



Over the coming year there will be an announcement concerning the availability of significant E.C. funding to "local community bodies".

The funding for this initiative is from the European Structural Funds in the form of a Global Grant. The purpose of this global fund is to:

"Support the development of indigenous potential at a local level. It will focus on measures which encourage and support local economic development initiatives, stimulate new economic activity, and support for local community based socio-economic development. In particular, the grant will aim to support and tap fully enterprise initiatives and to promote integrated economic, social and community development at local areas. It will aim to support the main forces of local development by providing funds to develop leadership and capacity where required."

The following bodies have been identified as recipients of the global grant:

- The Area Based Partnerships set up under section VII of the PESP agreement.
- Other local community bodies (outside the 12 PESP areas).

Global funding has been allocated to a Special Traveller's initiative.

The Global Grant will be administered and monitored by an independent intermediary Company called Area Development Management Ltd. (ADM). The Board of ADM include the following:

Gerry Ward	<i>County Manager</i>
Philip Mulally	<i>Enterprise Trust</i>
Des Fahey	<i>Business Innovation Centres</i>
Brian Geoghegan	<i>Social Partner -Employers</i>
Tony Garahy	<i>Social Partner -Farmers</i>
Brendan Hodges	<i>Social Partner - Trade Unions</i>
Mary Dorgan	<i>Area Partnerships</i>
Philip Watt	<i>Area Partnerships</i>
John Burns	<i>Area Partnerships</i>
Anastasia Crickley	<i>Community Workers Co-op</i>
Bill Farrell	<i>Irish Rural Link</i>
Helen Landers	<i>Community Development Programme (outside PESP areas)</i>

ADM COMPANY

The establishment of the ADM Company to administer and monitor the global funds has been specifically required by the European Community as a prerequisite of receipt of global funds. This is a particularly welcome development as for the first time community representatives will be able to participate in decisions related to the administration and monitoring of E.C. funds.

The ADM's role may also be expanded to cover global fund allocation to the proposed County Enterprise Partnership Boards in the near future.

FINANCING

The global funds have been allocated as follows:

- ECU 5m - Area based companies
- ECU 4.2m - To other local community bodies
- ECU 0.5m - For technical assistance and feasibility support to local groups
- ECU 0.3m - Operating costs of the ADM Company
(note - ECU 1 is equivalent to IR £0.66)

INTEGRATED AREA ACTION PLAN

Before approving any funding from an eligible group, including the 12 area based partnership companies, the recipient of funding will have to submit an integrated area action plan drawn up in consultation with local groups and bodies, public agencies and local representatives of the Social Partners. Some of the measures which maybe considered eligible for funding include:

Enterprise creation and development, including financial assistance and information services for small enterprises, skills training, "diagnostic work" and promotion of the local area.

Training/Education and small scale infrastructures and environmental measures and measures designed to build the "capacity" of community organisations, including training and advice for the management of local development, inter-area networking and exchanges and the funding of community development workers.

Funding may be provided for technical assistance and feasibility support to local groups which can be helpful in drawing up the area action plans.

The detailed criteria for funding qualification have yet to be drawn up, and an advertisement explaining how local groups can apply for funding will appear in the media.

DOES YOUR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION NEED HELP?

Many organisations have difficulties with management, organisation and planning. With the advent of County Enterprise Boards, and the proliferation of schemes directed at the voluntary sector, these problems are becoming more pressing. Although a lot of expertise is available at community level, it is sometimes a good idea to bring in an outsider to take a fresh look at the situation. The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice offers an affordable consultancy service in the areas mentioned. Staff from the Centre, who have experience in community work, planning and management, can visit your area, meet with representatives, and advise on strategy and implementation.

If you would like further information contact

Bill Toner or Mick Creedon at 740814.