

Direct funding from the EU: why, how & what?

Ronan Gingles



Dublin: February 2011



EU services on behalf of regional & local authorities & assemblies:

- Political representation (Committee of the Regions)
- Policy pipeline issues (advance warning)
- Engagement with EU: funding opportunities and grassroots input to process (consultations)
- Networking & collaboration efforts

How?

- Information & updates (e-bulletin)
- Further research & analysis
- Direct linkages – Brussels presence and pan-European reach

This Presentation...

- Background to EC funding
- Mindset & expectations required
- Benefits of participation
- List of programme options for NGOs/C&V sector

...not general project management advice

...not in-depth analysis – overviews only

...only most likely programmes

Consider EU funding in-the-round...

Don't rush headlong
into a pursuit of funding
for funding's sake.

Try to understand the
context and the system.



...Then...
decide if you're really interested

Others can only
bring you so far



General characteristics of Direct Funding

- Managed by EC
- 'Community Action Programmes'
- Competitive & transparent bidding process
 - invitation via “calls for proposals” (usually annual)
- Strong transnational requirement – generally pan-European
- Operate largely independently of each other (criteria etc.)
- Some 'framework' grouping of interlinked programmes
- Co-financing by EC (usually 45-80%) – ensures “buy-in”
- “Transnational Action Grants” & (wider?) “Operating Grants”

Some exceptions apply!

Policies → Programmes

Mainly relates to policies of exclusive national competence
(e.g. education, culture...)

EC proposes improvements to Member States' orientation.

Thematic Programmes:

- Financial instruments / Funds
- Demonstrate “policy in action”
- Heavily based on EC White Papers & Action Plans
- Multi-annual objectives decided by Council & EP (Regulation)

Programmes → Projects

- Annual Work Programme for each fund (November-March)
 - updates relevance:
 - ...sets priorities, conditions, finances, timetable...



Projects: (coherent actions to test/develop measures):

- Local (practical effect & public awareness of EU)
- Bigger picture (better informed policy through wide involvement - improved implementation)

Commonly funded activities

- elements of a (soft) action plan

- Active engagement of specific stakeholder groups
- Comparative research
- Knowledge & experience exchange, transfer & adaptation
- Mobility actions: study visits & placements
- Long-term networking (incl. different sectors' actors)
- Capacity-building, training seminars & workshops
- Awareness-raising events/campaigns; educational materials
- Guidance/information tools (e.g. Best Practice manuals)
- Common approaches/methodologies & indicators
- New technologies
- Model & strategy development & implementation
- Applied research: pilot & demonstration projects

Increasing competitiveness, innovation & employment emphasis

General mindset required

- Open-minded to wider influences/big picture
- Informed of opportunities in advance
- Realistic ambitions - prioritise actions & goals
- Willingness to network – enthusiasm & inventiveness (market own specifics and overcome relative peripherality)
- Ability to shape a joint bid document and shared budget
- Compete without guarantees
- ‘Speculate to accumulate’ – pros & cons of benefits vs time, effort, resource management, cashflow, admin complexity...
- Ongoing commitment to implementation – local & transnational (including administrative)

No EU support for...	Need to demonstrate...
Issue of basic national competence	European added value (progress policy)
Local relevance only (standalone)	Wider applicability (context links)
Reinventing wheel / day-to-day activity	New ways of problem solving
Appeals based on charity	Excellence of bid & likely benefits
EU funding as overriding priority	Value for money apparent
Ad hoc partners	Potential to deliver results
Unfounded solo runs & quick fixes	Long-term impact and viability
Loose/imbalanced partnerships/actions	Clear joint design/delivery – reinforcing
Vague notions	Realistic & measurable strategies
‘Silo thinking’	Integrated approaches (‘win-win’)
Institutional operations only (partners)	Target & involve stakeholders (wider)
Internalising of lessons	Dissemination & transferability

Why go 'European'?

- Financial benefits



The most immediately apparent

- Leverage extra funding to deepen/widen activities ... or bridge gap
- Deploy existing outlays (e.g. staff) as “match funding”
- Share costs of involvement (locally)
- Pool resources for greater effect & quality (project level)
- Groundwork for future economic spin-offs and attracting investment and employment (post-project)
- Occasional preparatory support (travel to meetings)
- Even “low” co-financing (e.g. 40%) is still extra money!

Why go 'European'?

– Other benefits



- Access to new thinking, approaches & techniques
- Explore alternative perspectives & systems (rare freedom)
- Capacity-building – organisational & personal
- Built-in recognition of your relevance & excellence
- Kudos for showing initiative (media, institutional...)
- Better inform future local actions (...national policy?)
- Network among local/regional consortia (critical mass) to broaden engagement with system actors
- New connections can be further developed & regularised
- Influence EU policy for future

Social programmes

- Progress (employment, social inclusion and social protection, working conditions, non-discrimination, gender equality)
- Globalisation Adjustment Fund (mass redundancy retraining)
- Public Health Programme
- Daphne (combating violence against the vulnerable)
- Prevention and Fight Against Crime Programme
- Drugs Prevention and Information Programme
- European Refugee Fund
- European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals
- Various External Cooperation Programmes (with EU's neighbours and Developing World)

– Youth, Citizenship, Education, Culture...

- Youth in Action (informal education and training)
- Europe for Citizens (civic interaction & mutual understanding across borders)
- Lifelong Learning Programme
 - Comenius (schools)
 - Erasmus (third level)
 - Leonardo (vocational training)
 - Grundtvig (adult education)
- Culture 2007
- Safer Internet Plus Programme
- Consumer Programme
- Media 2007

Technical programmes

- LIFE+ (environment)
- Intelligent Energy - Europe
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme (EIP)
- Information & Communication Technology Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)
- Interoperability Solutions for Public Administrations (ISA)
- Civil Protection Financial Instrument
- Solidarity Fund (major natural disasters)
- 7th Framework for Research & Development

Other (technical) programmes

Less applicable...Background opportunities for C&V actors?:

- LIFE+ (environment)
- Intelligent Energy Europe
- ICT-PSP (technology to benefit society)
- EIP (entrepreneurship & innovation)
- Seventh Framework Programme (research & development)
- Civil Protection (disaster management)
- MEDIA 2007 (audio-visual industry)
- Criminal Justice
- MARCO Polo (freight transport)
- Safer Internet
- External Cooperation programmes (various - with rest of world)

Future programmes? 2014-

A whole new 7 year framework from 2014 onwards!

Growing policy fields

Initiatives of the European Parliament

Preparatory Actions

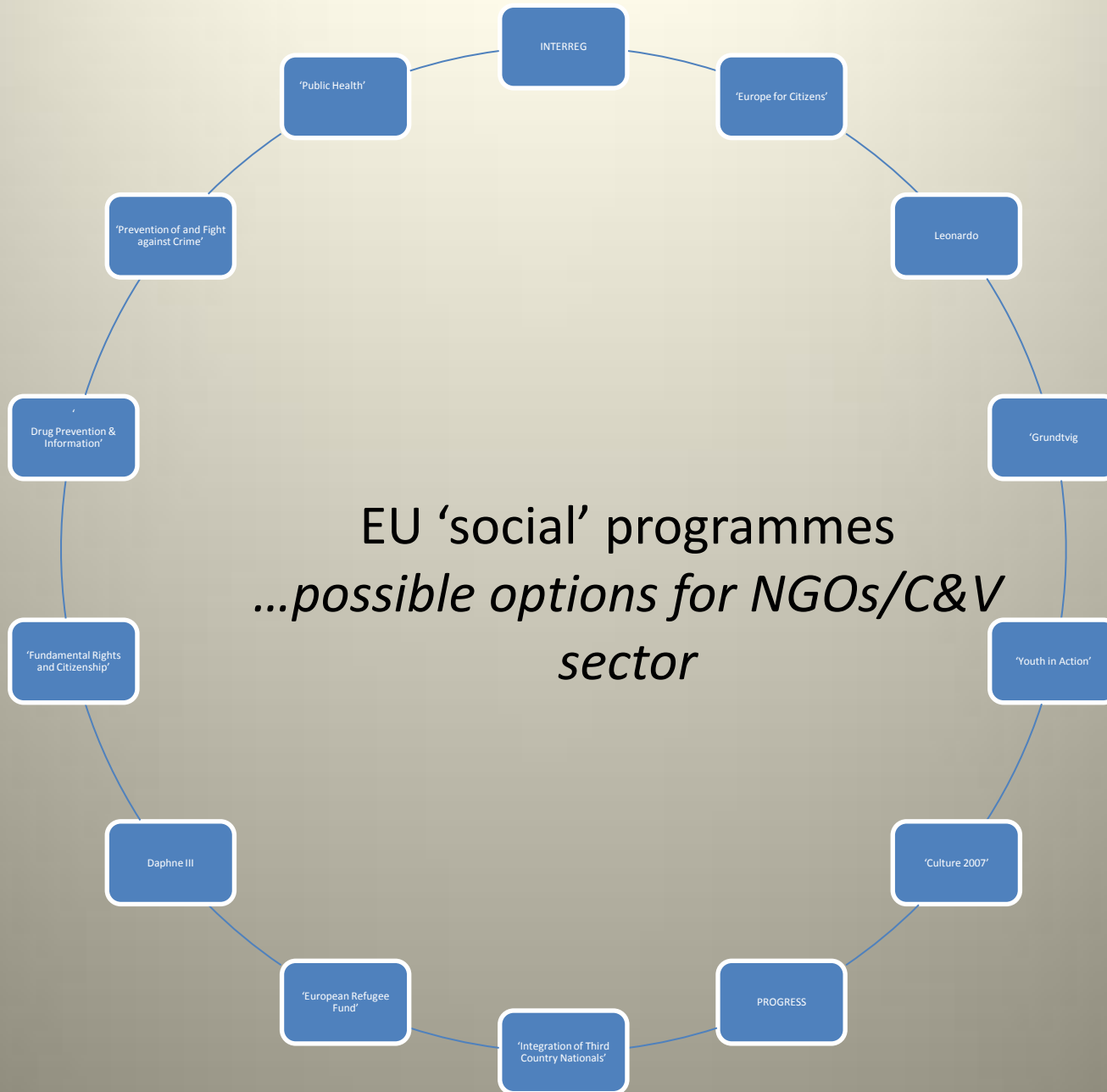
Recent/Future 'Pilot Projects'

- Sport (health & societal benefits)
- Employment of Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Preventing Elder Abuse
- Creative Industries
- Resource efficiency

Next steps



- Identify “transnational” relevance of your issues
- Size up EU programmes for potential good ‘fit’
- Investigate deeper (previous projects etc)....stay informed!
- Make use of support structures (EC or national officers)
- Research other relevant perspectives (abroad)
- Network locally/nationally if going-it-alone not an option
- Draft brief outline of intentions for circulation:
 - direct one-to-one contacts
 - programme website databases/expressions of interest
 - other channels (IRO Brussels, relevant European networks)
- Complete bulk of project-building groundwork before call launch



INTERREG programmes



- ‘Cooperation’ element of Structural Funds
- Specific geographical areas (cross-border, transnational...)
- Umbrella programmes – territorial development themes
- Economic, social & environmental activities across frontiers
 - Economic development: entrepreneurship, SMEs, tourism, culture, trade
 - knowledge economy
 - sustainable natural & cultural resources
 - transport & ICT links
 - spatial planning & territorial development
 - development of collaboration and capacities
 - joint use of infrastructures

'Europe for Citizens'



- A shared concept of 'Europe' (closer to its citizens)
 - Transnational civic interaction
 - Understanding on active citizenship & European issues, e.g:
 - Mobility - training and work experience (abroad)
 - Democracy (esp. future of Europe, EU elections...)
 - Education, training, languages...
 - Impact of EU policies (e.g. equal opps., EU Year of...)
 - Social inclusion
 - Local economic development & employment
 - Close ties with new Member States important
- 1.1 *Town-twinning*: one-off & themed/multi-annual
- 1.2 *Citizens' Meetings*: discuss key European challenges.
- 2.2 *Civil Society projects* (mutual understanding)

‘Leonardo da Vinci’

(Vocational Education & Training)

- Improving quality, fostering innovation and promoting European dimension of VET systems and practices.
 - VET organisations, institutions, associations, businesses...
 - Learners & trainers
-
- *Mobility* - training and work experience (abroad)
 - *Partnerships* – thematic organisational cooperation activities, geographical or sectoral
 - *Transfer of Innovation* – adapting & integrating innovative results to new settings
 - *Wide thematic networks*
 - *Preparatory Visits*

‘Grundtvig’ (*Adult Education*)



- Improving adult skills and competences
- Making LLL opportunities more widely available
- AE learners/trainers from community groups, NGOs...
- Mediators working with vulnerable groups
- “Autonomous, community or experiential learning”
 - *In-Service Training* abroad (professional development)
 - *Multilateral Projects* – e.g. on AE accessibility & delivery
 - *Learning Partnerships* – small-scale practical activities
 - *Thematic Networks* – discussion & exchange platforms
 - *Senior Volunteering* (abroad) – themed, long-term links
 - *Staff Visits & Exchanges* and ‘*Assistantships*’ (abroad)
 - *Prep Visits/Contact Seminars* (staff) or *Approved Workshops* (learners)

'Culture 2007'



- Performing & visual arts and cultural heritage
- Cooperation between cultural creators, operators & institutions, local authorities, small cultural enterprises...
- 1-2 or 3-5 year cooperation projects on:
 - Mobility of artists/performers & works
 - Sectoral or cross-sectoral creativity & innovation
 - Cultural diversity awareness & intercultural dialogue
 - Literary translation
 - Links beyond EU

'Youth in Action'

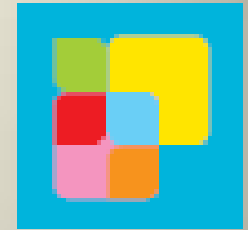
(informal education & training)



- Developing young (age 13-30) peoples' sense of responsibility, initiative, concern for others, and active citizenship
 - *Youth Exchanges* - youth group mobility & themed activities
 - *Youth Initiatives* – designed & delivered by youth groups
 - *Youth Democracy* – activities along with decision makers
 - *European Voluntary Service* – international personal development opportunities on approved projects
 - *Training and Networking Projects* – long-term exchange of experience among youth work support systems
 - *Seminars* to improve European dialogue & policy discussion.

‘PROGRESS’

(employment & social solidarity)



Research and assessment supporting the development of responsive EU Employment and Social Affairs policies

- 1) Employment
- 2) Social inclusion and protection
- 3) Working conditions
- 4) Non-discrimination
- 5) Gender equality

New: Microfinance Facility (unemployed entrepreneurs)

‘Fundamental Rights & Citizenship’

Promoting the development of a society based on respect for fundamental rights derived from EU citizenship (Charter)

- Tackling racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism
- Encouraging open, transparent and regular dialogue on FRs
- NGO capability to participate in promotion of FRs

Annual priority themes usually include:

- Dialogue between religions and cultures
- Fight against homophobia
- Protection of the rights of the child
- Active participation in the democracy

‘Drug Prevention & Information’

- Innovative approaches on prevention and treatment
- Improving awareness of and dialogue on the social and health problems caused by drugs use
- Support measures aimed at preventing drug use, including the reduction of drug-related harm
- Targeting youth, pregnant women, vulnerable groups and socially disadvantaged areas.
- Targeting those dealing with drug users, (e.g. parents, social workers, educational staff...)

‘DAPHNE III’

combating violence against the vulnerable

- Human rights, gender equality, child & youth protection
- Protection, prevention and support measures
- Public health, well-being & social cohesion policies
- Tackling human trafficking & sexual exploitation.
- Reaching out to target specific audiences.
- Intervention programmes for victims/people at risk (develop and implement)
- Multidisciplinary networks - NGOs & other organisations
- Design, test & adapt awareness-raising and educational materials

'Integration of Third Country Nationals'

- Legal migrants from beyond EU
- Direct engagement with new arrivals (perceptions etc.)
- Integration programmes and activities (e.g. basic language, society, cultural issues)
- Dialogue with civil society organisations on their roles
- Platforms & networks on involving migrants
- Work with public institutions & media on managing & reflecting diversity
- Complementary to ESF actions to increase participation of migrants in employment
- Note: National programme strategies agreed each year

‘European Refugee Fund’

- Improving reception conditions to refugees/displaced
- Supporting the capacity building of EU asylum systems
- Improving quality of asylum decision-making
- Applying fair and effective asylum procedures
- Enhancing solidarity and common measures
- National Actions (90%) – national systems:
 - Reception & Access conditions
 - Integration
 - Voluntary repatriation
- Community Actions (10%)

‘Prevention of and Fight against Crime’

(includes)

- Promoting tools and methods to guarantee security and public order, e.g. new approaches to young offenders
- Protection and support of crime victims and witnesses
- Anti-radicalisation measures
- Lead-in/linked national actions

‘Public Health 2008-2013’

- Protecting citizens against health threats and improving patient safety
- Health promotion efforts, reducing health inequalities and measures to prevent major diseases relating to key determinants such as alcohol and nutrition.
- Disseminating information to citizens and actions on health indicators.