

**Nessa**  
**Childers** **MEP**  
**Independent**



## Dublin's Independent MEP

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## EU Funding Handbook



Group of the Progressive Alliance of  
**Socialists & Democrats**  
in the European Parliament

Nessa Childers MEP is a Member of the  
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### Contact Nessa

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# Will my project qualify for EU funding?



**Europe 2020 Strategy** - European funding is available for programmes that will promote and develop EU wide strategy. The policy framework for the 2014-2020 period is called the 'Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth'. To be successful and qualify for EU funding, your projects will have to fit the 2020 Strategy.

**There are two types of funding from EU –**

**Shared Management** which are disbursed through national government or regional authorities. These include well known funds such as CAP, the European Social Fund, and structural funds.

**Direct funding from the European Commission** - This funding handbook focuses on the second type of EU funding, direct funding from European Commission.

Included in this handbook are summaries of the programmes, contact points and website addresses for more information.

**Important:** Direct funding from European Commission are GRANTS not subsidies, to fund projects that will run along-side your core activities.

**Key Elements:**

Transnational - some programmes require two to three partners from different member states.

Matched funding – usually you will need to find between 40% to 60% of funding – European Commission will 'match' your funding.

Emphasis on integration and emphasising European Union values

**Policy Context – some key messages:**

EU Programmes do not operate in isolation

Funding follows Policy - programmes exist to achieve EU priorities

You need an appreciation or knowledge of policy to successfully apply for the programmes

Don't chase the money – you need to align your objectives with policy

# Direct EU Funding Programmes 2014-2020

**Horizon 2020** (Research & innovation including health) This is one of the biggest funding programmes. Horizon has three pillars:

- excellence in science;
- creating industrial leadership and competitiveness and
- tackling major societal challenges.

**Horizon 2020** is SME-oriented in its approach and applies a broad definition of 'Innovation' - not just technology & research in isolation, for example Horizon includes food security, health and energy. <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

**COSME** (Competitiveness & SMEs) Funding programme to encourage and support competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs <http://ec.europa.eu/easme/en>

**Creative Europe** (Culture + Media) for the Audio-visual, Cultural and Creative Sectors, again the emphasis is on growth and employment, reaching new markets, with innovative audience-building, cultural/media literacy, film festivals. The contact point for in Ireland is the Arts Council for Culture projects, and <http://www.mediadeskireland.ie/> for audio visual projects. Also visit <http://www.creativeeuropeireland.eu/>

**Europe for Citizens** (Citizenship) – this programme supports projects contributing to citizens' understanding of the EU; European citizenship and civic and democratic participation at EU level (such as town twinning); and awareness of remembrance. The contact point in Ireland is the Institute of Public Administration. For more information <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/>

**ERASMUS +** (Education, Training & Youth) is the new 16 billion euro catch-all framework program for education, training, youth and sport. It is built on the well-known and respected EU brand of the highly successful Erasmus student exchange program. The contact point in Ireland is <http://www.leargas.ie/contact.php>.

**LIFE+ Programme** - Environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects. The European Commission usually favour large scale Life projects – and 50% matched funding is required. The contact point in Ireland is the Department of the Environment :<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/SustainableDevelopment/LIFEProgramme/>. For more information also visit <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>

**Civil Protection** – training and exercise, expert exchanges, cooperation projects to reduce risk of disasters; including social, environmental and economic disasters. <http://ec.europa.eu/echo/en/what/civil-protection/experts-training-and-exchange>

**Rights and Citizenship Programme** – combating violence against the vulnerable, non-discrimination, equality between men and women, data protection, rights of the child. [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/rec/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/rec/index_en.htm)

**Asylum and Migration Fund** – to promote the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration. [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund/index_en.htm)

**Health for Growth** – improving public health, programme to eliminate sources of danger to physical and mental health. [http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm)

**URBACT** - a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development. <http://urbact.eu/en/about-urbact/urbact-at-a-glance/urbact-in-words/>

## Plan for the time and resources required for a successful application:

Allow for a long preparation time.

For example a €1m project takes 3 people six months to write the initial proposal

Plan the writing very carefully.

All partners must be clear on their contribution.

## Before you write your proposal.....

Ask the question: Is the funding area right for you?

Keep a strategic focus

Carefully analyse successful and unsuccessful projects

Consider EU impact & Europe 2020 Strategy goals

Write a short but detailed mini proposal or project description with one page summary with aims, objectives and actions

Seek experienced partners

## Practical advice

Work electronically

Seek advice: Meet the contact point very early in the project

One person should be in charge of putting the proposal together

Do all the administration well in advance

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For further information please visit [www.nessachilders.ie](http://www.nessachilders.ie)



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