



# LOCAL AUTHORITY EU FUNDING STRATEGY AND NETWORK



**Northern & Western**  
Regional Assembly



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund

# EU FUNDING

The EU provides funding for a broad range of projects and programmes covering various areas, from regional development, enterprise, education, environment, tourism, employment research and the marine, among many others.

Significant grant support at rates of up to 100% is available to Public Bodies, NGO's, Third Level Colleges and Enterprises for qualifying projects.

Most EU Programmes require projects to form an interregional partnership of actors from 3 or more member states. The new cycle of funds (2021-2027) is now being formulated.

## Interreg and the European Territorial Co-operation

There are a number of particular programmes of interest to the NWRA region. These include Interreg and the European Territorial Co-operation

Interreg supports cooperation between partners across borders. Funding is awarded to tackle common challenges and develop shared solutions.

Projects allow partners to learn from solutions and initiatives carried out elsewhere and to develop joint solutions based on expertise of a wide range of project partners.

Very simply, we share similar issues and solutions with regions and cities elsewhere. Why not work together to resolve them.

The four relevant Interreg Programmes available in the NWRA region are:



## Some examples of other Co-operation Programmes include:

01

### URBACT

Aims to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe developing integrated solutions to common urban challenges.

02

### ESPON

Provides scientific information to public authorities and actors through territorial research and analysis.

03

### Urban Innovative Actions

Provides urban areas with resources to test new and unproven solutions to address urban challenges

04

### Creative Europe

Invests in actions that reinforce cultural diversity and respond to the needs and challenges of the cultural and creative sectors.

# THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY



## NWRA Support Services for EU Funds and Projects

### About The NWRA

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) is one of three Regional Assemblies in the Republic of Ireland. The NWRA with key stakeholders at EU, National, Regional and Local level to accelerate and optimise effective regional development. It performs the role of national contact point for three European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (Interreg Programmes), namely Interreg Europe, the Atlantic Area Programme and the Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme.

The NWRA provides a suite of expert supports and advice to applicants and partners for EU projects, at pre application and project development phase through to implementation of the project. We have supported partners access over €36m over the past five years.

### Objectives of the NWRA regarding EU Funding

The NWRA wish to improve the uptake and use of EU funds and programmes across its region.

The Objective with this initiative is to:

- Provide a pathway for each Local Authority to increase its participation in EU based programmes.
- Establish an information sharing and learning Network of EU practitioners in the region.

#### Strategic Planning

Support to prepare a focused 5 year strategic plan around key priorities for your local authority and aligning these with specific EU funds and programme.

#### Training and Capability

Training in EU funding acquisition including, application preparation, partner search, project financial planning and action / objective setting.

#### Funding and Opportunities Identification

Identification of the key funding and cooperation opportunities that match your local authority's priorities.

#### Partner Search

Support in finding and identification of suitable partners through extensive international partner contacts.

#### Project Application Support

Project development service helping to define and structure a project so that it fits the structure of ETC programmes, meets the programme objectives and priorities and develop work plans that are relevant and innovative.

#### Pre Development Support

Provide advice and review of pre development applications for to ensure it matches the programme call and increase its chances of success.

#### Project Scoping and Advice

Provide initial advice and support around the eligibility / suitability of a project idea or proposal and signposting to the most relevant programme.

#### Project Management

Support on managing and implementing your project from governance, financial and management perspective.



## Local Authority EU Funds Strategic Plan

Each Local Authority within the NWRA region may have differing developmental priorities based on their own strategic plans. By having in place a long range strategy specifically focussing on EU funds / inter regional cooperation allows Local Authorities to define their priorities and match these to predicted EU funding and Programme activity over the coming five years. This process thereby gives focus allowing the Local Authority with the support of the NWRA to:

- Focus on building relationships with future project partners ensuring that projects and partnerships are well defined and structured before a call for funding arises.
- Allow the Local Authority to build its capability in EU projects and funds at a pace that is suitable for them. This for example can involve participation as a partner in a project to learn the mechanisms of EU Programmes, thus building capacity.
- Streamline the funding procurement process with the Local Authority by only concentrating on relevant Programmes and Calls that match the Local Authority strategy. Chasing funds for funds sake is eliminated.

Most of all the Strategic Plan will set out a defined roadmap for each Local Authority to acquire EU Funds and the benefits that flow from

participation in ETC Programmes which can be brought to their work and strategies.

The NWRA will work with each Local Authority to prepare a 5 year strategic plan to support greater participation in EU projects and increase the amount of EU funding awarded to stakeholders across the NWRA region. This process will involve:

- Two facilitated workshops to scope out the priorities and targeted EU financial programmes.
- Review of strategy documents to aid understanding of needs, priorities and development objectives and ensure that the EU funding strategy aligns to these.
- Facilitate the development of up to 5 priorities and potential project ideas that are eligible for EU funding and project participation.
- Define the actions and resources required to implement the strategy.
- Provide a broad project description of up to 5 agreed project priorities.



## EU Network

In tandem the NWRA is establishing a region-wide network of EU practitioners to encourage greater communication, collaboration and innovation.

## Why get involved?

- **Understand the key priority measures and objectives and geographical coverage of programme.**
- **Defining and structuring projects and the partner requirements.**
- **Practical and relevant examples of projects and initiatives that can be funded.**
- **How to apply and find partners, including applications stages and timelines.**
- **Contact and resource for the programmes.**
- **How to monitor calls for proposals and determine their suitability to your organisation.**

If you are interested in availing of this service please contact Brendan Mooney at [bmooney@nwra.ie](mailto:bmooney@nwra.ie)





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