Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Mid-year report 2017
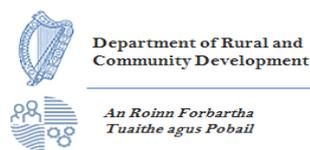
Glossary of terms

BMW   Border, Midlands and Western Region
CSO   Central Statistics Office
DHPCLG   Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
DRCD   Department of Rural and Community Development
DSP   Department of Social Protection
ESF   European Social Fund
FTE   Full Time Equivalent
HI   Headline Indicator
IRIS   Integrated Reporting and Information System
KPI   Key Performance Indicator
LCDC   Local Community Development Committee
LCDP   Local and Community Development Programme
LCG   Local Community Group
LECP   Local Economic and Community Plan
LES   Local Employment Service
NEET   Not in Education, Employment or Training
PI   Programme Implementer
QNHS   Quarterly National Household Survey
S&E   Southern and Eastern Region
SICAP   Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
VAT   Value Added Tax
YEI   Youth Employment Initiative

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Chapter 1 Introduction and context

1.1   Introduction

This mid-year report provides an overview of the implementation of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) between 1 January and 31 May 2017. SICAP, which is funded and overseen nationally by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)[1], aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.

This report outlines key information about the programme in this reporting period, describing its overall performance in relation to finance, key performance and headline indicators as well as an analysis of programme target groups and access routes. An overview of training and supports delivered during this period is provided and key themes, issues and learning during the reporting period are identified.

The information presented in this report was extracted from the Integrated Reporting and Information System (IRIS) and collated by the finance, programme and community support units in Pobal.

1.2   SICAP overview

SICAP is funded and overseen by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). The programme is co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and receives a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). It aims to tackle poverty, social exclusion and long term unemployment through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

SICAP's vision is to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment through community development approaches and targeted supports. The programme commenced on 1 April 2015 and will run until 31 December 2017. It is the successor programme to the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP). The programme is overseen and managed at county level by Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and implemented by 46 Programme Implementers (PIs) in 51 geographic areas (known as Lots).

SICAP has been designed to impact on the following areas:

- Engagement with the most hard to reach in the most disadvantaged areas;
- Focus on youth interventions to address youth unemployment;
- Preparing and supporting disadvantaged people to take up mainstream services;
- Contribute to citizen engagement in line with national policy.

The Programme has three goals, which are outlined in Table 1.1 below.

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[1] Up to July 2017 the programme was overseen by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG).

Table 1.1 The goals of SICAP

Goals of SICAP
Goal 1: Strengthening local communities. To support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues.
Goal 2: Promoting lifelong learning. To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with and progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches.
Goal 3: Helping people become more job ready. To engage with marginalised target groups/individuals and residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed but who do not fall within mainstream employment service provision, or who are referred to SICAP, to move them closer to the labour market and improve work readiness, and support them in accessing employment and self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities.

1.3   Changes in operating environment

The macro-economic context and labour market indicators have continued to improve in the first half of 2017. Unemployment has continued to fall since Q2 2015 and the overall health of the labour market appears to be improving. There has been a decline in long-term and youth unemployment but regional disparities continue to be present. For a full overview of the changing policy context see the 2016 SICAP end of year report (Pobal, 2017).

Table 1.2 Key labour market statistics between Q2 2015 and Q1 2017

	Q2 2015	Q2 2016	Q1 2017
Unemployment rate	9.8%	8.6%	6.8%
Long-term unemployment	5.5%	4.4%	3.6%
Youth unemployment rate	22.4%	19.0%	13.2%

*Source: CSO QNHS Q2 2015, CSO QNHS Q2 2016, CSO QNHS Q1 2017

The most recent *Action Plan for Jobs* was published in January 2017 and it is underpinned by a wide range of actions spanning many sectors. SICAP is included in the Action Plan as a means to address new labour market challenges – see below.

135	Implement the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) which, as the primary social inclusion programme of Government, will have a strong focus on community activation, social inclusion and community development, while also focusing on those hardest to reach.
	(DHPCLG, LCDCs, Pobal, relevant departments)

The *Second Progress Report: A Programme for a Partnership Government 2016 – 2021* was published in April 2017. The *Programme for Government 2017 Annual Report* was launched in May 2017 setting out government commitments for 2017. This core objective to make life better for everyone - individuals, families and business - is at the heart of the Government's work. SICAP was included in the Annual Report under 'Community supports' where it was stated that over €100m has been invested in communities by the programme from 2015 to 2017.

The continued growth in the numbers of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness is a policy and social inclusion area which has impacted on SICAP. The second quarterly progress report on the *Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness* was published in February 2017.

Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development was published in early 2017. It is the first ever government strategy aimed at delivery of change for people living and working in rural Ireland and will act as an overarching structure for the co-ordination and implementation of initiatives across Government which will benefit rural Ireland. There is specific mention of SICAP under 'Investing in the future of rural Ireland'. It is also listed in Action 49 as the main social inclusion programme of Government, and Actions 136 and 137 as means to increase work readiness – see below for details.

49	Invest €37.5m to implement the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, SICAP, as the main social inclusion programme of Government to support 2,800 local community groups, including low income workers and young people not in education, employment or training, and support lifelong and community education opportunities for disadvantaged communities and individuals.	Ongoing to end 2017	DHPCLG, LAs, Pobal, LCDCs
136	Through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), increase work-readiness and support individuals in accessing employment and self-employment.	Q4 2017	DHPCLG, Pobal, LAs, LCDCs
137	Review impact of SICAP in rural areas and consider this review in the development of a re-designed SICAP for 2018.	Q4 2017	DHPCLG, Pobal

Early 2017 also saw the publication of the *Action Plan to Expand Apprenticeship and Traineeship in Ireland 2016 – 2020* which sets out how state agencies, education and training providers and employers will work together to deliver on the *Action Plan for Education* commitments on the expansion of apprenticeship and traineeship in the period.

The DEIS Plan for 2017 was also launched. The plan sets out goals to be achieved in terms of improved outcomes for children and the aim is to narrow gaps between children and develop better education pathways. Specific reference is made to SICAP and the fact that communities that are vulnerable, disadvantaged or under threat are supported through a range of provision including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). SICAP and LCDC interventions are particularly important to those elements of the School Completion Programme which seeks to extend supports beyond the school day and the school year through holiday and weekend provision.

A *Review of the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance*, undertaken in 2016, was published in 2017 and found that the scheme effectively supports jobseekers' entrance to the labour market. It refers to SICAP as making available self-employment supports under Goal 3 with the aim of assisting individuals into self-employment and draws upon IRIS data to provide information on business sectors. As of January 2017, the qualifying period for Back to Work Enterprise Allowance was reduced from 12 months to 9 months (for those with an underlying eligibility for Jobseeker's Allowance).

1.4 Programme developments

There have been no significant programme developments in the first five months of 2017, except the addition of the new indicator 8b: *Number of children/young people (non-caseload) identified as at risk of early school leaving receiving support*. The indicator was added to clearly identify work to prevent early school leaving.

The lack of significant programme developments is primarily due to the fact that the current iteration of the programme will be ending in December 2017. Any programme improvements have been deferred and will be built into the new SICAP 2018 – 2022 which begins on 1 January 2018.

Work has begun on designing the successor programme. SICAP 2018 - 2022 will be based on the current programme with a number of key changes. The re-designed programme will reflect Ireland's changing social and economic landscape, including reduced unemployment and a general economic recovery. The new programme design has been informed by the results of a national consultation process which took place in the first half of 2017. This consultation process was moderated by an independent facilitator, Crowe Horwath. The objective of the consultation was to give a wide range of stakeholders, including Programme Implementers, LCDC members and local authority support staff, the opportunity to provide feedback on the current programme and inform the design of the next iteration of the programme. It consisted of a national consultation event, three regional sessions, a number of smaller workshops, and two online surveys. Crowe Horwath has submitted a report to the Department and Pobal setting out the main elements and themes of the feedback.

The design of the new programme has also considered provisional findings from an ESRI evaluation of elements of SICAP work. The programme has been reoriented to be better placed to respond to national needs and priorities, as well as local needs as identified by LCDCs through their Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP).

Chapter 2 Programme performance

This chapter provides an overview of the key performance and headline indicators for the programme, a brief analysis of the target groups and information relating to referral routes to the programme within the five month reporting period (January to May 2017).

Please note that data quality controls, programme compliance and clarifications issued during the reporting period may have an impact on actuals reported for this period. Any subsequent changes to data will be reflected in the end of year report.

2.1 Key performance and headline indicators

The programme's performance is measured against two Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and a range of other headline indicators, which are presented in Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1. The table presents the annual targets for the two KPIs and the headline indicators alongside the actual achievement towards these targets during the period between 1 January and 31 May 2017.

Table 2.1 Headline indicators 1 January – 31 May 2017

Ref	Headline indicator	Annual target	Actuals achieved	% of annual target
1.	Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (KPI 1)	45,712	22,405	49%
1.b	% of disadvantaged individuals (15 years upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis living in a disadvantaged area	27%	6,397 (28.55%)	N/A
2.	Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI 2)	2,838	1,856	65%
3.	Number of local community groups whose members have been assisted by SICAP to participate in local, regional or national decision-making structures	1,019	571	56%
4.	Number of individuals (15 years upwards) in receipt of a Goal 2 educational support	22,159	10,311	47%
4.a	% of those targeted should have educational attainment of Leaving Certificate or lower	70%	7,766 (75.32%)	N/A
5.	Number of individuals who have progressed along the education continuum after registering with SICAP	1,677	1,626	97%
6.	Number of young people (aged 15-24) in receipt of a SICAP, ESF and YEI Goal 2 educational support	3,445	1,820	53%
6.a	% of those targeted should have educational attainment of Leaving Certificate or lower	80%	1,643 (90.27%)	N/A
7.	Number of young people (aged 15-24) who have progressed along the education continuum after registering with SICAP	366	343	94%
8a.	Number of children/young people (non-caseload) in receipt of a Goal 2 educational or developmental support	44,272	20,933	47%
8b.	Number of children/young people (non-caseload) identified as at risk of early school leaving receiving support	3,869	2,321	60%
9.	Number of individuals (15 years upwards) in receipt of Goal 3 employment supports	25,589	14,255	56%
9.a	% of those targeted should have educational attainment of Leaving Certificate or lower	60%	8,939 (62.71%)	N/A
10.	Number of individuals (15 years upwards) progressing to part-time or full-time employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support	1,708	1,006	59%

11.	Number of individuals (15 years upwards) progressing to self- employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support	5,997	2,629	44%
12.	Number of young people (aged 15-24) in receipt of a SICAP, ESF and YEI Goal 3 employment support	3,509	1,936	55%
12.a	% of those targeted should have educational attainment of Leaving Certificate or lower	69%	1,666 (86.05%)	N/A
13.	Number of young people (aged 15-24) progressing to part-time or full-time employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support	521	248	48%
14.	Number of young people (aged 15-24) progressing to self-employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support	239	74	31%
15.	Number of social enterprises assisted under SICAP	178	180	101%

Key Performance Indicators

KPI 1 is the *total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis* and the mid-year target for 2017 is 18,626. In the first five months of 2017, SICAP supported 22,405 individuals, therefore exceeding its mid-year target by 20%. 40 Lots (80%) exceeded their mid-year targets for KPI 1 (one Lot did not have a target set). All 10 Lots, which did not meet their mid-year target for KPI 1, achieved above 80% of their mid-year target.

KPI 2 is *the number of local community groups assisted under SICAP* and the mid-year target for 2017 is 1,283. 1,856 LCGs were supported between 1 January and 31 May 2017, exceeding the mid-year target by 45%. The vast majority (47 or 94%) of Lots met their mid-year targets for KPI 2 (one Lot did not have a target set). The three Lots, which did not meet their mid-year target for KPI 2, achieved above 50% of their mid-year target.

Headline indicators

The programme performance in relation to the majority of indicators has been good during the reporting period with all but one of the headline indicators on course to meet the annual targets (i.e. have exceeded 42% of the annual target during this reporting period[2]). The targets for three indicators were significantly exceeded:

- HI 5: *Number of individuals who have progressed along the education continuum after registering with SICAP* (97%). This indicator has almost reached the annual target of 1,677.
- HI 7: *Number of young people (aged 15-24) who have progressed along the education continuum after registering with SICAP* (94%). This indicator has also almost met the annual target of 366.
- HI 15: *Number of social enterprises assisted under SICAP* (101%). The target for this indicator has been reached at mid-year.

This is consistent with the mid-year point in 2016, when the annual targets for the same three indicators were reached or almost reached at mid-year point.

The progression of young people (aged 15-24) to self-employment continues to be a challenge. The only indicator for which the level of achievement on 31 May 2017 was lower than 42% was HI 14: *Number of young people (aged 15-24) progressing to self-employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support.* In the reporting period, only 74 young people progressed to self-employment, which constituted 31% of the annual target.

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[2] The mid-year reporting period for 2017 is five months, hence the mid-year target is 42% of the annual target.

The other two indicators, which were slightly below the mid-year target in 2016, HI 11 and HI 13, were above the mid-year target of 42% in 2017, with 44% and 48% levels of achievement respectively.

The level of achievement for one indicator (HI 6: *Number of young people (aged 15-24) in receipt of a SICAP, ESF and YEI Goal 2 educational support*) was reduced significantly compared to mid-year point in 2016. In the first five months of 2017, 53% of its annual target was reached, while for the first six months of 2016, this figure was 95%. This is likely a result of a change in caseload recording practises following a clarification issued to LCDCs to ensure that all young people supported in group exercises in the school environment were to be counted as assisted on a non-caseload basis from 1 September 2016 (Pobal, 2017).

The following chart (Figure 2.1) displays the data from Table 2.1 (with the red line indicating the 42% mark for mid-year) showing the progress made against all indicators during this reporting period.

Figure 2.1 Mid-year progress against headline indicator targets (1 January – 31 May 2017)

Indicator	Progress
1. Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (KPI)	49%
2. Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI)	65%
3. Number of local community groups whose members have been assisted by SICAP to participate in local, regional or national decision-making structures	56%
4. Number of individuals (15 years upwards) in receipt of a Goal 2 educational support	47%
5. Number of individuals who have progressed along the education continuum after registering with SICAP	97%
6. Number of young people (aged 15-24) in receipt of a SICAP, ESF and YEI Goal 2 educational support	53%
7. Number of young people (aged 15-24) who have progressed along the education continuum after registering with SICAP	94%
8a. Number of children/young people (non-caseload) in receipt of a Goal 2 educational or developmental support	47%
8b. Number of children/young people (non-caseload) identified as at risk of early school leaving receiving support	61%
9. Number of individuals (15 years upwards) in receipt of Goal 3 employment supports	56%
10. Number of individuals (15 years upwards) progressing to part-time or full-time employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support	59%
11. Number of individuals (15 years upwards) progressing to self- employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support	44%
12. Number of young people (aged 15-24) in receipt of a SICAP, ESF and YEI Goal 3 employment support	55%
13. Number of young people (aged 15-24) progressing to part-time or full-time employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support	48%
14. Number of young people (aged 15-24) progressing to self-employment up to 6 months after receiving a Goal 3 employment support	31%
15. Number of social enterprises assisted under SICAP	101%

2.2 SICAP target groups – individuals

SICAP supports a broad range of target groups who are disadvantaged or marginalised from society and who are unable or unlikely to access mainstream supports. All programme individual beneficiaries must belong to a SICAP target group. Target groups under SICAP are defined as 'issue-based' or 'area-based'.

Area-based approach to tackling disadvantage

Programme Implementers are required to adopt an area-based approach to tackling disadvantage. They are expected to use Pobal Maps and the Pobal HP Deprivation Index to identify the greatest concentrations of disadvantage in their respective Lot. This provision allows PIs to target specific geographical areas with high levels of poverty, hardship and social exclusion, as well as working with issue-based target groups. Each PI has a target for the percentage of their caseload which must reside in disadvantaged areas.

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is based on the combination of three dimensions of relative affluence and deprivation, i.e. demographic profile, social class composition and labour market situation. The Index scale ranges from 'extremely affluent' to 'extremely disadvantaged' (see the scale in Table 2.2 below). The addresses of individuals on the caseload were assigned to a point on this scale based on location[3]. Table 2.2 displays the proportion of individuals within each deprivation band who were supported by SICAP between 1 January and 31 May 2017.

Table 2.2 Individual addresses categorised by Pobal HP Deprivation Index (based on 2011 Census)

Pobal HP Deprivation Range	SICAP end of year 2015 caseload (%)	SICAP end of year 2016 caseload (%)	SICAP mid-year 2017 caseload (%)	National population (%) (2016 census)
Very / extremely affluent	0.78%	0.86%	1.00%	1.79%
Affluent	6.44%	6.57%	6.80%	15.24%
Marginally above average	24.38%	24.74%	25.78%	37.10%
Marginally below average	35.86%	36.21%	37.06%	31.52%
Disadvantaged	24.23%	23.77%	21.79%	11.45%
Very / extremely disadvantaged	6.43%	6.79%	6.77%	2.90%
Individuals not mapped to index	1.90%	1.06%	0.80%	n/a
Share of Individuals that live in disadvantaged to extremely disadvantaged range	30.66%	30.56%	28.55%	14.35%

28.55% of individuals supported under SICAP lived in the areas designated as disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged on the Pobal HP Deprivation Index. Although this percentage was 2% lower compared to the end of year 2016, it was above the national target of 27%.

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[3] The IRIS database has an auto-address function that uses An Post's GeoDirectory to automatically validate the address of each individual who registers with a Programme Implementer under SICAP. The address is then mapped to the relevant small area/electoral district, which is linked to the Pobal HP Deprivation Index.

Issue-based target groups

An issue-based target group is defined as "a group of individuals who experience social disadvantage as a result of a particular theme or issue which is common between them, e.g. unemployment, disability etc." The SICAP issue-based target groups are as follows:

- Disadvantaged children and families
- Lone parents
- New communities (including refugees and asylum seekers)
- People living in disadvantaged communities
- People with disabilities
- Roma
- The unemployed (including those not on the Live Register)
- Low income workers/households
- Travellers
- Young unemployed people living in disadvantaged areas
- NEETs – young people aged 15-24 years who are not in employment, education or training

Figure 2.2 shows the breakdown of individuals supported under SICAP in the first five months of 2017 in regard to their target group. Like in 2016, the target group with the highest level of participation were the unemployed, who constituted 79% of programme participants. Almost three in ten participants were people living in disadvantaged communities and 14% were low income workers or belonged to a low income household. Compared to the same reporting period last year, a number of target groups recorded increases, including low income workers/households (6% increase), the unemployed (4%), NEETs, new communities and people with disabilities (2% each). The share of participants from Irish Travellers and Roma target groups remained unchanged.

Figure 2.2 Breakdown of programme participation by SICAP target group
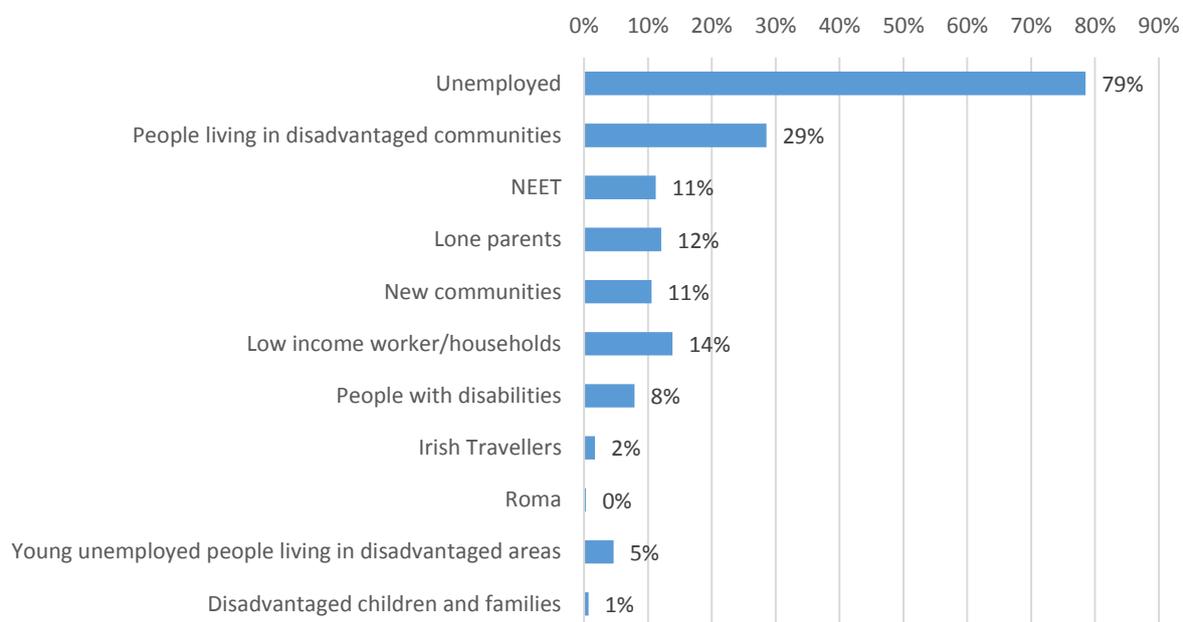

Note: Programme participants can select more than one target group and therefore the total % displayed here will be greater than 100%.

Duration of unemployment

A further breakdown of the 'Unemployed' target group, in relation to the duration of unemployment is provided in Figure 2.3. Of the 16,119[4] unemployed individuals, (both on the Live Register and not on the Live Register), 46% had been unemployed for more than 24 months, 18% were unemployed for between 12 and 24 months, and 36% had been out of work for less than a year. 82% of all unemployed people participating in SICAP were on the Live Register, while 18% were unemployed but not on the Live Register.

When compared to the mid-year reporting period in 2016, the share of unemployed on the Live Register has slightly decreased (3%). The combined share of those who were unemployed for more than a year and on the Live Register decreased by 7%, while a 4% increase in the number of unemployed for less than a year and on the Live Register was observed.

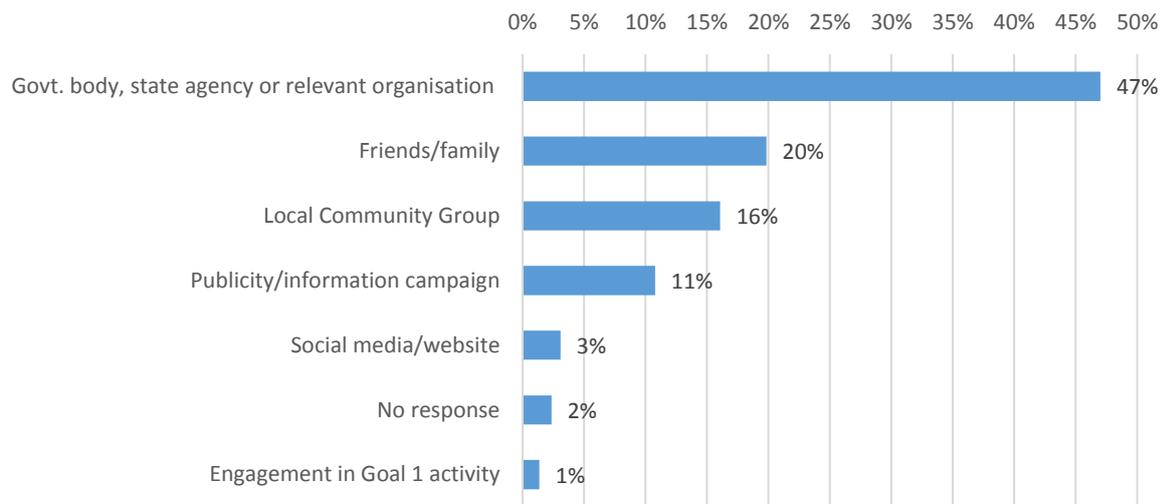*Figure 2.3 Duration of unemployment mid-year 2016 and 2017*
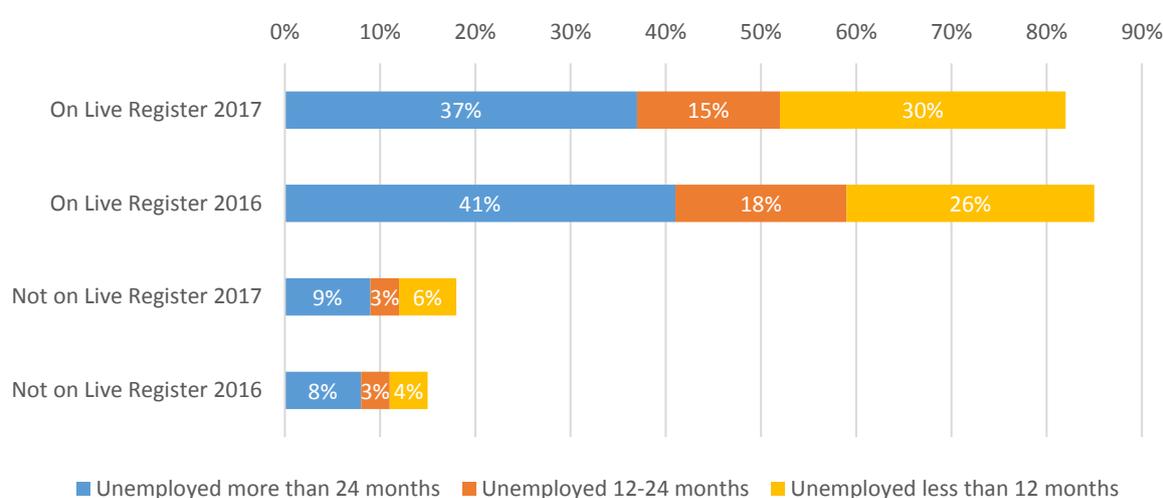
2.3 Referrals

In the first five months of 2017, referrals from a government body, state agency or relevant organisation remained the main access route to the programme, accounting for almost half of participants (47%). One in five individuals were referred by their families and friends and 16% by Local Community Groups. For a full breakdown see Figure 2.4. No significant changes were observed when compared to the first half of 2016.

Of the individuals who specified the government body/state agency that referred them, the majority were referred by Intreo/DSP (58%) – an increase of 7% on the first six months of 2016. In total, 27% of all individuals supported in the reporting period were referred by Intreo, representing a 3% increase on the first six months of 2016. Local Employment Services (LES) accounted for 12% of referrals, showing a decrease of 4% on the first six months of 2016. Almost one fifth (18%) were referrals from other unspecified agencies and bodies.

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4 This figure does not include individuals, whose economic status was 'inactive'. Note that the unemployed target group also includes individuals, whose economic status is 'inactive'.

Figure 2.4 Access routes of individuals supported under SICAP in the first five months of 2017

Access route	Percentage
Govt. body, state agency or relevant organisation	47%
Friends/family	20%
Local Community Group	16%
Publicity/information campaign	11%
Social media/website	3%
No response	2%
Engagement in Goal 1 activity	1%

Chapter 3 Financial report

This financial report was prepared using figures extracted from IRIS, where they were recorded by Programme Implementers (their actual spend) and LCDCs (the payments made to PIs)[5].

3.1.1 SICAP costs charged summary report – mid-year 2017

Table 3.1 below details the total budget and the total costs reported under the various cost categories, for the 51 Lots for five months between 1 January and 31 May 2017.

Table 3.1 Costs charged summary report mid-year 2017

		Total 2017 budget €	Total cost reported €	% of total action costs reported
Goal 1	Non-salary	1,364,009.64	323,168.19	30.68%
	Direct salary	7,292,660.88	2,880,290.61	
	Total Goal 1	**8,656,670.52**	**3,203,458.80**	
Goal 2	Non-salary	2,672,871.13	799,965.72	33.38%
	Direct salary	6,869,573.62	2,686,080.49	
	Total Goal 2	**9,542,444.75**	**3,486,046.21**	
Goal 3	Non-salary	2,483,977.66	747,257.86	35.00%
	Direct salary	7,457,260.78	2,908,328.05	
	Total Goal 3	**9,941,238.44**	**3,655,585.91**	
(Each Goal cost % reported must be between 28% and 38% of total actions cost reported)				
Monitoring		363,243.64	97,971.45	0.94%

	Total 2017 budget €	Total cost reported €	% of total budget
Total actions cost	28,503,597.35	10,443,062.37	27.89%

	Total 2017 budget €	Total cost reported €	% of total budget
Total administration cost	8,937,638.46	3,538,398.21	9.45%

(The administration cost cannot exceed 25% of the total budget)

	Total 2017 budget €	Total cost reported €	% of total budget
Overall cost	37,441,235.81	13,981,460.58	37.34%

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[5] Payments made by the Department to the LCDCs are not represented in this report as these figures are not reported on IRIS.

Commentary on Table 3.1

The total costs reported for the five-month period to 31 May 2017 were €13,981,460.58 which equates to 37.34% of the total budget.

Schedule D is an appendix to the contract between the LCDC and the PI and it represents the budget of the Lot for a particular period, i.e. from 1 January to 31 December 2017. This budget is comprised of action costs and administration costs. The action costs are broken down into Goal costs and monitoring costs.

Certain financial rules are required to be complied with as outlined in Schedule D, and these are as follows:
- The total of each Goal cost must be between 28% and 38% of the total actions cost reported.
- The total administration cost cannot exceed 25% of the total budget cost.
- Both of the above rules must be complied with prior to the LCDC approving the budget.
- Programme Implementers must also ensure that these financial parameters are met when reporting spend for the period.

Administration costs

As per the parameters of Schedule D, total administration costs reported for the year cannot exceed 25% of the total SICAP budget.

The amount reported for administration costs is €3,538,398.21. This amount represents 9.45% of the total budget and therefore demonstrates that the programme overall is on target to be compliant with the parameters of Schedule D.

Actions costs

As per the parameters of Schedule D, the amount reported for each Goal must be between 28% - 38% of the total action costs reported.

Goal 1

The amount reported for Goal 1 is €3,203,458.80. This represents 30.68% of the total action costs reported and therefore demonstrates that Goal 1 is on target to be compliant with the parameters of Schedule D.

Goal 2

The amount reported for Goal 2 is €3,486,046.21. This represents 33.38% of the total action costs reported and therefore demonstrates that Goal 2 is on target to be compliant with the parameters of Schedule D.

Goal 3

The amount reported for Goal 3 is €3,655,585.91. This represents 35% of the total action costs reported and therefore demonstrates that Goal 3 is on target to be compliant with the parameters of Schedule D.

Underspends as at 31 May 2017

While the above figures indicate an under spend against budget in relation to the 5 months being reported in the mid-year report, it is expected that the level of costs being reported will increase over the second period of 2017 thus reducing the final under spend, if any, at the year end.

Payments

The total Lot payment for the five-month period to 31 May 2017, excluding VAT, was **€18,341,520.75.**

VAT

Table 3.2 VAT costs reported by the PIs and paid by the LCDCs

	VAT costs reported by the PIs	VAT payments to the PIs
Mid -year period - January – May 2017	€161,575.93	€134,097.84
Total	**€161,575.93**	**€134,097.84**

The VAT costs reported by PIs for the five-month period to 31 May is €161,575.93. The amount of VAT paid to the PIs in the five-month period to 31 May is €134,097.84 due to less VAT drawdown requests than anticipated. These payments relate to VAT costs incurred by PIs in 2016.

3.1.2 Lot budgets

The total spend reported for the period can be broken down into the Border, Midlands & Western Region (BMW) €4,434,570.57 and Southern & Eastern Region (S&E) €9,546,890.01 across the budget cost categories as outlined in Figure 3.1 below.

Figure 3.1 Costs charged summary Border, Midlands & Western Region (BMW) and Southern & Eastern Region (S&E)
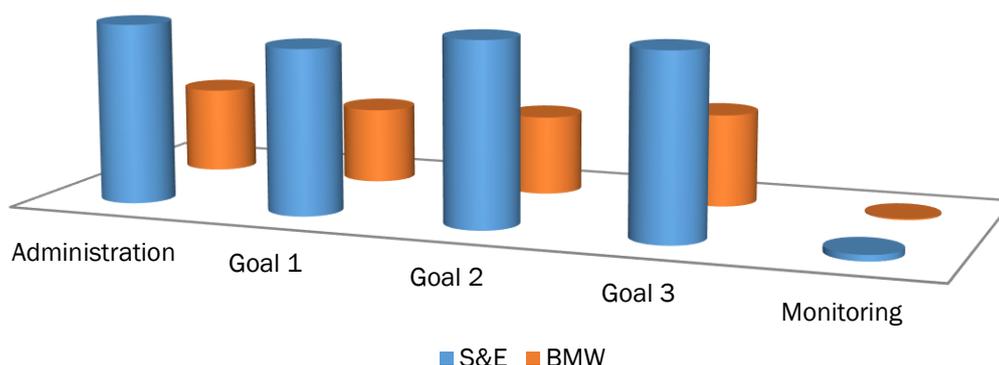
Taking 3 bands of Lot allocations as an example for each of the two regions:

- Band 1 - €0 - €500,000

- Band 2 - €501,000 - €1,000,000

- Band 3 - >€1,000,000.

Table 3.3 Band 1 Lot budgets €0 - €500,000

	S&E Region	BMW Region
No of Lots	9	3
Total Lot budget €	€1,927,789.27	€864,559.49
Total spend reported €	€719,702.98	€311,109.90
% of Lot budget reported as spend	37.33%	35.98%

Table 3.4 Band 2 Lot budgets €501,000 - €1,000,000

	S&E Region	BMW Region
No of Lots	13	12
Total Lot budget €	€8,567,036.01	€7,612,425.96
Total spend reported €	€3,255,897.33	€2,799,151.57
% of Lot budget reported as spend	38.00%	36.77%

Table 3.5 Band 3 Lot budgets >€1,000,000

	S&E Region	BMW Region
No of Lots	11	3
Total Lot budget €	€14,542,016.23	€3,927,408.85
Total spend reported €	€5,571,289.70	€1,324,309.10
% of Lot budget reported as spend	38.31%	33.72%

The percentage of Lot budget reported as spend is reasonably consistent between both regions for the Lot budgets in Band 1, 2 and 3. It would be expected that the spend reported under Band 3 in the BMW region will increase over the remaining seven months of 2017.

Total Lots split by S&E and BMW Regions

Table 3.6 Overall Lot allocations

	S&E Region	BMW Region
No of Lots	33	18
Total Lot budget €	€25,036,841.51	€12,404,394.30
Total spend reported €	€9,546,890.01	€4,434,570.57
% of Lot budget reported as spend	38.13%	35.75%

The percentage of Lot budget reported as spend for the period is consistent between both regions based on their overall Lot allocations.

3.1.3   Analysis of the number of SICAP funded Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Table 3.7 below presents the salary for the period 1 January – 31 May 2017.

Table 3.7 Analysis of the number of SICAP funded FTEs

Budget category	No. of SICAP funded FTEs	Salary budget cost of SICAP funded FTEs €	Salary spend reported for SICAP funded FTEs €	% of total salary spend reported
Administration	102.10	€5,880,714.90	€2,379,258.08	21.9%
Goal 1	146.20	€7,292,660.88	€2,880,290.61	26.5%
Goal 2	138.49	€6,869,573.62	€2,686,080.49	24.7%
Goal 3	150.81	€7,457,260.78	€2,908,328.95	26.8%
Total	537.60	€27,500,210.18	€10,853,958.13	

The average budget cost per annum for a SICAP funded FTE is €51,153.66

For the five-month period ending 31 May 2017, 39.4% of the total salary costs budget was reported as spend, which amounts to €10,853,958.13.

Overall conclusion

The percentage of salary costs ranges from lowest percentage under administration costs of 21.9% to the highest under Goal 3 costs of 26.8%, which means the spend is reasonably evenly split across the four cost categories.

3.1.4 Administration costs

The total budget administration cost reported is 9.45% of the total overall SICAP budget and is on target to remain within the 25% maximum threshold at the year end.

Administration costs (overheads) are split across four headings as detailed below:

Table 3.8 Administration costs (overheads)

Budget category	Budget amount €	Spend amount €	% of total administration spend reported
Financial/professional fees/other	€265,802.16	€76,795.37	2.17%
Indirect salary (management/administration)	€5,880,714.90	€2,379,258.08	67.24%
Office/administration/establishment	€2,661,323.68	€1,038,613.05	29.35%
Travel and subsistence for indirect salary	€129,797.72	€43,731.71	1.24%
Total administration	**€8,937,638.46**	**€3,538,398.21**	

For the five-month period ending 31 May, 39.59% of the total administration costs budget has been reported as spend, which amounts to €3,538,398.21. Of the total administration costs reported as spend at the mid-year, salary costs are the largest component of these costs at 67.24%.

Chapter 4 Supports provided

4.1 Training and advisory supports

SICAP support events

Ethnic data collection

One of the actions agreed as a follow up to the SICAP Targeting Support Event in May 2016 was to provide additional support and guidance to Programme Implementers in implementing the ethnic identifier process. As a result, the DHPCLG requested Pavee Point to produce additional support and guidance material to assist frontline staff in implementing the ethnic identifier in SICAP. Pobal worked closely with Pavee Point in the drafting and production of this support material.

In producing this material, Pavee Point consulted with Programme Implementers and organisations representing Travellers and new communities with the overall purpose of providing practical guidance, information and tools to all frontline staff who deliver SICAP locally. This support material included good practice guidelines for frontline staff and information leaflets for SICAP support users. In addition to this and as part of the dissemination of this guidance material, Pavee Point in conjunction with Pobal organised a series of regional workshops to present the guidance material and to support staff in implementing the ethnic identifier process in SICAP. These workshops explored how to use the guidelines through practice scenarios and included inputs from Programme Implementers and ethnic minority groups on examples of good practice and benefits of ethnic data collection.

Table 4.1 SICAP support events

Event	Date	Location	No. of attendees
SICAP ethnic data workshop	7 February	Dublin	25
SICAP ethnic data workshop	9 February	Sligo	20
SICAP ethnic data workshop	14 February	Cork	24

Implementation of SICAP in County Galway

Due to delay in delivering SICAP in County Galway as a result of legal proceedings, programme implementation commenced on 4 January 2017. Pobal delivered an induction programme on SICAP to both the LCDC support staff and members and to the Programme Implementer which involved the following:

- One full day of programme induction with LCDC support staff and PI staff.
- Attendance and inputs by both Pobal and DRCD at an LCDC members meeting.
- IRIS training for LCDC support staff.
- IRIS training for PI staff.
- Follow up support meeting with the LCDC, followed by meeting with both the LCDC and the PI on overall progress of programme delivery.

Review of mid-year monitoring reports

Pobal undertook a technical review of the finance and non-finance reports of all 51 Lots and provided feedback to LCDCs on the following areas by 30 June 2017:

- Progress in meeting targets.
- Progress to date in meeting finance requirements.
- Overall quality and completeness of data on IRIS.
- Identifying any potential under/over spends that the LCDCs need to monitor.

2016 inspection visit reports

In 2016, Pobal's audit team undertook eight inspection visits with PIs. Once this process was concluded by the audit team, Pobal met with the respective LCDCs to present the core findings of the report and to discuss and agree appropriate follow up by the LCDC on any outstanding actions or commitments by the PI. To date these meetings have happened with five LCDCs, with the remaining three planned for Q3.

4.2   Technical supports

Pobal delivered the following tailored IRIS training to County Galway LCDC and PI staff and new LCDC support staff across all Lots (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 IRIS training events

Training	Date	Location	No of attendees
Galway LCDC staff	12 January 2017	Galway City	6
Galway Rural Development staff	19 January 2017	Athenry	10
New LCDC staff	17 May	Dublin	12
New PI staff	31 May	Dublin	7

Chapter 5 Findings and actions

5.1 Findings

This section highlights the key trends identified in the analysis of the KPIs and headline indicators, engagement with target groups and referrals to the programme during the reporting period.

Indicators and targets

- The mid-year targets for Key Performance Indicators 1 and 2 have been achieved and PIs are on track to meet the end of year targets, subject to data quality and programme compliance.
- 80% of Lots are either on or above 42% of the annual target for KPI 1 and 94% of Lots are either on or above 42% of the annual target for KPI 2.
- The programme performance in relation to the majority of indicators has been good during the reporting period with all but one of the headline indicators on course to meet the annual targets. While progression to employment for young people improved, progression to self-employment of the same cohort continues to be a challenge.
- The levels of achievement for one indicator (HI 6: *Number of young people (aged 15-24) in receipt of a SICAP, ESF and YEI Goal 2 educational support*) reduced significantly compared to mid-year point last year following a change in caseload recording practises.

Targeting of disadvantaged individuals

- Targeting of individuals in disadvantaged areas has been successful with the national target of 27% being exceeded (28.6%) at the five-month reporting period.
- The distribution of individuals amongst issue-based target groups have remained broadly similar compared with mid-year point in 2016. A number of target groups recorded increases, including low income workers/households (6% increase), the unemployed (4%), and NEETs, new communities and people with disabilities (2% each).
- The largest proportion of individuals continue to be unemployed both on the Live Register and not (79% of the caseload) and of these, 46% had been unemployed for more than 24 months. The percentage of Individuals unemployed for more than 24 months decreased by 3% compared to the 2016 mid-year point.

Access routes to the programme

- The top four access routes or referral pathways into the programme have remained broadly consistent since the beginning of the programme. The main changes between mid-year point in 2016 and 2017 was the 7% increase of referrals from DSP/Intreo on the first half of 2016 and a decrease of 4% in referrals from LES.

5.2 Actions and programme activities

There have been no significant programme developments in the first five months of 2017, except the addition of the new indicator 8b: *Number of children/young people (non-caseload) identified as at risk of early school leaving receiving support*. This indicator was added to clearly identify work to prevent early school leaving.

The lack of other significant changes is primarily due to the fact that the current iteration of the programme will be ending in December 2017 and there were a number of updates and clarifications in 2016. Any programme improvements have been deferred and will be built into the new SICAP 2018 – 2022 which begins on 1 January 2018.

Other programme activities

- **SICAP qualitative research study.** Quality Matters has been commissioned to carry out a qualitative research study on young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). The majority of research work has been carried out in the first five months of 2017 and the final study report is expected to be published in autumn 2017.
- **SICAP evaluation.** The evaluation of SICAP by ESRI has begun in early 2017. The evaluation is divided into two phases, of which the first phase on SICAP goals and governance has been carried out in the first half of 2017. The results of the work completed to date have been used to inform the design of the next iteration of the programme.
- **Ethnic Identifier:** Pavee Point have been asked to develop a poster to compliment the materials produced last year for PI staff to enable better gathering of data and understanding by clients of the programme on the ethnic identifier question. The poster should be available in autumn 2017.
- **SICAP 2018 - 2020.** A series of consultation events were held in early 2017 to ascertain the learning from the current programme and to identify where improvements can be made in the new iteration of the programme.

Appendix 1 – PI and Lot details

Lot	PI	Address
Carlow County (1-1)	Carlow County Development Partnership Limited	Main Street, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
Cavan County (32-1)	Breffni Integrated Limited	Unit 6A, Corlurgan Business Park, Corlurgan, Ballinagh Road, Cavan
Clare County (16-1)	Clare Local Development Company Limited	Westgate Business Park, Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
Cork Bandon & Kinsale (18-6)	West Cork Development Partnership Limited	West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
Cork Charleville & Mitchelstown (18-2)	Ballyhoura Development Limited	Ballyhoura Centre, Main Street, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick
Cork City (17-1)	Comhar Chathair Chorcai Teoranta	Heron House, Blackpool Retail Park, Blackpool, Cork
Cork Kanturk, Newmarket & Millstreet (18-1)	IRD Duhallow Ltd	James O'Keeffe Memorial Institute, Newmarket, Co. Cork
Cork Mallow & Fermoy (18-3)	Avondhu/Blackwater Partnership Limited	The Old Mill, Castletownroche, Co. Cork
Cork South & East Cork (18-4)	South and East Cork Area Development Partnership Limited	Midleton Community Enterprise Centre, Owenacurra Business Park, Knockgriffin, Midleton, Co. Cork
Cork West Cork District (18-5)	West Cork Development Partnership Limited	West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
Cork West Cork Islands (18-7)	Comhar na nOilean Teoranta	Inis Oírr, Árainn, Co. na Gaillimhe
Donegal (33-3)	Donegal Local Development Company Limited	1 Millenium Court, Pearse Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Donegal Gaeltacht (33-2)	Donegal Local Development Company Limited	1 Millenium Court, Pearse Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Donegal Inishowen (33-1)	Inishowen Development Partnership	St. Mary's Road, Buncrana, Inishowen, Co. Donegal
Dublin Ballyfermot & Chapelizod (2-1)	The Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Partnership Company Limited	4 Drumfinn Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10
Dublin Ballymun, Whitehall & Tolka (2-2)	Dublin North West Area Partnership	Rosehill House, Finglas Road, Dublin 11
Dublin Canal, Rathmines & Pembroke (2-4)	The Bluebell, Inchicore, Islandbridge, Kilmainham and Rialto Partnership Company Limited	2nd Floor, Oblate View, Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8
Dublin Inner City (2-5)	Dublin Inner City Community Co-operative Society Ltd	22 Buckingham Street, Dublin 1
Dublin Northside (2-3)	Northside Partnership Limited	Coolock Development Centre, Bunratty Drive, Coolock, Dublin 17
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown (5-1)	Southside Partnership DLR Limited	The Old Post Office, 7 Rock Hill, Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Fingal (4-1)	The Blanchardstown Area Partnership Limited	Unit 106, Dillon House, Porters Road, Coolmine Industrial Estate, Dublin 15
Galway City (26-1)	Galway City Partnership Limited	3 The Plaza, Headford Road, Galway
Galway County (27-1)	Galway Rural Development Company Limited	Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway
Kerry North East & West Kerry (19-1)	North and East Kerry Leader Partnership Teoranta	Áras an Phobail, Croilár na Mistéalach, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Kerry Rathmore & Gneeveguilla (19-2)	IRD Duhallow Ltd	James O'Keeffe Memorial Institute, Newmarket, Co. Cork

Kerry South Kerry & Killarney (19-3)	South Kerry Development Partnership Limited	West Main Street, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry
Kildare County (6-1)	Cill Dara Ar Aghaidh Teoranta	Jigginstown Commercial Centre, Old Limerick Road, Naas, Co. Kildare
Kilkenny County (7-1)	County Kilkenny Leader Partnership Company Limited	8 Patrick's Court, Patrick Street, Kilkenny
Laois County (8-1)	Laois Community and Enterprise Development Company Limited	Block 2, Áras an Chontae, James Fintan Lalor Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
Leitrim County (28-1)	Leitrim Integrated Development Company Limited	Church Street, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim
Limerick East Rural (21-3)	Ballyhoura Development Limited	Ballyhoura Centre, Main Street, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick
Limerick Urban (21-2)	PAUL Partnership (People Action Against Unemployment Limited)	The Tait Business Centre, Dominic Street, Limerick
Limerick West Rural (21-1)	West Limerick Resources Limited	St. Mary's Road, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick
Longford County (9-1)	Longford Community Resources Limited	Longford Community Enterprise Centre, Longford Business & Technology Park, Ballinalee Road, Longford
Louth County (10-1)	Louth LEADER Partnership	Unit 3, Partnership Court, Park Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Mayo Ballina & Mayo West (29-2)	Mayo North East Leader Partnership Company Teoranta	Lower Main Street, Foxford, Co. Mayo
Mayo Castlebar & Claremorris (29-3)	South West Mayo Development Company Limited	Carey Walsh Building, George's Street, Newport, Co. Mayo
Mayo Islands (29-1)	South West Mayo Development Company Limited	Carey Walsh Building, George's Street, Newport, Co. Mayo
Meath County (11-1)	Meath Community Rural and Social Development Partnership Limited	Unit 7, Kells Business Park, Cavan Road, Kells, Co. Meath
Monaghan County (34-1)	Monaghan Integrated Development Limited	Monaghan Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
Offaly County (12-1)	Offaly Integrated Local Development Company Limited	Millenium House, Main Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Roscommon County (30-1)	Roscommon Integrated Development Company Limited	Roscommon West Business Park, Golf Links Road, Roscommon
Sligo County (31-1)	County Sligo LEADER Partnership Company Ltd	Sligo Development Centre, Cleveragh Road, Sligo
South Dublin County (3-1)	SDC South Dublin County Partnership Ltd	County Hall, Block 3, Belgard Square North, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Tipperary North (22-1)	North Tipperary Leader Partnership	2nd Floor, Friar's Court, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
Tipperary South (23-2)	South Tipperary Development Company Limited	Unit 2C, Carrigeen Industrial Estate, Clogheen Road, Cahir, Co. Tipperary
Waterford City & County (24-1)	Waterford Area Partnership Limited	Westgate Retail Park, Tramore Road, Waterford
Westmeath County (13-1)	Westmeath Community Development Limited	Mullingar Enterprise Technology and Innovation Centre, Zone C, Mullingar Business Park, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Wexford County (14-1)	Wexford Local Development	Spawell Road, Wexford
Wicklow Arklow, Wicklow & Baltinglass (15-2)	County Wicklow Community Partnership Ltd	3rd Floor, Avoca River House, The Bridgewater Centre, North Quay, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
Wicklow Bray & Greystones (15-1)	Bray Area Partnership Limited	4 Prince of Wales Terrace, Quinsborough Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

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