

Press Release

€100k available to community and voluntary organizations to promote dialogue on the Future of Europe - Minister Byrne

The Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne, TD, has today invited voluntary organisations, educational bodies and civil society groups to apply for funding under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's **Communicating Europe Initiative**.

The Communicating Europe Initiative is aimed at deepening public awareness of the role the EU plays in our daily lives and at improving the quality and accessibility of public information on European issues, particularly at regional or national level.

Projects should seek to communicate European issues, the role of the European Union, the Future of Europe and Ireland's place in Europe.

Funding of €100,000 has been made available under the scheme this year.

Announcing the launch of the scheme, *the Minister said that –*

Ireland is fully committed to being at the heart of the European Union. To be an effective member, we must maintain a vigorous public discussion about Europe - so that the public are aware of how the EU affects their lives, of the many benefits it provides as well as how they themselves can help shape the EU. The Communicating Europe Initiative is a key project in ensuring that our citizens are better informed on European issues and so can contribute more effectively to the ongoing considerations on the future of Europe.

Further details including application forms are now available from our DFA website. The closing date is Friday 31 July 2020.

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Note for Editors:

The **Communicating Europe Initiative (CEI)** was established in 1995 to raise awareness about the European Union and to improve the quality and accessibility of public information on European issues.

The programme is administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Projects which promote dialogue on the Future of Europe are particularly encouraged. €100,000 will be available this year for Communicating Europe Initiative funded projects.

Previous projects funded have included in the areas of contemporary EU issues, media,

schools interaction, employment opportunities in EU Institutions and EU related Citizens' Dialogues.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 31 July 2020. Successful applicants will be notified in early September. Further details and an application form are now available from our website DFA.ie