

Overview of European Funding

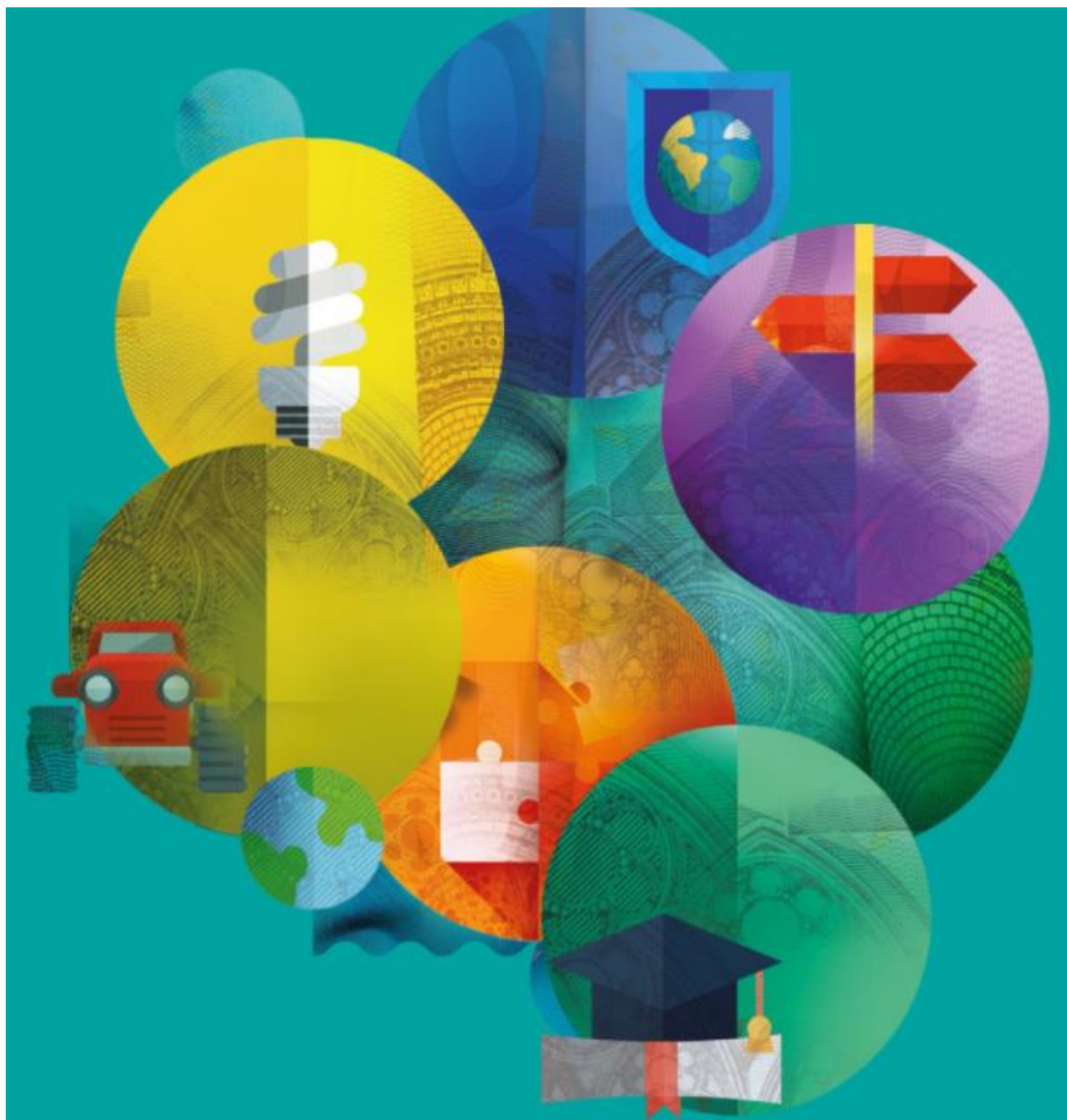


Image © European Union 2020

Colm Markey MEP

V 1 - May 2021

Welcome

A Chara,

With the EU setting out its budgetary framework and strategic priorities for the coming seven years, many programmes have changed or have been given a new focus. I thought it timely, therefore, to draw together this brief guide to EU funding which gives an overview and an explanation of some of the main funds and commonly used terms and acronyms.



Having spent much of my adult life involved in community development and in local government, I understand the importance of support from the EU to many projects and initiatives here in Ireland. I know also that the wide array of schemes and terms can be off-putting for some and I believe that Ireland could benefit even more if public representatives and civic organisations had a clearer picture of what funds are available. I have included therefore a summary of the most relevant funding schemes and some advice for those wishing to make an application.

It is important to acknowledge that there are hundreds of funding streams and that this guide is just a first starting point. It is an overview of some of the more important and more common schemes. It does not claim to be comprehensive or to be legally binding advice. It is intended to point you in the right direction, but I would advise you that should you wish to pursue a funding application you should check the details carefully or seek further advice. You should also note that the detail of several the funding programmes has not yet been finalised, so this guide will be a working document and will be updated regularly.

If you require assistance in relation to European Funding, in preparing an application or in any other regard, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Colm Markey

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Introduction to the EU Budget

EU expenditure over the next seven years will total up to €1,824 billion and is made up of two main elements.

The *Multiannual Financial Framework* sets out spending across a number of broad policy areas. The total expenditure for the 2021-2027 period is €1,074 billion.

In addition to this the European Council has put in place a recovery fund called *Next Generation EU* to support member states hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The NGEU runs from 2021 to 2023 and totals €750 billion.

The combined expenditure is grouped into seven broad headings and the budget for each can be seen in the figure on the right.

- Single Market, Innovation & Digital
- Cohesion, Resilience & Values
- Natural Resources & The Environment
- Migration & Border Control
- Security & Defence
- Neighbourhood & The World
- European Public Administration

A target of 30% of spending across all programmes is allocated to climate mainstreaming. Spending on digital transformation is also given priority.

A €5 billion Brexit Adjustment Reserve has been set aside to support member states and economic sectors that have been worst effected by Brexit.

The seven areas outlined provide the framework for the funding of 40 spending programs.

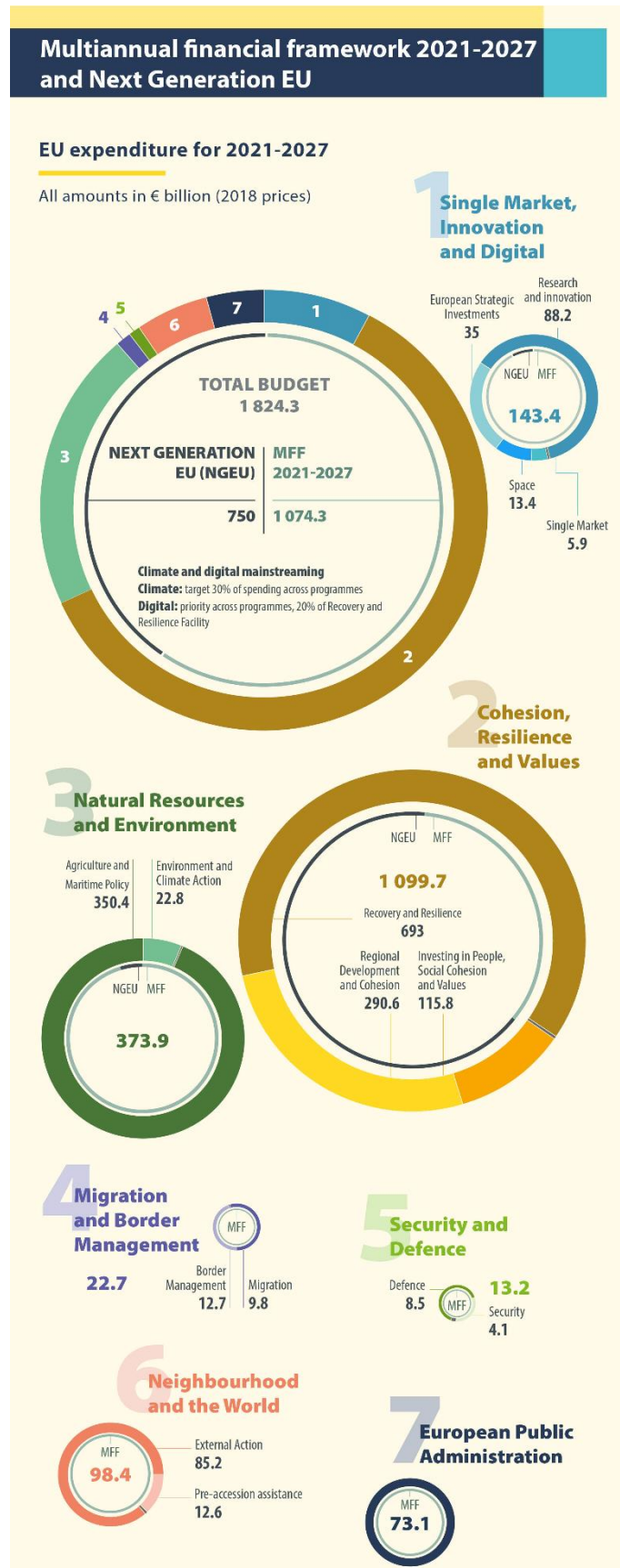


Image © European Union 2020

Main programmes and funds under the multiannual financial framework

All amounts in € billion (2018 prices)

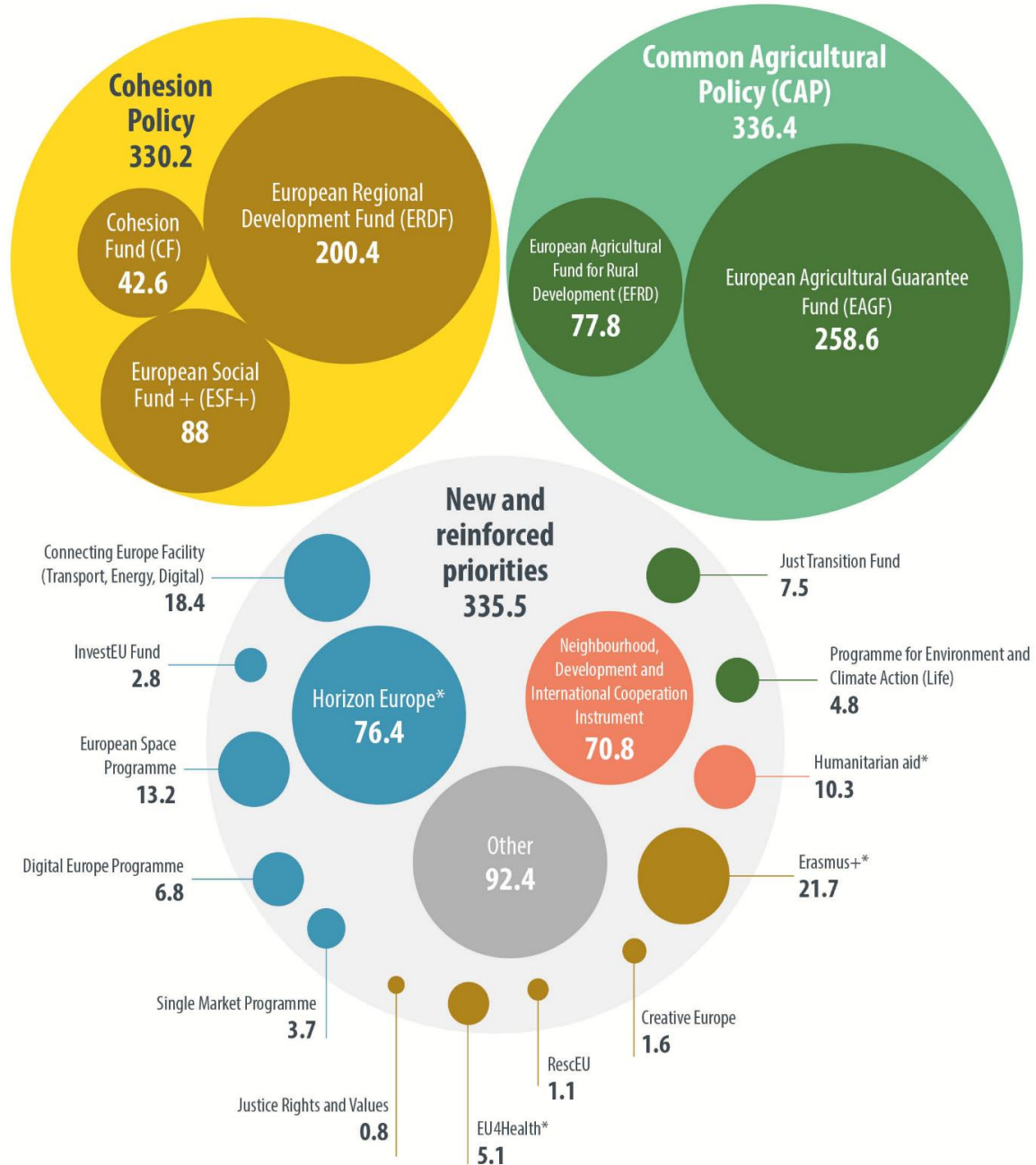


Image © European Union 2020

Advice To Potential Applicants

Before deciding to make an application there are several factors to take into consideration:

- **Relevance:** do not try to follow the funding – rather you should look at the purpose of your organisation and its priorities and programmes and ask yourself whether any initiative that you take on will enhance your organisation or help to deliver on your objectives.
- **Time:** Consider also the amount of time and effort involved in drawing up a project proposal and a funding application and whether or not you have the skills and resources available to you. Likewise, take into account the level of admin required to run a project, which can be quite high / detailed.
- **Cost:** Find out also what matching funding will be required and decide whether that is available to you. Will it be too much of a drain on your resources?

I am not offering these cautions to deter you from embarking on a project, but if you pick the project that is right for you and that is deliverable, you are much more likely to succeed.

Making your application

Do not rush into it. **Take your time** and get it right. Many of the funding schemes have a series of deadlines so wait until you are properly prepared. For many schemes, you will need one or more partners.

Finding the right **partners** is important – are they local, national or in another state? do they share same goals and objectives? – do they have the same expectations? – will they put their share in? – are there linguistic or cultural challenges? - can we use a variety of partners to get cross section of skills across the application? Likewise, if another organisation approaches you asking you to be a partner, you will have to decide if the project is a good strategic fit for your organisation.

Make sure that your **application matches the scheme** to which you are applying. All funds have overall policy objectives and within them there will be specific criteria. Reference the policy in your application and explain how the proposal meets the criteria. If your application is not suitable for the stated criteria, your application will score poorly, no matter how good or how worthy it is otherwise.

Get clear **understanding of what the programme will fund** - some will fund infrastructure, some activity, some admin, some core costs, some project costs only. Keep in mind also that although there are specific priorities within each programme, the current round of funding has a broad set of horizontal priorities across all programmes. The more that your proposal reflects these priorities, the more likely it is to be funded. They are:

- A smarter Europe – innovative and smart economic transformation.
- A greener, low-carbon Europe
- A more connected Europe – mobility and regional ICT connectivity
- A more social Europe – implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights
- Europe closer to citizens – sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural, and coastal areas through local initiatives.

Get advice from others – a list of useful contacts is below. Talk to others who have been through the process. Are there local or national organisations with European links that can help me make contacts with potential partners. And again, feel free to contact my office if I can be of any assistance here.

Take a strategic approach – ask yourself “why should Europe fund this” – what is the EU added value. Lean towards projects that are impact orientated, with clear deliverables that are sustainable. In particular, projects where the outputs or the learning can be shared or transferred across Europe are more attractive.

Make sure you mitigate risks – preparing against failure helps to build success.

Most importantly, make sure that you learn from it and where possible, that you enjoy it.

Useful Links

[How EU Funding Works](#)

[Overview of Funding Programmes](#)

[Who Is Eligible for EU Funding](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

- [Public Bodies](#)
- [Non-Governmental Organisations](#)
- [Small & Medium Enterprises](#)
- [Young People](#)
- [Farmers](#)
- [Researchers](#)

[Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Useful Contacts:

[The Irish Regions European Office \(IREO\)](#)

is a shared service of the three Regional Assemblies in Ireland and is a specialised support service which acts as a bridge between Irish local and regional government and the European Union.

IREO seeks to deliver timely, strategic and relevant guidance and advisory services on EU policy developments in order to inform and facilitate local government understanding and engagement in European activities.

Teresa Lennon

Head of Irish Regions European Office and Co-ordinator, Irish Delegation to the Committee of the Regions.

Email: teresa.lennon@ireo.eu

Tel: 00322 233 11 22

[Access Europe](#)

is a support and information service to help Irish civil society organisations access EU funding. It is run by The Wheel and funded by The Department of Foreign Affairs

The Wheel has launched Access Europe, a new support and capacity-building programme to help. The three-year project is being funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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Directory of Funding Sources

Fund	Categories	Who Can Apply
Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)	Asylum, Migration, Integration	Yet to be finalised
Charlemagne Youth Prize	Youth, Europe	Young People
Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)	Rights, Values, Citizenship, Equality, Networking, Twinning, Justice, Migration	Civil society organisations
Connecting Europe Facility	Transport, Energy	Public Bodies (Including Local Authorities, Universities, Small & Medium Enterprises. Non-Governmental Organisations
Creative Europe (CREA)	Culture, Media, Creative	Cultural and creative organisations
Digital Europe Programme	Supercomputing, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Digital Skills	Various
Erasmus+ Programme	Sport, Youth, Adult Education, Training	Individuals. Public and voluntary sector organisations.
EU4Health	Health, Covid, Pandemic	Member states, health organisations, NGOs
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARDF)	Rural Development	Member States Public Bodies
European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)	Education and training programmes, career advice and guidance, enterprise support.	Member States
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)	Fisheries	Individuals, Groups, Small & Medium Enterprises, Public Bodies
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	Regional Development	Member States Public Bodies
European Social Fund+(ESF)	Employment, Social Enterprise	Public and voluntary sector organisations Small & Medium Enterprises
European Solidary Corps	Youth, Community	Young People
Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)	Anti-Poverty, social exclusion	Non-profit organisations
Horizon Europe	Research, Science, Innovation	Small & Medium Enterprises Non-Governmental Organisations
International Aid, Development & Cooperation	Development	Non-profit organisations or SMEs working in the development field

Fund	Categories	Who Can Apply
Interreg Atlantic Area	Innovation, Competitiveness, Resource efficiency, Territorial Risks Management, Biodiversity and Natural & Cultural Assets	Yet to be finalised
Interreg Europe	Research & Innovation, SME Competitiveness, Low-Carbon Economy, Environment & Resource Efficiency	Regional and local governments
Interreg Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme	Various Northern & Western Counties	Public and private partners
Interreg North West Europe	Innovation, Low Carbon, Resource & Materials Efficiency	Any organisation, public or private,
InvestEU Fund	Sustainable infrastructure; Research, innovation and digitalisation; Small and medium-sized companies; Social investment and skills.	Private entities, Public sector entities, Mixed and NGOs
Just Transition Fund	Decarbonising, peat, coal	Yet to be finalised
LEADER Programme (Liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale)	Rural Development	Community groups and Private enterprises
Peace Plus Programme	Peace, Border	Yet to be finalised
Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)	Environment	Large and small companies, local authorities, Government bodies and NGOs, Higher Education Institutes and community groups.
Recovery and Resilience Facility	Coronavirus, Economy, Digital, Green	Member States
Single Market Programme – Support to SMEs	Small & Medium Enterprises	Small & Medium Enterprises

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Categories: Asylum, Migration, Integration

Objectives:

- Asylum: strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System by ensuring that EU legislation in this field is efficiently and uniformly applied;
- Legal migration and integration: supporting legal migration to EU States in line with the labour market needs and promoting the effective integration of non-EU nationals;
- Return: enhancing fair and effective return strategies, which contribute to combating irregular migration, with an emphasis on sustainability and effectiveness of the return process;
- Solidarity: making sure that EU States, which are most affected by migration and asylum flows can count on solidarity from other EU States.

Funding is available for Reception, Integration and Capacity Building actions that address one or more of the National Objectives set out in Ireland's National Programme AMIF (2014-2020). The National Programme includes examples of the types of actions that may be funded. Actions not specified in the National Programme may still be eligible for funding provided they address relevant Objective(s).

Funding Period: Current programme ran until 2020 - awaiting an update

For Info: <http://eufunding.justice.ie/en/eufunding/pages/what-is-amif>

Administered by: Funds Administration Unit of the Department of Justice

Further info:

<https://eufunds.ie/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund/>

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/calls-for-proposals_en

Charlemagne Youth Prize

Categories: Youth, Europe

Objectives: The Prize is awarded to projects which promote European and international understanding, foster the development of a shared sense of European identity and integration, serve as a role model for young people living in Europe and offer practical examples of Europeans living together as one community.

Previous winners have been awarded for projects such as youth exchanges, events in the fields of sports, arts or culture or may take the form of online projects with a European dimension.

Who can apply: Young people (16-30) working on a project with a European dimension.

For Info: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charlemagneyouthprize/en/>

Administered by: European Parliament together with the ‘Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen’.

Further info:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/ireland/en/youth-outreach/charlemagne-youth-prize-2021#:~:text=The%20Prize%20is%20awarded%20to,living%20together%20as%20one%20community.>

epdublin@europarl.europa.eu.

Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

Categories: Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values

The programme will support civil society organisations and other stakeholders active at local, regional, national, and transnational level, and encourage civic and democratic participation.

Objectives:

- To promote equality and rights, including gender equality, anti-discrimination, and the rights of children
- To promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the EU and to raise awareness of the common European history
- To fight violence, notably against children and women
- To protect and promote EU values

For Info: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/17/rights-and-values-programme-council-presidency-and-european-parliament-reach-provisional-agreement/>

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Transport

Categories: Transport Infrastructure

Objectives: CEF Transport

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for Transport is the funding instrument to realise European transport infrastructure policy. It aims at supporting investments in building new transport infrastructure in Europe or rehabilitating and upgrading the existing one.

Trans-European Networks for Transport (TEN-T) policy objectives foresee:

- completion by 2030 of the Core Network, structured around nine multimodal Core Network Corridors.
- completion by 2050 of the Comprehensive Network in order to facilitate accessibility to all European regions

CEF Transport focuses on cross-border projects and projects aiming at removing bottlenecks or bridging missing links in various sections of the Core Network and on the Comprehensive Network, as well as for horizontal priorities such as traffic management systems.

CEF Transport also supports innovation in the transport system in order to improve the use of infrastructure, reduce the environmental impact of transport, enhance energy efficiency and increase safety.

For Info:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/connecting-europe-facility/transport-infrastructure_en

Administered by: [European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)

Who Can Apply: Public Bodies (Including Local Authorities, Universities, Small & Medium Enterprises. Non-Governmental Organisations (May require support of Member State)

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Energy

Categories: Energy Infrastructure

Connecting Europe Facility for Energy supports the construction and upgrade of sustainable energy infrastructure projects and trans-European networks for Energy (TEN-E).

The projects involve electricity transmission lines, gas pipelines, electricity storage projects, underground gas storage projects, LNG terminals and smart grid projects.

For Info:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/connecting-europe-facility/energy-infrastructure-connecting-europe-facility_en

Administered by: [European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)

Who Can Apply: Public Bodies (Including Local Authorities, Universities, Small & Medium Enterprises. Non-Governmental Organisations (May require support of Member State)

Creative Europe (CREA)

Categories: Culture, Media

Summary:

Programme is open to cultural and creative organisations and provides support for initiatives in the areas of Culture and audiovisual media. It's aims are to:

- Help the cultural and creative sectors seize the opportunities of the digital age and globalisation;
- Enable the sectors to reach their economic potential, contributing to sustainable growth, jobs, and social cohesion;
- Give Europe's culture and media sectors access to new international opportunities, markets, and audiences.

For Info: <https://www.creativeeuropeireland.eu/culture>

Administered by: Creative Europe Desk Ireland

Further info:

<https://www.creativeeuropeireland.eu/media/news/articles/creative-europe-media-2021-2027-update-plan-your-2021-applications-now#:~:text=Last%20week%20the%20EU%20Parliament,%E2%82%AC1.46%20billion%20in%20total.>

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe_en

Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

Categories: Supercomputing, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Digital Skills

Objectives: To accelerate the recovery and drive the digital transformation of Europe.

For Info: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

How To Apply: Applications are made via the Funding & Tenders Portal
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Erasmus+ Programme

Categories: Sport, Youth, Adult Education, Training

Summary:

- Youth and youth workers – capacity building, exchanges, inclusion, citizenship, volunteering
- Adult education and training – improving literacy, numeracy and digital skills, particularly for low-skilled adults, accreditation of non-formal learning and ICT approaches into adult education.
- Professional development of staff - capacity building and training.
- Sport – inclusion & equality, governance, healthy activity

For Info: <https://insights.leargas.ie/en/erasmus-plus-2021-2027>

Administered by: Leargas

Who Can Apply: Individuals. Public and voluntary sector organisations.

Further info:

https://www.erasmustrainingcourses.com/uploads/6/5/6/3/65630323/2021-erasmusplus-programme-guide_en.pdf

https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/the_new_erasmus_key_action_1_and_2.pdf

<https://www.leargas.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/StartingOutWithErasmusPlus.pdf>

EU4Health

Categories: Health, Covid

Objectives:

EU4Health will:

- Boost EU's preparedness for major cross border health threats
- Strengthen health systems so that they can face epidemics as well as long-term challenges.
- Make medicines and medical devices available and affordable, advocate the prudent and efficient use of antimicrobials as well as promote medical and pharmaceutical innovation and greener manufacturing.

For Info: https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en

Administered by: European Commission

Further info:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1345

<https://www.accesseurope.ie/health-funding>

Who Can Apply: Member States, health organisations and NGOs.

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARDF)

Categories: Rural Development

Objectives: The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARDF) provides economic, environmental, and social supports for rural areas, through a variety of schemes, to:

- foster knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas
- enhance the viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promote innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management
- promote food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture
- restore, preserve, and enhance ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry
- promote resource efficiency and support the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food, and forestry sectors
- promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

For Info: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/73aea-schemes-and-services-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/>

Administered by: Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine

National Rural Network: Irish National Rural Network

Further info: https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ie_rdp_qnt_summary_v1_4.pdf

European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)

Categories: Education and training programmes, career advice and guidance, enterprise support.

Objectives: The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) supports workers made redundant as a result of major changes in global trade patterns to assist them back into employment as soon as possible.

For Info: <https://eufunds.ie/european-globalisation-adjustment-fund/>

Administered by: Department of Education and Skills and SOLAS

Further info: <https://eufunds.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FAQs-update-August-2019-final.pdf>

Who Can Apply: Member States

European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Categories: Fisheries

Objectives: The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) supports activities investing in coastal and fishing communities in the following areas:

- Help fishermen transition to sustainable fishing
- Support coastal communities and help diversify their economies
- Create jobs and improve the quality of life along European coastlines
- Make it easier for applicants to access finance

For Info: <https://eufunds.ie/european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund/>

Administered by: The implementing body is the Marine Agencies & Programmes Division in the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine. However, many of the Grants are administered by Bórd Iascaigh Mhara (BIM),

Further info: <https://www.bim.ie/fisheries/funding/>

Who Can Apply: Individuals, Groups, Businesses

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Categories: Regional Development

Objectives: The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion across the EU by correcting imbalances between its regions. It co-finances investments into the regions with Governments to support activities in the regions contributing to a balanced level of development.

There are two operational programmes in Ireland.

- Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme
- Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme

Who Can Apply: Member States, Public bodies

For Info: <https://eufunds.ie/european-regional-development-fund/>

Managing Authorities:

- Northern & Western Regional Assembly
- Southern Regional Assembly

Further info: <https://eufunds.ie/european-regional-development-fund/erdf-2021-2027/>

European Social Fund (ESF)

Categories: Employment, Social Enterprise,

Objectives: The key areas of investment chosen for the ESF in Ireland revolve around activation of the unemployed, social and labour market inclusion, education and training and youth employment.

For Info: <https://eufunds.ie/european-social-fund/>

Administered by: Supports courses, schemes, and projects through a range of Government Departments and agencies, including:

- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Department of Defence.
- Department of Justice
- Department of Rural and Community Development
- Department of Social Protection
- Higher Education Authority
- SOLAS

Further info:

<https://eufunds.ie/european-social-fund/what-do-we-fund/>

<https://eufunds.ie/european-social-fund/>

European Solidary Corps

Categories: Youth, Community

Objectives: The European Solidarity Corps funds and supports young people between 18 and 30 to volunteer or work in projects that benefit communities.

The programme implements the following operational actions:

- Volunteering projects
- Solidarity projects
- Volunteering in humanitarian aid operations

For Info: <https://insights.leargas.ie/en/european-solidarity-corps-2021-2027>

Administered by: Leargas

Further info: <https://www.volunteer.ie/resources/links/esc/>

Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

Categories: Anti-Poverty, social exclusion

Objectives: Provide material assistance (including food and clothing) to the most deprived.

For Info: <https://eufunds.ie/fund-for-european-aid-to-the-most-deprived/>

Administered by: The Department of Social Protection processes all applications from not-for-profit organisations who work with those in need of assistance.

Further info: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/ff767-social-welfare-schemes-and-services/>

Who Can Apply: Not- for-profit organisations

Horizon Europe

Categories: Research

Objectives: EU Research and Innovation programme. The programme includes research missions in five key areas: cancer; carbon-neutral and smart cities; adapting to the climate crisis; oceans and waters; and soil health and food.

For Info: <https://horizoneurope.ie/>

Local Contacts:

Enterprise Ireland

National Support Network for Horizon Europe

Further info: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe_en

International Aid, Development & Co-Operation Programme

Categories: External Development, Overseas aid,

Objectives:

Reducing global poverty; Ensuring sustainable development; Promoting democracy, peace & security

For Info: <https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/funding>

Who can apply? Non-profit Organisations or SMEs working in the development field.

Interreg Atlantic Area

Categories: Innovation, Competitiveness, Resource Efficiency, Territorial Risks Management, Biodiversity and Natural & Cultural Assets.

Objectives: Interreg AA co-finances cooperation projects between Ireland, France, Portugal, and Spain in the fields of Innovation & Competitiveness, Resource Efficiency, Territorial Risks Management, Biodiversity and Natural & Cultural Assets. (2014-2020 programme)

Who Can Apply: Atlantic Area Programme 2021-2027 is still at Public Consultation phase. More details to be announced soon. Likely to be focused on Smarter Europe, Greener Europe, More Social Europe.

For Info: <https://www.atlanticarea.eu/>

Administered by: Interreg Atlantic Area

National Contact Point:

Brendan Mooney - Northern and Western Regional Assembly

bmooney@nwra.ie

Interreg Europe

Categories: Research & Innovation, SME Competitiveness, Low-Carbon Economy, Environment & Resource Efficiency.

Objectives: Interreg Europe helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy.

Interreg Europe Programme 2021-2027 is still at Public Consultation phase. More details to be announced soon.

Who Can Apply: Regional & Local Government

For Info: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/>

Administered by: Interreg Europe

National Contact Points:

North West Regional Assembly – David Minton dminton@nwra.ie

Southern Regional Assembly – David Kelly [Send me an email](#)

Interreg Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme

Categories: Counties Donegal, Galway, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Clare, Limerick, and Cork. There is a proposal to include Counties Cavan, Monaghan, Tipperary in the new programme, but this has not yet been approved by the Commission..

Objectives:

Various programmes involving partnerships in at least three territories to expand the regions' horizons, building on concrete outcomes and enabling the programme area to be a 1st class region to live, study, work, visit and invest.

- A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation.
- A greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management .
- A better Interregional co-operation / governance.

Who Can Apply: In general, the programme is open for public and private partners of all kinds from inside the programme area, for example regional and local authorities and other public sector organisations, research institutions and private entities delivering public service, private-public partnerships, social enterprises, and third sector organisations. Besides that, local and regional SMEs, among these specifically micro enterprises in remote and sparsely populated areas and business organisations, etc.

For Info:

<https://www.interreg-npa.eu/>

Administered by: The Northern Periphery and Arctic Secretariat

National Contact:

Brendan Mooney - Northern and Western Regional Assembly

bmooney@nwra.ie

Further info: <http://www.northernperiphery.eu/>

Interreg North West Europe

Categories: Innovation, Low Carbon, Resource & Materials Efficiency

Objectives: To make the North-West Europe area a key economic player and an attractive place to work and live, with high levels of innovation, sustainability, and cohesion.

- To enhance innovation performance of enterprises (Innovation)
- To facilitate the implementation of low-carbon, energy, and climate protection strategies to reduce GHG emissions (Low carbon)
- To facilitate the uptake of low carbon technologies, products, processes, and services in sectors with high energy saving potential, to reduce GHG emissions (Low carbon)
- To facilitate the implementation of transnational low-carbon solutions in transport systems to reduce GHG-emissions (Low carbon)
- To optimise (re)use of material and natural resources (Resource and materials efficiency)

Who Can Apply: Any organisation, public or private, can participate.

For Info: <https://www.nweurope.eu/>

Administered by: Interreg North West Europe

National Contact Point: Southern Regional Assembly

Further info: sdavoren@southernassembly.ie

InvestEU Fund

Categories: Sustainable infrastructure; Research, innovation, and digitalisation; Small and medium-sized companies; Social investment and skills.

Objectives:

The InvestEU Fund aims to mobilise more than €372 billion of public and private investment through an EU budget guarantee of €26.2 billion that backs the investment of implementing partners such as the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group and other financial institutions.

The Fund aims to promote recovery, green growth, employment, and well-being across Europe, delivering real benefits and making a difference at the local level.

Who Can Apply:

- Private entities such as special-purpose vehicles (SPV) or project companies, large corporates, midcap companies, including small midcap companies, and SMEs
- Public sector entities (territorial or not) and public-sector type entities
- Mixed entities, such as public–private partnership (PPPs) and private companies with a public purpose
- Non-for-profit organisations

For Info: https://europa.eu/investeu/about-investeu_en

Just Transition Fund

Categories: Decarbonising, peat, coal

Objectives: Fund assists communities who have challenges in decarbonising of their economies and industries. The Fund helps Irish regions that face significant difficulties in the local labour market from the phasing out of peat and coal for electricity generation and will assist those regions in the transition to a low carbon emissions economy.

The EU Commission has indicated that the Midlands Region will be the recipient of the fund, but the details are currently being devised.

For Info: <https://eufunds.ie/home/our-funds/just-transition-fund/>

Administered by: Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Further info: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ed10d-just-transition-fund/>

LEADER Programme

(Liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale)

Categories: Rural Development

- Rural tourism
- Enterprise development
- Broadband
- Basic services targeted at hard-to-reach communities
- Rural youth
- Protection and sustainable use of water resources
- Local biodiversity
- Renewable energy

Objectives:

LEADER supports private enterprises and community groups who improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas.

Helping rural communities to actively engage and to direct the local development of their area, through community-led local development.

This aid is provided to projects under the following themes:

- Economic development, enterprise development and job creation
- Social inclusion
- Rural environment

Funding Period: The last LEADER programme ran from 2014-2020 and a new one is unlikely to commence before 2023. In the interim a transitional LEADER Programme which came into effect on 1st April 2021.

For Info: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/46cecf-leader-programme-funding/>

Administered by: [29 Local Action Groups](#)

Further info:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/179274-leader-rural-development/>

<https://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie/leader/>

Peace Plus Programme

Categories: Border Counties

- Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities
- Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation
- Empowering and Investing in our Young People
- Healthy and Inclusive Communities
- Supporting a Sustainable Future
- Building & Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

Objectives:

Still at public consultation stage - Full details yet to be published

For Info: <https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>

Administered by: Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

Further info: <https://www.seupb.eu/seupb-home>

Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

Categories: Environment & Climate Action

Who can apply: Large and small companies, local authorities, government bodies and NGOs, Higher Education Institutes and community groups can participate.

Objectives:

Details of the next LIFE regulation, multiannual work programme and related calls for proposals are still under discussion.

The new LIFE programme will cover the following areas:

- Nature and biodiversity
- Circular economy and quality of life
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Clean energy transition

For Info: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7e5e8-life-programme/>

Administered by: Applications are made through the [e-proposal website](#)

Further info:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7e5e8-life-programme/#contact-us>

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life>

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/section/life/calls-proposals#inline-nav-1>

Recovery & Resilience Facility

Categories: Coronavirus, Economy, Digital, Green

Objectives:

To mitigate the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient, and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions.

The Facility will make loans and grants available to support reforms and investments undertaken by Member States.

Member States, including Ireland, are in the process of preparing their recovery and resilience plans that set out a coherent package of reforms and public investment projects.

For Info: https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en#the-recovery-and-resilience-facility

Who can apply: Member States

Administered by: European Commission

Single Market Programme – Support to SMEs

Categories: Enterprise

Objectives:

The Single Market Programme aims to make the internal market more effective, boost SME competitiveness, support European standardisation and empower customers.

Within this programme, the SME Pillar supports small and medium-sized enterprises to make the most of business opportunities

For Info: https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/single-market-programme/support-smes_en

Administered by:

Those wishing to apply for support should look at the list of available calls for proposals on the Funding & Tenders Portal.

Further info: https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals_en

Who Can Apply: Small and Medium Enterprises

Glossary

- **Double Funding** It is a fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU that no costs for the same activity be funded twice from the EU budget.
- **Co-financing rate** The term 'co-financing rate' refers to the contribution EU funding makes to a programme. It is expressed as a percentage of the total programme cost. Co-financing is usually subject to a maximum threshold, which is defined as a percentage of the total value of the programme, or part thereof. The Commission specifies co-financing rates for each operational programme. The remainder of the cost is called **Matching Funding**
- **Cohesion Fund** is aimed at Member States whose Gross National Income (GNI) per inhabitant is less than 90 % of the EU average. It aims to reduce economic and social disparities and to promote sustainable development. Ireland no longer qualifies for the Cohesion Fund, but is eligible for other cohesion funding such as ERDF and ESF (see below).
- **Committee of the Regions** is a consultative body that allows local and regional authorities to take part in EU legislative work. Its 353 members usually comprise elected local or regional politicians, leaders of regional governments, or the mayors of cities.
- **Eligibility of expenditure** is a determination of whether a cost qualifies for funding under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) – the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.
- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions.
- **European Social Fund (ESF)** invests in people, with a focus on improving employment and education opportunities across the European Union. It also aims to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people at risk of poverty.
- **Managing Authority** is a body responsible for the efficient management and implementation of an operational programme. A managing authority may be a national ministry, a regional authority, a local council, or another public or private body that has been nominated and approved by a Member State.
- **Monitoring committee:** Bodies appointed by Member states to check that operational programmes (OPs) which use European Structural and Investment (ESI) funding are being correctly implemented. These committees are chaired by the relevant Member State (or managing authority) and comprise regional, economic and social partners.

- **NUTS** ([Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics](#)) is a European standard format for referencing the subdivisions of countries for statistical purposes. It is of particular relevance to the delivery of European Union's Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund. In Ireland NUTS1 is the whole State, NUTS2 corresponds to the 3 Regional Assemblies which are sub-divided into [8 NUTS3 regions](#), corresponding broadly to the 8 former Regional Authorities.
- **Operational programmes** are detailed plans in which the Member States set out how money from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) will be spent during the programming period. They can be drawn up for a specific region or a country-wide thematic goal (e.g. Environment). For the European Territorial Cooperation goal, cross-border or interregional operational programmes are drawn up.
- **Performance Framework** is a set of indicators in each operational programme according to which the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, shall review the performance of the programmes in each Member State
- **State aid** European Union rules on State aid were put in place to ensure that state-owned resources are not deployed to distort competition or create unfair advantage in the European single market.
- **Subsidiarity** is a principle which aims to ensure that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen. Except in cases where the EU has exclusive competence, action at European level should not be taken unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level. Subsidiarity is closely bound up with the principles of proportionality and necessity, meaning that any action by the Union should not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaty.
- **Sustainable development** refers to a form of development policy which seeks to satisfy society's economic, social and environmental needs in terms of well-being in the short, medium and - above all - long term.
- **Technical assistance** is available to help stakeholders implement Commission-funded programmes and projects. Under the European Union's cohesion policy such financial support can be used to pay for preparation, management, evaluation, monitoring, audit and control.
- **Territorial cohesion** Strengthening economic and social cohesion by reducing disparities between regions in the EU.
- **Trans-European Networks** (TENs) consist of cross-border transport and energy infrastructures. Their purpose is to support and enhance the functioning of the European single market by facilitating the free movement of goods, people and services
- **Transnational cooperation** encourages highly integrated partnerships impacting beyond national boundaries in a transnational cooperation area. Such partnerships span

and represent different levels of government and administration, embracing both public and private-sector bodies and different policy areas. There are 15 transnational cooperation areas across the EU. Under certain conditions, territories in neighbouring third countries can also be part of transnational cooperation areas and benefit from cohesion policy funding.

- **URBACT** - Urban Development network programme is a European exchange and learning programme financed by the Commission under its territorial cooperation goal as part of its programmes on interregional cooperation. The aim of the network is to stimulate innovation in urban regeneration by encouraging towns and cities to identify, transfer and disseminate good practice.

A more comprehensive Glossary is available at
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/what/glossary/

EU expenditure for 2021-2027

All amounts in € billion (2018 prices) Total budget: 1824.3

Multiannual financial framework (MFF): 1074.3

Next Generation EU: 750

Climate and digital mainstreaming:

- Climate: target 30% of spending across all programmes
- Digital: priority across all programmes, and 20% of the Recovery and Resilience Facility

Single Market, Innovation and Digital: 143.4

- Research and Innovation: 88.2
- European Strategic Investments: 35
- Single Market: 5.9
- Space: 13.4

Cohesion, Resilience and Values: 1099.7

- Regional Development and Cohesion: 290.6
- Recovery and Resilience: 693
- Investing in People, Social Cohesion and Values: 115.8

Natural Resources and Environment: 373.9

- Agriculture and Maritime Policy: 350.4
- Environment and Climate Action: 22.8

Migration and Border Management: 22.7

- Migration: 9.8
- Border Management: 12.7

Security and Defence: 13.2

- Security: 4.1
- Defence: 8.5

Neighbourhood and the World: 98.4

- External Action: 85.2
- Pre-accession assistance: 12.6

European Public Administration: 73.1

Main programmes and funds under the multiannual financial framework

All amounts in € billion (2018 prices)

Cohesion policy - TOTAL: 330.2

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): 200.4
- Cohesion Fund (CF): 42.6
- European Social Fund + (ESF+): 88

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) - TOTAL: 336.4

- European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF): 258.6
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) 77.8

New and reinforced priorities - TOTAL: 335.5

Single Market, Innovation and Digital

- Horizon Europe: 76.4*
- Connecting Europe Facility (Transport, Energy, Digital): 18.4
- European Space Programme: 13.2
- Digital Europe Programme: 6.8
- Single Market Programme: 3.7
- InvestEU Fund: 2.8

Cohesion, Resilience and Values

- Erasmus+: 21.7*
- Creative Europe: 1.6
- EU4Health: 5.1*
- RescEU: 1.1
- Justice Rights and Values: 0.8

Natural Resources and Environment

- Just Transition Fund: 7.5
- Programme for Environment and Climate Action (Life): 4.8

Neighbourhood and the World

- Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument: 70.1
- Humanitarian aid: 10.3*

Other - 92.4

* of which €500 million from 2.5 billion reallocation from the margins agreed with the European Parliament. Note: An additional top-up of €12.5 billion over 2021–2027 is agreed with the European Parliament and allocated to: Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, EU4Health, Integrated Border Management Fund, Rights and Values, Creative Europe, InvestEU, NDICI. Top-ups will be mainly funded by revenue from competition fines and de-commitments.

Next Generation EU: fueling recovery and resilience

All amounts in € billion (2018 prices)

- Horizon Europe: 5
- InvestEU Fund: 5.6
- REACT EU: 47.5
- Recovery and Resilience Facility: 672.5
- Union Civil Protection Mechanism (RescEU): 1.9
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD): 7.5
- Just Transition Fund: 10