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## The European Programme Support Office

Dublin City Council's European Programme Support Office (EPSO) for the organisation continues to develop and implement the EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027 for the organisation.

EPSO Work Programme and Developments for third and fourth quarters of 2022 are outlined in the sections below and overleaf, but are not limited to:

- Analysing & Showcasing Dublin City Council involvement in European projects and Programmes
- Developing European Network Connections
- Focusing on European Funding Programme Opportunities
- Further developing the EPSO
- Capacity Building within the organisation

## Dublin City Council – European Networks

### **Committee of the Regions**

The President of the EU Committee of the Regions hosted a plenary session in City Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in collaboration with Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland.

### **Assembly of the European Regions**

#### **Assembly of the European Regions:**

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe, gathering regions from 35 countries – from Norway to Turkey and from Georgia to Portugal.

Dublin City Council representatives attended the AER Summer Academy in August with 160 attendees from 20 different European Regions.

#### **Assembly of European Regions (AER) Summer Academy 2022**

##### **A Europe for the Next Generation**

**Date** 29<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> Sept

**Venue** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> of August

Atlantic Technological University (ATU) campus in Letterkenny

**Venue** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Gteic in Gweedore

#### **Theme A Europe for the Next Generation.**

Celebrating the European Year of Youth 2022 and Ireland's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of membership of the EU. The conference will be youth focused and themed around key topics such as climate change, skills and education, cross-border and transnational cohesion and reconciliation, remote working and entrepreneurship.

## European Funding Programme Focus

Dublin City Council has submitted 16 European project applications to date under the current programme period 2021 – 2027 through the Horizon Europe programme, COSME programme and Just Transition. Of these 5 are continuing through the evaluation process with 11 applications unsuccessful. The evaluation results of these 11 applications are being examined and reviewed for analysis.

The European Programme Support Office (EPSO) is examining opportunities for the organisation in relation to various EU Funding programme Opportunities including, but not limited to:

- Cohesion Policy 2021 - 2027
- Urban Innovative Actions (UIA);
- URBACT;
- ETC - Northwest Europe;
- ESPON;
- CIVITAS;
- Horizon Europe;
- LIFE;
- Erasmus;
- Creative Europe;
- CERV

To support the 2022 and 2023 development of EU Programme applications; the EPSO have collated details on:

### **Open calls for European Programme Funding applications**

A schedule of open calls for European Funding applications has been collated with reference to the specific programmes above for 2022 and 2023. The EPSO have developed a training and development programme for colleagues aligning the programme open calls and upcoming opportunities for the organisation. A suite of workshops and seminars are scheduled for Autumn 2022 to prepare for 2023 application development and submission.

### **EU Programmes events, seminars and workshops**

A schedule of events, seminars and workshops relating to the various EU Programmes above has also been collated for 2022; which will support the organization in training & upskilling for open calls for EU funding programmes, with a particular focus on upcoming European Weeks for Autumn 2022.

<b>European Weeks</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>
<a href="#">EU Mobility Week</a>	<b>16 to 22.09.22</b>	
<a href="#">European Week for Waste Reduction - EWWR</a>	<b>19 to 27.09.22</b>	
<a href="#">European Week of Sport</a>	<b>23 to 30.09.22</b>	
<a href="#">EU Week of Regions &amp; Cities 2022</a>		<b>10 to 13.10.22</b>

### **European Expert Framework**

The tender brief has been developed to progress through a procurement process via the eTender platform for the establishment of a European expert framework, which can be utilized by the organisation via the EPSO. Core Priority 6 will continue to be progressed in the weeks ahead. It is anticipated that this tender will be published on e-tenders commencing with a PIN process and then followed by a full tender process to be published in Q4.

### **European Programme Support Office (EPSO) Development**

The EU Programme Participation Strategy implementation Steering Committee continue to meet on implementing the strategy with the further development of the European Programme Support Office (EPSO) for the organisation.

Priorities to date include resource recruitment; tender brief development to establishment a framework of European expertise; establishment of appropriate corporate governance, procedures and protocols for the operations of the office; developing a communications strategy and event programme schedule for 2022 and beyond.

### **Strategic Objectives: EPSO Alignment**

The establishment and development of the EPSO aligns to the 7 Strategic Objectives of the Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027.

1. To ensure that any participation in an EU partnership project by DCC staff contributes to the goals and policy objectives of the European Union and Dublin City Council.
2. To promote participation in EU partnership projects which will measurably contribute to the capacity of DCC to meet its mission and public obligations.
3. To cooperate with relevant bodies such as national contact points of EU Programmes, the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and the Irish Regions European Office (IREO) that will assist with the participation of Dublin City Council staff in EU partnership projects.
4. To engage with local communities and targeted beneficiaries matching where possible intended impacts with local needs.
5. To build the international reputation of DCC and the city of Dublin through participation in EU partnership projects.
6. To use participation in EU partnership projects to promote innovation in the operations of DCC that is green and smart and that enables openness, diversity and social inclusion.
7. To ensure that participation in EU partnership projects brings additionality to the services of DCC.

## **International Relations**

### **New Procedure for Twinning / Informal Agreements with International Cities**

Dublin City Council International Relations Department drafted a new procedure for Twinning / Informal Agreements with International Cities and presented to the Protocol Committee meetings on 28th April and 2nd June 2022. It was approved by Protocol at the meeting of 2nd June and approved by the City Council under the Protocol Committee brieve at the meeting dated 4th July 2022. This new procedure has been prepared to allow for the evaluation for the many requests received to ensure that there is a benefit to the City of Dublin and aligns with City Council policy. An Annual update Report will be brought to the Protocol Committee. All new requests are being considered under this new procedure and existing Agreements will be reviewed.

### **Collaboration between Dublin / Belfast / Manchester / Liverpool**

On 30th May Lord Mayor Gilliland travelled to Belfast with officials from the Climate Action Office and International Relations to meet with the Lord Mayor of Belfast and the Mayors of Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region to discuss areas for further collaborations, specifically relating to decarbonising transport, heat and industry and how the cities could learn from each other going forward. The delegation visited Net Zero Technology Centre in Belfast to see new hydrogen technologies and got an overview of plans to advance technology around green hydrogen and hear about developments in green hydrogen from organisations active in this area. A number of bi-lateral

meeting relating to possible opportunities of collaboration between the cities on Tourism, Culture, Night Time Economy, Sports were attend by Senior Management from CRES Department.

A Statement of Intent was signed by the Lord Mayors and the Mayors of Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester to demonstrate the four cities commitment to working to collaborate on practical approaches to accelerate the delivery of net zero and share best practices, knowledge and experience.

### **City of Helsinki visit to Dublin**

A large delegation from the City of Helsinki, led by their Deputy Mayor Nasima Razmyar and members of their Education Committee made a study visit to Dublin on 18th & 19th May. The purpose of the visit was to understand the structure of the educational system in Ireland, the education providers and how the different stakeholders work together in the field of education. Contact details were provided to the City of Helsinki for the City of Dublin Education Training Board, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, Educate Together etc to allow them to arrange relevant meetings and site visits.

The Lord Mayor hosted the delegation in the Mansion House and a meeting was held in the Hugh Lane Gallery on Dublin City Council and the cooperation with schools which was attended by staff from the Hugh Lane, Gallery, the Arts Office and Comhairle na nÓg.

### **Eurocities – Espoo**

Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland travelled with an official to Espoo, just outside of Helsinki, Finland for the Eurocities 2022 Conference from 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June. Topics covered included Cities of the Future, Public-private partnership, How to create a sustainable city and Climate Change and climate neutrality. European Mayors in attendance also got together for a debate dedicated to Eurocities' actions to support the reconstruction of Ukrainian cities.

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