



LECo

Local Energy Communities



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme

2014-2020



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund

Community Loan Finance

Dr Orla Nic Suibhne

Western Development Commission

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Western Development Commission



- State agency who are adapting & leading change
- Today the WDC is working with regional, national and international partners to enable job and enterprise growth in the Western Region
 - Renewable energy research
 - Access to finance: Western Investment Fund €47m
 - Insight and analysis: Policy Team
 - Regional Development Team
 - Creative economy projects



Western Development Commission Community Loan Fund: Term Loans

- Term loan up to €100k
- Monthly repayment by direct debit
- Term 3-10 years
- Fixed annual 3% Interest rate
- To apply, send in WDC Application form and Business Plan



Western Development Commission Community Loan Fund: Bridging Loan

- **Bridging Finance against approved grant-aid letters of offer**
- **Fixed Annual interest rate of 1%**

To apply, send us in:

- **WDC Application Form**
- **Project Summary**
- **Copy of Grant Approval Letter of Offer**
- **Irrevocable Grant Mandate letter**
- **Grant Payment Authorisation Letter from the Grantor**



WDC: LECo

- Local Energy Communities (LECo) - <http://leco.interreg-npa.eu/>
- NPA 3-year project which commenced in August 2017, budget €1.9m
- Based on community energy & development of sustainable energy communities
- Lead partner is Centria University of Applied Science in Finland
- Partners in Germany, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Ireland
- The Local Energy Communities (LECo) will be based either as municipal enterprises or as a cooperative.



LECo – WDC activities

- PESTLE analysis to identify the barriers to community energy projects (Complete, available to download)
- Best Practice Legal Framework/Ownership for community energy (Complete, copies with me)
- Financing of community energy projects (Complete, copies with me)
- Handbook for Ireland, how to get started (Complete, copies with me)
- Energy village feasibility studies (6 in total in Ireland)
- Preparation of Factsheets & Best Practice Case Studies (mid 2019)
- Study Tour to Germany: November 2018 (40 community members)
- Online learning platform (Going Live May 2019)
- Energy Efficiency Training Webinars (Going Live September 2019)





The Project Partners

Centria University of Applied Sciences (Lead Partner) (FIN), Lohtaja Energy Cooperative (FIN), Western Development Commission (IRL), The Gaeltacht Authority (IRL), Luleå University of Technology (SWE), Jokkmokk Community (SWE), Arctic University of Norway (NOR), Renewable Energies Agency (GER)

