

**17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Milan

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**TCA International**

**Synergy of funds**

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TCA International - **Synergy of funds**

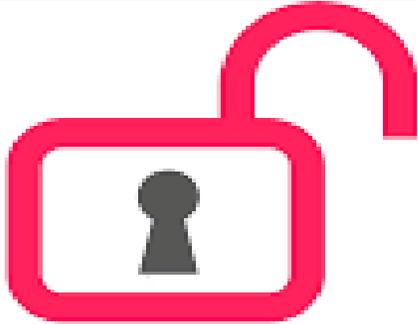
# Collaboration and Sharing Between EU Programmes - Ireland

**Deirdre Finlay** - Head of Education and Training Programmes, NA IE

# Best Practices: Access Europe

## Irish Context:

- MA for ESF+ and NA for Erasmus+ are separate
- No option for transfers due to how our ESF+ funds are distributed
- Info sharing between ESF+ and E+ where possible and realistic
- Some positive alignment between ESF+ and Erasmus+ Sport in Ireland



# Access Europe

## Unlocking EU Funding

# From idea to action: the journey of Access Europe

Access Europe is a support and capacity-building programme for Irish civil society organisations/NGOs to better access EU funds and engage in EU policy.

- Designed by civil society, for civil society, responding to a need.
- Funded by the Irish Government Under the EU Division of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs through a tender process.
- Léargas (NA IE01) works closely with Access Europe to drive synergy and inclusive programming.



## Addressing the Inclusion Focus



**Access  
Europe**  
Unlocking EU Funding

# Project Overview

- Access Europe is in its second phase and will continue to the end of 2027.
- It is funded by the Irish Government from national funds
- The budget is €732,000 over a three-year period
- Two staff members and one manager are in place.
- The tender has been awarded to The Wheel, the national association of NGOs.

# Synergy Project Objectives – Ireland



## Awareness

Raise awareness of the value of strategic involvement in EU programmes and share information on EU funding opportunities.



## Capacity

Build the capacity of Irish civil society organisations to apply for, win and manage funding from EU programmes.



## Support

Support the development of partnerships between Irish civil society organisations and European partners, as well as the creation of networks promoting participation in EU programmes and policy-making.

# Target Group

A broad definition of civil society including some public bodies:

*“NGOs, community-based organisations, trade unions, professional associations, social movements and networks, media, academia, as well as city and county councils and regional assemblies.”*

# Services



# Access Europe EU Funding guide

**EU Funding Programmes**

EU Policy

EU Funding Tips

National Contact Points

Search

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund  
(AMIF)

[Read more](#)

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values  
Programme (CERV)

[Read more](#)

Creative Europe

[Read more](#)

Digital Europe

EU4Health

Employment and Social Innovation  
(EaSI)

# Access Europe YouTube channel

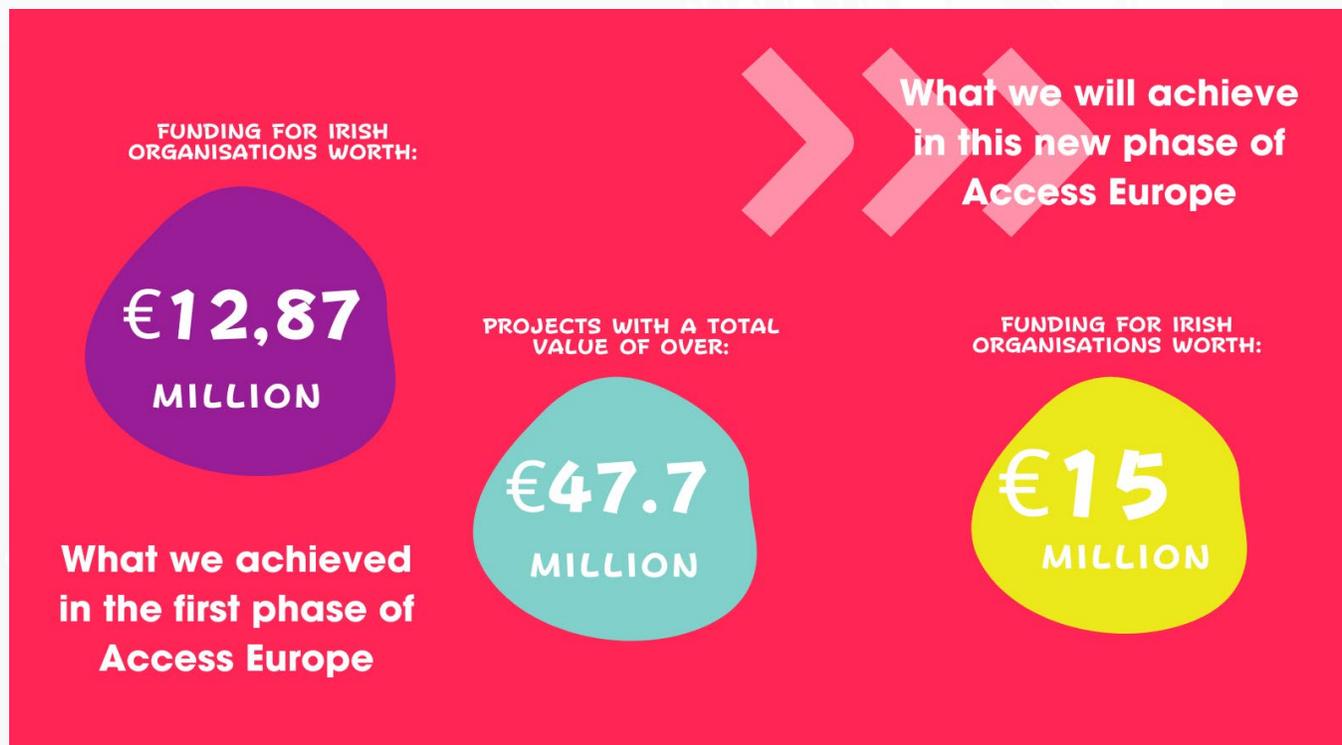
**Start your EU Funding Journey** ▶ PLAY ALL

 2:00:01	 1:55:31	 1:34:42	 1:55:27	 5:25
<b>Writing Your EU Funding Application</b> Access Europe 25 views · 13 days ago	<b>Building an EU Partnership</b> Access Europe 19 views · 1 month ago	<b>Designing Your EU Project</b> Access Europe 117 views · 2 months ago	<b>Introduction to EU Funding Programmes</b> Access Europe 224 views · 3 months ago	<b>Access Europe Partner Database - How to create a...</b> Access Europe 94 views · 4 months ago

**EU Spotlight Series** ▶ PLAY ALL

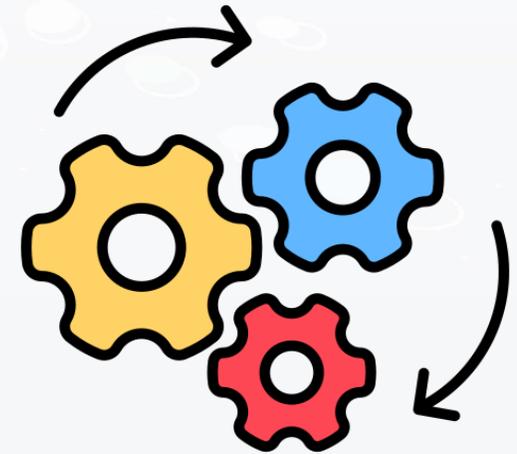
 1:07:44	 1:53:56	 1:47:35	 1:49:11	 1:17:55
<b>Interreg North-West Europe for the Community &amp;...</b> Access Europe	<b>EU Funding for Health Research Charities</b> Access Europe	<b>EU Spotlight: Youth</b> Access Europe 23 views · 6 months ago	<b>EU Spotlight Series: Volunteering</b> Access Europe	<b>EU Spotlight: Inclusion in Adult Education</b> Access Europe

# Impact



# Advantages to Léargas IE01

- 1) National Contact Point Network
- 2) Signposting & wraparound supports
- 3) Special Event Coordination and Delivery
- 4) Capacity Building for Inclusion Orgs



# 1) National Contact Point Network

- Established Irish National Contact Point Network in 2022
- Goal is to facilitate mutual exchange and learning between the diverse EU funding programmes in Ireland
- Access Europe hosts two online meetings per year with a focus on exchange and updates, key dates and cooperation
- All Irish NCPs are also invited to the annual Access Europe Showcase to participate in the expo of EU funding programmes. ESF/Creative Europe/Interreg/Erasmus+/EaSI etc

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## 2) Signposting & Wraparound Supports

- Signposting organisations to the most appropriate EU funding programme for their project ideas and activities
- Supporting organisations with substantial EU funding experience to scale up and explore different or larger-scale EU funding programmes
- Connecting organisations with National Contact Points for further guidance and support

## The BJC involvement with EU Projects

The involvement of staff in EU Projects is a valuable experience. There is a high degree of transfer of learning from the projects and many relationships have been developed and sustained through the work of these Partnerships. One of the main sources of EU funding is the Erasmus+ Programme, managed in Ireland by Léargas. It must be acknowledged that over the years the Léargas staff have provided constructive and indispensable support to enable the BJC to develop the expertise to manage EU programmes

The BJC works with partners across Europe on numerous projects engaging in research and developing innovative tools that help us to enhance the employability of our clients. We also work with many associated partners from both the local North Dublin area and across Ireland to implement these policies and share resources. For example, with our project Terremplo, funded by Interreg North-West Europe NWE we are working with 9 local partners, and 3 international partners to increase coordination between employment and education agencies in order to enhance the employment opportunities for clients. This is only one of the examples of the ongoing projects supported by the EU operating within the BJC at the moment.

One of the hardest tasks to achieve is the 'mainstreaming' of good practice developed in the EU programmes into our day-to-day work. In this regard the BJC has made determined efforts to ensure the lessons and work of the EU projects improve the delivery of services and the way we work with clients. For example, the psychometric based web tool developed in the FLOWS project are now used daily by the staff in the BJC and our partners in Austria, Romania and Turkey.



Ballmun JC – Pathway to EU engagement – example of org benefiting from many EU programmes and Access Europe project

## Challenges and Barriers in the project execution phases

- Challenging to engage with other EU programmes regularly and National Contact Points on beneficiary as we are promoting our own calls and our own objectives, working independently due to our structure
- Capacity and time to work together is limited
- ESF+ is not structured in a way to transfer funds in Ireland.

## Key Takeaways

- To work together as National Contact Points for EU funds is positive and drives the EU Values agenda very positively in sectors such as civil society
- Opportunities present in future for enhanced coordination e.g. Ireland will hold the Presidency in 2026 and we can collaborate to showcase work like Access Europe.
- To drive synergy between EU programmes and funds, it would benefit from being developed from the ground-up as not all national contexts are similar.

**Thank you  
for your attention!**

**Questions?**

**[Dfinlay@leargas.ie](mailto:Dfinlay@leargas.ie)**