



# LEADER Programme

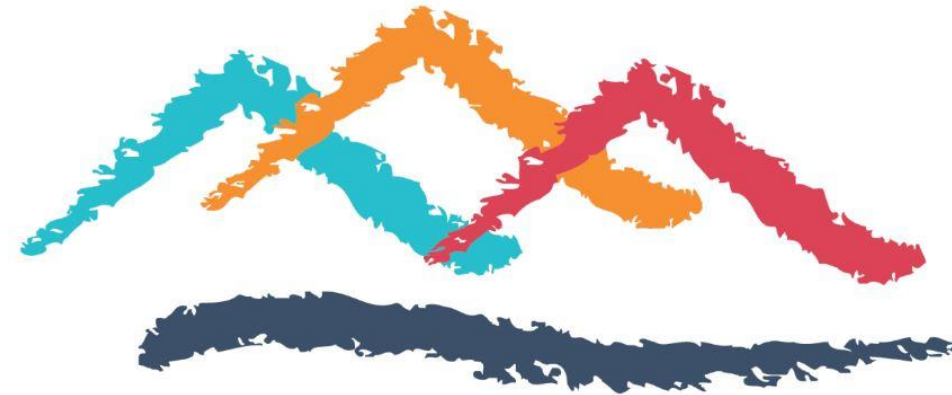


PPN Funding Seminar

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Alison Keogh

Rural Development Officer



## County Wicklow Partnership





# What is LEADER?

- Rural Development Programme
- Funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- Operating in Wicklow since 1992
- Applications and programme promotion - County Wicklow Partnership
- Financial Partner – Wicklow County Council
- Decision makers – Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- €4.7 million allocated to Wicklow Projects 2014 – 2020
- €1.2 million currently available to December 2022 – Applications Welcome!
- Additional funding of €1.2 million secured from Leader Food Initiative (LFI) for Wicklow Food Producers
- 2 x Co-operation projects





# LEADER Themes & Subthemes

<b>Economic Development, Enterprise Supports &amp; Job Creation</b>
Rural Tourism
Enterprise Development
Rural Towns
<b>Social Inclusion</b>
Basic Services
Rural Youth
<b>Environment</b>
Conservation and Protection of Water Resources
Biodiversity
Renewable Energy





# Transitional LEADER Programme 2021-2022

## Priority Areas

2. Supports to **rural businesses** seeking to reach new markets, expand, innovate and/or diversify in response to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and/or Brexit, with a particular emphasis on providing support to business in the food sector
3. **Community based projects** that seek to address the impact of **COVID-19 pandemic**
4. Supports and **capacity building** for communities that have not previously received assistance under LEADER or other rural programmes
5. Support for new and innovative projects in the areas of **climate change, environmental protection and the green economy**
6. Maximising the potential of **broadband and the digital economy** in communities, including through skills development and building awareness and usage of available remote facilities
7. Projects that develop the concept of the **Smart Village initiative** or Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZs)





# Supports Available

- **Analysis & Development / Feasibility Studies** 90% (community) 75% (enterprises) grant aid to a max of €30,000
- **Capital Grants** (works projects or purchase of equipment) 75% (community groups & social enterprises) 50% (private enterprises) to a max of €200,000
- **Training grants** (LEADER specific training elements) up to 100% grant aid

New LDS to be developed in 2022 – community consultation





# Application Considerations

- Business & marketing plan & projections
- Eligibility with LEADER Operating rules and programme themes and priorities
- Planning Permission
- Title/lease/legal agreement
- Procurement - process differs depending on type of project and amount contact CWP in advance to advise
- Applicant general, tax and financial information
- Matching and bridging funding
- Other funding sources





# Application Process

- Complete Expression of Interest (EOI)
  - Full application process
  - Evaluation Committee
  - File audit
  - LCDC – final decision
  - Grant contract (where project is approved)
  - Work commences
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- Process can take time! Promoters are advised to contact CWP as early as possible
  - No works/purchasing can take place until a grant contract is in place





# Thank You!

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