

LEADER Axis 3 & 4 - The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

Diversification into Non-Agricultural Activities

Objective:

To significantly increase the percentage of holdings where the fixed assets of the farm are utilised in any non-agricultural activity by a member of the farm household for economic gain.

Eligible Activities:

- All non-agricultural enterprise activities, in particular, provision of tourism facilities i.e. the renovation of farm buildings for tourism purposes, walking, cycling, angling, pony trekking, bird watching etc.
- Development of niche tourism and educational services such as arts and crafts, speciality food provision, open farms etc.
- Development of farm shops selling home/locally grown produce and manufactured products.

Ineligible Activities:

- Support for agricultural activity.

Support for Business Creation and Development

Objective:

To position rural areas so as to provide economic activity of sufficient mass to attract people to live and work there.

Eligible activities:

- Selected investment in small rural enterprise space.
- Assistance for start-up enterprises and expansion of existing enterprises.
- Development of innovative products and activities.
- Assistance for adding value to local products, including support for business networks, collective marketing, local branding initiatives, and improved quality and development of artisan processing facilities.
- Utilisation of local ICT capacity.
- Actions to foster rural entrepreneurship particularly combined with support for small-scale research, analysis and development.

Note: Consultation will take place with Leitrim County Enterprise Board for projects applying in this area.

Encouragement of Tourism Activities

Objective:

To maximise the sustainable, regionally balanced, tourism potential of all rural areas through provision of necessary infrastructure and development of the countryside as a recreational resource for all.

Eligible activities:

- Analysis and provision of infrastructural needs for tourism and Countryside Recreation in a defined area.
- Maintenance of vernacular features – in a way that protects the heritage of the features – such as disused railway lines, canal towpaths, bog roads etc.

- Development of the use of forests for countryside recreation.
- Development of niche tourism such as crafts, speciality food provision, ecotourism, genealogy, archaeology etc.
- Development of the use of the internet and ecommerce for the provision of booking and information services to tourists.
- Support for the development of tourism facilities and amenities.
- Support for tourism marketing.
- Support for the provision of tourism accommodation.

Note: All projects will be assessed with reference to Tourism Policy Developed by the board.

Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population

Objective:

To identify and provide appropriate cultural and leisure facilities to local communities, not otherwise available to them.

Eligible activities:

- Initiatives will broadly address the provision of:-
- Amenity and leisure facilities.
- Support for cultural activities.
- Certain arts facilities.
- General community and recreational infrastructure.
- Innovative activities in local communities such as social and information networks etc.

Ineligible activities:

- Mainstream activities of sports organisations and bodies are excluded from support under this measure.

Village and Countryside Renewal and Development

Objective:

To provide appropriate supports to enhance the economic and social attractiveness of villages, small towns and the surrounding countryside.

Eligible activities:

- Environmental upgrading e.g. upgrading parks, civic areas, river walks
- Access facilities to amenities.
- Public utilities such as street lighting.
- General appearance upgrading (such as ornamental paving, street art, ornamental lighting) and renovation of relevant derelict buildings excluding traditional farm buildings.
- Farmers markets.

Ineligible activities:

- Traditional farm buildings are excluded from the upgrading and renovation of relevant derelict buildings.

Conservation and Upgrading Of The Rural Heritage

Objective:

To provide an integrated approach to the protection of the local heritage through a suite of related preservation actions, complemented by a range of initiatives designed to develop the sustainable economic contribution of the natural heritage.

Eligible activities:

- Actions to preserve and develop vernacular architecture, crafts, archaeology, cultural traditions etc.
- Integrated plans for the restoration and development of locally significant natural areas, features and areas of environmental significance.
- Community environmental actions to protect and restore the amenity value of local water resources and high value nature areas.
- Initiatives aimed at waste reduction.
- Alternative or renewable energy actions addressing suitability of new technologies to meet community energy needs, awareness actions for community groups and under certain conditions, capital assistance to community groups adopting such technology.

Ineligible activities:

- Conservation and protection of National Monuments, so defined under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.

Training and Information

Objective:

To equip rural dwellers and communities with the appropriate range of skills and training to derive maximum social and economic benefit from the initiatives available under the Axis.

Eligible activities:

- Provision of general/specialised training linked to the increased use of know-how and new technologies to make the products and services in rural areas more competitive.
- Provision of flexible learning opportunities in new technology for women, young people and minority groups in particular.
- Development of training facilities in rural areas (fixed/mobile).
- Facilitation of distance learning through the use of new technologies.
- Provision of relevant training courses to those wishing to add value to local products, in particular by facilitating access to markets for small production units via collective actions.
- Developing the capacity of rural dwellers to utilise ICT including Internet and broadband to access e-services etc.

Ineligible activities:

- Courses of instruction or training which form part of normal education programmes at secondary or higher levels, with the exception of courses or training provided through distance learning.

LEITRIM Development Company Ltd

Leitrim Development Company is an exciting new concept for the delivery of the Social Inclusion and Rural Development Programmes in Co Leitrim. The new company will cohesed the expertise of both Arigna LEADER and County Leitrim Partnership to ensure a streamlined approach and the seamless delivery of the two programmes within the county for combined benefit.

Vision

"Recognising our shared commitment and diverse experience, we strive to stimulate social, local, economic and rural development throughout Leitrim, for the benefit of all, particularly the marginalised, empowering them to engage with development opportunities that respond to their needs."

Contact

For further information on the programme or to arrange a visit with a Development Officer please see below,

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Programme Co-ordinator – Brian Smyth
Development Officer – James Duffy
Administrator / Development Officer – Ann Curneen

Rates of Aid

Measures and Sub-measures	Menu Options	Rate of Aid	Maximum Grant
		RDP	RDP
Diversification into non-agricultural activities	Capital/Other	50%	€150,000*
	A&D Private	75%	€30,000
Business creation and development	Capital/ICT Community	75%	€150,000*
	Capital/Other	50%	€150,000*
	A&D Community	90%	€30,000
Encouragement of tourism activities	A&D Private	75%	€30,000
	Capital/Community	75%	€150,000*
	Capital/Other	50%	€150,000*
	A&D Community	90%	€30,000
Basic Services for the economy and rural population	A&D Private	75%	€30,000
	Accommodation	50%	€150,000*
	Capital/Community	75%	€150,000*
	Capital Comm. Islands	75%	€150,000*
	Capital/Comm. Shop	75%	€150,000*
	Capital/Youth Cafés	75%	€150,000*
Village renewal and development	Capital/Other	50%	€150,000*
	A&D Community	90%	€30,000
	A&D Private	75%	€30,000
	Capital/Community	75%	€150,000*
	Capital Comm. Islands	75%	€150,000*
Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	Capital/Other	50%	€150,000*
	A&D Community	90%	€30,000
	A&D Private	75%	€30,000
	Capital/Community	75%	€150,000*
	Capital Comm. Islands	75%	€150,000*
Training and information	Capital/Other	50%	€150,000*
	A&D Community	90%	€30,000
	A&D Private	75%	€30,000
Training and information	Training courses	100%	€150,000*
	Capital/ICT Community	75%	€150,000*
	Facilities/Equip	50%	€150,000*

* In exceptional circumstances, and subject to prior written approval by the Department, grant aid up to €200,000 and €500,000 may be awarded to private and non-commercial community projects respectively.

".....a community lives by the hands that built it"



An Roinn Gnáthai Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta
Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



**Leitrim
DEVELOPMENT
company**

*Rural
Development Programme
2007-2013*

