

## LEADER PROGRAMME – A SHORT SUMMARY

### About LEADER

LEADER is a rural development funding programme available to people and communities who want to develop enterprise, community and environmental projects. There are three themes and nine sub-themes eligible for funding under the current LEADER programme as follows:

#### 1. Economic Development Enterprise Development & Job Creation

- Rural Tourism
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Towns
- Broadband

#### 2. Social Inclusion

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

#### 3. Rural Environment

- Protection and sustainable use of water resources
- Protection and improvement of local biodiversity
- Development of renewable energy

### LEADER Supports

Type of Investment	Private Applicant	Community Applicant
<b>Capital Investment Grants – Buildings, renovations, equipment etc.</b>	75% to a maximum grant of €300,000*	75% to a maximum grant of €150,000*
<b>Analysis &amp; Development Grants (Feasibility studies, prototypes etc.)</b>	75% to a maximum grant of €30,000*	90% to a maximum grant of €30,000*
<b>Training Grants – Tailored training that does not form part of the national curriculum.</b>	100% to a maximum grant of €150,000*	100% to a maximum grant of €200,000*

\* Please note that these are the maximum grants available, and they may not be awarded in all cases.

#### LEADER Food Initiative

There is also a dedicated national LEADER fund for food and drink businesses and projects that benefit the food and drink sector.

### Who is eligible for LEADER funding?

LEADER support is available to a variety of applicants including:

- New and Existing Businesses
- Formalised Community/Voluntary Groups and Companies Limited by Guarantee
- Social Enterprises

If your business, group or organisation does not appear on this list, please talk to a Project Officer to see if you are eligible to apply.

**Apply for a LEADER grant**

Applying for LEADER funding is a two-step process. First you must complete the Expression of Interest form

Once we receive your Expression of Interest form, your project will be assessed for eligibility. If your project is eligible in principle, a LEADER Project Officer will work with you to develop your funding application.