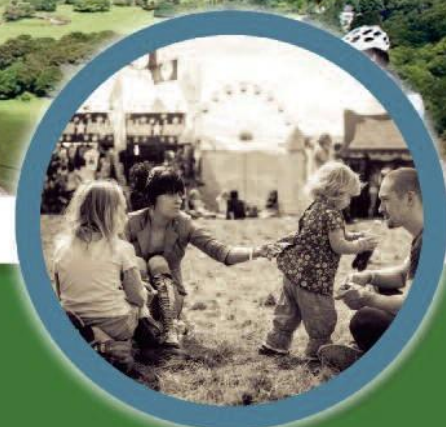
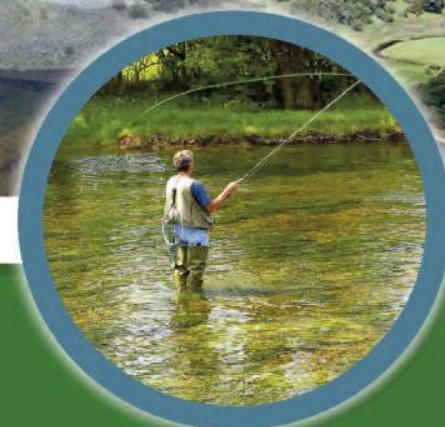
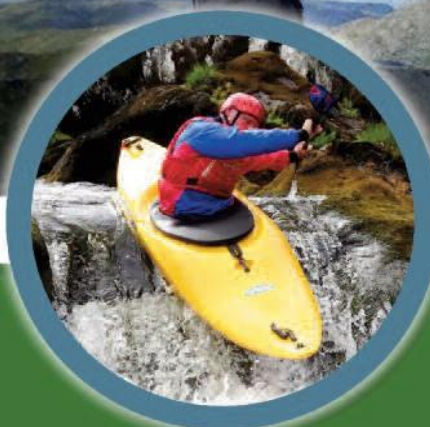
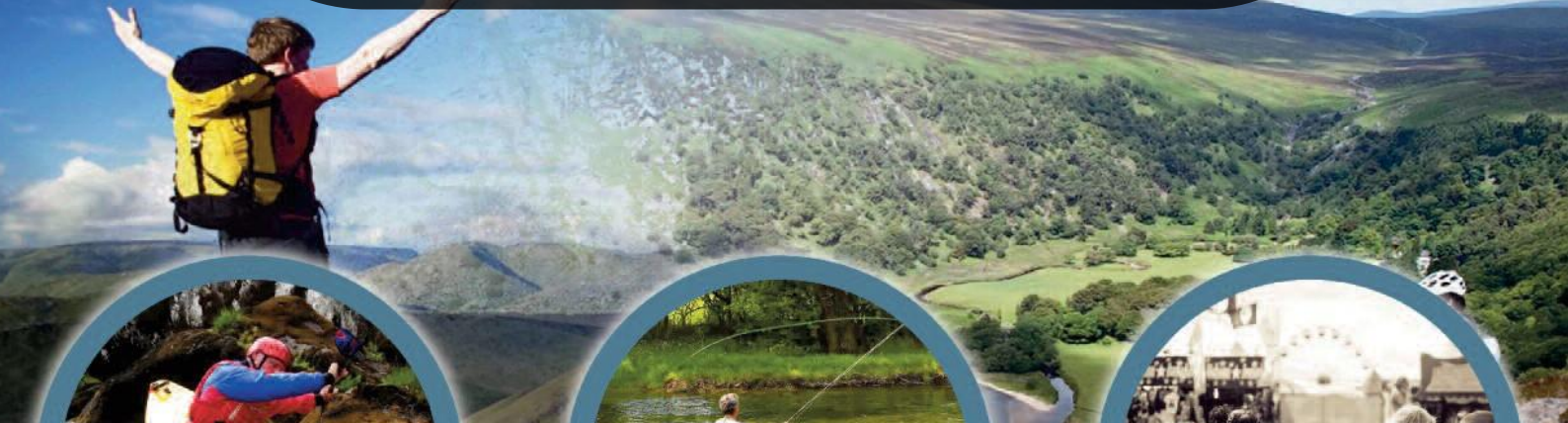


European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 Ireland

LEADER

Document 1: Overview of Stage 2 Invitation to Submit a Local Development Strategy



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Aitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
investing in rural areas.



Ireland's EU Structural and
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2014 - 2020

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Department of
**Agriculture,
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An Roinn
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government supporting communities

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Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation/Term	Definition
Agreement	Contract between each Local Action Group and the Department
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CEDRA	Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas
CLLD	Community Led Local Development
CPR	Common Provisions Regulation (EU Regulation 1303/2014)
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAFM	The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Department/DECLG	The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EC	European Commission
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
EOI	Expression of Interest
ESI Funds	European Structural and Investment Funds
EU	European Union
ESF	European Social Fund
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
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
LAG	Local Action Group
LDS	Local Development Strategy
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale' i.e. Links between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
MA	Managing Authority for the entire RDP (The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)
NEETS	Young People who are Not in Employment, Education or Training
OECD LEED	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Local Economic and Employment Development)
PPN	Public Participation Network
Promoter	Promoter of a project (beneficiary of funding)
RDP	Rural Development Programme also known as Operational Programme
REDZ	Rural Economic Development Zones
SME's	Small and Medium Enterprises

Introduction

The purpose of the document is to provide a detailed overview of stage 2 of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) selection process under the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020. It will provide those entities who qualified under stage 1, with the necessary information to submit an LDS for the geographical area outlined in the expression of interest (EOI).

The overall aim of stage 2 is to secure a robust, high quality and participative LDS that effectively targets and addresses the needs and development potential of the sub-regional area through a community-led local development (CLLD) approach. The strategy should simultaneously support the development of more integrated planning for rural development, through minimising duplication and delivering value for money.

The document is structured as follows:

- Section 1: Overview of the LEADER element of the RDP 2014-2020;
- Section 2: LEADER Themes/Sub-Themes;
- Section 3: Local Development Strategy (LDS);
- Section 4: LEADER Monitoring Framework;
- Section 5: LDS Appraisal and Selection Process;
- Section 6: Provisional Timeframe for Stage 2;
- Section 7: Additional Supports in developing an LDS.
- Appendix 1: LEADER Monitoring Framework

The document should be read in conjunction with the draft *LEADER Operating Rules* (hereafter referred to as the *Operating Rules*) and the '*LDS Framework Guidelines*' (document 2).

1. Overview of LEADER

Since its launch in 1991, LEADER has supported the delivery of local development actions in rural communities and has formed an integral part of the EU funding framework, through the national Rural Development Programme (RDP) of each Member State.

1.1 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), which in turn is delivered through nationally co-financed RDPs. For 2014-2020, three long term strategic objectives have been identified for rural development policy in the EU:

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

These broad policy objectives are given more detailed expression in **six priorities** for rural development, which are outlined below:

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.

LEADER is specifically programmed under **priority 6: promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas**. This allows the LEADER framework to acknowledge the key challenges facing Irish society following the economic downturn and facilitates the provision of supports to address issues, such as the impact of high levels of unemployment and an increase in levels of poverty and exclusion.

Priority 6

Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

The commitment to promoting social inclusion and poverty reduction is a defining feature of LEADER for 2015-2020. Whilst LEADER has primarily operated from a rural and economic development context, historically it has generated social inclusion outcomes for individuals and communities. The policy context for the new programming period calls for a focus on addressing poverty and social exclusion, particularly given the significant economic and social changes that have taken place within the last decade.

Each RDP priority is further defined by a number of specific focus areas. As LEADER aims to build the capacity and skills of the local community and socio-economic actors in rural areas to tackle local development objectives, it directly contributes to focus area **6(b): promoting local development in rural areas**.

The three focus areas of priority 6 are outlined below.

1. Facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation;
2. Promoting local development in rural areas;
3. Enhancing access to, use and quality of ICT in rural areas.

In addition, the RDP outlines a series of key themes and sub-themes that will form the basis of LEADER activities at a local level, which are outlined in section 2. These themes are drawn from both extensive consultation during the RDP design phase and consultation and research conducted by the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) in 2012 and 2013.

1.2 Defining Social Exclusion and Poverty

A brief definition of social exclusion and poverty is provided to assist in promoting social inclusion and poverty reduction in a broader framework of economic development and environmental challenges. The agreed Government definition of poverty and social exclusion in Ireland is set out in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (2007-2016):

“People are living in poverty if their income and resources (material, cultural and social) are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living, which is regarded as acceptable by Irish society generally. As a result of inadequate income and resources, people may be excluded and marginalised from participating in activities, which are considered the norm for other people in society.”

Poverty and exclusion manifest themselves differently in rural areas, in that it can be more dispersed and less ‘visible’ than urban environments. In the context of LEADER, it is important that strategies to promote economic development and social inclusion are based on a clear understanding of the distinctiveness of these issues in a rural context. Research¹ indicates that the level of poverty and social exclusion in rural areas can be linked to: distance from larger centres (accessibility), higher cost of living (transport and lack of consumer choice) and limited employment opportunities (decline in agriculture and traditional industries). In addition, it was identified that factors relating to demographic change (ageing population and increase in out-migration), the accessibility of key services (transport, childcare, health, education) and the isolation of particular groups (lack of a support network), can also contribute to exclusion.

Examples of particular groups who may be at risk of social exclusion include: people living in disadvantaged areas; people living in remote and less accessible areas; unemployed and underemployed people; fishermen and farmers on small holdings; women; children; lone parents, people with a disability; older people; people living alone; NEETs (Young People who are Not in Employment, Education or Training); migrants/new communities (including refugees/asylum seekers); local authority tenants; Travellers; Roma. This list is not exhaustive.

¹ Pobal, Employment and Social Inclusion in Rural Areas: A Fresh Start, March 2013

1.3 LEADER Approach

LEADER promotes a CLLD approach that involves the participation of rural communities in developing responses to key economic, environmental and social challenges. While targeted at rural communities in general, the use of a CLLD approach has particular potential to benefit people who are difficult to reach and may not necessarily engage with other development processes. The approach is based on establishing strategic partnerships, within the sub-regional area, in the form of Local Action Groups (LAGs). The composition of the LAG is made up of public and private partners with representatives from the economic, social, cultural and environmental sectors.

The Local Development Strategy (LDS) is premised on identifying the social, economic and environmental needs and potential of the area. LAGs are tasked with designing an integrated LDS through active consultation with the rural community. A series of local objectives and strategic actions are developed to address these local priorities. CLLD approaches have the flexibility to respond to the diversity of rural areas and tailor solutions to local needs.

The LEADER approach is based on a distinct methodology and includes the following seven features or specificities:

1. Area-based local development strategies;
2. Bottom up approach;
3. Public-private partnerships - the LAG;
4. Innovation;
5. Integrated and multi-sectoral actions;
6. Networking;
7. Co-operation².

The EU produced a useful guide providing a detailed overview of the LEADER approach and while it largely references previous programme periods the underlying principles remain the same: [Basic Guide to LEADER](#)

1.4 Regulatory Framework

In terms of legislation, LEADER is governed by two main EU framework regulations. The [Common Provisions Regulation \(EU Regulation 1303/2013\)](#) is a single framework for the implementation of the five European Structural Investment Funds³, which seeks to facilitate a more co-ordinated approach to the delivery of the funds. In addition, the RDP is supported by a more specific regulation relating to the EAFRD ([EU Regulation 1305/2013](#)), which details the types of supports for rural development, including LEADER.

²Co-operation (inter-territorial & international) will be managed outside of the LDS process by DECLG.

³These are: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF); European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

1.5 Defining Roles

For the 2014-2020 programme period and in line with a more co-ordinated approach to the delivery of development support at a local and national level, LEADER will be positioned within a revised framework for development, and it is important to define the roles of those organisations that will have a formal role in the LEADER elements of the RDP.

Managing Authority

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is the Managing Authority and lead Government Department for the RDP 2014-2020. The management of the LEADER element of the RDP has been delegated to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (hereafter referred to as the Department) is the Contracting Authority with delegated Paying Agency functions for LEADER. The Contracting Authority is responsible for the overall management of LEADER and ensuring that the systems in place to support this function are compliant with all regulatory requirements. This involves monitoring LAG compliance with financial management and decision-making requirements, through the annual performance review and annual planning process. In addition, the Department is responsible for the on-going checks and controls in respect of LAG expenditure. The Department will also channel funding directly to LAGs.

Pobal

It is proposed that Pobal will provide ongoing technical support to the Department, to support it in its role as the delegated paying agency for LEADER. In the preparatory stages this will involve Pobal providing technical support to conduct and manage the LDS selection process and to design and implement the ICT system for the ongoing management of LEADER interventions. It is also envisaged that Pobal will play a substantial role in the management of the monitoring for LEADER.

Local Action Group (LAG)

The regulatory framework (CPR Art 34 1303/2013) outlines the mandatory tasks of a LAG. LAGs are tasked with developing the LDS and implementing the actions contained within the strategy. Thus the LAG is responsible for animation, capacity building, managing calls for projects, decision-making on local projects that are awarded funding and the financial management and monitoring of projects and the overall LDS. LAGs will report directly to the Department on financial elements and to the Department and/or its agent's on the oversight of the LEADER monitoring framework.

Promoter

A promoter is an individual or grouping that applies to a LAG to access funding through LEADER. All projects that are approved by the LAG must be aligned with a local objective in the LDS. The LAG can also apply for LEADER funding as a project promoter.

2. LEADER Themes /Sub-Themes

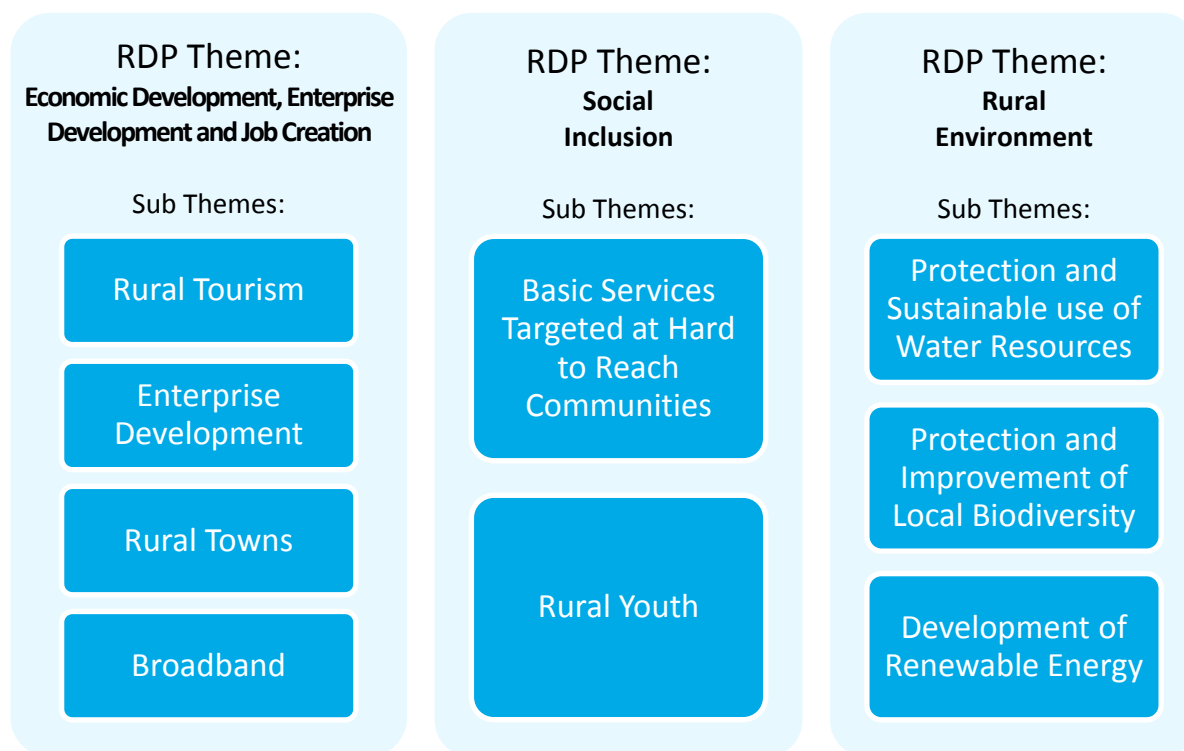
To facilitate a more effective targeting of resources, the RDP outlines a series of themes that were identified as overarching needs in rural Ireland, through consultation and research⁴. These themes respond to key challenges facing rural Ireland, with regard to economic recovery, employment creation, tackling social exclusion and reducing the impact of global warming and resource depletion.

Each theme is given further definition through a number of sub-themes (see Figure 1), which reflect the key areas that stakeholders believe require the most support and have the greatest potential to promote the sustainable development of rural communities. The sub-themes are considered to be sufficiently broad and flexible to encompass the diversity of local needs in rural areas and the range of projects supported through the LDS. It is important to note that the LDS is not required to address all of the RDP themes or sub-themes. As part of the strategy, LAGs should provide a rationale as to why they are proposing to focus on a limited number of sub-themes.

In the context of a more co-ordinated approach, all interventions funded under LEADER must be considered in the context of national policy frameworks and programmes. LEADER interventions should not duplicate any interventions that are proposed within the context of other national frameworks, for example, the National Broadband Plan or the Rural Transport Programme.

A brief overview of each sub-theme is provided in this section and some examples of potential actions are included to provide a context to each sub-theme.

Figure 1: RDP Themes and Sub-Themes



⁴This was primarily undertaken by the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA).

2.1 Theme 1: Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation

Between 2006 and 2011, unemployment in rural Ireland increased by 192%⁵, while underemployment and low-paid, seasonal work remain significant factors impacting on rural poverty and social exclusion. The focus of theme one relates to the challenge of driving continued local economic development, including the diversification of the rural economy, to create employment opportunities for the local community, including those from disadvantaged groups.

Rural Tourism

Rural tourism is an important sector that provides a stimulus for enterprise and job creation. As tourism is based on a particular asset that is generally place-specific, for example, landscape, history, it offers significant potential, even in peripheral areas. While tourism actions are primarily aimed at attracting foreign visitors to an area this can be a challenge for the more peripheral rural areas who often struggle to engage with tourists unless, for example, the area is in the catchment area of a well-known attraction. Interventions under this sub-theme should focus on actions that have the potential to make the area more attractive for local, national and foreign visitors.

Examples of actions that may be supported include feasibility studies to explore the tourism potential of an area, marketing initiatives and the creation of tourism hubs to facilitate a multi-sectoral approach. Activities that centre on the development and renovation of infrastructure are also an important contributor to historic and heritage-based tourism. Other actions that promote an innovative tourism sector include the development of cultural/heritage infrastructure of local significance and arts-based activities and events. The provision of amenity and leisure facilities can support adventure/eco-based tourism, which is a growing sector.

Enterprise Development

The significance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs)⁶ to the rural economy is demonstrated by the fact that SMEs account for 92% of all enterprises. It is evident however, that SMEs in rural areas face key challenges, as they are disproportionately at risk of closure with the economic downturn⁷. To support the diversification of the rural economy, the CEDRA report (2014) identifies potential sectors for future enterprise development, which may be relevant to the development of local strategies, these include:

- Artisan Foods;
- Renewable Energy;
- Marine;
- Social Enterprises;
- Creative Industries.

Actions supported under this sub-theme may include sector-specific training programmes for aspiring entrepreneurs, early stage promoters, social enterprises, start-ups and established SMEs. In the context of priority 6, the development of inclusive models of business support is an important tool to realise the potential of groups who are underrepresented in enterprise, for example, women,

⁵ CEDRA, Energising Ireland's Rural Economy, 2014

⁶ The CSO define SMEs as enterprises with less than 250 persons engaged, this can be further broken down into: micro enterprises (<10 people engaged), small enterprises (10-49), medium sized enterprises (50-249).

⁷ CEDRA, Energising Ireland's Rural Economy, 2014

young people and people with a disability. Innovative actions supported through LEADER, may include greater access to financial instruments and micro-credit schemes for early stage promoters and established firms who want to diversify or grow their existing business, for example, farmers who want to diversify into non-agricultural activities. In addition, research indicates that people from a disadvantaged group are disproportionately impacted by difficulties in accessing finance⁸.

Rural Towns

This sub-theme supports the regeneration of rural towns by promoting them as attractive places to visit, live and do business in. The CEDRA (2014) report outlines how many rural towns felt the impact of the economic downturn more acutely than urban areas, with high levels of unemployment and poverty. LEADER is particularly suited to revitalising rural towns through co-ordinating an integrated approach that builds on the economic strengths and infrastructure of the area whilst addressing the key challenges for business, community and recreation.

Actions that support the regeneration of rural towns include town renewal schemes that renovate derelict buildings with incentives to attract business to vacant properties. The building or refurbishment of community buildings also provides a multifunctional infrastructure for social, cultural and sporting activities and training for the local community. The development and promotion of unique social events and activities, such as farmers' markets, can provide an important stimulus to rural towns.

Broadband

Given the extent of work that is conducted online, increased access to reliable and high-speed broadband is vital for the economic and social development of rural areas and communities. High-quality broadband enables businesses to set-up or continue to be based in rural areas, by overcoming barriers relating to access to markets and services. There is also a potential to create additional employment, as access to broadband can support businesses to grow⁹.

This sub-theme supports local actions that complement the national initiatives tasked with developing a comprehensive rural broadband infrastructure. Examples of actions include, basic ICT training to priority groups, for example, to enable older people and young people to stay connected. Other activities may centre on skills development for installing broadband, feasibility studies in relation to community broadband and funding for small scale equipment, such as boosters, for local businesses.

⁸OECD LEED, Policy Brief on Access to Business Start-Up Finance for Inclusive Entrepreneurship (2014)

⁹ CEDRA, Energising Ireland's Rural Economy, 2014

2.2 Theme 2: Social Inclusion

The focus of theme two, relates to promoting the cohesion of the sub-regional area not only from an economic development perspective but also in relation to fostering social inclusion. In rural areas, the low density of population, high levels of out-migration and distance from urban centres, results in fewer employment options and lower levels of service provision than in urban areas. In addition, the importance of rural transport in addressing social exclusion has been acknowledged for some time.

Provision of Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities

This sub-theme addresses a lack of access to basic services, for people living in rural and remote areas and groups who are at risk of social exclusion. In some cases, the particular service may have never existed in the locality or has been withdrawn. In rural areas, people's experience of exclusion is often compounded by physical isolation.

The type of actions supported may involve establishing a new service for hard to reach communities, or improving existing services (including universal access). Examples of basic services include community facilities; education/training; social/cultural, recreational; retail and finance; personal support. Examples of particular groups who may be at risk of social exclusion include: people living in disadvantaged areas; people living in remote and less accessible areas; unemployed and underemployed people; fishermen and farmers on small holdings; women; children; lone parents, people with a disability; older people; people living alone; NEETs (Young People who are Not in Employment, Education or Training); migrants/new communities (including refugees/asylum seekers); local authority tenants; Travellers; Roma. This list is not exhaustive.

Rural Youth

The significant increase in unemployment levels across many EU countries has had a severe impact on young people. In 2014, the percentage of young people in Ireland who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) was 15.2%¹⁰. Evidence suggests that the life-chances of young people in rural areas have been affected by lower levels of educational attainment, the decline of traditional sectors of employment and the out-migration of well-educated young people¹¹.

The promotion of youth entrepreneurship and associated training can provide improved pathways for young people to access economic opportunities in rural areas. In addition, actions that develop the social infrastructure of rural areas provide important opportunities for young people to realise their potential. These include the provision of youth clubs/cafés; improved access to ICT; sports/recreation activities; arts-based projects; and youth development programmes. Young people, particularly those who may be vulnerable, also have distinct needs regarding the type of services they may need to access. In the context of LEADER, young people are defined as people aged 15 to 35 years.

¹⁰ Eurostat, Labour Force Survey

¹¹ Pobal, Employment and Social Inclusion in Rural Areas: A Fresh Start, March 2013

2.3 Theme 3: Rural Environment

Theme three is focused on maximising the potential of the environment to contribute to the sustainable development of rural Ireland. This is premised on utilising the landscape within a local area and its features and natural resources, while simultaneously creating a greater environmental awareness and improving environmental protection.

Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources

Greater protection of local water resources is essential for sustaining rural communities. Environmental schemes have the potential to play a pivotal role in addressing pressures on water reserves and in supporting the local community to conserve this valuable resource.

Actions funded under this sub-theme may include, general awareness raising on water conservation issues, the development of local water conservation plans and feasibility studies. Capacity building on the technical aspects of water recycling schemes is also a key activity. Local projects that could be funded under this priority include practical initiatives that conserve water, for example, community programmes for rain water harvesting and the use of greywater for fertiliser and general washing.

Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity

Biodiversity, which encompasses natural wildlife, flora and fauna, is an important foundation to the healthy functioning of ecosystems. The protection of biodiversity is a growing concern, with the loss of various species of wildlife, flora and fauna as well as their natural habitat. Factors that impact on local biodiversity include population growth, cutting hedgerows and changes in land usage.

Examples of actions that promote local biodiversity include, awareness raising and practical guidance on how to protect biodiversity domestically. In addition, feasibility studies and action plans may focus on larger scale projects that enhance and protect particular aspects of biodiversity. Local projects that could potentially be funded under this priority include practical initiatives that support biodiversity and environmental improvements, for example, the upgrading of parks and river walks, establishment of nature corridors, habitat creation and planting of native species.

Development of Renewable Energy

Clean sources of energy have a lower environmental impact on nature than conventional energy technologies. This sub-theme is premised on the need to mitigate against the impact of recent environmental trends, which include climate change. It is considered that community-based initiatives will play a key role in realising national and EU environmental targets, particularly in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions through energy infrastructure. In addition, renewable energy technologies have the potential to generate new employment opportunities in rural areas.

Examples of actions that may be supported include general awareness raising on environmental issues and feasibility studies relating to green technologies. Capacity building actions may focus on the installation and use of renewable energy technologies. Local projects that could potentially be funded include technologies that deliver sustainable energy alternatives, for example, biomass heating, solar power, community wind farms and community-based heating systems.

3. The Local Development Strategy (LDS)

3.1 Overview

LEADER provides rural communities, across the EU, with a method and the resources for local partners to actively engage with and direct the local development of a particular sub-regional area. This is underpinned by a framework which requires the LAG to design an LDS for the delivery of LEADER activities.

The LDS is a community-led plan, developed and driven by rural communities, through the LAG, to achieve a particular vision and support the sustainable development of the area. The LDS is based on the seven key features that underpin the LEADER approach.

The LDS seeks to address the identified needs of the area, whilst also exploiting its development potential and is based on a series of local objectives. Each objective must directly link to a LEADER theme and sub-theme (Section 2). As LEADER is included under priority 6¹² of the RDP, the objectives should reflect a commitment to promoting economic development and social inclusion.

3.2 Sub Regional Area

In most cases¹³, the LDS will be formulated on the basis of a county-based sub-regional area. For the purposes of LEADER, there are 28 designated sub-regional areas in Ireland. In a scenario where more than one EOI (stage 1) has emerged for a sub-regional area, the aim will be to facilitate, in as far as possible, one LDS for that area.

3.3 Community-Led Approach

The LDS is developed and implemented through a CLLD approach, which is premised on local consultation and active participation of the rural community. This engagement includes the general population, area-based, sectoral and interest groups and representatives from the statutory, community and voluntary and private sectors. In the context of addressing rural social exclusion, it is critical that people living in disadvantaged areas and those from marginalised groups are actively engaged in the process.

Adopting a CLLD approach enables the local community to identify the needs of the area whilst also having an input into the type of actions that might be delivered through the LDS. The European Commission has developed some useful [guidance](#) for local actors in implementing CLLD.

The community-led approach also underpins the implementation of the LDS. It is important that LAGs develop a process to enable the ongoing participation of the local community in the roll out of the LDS. This could be facilitated through national participation process, such as the Public Participation Networks (PPNs).

¹²The LDS may also contribute to the other 5 priority areas: http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/policy-in-action/cap-towards-2020/rdp-programming-2014-2020/policy-overview/en/policy-overview_en.html

¹³ There are two exceptions; Dublin and Cork.

3.4 Strategic Integration

The LDS and the actions contained within the strategy should reflect the cross cutting objectives of the RDP. In addition, the LDS should demonstrate coherence and full consideration of the integrated framework that it is situated in at the local level and particularly in the context of priority 6. This co-ordinated approach also applies to priorities at a regional, national and EU level.

Cross Cutting Objectives

LEADER has three cross cutting objectives that form common goals across the RDP. The cross-cutting objectives are seen to add value to the overall programme as well as enhancing the individual strategies developed by LAGs. The design and implementation of the LDS must incorporate the three cross-cutting objectives, which are:

1. Innovation;
2. Climate change;
3. Environment.

Further information in relation to the cross-cutting objectives is provided in Section 5 of the LDS Framework (Document 2).

Policy Co-ordination

A range of policy areas impact on rural areas, these include, economic development, education, the environment, social inclusion, transport etc. In line with the Government's commitment to a more co-ordinated approach to local development, it is important that the LDS is integrated with the relevant planning processes (local, regional, national and EU) to maximise outcomes at all levels.

The Local Government Reform Act (2014) provides for the development of a six-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in each area, which is premised on co-ordinating the work of the Local Authority and other local funded bodies and agencies, in respect of local development and economic development. At a Local Authority level, the LDS should be aligned with the LECP (or draft LECP). This also applies at a regional level, in relation to the Regional Planning Guidelines¹⁴, which promote balanced regional development. At an EU level, the LDS is expected to reflect synergies with the goals of the [Europe 2020 strategy](#) in relation to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

¹⁴ These are due to be replaced in 2016 with Regional Spatial and Social Strategies that will be developed by the Regional Assemblies.

3.5 LEADER Sub-Measures

To support a more effective management of the overall LEADER framework, the programme has been categorised according to four sub-measures. The first sub-measure relates to preparatory support, which was addressed in the stage 1 EOI process. The remaining three sub-measures that form the basis of the LDS and which are outlined below relate to: (1) animation and capacity building support; (2) implementation of operations / projects under the LDS; (3) implementation of Co-operation projects.

Animation and Capacity Building Supports

Community animation and capacity building is a critical element of the LDS. The LAG is tasked with undertaking consultation to identify the local needs and development potential that might be addressed in the LDS. Enhanced confidence is often a stepping stone for an individual to participate in the broader LDS, for example, through community action, as a project promoter or in relation to decision-making on the LDS.

The LAG will also deliver a range of training and supports to build the capacity of potential promoters. This may include assisting individuals and organisations to generate innovative ideas that correspond to the LEADER sub-themes or enabling them to develop practical project proposal and apply for LEADER funding. The LAG will provide support to the local promoter for the duration of the project.

Implementation of Operations / Projects under the LDS

The LAG is responsible for selecting and disbursing funds to local projects that align with the rural development objectives of the LDS. This involves managing a series of 'calls for projects' that are funded by LEADER with match funding from private sources. It should be noted that the LAG can also apply for LEADER funding in its own right, as a project promoter.

In order to promote greater engagement by a diversity of project promoters and to encourage more proactive consideration of LEADER interventions by rural communities, the Department requires that for the 2014-2020 programming period each LAG must ensure that at least 40% of the project budget is allocated to projects approved using 'time-limited' calls for proposals. With less funding available, it is important to ensure that the funded projects have the greatest impact on the sustainable development of the local area.

Projects that are awarded LEADER funding must be aligned with a local objective in the LDS as well as meeting eligibility requirements. Projects may potentially focus on issues such as enterprise development; enhancing the competitiveness of existing businesses; rural deprivation; diversification of the rural economy; development of social enterprises. In accordance with the community-led approach, the main reference point for assessing the eligibility of a project is its contribution to the LDS local objectives.

Implementation of Co-operation Projects

Co-operation between CLLD partnerships at both national and European level has been shown to be a vital channel for exchanging and transferring good practice, and for helping to “scale up” successful project ideas. In this context, LAGs can outline in their LDS how they propose to use co-operation to achieve its aims and objectives. The Department will manage the co-operation project process and full details of the system will be outlined in the programme *Operating Rules*.

3.6 Budget

In Ireland, the overall LEADER budget for 2015-2020 is €250m (7% of the RDP). A total of €220m¹⁵ has been allocated for costs relating to the development of the LDS and the implementation of LDSs across the 28 sub-regional areas.

The Department has advised each LAG of the maximum (indicative) budget that is available for each sub-regional area. The allocations have been made on the basis of evidence-based criteria, whereby the needs of each area were assessed within the national context.

3.7 Duration of the Agreement

Each LAG is required to submit an LDS to cover the period 2015-2020. The period of the agreement between the Department and the LAG will commence at the contract issue date and will run until 31st December 2020, this is subject to a satisfactory annual performance review. The implementation of the LDS, including expenditure, can only commence once a signed agreement is in place.

3.8 LDS Annual Planning / Reporting Requirements

The LDS is essentially a strategic plan that covers the period 2015-2020. Following the approval of the LDS, each LAG will develop and submit an Annual Implementation Plan that provides a high level overview of how the LAG will deliver against each of the agreed local objectives and strategic actions for that particular year.

The performance of each LAG will be monitored over the term of the agreement by the Department and/or its agent's through an annual review. It is also intended that a mid-term review of LEADER and the whole RDP will be undertaken in 2017/2018 and LAGs will be required to contribute to this process.

To facilitate the annual planning and reporting process, at post contract stage each LAG will input key aspects of the LDS on to the LEADER ICT system (which is currently being developed).

The programme life-cycle relating to the LDS can be illustrated through the diagram in Figure 2:

¹⁵The remaining €30m includes the following funding allocations, which are separate to the LDS: DAFM Artisan Foods (€15m); Co-operation Projects (€10m); Reserve: potential REDZ initiative (€5m).

Figure 2: LDS Programme Life-Cycle



4. LEADER Monitoring Framework

4.1 Overview

The monitoring framework for LEADER is underpinned by the high level diagram as outlined in Figure 3. The LDS, as it is developed, will be centred on the three LEADER themes (each of which has a number of sub-themes). The Annual Implementation Plan, in turn, will set out the practical actions/activities that will be undertaken, again relating back to the overarching themes/sub-themes.

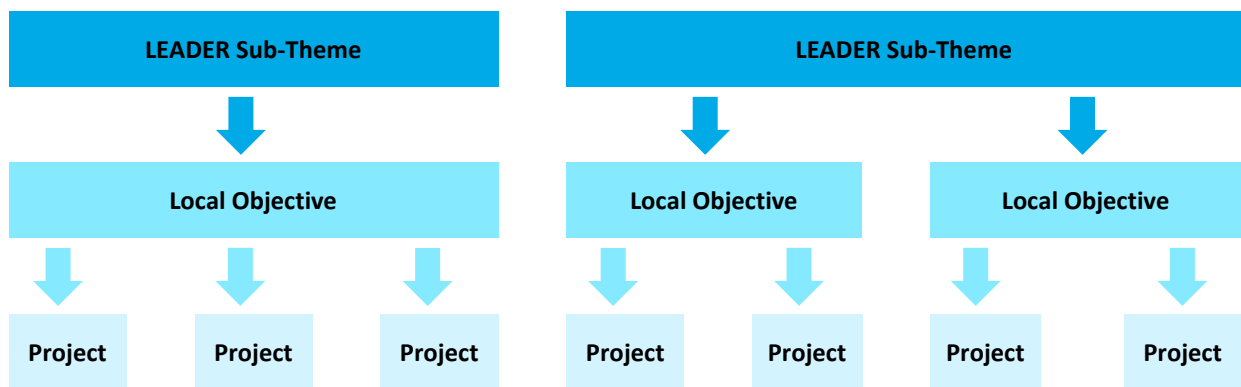
Figure 3: LEADER High Level Relationship Diagram



In terms of the monitoring of the LDS, each strategy will contain a series of local objectives, as identified by the LAG. Each local objective will be linked to one of the overall LEADER sub-themes. Local projects will be linked in turn to one of the LDS's local objectives. This process is illustrated by the diagram outlined in Figure 4.

All projects relating to a particular sub-theme will have common indicators against which information will be captured. The structure will facilitate robust tracking and monitoring of the programme, as each LEADER sub-theme will have specific relevant indicators. These linkages clearly locate each local project within the context of the overall programme and allow for a “rolling up” of information to theme and Programme level, as required. A full list of indicators associated with each LEADER sub-theme is available in Appendix 1.

Figure 4: Leader Project Framework



The two levels at which programme monitoring will be carried out are:

1. Project Level Monitoring
2. Monitoring of LAGs

4.2 Project Level Monitoring

Reporting on the progress/outputs of the LEADER programme will be facilitated by a defined set of information that will be captured on every funded project, allowing ready access to information with which to provide analysis and respond to queries. Information at project level will be captured at the following junctures:

1. Application Stage

Most of the basic project information will be captured on the LEADER ICT system at the point of application (type of funding applied for, is it a new/existing project, how many (if any) are currently employed, and so on).

2. LAG Assessment of Application

In assessing the application, the LAG will then complete a small number of fields, such as linking the proposed project to one of its local objectives which, in turn, is related to one of the overarching LEADER sub-themes. Depending on the values entered at this stage, a relevant set of indicators will be associated with the project (e.g. if the project is a wind energy project, it will be linked to the LAG's local objective that relates to Theme 3: Rural Environment, and the indicators that the project will be required to report against will derive from the Renewable Energy sub-theme). A full list of indicators associated with each LEADER sub-theme is available in Appendix 1.

3. Reporting on outputs/outcomes

At a later juncture, each project will be required to provide information on what has been delivered with the support of the funding. Some of this information will be generic (irrespective of project type), such as jobs created and existing jobs sustained. Other information will be specific to the sub-theme to which the project relates.

The reporting will also contain a qualitative element, in which projects will briefly describe the progress/achievements and highlight any key learning. It will be the responsibility of the LAG to ensure that the funded projects comply with the LEADER reporting requirements and that the data is quality checked.

The Department and/or its agent's will collate the data reported by funded projects and provide analysis on the progress and outputs/outcomes achieved with the LEADER funding.

The timing of the project reporting (on outputs) will depend on the type of project involved. In most cases, reporting will take place at the final payment stage, and issuing of final payment will be dependent on having completed the required fields on the LEADER ICT system. Where the project type means that this is not possible (e.g. a capital project for the opening of a new service, where funding has been spent and reported before the facility has opened), there will be a requirement for the project to enter its data at a point 12 months from the date of final payment of the LEADER funding. It will be the responsibility of the LAG to ensure that its projects fully comply with this reporting requirement.

Detailed Project / Case Studies

In addition to the information captured about/from individual projects, there will be a requirement, on an annual basis, for each LAG to prepare and submit a number of “Detailed Project / Case Studies”, to include information on the following aspects of the selected funded projects:

- Promoter background/description;
- Project/Business description;
- Products/Facilities/Services;
- Financial Information (previous funding / other sources of funding);
- Employment (current and potential);
- Compatibility with LAG’s LDS / overall LEADER themes and cross cutting objectives;
- Benefit to the community.

4.3 Monitoring of LAGs

In addition to overseeing the monitoring of the funded projects, the LAG itself will also be required to submit an annual End of Year report to the Department and/or its agents. The specific reporting timelines for LEADER will be outlined in the *Operating Rules*. The End of Year report will incorporate reporting of:

- Progress made during the year against the local objectives set out in the Annual Implementation Plan;
- Information on the organisational structure, operations and decision-making within the LAG itself;
- Any issues/challenges encountered in implementation during the year;
- Any particular successes to be highlighted;
- Progress made in contributing to LEADER’s cross cutting objectives.

The Department and/or its agents will review the End of Year report and engage with individual LAGs (about the End of Year report and the Annual Implementation Plan). The Department and/or its agents will also summarise any patterns, trends or key issues emerging from the End of Year reports. The Department and/or its agents will make data from the End of Year reports available to contribute to an overall framework for evaluating the LEADER programme as a whole and, more specifically, the performance of the LAGs within that.

All LAGs should note that as part of the overall programme monitoring framework there will be an ongoing requirement to support the assessment of compliance through both the control framework and ongoing audit and review. Full details of the types of controls that will support the implementation of LEADER will be available in the *Operating Rules*.

5. LDS Appraisal and Selection Process

5.1 Overview

An Independent Selection Committee has been established by the Department under Article 33(3) of the CPR (Common Provisions Regulation-EU Regulation 1303/2014). The final decision on an LDS approved to support the implementation of LEADER in a given sub-regional area, will rest with the Independent Selection Committee. The Department has designated responsibility to Pobal to provide technical support to the Committee, appraising the LDSs and to make recommendations to the Committee.

The aim of the stage 2 appraisal and selection process is to ensure that the award of LEADER funding to a LAG, is supported by an LDS that is participative, realistic, addresses locally identified needs and has a coherent vision for the sub-regional area.

The appraisal of the LDS will also need to ensure that each LAG has the capacity to deliver the proposed local objectives and strategic actions and has considered the practical implications of this over the programme period. The Department, in co-operation with the Independent Selection Committee and Pobal, will provide the support necessary to assist all approved LAGs. This is to ensure that rural communities have full access to LEADER funding through a strong, fully supported LDS, which is tailored to address the specific needs of the area concerned.

5.2 Stages of Appraisal and Selection Process

The two stages of the appraisal and selection process are set out as follows:

Stage 1: Selection of Expression of Interest (EOI)

In April 2015, the Department, as the designated paying agency for the LEADER element of the RDP, sought an Expression of Interest (EOI) from any group who wished to be considered as a LAG for the delivery of LEADER in their area and who could demonstrate broad-based local and community participation. The closing date for the submission of the completed EOIs was 15th May 2015. The EOI process was managed by the Department. The Independent Selection Committee was the final decision maker on the selection of potential LAGs at the EOI stage.

Following the outcome of stage 1, in cases where multiple EOI's emerged for a particular sub-regional area, in the interest of ensuring a more co-ordinated approach to local development, the Department has sought to facilitate, in as far as possible, one LDS in each sub-region and will continue to do so during the LDS development phase.

Stage 2: Submission of LDS

As part of the stage 2 selection process, those EOIs that were approved by the Independent Selection Committee under stage 1, have been invited to develop an LDS, which will be submitted to Pobal for appraisal.

The appraisal and scoring criterion are detailed on the following page.

5.3 Appraisal Criteria

Pobal will provide technical support to the Independent Selection Committee in the context of appraisal of the LDS using the following criteria.

Capacity

Each LAG must demonstrate that:

- The structure of the LAG is balanced i.e. public, private and voluntary representation, with no single sector being greater than 49%;
- The LAG has relevant experience of managing public funding and project delivery and demonstrates robust and transparent governance arrangements;
- The management, administrative and staffing arrangements of the LAG or its financial partner / implementing body (where applicable) have the relevant competencies, expertise and experience;
- Clear decision making processes are in place including robust financial controls and project selection procedures.

Need

Each LAG must:

- Provide a clear definition and description of the area and its population. Including identifying any priority target groups, communities and or specific geographical areas;
- Demonstrate that a detailed analysis of relevant and up-to-date evidence-based research, data and information, including the outcomes of local consultations;
- Provide evidence that local community and key stakeholders were consulted and involved in the development of the strategy and identification of needs;
- Clearly identify and describe the development needs and potential of the area;
- Clearly identify the priorities, local objectives, strategic actions to meet the needs and provide a clear rationale for their selection.

Quality of the Strategy

Each LAG must:

- Set out an action plan which is coherent, logical, time-framed and realistic;
- Set out a clear vision and achievable objectives for the area;
- Identify potential targets which are in line with LEADER Programme Indicators and commensurate with the level of funding allocated;
- Identify clearly how it will monitor and evaluate progress;
- Identify the mechanisms for delivery, including who will be accountable, staff resources.

Strategic Fit

Each LAG must:

- Identify and ensure that the priorities, objectives and actions are congruent with LEADER programme priorities and particularly the themes and sub-themes;
- Demonstrate how the priorities and actions address the cross cutting themes of innovation, climate change and environment.

Added Value & Value for Money

Each LAG must:

- Identify how the LDS complements other interventions in the area, particularly other local development strategies and plans e.g. LECPs/draft LECPs;
- Highlight any complementarity with relevant local, regional, national, EU level policies and strategies;
- Outline the mechanisms or systems in place to ensure that there is co-ordination and linkages with other local development strategies and plans to ensure that there is synergy and added value;
- Provide a budget which is in line with the allocation for the area and is clear, logical and reflects the sub-themes and local objectives.

5.4 Scoring Criterion

To be considered to have met the minimum standard required, the LDS must achieve an overall score of at least 65% and must also achieve a minimum threshold score of at least 12 (out of 20) under the 'Quality of the Strategy' criterion. Weightings have also been applied to the criterion relating to 'Quality of the Strategy' and 'Added Value and Value for Money' (See Table below).

Scoring Criterion	Score	Weighting	Maximum Score
Capacity	0-20	1	20
Need	0-20	1	20
Quality of the Strategy	0-20	2	40
Strategic Fit	0-20	1	20
Added Value and Value for Money	0-20	2	40
<u>Quality Threshold Score = 65% (91)</u>	<u>100</u>		<u>140</u>

5.5 Submission of the LDS

The final LDS will be appraised by Pobal based on the information submitted. The appraisal and selection process for LDSs will be undertaken on a rolling basis with outline submission dates detailed below:

- End October 2015;
- End November 2015;
- End December 2015;
- End January 2016.

Where there are competing LDS's in a sub-regional area, all LDS will be appraised on a competitive basis before final decisions will be made on the particular sub-regional area.

The LDS (including all appendices) must be submitted to Pobal in electronic and hard copy format.

- The electronic version (in pdf format) must be submitted to: leader@pobal.ie
- The hard copy must be submitted to: Pobal, Holbrook House, Holles Street, Dublin 2 and clearly marked '*LEADER LDS*'.

An Appeals Process will be in place.

6. Provisional Timeframes

Outlined below is a provisional timeframe for the LDS selection process, it should be noted that this is subject to change.

LDS Stage	Timeframe
Launch of Stage 2: Invitation to submit an LDS	16 July 2015
National Information Event on the LDS Selection Process (Stage 2)	16 July 2015
Closing date for submission of draft LDS	25 September 2015
Closing date for submission of final LDS ¹⁶	16 January 2016
Appraisal of the LDS	Ongoing / September 2015 - February 2016
Outcome of the LDS Selection Process	Ongoing
Agreement issued by DECLG to LAG	Ongoing
Implementation of the LDS	Once a formal Agreement is in place

¹⁶ It should be noted that a minimum of 6 months will be provided for the design of an LDS and this date refers to the end of that 6-month period. If a situation arises where an LDS does not reach the required standard and more time is requested/required, consideration will be given to extend this timeframe.

7. Additional Supports for LDS Development

LAGs will have a minimum of 6 months to develop and submit the LDS under stage 2 of the selection process. During this period, entities may wish to avail of the following practical supports:

National Information Event

A national information event will take place on Thursday 16 July 2015 from 10.30am – 4.00pm at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The session will outline the process for the development of an LDS and will also provide an opportunity for LAGs to seek clarifications on the content of the LDS and aspects of the appraisal and selection process.

Other Capacity Building Events

The Department will host a series of capacity building events for entities that are developing an LDS, at various locations throughout the country. The dates and locations for these events will be provided in due course. The focus of the events will include sectoral sessions on enterprise support, rural tourism, the environment and other LEADER themes, as outlined in the RDP. The sessions will be designed to give LAGs a sense of what is happening at a local and national level and provide some direction as to where interventions might fit in the overall development environment.

In addition, further into the LDS selection process, a number of technical training events will be provided in areas such as public procurement and governance.

LDS Queries

Pobal will operate a dedicated email address for queries relating to the LDS selection process. Queries will be managed and answered centrally by Pobal, in consultation with the Department, and will be responded to within 5 working days. An FAQ document will be developed, which will be regularly updated and available on the Pobal website, with details of frequently asked questions. The e-mail address for queries will operate from 20th July 2015 to 27th November 2015.

Email Address for LDS Queries: leader@pobal.ie

For further information on LEADER that does not relate to the LDS selection process, please contact: EU Rural Development Section (DECLG) / Email: rdp@environ.ie

Submitting a Draft LDS

As part of the technical support that Pobal will provide to assist in the development of a high quality LDS, LAGs will have an opportunity to submit a draft LDS. Whilst it is not mandatory to submit a draft of the LDS, LAGs are strongly encouraged to avail of this opportunity. LAGs will receive written feedback from Pobal on the following aspects of the draft LDS **only**:

- LDS Area Profile (Section 2 of LDS Framework)
- Participative Planning: Consultation & SWOT Analysis (Section 3 of LDS Framework)
- LDS Action Plan (Section 4 of LDS Framework)

There will be a designated 10 week period (following the launch of stage 2) for LAGs to submit a draft LDS to Pobal from 20th July 2015 to 25th September 2015. Entities should note that there is only one opportunity to submit a draft LDS. Pobal will review the documentation and provide written feedback on key elements of the LDS within 10 working days. This is in the context of providing support to LAGs on the structure and content of their LDS at an early point in the development process in order to support higher quality and robust local strategies.

The draft documentation should be emailed to: leader@pobal.ie

Useful Resources

LAGs may find the following sources of information useful in the development of the LDS:

General Resources on EU Rural Development	
European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DGAGRI)	http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm
Rural Development Section of DGAGRI	http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/index_en.htm
CAP Reform Summary of Main Elements	http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-621_en.htm
European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)	http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/
Guide to EU Rural Development after 2013	http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/Community/RuralDevelopment/FileDownload,35200,en.pdf

Local Development Strategy	
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
Regulatory Framework Documents	http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en/policy-in-action/cap-towards-2020/rdp-programming-2014-2020/legislation-and-guideline
ENRD Focus Group 4: Better Local Development Strategies	http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/fms/pdf/8EB8D271-0F99-CC64-382A-27F3B8B65B43.pdf
Guidelines in Establishing and Implementing Evaluation Plan of 2014-2020 RDP's	http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/app_templates/enrd_assets/pdf/evaluation/EP_Guidelines_Draft_March2014.pdf
Online LEADER Tool-kit	http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/leader/leader/leader-tool-kit/en/index_en.html

Appendix 1: LEADER Monitoring Framework

Theme 1: Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation

1.1 Rural Tourism

Programme Indicators
Number of projects funded – new
Number of projects funded – existing (and when founded)
Number of jobs created – new (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)
Number of existing jobs sustained (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)
Number of each type of initiative funded: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity/Adventure Tourism (angling, walking, cycling)• Culture & Heritage Tourism• Rural Recreation• Eco-Tourism• Health & Wellness Tourism• Marine & Water-based Tourism• Agri-Tourism• Cluster/network of Tourism Businesses• Promotion of area as “destination” (website development, etc.)
Number (and value) of funding under the following headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital• Training• Marketing• Animation
Number of Visitors

1.2 Enterprise Development

Programme Indicators

Number of enterprises funded – start ups

Number of enterprises funded – existing (and when founded)

Number of jobs created – new (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)

Number of existing jobs sustained (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)

Number of enterprises funded in each sector:

- Agricultural Diversification (e.g. farm shops)
- Food & Beverage
- Marine Diversification (e.g. fish smoking)
- Creative Industry
- Social Enterprise
- Hospitality
- ICT

Number (and value) of funding under the following headings:

- Capital
- Training
- Marketing
- Animation

1.3 Rural Towns

Programme Indicators
Number of projects funded
Population in towns receiving funding
Number of projects funded by type: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Streetscape enhancement• Tidy Towns• Maintenance/Restoration/Upgrading of built environment in town• Development of recreation spaces• Development of markets• Development of festivals
Number (and value) of funding under the following headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital• Training• Marketing• Animation
Number of jobs created – new (FT/ PT/ seasonal)
Number of existing jobs supported (FT/ PT/ seasonal)

1.4 Broadband

Programme Indicators
Number of small scale equipment projects funded
Population benefiting from enhanced broadband as a result of equipment funding
Number of capacity building/training/information projects funded
Number of individuals participating in capacity building/training/information activities in relation to broadband
Number of new jobs created (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)
Number of existing jobs sustained (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)

Theme 2: Social Inclusion

2.1 Provision of basic services targeted at hard to reach communities

Programme Indicators

Number of services funded – new

Number of services funded – existing (and when founded)

Number of jobs created – new (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)

Number of existing jobs sustained (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)

Number of projects funded per type of service:

- Transport
- Education
- Health
- Social Amenities
- Recreational/Physical Amenities
- Retail/Financial Services
- Personal support Services
- Bereavement/Suicide-prevention Services

Nature of services provided

- To provide a service that isn't there
- To enhance access to a service that is not in the locality (through transport)
- To enhance participation/ outcomes of a service (through tailored supports for marginalised groups i.e. mentors for isolated men to support them to participate in an existing education action)

Number of projects funded that have the following as primary or secondary target groups:

- Older people
- People with a disability
- Children
- Young people
- Travellers
- Migrants/New communities
- Unemployed people
- People living alone

Numbers of people availing of the services provided (by type of service)

Number (and value) of funding under the following headings:

- Capital
- Training
- Marketing
- Animation

2.2 Rural Youth

Programme Indicators

Number of projects funded

Number of projects funded by type of initiative:

- Youth Clubs/Cafes
- Youth Entrepreneurship
- Sport/Recreation
- Arts
- Youth Development

Nature of services provided:

- To provide a service that isn't there
- To enhance access to a service that is not in the locality (through transport)
- To enhance participation/ outcomes of a service (through tailored support to young people in disadvantaged areas to encourage their participation in particular activities/ enhance outcomes in key areas (employment training for example)

Number of young people directly participating

Number (and value) of funding under the following headings:

- Capital
- Training
- Marketing
- Animation

Theme 3: Rural Environment

3.1 Protection and sustainable use of water resources

3.2 Protection and improvement of local biodiversity

3.3 Development of renewable energy

Programme Indicators

Number of projects funded – new

Number of projects funded – existing (and when founded)

Number of jobs created – new (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)

Number of existing jobs sustained (FT/ PT/ Seasonal)

Type of project funded:

- Wind energy
- Solar power
- Energy other
- Education and awareness programmes
- Impact assessment
- Local co-ordination initiatives
- Technical/ scientific cooperation
- Nature conservation initiatives
- Recycling

Number (and value) of funding under the following headings:

- Capital
- Training
- Marketing
- Animation