



**May 2026**

## Welcome!

In our May edition, we're highlighting EU funding opportunities for youth initiatives, sharing insights from the recent LIFE Programme National Information Day, looking at what the UK's return to Erasmus+ could mean for Irish organisations, and showcasing a new photography competition celebrating the impact of EU funding across Ireland.

As always, you will also find the latest EU funding deadlines, training and events, and relevant EU policy news.

Visit the [Access Europe website](#) for more information and [follow us on LinkedIn](#) for weekly EU funding updates. If you have an EU funding related event or news you would like to share, please email [europa@wheel.ie](mailto:europa@wheel.ie) to have it included in our next edition.

Enjoy the read and thanks for joining us!

## Updates & Opportunities



## **EU Funding for Youth Initiatives - Join Our Upcoming Online Event**

Access Europe is delighted to invite organisations to join our upcoming online event, [EU Funding for Youth Initiatives](#), taking place on Tuesday, 23 June 2026 at 10:30am. The session will explore EU funding opportunities for youth-focused activities through the [Erasmus+](#) and [European Solidarity Corps](#) programmes, as well as the first [Interreg Northern Periphery & Arctic \(NPA\) Youth Call](#). Speakers from Léargas and the Northern & Western Regional Assembly will provide an overview of their funding programmes, the types of projects that can be supported, and practical guidance for organisations interested in developing youth-focused European initiatives. The event is delivered in collaboration between The Wheel's Access Europe programme, Léargas, and the Northern & Western Regional Assembly. [Register now!](#)

## **Access Europe Presents at LIFE Programme National Information Day**

Access Europe was pleased to attend and present at the Irish National Information Day for the LIFE Programme on 12 May 2026, hosted by the Irish LIFE National Contact Point. The event brought together organisations from across Ireland interested in environmental, climate, and sustainability-focused EU funding opportunities. The information day featured presentations from the LIFE National Contact Point team, CINEA, Enterprise Ireland, and the External Monitoring Team ELMEN, offering practical guidance on upcoming LIFE funding calls, application processes, and project implementation. As part of the programme, Access Europe presented on the EU funding supports available to Irish civil society organisations, highlighting how organisations can strengthen their engagement with EU funding opportunities and access tailored support throughout the application process. Irish organisations interested in environmental and climate-focused EU funding can explore the [current LIFE open calls](#) and learn more about the supports available through Access Europe.

## **Civil Society and Ireland's EU Presidency: Reflections from the Wheel Summit 2026**

On Thursday, 21 May 2026, Access Europe supported the session Making the Most of the Irish Presidency of the EU at The Wheel's annual Summit. The discussion brought together representatives from across the community and voluntary sector at a particularly important moment, just ahead of Ireland taking on the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2027. Against the backdrop of growing societal tensions across Europe and increasing pressure on democratic values, the session explored how Ireland's Presidency can become an opportunity to strengthen civic participation, reinforce social cohesion, and highlight the essential role of the community and voluntary sector in shaping Europe's future. We were pleased to welcome a diverse panel of speakers who shared their perspectives and ambitions for the upcoming Presidency: Jason O' Donovan from Social Factory CLG, Angie Gough from Helping Irish Hosts, Maria Fleming from First Fortnight, and Lorna Hayes from European Movement Ireland. Throughout the conversation, speakers reflected on the importance of creating spaces for dialogue, building sustainable partnerships that extend beyond the Presidency itself, and ensuring that social and democratic values remain at the centre of European cooperation. The discussion demonstrated a strong collective commitment to collaboration and to ensuring that the voices of communities and civil society are heard throughout the Presidency period and beyond.



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### “Our Ireland, Our EU” Photography Competition Now Open

A new national photography competition, Our Ireland, Our EU, is inviting people across Ireland to capture the impact of EU-funded projects on communities, people, and places nationwide. The competition aims to showcase how EU investment supports everyday life across Ireland through projects focused on community development, inclusion, infrastructure, education, regeneration, and more. Entries are open until 7 June 2026, with public voting taking place later in June. Winning photographs in each category will receive prizes based on public votes. More information, competition rules, and entry details are available on the [Our Ireland, Our EU competition page](#).

### UK to Rejoin Erasmus+ in 2027

The [European Commission has confirmed that the UK will rejoin the Erasmus+ programme](#) from 2027, reopening opportunities for collaboration, exchange, and partnership-building between organisations across Ireland, the UK, and Europe. For Irish civil society organisations, this is a significant development. Erasmus+ supports international cooperation across areas including youth, education, training, adult learning, and sport, helping organisations develop innovative projects, build European networks, and create meaningful learning opportunities for participants. For organisations working in community development, youth work, inclusion, education, volunteering, or lifelong learning, the renewed participation of the UK could open new doors for consortium building and future project development under [Erasmus+](#).

## Partner Profiles

The [Access Europe partner database](#) connects Irish civil society organisations with organisations across Europe for partnership in EU projects.

Every month we present three new profiles of Irish organisations. Visit the full profiles and get to know them!

Are you an Irish organisation interested in creating your own profile? [Register here!](#)



[Visit profile](#)

### Cork Counselling Services

Cork Counselling Services is committed to providing professional counselling and psychotherapy to all regardless of capacity to pay, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, socio economic background, ability or race. They are committed to providing professional training which reflects best practice nationally and internationally. They provide services to approx. 350 clients per year, some of the most disenfranchised individuals in their community.



[Visit profile](#)

### Our Shared Plate

Our Shared Plate (OSP) supports neighbourhoods to grow, cook and eat together by providing the scaffolding to help communities turn underused space into thriving community food growing areas. It does this by working with local authorities and local communities to develop community gardens, organic food growing spaces, edible hedges and urban orchards, as well as hosting workshops to build community cohesion, leadership and know-how.



[Visit profile](#)

## Secret Street Tours

Secret Street Tours is a social enterprise addressing homelessness in Dublin by offering walking tours led by individuals with lived experience of homelessness. We provide paid employment, training, and mentorship, helping guides rebuild their lives while fostering understanding of homelessness. Since 2018, we've engaged thousands of visitors, with guides achieving stability, independence, and improved wellbeing. Our model has demonstrated a meaningful impact on individuals and the community.

## Events



## Horizon Europe Matchmaking Event for 2026 Cluster 2 calls - 1 & 2 June (Paris)

*Net4Society*

Join this networking event in Paris on 1 and 2 June 2026 dedicated to Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity, and Inclusive Society under Horizon Europe. This in-person brokerage event is your gateway to forging new partnerships, refining project ideas, and building competitive consortia for upcoming calls. Whether you're seeking partners for a specific Cluster 2 topic or aiming to strengthen an existing project team, this event is designed to connect you with the right people from across Europe and beyond.

[Register here](#)



## **European Sustainable Energy Week - 9 - 11 June (Brussels and online)**

*European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)*

The European Sustainable Energy Week is the biggest annual event dedicated to renewables and efficient energy use in Europe, and it features a 3-day [Policy Conference](#); the [EUSEW Awards](#) ceremony celebrating the people, projects, and initiatives advancing Europe's transition to clean and sustainable energy; and networking opportunities at the [Energy Fair](#).

[Register here](#)

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## **Festival of the New European Bauhaus 2026 - 9 - 13 June (Brussels)**

*European Commission*

The third edition of the New European Bauhaus Festival will address the transformative power of democratic engagement in shaping more inclusive and sustainable communities. It will highlight how empowered citizens and local authorities can play an active role in creating their environments, with a particular emphasis on affordable housing as a cornerstone of democratic participation. In line with the NEB's core vision, the Festival will be a space to reimagine our built environment, placing first life, then spaces, and then buildings.

[Register here](#)



## **Eurofound Open Day - 12 June (Dublin)**

### *Eurofound*

Access Europe is proud to partner with Eurofound, the EU Agency, as it hosts its annual Open Day - this year's theme is Ireland in the European Union. Running from 10.00 to 13.00 at Eurofound's Loughlinstown premises in Dublin, this event invites the public to explore the agency's mission of improving living and working conditions across Europe. Visitors can meet the team, tour the grounds, and learn how Eurofound helps to shape social policies for a stronger Europe.

[\*\*Register here\*\*](#)

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## **Current EU Funding Opportunities**

### **EU Just Transition Fund – START Scheme**

The START Scheme offers funding to Local Authorities to deliver local projects that contribute to the environmental and social development of the JTF region.

**Deadline:** 2 June 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

### **PEACEPLUS – 1.2 Empowering Communities – Strand 2, The Institutional Capacity Development Programme**

This call aims to build the capacity of organisations to develop new models of service delivery, which contribute to peace and reconciliation.

**Deadline:** 3 June 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **PEACEPLUS – 1.2 Empowering Communities – Strand 3, The Community-Based Safety Interventions Programme**

This call aims to improve peace and reconciliation within local communities.

**Deadline:** 3 June 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

## **European Urban Initiative – Innovative Actions**

This call aims to bring together urban authorities to tackle a joint challenge.

**Deadline:** 15 June 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

## **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 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

## **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026**

This call aims to foster excellence in research by researchers gaining experience in other countries, disciplines and non-academic sectors.

**Deadline:** 9 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

## **CERV – Promoting an Enabling Civic Space**

This call supports actions that strengthen both the monitoring of civic space and the protection and resilience of CSOs and human rights defenders working to uphold EU values.

**Deadline:** 15 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

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

This call supports projects that raise the fundamental rights knowledge of relevant actors.

**Deadline:** 15 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

### **LIFE – Alleviating household energy poverty in Europe**

This call aims to fund projects that reduce household energy poverty in Europe by improving energy efficiency, lowering energy costs, and supporting coordinated, socially inclusive solutions for vulnerable households.

**Deadline:** 16 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

### **LIFE – Facilitating cooperation among energy communities**

This call aims to fund projects that strengthen cooperation, knowledge exchange, and support structures among energy communities to help them scale up, diversify activities, and contribute more effectively to the clean energy transition.

**Deadline:** 16 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

### **LIFE – Climate Governance and Information**

This call aims at supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the Union legislation and policy on climate change, contributing to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation.

**Deadline:** 22 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

### **LIFE – Climate Change Mitigation**

This call aims to support the implementation of the European Green Deal.

**Deadline:** 22 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

### **LIFE – Climate Change Adaptation**

This call aims to help to achieve the long-term vision of the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.

**Deadline:** 22 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

### **LIFE – Nature Governance and Information**

This call aims to fund projects that support a smart and outcome-based implementation of the EU nature and biodiversity legislation.

**Deadline:** 22 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

### **LIFE – Nature and Biodiversity**

This call aims to contribute to European Union objectives for the protection, maintenance and restoration of the Union's natural capital in its marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.

**Deadline:** 22 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

### **LIFE – Circular Economy and Zero Pollution**

This call aims to support projects that support the the transition toward a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient and climate-resilient economy, a toxic-free environment and toward protecting, restoring and improving the quality of the environment.

**Deadline:** 22 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

### **LIFE – Environment Governance**

This call aims to support projects that facilitate the transition toward a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient and climate-resilient economy, a toxic-free environment and at protecting, restoring and improving the quality of the environment.

**Deadline:** 22 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

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

This call aims to increase compliance of products on the European market with ecodesign and energy labelling requirements.

**Deadline:** 22 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

### **Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Government in transition: how governments change the way they work and prepare the civil service for the future**

This call supports projects that result in policy recommendations on adopting new governance paradigms and strategies for enhanced support for internal government innovation efforts.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

### **Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Governing global commons sustainably**

This call supports projects that develop concepts, methods, processes, and information relevant for decision-making that foster the sustainable governance of global commons.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

### **Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Electoral integrity in the digital context**

This call supports projects that investigate the risks new technologies pose to democratic integrity, particularly through the manipulation of public opinion and electoral processes.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

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

This call aims to establish a Research and Innovation Network for a Union of Equality with academic institutions, public bodies, and civil society organisations.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

### **Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Safeguarding linguistic diversity in Europe**

This call supports projects that result in policy-relevant evidence, strategies and recommendations for promoting multilingualism and safeguarding linguistic diversity.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

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

This call supports projects that develop actionable advice for policymakers and citizens to promote young people's healthy use of digital tools for leisure.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

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

This call supports projects that create an SSH-STEM Action at European level.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

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

This call supports projects that empower citizens to navigate the digital landscape with discernment and critical thinking.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

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

This call supports projects that gather evidence on how local actors could foster democratic practices and increase citizens' trust in governance and democratic institutions.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

**[FULL INFO](#)**

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

This call supports projects that develop and implement effective strategies for sustainable peace and democratic reconstruction in post-conflict areas.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL 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

[FULL INFO](#)

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

This call supports projects that explore how international partnerships can strengthen cultural policies and creative industries innovation.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

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

This call supports projects that provide policymakers with recommendations and innovative solutions to boost Member States' labour productivity.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

## **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

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

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

This call supports projects that develop actionable advice about how education and training systems can help foster basic skills.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Fostering competences for the green transition**

This call supports projects that develop guidance on how to address the interconnection between fostering the competences for the green transition and the digital transition.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[\*\*FULL 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**

This call supports projects that provide evidence-based policy insights/options to improve migration pathways for skilled talent across the EU.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Sustainable paths to media viability**

This call supports collaborations with news media organisations to enhance innovation across the news media sectors.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

## **Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – Boosting creative startups for disruptive innovation**

This call supports projects that boost the growth of creative startups into scaleups or boost creative startups/scaleups with a potential for disruptive innovation.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

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

This call supports projects that will lead to improved implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum through evidence-based insights in asylum and migration management.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL INFO](#)

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

This call supports projects that evaluate the effectiveness and resilience of existing long term-care policies at national and regional levels and propose new policy solutions.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[FULL 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**

This call supports projects that enhance soft skills through creativity and the arts or conduct pilots on emerging technologies.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe Cluster 2 – AI integration in CCSI work practice: catalysing innovation and competitiveness**

This call supports projects that leverage AI for facilitating new revenue streams for the cultural and creative sectors and industries.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

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

This call supports projects that aim to mitigate the risks associated with generative AI and develop new positive prospects.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

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

This call supports projects that lead to increased evidence collection and intelligence gathering, effective cross-border and cross-domain cooperation and uptake by the Law Enforcement Authorities.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

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

This call supports projects that provide policymakers, educators, and other relevant actors with tools and recommendations to put in place more opportunities for lifelong civic and citizenship learning.

**Deadline:** 23 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **CERV – Town Twinning**

This call aims to promote exchanges between citizens of different countries to reinforce mutual understanding and tolerance and to give them the opportunity to broaden their perspective and develop a sense of European belonging and identity.

**Deadline:** 24 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **ESF+ Social Innovation – Strengthening the European Child Guarantee national governance systems**

This call supports projects which aim at testing new approaches and transferring or scaling up social innovations that strengthen the governance and implementation of the European Child Guarantee, ensuring children in need have access to key services.

**Deadline:** 30 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **ESF+ Social Innovation – Supporting access to the labour market of Roma NEETs**

This call supports social experimentation projects which test innovative approaches to improve Roma Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) access to employment through tailored activation strategies.

**Deadline:** 30 September 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus – Approaches to reuse vacant, obsolete or underutilised spaces**

This call funds projects that result in an increase in renovated, renatured, or converted spaces that address local community challenges and needs.

**Deadline:** 1 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus – Understanding capital market dynamics for increased investment in New European Bauhaus projects in neighbourhoods**

This call supports projects that result in increased investments towards NEB-aligned projects for the sustainable and inclusive transformation of neighbourhoods.

**Deadline:** 1 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus –Structurally addressing homelessness through coordinated social infrastructure and services in neighbourhoods**

This call supports projects that result in improved availability and accessibility of key social infrastructure and services for homeless groups in the targeted neighbourhoods.

**Deadline:** 1 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus –Innovative solutions for the sustainable and beautiful use of vertical space**

This call funds projects that result in higher availability of innovative solutions for vertical space use on the market.

**Deadline:** 1 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus –Advancing sustainable maintenance and repair measures for existing buildings**

This call funds projects that result in easier application and more frequent use of predictive maintenance in existing buildings.

**Deadline:** 1 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus –Sustainable, inclusive, affordable and beautiful solutions for thermal comfort in buildings**

This call funds projects that develop solutions to achieve and maintain the thermal comfort in buildings while significantly reducing life cycle energy use.

**Deadline:** 1 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus –Understanding inhabitant’s experiences of neighbourhoods to support their health and well-being**

This call funds projects that result in robust evidence on how inhabitants experience their neighbourhood and the impact of these experiences on their health and well-being.

**Deadline:** 1 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus –Innovative approaches for the spatial design of neighbourhoods**

This call funds projects that result in an efficient and effective integration of user perspectives in the spatial design and/or transformation of public spaces.

**Deadline:** 1 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **Horizon Europe New European Bauhaus –Addressing homelessness through housing-led approaches aligned with the New European Bauhaus**

This call funds projects that ensure that housing-led approaches aligned with the NEB are made available to stakeholders involved in tackling homelessness.

**Deadline:** 1 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **PEACEPLUS – Change Maker Funding Programme**

The PEACEPLUS Change Maker Funding Programme will focus on activities which enhance community cohesion and bring communities and groups together on a cross community or Cross Border basis, with the aim of embedding and enhancing existing relationships, and establishing new relationships and networks.

**Deadline:** 31 December 2026

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **European Urban Initiative: City-to-City Exchanges - Capacity Building**

This call aims to bring together urban authorities to tackle a joint challenge.

**Deadline:** 29 December 2027

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

## **LEADER Funding**

LEADER funding is available to private businesses or community-based groups in rural areas.

**Deadline:** 31 December 2027

[\*\*FULL INFO\*\*](#)

**Meet the Access Europe Team**



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