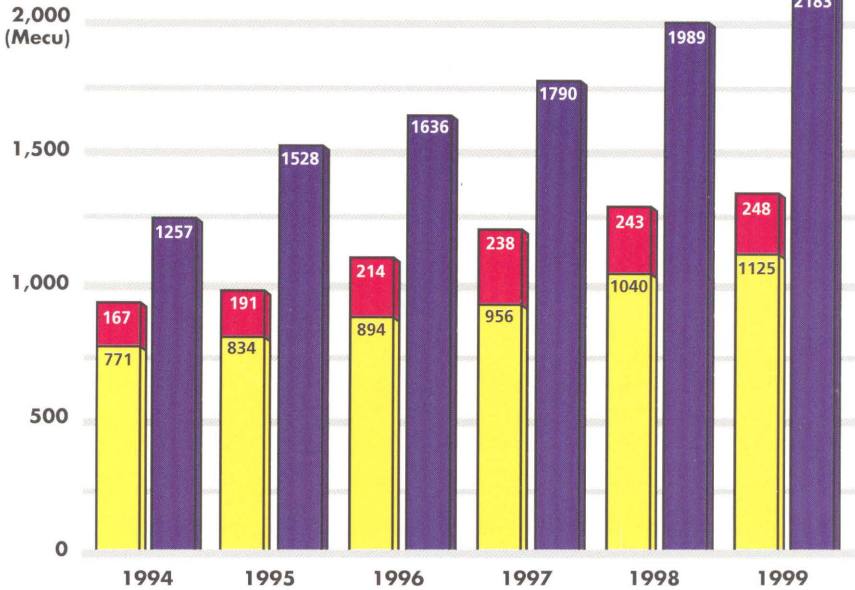
PROGRAMME	DUBLIN	SOUTH-EAST	SOUTH-WEST	MID-WEST	EAST
	IR£m	IR£m	IR£m	IR£m	IR£m
Industry	1,045.4	299.6	497.5	388.8	1,000.0
Agriculture (1)	16.6	142.8	198.7	184.2	1,000.0
Forestry	1.5	10.7	14.3	15.3	1,000.0
Fisheries (2)	10.3	17.9	31.2	7.6	1,000.0
Tourism (2)	156.0	64.5	84.3	72.1	1,000.0
Local Development	337.3	158.2	167.0	116.2	1,000.0
Human Resources	944.2	341.1	466.1	273.7	1,000.0
Transport	724.2	192.8	360.4	221.5	1,000.0
Energy & Communications	779.3	205.5	398.9	357.2	1,000.0
Environmental Services	166.6	86.1	71.3	58.9	1,000.0
Hospital Infrastructure	113.0	-	-	-	1,000.0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,294.4</b>	<b>1,519.2</b>	<b>2,289.7</b>	<b>1,695.5</b>	<b>1,000.0</b>

(Constant 1993 prices) 1. Excludes Food (see industry) and Human Resources 2. Human Resource measures included under Source: Ireland National Development Plan, Irish Department of Finance.

## STRUCTURAL FUNDS - IRELAND FINANCIAL PLAN BY YEAR

Total expenditure: ECU 10.3 billion  
Total Structural Funds: ECU 5.6 billion

Structural Funds:  
Cohesion Funds (indicative)  
Total Structural (incl Member  
States contribution) Expenditure



## BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE 1994-1999

WEST	BORDER	MIDLANDS	MIDLANDS-EAST	OTHER	TOTAL
IR£m	IR£m	IR£m	IR£m	IR£m	IR£m
442.8	512.0	201.3	293.6	-	3,681.0
341.6	301.3	83.8	76.6	-	1,345.6
25.5	18.4	11.2	5.1	-	102.0
25.4	48.4	-	5.2	-	146.0
75.2	42.6	45.1	42.9	-	582.7
129.8	158.6	91.3	104.6	-	1,263.0
326.2	393.8	196.6	166.8	-	3,108.5
195.2	285.6	146.3	314.8	164.0	2,604.8
206.9	290.5	178.3	278.5	371.8	3,066.9
94.3	76.7	18.4	43.7	39.1	655.1
-	-	-	-	-	113.0
<b>362.9</b>	<b>2,127.9</b>	<b>972.3</b>	<b>1,331.8</b>	<b>574.9</b>	<b>16,668.6</b>

*the human resource heading*



## Community Initiatives

The European Commission reserves 9% of the total Structural Funds budget for funding what are called **Community Initiatives**. Community Initiatives are based on guidelines drawn up by the European Commission, unlike the Community Support Framework which is based on priorities established by the national government. The following Community Initiatives are operational in Ireland in the period 1994-99. In addition to the funding amounts set out below Ireland has been allocated a further 41.4 million ECU in respect of Community Initiatives.

The **LEADER** programme supports local initiatives for rural development and explores new approaches to tackle the growing difficulties for rural areas. The LEADER programme is implemented by designated local groups who also administer the distribution of funds under the programme.

**EU Funding: IR£60.8m**

Contact:

**Frank O'Donnell**

**Dept of Agriculture Food & Forestry**

Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6789011. Fax: 01-6620198



### The **EMPLOYMENT** Initiative contains three strands:

- **EMPLOYMENT-NOW** is aimed at the development of equal opportunities for women in the labour market and vocational training.

**EU Funding: IR£15.2m**

Contact:

**Mary Donnelly**

**NOW Initiative**

**Council for the Status of Women**

33 Upper Fitzwilliam Street

Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6615268

Fax: 01-6760860

**Clare Tiernan**

**NOW National Coordinator**

**Dept of Enterprise &**

**Employment,**

Davitt House,

25 Adelaide Road,

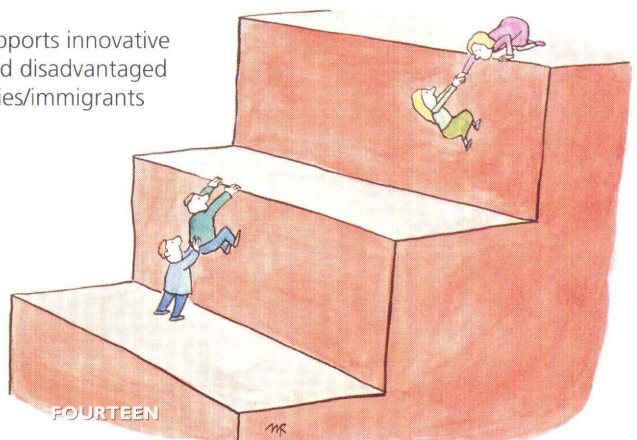
Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6614444

Fax: 01-6764852

- **EMPLOYMENT-HORIZON** supports innovative projects to assist the disabled and disadvantaged (unemployed, homeless, minorities/immigrants and refugees)

**EU Funding: IR£30.4m**





Contact:

**EMPLOYMENT-HORIZON (Disabled)**

**National Rehabilitation Board**

**EU Section**

25 Clyde Road

Dublin 4

Tel: 01-6684181

Fax: 01-6600421



**Tony Tyrrell**

**Dept of Enterprise & Employment**

Davitt House

25 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6614444

Fax: 01-6764852

**EMPLOYMENT-HORIZON**

**(Disadvantaged)**

**Work Research Centre**

4 Lower Ormond Quay

Dublin 1

Tel: 01-8723100

Fax: 01-8723840

**Tony Tyrrell**

**Dept of Enterprise & Employment**

Davitt House, 25 Adelaide Road

Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6614444

Fax: 01-6764852

- 
- **EMPLOYMENT - YOUTHSTART** supports the development of opportunities for young people in employment, education and training including apprenticeships and linked work training.

**EU Funding:**

**IR€12.2m**

Contact:

**Bernie McDonnell**

**YOUTHSTART**

**National Youth Council of Ireland**

Nelson House,

50-52 Pembroke Road, Dublin 4

Tel: 01-6683934

Fax: 01-6681389

**Michael English**

**ESF Section**

**Dept of Enterprise & Employment**

Davitt House, 25 Adelaide Road

Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6614444, Ext 3399

Fax: 01-6764852

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ADAPT is a Community Initiative designed to help the workforce adapt to industrial change and facilitate changes in production systems. ADAPT will support projects relating to the development of new skills and employment opportunities in this context.

**EU Funding:**     **IR€17m**

Contact:

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**ADAPT Technical Support Unit**

LEARGAS - The Exchange Bureau

189-193 Parnell Street,

Dublin 1

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Fax: 01-8731316

**Veronica Gaffey**

**ADAPT National Coordinator**

**Dept of Enterprise & Employment**

Davitt House, 25 Adelaide Road,

Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6614444

Fax: 01-6764852





The **SMEs** initiative is designed to assist small and medium-sized businesses, both industrial and in the service sector to adjust to the Single Market and enhance their competitiveness in international markets. A key feature of the SMEs programme in Ireland is the establishment of a small business loan fund which will be operated through the commercial banks.

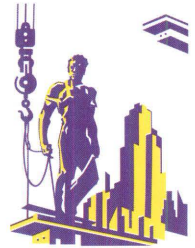
**EU Funding:** **IR£22.8m**

Contact:

**Philip Donegan**

**Dept of Enterprise & Employment**

Kildare Street, Dublin 2 Tel: 01-6614444 Fax: 01-6762654



The **URBAN** programme is intended to address serious social problems in depressed urban areas by supporting schemes for economic and social revitalisation, the renovation of infrastructure and environmental improvement.

**EU Funding:** **IR£12.4m**

Contact:

**Ann Whelan**

**Dept of the Taoiseach**

Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6689333 Fax: 01-6789791



**PESCA** is aimed at assisting the fishing industry to confront the structural crisis in the industry. Measures will support diversification away from over-exploited species and into areas such as aquaculture and marine tourism, as well as marine business services, training and fisheries management and marketing projects.

**EU Funding:** **IR£5.4m**

Contact:

**Margaret McCarthy**

**Dept of the Marine**

Leeson Lane, Dublin 2 Tel: 01-6785444 Fax: 01-6618214

The **INTERREG** initiative supports cross-border development through improving economic development on the border and promoting cross-border cooperation. The INTERREG programme will operate in two regions in the period 1995-99: the border area of Ireland/Northern Ireland (see page 18) and the maritime border of Ireland-Wales. Five regions are eligible for assistance under the Ireland/Wales INTERREG programme: the regions of Dublin, Mid East (counties Kildare, Meath and Wicklow) and the South East (counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South, Waterford and Wexford), and the Welsh counties of Dyfed and Gwynedd. Eligible measures include maritime development including road widening, transport information systems, environmental projects and general economic development including tourism, education and training as well as developing links between economic bodies in the Welsh and Irish regions concerned.

**EU Funding:** **Ireland/Northern Ireland IR£72m**  
**Ireland/Wales IR£56m**

Contact:

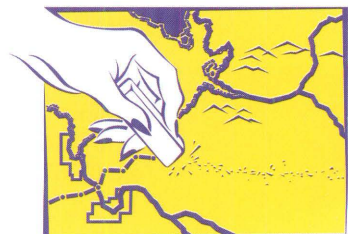
**Sean O'Sullivan**

**Dept of Finance**

Government Buildings,

Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2

Tel: 01-6767571 Fax: 01-6789936



## The Cohesion Funds

Under the Maastricht Treaty a new Cohesion Fund has been set up alongside the existing Structural Funds to help finance environmental protection projects and major transport links in the least prosperous Member States. These are defined as states with a **Gross National Product** per head of less than 90 per cent of the European Union average. On this basis four states **Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Greece** benefit from the Cohesion Fund.

The fund was included in the Maastricht Treaty to help the countries in question increase their growth rate so that they can meet the conditions (convergence criteria) laid down for taking part in Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). To receive aid the four countries must implement an approved macro-economic programme which will lead to the conditions for EMU entry being met.

The Cohesion Fund differs from the Structural Funds in two main respects. It applies generally to large scale environment and transport projects rather than to programmes, and EU support for projects is a maximum of 85 per cent as compared to the normal 75 per cent maximum under the Structural Funds.

Ireland is set to receive about IRE1 billion from the Cohesion Fund by the end of the decade.

A separate fund, known as the **EFTA Cohesion Fund** was established in 1993 as a result of the setting up of the European Economic Area (*the free trade zone established in 1993 by the EU and the participating EFTA states*). This financial mechanism runs for a five year period 1993-97 and Ireland is set to receive total assistance of some IRE114 million from the fund.



Maynooth Bypass

## Northern Ireland & Border Region Programmes

In response to the development of the peace process in Northern Ireland, a new **Programme for Peace and Reconciliation** was set up for Northern Ireland and the six border counties of Ireland (**Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo**). The intention is to promote and assist the peace and reconciliation process in Northern Ireland and the border region. Under this programme over IR£240 million will be made available by the EU for such measures as supporting employment through training projects, reviving the urban and rural economy, infrastructure, cross-border activities development, social integration and industrial development. The programme will be implemented in partnership with organisations representing different sections of society. The Department of Finance is the coordinating body in the Republic and initial enquiries may be made to:



**EU (Structural Funds) Section**  
**Department of Finance**  
Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2  
Tel: 01-6767571/6789936

The objective of the programme is to help consolidate the cessation of the conflict by providing local economic and social groups in particular with the resources to translate political developments into lasting peace and to facilitate on-going efforts towards reconciliation.

The **INTERREG** Community Initiative was first launched in 1990 with the objective of assisting border areas overcome development problems and to encourage cross-border cooperation in order to maximise growth potential in the run-up to the Single European Market. INTERREG has been extended into the 1994-99 period. The INTERREG Community Initiative (1994-99) for Ireland has been allocated IR£72 million by the EU. The programme covers the whole of Northern Ireland and the southern border counties of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo. INTERREG will support measures in such sectors as tourism, community development, training and infrastructural and environmental development as well as agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

## Regional Impact of EU Programmes

### PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

- A grant of some 240,000 ECUs has been approved under the **KONVER** programme for the preparation of a feasibility study for the conversion of **Collins Barracks Dublin** to a museum. KONVER was a Community Initiative aimed at the reconversion of areas dependent on military activities in decline.
- **The Town of Kinsale, Co Cork** won the first European prize for **Tourism and the Environment in 1995**. The prize, which is sponsored by the European Commission, aims to encourage tourist destinations to adopt policies and activities in developing sustainable tourism while respecting the environment.





- The European sailmaking market faces the threat of domination by US franchise operations. In order to upgrade formal training and qualifications in the industry **McWilliams Sailmakers of Crosshaven, Co Cork** produced a set of training materials for operatives in the sector with other small sailmaking companies through the EU. This training project was funded under the **FORCE** programme for continuing education in Europe.

- **St Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny** was one of five restoration projects in Ireland to benefit from funding under the **EU Architectural Heritage/** conservation scheme in 1995. The scheme which had religious buildings as its theme for 1995 also funded restoration projects in **Limerick, Dublin, Clonmel and Cobh.**

- **The 1994 Clare Film Festival, held in Tulla, Co Clare** received support under the EU film and audiovisual festivals programme. The **Cork and Galway Film Fleadhs** also received grant-aid under this programme together with 71 festivals across the EU. The aim of the scheme is to encourage innovative high-quality European-oriented events that act as a showcase for European productions, especially those originating from the smaller countries.

- Under the EU's town twinning programme three Irish towns were recently presented with "**Etoiles d'Or du Jumelage**" by the European Commission. **Bundoran, Co Donegal, Cashel, Co Tipperary and Rush, Co Dublin** were chosen from among 1,000 entries and were considered exemplary in their promotion of twinning initiatives with other European towns.



- **The Wexford Organisation for Rural Development (WORD)** was established under the **LEADER** programme in 1991. **LEADER (Links between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy)** is essentially a programme set up to support development initiatives launched by rural and community action groups in their own localities: **WORD's** principal activities include the provision of support and funding for rural and community projects in sectors such as tourism, food, craft enterprise, marine development and community and environmental projects.

*A Dublin catering workshop which was funded by the Horizon (Disadvantaged) Initiative*

Ireland's first dedicated **Historic Science Centre** situated in **Birr, Co Offaly** is to receive a grant of **IR£1.12 million** under the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**. The project is being promoted by **Birr Scientific and Heritage Foundation** established in 1985 to develop Ireland's Historic Science Centre in the demesne of **Birr Castle**. The castle was home to the **Parsons family** and from the 1840s to the 1900s it was an international centre of astronomy and science. The Centre will accommodate what was for many years the worlds largest telescope built in the 1840s by **William Parsons**.



- **St Patrick's College, Cavan** participated with schools in Germany, Spain and Luxembourg on a project to develop greater awareness of Europe in the local community and local industry. Some 36 Cavan students aged between 14-18 were involved. This project was grant-aided by the **European Commission Multilateral Schools Partnership** programme which is coordinated in Ireland by **Leargas - The Exchange Bureau**.



- In July 1995, **Meath Youth Federation** completed the third stage of a youth exchange project with youth groups in the Netherlands and Gibraltar. In 1995 the exchange was hosted in Ireland. The aim of this exchange was to allow junior youth club members from Co Meath to explore similarities and differences of rural youth work with their European counterparts. The project was funded under the **EU Youth for Europe** programme which is administered in Ireland by **Leargas - the Exchange Bureau**.

- A shellfish depuration and packing plant was built at **Kilmeena, Westport, Co Mayo**, for **Padraic Mulloy Shellfish Ltd**. This company specialised in the marketing of live shellfish products throughout Europe and the investment was undertaken to meet stringent quality standards and promote market diversification. Financial assistance for the construction and outfitting of the new plant, which was completed in 1995, was provided by the **European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)**.



- Local employment action groups throughout Ireland have received assistance from the **ERGO** programme to improve the skill levels of their employment services personnel. Examples of participants in the ERGO scheme included **Dr Steevens, Centre for the Unemployed, Athlone; Mayfield Employment Action Group Cork; Moyross Employment Group Limerick; Tallaght Jobs Club; Clondalkin Employment Action Group and Galway Centre for the Unemployed**. ERGO is the EU programme for people taking action against long-term unemployment.

- In **Cahiriveen, Co Kerry** an information centre has been established by the **South Kerry Development Partnership** under the **EU Carrefour** initiative. The **Carrefours** advise on all aspects of rural development information and EU policies and programmes affecting rural areas. There are 3 Carrefour Centres in Ireland. (See page 24 for details).

- Building entrepreneurs and small industries are the target of another EU-funded initiative called **Business Innovation Centres**. Located in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick and financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the primary function of the Business Innovation Centre is to assist in the detection, formation and growth of new and existing small enterprises. Prospective entrepreneurs receive a coordinated range of professional services to help translate an idea into a viable industrial reality. For example the **Galway BIC** recently assisted the promoters of a **Macnas** spin off in a feasibility study for the production of specially commissioned art pieces for the European market.

- **Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council** is involved in an EU funded project to transfer experience and best practise in cultural tourism. The partners in the network include Alexandroupolis in Northwestern Greece and Laktamia in Cyprus. The partners developed models of locally based approaches to the promotion of cultural tourist attractions in their areas. The project was funded by **Med-Urbs** a programme which assists cooperation between local authorities in the EU and Mediterranean non-member countries.

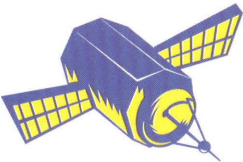


- **Cork Co Council** received grant-aid for a project to study the use of bio-diesel fuels in their transport fleet. This project was funded under the **EU ALTENER** programme which promotes the wider use of renewable energies. **Teagasc Carlow** also received funds under ALTENER to promote the use of bio-diesel production from waste cooking oil.

- The food company **Natures Best, Duleek, Co Meath** participated in an EU-funded research project on new storage technologies for fresh fruit. The project was funded from the **Agriculture and Fisheries Research and Development** programme which runs from 1994-98.



- The University of Limerick places over 100 students annually in companies throughout the European Union with the aid of the **COMETT** programme. Over 2,000 Limerick students annually undertake work placements and the **LEONARDO** programme which has now embraced COMETT provides grant assistance towards the development of new placement opportunities in countries such as Germany, France, Austria, Finland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. COMETT brought together for the first time European universities and companies to develop initial and continuing training courses and to provide work experience for students.



- Three Irish films "**The Crying Game**", "**Into the West**" and "**The Snapper**" benefited from a special loan scheme for the distribution of European films under the **EU MEDIA** programme. The objective of the MEDIA programme is to encourage the development of the audiovisual industry in Europe.

*Further information may be obtained from:*

**The MEDIA Desk Ireland**  
6 Eustace Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6795744.

- **Golden Vale Coop** received support from the **EU LIFE** programme for the reduction of industrial effluent at its dairy processing plant in **Charleville, Co Cork**. LIFE is the EU Environment Fund which supports infrastructural development for the improvement of the environment.



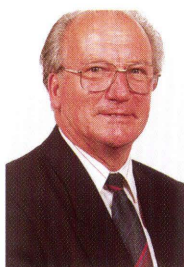
- The Information Technology Centre based at Letterkenny Regional Technical College was awarded funds under the **RACE** programme to develop a video mail service for remote diagnostics using advanced multimedia technologies. RACE is the **EU Telecommunications Research** programme.



## The European Parliament: Regional Development and Structural Funds



Gerald Collins, TD, MEP  
(full member) Regional  
Policy Committee



Alan Gillis, MEP  
(substitute member)  
Regional Policy  
Committee

Parliament has long been a champion of regional development. In the early eighties Parliament used its new budgetary powers to double the size of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Since then it has been heavily involved, through its Regional Policy Commission (42 MEPs - 2 of them Irish), in the elaboration of guiding principles, of new initiatives and assessment, control and management methods for EU regional policy. It has also strengthened local participation in Structural Fund projects by encouraging the involvement of the social partners. It has insisted on an environmental-friendly approach and on equal opportunities for men and women in such policies.

Parliament also supports the principles of **concentration** (of Structural Funds - financially and geographically); of **additionality** (which obliges governments to contribute a fair share to regional projects); **co-ordination** (of EU grants and loans); and **multi-annual programming** (to achieve lasting strategic effects).

Parliament strongly supported the European Commission's proposals (The Delors II Package) which resulted in the doubling of the Structural Funds in the period (1993-1999) compared with (1988-1992). It successfully pressed for a new Community Initiative (URBAN) to help regenerate cities and towns and it helped formulate other Community Initiatives such as INTERREG (which promotes cross-border regional development-especially in Ireland).

Parliament insists on a thorough assessment of EU-financed regional development projects-both before and after execution-and on the strict management of the Structural Fund spending to ensure that European citizens/tax payers are not subject to fraud and waste.

MEPs welcome comments, proposals or criticisms, on any of the foregoing matters. MEPs will take up these matters on behalf of citizens who raise them as and when appropriate: urgently, in the case of fraud; and as soon as possible, if practical difficulties arise; and more generally when the Structural Fund regulations are being revised.

*Further information about the Regional Policy Committee can be obtained from:*

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
OFFICE IN IRELAND  
Jean Monnet Centre,  
43 Molesworth Street,  
Dublin 2, Ireland.  
Tel: (01) 605 7900  
Fax: (01) 605 7999

SECRETARIAT OF REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE  
European Parliament  
97/113 rue Belliard  
B-1047 Brussels,  
Belgium  
Tel: (322) 284 3657  
Fax: (322) 284 9014

### Other Institutions with a regional vocation:

#### The Committee of the Regions:

Rue Ravenstein 2, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Tel: (00322) 5462211. Fax: (00322) 5462896.

The Maastricht Treaty set up this Committee in response to several Member States insistent demands that regional and local authorities should be directly involved in deliberations at local level.



**The Economic and Social Committee:**

Rue Ravenstein 2, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.  
Tel: (00322) 5469011. Fax: (00322) 5134893.

This Committee is a consultative assembly of the European Union, representing the various categories of citizens in their professional and social capacities. Like the European Parliament it advises the Council of Ministers by issuing opinions on the Commission's proposals: it can thus influence legislation at the drafting stage.

There are two hundred and twenty members in each of these two committees. The Committee of the Regions has nine members and nine alternatives, and the Economic and Social Committee has nine members representing Ireland.

**The European Investment Bank:**

100 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer, L-2950 Luxembourg.  
Tel: (00352) 43791 Fax: (00352) 437704.

The EIB is the project financing bank of the European Union. It provides long-term loans on a non-profit making basis for capital investment, assisting regional development and the improvement of transport and telecommunications infrastructure, as well as industrial modernisation and the development and introduction of advanced technologies.



*Clara Bog and nature reserve*



## Further Information Sources

For further information on the European Union:

**THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND,**

Jean Monnet Centre, 39 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 671 2244. Fax: (01) 671 2657.  
From May 1996 our address will be: 18 Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

**INFO POINTS EUROPE**

**Fergus Ashe,**  
Info Point Europe,  
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**Aidan Leavy,**  
Info Point Europe,  
Mullingar Chamber of Commerce,  
Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.  
Tel: 044 44044. Fax: 044 44045.

**Siobhan Bigley,**  
Athlone Chamber of Commerce,  
Jolly Mariner Marina, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
Tel: 0902 73173. Fax: 0902 73326.

**CARREFOUR'S**

(RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES):

**Mary Owens,**  
Carrefour - Centre for Development Studies,  
University College, Galway.  
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**Antonia Bradley,**  
European Centre for Development,  
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**Majella Doherty,**  
South - West Rural Carrefour,  
CRESP, IDA Industrial Estate,  
Cahiriveen, Co. Kerry  
Tel: 066 72724. Fax: 066 72725.

**EURO INFO CENTRES**

**DUBLIN:** **Fiona Conroy,**  
European Information Centre,  
Bord Trachtala, Merrion Hall,  
Strand Road, Dublin 4.  
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**LIMERICK** **Nuala O'Carroll,**  
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**WATERFORD** **Emma O'Cleirigh,**  
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**GALWAY** **Adrienne Harten,**  
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Galway Chamber of Commerce,  
Commerce House,  
Merchants Road, Galway.  
Tel: 09162624 / 98127. Fax: 091 61963.

**CORK** **Tara Dennehy,**  
European Information Centre,  
67 South Mall, Cork.  
Tel: 021 509 044. Fax: 021 271 347.

## Team Europe

To assist in the dissemination of information on the EU, the European Commission Representation in Ireland has established a speakers panel called "Team Europe". The members of the panel have been selected on the basis of their professional knowledge and their communication skills, and have been fully briefed by the Commission on current policy development in their field. Based in various locations throughout the country, they are available to speak at conferences, seminars, meetings, etc. *For further information contact Paul Gormley or Anna Furey at the European Commission Representation in Ireland.*

This booklet is one of a series on the Regions of the European Union being produced by the European Commission and is a revised and updated version of the 1994 brochure.

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Representation in Ireland

39 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

*From May 1996 address will be:*

18 Dawson Street, Dublin 2

