



LEADER

‘Expression of Interest’

Guidance Notes



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



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

LEADER RDP 2014-2020—The Basics

The **LEADER** programme is an initiative to support rural development projects initiated at the local level in order to revitalise rural areas and create jobs. LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 is supported under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and the Gaeltacht Affairs.

Co. Sligo has a LEADER budget of €7.655 million to be allocated over the period 2014-2020. Sligo LEADER Partnership, is the implementing partner for the LEADER (Rural Development Programme) programme on behalf of Sligo Local Community Development Committee.

The Programme is set out over three main themes. Each theme is divided into sub-themes: these are the areas where you must determine where your project/idea/enterprise may fit best:

1. Rural Economic Development / Enterprise Development and Job Creation

- Rural tourism
- Enterprise
- Rural towns
- Broadband

2. Social inclusion through building community capacity, training and animation

- Basic services targeted at hard to reach communities
- Rural Youth

3. Rural Environment

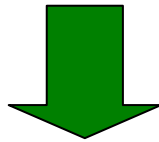
- Protection and sustainable use of water resources
- Protection and Improvement of local biodiversity
- Development of Renewable energy

Projects may attract a maximum rate of aid of 50% (Private/Individual/SMEs) or 75% (Community Groups for non-economic activity).

Sligo LEADER Two-Stage Application Process

Stage 1—Expression of Interest Form

The Expression of Interest Form (EOI) is used to outline your project proposal and check if it is eligible to progress to the second stage LEADER Application Form. Eligibility is checked against the LEADER Operating Rules of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and the County Sligo Local Development Strategy.



Pre-Application Workshop



Stage 2—LEADER Application Form

When your EOI form has been reviewed, and if your proposal is eligible, you will be invited to attend a **mandatory** Pre-Application Workshop. At the workshop you will receive your LEADER Application Pack and staff will give you assistance/guidance on how to fill out your application form and what documents you will have to include as part of your application.

Completing the EOI

1. Complete **all** sections of the form. If any are left blank please provide reason why. Failure to complete all sections will result in a delay in processing your EOI and will result in a delay to progressing to any potential 2nd stage application.
2. Provide a comprehensive overview of your proposal (consider the purpose of the project; who will benefit from it; what effect it will have on your locality economically, socially, environmentally; what jobs will be created/sustained; how sustainable the project is; project costs; lifespan of the project)
3. One project idea only per Expression of Interest form
4. Identify the LEADER sub-theme your project should be funded from and how it supports the Sligo Local Development Strategy.

Contact Us

Please return your fully completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form to the address below with any additional information you feel may be of relevance to your EOI.

Sligo LEADER Partnership
Sligo Development Centre
Cleveragh Road
Sligo

Tel: 071-9141138 **Email:** info@sligoleader.com **Web:** www.sligoleader.ie

Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 LEADER Expression of Interest (EOI) Form

NOTE: This Expression of Interest (EOI) form must be completed as a pre-cursor to an application proper for funding under the Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 (LEADER). Failure to complete this form completely will result in a delay in dealing with your Expression of Interest and any further processing of any subsequent application arising therefrom for funding under RDP 2014-2020.

Completion Guidance Notes:

- Please complete this form in full. **All fields are mandatory.**
- This form can be downloaded or printed from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government website (address below) and posted to your Local Action Group with any additional information you feel may be of relevance to your Expression of Interest.
- It can also be completed electronically and e-mailed to your Local Action group to **info@sligoleader.com**
- A hardcopy of this form can be obtained from your Local Action Group
- A Rural Development Officer from the Local Action Group will contact you when your **Expression of Interest Form** has been reviewed.
- If you require assistance in completing this form please contact your Local Action Group

Leader Project
County Sligo Leader Partnership Company Limited
Sligo Development Centre,
Cleveragh Road,
Sligo
(071) 914 1138

- **For further information on the Leader programme please visit**
<http://www.environ.ie/en/Community/RuralDevelopment/EURuralDevelopment/>



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Department of Arts, Heritage,
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Rural Development Programme (Leader) 2014 – 2020
Expression of Interest (EOI) Form
GENERAL INFORMATION
All Fields are mandatory and must be completed.

Your Local Action Group (LAG) name:	Sligo Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)																
Project Name / Title:																	
Promoter's / Community Groups Name:																	
Promoters Lead / Main Contact Name:																	
Promoters Main Telephone No.:																	
Promoters E-mail Address:																	
Promoter's Address:																	
Promoter Type: [Individual, Community Group, Organisation, Other].	<p>Classification of Promoter: <i>Cross appropriate box and include copies of supporting governing documents with this application.</i></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sole Trader</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Community Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Farmer(If Yes Herd No. is required below)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Trust</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Formalised Community/Voluntary group</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Companies Limited by Guarantee</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Limited Company</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Designated Activity Company limited by shares</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Public Body</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Private Individual</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative society registered under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sole Trader	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmer(If Yes Herd No. is required below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trust	<input type="checkbox"/> Formalised Community/Voluntary group	<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Companies Limited by Guarantee	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Company	<input type="checkbox"/> Designated Activity Company limited by shares	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Body	<input type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative society registered under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative society registered under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act																	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other																	
Herd Number:																	

Has Promoter / Community Group received Leader funding previously? Please tick one	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Address :	
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Project located in Gaeltacht area :	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Project located on Islands area :	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Estimated Project Costs: [Total estimated costs]	
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Leader Funding Required for project:	
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Projects Other Funding sources (If Any - Bank Loans etc)	
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Please give a brief description of the proposed project.
[Please use additional sheet and attach to this form if required.]

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Signed for and on behalf of the Promoter / Group:

I/ We confirm that the details supplied are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Name in Block Capitals: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____

Part or all of the information you provide will be held on computer and hard copy format. This information will be used for the administration of Expression of Interests and producing monitoring returns. LAG's may share information with each other and government departments/agencies to enable them to prevent fraudulent applications or for detecting crime and to co-ordinate processing of complementary applications. It may also be subject to meeting obligations under the Freedom of Information Act as amended. This policy does not affect your rights and your information will be held as prescribed under the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003.

For Office Use Only:

EOI Ref ID: _____ (Generated from RDP IT System)

Call Type: (Rolling / Time Limited) _____.

Main Programme Theme:

LAG Officer Signature: _____

Printed name of LAG Officer: _____

Date form Received from Promoter in LAG: _____/_____/_____

LAG Date Stamp:

Table of Sligo LDS Themes, Subthemes and Actions

THEME: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION	
Subtheme: Rural Tourism	
Indicative Actions	
1	Support for Tourism and Recreation Business animation, capacity building and training
2	To support and develop rural tourism, including heritage tourism and niche tourism accommodation to reach their full potential, both on an individual and collective basis.
3	To maximise the sustainable recreation tourism potential of County Sligo, through provision of necessary infrastructure, business supports and support for the development of the countryside as a recreational resource for all.
4	To support collective Destination Tourism Marketing
Subtheme: Enterprise Development	
Indicative Actions	
1	Animation, Training and Mentoring for Rural SMEs (start-up and development stage)
2	Support for Artisan Food producers and the artisan food product
3	Support for Creative Enterprises
4	Support for Vibrant Rural Enterprises and Social Enterprises
Subtheme: Rural Towns	
Indicative Actions	
1	Support the improvement of the physical appearance and attractiveness of small towns
2	Supporting the development of locally appropriate innovative projects in niche sectors in Rural Towns
3	Support for a Rural Town Seaside resort renewal programme
Subtheme: Broadband	
Indicative Actions	
1	Support to develop initiatives to address access to broadband as a barrier to the growth of rural communities
2	Support for the establishment of Broadband Hubs in Rural Towns

THEME: SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR HARD TO REACH COMMUNITIES**Subtheme: Basic Services****Indicative Actions**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Building the capacity and confidence of hard to reach communities |
| 2 | Improvement, upgrading and establishment of services and facilities in hard to reach communities |

Subtheme: Rural Youth**Indicative Actions**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Animation and training support for capacity building of rural youth |
| 2 | Support for the development of youth based services and facilities |
| 3 | Supporting Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship |

THEME: RURAL ENVIRONMENT**Subtheme: Protection and Sustainable Use of Water Resources****Indicative Actions**

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Raising awareness of protecting, sustaining and conserving water resources |
| 2 | Support for water conservation and protection projects |

Subtheme: Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity**Indicative Actions**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Support the increased awareness of the importance of protecting and improvement of local biodiversity |
| 2 | Programme of supports for the development local biodiversity based projects |

Subtheme: Development of Renewable Energy**Indicative Actions**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Support increased awareness and training in the importance of renewable energy |
| 2 | Programme of supports for rural businesses in the development of and uptake of renewable energy |
| 3 | Community Support Programme for increased renewable energy uptake |