

LEADER PROGRAMME

2014-2020

Examples of Funded Projects



LEADER
Community-Led Local Development



Acknowledgements

This booklet was produced by the National Rural Network (NRN) and the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in conjunction with a number of Local Action Groups (LAGs), Implementing Partners (IPs) and Project Promoters.



The LEADER Programme 2014-2020



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development



National Rural Network



Ireland's European Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014-2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development.
Europe Investing in rural areas

LEADER Support for Rural Development

What can LEADER do for your rural area?

The LEADER approach to rural development is based on a community-led local development approach, in that it allows individuals, communities and businesses to develop projects that address the needs they themselves identify in their own communities.

Funded through Ireland's Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020, the current LEADER Programme provides €250 million in financial grant aid to support the social and economic development of rural communities across Ireland.

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 includes themes that reflect the overarching needs of rural Ireland. Each theme contains a number of sub-themes. Please see below:



The project examples in this booklet illustrate how LEADER funding has played a diverse role in addressing the needs and supporting positive economic, social and environmental development of rural areas under the different themes.

An Gairdín Beo



Carlow Town, Co. Carlow



An Gairdín Beo Teoranta is a community group that was established in 2015 and acquired two acres of land in Carlow Town with the aim of developing a community garden. The site is based on the grounds of an old school which the group transformed into a usable space for community gardeners. This LEADER project, entitled ‘Making An Gairdín Beo an Inclusive Space for the Whole Community’, supported the renovation of an on-site existing building to complement the garden. This refurbishment has made the building safe and usable for a number of events which can cater for up to 150 people all year round.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation; Sub-theme: Rural Towns
Local Action Group	Carlow LCDC
Implementing Partner	Carlow County Development Partnership CLG
Promoter	An Gairdín Beo Teoranta
LEADER Funding	€158,700.81

Blackwater Eco Tours



Villierstown, Co. Waterford



The Villierstown Education and Culture Project is a social enterprise established in 2010. Managed by local volunteers, it provides a number of services and activities including childcare services, a community boat club and now a tourism business called Blackwater Eco Tours. LEADER funding was used to purchase three self-drive boats for guided eco tours along the river Blackwater. The presence and growth of Blackwater Eco Tours has generated increased visitor numbers to Villierstown. This expansion has had additional benefits for other businesses and services in the locality. For example, Blackwater Eco Tours have since teamed up with a local glamping business to offer tourists a combined glamping and eco tour package.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation; Sub-theme: Rural Tourism
Local Action Group	Waterford LCDC
Implementing Partner	Waterford LEADER Partnership CLG
Promoter	Blackwater Eco Tours
LEADER Funding	€21,777.15

Wexford Home Preserves



New Ross, Co. Wexford



Wexford Home Preserves is an award winning, artisan food brand specialising in natural homemade jams and marmalades. As the business grew over the years, particularly after securing a number of new contracts, they had reached their capacity to fill, bottle and label additional products. This LEADER project supported the investment of equipment to enable them to address this shortfall. This funding allowed the company to purchase jam filling and labelling equipment, electrical and plumbing works, as well as additional fixtures and fittings, office furniture, and a new heating system. This has allowed Wexford Home Preserves to increase their production by 30% per day and has also put them in a position to take on additional contracts.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation; Sub-theme: Enterprise Development
Local Action Group	Wexford LCDC
Implementing Partner	Wexford Local Development
Promoter	Wexford Home Preserves
LEADER Funding	€51,950.57

Billy's Tearooms & Shop

 **Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny**



In recent years, Ballyhale has experienced a number of closures to local businesses including their local shop, Garda station, Post Office and two factories. This has limited the number of social spaces for community interaction. This LEADER project directly addressed the lack of social spaces and the need for a community shop in Ballyhale by supporting the refurbishment of an old cottage to create the space which is now a focal point for the local community. The shop stocks daily essentials alongside local produce. This project has also helped generate a sense of pride in the locality, by mobilising new groups and volunteerism on which the enterprise relies.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation; Sub-theme: Enterprise Development
Local Action Group	Kilkenny LEADER Partnership
Implementing Partner	Kilkenny LEADER Partnership
Promoter	KBK Community Co-op Shop Society Ltd
LEADER Funding	€60,000.00

Wild West Sailing



Calry, Co. Sligo



Wild West Sailing is a marine tourism business focusing on sail and powerboat training, recreational sailing and adventurous sailing experiences. It also serves the emerging market of ‘social prescribing’, which aims to use non-clinical interventions to tackle health problems. This LEADER project involved funding the purchase and fit out of a racing yacht capable of operating in the Atlantic Ocean. This has allowed Wild West Sailing to expand their fleet thereby creating more jobs in the area and attracting a larger number of national and international visitors to the region, all of which, positively impact on the wider local economy.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation; Sub-theme: Rural Tourism
Local Action Group	Sligo LCDC
Implementing Partner	Sligo LEADER Partnership Company Ltd
Promoter	Wild West Sailing
LEADER Funding	€30,624.69

Mobile Computer Training



Roscommon Town, Co. Roscommon



National Rural Network

Roscommon's mobile computer training suite project addresses the urban-rural digital divide by providing rural dwellers with greater access to online services and facilities. This LEADER project funded equipment (4 suites of 10 tablets, 1 tutor laptop and 1 projector) for bespoke computer and internet training to be delivered to socially and geographically isolated people, such as farmers, older people, community organisations, disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities/the housebound, who do not possess the necessary skills to go online. The project also combats loneliness and isolation and prevents associated health problems, both mental and physical, through participants attending its training courses and also by providing training on how to use different forms of social media.



Priority and Focus Area

Theme 1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation;
Sub-theme: Broadband

Local Action Group

Roscommon LCDC

Implementing Partner

Roscommon LEADER Partnership

Promoter

Roscommon LEADER Partnership

LEADER Funding

€19,680.00

Purchase of Exoskeleton Suit



Letterkenny, Co. Donegal



The No Barriers Foundation runs an inclusive health facility, equipped with specialist neurological equipment allowing anyone with a disability to rehabilitate and train. The provision of an Exoskeleton Bionic Rehabilitation Suit was not feasible to roll out via the HSE or a private healthcare provider. Therefore, the Foundation aimed to provide an Exoskeleton Suit to allow those in the North West to rehabilitate within their own communities. This LEADER project has had a major impact on those with limited mobility and disability in Donegal and surrounding regions by giving them an opportunity to access this service at an affordable price, which otherwise wouldn't exist.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 2 - Social Inclusion; Sub-theme: Basic Services for Hard to Reach Communities
Local Action Group	Donegal LCDC
Implementing Partner	Donegal Local Development Company CLG
Promoter	No Barriers Foundation
LEADER Funding	€121,035.00

Age Friendly Roscrea



Roscrea, Co. Tipperary



Age Friendly Roscrea is the first Age Friendly Town project in Tipperary operating under the Age Friendly Ireland Programme. Their aim is to make Roscrea a great place to live and grow old in. This LEADER project supported the development of a resource centre in the town, in particular to fund the purchase of electrical and catering equipment to kit out the facility, in order to support older citizens living in Roscrea. This has helped the centre to function more effectively for the number of different services and activities that it hosts such as an Age Friendly Friendship Service, a Senior Alert Scheme; and the Rosie Greys Singing group.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 2 - Social Inclusion; Sub-theme: Basic Services for Hard to Reach Communities
Local Action Group	Tipperary LCDC
Implementing Partner	North Tipperary LEADER Partnership
Promoter	Roscrea Age Friendly
LEADER Funding	€2,712.41

Butterfly Club Sensory



Rathkeale, Co Limerick



The Butterfly Club are the only group in West Limerick providing a social club for children and young adults with special needs, and in turn providing respite for families. This LEADER project provided funding for the conversion of two suitable empty rooms in their unit into sensory rooms for children with autism. The addition of these two sensory rooms has improved the level of service offered by the Butterfly Club to club members. Specialist sensory equipment was also purchased which enhances communication, puts children at ease, encourages exploration of senses, relaxation and helps crisis de-escalation. Each piece of equipment encourages the children and young adults to develop both physically and intellectually.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 2 - Social Inclusion; Sub-theme: Basic Services for Hard to Reach Communities
Local Action Group	Limerick LCDC
Implementing Partner	West Limerick Resources
Promoter	The Butterfly Club
LEADER Funding	€12,597.41

Accora Orchestra

 **Mullagh, Co. Cavan**



Accora Orchestra, originally known as Castletown Accordion Orchestra, was established in 1981. This LEADER project supported the orchestra rebranding itself as Accora Orchestra to represent the evolution of the group, and also by purchasing quality musical instruments and equipment including a bass accordion, percussion instruments, an amplifier, microphones, speakers and a trailer for transport. This has helped to enhance the orchestra's overall sound with a particular emphasis on outdoor performance. The rebranding process was a collaborative operation involving the youth orchestra, committee and design experts. The name 'Accora' is derived from the first five letters of accordion. It is also a play on 'chara', 'a chairde' and a 'chorus' reflecting the orchestra's ethos. Funding was also used to purchase a laptop and software to support more efficient administration.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 2 - Social Inclusion; Sub-theme: Rural Youth
Local Action Group	Cavan LCDC
Implementing Partner	Breffni Integrated CLG
Promoter	Accora Orchestra
LEADER Funding	€10,717.28

Meadow Maintenance Equipment



Portlaoise, Co. Laois



The Irish Wildlife Trust Laois/Offaly Branch is a voluntary organisation set up in 2013 to promote wildlife and habitat conservation in these counties. It also celebrates the rich natural heritage of the area. This LEADER project funded the purchase of equipment and machinery that enabled the branch to successfully establish and manage wildflower meadows by carrying out the annual cut on this type of habitat in partnership with local community groups. This equipment also allows the group to harvest local wildflower seed for use on these meadows which will help increase the diversity of species within them using Irish provenance native species. Such measures will help to deliver on the National Pollinator Plan and will also be of valuable assistance to Tidy Towns groups in the area.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 3 - Rural Environment Sub-theme: Local Biodiversity
Local Action Group	Laois LCDC
Implementing Partner	Laois Partnership Company
Promoter	Irish Wildlife Trust Laois/ Offaly Branch
LEADER Funding	€8,558.03

Protection of River Smearlagh Walk

Listowel, Co. Kerry



The gradual erosion of a popular walk along the River Smearlagh was posing a health and safety risk for walkers visiting the area. This LEADER project supported works to protect this riverside walk and enhance the biodiversity of the area following a report commissioned in 2014 that surveyed the walk and put forward recommendations on how to counteract the phenomenon. Large boulders were placed along the eroding edge of the river to protect the walkway and a vortex weir was put in place upstream to provide additional habitats for fish. Lyrecrompane Community Development worked closely with relevant stakeholders to oversee the necessary works and ensure that this valuable local amenity continues to be used by all.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 3 - Rural Environment Sub-theme: Water Resources
Local Action Group	Kerry LCDC
Implementing Partner	North East & West Kerry Development (NEWKD)
Promoter	Lyrecrompane Community Development CLG
LEADER Funding	€9,480.16

Sol Army A&D



Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow



Sol Army is a renewable energy enterprise based in rural West Wicklow. This LEADER project provided funding to support the development of a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) energy system for the business. Two aspects of the enterprise were supported through LEADER – a 3D product design and animation of the Solar Photovoltaic system and the support of a global patent for the design. This system, designed by Paul Carbury, features a number of unique engineering ideas which enable the collection of energy from the sun which then turns this energy into electricity. The containerised and transportable system is designed for use in areas where normal electrical systems are not in place namely disaster humanitarian areas and defence base army camps.



Priority and Focus Area	Theme 3 - Rural Environment Sub-theme: Water Resources
Local Action Group	Wicklow LCDC
Implementing Partner	County Wicklow Partnership
Promoter	Mr Paul Carbury
LEADER Funding	€21,993.75

Grant Aid Amounts & Rates

Capital / Equipment / Marketing

Private Promoter	50%	Maximum €200,000
Community Promoter	75%*	Maximum €200,000*

**Increased to €500,000 for certain projects*

Training

Private / Community Promoter	100%	Maximum €200,000
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Analysis & Development

Private Promoter	75%	Maximum €30,000
Community Promoter	90%	Maximum €30,000

Please note:

- *The minimum grant amount is €1,250*
- *Specific calls within each Local Action Group may have lower rates of aid and lower maximum funding*



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Department of Rural and
Community Development



National Rural Network (NRN)

The NRN provides up-to-date information, case studies, seminars and conferences to maximise the beneficial outcomes of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 for rural stakeholders on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).



Local Action Groups (LAGs) & Implementing Partners (IPs) NRN Database

Interested in applying for LEADER funding, or learning more about accessing assistance under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 from those responsible for selecting and approving community-led local development projects in your county? An interactive map featuring all Irish LAGs and IPs can be found in the LEADER section of the NRN website: <https://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie/leader/>

LEADER Storyboard NRN Database

An interactive Storyboard database of over 50 projects funded under the three themes of the current LEADER Programme can also be found on the NRN website. These project examples highlight the impact of the LEADER programme on rural Ireland, including its social, cultural and economic value.



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Rialtas
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2040

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LEADER GRANT AID

If you have a project idea and are seeking sources of funding, you may wish to consider if LEADER funding can be of assistance to you.

To find out more information contact your Local Action Group (LAG); details of your nearest LAG are listed on the Department's website;

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c45498-local-action-groups/>

Get regular Department updates on:



/deptrcd



National Rural Network (NRN)

The LEADER project case studies in this brochure have been developed by the National Rural Network (NRN); more examples of LEADER funded projects are available at;

<https://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie/LEADER>

For regular updates you can follow the NRN:



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