The EU – Supporting Your Local Community

Ireland has been a net beneficiary from the EU Budget since accession in 1973. By the beginning of 2015, Ireland received over €72.5 billion. However, this does not include payments made directly to beneficiaries, such as research receipts.

The majority of Irish funding from the EU has come through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), providing direct income and market support to the agricultural sector. In 2015, Structural Funds provided €150m and the European Social Funds contributed over €24m towards education and training, social inclusion and supports for vulnerable sectors of Irish society.

For the 2014-2020 Programme, the majority of Irish funding will continue to come through CAP and Ireland can also still expect to receive significant receipts under structural fund spending. As in recent years, structural funding will continue to focus on areas such as research, technology and innovation supporting SMEs, ICT, energy efficiency and education, training and labour activation measures. Additional funding opportunities will arise under the Horizon 2020, Erasmus, Connecting Europe and Cosme EU level programmes which cover research, education, infrastructure networks and SME competitiveness and a number of other smaller programmes.

With this support from Europe, Ireland is continuing to develop a clean, innovative and highly skilled economy, providing world-class leadership and competitiveness in areas such as IT, Research and Technology. Furthermore, Irish farmers are producing high-quality products for world markets, with a reputation for excellence.

This information leaflet provides an insight into some of the ways that the EU has recently supported County Cavan.

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.

Ireland has been awarded a total of €273.3m for 622 participations and 472 projects. Here are some examples of how organisations in Cavan have been benefiting:

CG Power Systems, Cavan are involved in a €5m Smart Rural Grid project that is developing an innovative smart grid approach, targeting the particular requirements of rural electricity distribution networks. The project will highlight the characteristics of rural electricity distribution. The project aims to gain significant savings in rural areas.
electricity distribution, also accommodating the integration and distribution of renewable electricity sources and Combined Heat and Power (CHP).

**CavMac**
Abcon Industrial Products Ltd, manufacturers of CavMac Hose, is based in Cootehill, County Cavan and is the leading independently owned manufacturer of large bore, custom designed hand-built rubber hose for marine, offshore, dockside, dredging and heavy industry in Ireland and the UK. Research and Development (R&D) initiatives at CavMac are co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Enterprise Ireland.

**Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre (CITC)**
As well as offering a range of training programmes and facilities, CITC tailors its' programmes to assist companies with specific technical requirements. One of these companies is Lakeland Dairies.

R&D initiatives in Lakeland Dairies are co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Enterprise Ireland. The aim of R&D within Lakeland group is to develop new products based on both dairy and non-dairy ingredients. It also provides for the development of next generation products for the food service industry and CITC assist the company with their R&D.

In 2015, Lakeland Dairies began a €36m expansion of milk powder processing operations at Baileboro, in Cavan, which was supported by Enterprise Ireland. This will create about 81 new jobs, as the company embraces the end of the EU milk quota era.

### Cavan Celebrates Science

Ballyhaise Agricultural College hosted an interactive event that looked at the science behind farming. Students found out how slurry gasses were produced, about the hygiene around milking and its effect on milk quality and how animal feed and grass converts into beef kilos.

The event was organised as part of Cavan-Monaghan Science Week. Monaghan County Council and Cavan County Council joined forces though funding from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) to organise a week-long festival to promote science, technology, engineering and maths.

The counties of Cavan and Monaghan have been identified by SFI as low intervention counties in terms of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) participation. The festival aims to stimulate interest, excitement and debate about STEM and to promote awareness and understanding of the importance and relevance of STEM to everyday life.

According to international research, over the past 10 years growth in STEM jobs were three times as fast as in non-STEM jobs. STEM workers are also less likely to experience joblessness than their non-STEM counterparts. STEM workers play a key role in the sustained growth and stability of the economy.

Both county councils want to play a pivotal leading role in the promotion of career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, arts and maths.

Other events covered topics such as the science of golf, boat building and unravelling the science behind food labels.

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### Cross-Border

**FUNDING SUPPORTS TOURISM**

**Cavan Burren Park receives Best Heritage Award**

Located just outside Blacklion, in scenic West Cavan, Cavan Burren Park is regarded as one of the finest integrated prehistoric landscapes in Ireland. The park is home to a number of remarkable tombs and dwelling houses. It forms part of the cross-border Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark that straddles Cavan and Fermanagh. It received EU funding of €1.4m and this enabled it to open an impressive visitor centre in 2015 and to develop multi-access trails.
New EU developments aim to support entrepreneurship and innovation among SMEs to drive new firm creation, expansion and employment and to help with the need to overcome a range of operational barriers.

Cavan Local Enterprise Office (LEO) supplies business information and advice, training and mentoring, financial supports including Feasibility Grants up to €15k; Grants up to €150k; Loans up to €20k; and networking opportunities as well as links to the Enterprise Europe Network. Cavan LEO works with Enterprise Ireland offering a range of supports including funding, export assistance and R&D support services.

National Enterprise Awards
The ‘Final Four’ Cavan selected companies in 2016 were:
- Best Start Up Business Award – Arc and Sparks Weld Training School.
- Best Established Business Award – Morans MegaJam Ltd.
- The Innovation Award – EZ Management Ltd.
- Overall Winner – Ualto Ltd.

Ualto
This company was established by Clinton Pratt and supported by LEO Cavan. Ualto Ltd. was set up in 2007 and provides technical solutions for equipment and plant automation. The company’s key clients are in the food and beverage and pharmaceutical sectors and they currently count Kepak, Aldi, Liffey Meats, Dawn Group, Glanbia and Gem Oils among their client base.

Development Capital Fund leads €6m investment in the Obelisk Group, Cavan
Another Cavan company that was supported by Enterprise Ireland has recently announced major success. The Obelisk Group was founded in Cavan in 1996 by two local entrepreneurs, Colm Murphy and Padraig Brady, to serve the newly emerging Irish mobile telecommunications market. Since then, it has delivered approximately 40% of the sector’s infrastructure. The company has recently announced a €6m investment, through the BDO Development Capital Fund. The Obelisk Group now employs 250 highly trained and experienced engineers and generates over €20m annual revenues.

Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur
This competition is aimed at young and aspiring entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 30. Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur competition is an integral part of the Action Plan for Jobs and is supported by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation through the network of 31 LEO’s.

Recent winners in Cavan were as follows:
- Best New Idea - winning a €10k investment: Tyrone Do Couto, Real Dynamics, Carrickaboy.
- Best Start-Up - winning a €20k investment: Norman Ormiston, BearRubber, Virginia.
- Best Established Business - winning a €20k investment: Alicia Treanor, NutriSnax Ltd, Poles.

Alicia Treanor from NutriSnax Ltd was also named as County Cavan’s Best Young Entrepreneur. Based in Poles, County Cavan, Alicia represented the region in the Best Established Business category at the national final. She had already won €20k in investment from Cavan LEO, as County winner.

Other supports offered by Cavan LEO include: Affordable Workspace (offered at a number of locations); TARGET (a new three-year international project to enhance the capacity of manufacturing companies to innovate and embrace new technologies); and TASTE Festival (a two-day festival that celebrates locally produced food).

Intertrade Ireland
The Cavan LEO offers access to InterTrade Ireland programmes Acumen facilitating cross-border business development, Focus facilitating all Ireland strategic marketing and sales and Fusion which is an all Ireland technology transfer initiative.
More than €1.6 billion was paid to over 130,000 Irish farmers last year under a variety of EU agriculture schemes. Currently, Irish farmers receive EU funding of €1.2 billion every year through CAP funding and since 2007, Irish farmers have received over €12 billion. Further support of €2.3 billion was received through rural development programmes, with a further €2.2 billion secured for the 2014-2020 period. In recent years, these programmes accounted for around 90% of our total EU public sector receipts. In 2015, CAP payments of over €49m were distributed to 4,944 recipients in Cavan, giving an average payment of €9,938 which is the 7th smallest in the country. Almost €34m was distributed to Cavan farmers in Single Payments alone.

Rural areas also receive other supports through the Rural Development Programme as well as through investment in towns and villages, as well as in structural programmes. The Leader Initiative continues to support communities, tourism, local businesses as well as towns and villages. Cavan-Monaghan Leader was awarded €538k in funding in 2015. Cavan has been allocated over €8.5m for the 2014-2020 programme.

Education & Youth

A strong emphasis is being put on supporting employment and social inclusion for youth. The EU Youth Programme is strongly focused on helping the unemployed to return to the labour market, with particular attention to youth and long-term unemployed people.

Garda Youth Diversion Projects are community based and supported youth development projects. The Cavan 365 Garda Youth Diversion Project, in Tullormongon, Cavan town, works with young people who have been, or are at risk of getting, involved in crime and or anti-social behaviour. It also targets young people who may leave school early or those out of school.

Erasmus+ is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport for the years 2014 to 2020. It provides funding and support for organisations to operate projects that encourage European exchange, co-operation and learning. Funding of almost €170 million has been allocated to Ireland. During the last educational year, there were 4,714 participants from Ireland, which was a 9% increase.

Cavan Institute

The Lifelong Learning Leonardo Da Vinci Mobility Programme offers Cavan Institute students the opportunity to apply to work abroad, usually for a two week period. Currently, placements are arranged in Germany, Estonia, Scotland and England. Cavan students can experience living in any of these countries and enjoy travelling, improve their language skills and gain a Europass Qualification.

Get Youth Into IT (GYIT)

This programme is being run by Cavan Educational Training Board and aims to encourage and promote the interest of students aged 15–19 years of age in the field of ICT.