EU support puts Ireland’s regions in good health

Construction of 14 new health centres across Ireland will increase access to primary healthcare and social services, make services more cost-effective and improve facilities.

All centres will provide general practitioner surgeries, occupational therapy, social services and dietary advice. Some will also accommodate mental health, dentistry and addiction services, early intervention teams, on-call doctors and ambulance bases. Purpose-built facilities create jobs and allow the introduction of new delivery models and services. This will increase the effectiveness of in- and outpatient services, while the energy efficiency of the centres will cut costs. The scheme supports the shift from hospital- to community-based care, which is closer to patients and their families. The centres are to be in Galway, Limerick, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo in western Ireland, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford in the south and in Dublin and Kildare. They represent the first instance of Investment Plan for Europe backing for primary healthcare in Europe.