

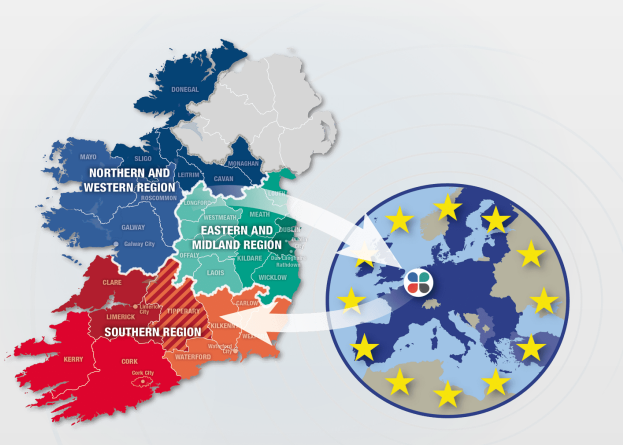
The Irish Regions European Office



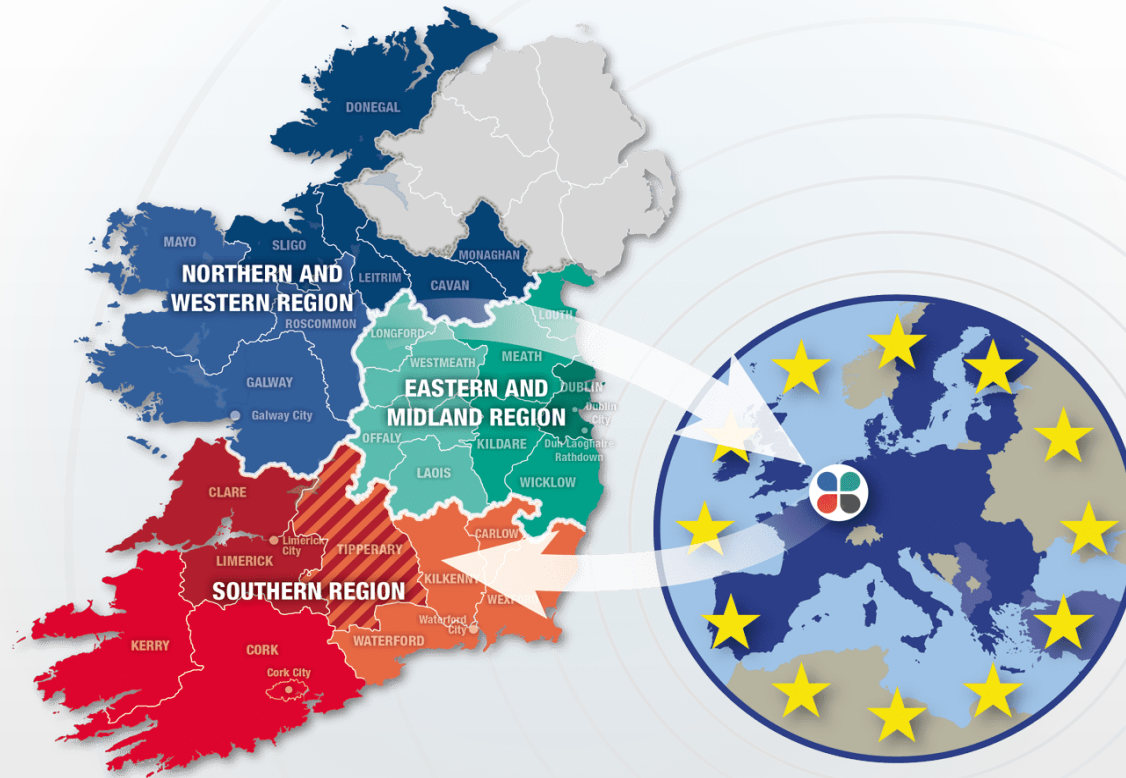
Presentation to Southern Regional Assembly – European Territorial Cooperation Network

6th October 2020

Teresa Lennon, Head of Office



Introduction to the Irish Regions European Office



A Shared Service for the three Regional Assemblies

IREO Strategy

Overall Aim

To ensure that the Irish Regions European Office delivers timely, strategic advice and information on EU policy developments, to the three Regional Assemblies and local authorities in Ireland and that it coordinates and supports the Irish Delegation to the Committee of the Regions.

Objectives of the IREO



- Provide an effective Secretariat for the Irish national delegation to the Committee of the Regions
- Raising awareness and communicating the opportunities for participation in EU funding programmes
- Seeking opportunities for influencing EU policy developments
- Building capacity and partnerships with other regions
- Signpost to the European Territorial Cooperation National Contact Points based in Regional Assemblies, highlighting their role in providing pre and post project development support
- Raising the profile of the strengths of local and regional Government in Ireland to European partners and to the EU institutions.

Current activities of the IREO



- Identified a **liaison point** in each Regional Assembly – Derville Brennan and ETC network
- Letters of introduction sent to all local authorities and **online meeting** to be hosted in coming weeks by Regional Assemblies and constituent local authorities.
- IREO hosting an **official workshop at EU Regions Week** 'Green Cities by Co-Design', 21/10/20. Registration https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/sessions/1574_en
- Ongoing **support to the CoR Delegation**, including new National Delegation meetings in Brussels with guest speakers
- Continuing to feed views of local and regional authorities to DPER and responding to **public consultations** on the potential shape of new Cohesion Policy programmes

Communication activities of IREO



- IREO website now live – www.ireo.eu
- EU information with particular focus on:
 - Policy** – Agriculture, Environment, Regional development, Economic policy, the Green Deal, Smart and Sustainable policies.
 - Funding** – Multiannual Financial Framework, Cohesion funding, EU funding programmes
 - Events & Networking** – in Brussels and further afield
 - Committee of the Regions** – briefings for members, updates and details of activities
- Case-study section** to showcase Irish success on the European stage and present positive impact of EU funding
- Twitter [@IrishRegions_EU](https://twitter.com/IrishRegions_EU)
- Newsletter...coming soon!**
- Subscribe to our Mailing List:** <https://www.ireo.eu/subscribe/>



Irish Regions European Office
Oifig Eorpach Réigiúin na hÉireann

EU Affairs update

What are the current issues affecting Irish Regions

EU Affairs update

- MFF 2021-2027 negotiations ongoing in an environment of overall reduced budget and the pandemic
- Cohesion Policy Funding – ReactEU, EU Recovery Package, ERDF, ESF+, Just Transition.
- Policy priorities with regional focus –
 - Conference on Future of Europe
 - The Green Deal – structure and cross-policy application
 - Digital Single Market
 - Farm to Fork Strategy
 - Brexit

Cohesion Policy Funding

- In May 2018 legislative proposals for Cohesion Policy 2021-27 were published. These regulations are still under negotiation.
- In January 2020, Commission announced a new Just Transition Fund (JTF).
- In spring 2020, initiatives were adopted at EU level to enable existing Cohesion Policy 2014-20 programmes to respond to COVID 19. (CRII, CRII+ and REACT-EU)
- On 21 July 2020 Agreement reached by European Council on the Multi Annual Financial Framework for 2021 – 2027 - **€1,195 billion for Ireland (current prices) for cohesion funding (ERDF, ESF+, ETC programmes)**

European Regional Development Fund



- The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions.
- **Ireland's ERDF allocation likely to be reduced on the previous (2014-20) round. (Approx € 396 million in current prices)**
- The rate that the EU co-finances varies by region:
 - Transition Region - North West (60%);
 - More Developed Regions - Eastern and Midland (40%) and **Southern** (40%)

ERDF Operational Programmes 2021 – 2027



- Approach principally determined by Regulations and further guidance by the European Commission's Country Report for Ireland
- Policy Objectives for next round
- **PO1 – A Smarter Europe**, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium sized enterprises.
- **PO2 - A Greener, carbon free Europe**, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change.
- **PO5 - A Europe closer to citizens**, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.
- Public Consultation just completed in Ireland on shape and content of ERDF.
- No direction yet on the role of Regional Assemblies in the management or implementation of the programmes.

EU Funding Programmes with relevance for local authorities



- **European Territorial Cooperation** – (INTERREG) North West Europe - www.nweurope.eu/ , Atlantic Area www.atlanticarea.eu and INTERREG Europe www.interregeurope.eu/
- **Horizon Europe** – Research and Innovation – Smart Cities, Environment, Energy, Health and Wellbeing, Security - www.horizon2020.ie/
- **LIFE + Funding** – Environment – www.ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life
- **Urban Innovative Actions** – Regional Policy – www.uia-initiative.eu/en
- **Creative Europe** – Cultural heritage / community cohesion and wellbeing, creative ecosystems, gender equality, international cultural relations - www.ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/node_en
- **Connecting Europe Facility** – Energy / Transport - <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility>
- **Innovation Fund** – Low Carbon Technologies - https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund_en
- **URBACT** – Urban regeneration - <https://urbact.eu/>
- **Europe for citizens** – Democratic participation - https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en

Contact Details



Teresa Lennon
Head of Irish Regions European Office
Co-ordinator, Irish Delegation to the Committee of the
Regions
Email: teresa.lennon@ireo.eu
Tel: 00322 233 11 22



Agata Kolodynska
EU Affairs Officer
Irish Regions European Office
Email: agata.kolodynska@ireo.eu
Tel: 00322 233 11 20