



Sustainable Energies Communities

LEADER 2014-2020

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The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



Department of Rural and
Community Development

An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**



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

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



Galway Rural Development is a local development company administering a range of EU and national programmes:

- ▶ Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)
- ▶ LEADER
- ▶ Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
- ▶ TÚS
- ▶ Community Employment Scheme

LEADER

Liaisons Entre Actions de Development de l'économie Rurale

LEADER is a Community Led Local Development (CLLD) approach that involves the participation of rural communities in developing responses to the key economic, environmental and social challenges identified in their areas.

LEADER Overview

- ▶ LEADER has supported the delivery of local development actions since its launch in 1991
- ▶ Whilst LEADER has primarily operated from a rural and economic development context, historically it has helped reduce poverty for individuals and rural communities
- ▶ The focus for 2014 - 2020 will continue to promote economic development in rural areas while also promoting social inclusion and poverty reduction
- ▶ Budget of €250m
- ▶ This is Galway Rural Development's fourth LEADER Programme to deliver
- ▶ The Local Development Strategy for East Galway was submitted on 31st March 2017

What makes LEADER Different?

- ▶ LEADER is the development programme of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development - focus on rural areas (from island to peri-urban)
- ▶ Bottom up approach - “community led local development”
- ▶ Responsive to local needs and circumstances
- ▶ Animation - a way of working *with*
- ▶ Innovation
- ▶ Displacement
- ▶ Deadweight

LEADER Themes and Sub-Themes

**RDP Theme:
Economic Development, Enterprise
Development and Job Creation**

Sub Themes:

Rural Tourism

Enterprise
Development

Rural Towns

Broadband

**RDP Theme:
Social
Inclusion**

Sub Themes:

Basic Services
Targeted at Hard
to Reach
Communities

Rural Youth

**RDP Theme:
Rural
Environment**

Sub Themes:

Protection and
Sustainable use of
Water Resources

Protection and
Improvement of
Local Biodiversity

Development of
Renewable Energy

Sustainability within LEADER

Sub-themes	Strategic Actions
Local Objective Three: Rural Towns <i>Regeneration and sustainability of Rural Towns and Villages in East Galway</i>	3.1 <i>Urban and village renewal initiatives</i> 3.2 <i>Provide environmental & cultural awareness & development of the countryside & built heritage</i>

Strategic Supports include:

- *Revitalising & enhancing community facilities and amenities, providing social, cultural or training facilities*
- *Support general appearance upgrading and environmental and amenity improvement works to enhance the characteristics of towns and villages, and make them more vibrant and a more attractive place to live*
- *Town renewal and restoration projects that make towns and villages more accessible, as well as develop access facilities which will enable people with disabilities to engage in recreational activity*

Sustainability within LEADER

Sub-themes	Strategic Actions
<p>Local Objective Four: Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities</p> <p><i>Support of and Investment in Social Inclusion Initiatives in Rural Areas in East Galway</i></p>	<p>4.1 <i>Skills training in the community</i></p>
	<p>4.2 <i>Provision of capital support for community infrastructure and services</i></p>
	<p>4.3 <i>Support community based initiatives that address infrastructural recreational deficits as well as social and cultural deficits</i></p>

Strategic Supports include:

- Provision of training in a wide variety of community skills*
- Develop and enhance social and recreational community facilities*

Sustainability within LEADER

Sub-themes	Strategic Actions
<p data-bbox="104 325 1230 429">Local Objective Six: Protection and Sustainable Use of Water Resources</p> <p data-bbox="104 465 794 515"><i>Water Resources in East Galway</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1302 325 2206 429">6.1 <i>Community – based management and conservation of water resources</i></p>
<p data-bbox="104 544 695 594"><i>Strategic Supports include:</i></p> <ul data-bbox="104 625 2346 729" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="104 625 2346 729">• <i>Support initiatives which create awareness of water management issues and encourage conservation i.e. reducing waste, grey water</i>	

Sustainability within LEADER

Sub-themes	Strategic Actions
Local Objective Seven: Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity <i>Safe Guarding Biodiversity in East Galway</i>	7.1 <i>Delivery of Biodiversity Awareness Programmes</i> 7.2 <i>Golden Mile Initiative</i>
Strategic Supports include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Support training, seminars and awareness programmes on the promotion and protection of local biodiversity</i>• <i>Creating awareness and eradication of invasive species of plant, or encourage communities to develop 'more attractive areas'</i>• <i>Fund small scale capital projects i.e. nature corridors and habitat creation and conservation</i>	

LEADER Grant Rates and Amounts

Rate of Aid for Community Project with no economic element				Rate of Aid for Project with economic element			
	Grant Aid % Up to Max.	Max Grant	Min. Grant		Grant Aid % Up to Max.	Max Grant	Min. Grant
Capital & Marketing	75%	€150,000	€5,000	Capital & Marketing	50%	€150,000	€5,000
Analysis & Development	90%	€30,000	€5,000	Analysis & Development	75%	€30,000	€5,000
Training	100%	€20,000	€5,000	Training	100%	€20,000	€5,000

Important: In some cases these rates and amounts may be reduced, for example where;

- ***Other grant schemes are available for similar projects***
- ***LEADER funds become more limited***

Type of projects

- ▶ Training - Enhancing the capacity of communities e.g. Reading the Landscape, Genealogy, Oral Heritage
 - Biodiversity Plans
 - Graveyard mapping
- ▶ Analysis and Development - Access for communities to specialist advice and support e.g. feasibility studies, plans, method statements
 - Walled garden, Mountbellew
 - Energy audit
- ▶ Capital support - Supporting heritage actors to maintain community assets e.g. conservation, equipment, capital works
 - infrastructure within the community
 - Irish Workhouse Centre

Case Study - Mountbellew Walled Garden

Preserving and celebrating local heritage to bring its multifaceted value to life



Mountbellew Walled Garden

- ▶ In the long term, the Mountbellew Heritage and Tourism Network aims to rejuvenate, conserve and develop the 18th century walled garden in Mountbellew, County Galway. Developing this existing heritage resource will provide a new amenity for the area. It will also complement other local heritage and recreation assets helping attract visitors to the area stimulating rural tourism.
- ▶ LEADER supported shorter-term goals of the project funding the preparation of a Development Plan for the walled garden site which is a protected structure. In the long term, this project will involve significant work, for example conserving original structures such as the limestone wall. The network aims to develop the project in line with best conservation practice and the Development Plan forms a key step in supporting restoration of the walled garden in line with this approach. LEADER funding has helped build research and evidence to guide the future development of the walled garden.

Mountbellew Walled Garden

- ▶ **Results:**

- ▶ *A comprehensive Development Plan*

- ▶ The Development Plan for the Bellew Walled Garden site is expected to be complete in March 2019. The final Development Plan will include historical site research, a comprehensive condition report and works programme accounting for ecological considerations. It will also assess the possibility of including a training programme on stone wall repair and other relevant conservation work as part of future development, alongside other awareness raising measures. To progress the project beyond its preliminary phase, the Mountbellew Heritage and Tourism Network plans to apply for further LEADER funding to support implementation of the evidence-based actions emerging from Finola Reid's garden design report and the LEADER funded Development Plan.

Mountbellew Walled Garden

- ▶ *Increasing awareness of local cultural heritage*
- ▶ The project has increased awareness of local cultural heritage and the walled garden site. Network members note how locals were aware of the limestone walls, but did not always have knowledge of the heritage value of what is located behind them.
- ▶ *Long term value*
- ▶ Expected future results include the development of a heritage-based local tourism amenity that can support local job creation. It is also expected that in the long term this project will have strong return on funding investment. Once the project is fully completed it aims to become self-sustaining, generating its own income from tourism. Long term, up to 10 year plans, may for example include the development of a coffee shop and interpretive centre at the walled garden site.

LEADER and Sustainability- Practical Points!

- ▶ Develop relationships
- ▶ Think laterally - who can support what? Phased approach?
- ▶ Intrinsic value of environment, heritage
- ▶ Sustainability as a driver of community cohesion: “This Biodiversity Plan got people talking about community development that never spoke about it before”
- ▶ Cultural fabric, language, music - sense of belonging to *place*.
Ownership
- ▶ LEADER - rural towns, rural tourism. Real economic value.

Thank you for your attention

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect. The rest of the slide is a plain white background.