



Comhshool, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government



Rural Development Programme

Ireland 2014-2020

LEADER: Introduction to Stage 2

LDS Selection Process

Finola Moylette, PO, Rural Development



Policy Context

- Rural development is a significant component of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and is supported by funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- RD Strategic Objectives
 - Improving the competitiveness of agriculture;
 - The sustainable management of natural resources and climate action;
 - A balanced territorial development of rural areas.



Policy Context

Six Priorities for Rural Development

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.**



Policy Context

- LEADER is specifically programmed under priority 6: promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.
- Each RDP priority is further defined by a number of specific focus areas.
- Focus Areas for LEADER: Priority 6:
 - Facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation;
 - Promoting local development in rural areas;
 - Enhancing access to, use and quality of ICT in rural areas



Selection Process

- LEADER Element of RDP delivered using the framework of a Local Development Strategy
- Selection process is the system used to identify the highest quality most robust LDS to support the delivery of LEADER funding in a given sub-regional area.
- Ireland conducting a two stage process to select LDS for 2014-2020 programme period
- Stage 1: Any entity who wished to be considered as a Local Action Group was invited to submit an expression of interest (EOI)



Selection Process

- Stage 2: Any entity that was successful in stage 1 was invited to prepare a Local Development Strategy for their area.
- All entities invited to prepare a strategy will be provided with preparatory support.
- Department will also organise collective capacity building events that will look at LEADER themes and technical aspects of programme implementation e.g. Public Procurement.
- LAGs will be given minimum of 6 months to develop their LDS however completed LDS will be accepted before the end of the 6 month period.



Selection Committee

- Dr Tommy Cooke (Chair) - Professor Emeritus, Dublin Institute of Technology, Retired Head of Community Links Programme.
- Ms Finola Moylette - Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Delegated Paying Agency for LEADER in Ireland.
- Mr Fintan O'Brien – Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Managing Authority, RDP Ireland
- Mr Damien Clarke (TBC) – Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Representative of FLAGS (Fisheries Local Action Groups)
- Mr Ciaran Lynch – Development Manager, Limerick Institute of Technology, Tipperary Campus
- Dr David Meredith - Senior Researcher, Teagasc
- Mr Tom Hayes – Divisional Manager Micro Enterprise and Small Business, Enterprise Ireland
- Ms Fiona Buckley – Head of Experience Development, Fáilte Ireland



Local Development Strategy (LDS)

- An LDS is the Local Action Groups 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 community led 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



Local Development Strategy (LDS)

- An LDS should examine the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) 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.



Local Development Strategy (LDS)

- 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 (LECP) in line with the Government's commitment to a more integrated approach to community development at a local level.



LEADER Ethos

- When delivering the LEADER elements of the RDP it is not just about compliance with the regulatory framework.
- LEADER is about participation and consultation and in this context LAGS should constantly look at ways to ensure that their membership is representative of their areas.
- LAGS should be open to engagement with their communities on an ongoing basis.
- As the part of the LAG that makes decisions is the representative part it is important that decision making is as representative as possible.



Governance

- It is important that the ethos of the LEADER approach is reflected in the decision making processes and in this context the following will apply;
- Regulation 1303/2013
 - 49%/51% Representation on the LAG decision making body
 - at least 50% of the votes in selection decisions are cast by partners that are not Public Authorities
- Programme Rules
 - 60% of the LAG membership must vote in order for project decision to be valid
 - This can be facilitated by both written procedure and other methods such as substitute membership.



Operating Rules (OR)

- LEADER is governed by a strict regulatory regime and will require a substantial set of rules to support its implementation.
- However DECLG will endeavor to ensure that the rules to be applied are only those that are absolutely required to ensure the most effective delivery of the programme.
- While basic building blocks for OR are in place the workshop this afternoon will be the start of a more iterative process to complete the rules that will facilitate feedback from you.
- Further more detailed session on the OR will follow the dissemination of a draft document in the coming weeks.



Strategy Framework and Appraisal

- The remainder of this event will be dedicated to the LDS framework as outlined in the documentation.
- Padraig and Catherine will go through all of the sections and explain what is expected in the LDS submission.
- The afternoon will take the format of workshop sessions looking at participative planning, formulating an action/financial plan and the operating rules.
- An outline of the assessment process will also be given.



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Any Questions?

Thank You!