



EU Funding Programmes 2007 – 2013

Northern Ireland will benefit from a range of EU funding programmes over the next number of years. A brief summary of the main programmes together with links providing further information and application details are outlined below.

Northern Ireland Competitiveness and Employment Programme

The programme aims to promote investment in the development of a knowledge-based, innovative and business-friendly region with a highly skilled workforce supporting a high quality of life. The total budget is €614 million, with €307 million of investment from the EU. It includes setting up six new centres of excellence in research and development and contributing to starting up 250 new businesses. The Managing Authority is the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Further information is available at www.detini.gov.uk.

European Social Fund Programme

The European Social Fund Programme will contribute to reducing the productivity gap in Northern Ireland by helping to reduce the level of economic inactivity and increasing workforce skills. Northern Ireland is to receive €165.7 million from the Fund from 2007-2013. The Managing Authority for the Programme is the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). Further information is available at www.delni.gov.uk.

PEACE III Programme

The PEACE III Programme has a total budget of €333 million, with €225 million of investment from the EU. The goal is to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region, by supporting projects that bring communities together. The Managing Authority for PEACE III is the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Further information is available at www.seupb.org.

INTERREG IVA Cross-Border Programme

Northern Ireland, the border counties of Ireland and parts of western Scotland will benefit from a seven-year cross-border INTERREG programme, with a total budget of €256 million, including €192 million of investment from the EU. The programme will focus on developing a dynamic economy, supporting infrastructure and promoting innovative ways of addressing specific cross-border problems. The Managing Authority for INTERREG IVA is the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Further information is available at www.seupb.org

INTERREG IVB and IVC Programmes

INTERREG IVB aim to promote a higher degree of territorial integration, with a view to achieving sustainable and balanced development across the EU. Key areas of focus include innovation, environment, accessibility and sustainable urban environment. INTERREG IVC focuses on the identification, analysis and dissemination of good practices by public authorities in order to improve the effectiveness of regional and local policies. Further information is available at www.seupb.org

International Fund for Ireland

The EU has committed €15 million per year for the four-year period 2007-2010 to the International Fund for Ireland to support its strategy 'Sharing this space'. Further information is available at www.internationalfundforireland.com/

Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme

The EU will be contributing €171 million to the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013. The programme aims to boost the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, improve the environment and countryside and improve the quality of life in rural areas. Further information is available at www.dardni.gov.uk/index/rural-development/nirdp2007-2013.htm

European Fisheries Fund

The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) will provide support for the fisheries sector, including adaptation of the fleet, processing and marketing of fishery products and the development of sustainable fisheries. The EFF will run for seven years, with a total budget of around €3.8 billion. For more information on the application of the fund in Northern Ireland, go to <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/grants-and-funding.htm>

Seventh Framework Research Programme

The Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and is designed to respond to Europe's employment needs, competitiveness and quality of life. Further information is available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme

The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) aims to encourage the competitiveness of European enterprises. With small and medium-sized enterprises as its main target, the programme will support innovation activities, provide better access to finance and deliver business support services in the regions. It will encourage a better take-up and use of information and communications technologies and help to develop the information society. It will also promote the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency. Further information is available at http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm

PROGRESS Programme

The new PROGRESS programme for employment and social solidarity will focus on employment, social protection and social inclusion, working conditions, anti-discrimination and diversity and gender equality. Further information is available at http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.html.

Lifelong Learning Programme

The new Lifelong Learning Programme offers funding for organisations involved in education and training and provides opportunities to get involved in European links. It includes the Comenius programme for schools, Erasmus for higher education, Leonardo da Vinci for vocational education and training and Grundtvig for adult education. Further information is available at http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lfp/index_en.htm or www.lifelonglearningprogramme.org.uk.

Youth in Action

Youth in Action is the new EU programme in the field of youth and is a key instrument in providing young people with opportunities for non-formal and informal learning with a European dimension. Further information is available at http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm

LIFE + (Environment)

With a budget of over €2.1 billion, LIFE + will provide support for the implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation in respect of nature, biodiversity and other environmental issues. Further information is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>.

Culture Programme

The Culture Programme aims to encourage the development of cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue across Europe. Further information is available at http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Europe for Citizens

The Europe for Citizens programme supports a wide range of activities and organisations promoting active European citizenship, including town-twinning. Further information is available at http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm.

MEDIA 2007

MEDIA 2007 supports the European audiovisual sector and focuses on preproduction and post-production activities, including distribution and promotion. Further information is available at http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/overview/2007/index_en.htm.

EU Health Programme

The Health Programme 2008-2013 is intended to complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States and contribute to increased solidarity and prosperity in the European Union by protecting and promoting human health and safety and by improving public health. The overall budget is €321 million. Further information is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/pgm2008_2013_en.htm