

# LEADER 2014-2020

## Document 2: Local Development Strategy (LDS) Framework

Catherine Morris



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



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Food and the Marine  
An Bunús  
Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara



National Development Plan  
Transforming Ireland

## Local Development Strategy (LDS)

- LAG to develop an LDS for LEADER (2015-2020).
  - Community-led plan to support the sustainable development of the geographical area.
  - Seeks to address the identified needs and maximise the development potential.
  - Based on a series of local objectives that are aligned with a LEADER sub-theme.
  - Underpinned by the key features of the LEADER approach.
- LAGs have a minimum of 6 months to develop the LDS.

# LDS Framework (2015-2020)

- LDS Framework is based on 11 individual sections.
- Details the minimum requirements of each section.
- Framework is linked to the appraisal criteria for the LDS.
  - 1. The LAG**
  - 2. LDS Area Profile**
  - 3. Participative Planning**
  - 4. LDS Action Plan**
  - 5. Strategic Integration**
  - 6. Networking and Co-operation**
  - 7. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation**
  - 8. Financial Plan**
  - 9. Additional Information**
  - 10. Form of Declaration**
  - 11. Appendices: (Mandatory & Non Mandatory)**

## Format of the LDS (2015-2020)

LDS should be produced as a free text document (Arial 11pt font).

- Suggested max. page length is 100 pages (excluding appendices).
- Appendices can be used for additional info.
- Clear, concise and well presented.
- Produced in English or Irish.
- Appropriately structured (table of contents, glossary, chapters, numbered paragraphs etc.)
- Use of maps and charts to support analysis, where relevant.
- Available in electronic (pdf) & hard copy format.



## Section 1: The Local Action Group (LAG)

- Establish if the LAG has the required capacity to effectively manage and implement the LDS.
- Key roles of the LAG, in the Irish context:
  - Animation and capacity building;
  - Managing calls for proposals;
  - Decision-making on projects;
  - Financial management;
  - Monitoring of projects and the overall LDS.




## Section 1: The Local Action Group (LAG)

- In Section 1, the LAG will provide an overview of the partnership and how it operates:
  - Organisation Details & Primary Contact for LEADER
  - Legal Description of the LAG
  - LAG Composition and Decision-Making
  - LAG Roles & Responsibilities
  - LAG's Financial Management
  - LEADER Staffing
  - Project Selection Procedures for LEADER
  - Relevant Experience of the LAG

## Section 2: LDS Area Profile

- **LDS Area Selection:** define & briefly describe geographical area.
  - LDS is not required to cover the entire sub-region / however the area should be sufficiently cohesive.
- **Socio-Economic Profile:** develop a socio-economic profile of the area from relevant data and research.
  - Indicators: demography; economic activity; labour market.
  - Consistent data sources that can be disaggregated to local level (county, ED, SA).
  - Official Statistics, Pobal Maps, secondary research.
  - Identify significant changes in data / draw comparisons.

## Section 2: LDS Area Profile

- **Review of Key Services/Programmes:** detailed overview of the existing services (relevant to LEADER) in the area.
  - Identify gaps, minimise duplication & highlight areas of need.
  - LDS must demonstrate co-ordination and complementarity.
- **Area Needs Analysis:** analysis of the data in the Area Profile.
  - Analysis to be undertaken where it adds value to the LDS.
  - Highlight key changes; gaps; barriers and potential opportunities.
  - Summary of critical conclusions  identify priority issues.



## Section 3: Participative Planning

- **Public Consultation:** active participation to identify needs, challenges & potential of the local area.
  - Evidence of broad and inclusive community engagement.
  - Utilise participative methodologies.
- **SWOT Analysis:** highlight the internal and external factors that have the potential to impact on the area.
  - Shared understanding on ways to build on the strengths; overcome weakness; exploit opportunities; minimise threats.
- **Agreed LDS Priorities:** outline how the priorities were agreed.
  - Open and transparent decision-making / with clear rationale.

## Section 4: LDS Action Plan

- LAG to develop a clear and realistic LDS Action Plan.
- High-level overview of agreed priorities of the area (2015-2020).  
**Action Plan Template** is provided in Appendix 1.
- Provides a framework for LDS implementation by setting out:
  - **Vision**
  - **Local Objectives**
  - **Financial Allocation**
  - **Strategic Actions** – target group, geographic area, lead/ collaborating organisation(s), timeframe, anticipated outputs.

## Section 5: Strategic Integration

- **Cross-Cutting Objectives:** form common goals across the RDP and add value to the LDS.
- LAG must demonstrate how the c/c objectives have been addressed in the LDS.
  - **Innovation:** flexibility to pilot new methods, products, technology, markets, social innovations.
  - **Environment:** promote greater awareness of environmental issues, use of natural resources, heritage preservation.
  - **Climate Change:** stimulate actions that reduce the carbon footprint in the local community.

## Section 5: Strategic Integration

**Policy Context:** in developing a more ‘joined-up’ approach, the LDS must demonstrate:

- Alignment with the priorities of relevant local plans.
  - **Local:** LECP/draft LECP, relevant Sectoral Strategies.
  - **Regional:** Regional Planning Guidelines, Sec. Strategies.
- Linkage with relevant policy priorities at national/EU level.
  - **National:** dependent on local LDS priorities.
  - **EU:** Europe 2020 objectives.
- Ref. the strategies/plans that impact on the LDS (up to a max of 10) & identify policy objectives that are most relevant.



## Section 6: Networking & Co-operation

- **Networking:** overview of the LAGs proposed participation in networking structures.
  - Important opportunity to share learning and disseminate good practice/innovation.
- **Co-operation (inter-territorial & international):** brief outline of the LAGs proposals for co-operation projects.
  - Demonstrate how the proposed co-operation activity fits with broader LDS.
  - Co-operation projects will be managed by DECLG.

## Section 7: Monitoring, Review & Evaluation

- The LAG to develop a Monitoring & Evaluation Plan.
- **Monitoring:** the programme indicators measure the achievement of local objectives and report on local projects.
  - Outline the methodology for data collection from projects;
  - Detail how the data will be controlled for quality.
- **Review:** LAG should carry out a regular review of the LDS to measure progress and identify challenges.
  - Outline how the LAG will review the LDS & frequency.



## Section 7: Monitoring, Review & Evaluation

- **Evaluation:** capture the more qualitative aspects of LEADER.
- LAG to outline how they propose to evaluate the LDS:
  - The objectives of the evaluation;
  - Governance for managing the evaluation;
  - Specific themes that the LAG wishes to evaluate;
  - Data requirements;
  - Methodology to be employed;
  - Timelines / Key Milestones;
  - Proposed approach to communicating the findings.

## Section 8: Financial Plan

- LAG to develop a Financial Plan for the LDS (2015-2020).
- Provides a forecast of expenditure for delivery of LDS objectives. Financial Plan Template (Excel) in Appendix 2.
- Based on the budget for sub-regional area as advised by DECLG.
- Eligible Costs: Preparatory Support; LAG Administration; Animation; Implementation of Operations/Projects under LDS.
- Total Administration and Animation costs must not exceed 25% of the total budget cost.
- Demonstrate value for money and be linked to the Action Plan.





## Section 9: Additional Information

- Option to include additional information, not referenced in the framework, which is relevant to the LDS.
- NB – this must comply with the LDS suggested maximum page length, which is 100 pages (excluding appendices).



## Section 10: Declaration & Disclaimer

- Authorises the submission of the LDS, on behalf of the LAG.
- LAG Chairperson must sign/date the 'Declaration and Disclaimer' template (Appendix 3).
- Signed copy of the minutes of the meeting which confirms that LAG membership agrees to the content/submission of the LDS/Action Plan.



## Section 11: Appendices

- LDS will include a number of mandatory and additional appendices (if relevant).
- Mandatory Appendices: outlined in the framework under the minimum requirements of each section.
- Additional Appendices: used for supplementary info - should be kept to a minimum and directly relevant to the LDS.



**Pobal**

**Holbrook House**

**Holles Street**

**Dublin 2**

**[leader@pobal.ie](mailto:leader@pobal.ie)**

**[www.pobal.ie](http://www.pobal.ie)**