Ireland has received approximately €72.5 billion funding since joining the EU in 1973. In addition to these funds, Ireland has also benefited in recent years from funding for research projects. In 2014, research receipts amounted to €127 million and a further €110 million was paid in 2013.

The majority of Irish funding from the EU now comes through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The next largest amount of funding comes from the Structural and Cohesion Funds, which have contributed considerable investment into our transportation, educational and water-related infrastructures as well as educational training and other supports used to up-skill our workforce.

From 2014 to 2020, structural funding will focus mainly on areas such as research, technology and innovation supporting small, medium enterprises (SMEs), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), energy efficiency and education, training and labour activation measures.

Ireland is developing a clean, innovative and highly skilled economy, providing world-class leadership and competitiveness in areas such as IT, Research and Technology. Irish farmers are producing high-quality products for world markets. These investments are providing a further stimulus in every region of Ireland and are supporting Dublin’s economic development and employment generation.

This information leaflet provides an insight into some of the ways that the EU supports Irish citizens throughout every county in Ireland.

In 2014, the European Union’s new research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, came into force. It is designed to make it easier for researchers and businesses, (including SMEs) to collaborate on projects. A key element of Horizon 2020 is a proposal to join forces with the private sector and member states of the EU, to achieve results that one country or company is less likely to achieve alone.

Around €22 billion will be invested in this, to boost innovation in potentially high growth sectors that will generate high quality jobs. Much of the funding will go to public-private partnerships, called Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) that will carry out research into: innovative medicines; fuel cells and hydrogen; aeronautics; bio-based industries; and electronics.

Irish participants in existing JTIs have already received over €12.5 million from the EU research budget. Here are some successful examples of this in Dublin.

Technology Gateway Programme (previously ARE Applied Research Enhancement)

The programme aims to harness the applied research and technology expertise within the Institutes of Technology sector, for the benefit of industry in Ireland. The new Technology Gateway programme has a 5-year funding term, with funding amounts of up to €1.2 million. The Institutes of Technology have a key role to play in developing innovative technologies in collaboration with local industry to deliver maximum industrial impact.

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The Microsensors for Clinical Research and Analysis (MiCRA) Gateway based in IT Tallaght, delivers solutions for companies in the In Vitro diagnostics, environmental, food and pharmaceutical sectors

BovAlert -
The MiCRA Bio-diagnostics Research Team (in collaboration with University College Dublin (UCD)) invented an innovative solution that reduced the testing time of milk from days to minutes.

The technology consists of a hand-held electronic reader and an assay card for on-site testing.

This technology presents an enormous opportunity to identify liver fluke disease on-farm in ruminants and equines, a disease that causes annual losses in the region of €2.5 billion worldwide.

Molecular Medicine Ireland (MMI)

MMI was established by UCD, Trinity College Dublin the National University of Ireland Galway, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and University College Cork, in conjunction with their associated academic hospitals, as a research partnership to accelerate the translation of biomedical research into improved diagnostics and therapies for patients.

NILVAD - €6 million funded Project

MMI and Trinity College are participating in a trial of nilvadipine in mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease (AD). AD is an ever-increasing public health concern, which affects our aging population. It is the most common form of dementia affecting more than 15 million individuals worldwide and around 5 million Europeans. The costs of AD and other dementias is more than €440k million each year.

NILVAD performs a double-blind placebo controlled study that will test the efficacy and safety of nilvadipine in 500 subjects with mild to moderate AD over a treatment period of 18 months. If successful, nilvadipine would advance the treatment of AD patients and would have a major impact on the health and social care costs incurred by this disorder.

CRANN (the Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices)

This centre is one of the largest research institutes in Trinity College and Ireland’s leading nanoscience institute. CRANN brings together over 300 researchers based across multiple disciplines including Trinity’s Schools of Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Engineering and Pharmacology. Many of the projects are carried out in partnership with industry, creating new technologies and solutions. Since its foundation in 2004, CRANN has obtained €200 million of competitive funding from Government, Industry, the European Union and Philanthropy.

Analysis... Advancing excellence

AMBER (Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research) brings Ireland’s leading materials science researchers working across the disciplines of physics, chemistry, bioengineering and medicine together with industry to develop materials-based technologies for a range of industrial sectors, from biomaterials and medical devices to advanced manufacturing, ICT and telecommunications.

EU funding

Since the centre’s launch in 2013, AMBER researchers have received more than €12 million in EU funding. Ireland has been ranked third in the world for nanoscience and sixth for the quality of its research in materials science, one of the fastest growing sectors worldwide.

The TackSHS Project

The Tobacco Free Research Institute, based in Kevin Street, Dublin is involved in a €3 million funded project, which is tackling second-hand tobacco smoke and e-cigarette emission in diverse European populations.

CONNECT is Ireland’s research centre for Future Networks and Communications and is based in Trinity College Dublin. CONNECT researchers have won the 5G Spectrum Sharing Challenge at IEEE's ‘DySpan 2015’ Conference in Stockholm, Sweden. The team’s contribution was entitled, “Coexistence through Adaptive Sensing and Markov Chains”. The team, captained by Dr Justin Tallon, beat off strong competition from two dozen other engineers (representing universities from across Europe and the United States) to win the award.

*The DySpan conference attracts the best minds in future radio communication systems every year,* according to Professor Linda Doyle, Director of CONNECT. *To win a prize is a significant achievement.*

Sustainable Energy

REGIOCITIES - €1.7 million funding for Smart Cities Project

A Dublin-based company, SRL Environmental, is participating in a project that aims to revolutionise energy use in growing urban areas. The lack of normative framework for Shallow Geothermal Energy (SGE) Systems (ie ground source heat) at local and regional levels in newly developed regions and the over-regulation in more mature regions is limiting the implementation of these types of systems in Europe. The project is addressing barriers concerning the regulation and is simplifying the administrative procedures.

Community Power: enabling legislation to increase public acceptance for RES projects across Europe (CO-POWER)

Friends of the Earth Ireland, based in Dublin, are participating in a €1.5 million project that aims to increase community involvement in renewable energy (RES) projects.

The objective is to develop EU and national legislation and financing to increase citizen participation in, and ownership of, RES projects across the EU. Community Power Projects can transform public opposition into support and contribute to reaching Ireland’s 2020 RES target.

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This project will raise awareness among policymakers, create a large and stable pool of capital investment, provide financial benefits for the local communities and government. It will also increase local contracting and employment. In many EU countries, legislation does not provide sufficient support for community ownership. This project will compile case studies and come up with recommendations for 7 target countries including Ireland.

**CLIMAWINDA – €1.4 million project for windows**

CLIMAWINDA is developing an intelligent ventilation window that can preheat and cool itself to minimise energy loss and optimise ventilation. The CLIMAWIN unit works as a natural heat recovery ventilation system in cooler climates and as a daylighting (self-cooling) device in hotter climates. It is targeted at the retrofitting market, but could also suit new build situations. The revolutionary window includes integrated vents for controlled air intake and an integrated PV power system – innovations which cannot be found on existing ventilation systems. It also features air filters, integrated electronics, and wireless communication between windows and rooms.

Energy lost by conduction through the CLIMAWINDA window is regained from the incoming air, raising its temperature to improve the level of comfort. The windows optimise indoor air quality, maximising thermal efficiency in buildings.

- Simon Collins, at Extreme, received funding of over €76k towards building adventure facilities at his Adventure Centre.
- Bill Flynn also received funding of €38k towards upgrading the shooting facilities at Courtlough Shooting Ground.
- Padraig McMahon, Fieldstown Farm, representing a group of Fingal farmers, received funding of almost €148k for capital funding for the Fingal County Show, which now runs annually.

**Community**

- The South Dublin Allotments Association, based in Bohernabreena, Tallaght, received over €83k to upgrade and expand their allotments to 137.
- Rosanna Hall in Bohernabreena also received €18.5k towards the upgrade of the parish hall.
- Glencullen received funding of almost €218k to build a new community facility that will provide facilities for sport, recreation and cultural activities.

**Business Development**

- Keogh’s crisps were able to supply a new range of products with the €92k funding that they received to buy equipment for kettle oven crisps.
- Terryanne Walsh from Mayberry Lodge, Brittas, was able to upgrade her livery yard and carry out repair work to fencing with €7k funding.

**Training**

- Rathcoole Community IT received over €53k to install an Apple Mac Training Room.
- Corduff Lusk Parent’s Association was awarded €99k support for an innovation and creative centre for children of all ages and backgrounds.

A key part of the Europe 2020 Strategy is to promote jobs and growth and to ensure that micro and small businesses can start up, grow and export. As part of this, new Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) have been established within Local Authorities, (replacing the existing County Enterprise Boards) with the aim of delivering more integrated support services for micro and small business. The new LEOs are responsible at local level for cultivating a culture of entrepreneurship and supporting business development. They are the “First Stop Shops” through which all State supports for small and micro businesses can be accessed and where companies with clear high growth potential can be seamlessly fast-tracked to the next level of support.

In 2014, capital funding of almost €91 million was made available to LEOs throughout Ireland, to provide direct grant assistance for micro-enterprises employing up to 10 staff and training and development supports for micro and small businesses. There are four LEOs servicing Dublin: one in Fingal services North Dublin; another one is based in Wood Quay and South Dublin LEOs are based in Tallaght and Dun Laoghaire. They were awarded almost €2 million funding in 2014.

A number of Financial Instruments, aimed at building more sustainable, innovative start-ups and to support expansion of small companies are available for SMEs, including grants for start-ups, business expansion, and feasibility studies. Micro Finance can also be arranged.

Enterprise Ireland also offers a number of grants for SMEs to support marketing, exporting, training and research and development.
Fostering Employment, Education & Training

The European Social Fund (ESF) stimulates the provision of employment and training opportunities, emphasising sustainable and quality employment (especially youth). Poverty, discrimination and social exclusion are also tackled.

Since Ireland joined the EU, many agencies and State bodies have received almost €6.5 billion in investment from the ESF, including €24.1 million in 2014. In Dublin, the EU has co-funded projects and programmes dealing with the youth sector, early school leavers, minority groups, adult literacy, upskilling and support for long-term unemployed.

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, which encourage European exchange, co-operation and learning. Funding of almost €170 million has been allocated to Ireland. Over 77% of this will be allocated to education and training, with a further 10% focussing on youth.

Supporting the Arts
CREATE, the national development agency for collaborative arts received €1.4 million to co-finance ‘CAPP (Collaborative Arts Partnership Programme)’ an ambitious project which aims to establish a Europe wide partnership to enhance professional opportunities and training for collaborative artists. The programme involving partners in the UK, Hungary, Spain, Finland and Germany began in 2014 and will be delivered over a period of 46 months. Dublin artists Owen Boss and Rosie Lynch recently participated in a two day workshop in Venice, as part of this project.

Supporting coastal communities

Fishing Industry
In Ireland, there are 11,000 people employed in the seafood industry, which includes almost 5,000 fishermen, over 1,700 fish farmers and almost 3,000 employed in fish processing. Ireland’s largest export market is France, followed by the UK, Spain and Nigeria.

Fisheries Local Area Development Scheme - FLAGS
This scheme provides grant aid towards the sustainable development of fishery dependent areas. It is funded under the national Development Plan and Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund is designed specifically to promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life in fisheries dependant areas. In particular, the funding provided through this scheme complements other EU funded programmes and forms part of an overall strategy aimed at supporting implementation of the objectives of the common fisheries policy, while maintaining the economic and social prosperity of these areas. In 2014, over €533k was invested in 119 projects around the coast of Ireland. County Dublin (as well as Meath and Louth) is served by the North East FLAG. Public groups, community groups and organisations as well as private individuals all qualify for project funding. The new Seafood Development Operation Programme will be published in 2016 and Ireland has secured €148 million EU funding for this.