

# Galway

the number of Irish students taking part in ERASMUS over the next decade and will prioritise students from socio-economic groups that are normally under-represented in higher education.

Many schools in Galway – including St. Mary's, Taylor Hill, Dunmore and Gort - have benefitted from EU funds.

## Supporting Local Enterprises

Over the last number of years Galway City and County Enterprise Boards (CEBs), which have been funded under the NDP with assistance from the EU, have provided valuable support to local businesses and micro-enterprises, through direct grant aid and indirect, non-financial support.

Local businesses/projects which have benefited from funding include: EP Engineering and Farm Services, Loughrea; Flannery Mouldings, Ballyglunin; Cormac Precision Instruments, Tuam; William Shaw Boat Repairs and Servicing, Portumna; Galway Technology Centre; CUBE; Atlantic Prosthetic Orthotic Services Ltd, Kilcolgan; Halcon Steel Ltd; Infinity Engineering Ltd; Connemara Smokehouse, Ballyconneely; Portumna Marine, Connacht Coating Fabrication; Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre and Electronic Media Solutions, GMIT.

Companies in the county should also seek to avail of support from the banks in Galway which are approved as financial intermediaries under a €300 million lending package from the European Investment Bank to help Irish SMEs.

## Encouraging Research and Development

As part of the Regional Innovation Strategy, the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology has also benefited from EU funding to provide a Business Incubation Centre to facilitate the commercialisation of research and development projects carried out by IT personnel and graduates. The new Centre provides office space and commercial R&D units for start-up enterprises in ICT, bio-technology and technology sectors.

NUI Galway is a significant beneficiary of EU funding and EU R&D programmes. Many of its main buildings were constructed with the support of EU funding, including the Engineering and Science Technology Block, the Library and Information Support Systems, New Science Block and the Arts and Postgraduate Central Lecture Theatre and Modern Languages Building. NUI Galway has benefitted from the EU funded Remote Operated Vehicle Holland 1 as part as part of its marine research effort. EU funds also contributed to the fit out and the purchase of equipment for the Martin Ryan Institute.

The Seventh EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) was launched at the end of 2006 with a budget of approximately €50 billion covering the period 2007

to 2013. Under the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (SSTI) 2006-2013, Ireland has set a goal to become a leader in research and development and innovation. The total share of EU funding to be targeted by Ireland over the lifetime of FP7 should be in the region of €600 million.

For more details check out [www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7](http://www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7)



## Galway's Share of Current EU Funds

The BMW Regional Assembly is responsible for allocating a significant proportion of the €458 million in EU structural funding that will be invested in the region over the period to 2013. Galway, as with other counties in the BMW region, can lay claim to its share of EU funding in areas such as:

- > Innovation, including micro enterprise supports, broadband delivery and demand stimulation
- > Investments in the Knowledge Economy
- > Environmental projects, including rural water source protection and pilot village sewerage schemes
- > Transport networks
- > Urban developments

**For further information please contact:**

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## what is the European Union doing for...

# Galway

## The EU - Supporting Your Local Community

The EU has made a major contribution to Ireland's economic and social development since we joined the Common Market in 1973. Indeed, over this period, Ireland has received some €58 billion in funding from Europe, including some €17.5 billion since 1989 from the structural and cohesion funds. In addition, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has lent almost €10 billion to the Irish economy since 1973.

In most cases this EU funding was matched by Irish Exchequer contributions. Successive National Development Plans since 1989 have identified priority projects in the county and in the Border, Midlands and Western (BMW) Region where Galway is located.

At a local level too, the EU has made a real difference to people's lives. Over the last 35 years, the EU has provided significant funding to a wide range of projects and initiatives in the county. This leaflet provides a flavor of the range and nature of the projects which have benefited from EU support in recent years. While large infrastructure projects such as roads or waste water treatment facilities tend to grab the headlines, it is also important to remember the EU has funded many local initiatives which are aimed at improving the day-to-day lives of people in small but important ways.



## Improving Local Infrastructure

A significant proportion of the funding that the EU has provided since the 1970s has been targeted at improving local and national infrastructure. Even in more recent years, the EU has continued to make a significant contribution.

In Galway, millions of euros have been invested in national roads, with a substantial proportion being provided by the EU. Major projects include:

- > Galway Eastern Approach Road (€7 million)
- > N6 Loughrea By-Pass
- > N17 Galway/Tuam
- > Tuam By-Pass
- > N18 Oranmore/Gort/Crusheen
- > Athlone/Ballinasloe By-Pass
- > N59 improvements (Cliften, Moycullen, Leenane, Letterfrack, Oughterard)
- > N66 improvements (Loughrea)
- > N67 (Ballindereen)
- > N83 (Browngrove)
- > N84 (Corandulla)

Continued>>

### Local Infrastructure



### Childcare Services



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In addition, through the EU co-financed Specific Improvement Grant Scheme, investment in practically every non-national road throughout Galway has also co-funded by the EU, with over 50 such projects completed in the period between 1994 and 1999 alone.

In the area of public transport too, the EU has supported investment in improvements to the rail track and upgrades to rail services including increased capacity and frequency on the Dublin to Galway service.

Galway has also benefited from EU co-financed investment in waste management facilities such as the civic amenity sites at Carrowbrowne, Ballinsloe, Clifden and Tuam, as well as bring bank sites around the county. The materials recovery facility at Sandy Road and a composting facility at Carrowbrowne received over €2.6 million in EU funding.

In addition, under the co-financed Rural Water Scheme, significant investment has been put in place to upgrade and expand waste water treatment capacity and improve drinking water quality for group water schemes (those Clontuskert, Tarramuid, Ballyman and Lisheenkyle for example) and small public schemes throughout the county. This includes for example the Tuam Regional Water Supply which got an EU grant of €42 million; one of the highest in the country for this type of project. Other beneficiaries include the Galway Main Drainage Scheme, the Carna/Kilkieran Rural Water Sewerage Scheme as well as the Loughrea Rural Water Sewerage Scheme.



Thanks to EU funds coastal protection schemes at Goteen, Roundstone, Inishboffin and Tawin islands have been undertaken.

Galway Port has also been a beneficiary of EU co-financing, having received some €680,000 in 1998-1999. Rossaveal's port's facilities have also been supported by the EU.

The EU has also provided part-funding for the roll-out of high speed broadband infrastructure in Galway, with the construction of the €9 million Galway/Oranmore Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) in the city and environs. Funding for MANs has also been provided in towns such as Furbo, Clifden, Ballinasloe, Athenry, Gort and Loughrea.

## Galway Tourism

Since 1994, some €700 million in EU grants has been allocated to a wide range of measures to support Ireland's tourism industry. In addition, to general marketing promotions which benefit the entire country, Galway projects which received EU assistance included:

- > Galway Arts Centre
- > Black Box Theatre (€415,000)
- > Galway Theatre (€1.5 million)
- > Portumna Castle
- > Aughnanure Castle Exhibition
- > Navigation of the River Suck
- > Galway Crystal Centre (€600,000)
- > DELPHI Adventure Centre (€500,000)
- > Dartfield Equestrian Park (€545,000)
- > Little Killary Adventure Centre (€790,000)
- > Gort Heritage Project (€263,000)
- > Athenry Heritage Centre (€234,000)
- > Cliften Station House
- > Tourist Information Centres (Galway, Cliften)

In addition, EU funds have contributed to tourism angling at many locations in Galway, including: Gowla, Costello & Fermoyle, Cliften, Culfín Ballynahinch and Crumlin Fisheries; and Caheroyn House.

## Supporting Urban and Village Renewal

At a local and village level, the EU has continued to make a significant contribution to the lives of Galway residents. Under the EU co-financed Urban and Village Renewal Measures, for example, support was provided for various renewal, conservation and regeneration projects throughout Galway. As a result, practically every major town and village in Galway has benefitted from EU and national funding to improve streetscapes, new footpaths and kerbing, the installation of new street lighting, landscaping and street furniture. This includes for example, Ballinasloe Riverside Walk and architectural street lighting at Eyrescourt.

In addition, funding has also been provided for the conservation of important public buildings. These include, for example, Maam Courthouse, Mutton Island Lighthouse, Volunteer Arch, Laurencetown, Ballinasloe, Clonfert Cathedral, Shop St Bridge, Tuam, English Abbey, Ahascragh, Doorus House Youth Hostel, Kinvara and the Old Waterworks Corrib Centre.

## Aran Islands

Many projects on the Aran Islands have benefitted from EU support including:

- > Improvements to Kilonan Port, Inishmore
- > Electrification of the islands
- > Cultural Centre, Inis Oírr
- > Inisheer Harbour
- > Dun Aenghasa Visitor Facilities

# Galway



## Expanding Childcare Services

The demand for childcare has grown dramatically in recent years. To help to meet this demand, the EU has provided significant funding to increase the numbers of childcare facilities and places available to local parents. This has included the provision of capital grants, staffing supports and funding for approved community-based childcare projects, particularly those in disadvantaged areas.

Between 2000 and 2008 some €40 million was allocated to childcare services in Galway. Childcare services which have benefited from support include; the Beez Kneez, Gleanmaddy; Corfin Creche; Ballinsloe Community Childcare; Glinsk Community Childcare; Little Acorns Community Playschool, Headford; Mountbellow Community Childcare; Portumna Community Childcare; Ballinfolle Community Childcare, Galway City; Naiolann Sailearna, Indreabhán; Tiny Tots, Ballinasloe; Wonderland Community Pre-school, Galway City and many, many more.

## Promoting Rural Development

In addition to the direct support provided to the county's farmers through CAP and REPs and other farm support schemes, the EU has also sought to promote sustainable rural development in a number of other ways. The LEADER Initiative was established by the European Commission in 1991. It was designed to improve the quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of the rural economy by providing support initiatives in the area of rural/agri-tourism, local enterprise development and community facilities.

Funding towards LEADER-type activities in the 2007-2013 round of EU funding is part of the broader Rural Development Programme for Ireland. The funding available for the delivery of LEADER-type activities has been set at €425 million with 55% being provided by the EU.

Under the current Rural Development Programme Galway Rural Development Co. Ltd has been allocated funding of €15 million; FORUM Connemara funding of almost €10 million; Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta Teo, which covers all Gaeltacht areas nationwide, received funding of €17million, while Comhar na nOileán Teo, which covers the offshore islands nationwide, received €4.6 million. These funds will be used to support:

- > Diversification into non-agricultural activities
- > Support for business creation and development
- > Encouragement of tourism activities
- > Basic services for the economy and rural population
- > Village renewal and development
- > Conservation and upgrading rural heritage
- > Training

EU funding has supported many forest projects across the county.

## Fostering Employment, Education and Training Opportunities

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the EU's primary financial instrument for the provision of employment and training opportunities. Since Ireland joined the EU, many agencies and State bodies have received over €6 billion in investment from the ESF and in the period from 2007 to 2013, a further €375m will be invested in training courses, higher education and employment creation projects.

For example, the ESF has co-financed a significant number of employment and training initiatives administered by the Department of Education and Science, Enterprise Ireland, Teagasc, FAS and the VEC. In Galway, the EU has co-funded projects and programme dealing with:

- > Youthreach
- > Travellers Services
- > Early School Leavers progression programme
- > Adult Literacy
- > In-company training
- > Skills training for the long-term unemployed and redundant workers
- > Back to Education Initiative
- > Stay-in school retention
- > Equality for Women

This year many students from Galway will be among the 25,000 young people who will have benefitted from the EU supported ERASMUS programme since it was set up over 20 years ago. ERASMUS allows third level students and teachers to spend a year or part of a year studying in another EU country. The Higher Education Authority plans to double