

what is the European Union doing for...

Cavan

The EU - Supporting Your Local Community

The EU has made a major contribution to Ireland's economic and social development since we joined the Common Market in 1973. Indeed, over this period, Ireland has received some €58 billion in funding from Europe, including some €17.5 billion since 1989 from the structural and cohesion funds. In addition, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has lent almost €10 billion to the Irish economy since 1973.

In most cases this EU funding was matched by Irish Exchequer contributions. Successive National Development Plans since 1989 have identified priority projects in the county and in the Border, Midlands and Western (BMW) Region where Cavan is located.

At a local level too, the EU has made a real difference to people's lives. Over the last 35 years, the EU has provided significant funding to a wide range of projects and initiatives in the county. This leaflet provides a flavor of the range and nature of the projects which have benefited from EU support in recent years. While large infrastructure projects such as roads or waste water treatment facilities tend to grab the headlines, it is also important to remember the EU has funded many local initiatives which are aimed at improving the day-to-day lives of people in small but important ways.



Improving Local Infrastructure

A significant proportion of the funding that the EU has provided since the 1970s has been targeted at improving local and national infrastructure. Even in more recent years, the EU has continued to make a significant contribution.

In Cavan, for example, millions of euros have been invested in national road in recent years, with a substantial proportion being provided by the EU. Major projects include:

- > N3 Cavan/Dublin Road
- > N55 Cavan/Athlone Road
- > N54 various sections, including Corradod/Castleanderson
- > N87 Swanlinbar and other improvements
- > Cavan Town By-Pass
- > Virginia By-Pass

In addition, practically every non-national road throughout Cavan has also been funded, with 32 projects completed for example between 1994 and 1999.

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Local Infrastructure



Childcare Services



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Cavan has also benefited from EU co-financed investment in waste management facilities such as the civic amenity sites at Bailieborough, Ballyconnell and Corranure as well as bring bank sites around the county.

In addition, under the co-financed Rural Water Scheme, significant investment has been put in place to upgrade and expand waste water treatment capacity and improve drinking water quality for group water schemes and small public schemes throughout the county. This includes for example, the €3 million Annagh Group Water Scheme, Cliferna Group Water Scheme, the Bailieborough Water Scheme, as well three major treatment projects (the West Cavan, East Cavan and South West Cavan bundles) which incorporate 28 group water schemes, the Castlerahan, Mountnugent and Munterconnacht group water schemes and Belturbet, Kingscourt Water and Sewerage Schemes.

Cavan has also benefited from investment in broadband infrastructure. Under the co-funded Regional Broadband Programme, Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN), which are designed to enable telecommunication companies to provide always on high speed access to the internet, have been constructed in Cavan Town and Kingscourt at a cost of more than €2 million, with Bailieborough and Cootehill included in the Phase 2 roll-out.

Supporting Urban and Village Renewal

At a local and village level, the EU has continued to make a significant contribution to the lives of Cavan residents. Under the EU co-financed Urban and Village Renewal Measures, for example, support was provided for various renewal, conservation and regeneration projects throughout Cavan. As a result, practically every major town and village in Cavan has benefitted from EU and national funding to improve streetscapes, new footpaths and kerbing, the installation of new street lighting, landscaping and street furniture. This includes Cootehill (€93,000), Kinaleck (€93,000), Killashandra (€75,000), Crossdoney, the Market Square, Bailieborough and Renewal, Virginia. In addition, funding has also been provided for the conservation of important public buildings, for example, Cavan County Museum; Kilmore Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Cullies; Ballyconnell Library and St Fethlimidh's Cathedral, Kilmore.



Promoting Rural Development

In addition to the direct support provided to the county's farmers through CAP and REPs and other farm support schemes, the EU has also sought to promote sustainable rural development in a number of other ways. The LEADER Initiative was established by the European Commission in 1991. It was designed to improve the quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of the rural economy.

In Cavan, the LEADER programme has been delivered by Cavan-Monaghan Rural Development. Between 2000 and 2006 this body was allocated €4.9 million in funding to support a host of local projects and initiatives. This includes initiatives in the area of rural/agri-tourism, local enterprise development and community facilities.

Funding towards LEADER-type activities in the 2007-2013 round of EU funding is part of the broader Rural Development Programme for Ireland 2007-13. The funding available for the delivery of LEADER-type activities has been set at €425.4m, with 55% being provided by the EU.

Under the current Rural Development Programme, Cavan Rural Partnership and Monaghan Area Partnership Ltd received funding of more than €12 million to be used to support:

- > Diversification into non-agricultural activities
- > Support for business creation and development
- > Encouragement of tourism activities
- > Basic services for the economy and rural population
- > Village renewal and development
- > Conservation and upgrading rural heritage
- > Training

Cross Border Projects

Cavan is one of the border counties covered by the EU funded cross-border INTERREG Programme which has an overall budget of €256m (2007-2013).

Many projects in the county have benefitted from EU cross border programmes since EU funding became available in 1993. For example, craft and tourism development projects, a heritage awareness project at Ballyhaise Agricultural College, the refurbishment of Killoughter Parish Hall as well as the Breifne project to promote and market part of the North West as a leading cultural and heritage tourism destination.

Health services in County Cavan will benefit from a €30 million EU grant to be managed by the Co-operation and Working Together cross-border health services partnership. Among the practical services to benefit are a specialist eating disorder service, initiatives for older people in the area of telehealth and telecare, a diabetes education project. All these services and projects will involve the community and voluntary sectors.

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Expanding Childcare Services

The demand for childcare has grown dramatically in recent years. To help to meet this demand, the EU has provided significant funding to increase the numbers of childcare facilities and places available to local parents. This has included the provision of capital grants, staffing supports and funding for approved community-based childcare projects, particularly those in disadvantaged areas.

Between 2000 and 2008 some €16 million was allocated to childcare services in Cavan. Childcare services which have benefited from support include; Drumgoon Community Centre, Cootehill; Killeshandra Community Playgroup; Tir Na nOg Community Playgroup, Swanlinbar; Ballyconnell Den Development; Stepping Stones Pre-school, Cavan; Cootehill Community Playgroup; Bunnoe Playgroup; Miltown Resource Centre; Macnean After School Group, Blacklion; Tier Worker Community Playgroup, Bailieborough; Busy Bees Childcare Facility, Cavan; Ballyjamesduff Community Council, Puddle Lane Montessori, Bailieborough and many, many more.



Education and Training Opportunities

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the EU's primary financial instrument for the provision of employment and training opportunities. Since Ireland joined the EU, many agencies and State bodies have received over €6 billion in investment from the ESF and in the period from 2007 to 2013, a further €375m will be invested in training courses, higher education and employment creation projects.

For example, the ESF has co-financed a significant number of employment and training initiatives administered by the Department of Education and Science, Enterprise Ireland, Teagasc, FAS and the VEC. In Cavan, the EU has co-funded projects and programme dealing with:

- > Youthreach
- > Employment Services Offices
- > Early School Leavers progression programme
- > Adult Literacy
- > In-company training
- > Skills training for the long-term unemployed and redundant workers
- > Back to Education Initiative
- > Jobs clubs
- > School completion initiative
- > Third level access fund
- > National qualifications framework

This year many students from Cavan will be among the 25,000 young people who will have benefitted from the EU supported ERASMUS programme since it was set up over 20 years ago. ERASMUS allows third level students and teachers to spend a year or part of a year studying in another EU country. The Higher Education Authority plans to double the number of Irish students taking part in ERASMUS over the next decade and will prioritise students from socio-economic groups that are normally under-represented in higher education.

Supporting Local Enterprises

Over the last number of years Cavan County Enterprise Board (CEB), which has been funded under the NDP with assistance from the EU, has provided valuable support to local businesses and micro-enterprises, through direct grant aid and indirect, non-financial support.

Local businesses which have benefited from funding include: O'Donnell Enterprises Ltd., Stradone; Virginia Laboratory Services; Paul Quinn Engineering Ltd; Fitzpatrick Food Services, Cootehill; Cost Impact.com, Cavan Town; Aweld Engineering, Cootehill; Cavan Country Produce, Cootehill; Cranagh and Co International Trade and Business Services, Belturbet and Ballytherm Ltd, Ballyconnell.

In addition, the CEB continues to support enterprise through the

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provision of training initiatives and mentoring services.

Other important initiatives include the €3.2 million Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre (CITC) which was also part-funded by the EU.

Companies in the county should also seek to avail of support from the banks in Cavan which are approved as financial intermediaries under a €300 million lending package from the European Investment Bank to help Irish SMEs.

Encouraging Research and Development

The EU's R&D Programmes offer valuable opportunities for Ireland's small and medium enterprises (SMEs), multinational corporations, healthcare professionals and academic researchers to participate in high-quality research collaborations with their European counterparts, with the support of EU funding. Ireland has already benefitted greatly from previous EU Framework programmes, with Ireland's third level and company-based researchers drawing down some €200m under the Sixth EU Framework Programme.

The Seventh EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) was launched at the end of 2006 with a budget of approximately €50 billion covering the period 2007 to 2013. Under the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (SSTI) 2006-2013, Ireland has set a goal to become a leader in research and development and innovation. The total share of EU funding to be targeted by Ireland over the lifetime of FP7 should be in the region of €600 million.

For more details check out www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7



Cavan's Share of Current EU Funds

The BMW Regional Assembly is responsible for allocating over half of the €458 million in EU structural funding that will be invested in the BMW region over the period to 2013. Cavan, as with other counties in the BMW region, can lay claim to its share of EU funding in areas such as:

- > Innovation, including micro enterprise supports, broadband delivery and demand stimulation
- > Investments in the Knowledge Economy
- > Environmental projects, including rural water source protection and pilot village sewerage schemes
- > Transport networks
- > Urban developments

**For further information
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