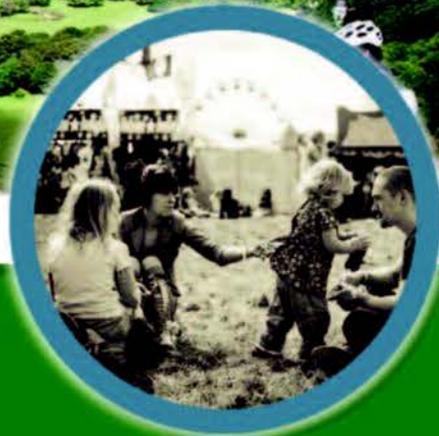
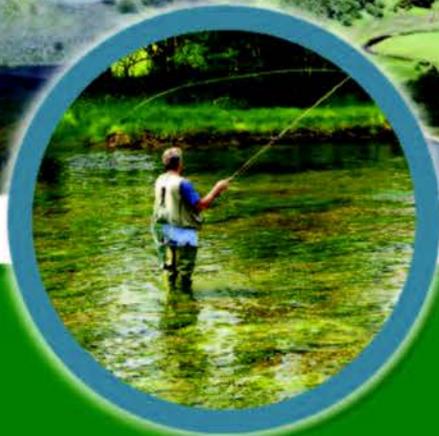
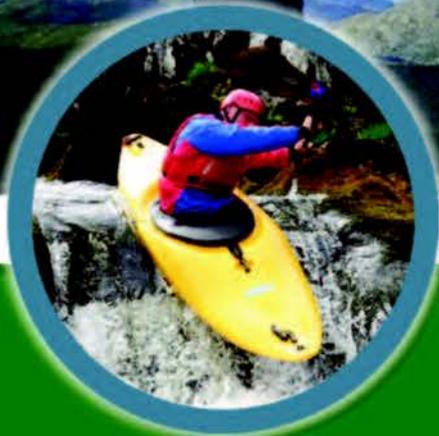


# EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD)

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP) 2014-2020 IRELAND

# LEADER



Acknowledgement with gratitude to Fáilte Ireland and Waterford Leader Partnership for the use of Photographic material and Officepro for the design of the cover (096-749 00/094 902 8009)

# EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD)

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP) 2014-2020 IRELAND

### GUIDANCE ON LEADER LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY for East Galway

#### SELECTION PROCESS <sup>1</sup>

#### Stage 1: Local Action Group Expression of Interest



<sup>1</sup> Disclaimer: This document is meant for information purposes only. Its aim is to outline the local development policy context and provide the reader with the information necessary to prepare an expression of interest to develop and implement a Local Development Strategy (LDS) under the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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Agreement	Contract between each Local Action Group and the Department
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CLLD	Community Led Local Development
CPR	Common Provisions Regulation (EU Regulation 1303/2013) <sup>2</sup>
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Dept./DAHRRGA	Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
ENRD	European Network for Rural Development <sup>3</sup>
EOI	Expression of Interest
ESI Funds	European Structural and Investment Funds
EU	European Union
Focus Areas	RDP focus areas are the specific areas of intervention for the 6 priority areas to facilitate the management of rural development policy through RDPs. Further details can be found on the website of the ENRD (see above).
LAG	Local Action Group
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LDS	Local Development Strategy
LEADER	Liaisons Entre Actions de Développement de l' Economie Rurale i.e. Links Between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
MA	Managing Authority
Promoter	Promoter of a project (beneficiary of funding).
RDP	Rural Development Programme also known as Operational Programme

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<sup>2</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R1303&from=EN>

<sup>3</sup> [http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/policy-in-action/cap-towards-2020/rdp-programming-2014-2020/policy-overview/en/policy-overview\\_en.html](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/policy-in-action/cap-towards-2020/rdp-programming-2014-2020/policy-overview/en/policy-overview_en.html)

<sup>4</sup> European Investment Funds (ESI) - this includes the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF)

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# General Information

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## What is Community Led Local Development (CLLD)/LEADER?

Rural Development Policy has become a significant component of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and is supported by funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which in turn is delivered through national co-financed Rural Development Programmes (RDP). The EAFRD promotes sustainable development in Europe's rural areas by addressing economic, social and environmental concerns. LEADER is now established as a key funding pillar within national RDPs. It supports the delivery of local development actions in rural communities and has formed part of EU rural development funding supports since its launch in 1991<sup>5</sup>.

As a community led local development (CLLD) approach LEADER is a methodology that places the rural community at its centre. Groups of people representing defined geographical areas in the form of Local Action Groups (LAGs) are charged with identifying the challenges to development in their own communities and developing initiatives to address these challenges. Through Local Development Strategies (LDSs), LAGs seek to facilitate participation by all parties who wish to contribute to this process, thus ensuring that each LDS is as representative of the community view as possible.

Over the lifetime of their respective LDS, LAGs will support those initiatives they consider will have the greatest impact on their communities' development thereby supporting the achievement of the aims and objectives of the LDS. In Ireland, €235m (7% of the total RDP allocation) has been allocated to LEADER for the period 2014-2020, made up of €152.75m in EU funding and €82.25m in national funding. Two agri food schemes will also be delivered using the LEADER approach bringing the total programme complement to €250m (see section on LEADER themes below for more detail).

## What is a Local Development Strategy (LDS)?

An LDS is a plan or method for achieving a specific goal or result. In the context of the LEADER element of the RDP, the LDS is a plan designed by members of rural communities through their LAGs to support the sustainable development of their own rural communities.

LDSs are designed through a "bottom-up" process facilitating participation by any member of the rural community and taking full and comprehensive consideration of not just local needs but also local potential. An LDS should examine the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that face a particular area and outline the types of actions to be supported to address the weaknesses and threats and exploit the strengths and opportunities.

The strategy should be a realistic reflection of how LEADER funding might best be used to support the sustainable development of the area outlined.

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<sup>5</sup> Basic Guide to LEADER [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/fact/leader/2006\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/fact/leader/2006_en.pdf)

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It should also fully consider any and all actions that are on-going or planned by other agencies charged with, or involved in, supporting development in their area. In particular, the LDS should be complementary to and support overall planning processes and outcomes developed by local authorities in line with the Government's commitment to a more integrated approach to community development at a local level.

The 2014-2020 regulatory framework set out in EU Regulations 1303/2013 and 1305/2013 outlines the basic elements of an LDS as follows:

- (a) the definition of the area and population covered by the strategy;
- (b) an analysis of the development needs and potential of the area, including an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;
- (c) a description of the strategy and its objectives, a description of the integrated and innovative features of the strategy and a hierarchy of objectives, including measurable targets for outputs or results. In relation to results, targets may be expressed in quantitative or qualitative terms. The strategy shall be consistent with the relevant programmes of all the ESI Funds concerned that are involved;
- (d) a description of the community involvement process in the development of the strategy;
- (e) an action plan demonstrating how objectives are translated into actions;
- (f) a description of the management and monitoring arrangements of the strategy, demonstrating the capacity of the LAG to implement the strategy and a description of specific arrangements for evaluation;
- (g) the financial plan for the strategy, including the planned allocation from each of the ESI Funds concerned.

### **What is a Local Action Group (LAG)?**

LAGs are made up of public and private partners from the defined geographical areas and must include representatives from different sectors of the local economy/ community (community, business, environmental, youth etc). They support local projects that contribute to the aims and objectives outlined in the LDS. The LDS (and as a result the LAG) will be selected for the 2014-2020 period by a Selection Committee put in place by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) a delegated body of the programme paying agency - the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).

The regulatory framework for LEADER requires a LAG to design and implement the community-led LDS through which LEADER interventions will be delivered.

The CPR (Art 34) outlines the mandatory tasks of a LAG for the purposes of delivering LEADER. These are:

- (a) building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations<sup>6</sup> including fostering their project management capabilities;
- (b) drawing up a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations, which avoid conflicts of interest, ensure that at least 50 % of the votes in selection decisions are cast by partners which are not public authorities, and allow selection by written procedure;

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<sup>6</sup> An "operation" or "project" in an Irish context is an intervention that receives LEADER funding.

- (c) ensuring coherence with the community-led local development strategy when selecting operations, by prioritising those operations according to their contribution to meeting that strategy's objectives and targets;
- (d) preparing and publishing calls for proposals or an ongoing project submission procedure, including defining selection criteria;
- (e) receiving and assessing applications for support;
- (f) selecting operations and fixing the amount of support and, where relevant, presenting the proposals to the body responsible for final verification of eligibility before approval;
- (g) monitoring the implementation of the community-led local development strategy and the operations supported and carrying out specific evaluation activities linked to the strategy.

The regulatory framework also allows for the funding to support both running costs and animation costs of LAGs. Some indications of the kinds of costs envisaged are;

**Running Costs:** Costs linked to the management and implementation of the LDS consisting of operating costs, personnel costs, training costs, costs linked to communication, financial costs as well as costs linked to monitoring and evaluation of the LDS.

**Animation Costs:** Costs of animating the LDS, promoting the LDS, facilitating exchange between stakeholders, providing information and providing support to potential beneficiaries to develop projects and prepare applications.

## What are the programme priorities of LEADER 2014-2020? (see Appendix 2)

Three long term strategic objectives have been identified for EU Rural Development policy in the 2014-2020 programming period:

- Improving the competitiveness of agriculture;
- The sustainable management of natural resources and climate action; and
- A balanced territorial development of rural areas.

These broad objectives are given more detailed expression through **6 priorities:**

1. Fostering knowledge transfer in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
2. Enhancing the competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability;
3. Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture;
4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry;
5. Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors; and
6. Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

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LEADER in Ireland will be programmed under **Priority 6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.**

In turn, each RDP priority identifies specific areas of intervention or focus areas. The focus areas of Priority 6 are:

- (a) Facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation;
- (b) Promoting local development in rural areas;
- (c) Enhancing accessibility to, and use and quality of ICT in rural areas.

RDP priorities and focus areas provide the basis for programming and the roll out of EAFRD support to rural areas. As LEADER aims to support the local development of rural areas, it contributes directly to focus Area 6(b). Accordingly, while LDSs may contribute to all priorities and focus areas, in Ireland it is expected that LDSs will contribute primarily to focus area 6(b)<sup>7</sup>.

### What is the legal basis for the LEADER elements of the RDP?

The RDP including LEADER is governed by two main framework EU Regulations.

The CPR is a single framework that governs the implementation of five European Structural Investment Funds<sup>8</sup> and seeks to facilitate a more coordinated approach to the delivery of these funds in each Member State. One of these funds is the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) under the RDP is funded.

The delivery of the RDP is also supported by a more specific EAFRD regulation EU Reg 1305/2013<sup>9</sup> which details the range and types of supports permissible under LEADER.

More detailed information regarding the regulatory frameworks that support the delivery of LEADER can be found on the website of the European Network for Rural Development at <http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>

### What is eligible for LEADER funding?

Guidance documentation from the European Commission<sup>10</sup> recommends that LEADER should not be strictly bound by the standard measures as outlined in the RDP.

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<sup>7</sup> The focus areas for the other 5 priorities are listed on the website of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD at [http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/policy-in-action/cap-towards-2020/rdp-programming-2014-2020/policy-overview/en/policy-overview\\_en.html](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/policy-in-action/cap-towards-2020/rdp-programming-2014-2020/policy-overview/en/policy-overview_en.html))

<sup>8</sup> These five funds are European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF).

<sup>9</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R1305>

<sup>10</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/guidance\\_community\\_local\\_development.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/guidance_community_local_development.pdf)

Accordingly, individual operations/ projects shall be eligible if they contribute to achieving the aims and objectives of the LDS and correspond to the objectives and priorities indicated for support in the draft RDP and Ireland's Partnership Agreement<sup>11</sup>. However, the LDS will be the main reference for the assessment of the eligibility of proposed projects. Where LEADER projects emerge that are thematically similar to other non-LEADER measures in the RDP, a process to ensure the avoidance of duplication / double funding will be put in place. To support this programming a set of indicative themes have been outlined in the RDP. These themes have emerged through research and consultation, and reflect the areas and sectors that stakeholders believe require the most support and have the most potential to support the sustainable development of rural communities. Details of these themes can be found in the RDP<sup>12</sup> and include;

## **1. Rural Economic Development / Enterprise Development and Job Creation**

- Rural Tourism
- Enterprise Development
- Broadband
- Rural Towns

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

- Basic Services for hard to reach communities
- Rural Youth

## **3. Rural Environment**

- A cross cutting requirement for all LEADER interventions
- Targeting multiple environmental objectives including the protection and sustainable use of water resources, the protection and improvement of biodiversity and the development of renewable energy.

## **4. Support for Food Producers**

In line with the LEADER themes identified in the RDP, an allocation of €15 million of the overall budget has been allocated to support for food producers incorporating;

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<sup>11</sup> Partnership Agreement is the national agreement between Ireland and the European Commission for the delivery of all of the European Investment Funds (ESI) - this includes the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the

<sup>12</sup> European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF)

[per.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/Partnership-Agreement-Ireland-2014-2020.pdf](http://per.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/Partnership-Agreement-Ireland-2014-2020.pdf)

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopment/ruraldevelopmentprogramme2014-2020/RDPFinaldraft03072014.pdf>

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- Support for artisan food producers, including a focus on collaborative proposals aimed at production quality and market issues
  - Support for regional product development, including a focus on marketing of distinctive local foodstuffs, and
  - Marketing and processing support for strategically identified sectors.

There will be two distinct schemes and support will be delivered using the LEADER methodology. However the allocation will not be assigned to individual LDS budgets but instead will be allocated to LAGs following an open call for proposals.

In making a submission under these schemes each LAG will have to identify in their LDS the challenges faced by these sectors and the needs that will be addressed. This will be a key criterion in any call for proposals under the schemes.

### **What are the sub-regional areas for LDS development and implementation?**

For the purposes of the RDP 2014-2020, rural areas in Ireland are considered to be those areas outside the cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford.

Ireland is reconfiguring the way in which local and rural development interventions are implemented in sub-regional areas. This is in line with Government policy to ensure that local government is positioned to support the effective and efficient delivery of local and rural development interventions. It contributes to an overall vision for local government as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level – leading economic, social and community development, delivering efficient and good value services, and representing citizens and local communities effectively and accountably.

This will also facilitate more effective methods of oversight, coordination and support, by both local authorities and the MA to ensure that the impact of all funding available to the sub-regional area is maximised.

While the selection process will allow for the emergence of a number of proposals for LDSs in any given area, in the interest of supporting a more coordinated and effective approach to the delivery of local development, the aim will be to facilitate, in as far as is possible, one LDS in each sub-regional area.

Where more than one qualifying LDS emerges for a sub-regional area, the available funding for that area will be shared to support the implementation of all LDSs selected in that area. These allocations will also be determined in an open and transparent manner, and will be based on the needs identified in the selected LDSs and the requirements for complementarity and demarcation between LDSs.

## **What area of East Galway can be covered by the Expression of Interest and LDS?**

For the purposes of developing a LDS for East Galway, the geographical area concerned is that relating to the area of Galway outside of Galway city and the Connemara municipal district. East Galway includes the municipal districts of Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Oranmore and Tuam.

In line with Article 33(6) of the CPR which prescribes that the population of LAG areas must be not less than 10,000 and not more than 150,000 inhabitants, LAGs will be required to outline the populations to be covered by their strategy.

The regulatory framework allows, however, for the funding of LDSs with populations outside of these limits in certain circumstances. This is to take account of sparsely or densely populated areas or to ensure the territorial coherence of areas covered by LDSs. Any intention to seek such derogation should be clearly flagged in the EOI submission.

## **How will LEADER 2014-2020 be implemented in Ireland?**

The Government's policy document on local government reform, Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government, published in 2012, envisages a closer alignment of local government and local development, including in relation to rural development.

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 establishes Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) in each administrative area and provides for the preparation of 6-year Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) by each local authority. The economic elements of the LECP are to be developed by the local authority itself, and the LCDC will be responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of the community elements of the LECP. Through their role in the development and implementation of the community elements of the LECP, LCDCs will be charged with supporting a more coordinated and coherent approach to public-funded local and community development activity, including rural development, within local authority areas.

In the context of LEADER, the primary aim of this approach is to ensure that all funding available to support rural development in the local authority area, including that allocated to the delivery of the LDS, is coordinated to maximise the impact of that funding for the benefit of communities while simultaneously ensuring efficient delivery of LEADER interventions.

As outlined above, Government policy envisages the development of a single LDS for each sub-regional area. Where multiple expressions of interest emerge from any given area, DAHRRGA will seek to secure cooperation between the relevant parties and ultimately support the development of one LDS for each sub-regional area where possible.

While Government policy envisages that LCDCs will play the central role in the implementation of LEADER LDSs in their own right as LAGs, the relevant LCDC will be the local oversight body for the implementation of selected LDS by any successful LAG in that sub-regional area. This oversight role aims to secure the coordination of an integrated planning approach to all local and community development funding at a level and the development and implementation of robust implementable LDSs that maximise the impact of LEADER and other public funded programmes in those sub-regional area.

LECPs will be consistent with regional, national and, as appropriate, European policies, programmes and objectives, thereby addressing the need for a more integrated approach to support for rural development at sub regional level.

### LDS Selection Process

Ireland will conduct a **two stage LDS selection process** that will seek to secure high quality LDSs and support the development of more integrated and effective implementation approaches for local and rural development.

The **first stage** will be an open call for expressions of interest from any group that can show broad local and community participation and wishes to be considered as a LAG for the purposes of the delivery of LEADER interventions in their respective areas.

The criteria to be addressed in the EOI phase of the selection process are outlined below.

Applicants qualifying at this stage will be invited to submit an LDS for the area outlined in their EOI. Applications will be assessed at both stages by a Selection Committee established under Art 33(3) of the CRP specifically for that purpose.

As detailed above where more than one EOI emerges in a sub-regional area, the applicants will be encouraged and supported to work together to prepare one LDS for the area in the interest of ensuring a more coordinated approach to rural development and maximising the impact of the available funding.

Interested parties will have 3 weeks to prepare and submit their EOI's. Interested groups will be offered separate meetings with officials managing the selection process where additional information is required. Completed Expressions of Interest must be returned by the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

### Indicative Budgetary Information

The overall budget available for the implementation of the LEADER element of the RDP 2014-2020 is €250m. The breakdown of the budget is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1	Indicative Allocation
Overall Fund	€250m
Cooperation Projects*	€10m
DAFM Artisan Foods	€15m
Reserve (potential REDZ initiative)	€5m
<b>Project/Admin: To be divided between 28 administrative areas</b>	<b>220m</b>

\* Projects where two or more LAGs work together, these projects can be national or international with the 2014-2020 programme placing a particular emphasis on Irish cross border cooperation

€15m of the overall budget will be allocated for the delivery of two agri-food schemes. This budget will be managed jointly by DAFM and DAHRRGA through open calls for proposals for all LEADER LAGs (as outlined previously). DAHRRGA will administer the cooperation element of the RDP, which will be allocated €10m of the overall budget. €5m will be held in reserve for the purposes of supporting Rural Economic Development Zones identified by the report of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas<sup>13</sup> (CEDRA).

The programme funding available to support the LDS in East Galway is €7,655,850.61.

While the EU regulatory framework allows for running and animation costs of up to 25% of the LDS, expenditure below the maximum outlined in the Regulation is encouraged in order to direct as much support as possible to project beneficiaries

The allocation for each LDS will be determined based on the available allocation using pre-defined criteria. These criteria will be notified to all successful applicants from stage 1 prior to the call for LDSs under stage 2. These allocations will take into account the requirements for complementarity and demarcation between LDSs in the area should there be more than one selected and will also consider the needs identified in the LDS needs analysis, a required element of the LDS design process. This process is likely to mean the funding allocations to multiple LDSs within a sub-regional area will not be the same.

Given each LDS will receive a minimum allocation in the region of €2m-€2.5m, the requirement not to have overlapping strategies. Given the limit to the overall LEADER budget, it may not be possible to fund all LDSs submitted. The final decisions regarding the selection and funding of strategies will rest with the Selection Committee.

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<sup>13</sup> [http://www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/merc/CEDRA/CEDRA\\_Report.pdf](http://www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/merc/CEDRA/CEDRA_Report.pdf)

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# Expressions of Interest Criteria

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Expressions of interest should be submitted on the EOI form (Appendix 1) to [rdp1420@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:rdp1420@ahg.gov.ie) by close of business on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The individual criteria to be addressed and a general outline of the information required to address them is detailed below.

## Criterion 1: Proposed geographical area for Local Development Strategy

Each expression of interest must outline the geographical area that the potential LDS will support. As indicated previously the allocation is assigned to East Galway. However, LDSs that propose to operate in smaller areas within East Galway will be considered and evaluated.

## Criterion 2: Local and Community Participation

The central element of a CLLD or LEADER approach is that communities are the key decision makers when it comes to funding to support the development of their own areas. This is founded on the belief that people who live and work in rural communities are best placed to decide what support is needed to facilitate the development of their communities.

Accordingly, potential LAGS are required to outline how they propose to engage their local communities in the sustainable development of their particular area. This engagement should include participation in decisions around the design of the LDS, as well as involvement in the decision making on applications from project promoters.

LAGs can be any size and can be organised as the LAG members see fit in the context of the development of their LDS. However, on-going decision making on interventions to be funded in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the LDS should be more structured (see section 3 of the EOI form).

## Criterion 3: LAG Composition

Article 32 of EU regulation 1303/2013 states that CLLD should be led by LAGs *“composed of representatives of public and private local socio-economic interests, in which at the decision making level neither public authorities, as defined in accordance with national rules, nor any single interest group represents more than 49% of the voting rights”*.

This section of the form should outline the proposed composition of the decision making element of the LAG and how the regulatory requirements outlined above will be complied with.

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#### **Criterion 4: General Description of proposed actions.**

While the EOI process does not require potential LAGs to outline in detail what they propose to include in their LDSs, a coherent and cohesive “vision” for their sub-regional areas and a basic outline of how they propose to support the achievement of this vision through their LDSs should be outlined here.

#### **Preparatory Support and Additional Information**

This section should outline the level of funding for preparatory support the LAG will require to support its LDS development process. Such as studies of the local area, costs related to the design of the Strategy, including consulting costs and costs related to the consultation of stakeholders and administrative costs during the preparation phase. (see article 35 (1)(a) of Regulation(EU) No: 1303/2013 for details of eligible expenditure.

This section should also contain any additional information that the potential LAG wishes to be considered as part of its EOI submission.

#### **Capacity Building for LDS Development**

A dedicated contact email address [rdp1420@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:rdp1420@ahg.gov.ie) and telephone number 096 24312 is provided for the submission of queries and requests for clarification throughout the LDS selection process, including requests for meetings with officials to discuss the process further.

## Assessment of EOI Submission

The assessment will be carried out by the LDS Selection Committee to be set up by DAHRRGA. The committee will comprise an independent chair, a small number of individuals experienced in the area of rural development (from both a practical and academic perspective) and relevant representation from DAHRRGA and DAFM.

In the expression of interest stage, the assessment will focus primarily on ensuring that the interested entities are community led, representative of the local community and plan to engage fully with the “bottom up” participative process.

DAHRRGA will work on an on-going basis with potential LAGs to ensure that any and all entities that are chosen to design an LDS have the required capacity to do so.

The assessment marking system in the table below will apply to the above criteria.

Each applicant entity must achieve a minimum mark as outlined below for each criterion and an overall mark of 50 to qualify for stage 2 of the LDS selection process.

Criteria	Available Marks (out of 100)	Minimum Mark
1. Proposed Geographical Area for the LDS	15	5
2. Local and Community Participation	30	11
3. LAG Composition	30	11
4. General Description of Proposed Actions	25	9

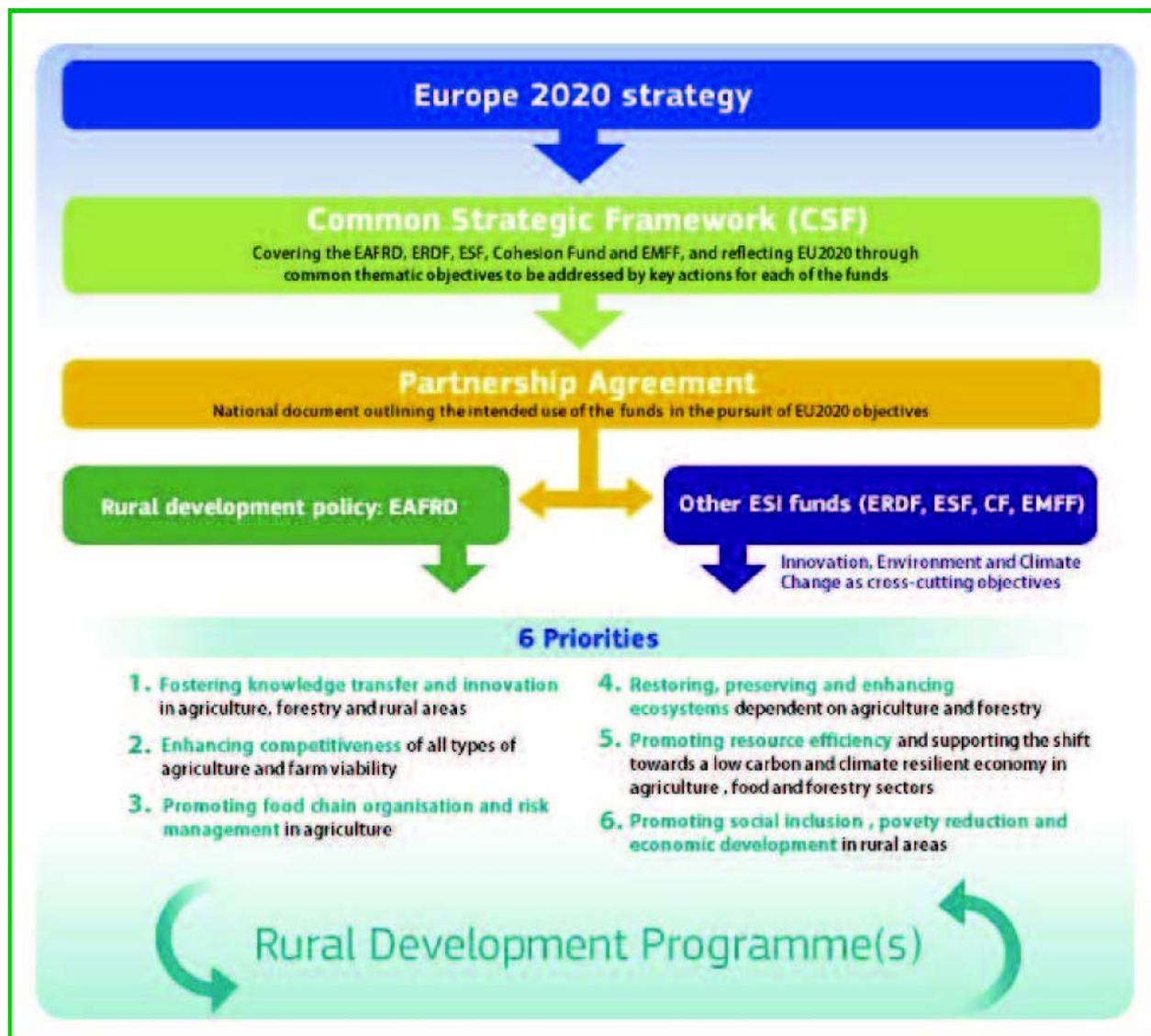
# Appendices

## Appendix 1: EOI Application Form

<b>LEADER 2014-2020: Expression of Interest for Local Action Group (LAG)</b>
<b>Proposed Name of prospective LAG:</b>
<b>Key Contact Details</b>
<b>Section 1: Proposed Geographical Area for LDS</b>
<b>Section 2 : Local and Community Participation</b>
<b>Section 3: LAG Composition</b>
<b>Section 4: General Description of Proposed Actions</b>
<b>Section 5: Preparatory Support and Additional Information</b>

## Appendix 2

### EU 2014-2020 Policy Framework Diagram



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## Additional Information Links

**European Network for Rural Development (ENRD):**

<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>

**European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DGAGRI):**

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm)

**Rural Development Section of DG AGRI**

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/index_en.htm)

**Directorate General Regional Policy Guidance on CLLD for Local Actors:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/guidance\\_clld\\_local\\_actors\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/guidance_clld_local_actors_en.pdf)

**Regulatory Framework Documents:**

<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-in-action/cap-towards-2020/rdp-programming-2014-2020/legislation-and-guideline#oneTab>

**CAP Reform Summary of Main Elements**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEM-O-13-621\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEM-O-13-621_en.htm)

**Guide to EU Rural Development after 2013** <http://www.ahrrga.gov.ie/en/Publications/Community/RuralDevelopment/FileDownload,35200,en.pdf>