

MAYO NORTH EAST LEADER PARTNERSHIP COMPANY

Your guide to the Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2014 - 2020

Welcome

Mayo North East Leader Partnership Company is delighted to announce the launch of the **Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2014 - 2020** in County Mayo.

This LEADER programme is a little different from previous programmes, so we have produced this guide to answer your questions, such as:

- What's included and excluded for LEADER funding?
- How much money is available?
- How do I make an application?
- Who do I contact?

Our team of LEADER Project Officers have years' of experience, and are available at the end of the phone, on email or for meetings, to discuss your project idea.

Staff of Mayo North East have been involved in the delivery of LEADER Programmes since 1990

We have a deep understanding of the LEADER programme's operating rules, and our Project Officers use this knowledge to support as many projects as possible, within the programme limits.

This LEADER budget is smaller than previous programmes. However we are confident that it will still result in real benefits to the businesses and communities of Mayo.

We now invite you to contact one of our LEADER Project Officers to see how the LEADER programme can benefit your business or community.

LEADER in Ireland

Three Themes

Theme 1 - Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation

- Rural Tourism
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Towns
- Broadband

Theme 2 - Rural Environment

- Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources
- Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity
- Development of Renewable Energy

Theme 3 - Social Inclusion

- Basic services targeted at hard to reach communities
- Rural Youth

*These three themes
apply to the LEADER
programme across
Ireland*

LEADER in County Mayo

Nine priority objectives for County Mayo

1 Rural Tourism

- Support capital investment in innovative tourism projects
- Marketing, networking, events and festivals
- Training and mentoring to support tourism industry
- Increase local employment, visitor stay and spend

2 Small Business & Enterprise

- Support capital investment in new and growing businesses
- Fund research and development, networking and marketing, training and mentoring for small businesses
- Increase employment and income generation

3 Rural Towns

- Enhance streetscapes, recreational spaces and tidy towns
- Maximise the potential of festivals, markets and events

4 Broadband

- Fund broadband research, pilot projects and training
- Support small-scale investment in broadband infrastructure, works and equipment

5 Community Facilities and Services

- Develop and enhance community facilities, including recreational facilities and social enterprises
- Support social initiatives and community services
- Provide training in a wide variety of community skills

6 Rural Youth

- Support investment in services and facilities for young people, such as clubs, youth cafés and recreation facilities
- Fund youth development initiatives and enhance youth participation in disadvantaged areas
- Mentoring, training, training for volunteers

7 Water Conservation

- Support training, feasibility studies, seminars and awareness programmes in water conservation
- Fund practical water conservation projects such as area plans and recycling schemes

8 Biodiversity

- Support training, seminars and awareness programmes on the topic of local biodiversity
- Fund capital projects including parks, nature corridors and habitat creation and conservation

9 Renewable Energy

- Support training and awareness on environmental issues
- Fund capital projects implementing energy conservation measures or use of renewable energy technologies
- Support energy conservation in community buildings

These priority objectives came from public consultation meetings held in late 2015 and early 2016, and are part of the LEADER Local Development Strategy for County Mayo.

What kind of projects can be funded?

Rural Tourism

- Marketing and promotion activities
- Tourism Accommodation (in certain areas)
- Festivals and Events
- Develop new and existing tourism businesses
- Tourism Networks
- Agri-tourism businesses

Small Business

- Artisan food and drink businesses
- Renewable Energy projects
- Feasibility studies for new business ideas
- Social and community enterprise
- Creative sector including crafts, software development, design and media

Rural Towns

- Town renewal schemes and restoration projects
- Multi-purpose community buildings
- Social events, markets and festivals
- Recreational spaces and tidy towns

Broadband

- Local actions that complement national initiatives
- Basic computer training to certain groups
- Skills development for installing broadband
- Feasibility studies and funding for small scale equipment

Protection & Sustainable Use of Water Resources

- Support water conservation awareness
- Specialist training programmes
- Community water improvement plans
- Projects involving use of green technology

Protection & Improvement of Local Biodiversity

- Actions to promote and protect biodiversity
- Nature networks
- Upgrading parks, river walks and habitats
- Restocking/replanting schemes for native species

Development of Renewable Energy

- Community energy audits and strategies
- Energy efficiency programmes for business and communities
- Energy conservation initiatives
- Small scale renewable energy projects

Basic Services in Hard to Reach Communities

- Develop and enhance community facilities
- Social inclusion and cultural integration
- Community training programmes
- Community/social enterprise projects

Rural Youth

- Develop youth facilities such as youth cafés, arts and recreational spaces
- Improve access to ICT for young people
- Youth development projects

Don't see your project or idea listed?

*These are just examples of projects that are listed in the LEADER operating rules.
If you have a project in mind that isn't listed here, please contact us.*

LEADER Grant Rates and Amounts

Private Individual/Business

Capital Investment	50% to a maximum of €150,000
Analysis & Development	75% to a maximum of €30,000
Training	100%, to a maximum of €50,000

Community

Capital Investment	75% to a maximum of €200,000
Analysis & Development	90% to a maximum of €30,000
Training	100%, to a maximum of €150,000

Under the LEADER programme rules, grants of less than €1,250 are not allowed.

Important: Please note that these are the highest grant rates and amounts available. In some cases these rates may be reduced, for example where:

- Business Size <20 employees, annual turnover and/or balance sheet >= €4million
- Tourism Accommodation Maximum of €50,000 per project (where gaps are identified)
- Other grant schemes are available for similar projects
- LEADER funds become more limited as time goes on

Eligible costs include:

- ✓ Construction or renovation work
- ✓ Purchase of machinery and equipment
- ✓ Professional/Technical Fees (up to 12% of project capital costs)
- ✓ Marketing (including group marketing activities)
- ✓ Training
- ✓ Analysis & Development (such as feasibility studies or prototype development)
- ✓ Voluntary Labour (community and farm diversification projects only)
- ✓ Donations (community projects only)
- ✓ Purchase of Land (with or without buildings) Community Only

Costs which are not eligible include:

- ✗ Working capital (including stock, running costs and reclaimable VAT)
- ✗ Conventional motor vehicles (including cars, vans and buses)
- ✗ Planning application fees
- ✗ Insurance costs
- ✗ Loans or leasing

Sectors and activities which are not eligible include:

- ✗ Mainstream Agriculture
- ✗ Fisheries
- ✗ Conventional retail operations (except community/farm based shops selling local produce)
- ✗ Training which is part of normal education programmes, secondary or higher level systems
- ✗ Horticulture (including bee-keeping)
- ✗ Improvements to private residential property (except for heritage projects in exceptional cases)
- ✗ Childcare
- ✗ Healthcare activities
- ✗ Nursing homes
- ✗ Housing
- ✗ Race and sport horse industries
- ✗ Greyhound industry

These lists come from the operating rules that apply to the LEADER programme in Ireland

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do I apply for a LEADER grant?

The LEADER application process involves two steps as follows:

Step 1 - Expression of Interest

All applicants must complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) for each project.

Step 2 - LEADER Grant Application

If your Expression of Interest is eligible in principle, you will be invited to make an application for LEADER funding.

Need help to apply for a grant? A LEADER Project Officer will be assigned to you to help you with your application.

What happens when I send in my Expression of Interest?

We will acknowledge your Expression of Interest in writing and it is assessed for eligibility. If your project is eligible, you will be given an application form and invited to submit an application for LEADER funding.

What happens when I send in my application form?

When your application is complete, your Project Officer will present it to an Evaluation Committee. This committee makes a recommendation to the Mayo LCDC LAG whether to fund the project or not. The Mayo LCDC LAG Board makes the final decision on your grant application.

How long will it take to get approved for funding?

This really depends on how quickly you can put the necessary information together. In general, it will take a number of months to work through the application process. Your Project Officer will guide and help you during this time.

If my project is approved, what happens?

If your project is approved, you are given a contract (letter of offer), which must be signed and returned before you start your project or spend any money.

If my project is refused, what happens?

If your project is refused, you will receive a letter, outlining the reason/s for refusal. You can appeal the decision, and information about the appeals process will be included in your refusal letter.

What are open calls?

This just means that we take each application as it comes in for funding. However, we can only do this for up to 60% of our funding. If your project type has been listed under our closed call programme, you will have to wait until that closed call is announced before you can progress your application.

What are closed calls?

At least 40% of the LEADER programme in County Mayo must be approved in closed funding calls. This is where projects of a certain type (for example community playgrounds or festivals) are all invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) by the same deadline date. These EOIs are assessed together and successful applicants will be invited to make a full LEADER application. Applications must all be submitted by the same deadline date, and compete against each other for the funding available.

More questions?

Just contact us and we will answer your LEADER queries.

Who is involved in LEADER in County Mayo?

Mayo Local and Community Development Committee Local Action Group (Mayo LCDC LAG), is the contract holder for the LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 in County Mayo.

The three Implementing Partners are:

- South West Mayo Development Company
- Mayo North East LEADER Partnership
- Comhar na nOileán

Two Animating Partners are involved, these are:

- Moy Valley Resources
- IRD Kiltimagh

The programme also has a Financial Partner:

- Mayo County Council

If you are unsure who to contact, just give us a call and we will point you in the right direction.

Glossary of Terms

Mayo LCDC LAG - This is a sub-committee of Mayo County Council with responsibility for various funding programmes in County Mayo, including LEADER.

Implementing Partner - These are the companies that support Mayo LCDC LAG in managing the day-to-day operations of the LEADER programme in County Mayo.

Animating Partner - These are the companies that support Mayo LCDC LAG in creating awareness of the LEADER programme in their areas of operation.

Financial Partner - This is the group that is responsible to monitor and manage all the financial aspects of the LEADER programme.

Who do I contact for more information?

If you are based in the **North or East Mayo area**, contact Mayo North East LEADER Partnership as follows: **Phone:** 094 92 56745 **Email:** info@mayonortheast.com

If you are based in the **south and west Mayo area**, please contact us in **Newport** on **098 41 950** or 094 9366692

If you are based on the **Mayo off-shore Islands**, contact Comhar na nOileán as follows:

Phone: 099 75096 **Email:** fios@oileain.ie

If you are based in the **Ballina area**, contact Moy Valley Resources as follows:

Phone: 096 70 905 **Email:** info@moyvalley.ie

If you have a **general query** about the LEADER programme in Mayo, contact Mayo County Council on:

Phone: 094 904 7545 **Email:** community@mayococo.ie

Contact Mayo North East Leader Partnership Co Teo

Our Website: www.mayonortheast.com
Email Us: info@mayonortheast.com
Call our Foxford Office **094 92 56745**

Write to Us: Lower Main Street, Foxford, Co. Mayo

Meet our LEADER Staff

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Important

Please note that this is a summary guide to LEADER, and does not include every programme detail. If you have a project idea, but are not sure about eligibility, please talk to a Project Officer and they will be able to give you more information, specific to your project.

All information is correct at time of publication, but may be subject to change. Mayo North East Leader Partnership Company accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

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