



RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME LEADER 2023-2027



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Funded by Department of Rural & Community Development

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



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



LEADER Programme



- **What is LEADER?**
- **The LEADER Programme is a key intervention of the Government's policy for Rural Development.**
- **It is funded by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) & the Exchequer.**
- **It is based on a community-led approach to rural development and plays an important role in supporting communities and enterprises in progressing job creation, social inclusion and environmental projects at local level.**
- **LEADER has been assisting communities and enterprises in Westmeath since 1995**

LEADER Programme



- **The current LEADER Programme 2014-2022 is being finalised**
- **New Programme due to commence later in 2023**
- **Westmeath's allocation is €5.7m for the 2023-2027 Programme**
- **New Strategy will be devised for LEADER 2023-2027 in line with indicative themes set out for the Programme**

LEADER Programme 2023-2027



Indicative LEADER Themes 2023-2027

1. Economic Development and Job Creation

❖ In supporting the development of the Rural Economy, areas of focus within this theme may include:

- The Green Economy
- Agricultural Diversification
- Rural Tourism and Recreation
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Food Production
- Social, Community & Co-operative Enterprises

LEADER Programme 2023-2027



Indicative LEADER Themes 2023-2027

2. Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion

❖ To ensure that future community development recognises all members of society, areas of focus within this theme may include:

- Rural Infrastructure
- Accessible Services
- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Rural Youth

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Indicative LEADER Themes 2023-2027

3. Sustainable Development of Rural Environment and Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

❖ In recognising that climate change mitigation and adaptation is a cross-cutting issue for all LEADER interventions, areas of focus may include the following:

- Sustainable Development of Rural Environment
- Climate Change Capacity Building
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

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- **LEADER Application and supporting documentation;**
 - **Application Form**
 - **Tenders/quotations**
 - **Strategic Plan/Business Plan**
 - **Finances (match funds and bridging finance)**
 - **Accounts or Income and Expenditure for previous 3 years**
 - **Bank Statements (3 Months)**
 - **Governance Documents**
 - **Schedule of Members**
 - **Fair Usage Policy/Inclusion statement**
 - **Tax clearance and VAT status confirmation from revenue**
 - **Insurance**
 - **Evidence of Title (for capital involving land/buildings)**
 - **Planning permission (or exemption) for capital involving land/buildings)**
 - **Statutory Approvals (e.g Fire Safety)**
- **Discuss your Project requirements with one of the LEADER officers in Westmeath Community Development**

CONTACT DETAILS

LEADER PROGRAMME 2023-2027

Westmeath Community Development

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To discuss your project idea, please contact WCD.

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