



The
FUNDINGPOINT
LOCAL FUNDING DIGEST

Aug - Sep 2026

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The Fundingpoint Local Digest provides up-to-date funding information for nonprofits in the Fingal County Council area. It is published every two months.

Funding sources quoted reflect both local and national funding opportunities.

Information quoted directly from funder website / literature.

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Culture Ireland Grants

Culture Ireland operates a range of funding programmes to support and promote the presentation of Irish arts internationally. The current initiatives include a Regular grants round, the See Here scheme, Delegate Scheme and a Showcase programme.

Regular Grant Scheme

Culture Ireland offers support to Irish professional artists, arts organisations and international presenters to present work by Irish artists at significant international venues and festivals.

In supporting an event, Culture Ireland traditionally offers grant funding towards costs which relate directly to the international presentation of the event, i.e. travel and travel related costs such as transport, freight, accommodation and subsistence. In order for an application to be considered, the applicant must have an international partner or be an international presenter who will provide a fee to the artist and assist with promotion and presentation costs.

<https://www.cultureireland.ie/funding/regular-grant/>

Showcase Scheme

The Showcase Scheme has as its primary aim, the creation of new opportunities for Irish artists to present their work on the global stage.

This aim is achieved through the support of Irish artists to participate at industry showcase events. Where possible as part of their participation. Culture Ireland facilitates artists to present their work to international delegates, including programmers and presenters.

The strategic priorities for the Showcase Scheme are:

- To ensure ongoing contact between Irish artists and key international presenters/programmers
- To increase awareness and interest by the international sector of recent and new work by Irish artists with a view to future collaboration/partnership/presentation
- To provide mentorship for artists with specific reference to presentation of their work in the international environment
- To promote high quality digital recordings/promotional materials to showcase Irish artists.

Music from Ireland is a programme, delivered in partnership with First Music Contact to showcase [Irish music internationally](#).

<https://www.cultureireland.ie/funding/showcase/>

See Here Scheme

The See Here Scheme is specifically designed to support direct engagement by international promoters and programmers with Irish artists' work in Ireland a view to securing future presentation opportunities abroad.

Culture Ireland support under the See Here Scheme usually involves travel by international delegates to attend festivals where there is a programme of Irish artists being presented and meet artists in person in Ireland.

Priority is given to attendance at events where the international delegates will see a range of work by Irish artists and to delegates connected with venues or festivals which have an interest in programming international artists.

<https://www.cultureireland.ie/funding/see-here/>

How to Apply

Deadline: 5 Aug 2026

<https://www.cultureireland.ie/funding/>

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Energy for Generations Fund

As a leading Irish organisation with deep roots in the community dating back to 1927, we are committed to playing a role in addressing some of the key social issues facing Ireland today. Our Energy for Generations Fund sees over €1 million per year disbursed across a range of community and issues-based initiatives through a bi-annual fund to charities working in the areas of social inclusion relating to access to education as well as access to employment, and homelessness.

The Energy for Generations Fund is a pivotal element of our commitment to driving positive social and environmental impact, aligning seamlessly with both the company's overarching strategy and its corporate social responsibility vision. The fund supports strategic actions consistent with [our purpose](#) and [values](#). The fund's initiatives are integral to advancing [UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) 7, 9 and 13 by promoting renewable energy generation, enhancing infrastructure resilience, and enabling communities to achieve net zero.

Moreover, it fosters social inclusion in alignment with SDGs 4, 5, 8 and 10, targeting low-income and marginalised groups through initiatives aligned to access to education and access to employment. Our fund exemplifies our dedication to creating a sustainable and inclusive future, reflecting the essence of our values and our strategy, [Driven to Make a Difference: Net Zero by 2040](#).

Aim of ESB's Energy for Generations Fund

The aim of our fund is to maximise the impact of our social investment in disadvantaged communities, by taking a more strategic approach to effect sustainable change aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our fund also aims to leverage skills and knowledge within the company to bring about viable and positive outcomes. Only project proposals from charities delivering supports and services impacting on communities located on the island of Ireland are considered.

How Does the Fund Work?

Charities working in the areas of social inclusion, access to education, access to employment, and homelessness can apply to the fund.

In line with our strategy and corporate social responsibility vision, applications should be aligned to one or more of the following SDGs and should demonstrate this in their application:

- SDG4

- SDG 5
- SDG 7
- SDG 8
- SDG 9
- SDG 10
- SDG 13

You can find out more information about the SDGs [here](#).

Twice a year, ESB allocates an amount from the fund for disbursement. The amount may vary because of the volume of applications received or seasonal considerations. Winter time and Christmas may require more funding than summer, for instance. Applications submitted during each round are appraised with funding allocated accordingly.

Funding Available

The guideline application amount is c. €15,000. This is neither a minimum nor a maximum, rather an indication of the scale of the resources available. Average funding awards in recent years have been c. €8,000 - €12,000.

Areas of Focus

Social Inclusion: Access to Education

We fund services and projects working to promote access to education and have a particular interest in projects that support the following:

- Early years and primary education projects focusing on supporting transition into education and specialist literacy and numeracy skills development initiatives.
- Post-Primary level proposals supporting science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM).
- Adult education supporting competency development and return-to-education programmes aimed at those long-term out of work.
- Inclusive education initiatives that promote sustainability.

Social Inclusion: Access to Employment

We fund projects that focus on supporting inclusive access to employment initiatives committing to an increasingly diverse workforce and agile culture of inclusion and belonging in line with our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) commitment.

Projects promoting an inclusive community supporting efforts and activities aimed at helping marginalised members of society obtain work. Thereby growing a diverse and

inclusive workforce of the future, opening doors for excluded groups in our communities, which consistent with our DEI commitment.

Homelessness

We fund services and projects benefiting homeless people and those at risk of homelessness. We welcome projects particularly relating to sustainability as well as projects orientated towards social inclusion namely access to education and access to employment initiatives.

How to Apply

Deadline: opens 10 Aug / closes 24 Aug 2026

Visit the ESB website for full application details: <https://esb.ie/who-we-are/our-story/efg-funds>

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Arts and Disability Connect Funding

Arts and Disability Connect includes Mentoring, Training, New Work, and Research and Reflection awards for individual artists with disabilities.

The Arts and Disability Connect scheme is designed to support individual artists with disabilities to be ambitious, to develop their practice and to connect with arts organisations and arts professionals in the Republic of Ireland.

How to Apply

One-on-one Applicant Support available - see website for more.

Deadline: Opens 10 August / Closes at 4pm, 29 September 2026.

Guidelines and FAQs for these will be available from the 10 August 2026.

<https://adiarts.ie/artists/funding/connect/>

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The Arts Council - Visual Artists Workspace Scheme

The purpose of the Visual Artists Workspace Scheme is to support artists' workspaces throughout the country to provide the best possible working environment for visual artists and, where feasible, to enable a level of subsidy for the artists working in these spaces.

The scheme is in line with the Arts Council's ten-year strategy (2016–25), [Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland](#) which commits to ensuring 'a supportive working environment that addresses key points in the creative cycle by which art is made'.

The scheme will award grants of up to €50,000 towards workspace costs – i.e. the running costs of the workspace such as light, heat, rent, administration and/or appropriate management costs and artist development costs. A proportion of support up to a maximum of 20% of the total request may be directed towards essential repair and maintenance.

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from:

- Workspaces in the Republic of Ireland
- Workspaces dedicated to the support of professional visual artists
- Workspaces that accommodate at least four professional visual artists working on-site at the same time
- Workspaces proposing to share resources for the benefit of the visual artists working in their spaces
- Organisations/groups/collectives that have an established workspace.

Note about equality, diversity and inclusion

As part of our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) Policy](#), we encourage applicants from all areas of the community.

This includes, but is not limited to, any of the characteristics in the list below. It also includes initiatives that deliver equitable opportunities or outcomes for everyone involved.

- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Civil or family status
- Religion
- Age
- Disability

- Race
- Membership of the Traveller community
- Socio-economic background.

Funding Levels

The maximum amount that you can apply for is €50,000.

The scheme will award grants of up to €50,000 towards workspace costs. Some examples of acceptable costs include:

The running costs of the workspace, such as light, heat, rent

Administration costs and/or appropriate management costs

Artist development costs.

You may direct up to 20% of the total request towards essential repair and maintenance.

How to Apply

Deadline: Opens 11 Aug / Closes 10 Sep 2026

Full details available here: <https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Visual-Artists-Workspace-Scheme/>

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United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The annual United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is held on 17 October. Each year, the Department of Social Protection supports small public awareness initiatives organised by community and voluntary groups to promote awareness of the Day.

Funding is open to eligible organisations working with people experiencing poverty at a national or local level. Approved applications include projects involving children, people with disabilities, women's groups and minority groups. A broad range of activities will be considered for funding, including artistic and cultural events, exhibitions, public talks and community workshops.

The maximum amount of funding that can be awarded this year to successful applications is €4,000, with a limit of one proposal per organisation.

The Department of Social Protection is providing additional funding this year to support anti-poverty groups to organise activities to promote awareness of the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in the context of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. This reflects the Presidency priorities of competitiveness, security and values (www.Ireland2026.eu). Social inclusion initiatives strengthen the quality of life and standard of living of people in Ireland.

How to Apply

Deadline: 14 Aug 2026

Full details available here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-social-protection/publications/united-nations-international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty-october-17/>

Queries may be directed to the Social Inclusion Division at socialinclusion@welfare.ie

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Coimisiún na Meán - Community Media Scheme

The Community Media Scheme (CMS) provides funding to strengthen the social benefit contribution of the community media sector.

The key objective of this Scheme is to support a sustainable, inclusive and participative community media sector that delivers social benefit and fosters active citizenship.

The aims of this Scheme are informed by the Community Media Policy and the [Social Benefit Framework](#) launched in 2021 with the purpose of supporting the development of community broadcasting. The Scheme aims to offer Community Broadcasters the opportunity to build capacity to further fulfil their social benefit remit as set out in their Programme Policy Statements and Service Descriptions.

The definition and types of social benefit are set down in the Social Benefit Framework for community broadcasters, published in June 2020 as follows.

Social Benefit Definition

“Benefits to individuals or collective actors in the community that enhance their lives socially, culturally or economically, or in terms of development, empowerment and/or well-being, that otherwise would not have come about.”

Social Benefit Types

- Individuals, especially minorities and those marginalised, are growing in confidence and creativity and/or reinforcing a sense of belonging, directly from engaging with the Station.
- Individuals are enhancing their employment prospects, through gaining skills and confidence.
- Community members are informed and aware of what is happening around their community.
- Community members are responding more effectively to issues – local to global – because they have access to diverse viewpoints and to more and better information.
- Collective actors (CBOs, NGOs etc.) are facilitated, and reinforced in their capacity, to achieve their goals.
- The community sense of identity and cohesiveness is enhanced.
- Support the development of the community broadcasting sector by helping to improve outcomes across the management, operations, production and broadcasting in community radio stations and assist in their sustainability.

Objectives

The Scheme objectives are to:

- Strengthen the social benefit contribution of the community media sector by supporting practices and activities aimed at delivering measurable social benefits in line with An Coimisiún's Social Benefit Framework.
- Support training and professional development opportunities to build capacity within the Community Media Sector, strengthen workforce sustainability and encourage participation.
- Strengthen fundraising capacity and funds diversification and management enhancing long-term organisational sustainability within the community media sector.
- Enhance the financial and organisational resilience of community media organisations supporting governance, board management, strategic planning and future readiness to ensure long-term viability and accountability in delivering public value.
- Encourage organisational collaboration such as mentorship programmes and or participatory and mutually beneficial collaboration with organisations such as but not limited to Higher and Further Education Institutions, Libraries, Irish language organisations and other inclusive groups.
- Promote and strengthen the use of the Irish language within community media participation, outreach, engagement, and organisational development activity.
- Support accessibility initiatives which enable broader participation in community media by persons with disabilities and strengthen community engagement with underrepresented and marginalised groups supporting community cohesion and intercultural understanding.
- Attract volunteer and community contributor participation thereby increasing public engagement and community representation.
- Support Social Benefit Impact by enhancing the capacity of community media to promote social inclusion, media literacy, counter-disinformation initiatives, democratic engagement and amplify local public service content, culture and identity.

Eligibility

The Scheme is open to An Coimisiún licensed community television broadcasters; and community, community of interest, and sound broadcasting services; only. Applicants must be regulated entities at the time of applying and pilot services cannot apply.

In this regard, the measure offers grant funding to community broadcasting services licensed by An Coimisiún and which:

- Demonstrate effective Corporate Governance & Financial Management;
- Publish compliant annual accounts; and,
- Have a good compliance track record with An Coimisiún.
- Provide two authorised signatories from the station, including at least one member of the Board / Management Committee.

How to Apply

Deadline: 20 Aug 2026

Full guidelines and application details available here: <https://www.cnam.ie/industry-and-professionals/media-development/support-funding/community-media-scheme/>

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Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. It also provides support for the necessary repair, maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland.

The scheme supports outdoor recreation activities such as walking, trekking, cycling, kayaking and hiking. It helps to make use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles. It supports the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

Measure 1

- Small scale repair/development/promotion and marketing.
- Funding of up to €40,000 at a 90% rate of aid.
- Maximum of *6 applications can be submitted by each local authority.
- Maximum of 3 applications can be submitted by each local development company.

*Where a local authority has a Gaeltacht area and/or an offshore Island, they will be permitted to submit one additional measure 1 application up to the value of €40,000, this must be clearly marked as Gaeltacht or Island.

Measure 2

- Medium scale repair/upgrade and new trail/amenity development.
- Funding of up to €200,000 at a 90% rate of aid.
- Maximum of 3 applications can be submitted by each local authority.
- Maximum of 1 application may be submitted per local development company and state body.

Measure 3

- Large scale repair/upgrade and new strategic trail/amenity development.
- Funding of up to €500,000 at a 90% rate of aid.
- Local authorities and state bodies can submit 1 application each under this Measure.

Project Development Measure

Detailed development of projects which would enable them to reach a standard for application under Measure 2 or Measure 3 of ORIS.

Local authorities can each submit up to four prioritised applications with a combined value of €100,000 under this Measure. If sufficient demand and interest exist, they can submit one additional application for equestrian trails/bridleways up to €50,000. Local authorities with a Gaeltacht and/or an offshore Island may submit one additional application under this Measure up to €50,000.

Local development companies can each submit up to three prioritised applications with a combined value of €70,000. State bodies may submit one application up to €50,000.

Application deadlines

Measure	Deadline Date	Approval Date (indicative)	Timeline for completion
	September 25		
Measure 1	2026	Quarter 1 2027	18 months
Project Development Measure	September 25 2026	Quarter 1 2027	18 months
	December 15		
Measure 2	2026	Quarter 2 2027	24 months
	December 15		
Measure 3	2026	Quarter 2 2027	24 months

Funding allocations

Information on funding allocated to The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) can be found here: [Funding allocated to schemes and programmes](#)

How to Apply

The full scheme outline is available here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-rural-and-community-development-and-the-gaeltacht/services/outdoor-recreation-infrastructure-scheme/>

To apply, please contact your local authority or [local development company](#) depending on which Measure you are interested in.

For further queries please contact ORIS@drcdg.gov.ie

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Huawei Solar Sports Scheme

Huawei Technologies (Ireland) Co., Ltd. (“Huawei”) is pleased to announce the Huawei Solar Sports Scheme (the “Scheme”), a grant programme designed to support and invest in grassroots sports clubs across the community. The Scheme reflects Huawei’s commitment to social responsibility, community development, and the promotion of healthy, active lifestyles through sport.

The Scheme will award five (5) cash grants of €10,000 each, totalling €50,000 in available funding, to eligible sports clubs that demonstrate a clear need for financial support and the capacity to deliver meaningful benefit to their members and the wider community.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a grant under the Scheme, applicants must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a sports club or sports organisation.
- The applicant must be a legally registered entity (e.g., incorporated as a company, registered as a society, association, or other recognised legal structure) and be able to provide evidence of such registration upon request.
- The applicant must be based in, or primarily serving a community within, the jurisdiction in which the Scheme is operating.
- The applicant must have a valid bank account in the name of the organisation to receive grant funds.
- The applicant must not be in financial difficulty, insolvency proceedings, or subject to any legal restrictions that would prevent it from receiving or properly administering grant funding.
- The applicant’s proposed use of funds must be related to sporting activities, facilities, equipment, development programmes, or other sport-related purposes.

Grant Awards

The Scheme will award five (5) grants of €10,000 (ten thousand euro) each. Grants are cash awards paid directly into the bank account of the successful applicant organisation. Grants are not transferable to any other organisation or individual and may not be used for any purpose other than that stated in the successful application, without the prior written consent of Huawei.

Huawei reserves the right to award fewer than five grants if an insufficient number of eligible applications of satisfactory quality are received. Huawei also reserves the right

not to award a grant in circumstances where it would be inappropriate or contrary to the objectives of the Scheme to do so.

How to Apply

Deadline: 31 Aug 2026

Applicants may submit only one application per organisation. Multiple applications from the same organisation will result in all applications from that organisation being disqualified.

Full guidelines and application details available

here: <https://solar.huawei.com/ie/events/huawei-solar-sports-scheme/terms/>

Email: luke.mcdonnell@huawei.com
yihanjin@h-partners.com

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European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) aims to support member states and regions to improve employment and education opportunities, to enhance social inclusion and to tackle poverty.

ESF+ is a combination of four funds from the 2014-2020 programming period: the European Social Fund (ESF), the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD), the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and the European Programme for [Employment and Social Innovation \(EaSI\)](#).

ESF+ at a Glance

In Ireland, ESF+ funding is distributed by the national government and is mostly absorbed by state and semi-state bodies

Occasionally, the Irish managing authority publishes open calls for proposals from civil society organisations on specific employment and social inclusion themes

More frequent open calls for proposals are published through [Employment and Social Innovation \(EaSI\)](#)

Aims & Objectives

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) aims to achieve:

- high employment levels
- fair social protection
- the eradication of poverty
- a skilled and resilient workforce
- equal access to the labour market
- fair and quality working conditions
- social protection and inclusion.

ESF+ has a particular focus on:

- quality and inclusive education and training
- lifelong learning
- investment in children and young people
- access to basic services.

What does it support?

ESF+ co-funds local, regional and national employment-related projects. Its funding focuses on the following priorities:

Social Inclusion

- Active inclusion
- Socio-economic integration of third-country nationals
- Socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people
- Equal access to quality services and modernising social protection systems
- Social integration of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion
- Addressing material deprivation.

Education and Skills

- Better education and training systems at all levels
- Equal access to quality education and training
- Upskilling, reskilling and lifelong learning for all.

Employment

- Access to quality employment for all, including youth employment
- Modernising labour market institutions and services
- Gender-balanced labour market participation
- Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change.

Who can apply?

- Civil society organisations
- Public authorities or bodies
- Social security institutions and employment services
- Microfinance institutions
- Institutions providing finance to social enterprises or other social investment actors.

Why does the EU fund equality and inclusion?

Read more about EU policy on the topic of [Human rights, justice and equality](#).

Budget

The programme has a total budget of €99 billion for 2021-2027.

Please note: ESF+ is a co-financed programme, meaning that EU funding must be matched by a set percentage of national funding.

Project Example

JUST4ALL - Building social innovation learning laboratories in Europe through a just transition for all and with all

[Aontas](#) is a partner on the ESF+-funded project “JUST4ALL - Building social innovation learning laboratories in Europe through a just transition for all and with all.” Delivered by 7 partners in 6 EU countries, JUST4ALL aims to develop integrated, inclusive, and innovative adult learning and education (ALE) models that promote just transition, with a special focus on migrants, women, and low-skilled adults. [Visit the project website to learn more about JUST4ALL.](#)

National Contact Point in Ireland

The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science is the Managing Authority for ESF+ in Ireland. Contact them at esf@dfheris.gov.ie.

How to Apply

Open Calls

Find open calls for [ESF+](#).

ESF+ - Inclusive Incubation and Finance for More Entrepreneurs

This call supports the development and testing of incubation approaches and financing mechanisms tailored to under-represented entrepreneurs.

Deadline: 2 September 2026 5:00 pm Brussels time

Project Duration: 18-24 months

Funding available: EUR 1,500,000

Partners required: The consortium must be established in at least 14 eligible countries.

[Full details here.](#)

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The Arts Council - Strategic Funding

The purpose of Strategic Funding is to invest in and support the organisations that are needed to lead, sustain and develop the arts in Ireland.

The Arts Council provides Strategic Funding to organisations to ensure that they can:

- Deliver excellent artwork and/or events, activities and services
- Create excellent opportunities for artists and/or arts professionals to develop their practice and/or to create or to be engaged in high quality work
- Ensure that the diversity of contemporary Ireland is reflected in the work we support
- Enable more people to enjoy high-quality arts experiences
- Increase depth of engagement by and with the public
- Ensure excellent standards in governance and management in the arts.

Eligibility

Strategic Funding is open to organisations only.

You can make only one application each year for Strategic Funding.

To be eligible for Strategic Funding, your organisation must:

- Be formally constituted as either a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) or a Designated Activity Company (DAC) or a statutory body.
- Apply in its own name and not in the name of another company or individual
- Have previously successfully applied for Arts Council funding either in the name of your organisation or in the name of a key person involved in the organisation.

Note: Organisations that are not formally constituted as either a CLG or DAC may apply on the understanding that they will commit to formally incorporating as a CLG or DAC if their application is successful.

Costs and activities that you can apply for

Strategic Funding is intended to support:

- The operating costs (core costs) of your organisation
- The activities that your organisation undertakes.

All activities

All activities must be included in this application, including touring activities in 2026.

How to Apply

Deadline: 3 Sep 2026

Visit Arts Council website for full details: <https://artscouncil.ie/funding-opportunities/strategic-funding/>

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Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus+ is the EU's funding programme for education, training, youth and sport.

Aims & Objectives

It aims to:

- Provide support for lifelong learning
- Contribute to building a European Education Area
- Promote learning mobility in education, training, youth, and sport
- Improve the quality of education and training systems
- Strengthen European identity and active citizenship.

What does it support?

Projects addressing sector-specific priorities in the programme's strands:

1. Adult Education
2. Higher Education
3. School Education
4. Vocational Education and Training.

Projects that address one (or more) of the programme's four key horizontal priorities:

- Inclusion and diversity
- Digital transformation
- Environment and the fight against climate change
- Participation in democratic life.

Projects take the form of the following Key Actions:

- Key Action 1: Learning Mobility for Individuals
- Key Action 2: Cooperation Among Organisations and Institutions
- Key Action 3: Support to Policy Development and Cooperation

Who can apply?

In general, any public or private organisation in a Erasmus+ Programme country can apply if they are a legal entity. Sole traders cannot apply for Erasmus funding.

Higher Education

- Students

- Staff
- Higher Education Institutions

Adult Education

- Organisations providing formal, informal and non-formal adult education
- Local and regional public authorities, coordination bodies and other organisations with a role in the field of adult education
- Organisations whose aim is to educate the general public on a specific topic or issue

School Education

- All schools - pre-primary, primary and post-primary
- Teachers
- Learners – individuals or groups/classes
- School Education staff

Vocational Education and Training

- Organisations providing initial or continuing vocational education and training
- Local and regional public authorities, coordination bodies and other organisations with a role in the field of vocational education and training
- Companies and other public or private organisations hosting, training or otherwise working with learners and apprentices in vocational education and training
- Organisations creating training and/or educational materials for staff, volunteers or other professionals

Youth

- Young people
- Youth workers
- Organisations that work directly with and/or advocate for youth

Sport

- a public body in charge of sport at local, regional or national level;
- a sport organisation at local, regional, national, European or international level;
- a National Olympic Committee or National Sport confederation;
- an organisation representing the 'sport for all' movement;
- an organisation active in the field of physical activity promotion;
- an organisation representing the active leisure sector;
- an organisation active in the field of education, training or youth.

Why the EU funds education, training, youth and sport

Read more about EU policy on the topic of [Education, training, youth and sport](#)

Budget

€26.2 billion over 7 years.

Project Examples

The [SCOPE](#) project is aimed at third sector staff and volunteers in need of capacity building, skills development and recognition of non-formal learning, particularly those who are socially excluded in such a way that it is difficult for them to access training opportunities.

The [Ethics4Sport](#) project investigates and promotes ethics and perceptions of fairness in grassroots sport.

[ASPIRE](#) was an international collaborative project that sought to find out how to best support migrants and refugees, building on the wide popularity of sports and other forms of physical activity.

National Contact Point in Ireland

[Léargas](#) for Adult Education, School Education, Vocational Education and Training, and Youth strands

[Higher Education Authority](#) for Higher Education strand

Erasmus+ Sport is managed centrally in Brussels by the [European Education and Culture Executive Agency](#) and can be contacted at EACEA-SPORT@ec.europa.eu

How to Apply

Find open calls for [Erasmus+](#). Or, see specific calls details below.

Erasmus+ – Centres of Vocational Excellence

This call aims to support the establishment and development of transnational collaborative networks that bring together local and regional VET stakeholders.

Deadline: 3 Sept 2026

[Full Details](#)

Erasmus+ – Short-term Projects for Mobility of Learners and Staff in Vocational Education and Training

This action supports providers of vocational education and training (VET) and other organisations active in the field of VET that want to organise learning mobility activities for VET learners and staff.

Deadline: 29 Sept 2026

[Full Info](#)

Erasmus+ – Mobility Projects for Youth Workers

This call supports organisations to carry out Youth Workers' mobility projects, fostering the professional development of youth workers and their organisations.

Deadline: 1 Oct 2026

[Full Info](#)

Erasmus+ – Short-Term Projects for Mobility of Learners and Staff in Adult Education

This action supports adult education providers and other organisations active in the field of adult education that want to organise learning mobility activities for adult education staff.

Deadline: 1 Oct 2026

[Full Info](#)

Erasmus+ – Mobility Projects for Young People

This action supports organisations and groups of young people to carry out Youth Exchanges, bringing together young people from different countries to exchange and learn outside their formal educational system.

Deadline: 1 Oct 2026

[Full Info](#)

Erasmus+ – Youth Participation Activities

This action supports activities outside formal education and training that encourage, foster and facilitate young people's participation in Europe's democratic life at local, regional, national and European level.

Deadline: 1 Oct 2026

[Full Info](#)

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The Hospital Saturday Fund Charity

The Hospital Saturday Fund was founded in 1873, at a time when poverty, overcrowding and ill-health were prevalent and little help was available for those needing costly hospital care.

The Hospital Saturday Fund has two grant categories:

1. Standard grants of up to £2,000 or €3,000

OR

2. Large grants to up to £10,000 or €13,500 (please note this is the maximum sum that HSF will grant).

Eligibility

The Hospital Saturday Fund will consider giving grants to registered medical health charities within the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. The Hospital Saturday Fund will also consider giving grants to individuals within the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

For medically related charities, hospitals, hospices and medical clinics:

The Hospital Saturday Fund will consider giving grants towards medical capital projects, medical care or research and in support of medical training. The Hospital Saturday Fund will also consider grants for running costs.

For Individuals:

The Hospital Saturday Fund will consider giving partial or full grants to individuals for a wide array of medical supports – see website for details.

How to Apply

Deadline 10 Sep 2026

Full guidelines and access to online applications are [available here](#).

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The Arts Council - Arts Centres Partnership Funding

The purpose of Arts Centres Partnership Funding is to invest in and support the infrastructure of arts centres required to sustain and develop the arts in Ireland.

Arts centres are defined as full-time, public-facing, professionally managed, building-based arts organisations. They support the creation, presentation and mediation of the arts across a range of artforms and arts practices. They support professional, collaborative, voluntary and amateur arts practice.

Recipients of Arts Centres Partnership Funding play a critical part in delivering the policy priorities of [Making Great Art Work](#), the Arts Council's ten-year strategy.

What are the aims and objectives of Arts Centres Partnership Funding?

In offering Arts Centres Partnership Funding, the Arts Council wishes to ensure:

- The year-round production and dissemination of arts activities, events and services of the highest quality throughout the country
- That audiences are engaged by the provision of a diverse range of high-quality arts experiences.
- That artists are supported in their professional practice
- That audiences, artists and participants reflect the diversity of contemporary Ireland
- Increased depth of engagement by and with the public
- High standards in governance and management.

In accordance with its [Policy and Strategy for Arts Centres](#), the Arts Council wishes to encourage arts centres to engage with and further develop supports for artists locally throughout the country. Examples of this might be by:

Providing professional-development opportunities for practising artists through:

- The management of physical spaces for artists to develop work
- Residencies that are meaningful in length, appropriately remunerated, and relevant to the requirements of artists in different artforms and arts practices
- In-house productions/co-productions
- The development of local production capacity
- Other models of support as appropriate.

Who is eligible for the Arts Centres Partnership Funding Programme?

The Arts Centres Partnership Funding Programme is open only to building-based, professionally managed, multidisciplinary arts organisations that are open to the public all year round.

To be eligible for application, your organisation must:

- Be formally constituted as either a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG), a Designated Activity Company (DAC), a Company Limited by Shares (LTD) or a statutory body.
- Apply in its own name, and not in the name of another company or individual.

What types of activities will be supported through Arts Centres Partnership Funding?

Arts Centres Partnership Funding is intended to support activities that your organisation undertakes to realise your mission and related operating costs.

Note: Include any activities that were previously supported through separate funding schemes. For example:

- Residencies
- Artist-development initiatives
- Resource sharing
- Young ensembles
- Touring and dissemination of work in 2026.

Arts Centres Partnership Funding may not be used for the purchase of capital items.

How to Apply

Deadline: 10 Sep 2026

Full guidelines and application details available here: <https://artscouncil.ie/funding-opportunities/arts-centres-partnership-funding/>

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Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) is the EU's funding programme for citizens' engagement and the implementation of EU rights and values.

CERV at a Glance

- CERV funds projects aimed at protecting and promoting EU values such as democracy, fundamental rights, equality, and the rule of law
- CERV is competitive and organisations with prior EU funding experience are more likely to be successful applicants
- CERV provides funding for both national and transnational projects

Aims & Objectives

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme aims to:

- protect and promote Union rights and values
- promote rights, non-discrimination, equality, including gender equality
- promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States
- raise awareness of the common European history

What does it support?

CERV funds activities:

- promoting non-discrimination and gender equality, the rights of the child, European remembrance and citizens' engagement, as well as combat racism and gender-based violence
- strengthening the protection and promotion of the rule of law and democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance
- supporting, empowering and building the capacity of civil society organisations active in the promotion of values and rights, at local, regional, national and transnational level.

Specific activities funded include:

- training activities, workshops, conferences
- mutual learning and cooperation, capacity building
- town twinning
- media campaigns, awareness raising and dissemination activities

Who can apply?

- Civil society organisations
- Public authorities
- European-level networks
- Think tanks

Why does the EU fund European citizenship and values?

Read more about EU policy on the topic of [European citizenship and values](#).

Budget

The programme has a total budget of €1.56 billion for 2021-2027.

Project Example

ACTZen – Active Citizen for People and Planet

[Oxfam Ireland](#) was a partner in the CERV-funded project “ACTZen - Active Citizen for People and Planet.” Delivered from 2022 to 2024 by 7 partners in 5 EU countries, ACTZen’s focus was to engage citizens in discussions and action related to the climate and environment and propose solutions to decision makers. [Explore the project results on the European Commission’s website](#).

National Contact Point in Ireland

There is no Irish National Contact Point for the CERV Programme. Please contact the [Access Europe team](#) with any questions.

How to Apply

Open Calls

Find open calls for [CERV](#).

CERV – Raising Awareness of and Building Capacity for the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Deadline: 15 September 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: Between 12 and 24 months

Funding available: 9,500,000 euro

Partners required: N/A

[Full details here.](#)

CERV – Promoting an Enabling Civic Space

Deadline: 15 September 2026 5:00 pm

Project Duration: Between 12 and 24 months.

Funding available: 16, 500, 000 euro

Partners required: N/A

[Full details here.](#)

CERV – Town Twinning

Deadline: 24 September 2026 11:50 am Brussels time

Project Duration: Between 6 and 12 months.

Funding available: EUR 6 000 000

Partners required: At least 2 partners from 2 different eligible countries.

[Full details here.](#)

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LIFE Programme Grants

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action.

The LIFE Programme is specifically aimed at organisations working in the areas of climate change, biodiversity, circular economy, and/or clean energy transition.

The LIFE Programme is high-level and the administration is demanding so previous EU funding experience is recommended.

Projects can be national or transnational.

Aims & Objectives

LIFE is the EU's funding programme for protecting the environment, tackling climate change, and supporting the transition to clean energy. It helps communities, businesses, and organisations make the shift towards a sustainable, circular, climate-neutral, and climate-resilient economy.

LIFE's main goals are to:

- help communities transition towards a more sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy
- protect, restore and enhance the environment
- halt and reverse biodiversity loss
- stop the degradation of ecosystems by managing and enhancing the [Natura 2000 network](#) for rare and threatened species.

What does it support?

LIFE funds projects that align with its four sub-programmes:

1. **Nature and biodiversity** – protecting species, habitats, and ecosystems
2. **Circular economy and quality of life** – reducing waste, improving resource efficiency, and enhancing environmental quality
3. **Climate change mitigation and adaptation** – cutting greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate impacts
4. **Clean energy transition** – promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable energy systems

In these sub-programmes, LIFE funds activities such as:

- Strategic nature projects that support the achievement of EU nature and biodiversity objectives

- Strategic integrated projects that implement environmental or climate strategies or action plans on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale
- Standard action projects that pursue the specific objectives of the LIFE programme
- Building capacity to support energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Studies, the evaluation and monitoring of policies, information and communication activities, prizes, etc.

Project Example

LEAP – Local Energy Agencies in the Peripheral Regions

[The Aran Islands Energy Co-op](#) is a partner in the LIFE-funded project “LEAP – Local Energy Agencies in the Peripheral Regions.” Alongside partners Atlantic Technological University, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, and Sligo County Councils, and Údarás na Gaeltachta, the LEAP project will create 3 Local Energy Agencies in the North and West of Ireland to support integrated home renovation services.

[Learn about the LEAP project on the ATU website.](#)

Want to learn more?

[LIFE \(European Commission\)](#)

[LIFE Programme in Ireland](#)

[LIFE – Support for applicants](#)

[LIFE – Partner search tool](#)

How to Apply

Open Calls:

LIFE – Facilitating cooperation among energy communities

Deadline: 16 September 2026

Project Duration: n/a

Funding available: EUR 7 000 000

Partners required: At least 3 applicants from 3 different eligible countries

[Full details here.](#)

LIFE – Alleviating household energy poverty in Europe

Deadline: 16 September 2026

Project Duration: n/a

Funding available: EUR 6 000 000

Partners required: At least 3 applicants from 3 different eligible countries

[Full details here.](#)

LIFE – Nature Governance and Information

Deadline: 22 September 2026

Project Duration: Maximum 120 months

Funding available: EUR 7 500 000

Partners required: N/A

[Full details here.](#)

LIFE – Ecodesign and energy labelling compliance support facility for suppliers and retailers

Deadline: 22 September 2026

Project Duration: 36 months

Funding available: EUR 2 500 000

Partners required: At least 3 applicants from 3 different eligible countries

[Full details here.](#)

LIFE – Environment Governance

Deadline: 22 September 2026

Project Duration: 24 to a maximum of 120 months

Funding available: EUR 6,600,000

Partners required: n/a

[Full details here.](#)

LIFE – Circular Economy and Zero Pollution

Deadline: 22 September 2026

Project Duration: 24 to a maximum of 120 months

Funding available: EUR 79,000,000

Partners required: n/a

[Full details here.](#)

LIFE – Nature and Biodiversity

Deadline: 22 September 2026

Project Duration: Maximum 120 months

Funding available: EUR 166,000,000

Partners required: N/A

[Full details here.](#)

LIFE – Climate Change Adaptation

Deadline: 22 September 2026

Project Duration: Between 24 and 120 months

Funding available: EUR 28,000,000

Partners required: N/A

[Full details here.](#)

LIFE – Climate Change Mitigation

Deadline: 22 September 2026

Project Duration: Between 24 and 120 months

Funding available: EUR 28,000,000

Partners required: N/A

[Full details here.](#)

LIFE – Climate Governance and Information

Deadline: 22 September 2026

Project Duration: Between 24 and 120 months

Funding available: EUR 4,000,000

Partners required: N/A

[Full details here.](#)

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#BeActive EU Sport Awards

The 2026 edition of the [#BeActive EU Sport Awards](#) call for a prize has been published.

The awards recognise outstanding sport initiatives that help improve health, strengthen communities, promote inclusion and support shared European values. They highlight best practices and inspiring projects that encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to take part in sport and stay active.

Award categories

Applications are published in 5 categories

1. Physical activity
2. Inclusion
3. Volunteering
4. Across generations
5. Peace.

Budget and prizes

A total prize fund of €125,000 is available.

For each category

- 1 winner will receive €15,000
- 2 finalists will receive €5,000 each.

Eligibility

Applications are published to eligible organisations based in EU countries and other countries associated with the Erasmus+ Programme.

In the Volunteering category, individuals aged 18 or over can also apply.

How to Apply

Has your project, initiative or organisation successfully promoted sport and physical activity?

Then apply!

This is an excellent opportunity to gain European recognition and inspire others across the continent.

Deadline: 17 Sep 2026

Full details here: <https://sport.ec.europa.eu/whats-new/news/beactive-eu-sport-awards-2026-apply-now>

For questions, please contact eacea-sport@ec.europa.eu

For inspiration, discover the [latest winners of #BeActive EU Sport Awards](#), announced during [the award ceremony](#) held on 23 June at Bozar in Brussels.

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Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation.

Aims & Objectives

It aims to:

- strengthen the EU's scientific and technological bases and the European Research Area (ERA);
- boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and jobs;
- deliver on citizens' priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals

What does it support?

It funds actions under its three pillars and one horizontal activity:

1. **Pillar 1:** Excellent Science aims to increase the EU's global scientific competitiveness. This pillar includes the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions which fund the development of excellent doctoral and postdoctoral training programmes and collaborative research projects.
2. **Pillar 2:** Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness supports research relating to societal challenges and reinforces technological and industrial capacities through its seven "clusters" or themes.
3. **Pillar 3:** Innovative Europe aims to make Europe a frontrunner in market-creating innovation via the European Innovation Council.

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area: This horizontal activity will increase support to EU Member States in their efforts to make the most of their national research and innovation potential.

Who can apply?

- Academia and higher education institutions
- Researchers and research centres
- Public bodies (local, regional, or national)
- Industry and private businesses
- Non-governmental organisations and nonprofits who would like to promote and facilitate engaged and ethical research into issues impacting their beneficiaries.

Why the EU funds research and innovation

Read more about EU policy on the topic of [Research and innovation](#)

Budget

€95.5 billion over 7 years.

Project Examples

[Re-InVest](#): Investing in the right to a home. This qualitative research project used a participatory action approach to co-construct policy knowledge. The research focused on the experience of lone parent families living in emergency homeless accommodation, particularly in relation to their experience of the private rental subsidy Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and of Family Hubs, a new form of emergency.

[Find more case studies on the Campus Engaged website.](#)

National Contact Point in Ireland

For [Horizon Europe \(Cluster 2\) & European Research Council](#): Irish University Association, Chiara Loda, chiara.loda@iua.ie

For [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\)](#): Irish University Association, Yvonne Halpin, yvonne.halpin@iua.ie

For Horizon Europe Health: Enterprise Ireland, [Dr Matha Cahill](#)

[Horizon Europe Contact List](#)

Want to find out more?

[Horizon Europe - The EU Research & Innovation Programme](#)

[Horizon Europe Info Days 2021](#)

[Irish Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office](#)

[Network of MSCA National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#)

[MSCA matchmaking platform](#)

How to Apply

Open Calls

Find open calls for [Horizon Europe](#) as well as listed below.

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Tackling child poverty and ensuring disadvantaged children's access to Early Childhood Education and Care

This call supports projects that provide insights into the cost of child poverty and the returns from securing access of disadvantaged children to quality Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in the EU.

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More Info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Tackling gender-based violence against politically active women and LGBTIQ people

This call supports projects that provide an enhanced understanding of the drivers of violence against women and LGBTIQ people who are politically active or political aspirants.

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Open topic: Strengthen Europe’s social model and sustainable competitiveness through productivity

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Creative alliances: Fostering global partnerships in cultural policies and CCI innovation

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Preventing and fighting illicit trafficking of cultural goods

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Contribution of basic skills to productivity, innovation, competitiveness and economic growth

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Fostering competences for the green transition

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Making Europe a global magnet for talent: Attracting and retaining students, researchers and high-skilled workers from outside the EU

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Sustainable paths to media viability

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Governing global commons sustainably

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Supporting post-conflict democracy and reconstruction

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Understanding the forms of local democracy in low-income and low-middle income countries

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Digital and media literacy as drivers for democratic and civic resilience

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Fostering cooperation and integration between SSH and STEM research and innovation in the EU

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – The impact of the use of digital tools outside school and for communication on educational outcomes and mental health

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Safeguarding linguistic diversity in Europe

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Research and Innovation Network for a Union of Equality

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – “Artistic intelligence”: harnessing the power of the arts to address complex challenges, enhance soft skills and boost innovation and competitiveness

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Electoral integrity in the digital context

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Rethinking long-term care policy in the face of EU demographic shifts

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Strengthened implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and a focus on inclusion, integration, and health

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Boosting creative startups for disruptive innovation

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Citizenship education as part of lifelong learning

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Towards a fair and transparent market for cultural and creative content in the era of generative AI

Deadline: 23 September 2026

[More info](#)

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