

Eastern and Midland  
Regional Assembly

# Annual Report 2024





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## Message from An Cathaoirleach

### I am delighted to present the 10th Annual Report of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

2024 was a year of change for the Assembly. The local elections held in June meant that a new Assembly started its five-year term in July. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Assembly Members for their commitment and hard work during the previous mandate with a special mention to my predecessor as Cathaoirleach, Cllr Kate Feeney. I also want to welcome and thank new and returning Members for their support and dedication, notably my Leas Chathaoirleach Cllr David Healy.

2024 saw the second edition of the Association of Irish Regions training seminar "Regions in Focus" held in Adare (Co. Limerick) which brought together Assembly Members and local elected representatives from all across Ireland to discuss current developments in Irish planning and challenges raised by climate change.

As an Assembly, Members made submissions to County and City Development Plans and draft Local Economic and Community Plans and also non-statutory submissions in relation to national plans, programmes, strategies and guidelines to ensure that the Regional perspective is taken into account in those plans. Further progress was made towards the implementation of the RSES and preliminary work to prepare the review of the RSES has commenced.

The Region kept building its European profile and strengthening its influence in European policy-making throughout the year. As the preparations for the future European budgetary framework are getting under way, Members have adopted two position papers on the future on Cohesion Policy advocating for Regions to retain a key role in the policy delivery and to further its place-based dimension. The Assembly also endorsed a position paper on biodiversity and the Nature Restoration Law put forward by the ENCORE network and Members of the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions continued to be very active on the European scene.

As the Regional Assembly heads towards its 10th year of existence, EMRA has further progressed towards the achievement of our Corporate objectives and worked to ensure the sustainable development and growth of the Eastern and Midland Region. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the team led by their A/ Director Clare Bannon and to thank them for their support.



*Catherine Fitzgerald*

**Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald**  
Cathaoirleach

## Message from the Director

The Annual report 2024 presents the activities carried out by the Regional Assembly during the year and monitors the progress towards the attainment of the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

The year was marked by the local elections and the establishment of a new Assembly at the Annual General Meeting in July. At this meeting, Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald was elected Cathaoirleach and I wish to thank her and all the Members for their continued support and commitment to the Assembly.

During the year, the Assembly continued to make progress in the implementation of the RSES and further developed the Regional Development Monitor, agreeing to add three annexes to the existing portal. EMRA also further enhanced its role in policy making by participating in national and regional fora aligned with regional priorities.

This year, the ORIGINN project focused on Digitalisation, the Green Economy and Social Innovation. EMRA hosted the project partners during a study visit where innovation across the Midlands region were showcased.

The implementation of the EU Just Transition Fund remained a key focus of the Assembly in 2024. New calls for proposals were launched and a series of projects selection and announcements were made throughout the year. The selection of 70 operations was announced, amounting to a total of €83,477,253 (approximately half the fund) allocated across the three priorities, which is an encouraging step towards the achievements of the Programme targets.

EMRA, as national Contact point for the URBACT and European Urban Initiative (EUI) programmes, continued to support Irish applicants and project partners. An information day on both programmes was organised at the beginning of the year. Two Irish partners joined new URBACT networks and three Irish local authorities were awarded an URBACT good practice label. EMRA coordinated the organisation of an EUI capacity building event focused on the New European Bauhaus and targeted at local authorities.

The Irish Regions European Office (IREO) continued to provide support and guidance to the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions and the delegation met with Minister of State for European Affairs Jennifer Carroll Mac Neill. The IREO provided advice and insights to local authorities wishing to get involved in European projects and events. Working with EMRA and the other Regional Assemblies, the IREO was instrumental in preparing a joint position paper adopted by the three Regional Assemblies on the Future of Cohesion Policy.

Finally, EMRA was awarded a 'Regional Innovation Valley' status by the European Commission, recognising the region's potential as a hub of innovation and economic growth.

As we reflect on the year's achievements, I would like to thank the EMRA outgoing Designated Chief Executive Joan Martin, for her leadership and commitment to the organisation over the past nine years and wish her every success in her future endeavours. At the same time, I am pleased to welcome Kieran Kehoe as the new designated Chief Executive, who brings a wealth of experience to the organisation. We look forward to working together to continue to build on the foundations laid in previous years.

A lot of progress and achievements were made by the Assembly in 2024, helping us to get closer to achieving our goals and delivering concrete change on the ground. For this, I would like to thank our Members and the team for their contribution to this year's successes.

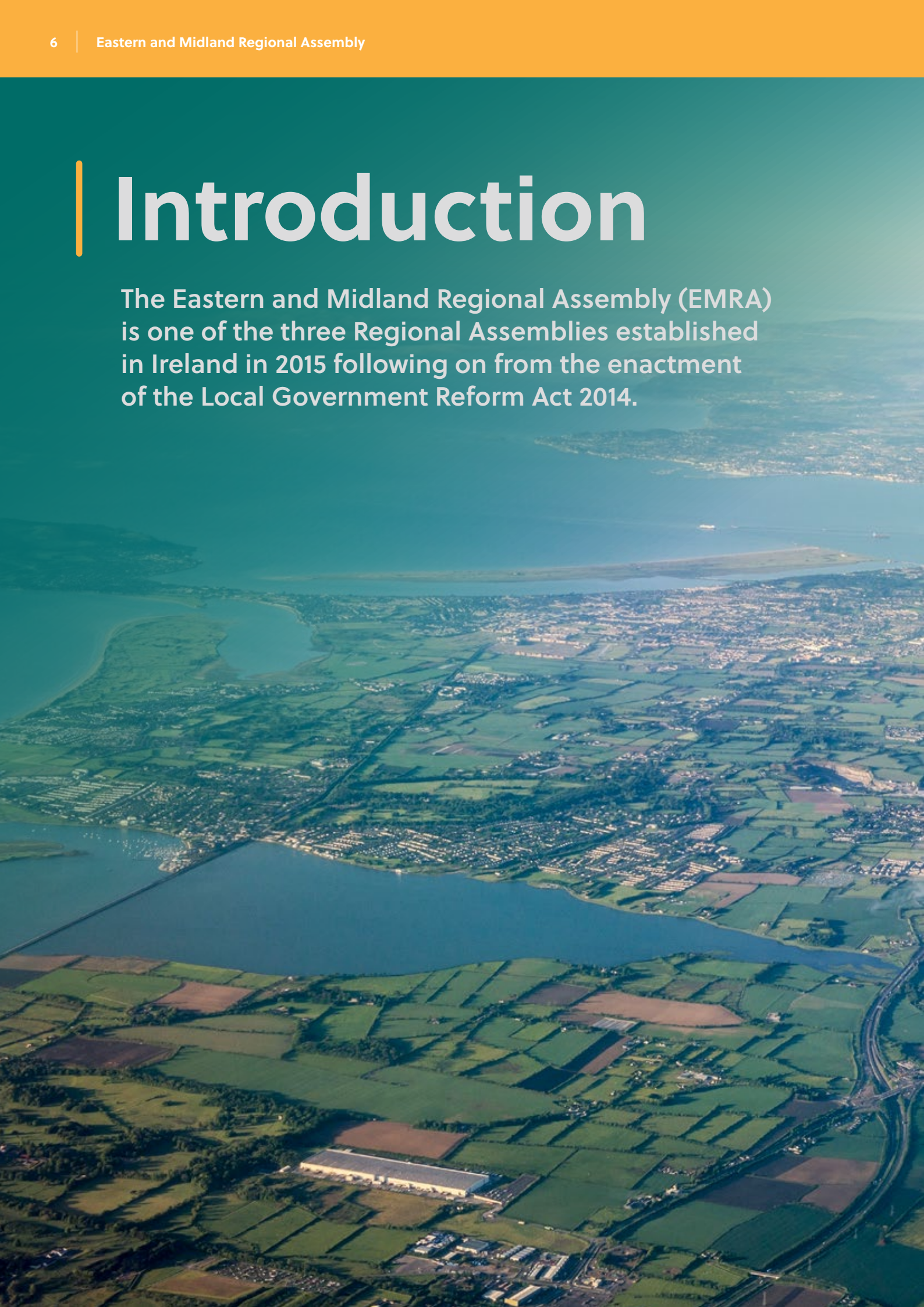


*Clare Bannon*

**Clare Bannon**  
Acting Director

# Introduction

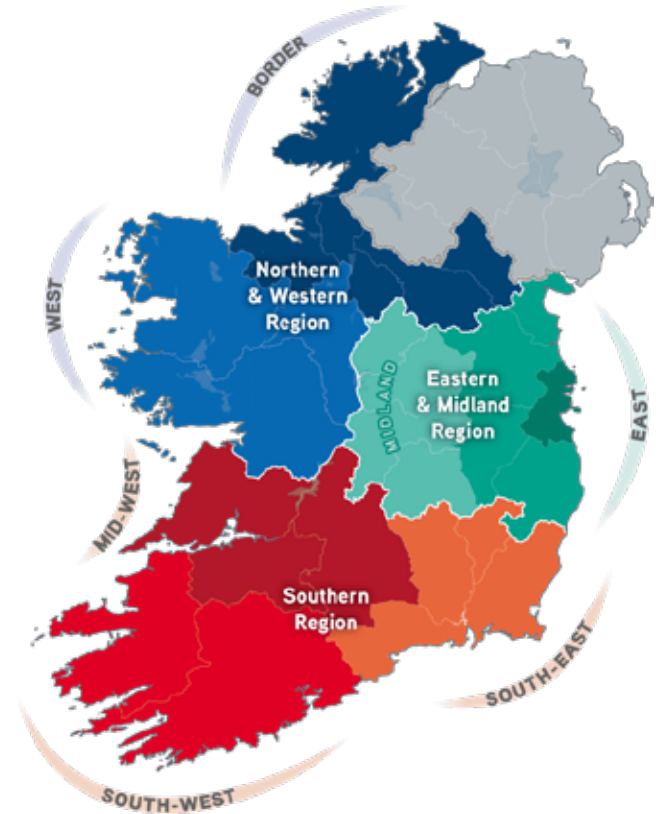
The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) is one of the three Regional Assemblies established in Ireland in 2015 following on from the enactment of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.



Part of the local government structure, the EMRA operates independently to provide a range of functions for the Region which include policy making, monitoring and oversight and promoting enhanced co-ordination in our Region.

The Region incorporates 12 city and county councils and is comprised of elected Members (councillors) who are elected by their peers in the 12 councils to represent them regionally or as members of the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions.

The Region is the smallest in land area of the three Irish Regions but the largest in population size with over 2.5 million people. The Region acts as an international gateway to the island with major airports and ports on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and strategic national road and rail links. The main settlement is the capital city of Dublin, which is supported by a network of regional and county towns and an extensive rural hinterland.



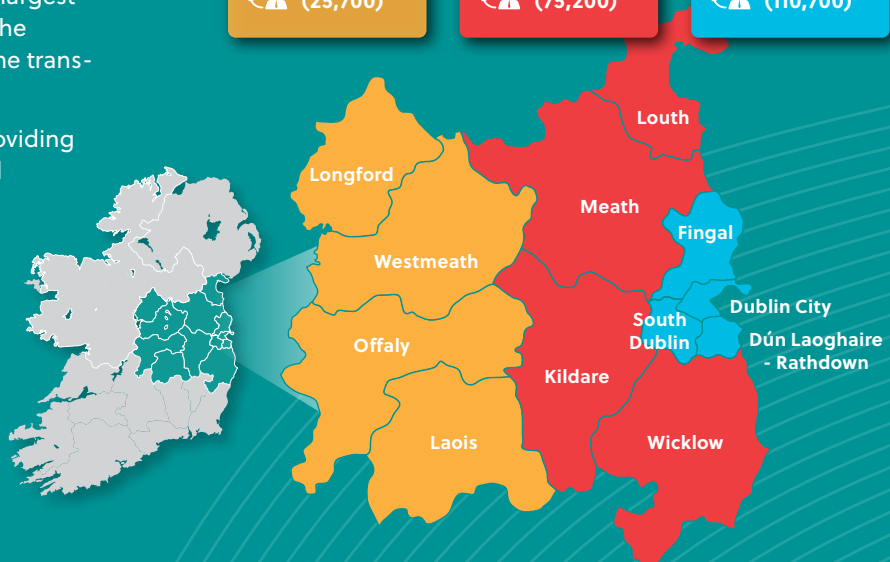
## Statistics

- Largest in population with over 2.5 million people
- Smallest in land area covering c.14,500 sq km
- Fastest growing region with 211,000 more people (+9%) between 2016 and 2022
- Capital city region with 1.5 million people in the Dublin Metropolitan area
- Dublin-Belfast Corridor is the largest economic agglomeration on the island of Ireland and part of the trans-European transport network
- National economic engine providing more than 1.3 million jobs and half the national GDP\*

**3** Strategic Planning Areas      **12** Local Authorities

Midland Region	Eastern Region	Dublin Region
318,000	764,100	1,458,100
47 persons	108 persons	1,551 persons
+8.8% (25,700)	+10.9% (75,200)	+8.2% (110,700)

- Population 2022
- Population Density per sq km
- Population Change 2016-2022



## Functions of Regional Assemblies

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly aims to play a key role in the development of the Region for the benefit of its citizens. This role revolves around three axes: strategic planning and sustainable development, European affairs and effectiveness in local government.

These three areas constitute the core of EMRA's functions.



### Strategic Planning & Sustainable Development

- **Make policy**  
make and implement the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Region
- **Provide oversight**  
statutory observations in relation to local authority City and County Development Plans (CDPs) and Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), and non-statutory submissions to Government Departments and related Agencies during their public consultation periods



### EU Affairs

- **Manage funds**  
EU Just Transition Fund, ERDF Regional Programmes and INTERREG Monitoring Committees, participation in EU-funded projects
- **Provide supports**  
Committee of the Regions and Irish Regions European Office in Brussels and Contact point role



### Corporate Governance

- **Promote multilevel governance**  
cooperation between EU/ National/ Regional and local levels
- **Strengthen regional governance**  
support to Members and delivery of statutory function

## The Irish Regions European Office (IREO)

The IREO, managed by EMRA, provides a shared service for the three Regional Assemblies and 31 local authorities of Ireland (LRAs) and focuses on bringing the EU closer to the local government sector and vice versa. The IREO strategy aims to ensure that the office delivers timely, strategic advice and information on EU policy developments to the three Regional Assemblies and local authorities in Ireland.



### This strategy is delivered by:

- Raising awareness and communicating the opportunities for participation in EU funding programmes
- Seeking opportunities for influencing EU policy developments
- Building capacity, networks and partnerships with other regions in the EU
- Signposting to the 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.



# 2024 - the year in highlights

## New Assembly, AGM and Cathaoirleach election

Following the local elections, a new Assembly was established in July 2024. At the AGM on Friday, 12th July 2024, Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald, Laois County Council was elected as EMRA Cathaoirleach and Cllr David Healy, Fingal County Council was elected as Leas-Chathaoirleach.



Cllr Cathrine Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach, Joan Martin, Louth Chief Executive and Clare Bannon, A/Director

## European Summit of Regions and Cities

EMRA and IREO took part in the European Summit of Regions and Cities held in Mons, Belgium on the 18th to the 19th of March, presenting the Assembly's role in European programmes and projects to a large European audience, including CoR Members and the CoR President.



CoR President Vasco ALVES CORDEIRO, Cllr Michael Murphy, Head of the Irish delegation with staff members from the three Regional Assemblies

## AIR seminar and training event "Regions in Focus" in Limerick

The Association of Irish Regions held its second training seminar in Limerick on 7th and 8th of February 2024.



EMRA Cathaoirleach Cllr Kate Feeney and AIR Cathaoirleach and EMRA member Cllr Dermot Lacey with Minister Jack Chambers

## ORIGINN Workshop

EMRA hosted a project study visit, which saw 16 representatives from the project partners visit the Midlands for a three-day event from the 11th to the 13th of June.



The ORIGINN Project partners visiting Loughboora Discovery Park in Offaly to learn about the green transition in the Midlands.

### New European Bauhaus event

In November, as EUI contact point, EMRA co-organised a capacity building event centred on the New European Bauhaus (NEB) and targeted at Irish local authorities



Participants to the EUI capacity-building event on NEB

### EMRA awarded "Regional Innovation Valley" status by the European Commission

EMRA, together with the SRA and NWRA, received the designation of 'Regional Innovation Valleys' by the European Commission which recognises the regions' potential as hubs of innovation and economic growth.



### 30th anniversary of the Committee of the Regions (CoR)

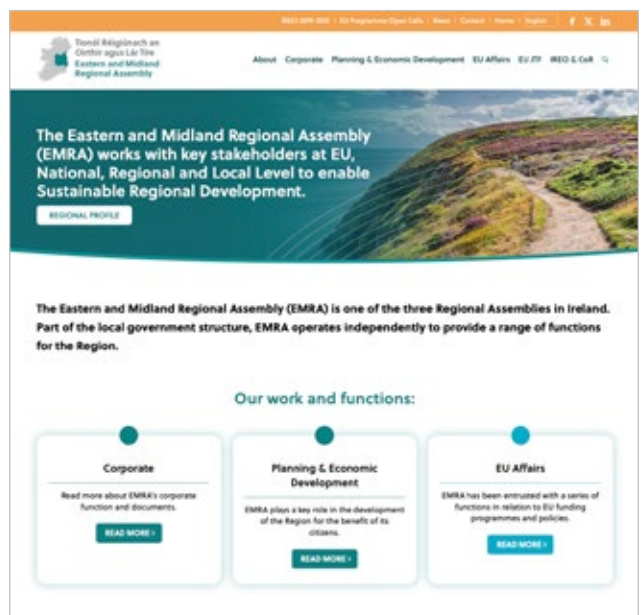
EMRA joined the IREO in Brussels to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), showcasing Irish produce and the Regional Assembly activities.



EMRA and IREO stand at the 30th anniversary of the CoR

### EMRA Rebranding

The redesign of the EMRA branding logo and website was completed and the new website launched at the beginning of July. The website has been regularly updated with news items and information on open call for proposals.



# Assembly Meetings & Membership

Assembly Members are nominated by the constituent Local Authorities in the region in proportion to the size of the Local Authority's population. In addition, Councillors who are members of the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions become de facto Members of the Regional Assembly.

2024 saw the organisation of the local elections that took place on June 7th. This meant that the Assembly's term came to an end and no meeting of the Assembly was held in June while awaiting nominations of Members to the Regional Assembly by the local authorities. Nominations from the local authorities were received at the end of June and beginning of July and the new Assembly sat for the first time at the July Annual General Meeting.

**2024 saw the organisation of the local elections that took place on June 7th**

## DUBLIN REGION ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2024

### DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

**Daryl Barron**  
Until June 2024

**Emma Blain**

**Danny Byrne**  
Appointed July 2024

**Declan Flanagan**  
Appointed July 2024

**Alison Gilliland**  
Until June 2024

**Deirdre Heney**

**Janet Horner**  
Until June 2024

**Rory Hogan**  
Appointed June 2024

**Vincent Jackson**  
Until June 2024

**Feljin Jose**  
Appointed July 2024

**Dermot Lacey**

**Micheál Mac Donncha**  
Appointed July 2024

**Declan Meenagh**  
Until June 2024

**Carolyn Moore**  
Appointed October 2024

**Larry O'Toole**  
Until June 2024

### DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

**JP Durkan**  
Appointed June 2024

**Jim Gildea**  
Until June 2024

**Kate Feeney**  
Until June 2024

**Justin Moylan**

**Peter O'Brien**  
Until June 2024

**Oisín O'Connor**  
Appointed June 2024

**Una Power**  
Until June 2024

**Barry Saul**  
Appointed October 2024

### FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

**Eimear Carbone Mangan**  
Appointed June 2024

**Brigid Manton**  
Until June 2024

**David Healy**

**Robert O'Donoghue**  
Until June 2024

**Tom O'Leary**  
Appointed June 2024

### SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

**Laura Donaghy**  
Until June 2024

**Lyn Hagin Meade**  
Until June 2024

**David McManus**  
Appointed June 2024

**Pamela Kearns**  
Until June 2024

**Shane Moynihan**  
Appointed June 2024 -  
Until November 2024

**Jacqueline Sheehy**  
Appointed December 2024

**Joanna Tuffy**  
Appointed June 2024



## EASTERN REGION ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2024

### KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Aoife Breslin**

**Fintan Brett**  
*Until June 2024*

**Kevin Duffy**  
*Appointed June 2024*

**Padraig McEvoy**

**Robert Power**

### LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

**Paula Butterly**  
*Until November 2024*

**Emma Coffey**

**Conor Keelan**  
*Until June 2024*

**Rachel Kerley**  
*Appointed December 2024*

### MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

**Mike Bray**  
*Appointed June 2024*

**Joe Fox**  
*Appointed June 2024*

**David Gilroy**

**Paddy Meade**  
*Until June 2024*

**Caroline O'Reilly**  
*Until June 2024*

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Avril Cronin**

**Tom Fortune**  
*Resigned June 2024*

**Patsy Glennon**  
*Appointed June 2024*

**Gerry O'Neill**  
*Appointed June 2024*

**Gerry Walsh**  
*Until June 2024*

## MIDLAND REGION ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP 2024

### LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

**Caroline  
Dwane Stanley**

**Catherine  
Fitzgerald**

**John King**  
*Appointed June 2024*

**Aisling Moran**  
*Until June 2024*

### LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**John Browne**  
*Until June 2024*

**Mick Cahill**  
*Appointed April 2024*

**Colm Murray**  
*Until June 2024*

**Garry Murtagh**  
*Appointed June 2024*

**Paul Ross**  
*Appointed June 2024*

### OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

**Eddie Fitzpatrick**

**Tony McCormack**  
*Appointed June 2024 -  
Until November 2024*

**Danny Owens**  
*Until June 2024*












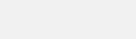
### WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

**Niall Gaffney**  
*Appointed June 2024*







**Paddy Hill**  
*Until June 2024*

**Aengus O'Rourke**

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS PER COUNCIL AS OF 31/12/2024

Dublin City Council		9
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CC		4
Fingal County Council		3
South Dublin County Council		3
Kildare County Council		4
Louth County Council		2
Meath County Council		3
Wicklow County Council		3
Laois County Council		3
Longford County Council		3
Offaly County Council		2
Westmeath County Council		2

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS PER PARTY AS OF 31/12/2024

Fianna Fáil		13
Fine Gael		14
Green Party		4
Labour		3
Independent (Non-Party)		5
Sinn Féin		1

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2024

<u>JAN</u> <b>12</b>	<u>FEB</u> <b>09</b>	<u>MAR</u> <b>08</b>	<u>APR</u> <b>12</b>	<u>MAY</u> <b>10</b>	<u>JUN</u> No Meeting due to General Elections	
<u>JUL</u> <b>12</b>	<u>AUG</u> No Meeting	<b>SPECIAL MEETING</b> <u>SEP</u> <b>04</b>	<u>SEP</u> <b>13</b>	<u>OCT</u> <b>11</b>	<u>NOV</u> <b>08</b>	<u>DEC</u> <b>13</b>

## Meetings of the Assembly

The EMRA continued to use a hybrid format, allowing members to join in person or online (in line with SI no 446). Overall, 11 statutory meetings were held in 2024. The average attendance rate over the year for meetings was 67.76 %

### Election of An Cathaoirleach

The Annual General Meeting was held on 12th July 2024 and saw the election of Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald as Cathaoirleach and Cllr. David Healy as Leas Chathaoirleach.



**JAN**  
2024

Cllr. Kate Feeney - Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald - Leas Chathaoirleach

**JULY**  
2024

Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald - Cathaoirleach

Cllr. David Healy - Leas Chathaoirleach

## CONFERENCES & TRAINING ATTENDED IN 2024

### MAC GILL SUMMER SCHOOL, GLENTIES

- Cllr Dermot Lacey
- Cllr Danny Byrne
- Cllr Mick Cahill

### REGIONS IN FOCUS - ASSOCIATION OF IRISH REGIONS, LIMERICK

- Cllr Dermot Lacey
- Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald
- Cllr Gerry Walsh
- Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick
- Cllr David Gilroy
- Cllr Kate Feeney
- Cllr Padraig Mc Evoy
- Cllr Lyn Hagin Meade
- Cllr Deirdre Heney
- Cllr Jim Gildea
- Cllr Aisling Moran
- Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley

### ENCORE, BRUSSELS

- Cllr Joanna Tuffy
- Cllr David Gilroy

## Meetings & Membership of Sub Committees

### Strategic Planning Area Committees

Strategic Planning Area Committees provide a forum for the members of each respective Strategic Planning Area (SPA) to discuss issues relevant to that SPA. SPAs are defined at a NUTS 3 Level. No dedicated meetings took place in 2024 due to the local elections, and instead the Members were updated on relevant plans and policies at the monthly Regional Assembly meetings.



# Drive the Regional Agenda

## Assembly Oversight and Functions

A key function of the Assembly is to ensure oversight and alignment of national, regional and local policy in the Region. This includes ensuring consistency with the RSES across local authority plans and the strategies, plans and programmes of public bodies, including Government Departments, and key stakeholders.

During 2024, 28 submissions were issued, with eight of these submissions issued as a statutory function under Section 27c of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and seven submissions issued as a statutory function under Section 66C of the Local Government Act 2001 (inserted by section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014), as amended.

Eight submissions were issued relating to proposed variations of Local Authority County and City Development Plans. In this regard, submissions were issued regarding Variation No. 5 of the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028, Variation No. 2 of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, Variation Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027, Variation Nos. 2 and 3 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, Variation No. 3 of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Variation No. 1 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

Nine non-statutory submissions were issued regarding consultations on the Strategic Issues Paper for the Joint Urban Area Plan for Athlone including the Monksland & Bellanamullian area; the Pre-Draft Issues Paper for Drogheda JLAP; the Draft Portlaoise Local Area Plan 2024-2030, the Draft Maynooth Joint Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031; the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024-2030; the Draft Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031; the Draft Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2024-2030; the Draft Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025, and the Pre-draft Consultation for the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2025.

Seven submissions were issued relating to draft Local Economic and Community Plans within the Region in 2024 as a statutory function under Section 66C of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended regarding the draft LECPs for Fingal, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Kildare, Westmeath, Offaly, South Dublin and Dublin City. Statements of consistency were issued in all cases, subject to recommendations and observations.

### Non-statutory submissions were issued in relation to national plans, programmes, strategies and guidelines as follows:

- Draft First Revision to the National Planning Framework (NPF)
- Draft National Adaptation Framework 2024
- Draft National Transport Demand Management Strategy 'Moving Together: A Strategic Approach to Improving the Efficiency of Ireland's Transport System and its Implementation Plan
- Draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050

**During 2024, 28 submissions were issued**



## Inform Policy Making

In 2024, in order to inform policy making, the Assembly focused on ongoing bilateral and multilateral engagements with key policy and implementation stakeholders.

To this end the Assembly worked with the following stakeholders through dedicated forums to inform policy and implementation in line with the RSES.

Forum	Date	Attendees
National Mirror Group	Various	Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe
National Adaptation Steering Committee	Various	Owen Douglas
National SEA Forum	Various	Owen Douglas/Pádraig O'Shea
National AA Forum	Various	Owen Douglas
National Planning Framework Planning Advisory Forum	Various	Clare Bannon/Owen Douglas
National Transport Demand Management Strategy Steering Group	Various	Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe
National S3 Implementation Group	Various	Clare Bannon
Planning and Development Act Oversight Group	Various	Clare Bannon
Sustainable Mobility Policy Leadership Group and Delivery Team	Various	Clare Bannon/ Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe
Spatial Planning Steering Group- Regional Renewable Electricity Strategies	Various	Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe
Our Rural Future Implementation Advisory Group	Various	Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe
Decarbonising Zones Advisory Group	Various	Owen Douglas
Regional Assemblies Quarterly Meeting with DHLGH	Various	Clare Bannon/Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe
Regional Assemblies Quarterly Meeting with the DETE Regional Enterprise Plans, Funding and Infrastructure (REPF) unit	Various	Clare Bannon/Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe
Bioeconomy Implementation & Development Group	26th November 2024	Owen Douglas
OPR Plans Evaluation Forum	Various	Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe/Owen Douglas
Working Group for the Local Government Chapter of CAP 2025	Various	Owen Douglas
Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan	Various	Owen Douglas
Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan	Various	Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe
Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan	Various	Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe /Pádraig O'Shea
Dublin CARO Steering Group	Various	Owen Douglas
Midlands Regional Transition Team (MRTT)	Various	Terence Connolly

Throughout 2024, EMRA developed and contributed to policy and research in areas relevant to the Assembly, including those related to ongoing objectives of the Government, advancing RSES implementation, preliminary work to inform the review of the RSES. Areas of focus for 2024 included; background research papers to inform a review of the RSES; engagement with the DECC on the development of a roadmap to deliver a Regional Renewable Electricity Strategy under the Climate Action Plan 2023; the second phase of Pathfinder 27, Smart and Sustainable Mobility Accelerator, which consists of an online platform and a training, education and capacity building workshop programme to assist Local Authorities to design and implement smart and sustainable mobility projects. This is part of the National Pathfinder Programme under the National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP) Action Plan 2022-2025.

EMRA coordinated with the SRA and NWRA in 2024 in relation to the forthcoming review of the RSES, with a focus on the requirements of the Planning and Development Bill 2023 with respect to the RSES review, and future priorities for the Region.

National Government decided on 5th March 2024 to defer the publication of the draft First Revision of the NPF and accompanying technical assessments to June 2024 for public consultation, with amendment stage in August 2024, and to schedule the finalisation of the revised NPF for September 2024. Further to this, the Regional Assembly prepared a submission on the draft First Revision which was approved at a special meeting of the Assembly on 4th September and included 70 recommendations across all sections of the NPF.

EMRA continued on-going engagement with key stakeholders from the Eastern and Midland Region with the OECD. As part of our ongoing engagement, EMRA participated in the 1st webinar of the project series titled 'Going Granular: How to measure and enhance regional attractiveness for inclusive and sustainable development'. The RDM was presented on behalf of the three Regional Assemblies. EMRA participated in the workshop entitled 'How does Ireland do Integrated Rural Development and Ensure Citizen Engagement' with the OECD and different government departments including the DRCD, DETE and DoT.



EMRA participated in a research interview for the European Commission project "Study supporting the preparation of the report on the application and effectiveness of the SEA Directive", commissioned by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment. The objective of the study is to support the Commission in tracking progress in the implementation of the SEA Directive during the period 2015-2021.

EMRA met with the Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP) Delivery team throughout 2024 and was updated on the actions under the SMP Programme, including updates on the 35 projects under the Pathfinder Programme. EMRA is leading and delivering Pathfinder 27 (formerly 30) for the Eastern and Midland Region under the Pathfinder programme. The official launch of the project occurred on 3rd May 2023 which consists of a training, education and capacity-building workshop programme to assist Local Authorities, Councillors and Public Participation Networks to design and implement smart and sustainable mobility projects. Since the official launch, a meeting was held on 23rd February 2024 with BABLE Consultants, who are assisting in the delivery of the SSMA, regarding the focus of the SSMA for 2024. The first mentoring session was held for Target Group 1 in March, second meeting was held online in June. EMRA attended a meeting on 19th June 2024 to commence the preparation of the design of the workshop programme for Target Group 2. EMRA along with the other Regional Assemblies held in person workshop on 25th September 2024.

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**Throughout 2024, EMRA developed and contributed to policy and research in areas relevant to the Assembly**

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## Influencing European Policy

The Assembly, through its Members and the IREO, has pursued its engagement at EU level to shape European policymaking.

### Future of Cohesion policy

2024 saw the start of the preparation for the next European programming period 2028-2032. While legislative proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and programmes are expected by mid-2025, conversations have started to try and shape future European policies, especially Cohesion policy given its high relevance to the Region. EMRA was invited to take part in the national dialogue on the future of cohesion policy organised by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. EMRA participated in the preparation of a public consultation and responded to the public consultation on the future of cohesion policy on behalf of the Assembly.



The Assembly also attended the Future of EU Cohesion Policy conference that was held in September in Dublin Castle and took part in the debates and reflections around the future of the policy. Both the consultation responses and the conference proceedings fed into the Irish official position on the future of Cohesion policy.

Following a presentation at the July Assembly meeting and approval of Members, EMRA signed the Cohesion Alliance joint call for "A renewed Cohesion Policy post-2027 that leaves no one behind". The IREO also coordinated a Joint Assembly position paper on the future of cohesion policy post 2027 which was adopted by EMRA members at the September meeting and shared with relevant stakeholders. The Director of the EMRA, together with two Directors from the other Regional Assemblies visited Brussels in October 2024 to meet and advise Irish MEPs on the need for a place-based approach to the future of cohesion policy.

The IREO has further ensured Irish representation in position papers in correspondence with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on the future of cohesion policy and with Commissioner Fitto, the Commissioner for Cohesion Policy and Reform. The IREO organised for Regional Assembly participation in a seminar in the European Parliament and Irish representatives participated in meetings with three European Commissioners: Piotr Serafin, Raffaele Fitto and Roxana Minzatu.

In June 2024, the Minister of State for European Affairs, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill met with the Irish Delegation to the CoR in Government Buildings. The meeting with the Minister was used to highlight the work of the Delegation over the past five years and to discuss the new mandate for the Committee of the Regions. Members of the Delegation also briefed the Minister on the strategy for the IREO and the EU Local Government Support Service. The Minister assured the Delegation of her support for their work and the importance of local government participation in EU decision making through the Committee of the Regions.

The IREO has organised meetings for all three Regional Assemblies to meet with the Irish MEPs, highlighting their role as Managing Authorities of ERDF and JTF funding programmes. The IREO has held regular meetings the Irish Permanent Representation to stay informed about EU policy developments and has ensured discussions with Irish local authorities and regional assemblies.

## Building capacity, networks and partnerships

The IREO continued to meet with a range of organisations in Brussels to promote the work of the Irish regions. The IREO is working with the Capital Cities and Regions Network (CCRN) and aims to ensure the views of Irish Cities and Regions are presented to the EU institutions, particularly on regional policy.

In March 2024, the IREO joined the EURegions4Cohesion network, which represents over 130 regions across Europe. The group has sought to protect regional voices in the future of EU cohesion policy.

The IREO is advising local authorities on a regular basis on the types and forms of networks that can assist with understanding EU policy and funding programmes, as well as assist with building partnerships.

The IREO meets with counterparts from across the UK through attendance at regular events with the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish offices. This is to ensure that there is ongoing communication and exploration of any potential collaboration opportunities with local authorities and other stakeholders in the UK.

During 2024, the IREO worked with the Committee of the Regions to promote the Young Elected Politicians (YEP) programme across Ireland. This programme is a network of politicians who are no older than 40 and hold a mandate at regional or local level in the EU. A call for applications to join the programme is published each year and YEPs have the opportunity to get in contact with other young politicians through the YEP Community, to attend trainings on EU topics, and to participate in activities organised by the CoR.



### ENCORE

In 2024, EMRA continued to participate in the activities organised by the ENCORE network that are in line with regional priorities. In October, Cllrs Joanna Tuffy and David Gilroy represented the Assembly at a roundtable discussion on the nature restoration law and its impact for European Regions. The meeting concluded with the endorsement of a position paper on biodiversity and the Nature Restoration Law.



*In 2024, EMRA continued to participate in the activities organised by the ENCORE network that are in line with regional priorities*

## Committee of the Regions



The IREO is the secretariat to the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions and co-ordinates the work of the members of the national delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The European Union's assembly of local and regional representatives, the CoR has 329 members from across the 27 EU Member States, all of whom are democratically elected and/or hold a political mandate in their home country. The CoR's role is to inform the development of EU legislation and future European policies through the input of those most closely representing communities, with a focus on those EU policy areas and proposals that most greatly affect regions and cities.

**The CoR mainly presents its views through written opinions or resolutions, which are developed in one of six thematic commissions covering the following policy areas:**

- Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX);
- Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER);
- Economic Policy (ECON);
- Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE);
- Natural Resources (NAT);
- Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC).

Each Commission generally meets on five occasions during the year to prepare the opinions for adoption at the 5-6 plenary annual sessions. Commissioners, Presidency Ministers and MEPs regularly attend CoR meetings, and there is an ongoing exchange between the institutions on policy issues.

## The Irish Delegation - Eastern and Midland Region Representatives

The Irish Delegation to the CoR is made up of 9 Full Members and 9 Alternate Members.

Below is a list of CoR representatives for the Eastern and Midland Region for 2020 - 2025.

Full Members	Council
Cllr Kate Feeney*	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Cllr Aoife Breslin	Kildare County Council
Cllr Caroline Dwane Stanley	Laois County Council
Cllr Una Power*	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Cllr Mick Cahill#	Longford County Council
Cllr Carolyn Moore^	Dublin City Council

Alternate Members	Council
Emma Blain	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Alison Gilliland*	Dublin City Council
Padraig McEvoy	Kildare County Council

*\*Resigned from CoR on 12th July 2024; #Nominated in April 2024; ^Nominated in November 2024*



## Legislative Works

Irish Members continued to present opinions and make an impact in the Committee of the Regions.

**In total, Irish Members had three opinions adopted in 2024:**

01. SME Relief Package and BEFIT proposal - Cllr. Kate Feeney
02. EU Framework for Foreign Direct Investment Screening - Cllr. Michael Murphy
03. Addressing Territorial Inequalities by Improving Access to Social Services - Cllr. Declan McDonnell

**01.**

### SME Relief Package and BEFIT proposal

**Cllr. Kate Feeney**

February 2024 saw the adoption of Cllr. Kate Feeney's opinion "*The SME Relief Package and the BEFIT Framework*".

During her presentation, Cllr. Feeney urged Europe to embrace the "*think-small-first*" philosophy which her opinion embraced.

**02.**

### EU Framework for Foreign Direct Investment Screening

**Cllr. Michael Murphy**

In November 2024, Cllr. Michael Murphy's opinion "*EU Framework for Foreign Direct Investment Screening*" was adopted unanimously at plenary.

The opinion noted the threat of rising geopolitical tensions and security threats to the EU's critical infrastructure and subsequently the importance of investment screening regulations to protect essential sectors such as energy, healthcare, food supply and information networks. Crucially the opinion argued that in order to best protect these sectors, the EU must involve local and regional authorities.

**03.**

### Addressing Territorial Inequalities by Improving Access to Social Services

**Cllr. Declan McDonnell**

Also in November 2024, Cllr. Declan McDonnell had his opinion, "*Addressing Territorial Inequalities by Improving Access to Social Services*", adopted at plenary.

The opinion emphasises the vital role of local authorities in ensuring equal access to social services, despite challenges such as insufficient infrastructure, lack of qualified professionals and financial constraints, especially in remote areas.

The Delegation continued to act as the key link between the Committee and the Irish Representation. The Delegation also held meetings with Irish MEPs as well as with the Irish Commission representatives to voice the needs of the Irish local government on the EU stage. The Delegation, assisted by the IREO, continued observing all relevant policy dossiers and made interventions, via amendments as well as commission and plenary interventions.

## Overview of the work of the CoR in 2024

In 2024, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) adopted 53 opinions and four resolutions, slightly fewer than previous years but more than in 2019 - a comparable year in the EU's inter-institutional cycle. A major highlight was the 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities in Mons, which brought together thousands of local and regional leaders to shape Europe's future and influence the EU's Strategic Agenda and Political Guidelines. The summit underscored the critical role of local governance in EU cohesion and policymaking, drawing a record 7,500 participants online and in person.

The CoR advanced its political priority of bringing Europe closer to its citizens through several initiatives. A key achievement was the memorandum of understanding with the European Parliament to support democratic engagement during the European elections, coinciding with multiple local elections across Member States. The CoR's input influenced the European Commission's commitment to local-level engagement, and its advocacy on territorial impact, skills policy, and better regulation was acknowledged in major institutional reports. Notably, the merger of its councillor network with the European Commission's local initiative marked a milestone in institutional cooperation.

On the front of building resilient local and regional communities, the CoR played a visible international role, particularly in climate and biodiversity policy through COP29 and COP16. Its positions helped shape Council conclusions and EU strategies, while also influencing the designation of a new European Commissioner portfolio to address housing, energy poverty, and sustainable development. Its longstanding advocacy on water and fiscal policy bore fruit with new appointments and financial rule changes, enhancing investment capacity at the local level.

Cohesion policy remained a core focus. The CoR contributed significantly to shaping the debate on post-2027 cohesion, including through key opinions and participation in high-level institutional meetings. Its recommendations were adopted in several Council conclusions related to demographic change, social services and the Common Fisheries Policy.

Lastly, communication efforts in 2024 significantly raised the CoR's profile, with over 17,600 media mentions—the highest since 2017. These communication results reflect growing recognition of the CoR's contributions in driving EU policy from the ground up and connecting European institutions with local realities.

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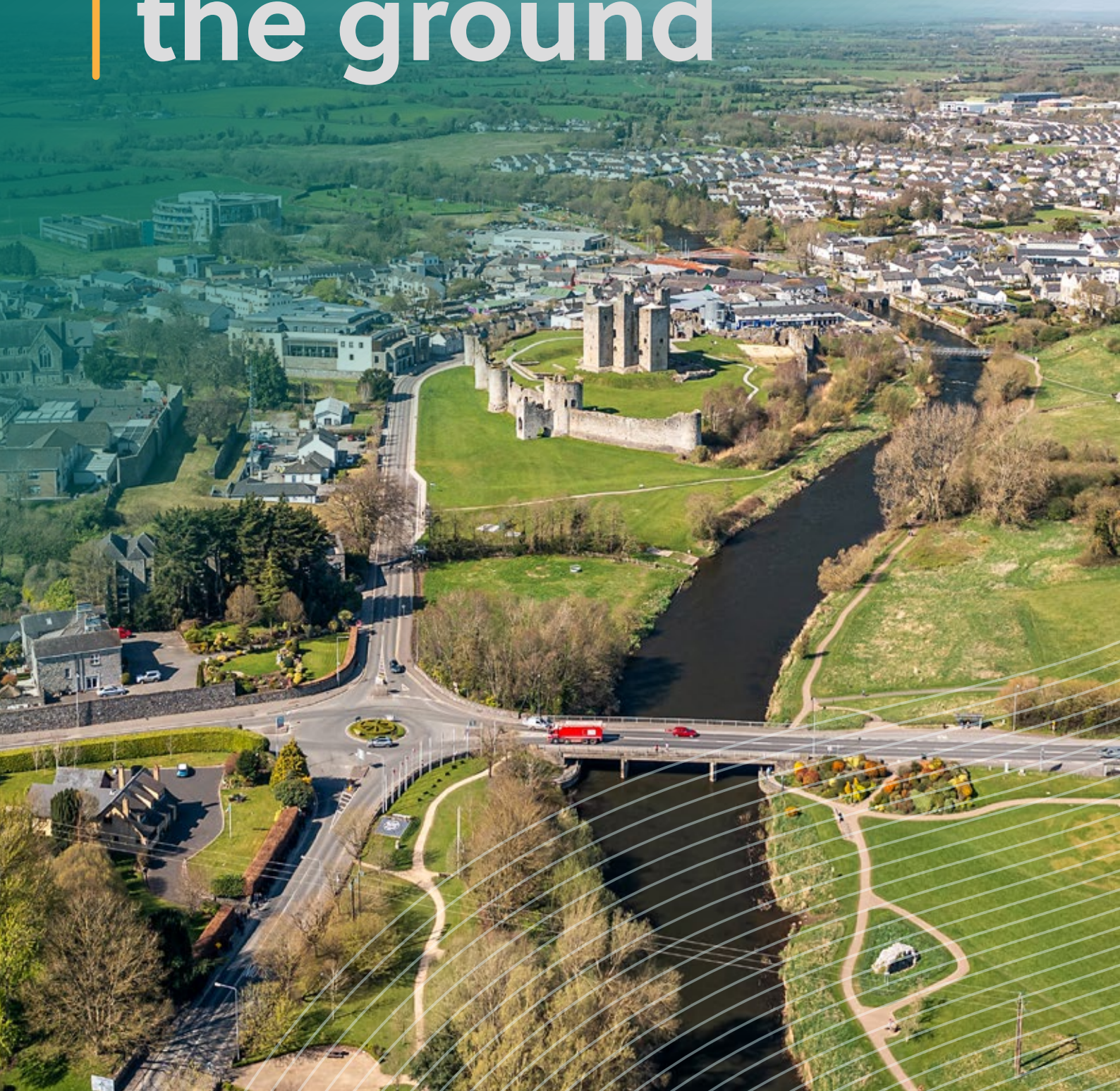
***In 2024, EMRA continued to participate in the activities organised by the ENCORE network that are in line with regional priorities***

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# Deliver concrete impact on the ground



## RSES Implementation

### RSES and MASP Implementation Matters

#### EMRA collaborated with the following stakeholders to advance RSES and MASP Implementation:

- Southern Regional Assembly in relation to the Eastern Economic Corridor.
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to discuss the direction of the Draft Old Connaught Local Area Plan and alignment with the objectives of the RSES and MASP.
- Office of the Planning Regulator in relation to the Strategic Issues Paper on the Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan and alignment with the objectives of the RSES.
- Climate-KIC/DAFM/DECC.
- DETE in relation to the application for Regional Innovation Valleys status .
- Regional and Local Authority Circular Bioeconomy Opportunity Identification and Prioritisation Workshop.
- UCD-led, EPA/OPR funded, SEA Public Participation and SEA Effectiveness Key Performance Indicators Workshop.
- Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan (REP) coordinator, Group Lead for Strategic Objective 2 of the REP and IBEC in relation to REP implementation.
- Regional Stakeholder for the preparation of the IDA Strategy 2025-2030.
- Stakeholder consultation meeting with Iarnród Éireann regarding rail freight terminals.
- DECC to inform the preparation of a Regional Renewable Electricity Strategy (RRES) Roadmap.
- Enterprise Ireland in relation to the Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme.
- Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (EMR CARO)
- Senator John Cummins in relation to the Planning and Development Bill 2023.
- Planning Advisory Forum members in relation to submission on the Draft First Revision of the NPF.
- SRA, NWRA and Bable Consultants to advance the SSMA project.
- Future ECOS stakeholder group.
- Partnership officer of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor to explore opportunities for alignment/EU funding.

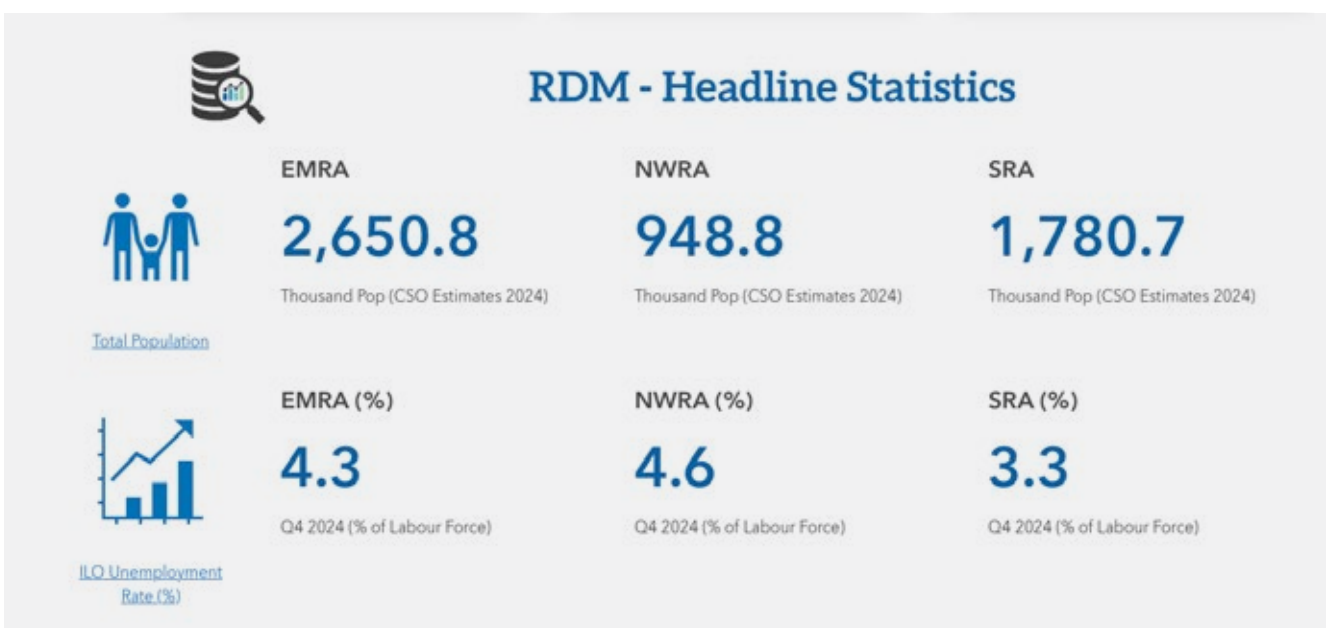
## Regional Development Monitor (RDM)

Developed by the Regional Assemblies, led by EMRA, in collaboration with the All-Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO) at Maynooth University and Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) via the GeoHive platform, the Regional Development Monitor (RDM) is a national mapping and visualisation tool with a range of analytics dashboards, designed to enhance our understanding of key societal trends in Ireland to aid better decision making. The RDM is a key tool used by the Regional Assemblies to monitor the performance of each of the three regions in terms of achieving objectives outlined in their respective Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. The RDM is also assisting Government Departments, local authorities, planners, policy makers, researchers, elected members and members of the public in gaining a greater insight into social, economic and environmental trends to aid better decision making. The RDM was launched in November 2022.

In 2024, three additional annexes to the RDM were agreed with AIRO and work proceeded on the delivery of same. The first annex relates to the addition of a new Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) dashboard to the RDM to assist with the monitoring of the National S3, with the required indicators and metrics to be agreed in collaboration with DETE. The second annex relates to the development of a National Census Mapping Viewer, which will provide a different form of visual presentation of the data on the RDM and will include more indicators. The third annex relates to the development and delivery of an RDM training manual and a series of RDM training workshops for local authority staff, elected members and Government departments and agencies

EMRA held various meetings with AIRO regarding the three additional annexes and the existing RDM contract between the Regional Assemblies and AIRO was extended until 31st December 2026. EMRA and AIRO organised a workshop with the executives of the other Regional Assemblies to present a working version of the Census Atlas, and various meetings were held with DETE in relation to the development of the S3 Dashboard. Various meetings were also held with AIRO regarding update schedule, proposed communication strategy and RDM budget for 2025.

*The RDM is a key tool used by the Regional Assemblies to monitor the performance of each of the three regions in terms of achieving objectives outlined in their respective Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies*



## Participate in projects

EMRA is involved in externally funded projects with a wide range of Irish and European partners. These projects enable us to showcase our successful initiatives and to learn from our partners' best practices which in turn enable us to deliver concrete results for our Region.

In 2024, EMRA took an active role in the following project:

### ORIGINN

ORIGINN is an Interreg Europe project focused on strengthening regional policy for the promotion of rural economic and social transformation through innovation, with a focus on the agri-food sector.

EMRA is one of seven partners from across Europe (from Sweden, Romania, Estonia, Italy, Slovakia, and Spain) engaging in this knowledge-exchange project. This initiative for interregional cooperation will inform policy improvements in the participating regional authorities. The geographic focus of the project is the midland counties of Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, and Laois, all of which boast promising examples of innovation across the rural economy. Running from March 2023 to May 2027, the ORIGINN project addresses four focus areas; Digitalisation, Green Economy, Soft Innovation, and Social Innovation. At the outset of the project, the Regional Assembly identified key challenges that ORIGINN should seek to address: population decline, particularly among young people; people leaving the agri-food sector; adding value which stays in local communities; and maintaining and growing rural Ireland's clean, green image.



In 2024, the project focused on Digitalisation, the Green Economy and Social Innovation. Two webinars were organised, at which each of the project partners presented Good Practices that support Digitalisation and the Green Economy. These webinars were attended by dozens of stakeholders across the seven participating European regions with a view to sharing knowledge and experience of innovation that drives rural development. Three study visits were also conducted during the year, with the project partners meeting in Estonia, Ireland and Romania. The purpose of these visits is for partners to learn about innovative practices in each other's regions and bring these learnings home to inform their own policies. During EMRA's turn to host the study visit in June, promising innovations across the Midlands region were showcased, including the green tourism offering of Loughboora Discovery Park, and the success of Ballykilcavan Farm and Brewery in diversifying its family farm and developing a thriving and sustainable drinks business. While learning from our European partners is a key aspect of ORIGINN, participating in the project is also an opportunity to learn about innovative developments in our own region and to engage with local actors who are driving the green and digital transitions, strengthening the social fabric of the region and adding value to our rural economy. During the year, two Good Practices from our region were published on the Interreg Policy Learning Platform: the Regional Development Monitor, which is an innovative tool for policy development and evaluation through the visualisation of data; and ACORNS (Accelerating the Creation of Rural Nascent Start-ups), a training and mentorship programme to support female entrepreneurship in rural areas.

## Leadership in EU funds delivery

### EU Just Transition Fund

In 2024, the EU Just Transition Fund Programme has taken large strides in implementing the fund. Thirteen calls for funding have been run (including three through strategic partnerships) during the year and the selection of 70 operations, amounting to a total of €83,477,253 (approximately half the fund) allocated across the three priorities, was announced. These operations include, among others, regenerative tourism projects led by local authorities, state agencies and tourism businesses (SMEs), 32 projects aligned with Local Economic and Community Plans and Regional Enterprise Plans, two projects supporting the development of bioeconomy in the Territory, and a large wetlands restoration project that promotes active community engagement in the restoration process.

#### List of calls launched in 2024

Action	Call name	Date
1.1	Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Private & Community SMEs	Expressions of interest open between 30 August 2023 to 30 June 2024 with formal applications due 13 January 2025
1.1	Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Strategic Partners – State Agencies	Rolling call with Strategic Partnership Agreement
1.1	Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Strategic Partners – Local Authorities	Rolling call with Strategic Partnership Agreement
1.1	Tourism Learning Network Programme	11 January 2024 – 28 February 2024
1.1	Tourism Activator Scheme	Rolling dates
1.1	Tourism Learning Network Programme (2nd Intake)	13 September 2024 – 17 October 2024
1.1	Investment Grant-Aid Scheme for Private & Community SMEs	30 August 2023 – 13 January 2025
1.2	Local and Regional Economic Strategies Support Scheme	13 October 2023 – 23 January 2024
1.2	Community and Enterprise Grants Scheme	12 January 2024 – 28 February 2024
1.2	Local Economic and Community Plans	19 August 2024 – 30 September 2024
2.1	Tóchar Wetlands Restoration Expressions of Interest	27 September 2024 – 31 October 2024
2.3	Trail Network Development Scheme	Rolling call with Strategic Partnership Agreement
3.2	Bus Operator Aid Scheme	15 October 2024 – 31 January 2025

As a further illustration of this new phase, a number of projects were launched during 2024 such as the 'ReShape' Project, funded under action 1.2 and launched by Minister Pippa Hackett in TUS Athlone, and the 'Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan Pathway for Just Transition' Project launched in Portlaoise by Minister Eamon Ryan.

Throughout the year, EMRA worked closely with delivery partners towards implementation of the EUJTF Programme. We have continued to facilitate regular fortnightly meetings with all key stakeholders, as well as weekly meetings with DECC, monthly meetings with the Audit Authority, and bi-monthly meetings with the European Commission.



### Key achievements for 2024 include:

- Two Programme Monitoring Committee meetings were held, in June and November
- Data Transmissions to the EU Commission were submitted in January, April, July, and September; the Payments Forecast to the EU Commission was submitted in July (as per regulation); list of beneficiaries was uploaded to the MA website in July, September, and November (as per regulation)
- Three projects funded by the EU JTF programme were designated as Operations of Strategic Importance (OSI) by the Managing Authority and the Member State based on a designation process developed specifically by the Managing Authority
- Early Preventative Systems Audits were carried out in 2024, including systems audits by both the European Commission and the Audit Authority (AA):
  - the European Commission carried out an onsite EPSA Audit of EMRA, Fáilte Ireland, Pobal and DAFM
  - the Audit Authority carried out an onsite EPSA of the Department of Transport
- EMRA, as Managing Authority, organised 10 bespoke training sessions targeting the MA itself, Intermediate Bodies and/or beneficiaries on topics such as state aid, evaluation process, fraud prevention and procurement law
- Building on the extensive collection of training materials and to provide resilience to the capacity building within our delivery partners, EMRA developed a comprehensive "Knowledge Hub" for the EU Just Transition Fund. This SharePoint communications site consolidates the information from the customised training sessions and a variety of other resources as well as insights and queries from delivery partners.
- The MA also initiated work on the Mid-Term Review which is to be completed in 2025.

## Communications and publicity

In 2024, the communication activities have moved between two phases of communication: at the beginning of 2024, communication activities have been dedicated to publicising calls for funding and opportunities to engage before moving into a second phase of the communication strategy that focuses more on the selection of funded projects and publicising the work that is / will be done by those operations.

The redesign of the EMRA website has made communicating about the EU JTF programme much more effective. A dedicated section of the website has been created to host information about the programme, including information to be made available as per regulation.

### Additional key highlights of EU JTF communication activities are:

- DG Regio PR Campaign – The Managing Authority has been working closely with European Commission DG Regio and their selected local public relations consultants on creating and running a public relations campaign in Ireland on what the EU JTF programme is supporting. The campaign ran from late October to December and included engagement with social media influencers, paid adverts and media placements, and a public event held in December.
- Newsletters – the MA produced five newsletters in 2024 that informed about current and upcoming calls for proposals and the selection of operations and other important pieces of information for stakeholders. The average open rate of the newsletters was 59% with 25.5% average click rate.
- Europe Day Supplement – a supplement was created and published in the Sunday Independent for Europe Day along with other EU funding programmes in Ireland.
- Stands at Events – Held information stands at national forums including the National Recovery and Resilience Programme (NRRP) annual event on 11th July, the Future of Cohesion Policy event on 26th September, and the launch event for Bioeconomy Week Ireland on 14th October.
- Attended Citizen Engagement training put on by the European Commission and the European Institute of Public Administration
- Supported youth engagement and education through sponsored weekly quizzes on Graduate.ie and a European Youth Parliament
- Attended Ploughing Championships on 17-19 September.



## European Regional Development Fund

The Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021 – 2027 is managed by the Southern Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly has been given an “enhanced role” in its management. The Programme invests €663 million (€265 million ERDF, €398 million Exchequer funding) in research and innovation, energy efficiency and sustainable urban regeneration.

Strategic Priority	Schemes	2024 updates
<b>Developing Smarter More Competitive Regions</b>	<b>ARC Hub</b>	Two regional smart hubs to drive research commercialisation and regional innovation were selected in 2024 and will be launched in 2025. The two ARC Hubs funded under this scheme are identified within the Programme as Operations of Strategic Importance and aligned with Ireland’s Smart Specialisation Strategy.
	<b>Technology Gateways</b>	Funding supports personnel in Technological Universities (TUs) and Institutes of Technology (IoTs) whose roles are to increase their engagement with and support of local industry. The 16 co-funded Gateways act as a bridge between industry and a defined research group who will carry out the technical work for the client company.
	<b>Innovators Initiative</b>	Fuelling the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovation leaders through dedicated needs-led immersive learning, three new Innovators Initiative programmes were launched in 2024 – Cyber-Innovate, DigiBio (digital health) and FAST-IP (agri-tech).
	<b>KT Boost</b>	Delivering skills sets that will support an increase in research commercialisation outcomes within the higher education sector across the programme area and develop a consistent operational quality across the Knowledge Transfer System. With 11 beneficiaries, the scheme ensures Ireland’s higher education sector has the capacity to commercialise research effectively.
	<b>Smart Regions</b>	The aim of the Smart Regions Scheme is to accelerate economic growth across all regions with a focus on enterprise development. It supports the development of innovative services through local infrastructure, innovation clusters, Services to SMEs and early-stage feasibility and priming research. This will lead to the establishment of modern innovation infrastructure, research facilities, organisations focused on disseminating knowledge, and innovation clusters. 15 projects were awarded funding at the end of 2024.
	<b>TU RISE</b>	6 higher education institutions are receiving funding: Dundalk Institute of Technology, Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology (IADT), Munster Technological University, South East Technological University, Technological University Dublin and Technological University of the Shannon to enhance research and innovation capacity in TUs and IoTs, fostering collaboration with regional enterprises and advancing national and regional strategic goals.
<b>Creating Greener, More Energy Efficient Regions and a Just Transition</b>	<b>Warmer Homes</b>	Provides fully funded home retrofits to owner-occupiers at risk of fuel poverty, improving energy efficiency and living conditions through the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) Warmer Homes scheme.
<b>Sustainable Urban Development</b>	<b>THRIVE - Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme</b>	Supports the revitalisation of vacant and derelict heritage buildings and town centres in key towns, strategic growth centres, and cities, fostering vibrant, sustainable communities. 15 Strand 1 projects and four Strand 2 projects were awarded funding in 2024, including Dún Laoghaire (DLR); Drogheda (Co. Louth) and Lucan House (DCC) under strand 1 and the Navan cultural quarter (Co. Meath) under strand 2.

## European Territorial Cooperation programmes 2021-2027

The Assembly has been invited to join the governance instances of several European programmes to ensure their smooth implementation. EMRA Members sit on the PEACE+ Monitoring Committee while the executive of EMRA sits on the following: North West Europe, Atlantic area and URBACT.

EMRA also takes part in the assessment of project applications for the Atlantic Area and North West Europe programme. In 2024, EMRA assessed 54 projects applications for North West Europe over two calls for proposals and took part in two PMC meetings for North West Europe and two PMC meetings for URBACT.

### EMRA Elected Members representation on Programme Monitoring Committees

Programme	Representative		Meeting Dates
	Until July 2024	From July 2024	
<b>Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme (ERDF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Gerry Walsh (Full)</li> <li>• Cllr Dermot Lacey (Alt)</li> <li>• Cllr Aisling Moran (Alt)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Patsy Glennon (Full)</li> <li>• Cllr Joe Fox (Full)</li> <li>• Cllr Mick Cahill (Alt)</li> <li>• Cllr Avril Cronin (Alt)</li> </ul>	17th April
<b>EU JTF Programme</b>	Cllr K Feeney	Cllr C Fitzgerald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19th June</li> <li>• 22nd November</li> </ul>
<b>Peace +</b>	Cllr Conor Keelan	Cllr Emma Coffey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5th June</li> <li>• 5th November</li> </ul>

### EMRA officials participating on Programme Monitoring Committees

Programme	Participant	Meeting Attended
<b>National Partnership Agreement</b>	Ms Bernie Roe, Assistant Director	16th April
<b>Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training Programme (European Social Fund - ESF)</b>	Ms Helena Stromberg, Senior Staff officer	
<b>European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)</b>	Ms Bernie Roe, Assistant Director	
<b>Southern Eastern and Midland ERDF Regional Programme</b>	Ms Bernie Roe, Assistant Director	17th April
<b>Northern and Western ERDF Regional Programme</b>	Ms Clare Bannon, Director	
<b>Asylum, Migration and Integration (AMIF)</b>	Ms Bernie Roe, Assistant Director	13th March
<b>CAP Strategic Plan</b>	Ms Laure Antoniotti, Administrative Officer EU and Corporate	
<b>PEACEPLUS steering committee</b>	Ms Bernie Roe, Assistant Director	17-18th September
<b>Interreg Atlantic Area</b>	Ms Laure Antoniotti, Administrative Officer EU and Corporate	
<b>Interreg North-West Europe</b>	Ms Laure Antoniotti, Administrative Officer EU and Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15th April</li> <li>• 28-29th May</li> <li>• 10-11th December</li> </ul>
<b>URBACT</b>	Ms Laure Antoniotti, Administrative Officer EU and Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27-28th June</li> <li>• 29-30th October</li> </ul>

## Be a resource hub for the Region

A key ambition of the Regional Assembly is to become a resource hub for the Region and to provide guidance and support for all stakeholders wishing to access EU funding. To achieve this goal, the Irish Regions European Office (IREO) and EMRA's expanding responsibilities as National Contact Point play a key role.

### Raising Awareness and Communication

In February 2024, the IREO presented at the annual Association Irish Regions training seminar 'Shaping Ireland's Regional Development' which was held in Adare, Co Limerick. Teresa Lennon, Head of Office provided an overview of the work of the IREO and updated delegates on the work of the Irish Delegation to the Committee of the Regions.

The 10th European Summit of Regions and Cities took place in Mons on the 18th and 19th March 2024. A key feature of the regional agenda for the Belgian Presidency of the EU, the Summit was attended by over 3500 local and regional leaders from across Europe who gathered to shape the agenda for Europe's future, highlighting local and regional authorities' power to deliver and tackle challenges. Alongside the plenary and workshop sessions was a two-day Festival of Regions which featured regions from across Europe presenting their assets and their involvement in EU funding programmes. Ireland was represented at the Festival with the very popular Irish stand, which showcased the work of Ireland's Regional Assemblies including the EMRA and the Irish Regions European Office in Brussels. The stand offered the opportunity for Ireland to exchange ideas and build partnerships with Regions from across Europe!



### National Contact Point (NCP)

Another way for the Assembly to play the role of resource hub for Irish stakeholders is through our role as National Contact Point for the URBACT programme and for the European Urban Initiative programme which both promote sustainable urban development.




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***A key ambition of the Regional Assembly is to become a resource hub for the Region and to provide guidance and support for all stakeholders wishing to access EU funding***

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## URBACT IV

URBACT is a European programme which promotes integrated sustainable urban development in cities and towns across Europe, based on an integrated and participatory approach, and is primarily funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Two of the primary types of projects funded under URBACT are Action Planning Networks (APNs) and Transfer Networks (TNs). Both see partners work together to develop an Integrated Action Plan for their locality. A new project type was launched in early 2024 – Innovation Transfer Networks (ITN), a collaboration between URBACT and the European Urban Initiative (EUI). ITNs' main output sees a tailored Investment and Continuity Plan produced for each of the partners' localities.

Each of URBACTs' networks focus on the exchange of learning and practice between the transnational partners. Within Ireland, all 31 local authorities and five Business Improvement Districts are eligible for the Programme. There are currently seven project partners participating in APNs from six Irish local authorities. These projects got underway in June 2023 and include Ennis (Clare), Balbriggan (Fingal), Limerick City (1 and 2), Ballymahon (Longford), Navan (Meath) and Sligo Town. Fingal leads their network "EcoCore", the first time an Irish local authority has led an URBACT project. Following the 2024 call for ITNs two more Irish partners began their URBACT journeys in September 2024: Dublin City Council (WISH CITIES) and Sandyford Business District (ReCUP).

In October 2024, three Irish local authorities were awarded the URBACT Good Practice label: Dublin City Council, Limerick City and County Council and Cork City Council. Local authorities from around Europe had been invited to submit effective practices, policies and projects that they have successfully put into place in their locality. Each of the 116 validated Good Practices will showcase their projects during the URBACT City Festival in April 2025 in Wroclaw, Poland.

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***In October 2024, three Irish local authorities were awarded the URBACT Good Practice label: Dublin City Council, Limerick City and County Council and Cork City Council***

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An URBACT-EUI Ireland Information Session occurred at the Custom House, Dublin in January 2024. This saw the launch of the call for Innovation Transfer Networks (ITNs). A second information session occurred online in April, focusing on the call for URBACT Good Practices. URBACT was presented multiple times throughout the country, including to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA), at the AIR Conference in Adare, the Town Regenerations Officer Network meeting in Athlone, also as part of a Conference on Ireland's Future Towns and Cities, to the SRA's ETC network online, and was also showcased as part of an exhibition in Dublin Castle during an event on the Future of Cohesion Policy.

A meet-up of the active URBACT network partners in Ireland took place in Limerick. This event included project updates, a training session with First Level Controller Michael Buckley and site visits. A National Campus occurred in Balbriggan which was focused on the implementation and funding stage of the active Action Planning Networks. The event delivered training using resources from the URBACT toolbox to help the partners best implement and fund their Action Plans into the future. Other sessions included one to "meet the funders" and a Climate Fresk Workshop.

During 2024, two of the Irish URBACT APN partners (Ennis and Limerick) hosted the visit of their whole transnational network in their localities in April and June, respectively. The Contact Point also participated in URBACT Local Group meetings of three Project Partners in Ireland.



## European Urban Initiative (EUI)

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly is also contact point in Ireland for the European Urban Initiative (EUI). The EUI supports European Union Member States' urban areas of all size with innovative actions, capacity and knowledge building, policy development, and communication on Sustainable Urban Development of EU relevance. The projects help test new solutions, techniques, and planning models. In doing this, the EU seeks to ensure cities are actively involved in designing and implementing policy responses to their local challenges.

### Support offered by the EUI include:

- Innovative actions - up to €5m in ERDF, permitting cities to experiment as testbeds for their innovative idea and then transferring it to other cities
- Capacity building to strengthen cities' capacity through the design of SUD strategies, policies and practices in a way that is integrated and participative. This is achieved through both Peer Review calls and City-to-City Exchanges.

In November, EMRA as the Contact Point for the EUI helped deliver a National Capacity Building event alongside the Secretariat, the SRA and the NWRA. The focus was on our designated settlements and those participating in the THRIVE scheme. This Capacity Building event helped train a range of urban practitioners to help ensure their local development strategies and projects integrated New European Bauhaus values and principles in their design, implementation and outcomes.

In 2024, the EUI launched a call for Innovative Actions that concluded in October (results expected in Q1 2025). The Contact Point hosted an online information session in June as well as several bilateral meetings with interested local authority staff members. Two local authorities applied to be full partners with a number of others provisionally agreeing to be Transfer Partners. The City-to-City Exchange call remained open continuously during 2024 and two Peer Review calls were launched in Q1 and Q4, to which Irish local authority staff applied. EMRA co-hosted an online information session to support the second Peer Review call in October.

The EUI programme offer was also presented to the SRA and the NWRA, was featured at AIR, and was jointly presented alongside URBACT during the Conference on Ireland's Future Towns and Cities, as well as to the SRA's ETC network online.

URBACT and EUI in Ireland publishes joint newsletters approximately every second month. News articles are published on the Ireland webpage on the URBACT website. This is similar for the EUI Ireland webpage and for the Ireland Portico page. A joint account on the X Platform (formerly Twitter) is also regularly updated.



*The EUI supports European Union Member States' urban areas of all size with innovative actions, capacity and knowledge building, policy development, and communication on Sustainable Urban Development of EU relevance*



# Grow as a Region

# Communicating and showcasing EMRA's assets

## Website and social media

A key achievement in 2024 in the Assembly's communication was the redesign and launch of a new website, which coincided with the start of the new Assembly mandate in July. With a more modern design, improved navigation and better accessibility, this new website will enable the Assembly to fulfil its statutory obligations in relation to publication of official documents and EU JTF related information and to showcase the works carried out by the Assembly.

In the past year, the Regional Assembly has strengthened its social media presence to enhance public engagement, transparency, and accessibility. Our strategy focused on timely, informative, and community-driven content across key platforms. We prioritised consistent messaging, visual storytelling, and regular updates on policy developments, events, and project launches. By tailoring content to platform-specific audiences and leveraging analytics to refine our approach, we have seen steady growth in reach and engagement. Social media continues to be a vital tool in fostering dialogue with constituents and stakeholders, reinforcing our commitment to open and responsive governance.

In 2024, Twitter/X remained an important dissemination platform for EMRA as most of our stakeholders and partners have a presence there. Our Twitter audience gained 150 new followers in 2024, to reach a total number of 962. The growth was fully organic (non-paid for). Our LinkedIn profile had 848 followers on 31st Dec 2024.

A dedicated account has also been set up on X (formerly Twitter) for the EU Just Transition Fund Programme (@EUJTF\_ie). At the end of 2024 this account had 478 followers (up from 378 in 2023), had made 238 posts and re-posts which resulted in 64.4K impressions (down from 125.1K impressions in 2023). However, the reach and engagements on X/Twitter has fallen and the Assembly will take a review in 2025 of the available platforms to assess how and where to best reach our intended audiences.

EMRA currently has accounts with three platforms:



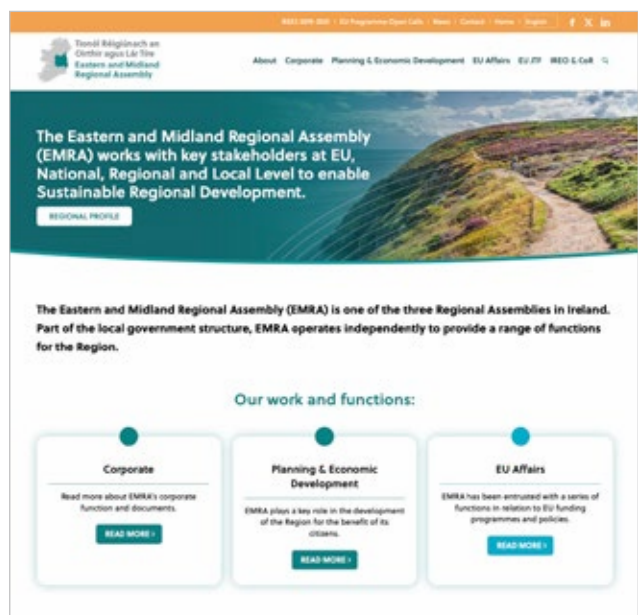
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly



@EMRASsembly & @IrishRegions\_EU @EUJTF\_ie



Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly



*In the past year, the Regional Assembly has strengthened its social media presence to enhance public engagement, transparency, and accessibility*



## Raising the profile of the strengths of local and regional Government

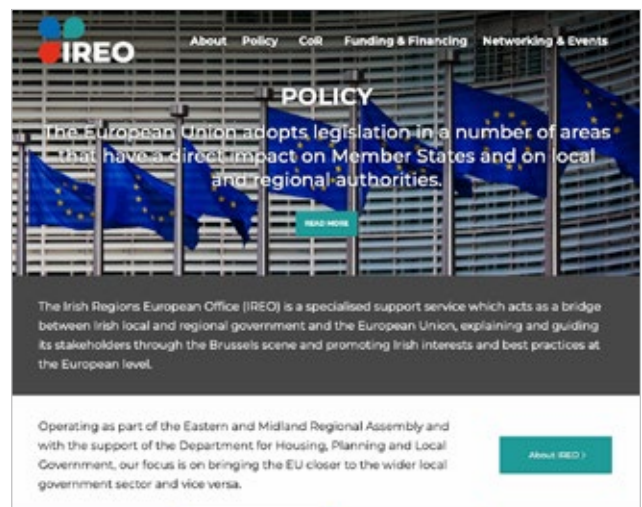
The Association of Irish Regions (AIR), the representative body for the three Regional Assemblies, held its annual training seminar in Adare (Co. Limerick) over two days in February under the theme “Building capacity to address the challenges of a changing Ireland”. This “Regions in Focus” event brought together Elected Members from Local Authorities across Ireland, senior public and civil servants from Ireland, Norway and Denmark as well as policy analysts, academics and Government Ministers to discuss and debate sub-national and regional government in Ireland. This edition focused on the critical junctures in Irish planning and development, such as the new Planning and Development Bill, the review of the National Planning Framework, and the ongoing challenges posed by climate change. Gathering 130 local councillors, the event was opened by AIR Cathaoirleach Cllr. Dermot Lacey and welcomes Ministers Norma Foley TD and Jack Chambers TD and Minister of State Kieran O’Donnell TD.

In June, EMRA was designated as Regional Innovation Valleys (RIVs) by the European Commission, joining a network of 149 similarly designated regions across Europe. All three Irish regions received the label which recognises the regions’ potential as hubs of innovation and economic growth within a network of 149 similarly designated regions across Europe. Being part of the RIV initiative unlocks new funding and international collaboration opportunities for the Region to enhance competitiveness and innovation on the Territory.

## IREO Communication

At the end of 2024, the IREO produced a booklet on the Impact of the Irish Delegation to the CoR for the 2020 – 2025 mandate. This highlights the 11 opinions produced by Irish Members and outlines the work and initiatives of the Irish delegation.

The IREO also updated its website regularly and published five newsletters during the year.



## Corporate, HR and Finance

In 2024, the Corporate Section continued to provide the administrative and organisation support services for the Assembly and the ongoing management of same. Functions such as Finance, Corporate Services and Human resources are delivered in line with organisational objectives.

The Corporate Plan 2019-2024 presents the functions of the Assembly and sets out EMRA's vision, objectives, and values.

**In line with the Corporate Plan, over the course of 2023 the Regional Assembly pursued three main strategic goals:**

1. Drive the regional agenda by ensuring ongoing and meaningful engagement with stakeholders to ensure coherence of regional development and shape policy-making
2. Deliver concrete impact on the ground by delivering projects and be a resource and support for the region
3. Grow as a region by raising our regional profile and strengthening the organisation

Those goals are translated annually into a Programme of Works. The 2024 Programme of Works was adopted by the Assembly in February 2024 and circulated to the constituent Local Authorities.

Reports on the progress towards the achievement of these goals are reported to Members quarterly through updates on the Programme of Works at Assembly meetings.

Every year, the Assembly adopts its annual report which compiles the activities carried out by the Assembly over the course of the year. The 2023 annual report was drafted by the executive team and adopted by the Assembly at the May meeting.



Following the local elections and establishment of a new Assembly in July, the Corporate Team and Senior Management Team started to work on the new Assembly Corporate Plan 2025-2030. Following the validation of EMRA Members, a series of consultation exercises was launched in the Autumn, targeting EMRA staff members, EMRA stakeholders and the general public. Questionnaires were shared with these three groups and a dedicated workshop was held with the Assembly staff. Further consultation and engagement were planned for 2025 with the Assembly Members.

### Freedom of Information

During 2024, the FOI officer co-ordinated management of requests received under the Freedom of Information legislation. The Assembly received no FOI request in 2024.

## Human Resources

The Human Resources Section continued to implement the adopted Workforce Plan for EMRA and worked with management across the organisation to deliver on their resourcing requirements in the context of the objectives of the Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

In 2024, EMRA appointed a Finance Officer, an Assistant Staff officer, an Executive Planner and a Clerical Officer. EMRA also worked closely with Public Appointment Service to launch a recruitment campaign for Senior Executive Planners.

Human Resources engaged with the Local Government Management Agency's HR Officers Network which facilitates knowledge exchange in relation to HR policies.

Staff members undertook necessary training throughout the year in areas of EU funds management, data protection, Single Pension Scheme, Public Procurement and application of internal policies.

### Staff Support Services

EMRA maintained its provision of staff support services as part of an overall employee assistance programme throughout the year.



*EMRA maintained its provision of staff support services as part of an overall employee assistance programme throughout the year*

## Finance

In 2024, EMRA's Finance team continued to ensure strong financial management, supporting transparency, compliance, and the effective use of resources across the organisation.

### Key areas of focus included:

- Compiling the 2023 Annual Financial Statement, which received formal approval from the Authority's Members in April 2024.
- Managing day-to-day financial operations including budget monitoring, procurement activities, and financial controls to support strategic and operational objectives.
- Ensuring the accurate processing of payments, recovery of funds, and reconciliation of financial records in line with public sector standards.
- Providing financial administration support for the Irish Regions European Office (IREO), based in Brussels.
- Overseeing payroll and pension arrangements for EMRA staff through the national shared services platform, MyPay.
- Coordinating the development of the 2025 financial estimates and budget, which were adopted by Members in October 2024.

The Corporate team facilitated the annual audit performed by the government auditor which took place in quarter 4 of 2024.



# Regional Assembly energy usage

There are no individual meters installed in Ballymun Civic Centre offices, hence we report only on the usage throughout the entire building.

Utility	2023	2024	%
Electricity (Mw)	1093	965	-11.71
Water (M3)	5792	5501	-5.02
Gas (M3)	176118	186115	+5.37

**2024 explanatory notes:**

- Building’s management continues to implement a policy of replacing lamps / light fittings with LED lights where possible.
- Building’s management continues to make adjustments to mechanical / electrical equipment to ensure optimum operation
- Increase in gas consumption can be account for by a colder Q1 in 2024



# Annexes

An aerial photograph of a city street, likely in London, showing a mix of modern and traditional architecture. A tall, thin pole stands prominently in the foreground on the right side of the street. The street is lined with trees and has a bus lane. In the background, there are hills under a clear blue sky. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal gradient on the left side, where the word 'Annexes' is written in white.

## List of Staff 2024

<b>Clare Bannon</b>	Acting Director	
<b>Bernadette Roe</b>	Assistant Director	
<b>Anne-Marie Wood Wolfe</b>	Acting Assistant Director / Senior Planner	
<b>Teresa Lennon</b>	Head of IREO	
<b>Padraig O'Shea</b>	Senior Executive Planner	(Resigned November 2024)
<b>Eugenia Thompson</b>	Senior Executive Planner	(Resigned February 2024)
<b>Laure Antoniotti</b>	Administrative Officer	
<b>Terence Connolly</b>	Administrative Officer	
<b>Katarzyna Kaczmarek</b>	Administrative Officer Finance	(Started 26th February 2024)
<b>Karl Murphy</b>	EU Affairs Officer	
<b>Owen Douglas</b>	Executive Planner then Acting Senior Executive Planner	
<b>Shane O'Donnell</b>	Executive Planner	(Started 18th June 2024)
<b>Helena Stromberg</b>	Communications Officer	
<b>Ruth Kilcullen</b>	EU Project Officer	
<b>Simon Musial</b>	Senior Staff Officer	
<b>Rory O'Sullivan</b>	Staff Officer then Senior Staff Officer	
<b>Tadhg Browne</b>	EU Support Officer	
<b>Geraldine Kenny</b>	Clerical Officer then Assistant Staff Officer	
<b>Ross Higgins</b>	Clerical Officer	
<b>Sarah Campbell</b>	Clerical Officer	
<b>Kiara Abbey</b>	Clerical Officer	
<b>Cara Farrell</b>	Clerical Officer	(Started 2nd September 2024)

## Annual Financial Statement 2023

### Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	
Expenditure	EMRA 2023
Salaries	1,050,483
Office Equipment & Supplies	3,332
Information Technology	38,674
Communications & Postage	12,709
Members Annual Allowances	48,163
<i>Travel &amp; Subsistence Allowances:</i>	
I - Members Travel & Subsistence	12,479
II - Members conferences	1,958
III - Staff Travel and Subsistence	34,062
Rent	89,939
Insurance	11,274
Training	23,036
Consultancy & professional Fees	71,668
Facilities, Energy & Rates charges	72,952
Advertising	3,207
Audit Fee	7,736
Miscellaneous	7,188
EU Affairs & IRO (COR)	261,245
European Urban Initiative (EUI)	12,482
EU Just Transition Fund (JTF)	502,375
Next2Met Interreg Programme	6,390
Origin EU Project	49,460
Progress Interreg Project	2,617
URBACT	40,804
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>2,364,231</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Local Authorities Contributions	1,238,187
Other Income	41,748
Superannuation	26,094
Committee of the Regions	260,255
COR Misc	990
European Urban Initiative (EUI)	12,482
EU Just Transition Fund (JTF)	502,375
Next2Met Interreg Programme	6,390
Origin EU Project	39,568
Progress Interreg project	2,617
URBACT	40,804
<b>Receipts total</b>	<b>2,171,509</b>
<b>Difference between Income + Expenditure</b>	<b>(192,722)</b>
Opening balance at 01/01/2023	1,496,614
Closing Balance at end of year Surplus	1,303,892

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	
Expenditure	EMRA 2022
Salaries	611,759
Office Equipment & Supplies	7,972
Information Technology	38,814
Communications & Postage	8,621
Members Annual Allowances	46,661
<i>Travel &amp; Subsistence Allowances:</i>	
I - Members Travel & Subsistence	11,104
II - Members conferences	1,248
III - Staff Travel and Subsistence	17,930
Rent	117,648
Insurance	6,585
Training	9,006
Consultancy & professional Fees	82,033
Facilities, Energy & Rates charges	70,299
Advertising	1,673
Audit Fee	6,994
Miscellaneous	10,708
EU Affairs & IRO (COR)	192,346
Communicating Europe	0
JTF	151,582
URBACT	26,953
National Practice Transfer Initiative (Urbact)	45,777
Next2Met Interreg Programme	49,114
Progress Interreg project	78,568
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>1,593,395</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Local Authorities Contributions	1,160,990
Other Income	53,364
Superannuation	14,536
Committee of the Regions	190,682
COR Misc	1,664
Communicating Europe	0
National Practice Transfer Initiative (Urbact)	45,498
URBACT	26,500
Next2Met Interreg Programme	49,114
Progress Interreg project	78,568
JTF	151,582
<b>Receipts total</b>	<b>1,772,499</b>
<b>Difference between Income + Expenditure</b>	<b>179,104</b>
Opening balance at 01/01/2022	1,317,510
Closing Balance at end of year Surplus	1,496,614

*Catherine Fitzgerald*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach

Date: Jan 17 2025

*Clare Bannon*

Ms. Clare Bannon, Acting Director

Date: Jan 09 2025

## Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

### Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	
Balance Sheet 2023	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
IT Equipment	€5,000
Furniture & Fixtures	€0
Heritage Assets	€10,000
	<b>€15,000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash at Bank	€921,482
Debtors	€497,455
Petty Cash	€476
Prepayments	€1,177
	<b>€1,420,589</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Creditors & Accruals	€116,697
Deferred income	€0
Bank Overdraft	€0
	<b>€116,697</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>€1,303,892</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>€1,318,892</b>
<b>Financed by</b>	
Balance @ 01/01/23	€1,496,614
General Reserve	€0
Inherited Fixed Assets from old DRA	€15,000
(Deficit)\Excess of Income over Expenditure	(€192,722)
	<b>€1,318,892</b>

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	
Balance Sheet 2022	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
IT Equipment	€5,000
Furniture & Fixtures	€0
Heritage Assets	€10,000
	<b>€15,000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash at Bank	€1,279,976
Debtors	€401,128
Petty Cash	€13
Prepayments	€1,427
	<b>€1,682,544</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Creditors & Accruals	€173,413
Deferred income	€12,517
Bank Overdraft	€0
	<b>€185,930</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>€1,496,614</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>€1,511,614</b>
<b>Financed by</b>	
Balance @ 01/01/22	€1,317,510
General Reserve	€0
Inherited Fixed Assets from old DRA	€15,000
(Deficit)\Excess of Income over Expenditure	€179,104
	<b>€1,511,614</b>

## Members Allowances and Expenses 2023

Members (Cllr.)	Fixed Allowance	Training	Committee of Regions	Conferences
Daryl Barron (Dublin)	€ 459.21			
Emma Blain (Dublin)	€ 612.28			
Aoife Breslin (Kildare)(CoR)	€ 1,146.86			
Fintan Brett (Kildare)	€ 760.49	€ 327.46		
John Browne (Longford)	€ 2,220.41			
Emma Coffey (Louth)	€ 197.94			
Avril Cronin (Wicklow)	€ 1,091.09			
Eamon Dooley (Offaly)	€ 2,618.41		€ 765.17	€ 340.00
Laura Donaghy (Dublin)	€ 538.80	€ 241.50		
Caroline Dwane (Laois)(CoR)	€ 1,702.03		€ 438.41	
Kate Feeney (Dublin)	€ 612.29	€ 156.91	€ 787.76	
<i>Kate Feeney (Cathaoirleachs Allowance)</i>	€ 7,312.50			
Tom Fortune (Wicklow)	€ 88.49			
Brian Fitzgerald (Meath)	€ 138.27			
Catherine Fitzgerald (Laois)	€ 1,779.16			
Eddie Fitzpatrick (Offaly)	€ 1,562.45	€ 545.85		
Mary Freehill (Dublin)	€ 222.65	€ 286.70		
James (Jim) Gildea (Dublin)	€ 623.70	€ 466.29		
Alison Gilliland (Dublin)	€ 612.29			
David Gilroy (Meath)	€ 930.03	€ 523.58		
Lyn Hagin Meade (Dublin)	€ 612.29	€ 264.90		
Mary Hanafin (Dublin)	€ 211.51			
David Healy (Dublin)	€ 612.29			
Deirdre Heney (Dublin)	€ 612.29	€ 805.90		
Janet Horner (Dublin)	€ 612.29	€ 403.24		
Vincent Jackson (Dublin)	€ 612.28			
Pamela Kearns (Dublin)	€ 306.14			
Conor Keelan (Louth)	€ 453.51			
Dermot Lacey (Dublin)	€ 612.28	€ 296.80		
Brigid Manton (Dublin)	€ 680.40			
Jimmy McClearn (CoR)			€ 316.41	
Padraig McEvoy (Kildare)	€ 840.29			
Declan McDonnell (Galway)(CoR)			€ 262.80	
Paddy Meade (Meath)	€ 1,223.48			
Declan Meenagh (Dublin)	€ 396.89	€ 307.70		
Justin Moylan (Dublin)	€ 83.50			
Aisling Moran (Laois)	€ 1,231.65			
Micheal Murphy (Tipperary)(CoR)			€ 2,255.87	
Colm Murray (Longford)	€ 2,180.56			
Peter O'Brien (Dublin)	€ 459.21			
Robert O'Donoghue (Dublin)	€ 89.97			
Damien O'Reilly (Meath)	€ 668.86			
Aengus O'Rourke (WestMeath)	€ 1,784.95			
Danny Owens (Offaly)	€ 1,303.24			€ 230.12
Robert Power (Kildare)	€ 1,222.85			
<i>Robert Power (Cathaoirleachs Allowance)</i>	€ 6,173.20			
Una Power (Dublin)	€ 459.21			
Gerry Walsh (Dublin)	€ 952.65	€ 505.92		





Tionól Réigiúnach an  
Oirthir agus Lár Tíre  
**Eastern and Midland  
Regional Assembly**

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