



Offaly Local Development Company

Rural Development/LEADER  
Programme  
2007-2013

Brendan O' Loughlin  
Offaly Local Development Company

# Background

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- LEADER Operating in Ireland since 1992
- 36 Local Development Companies covering all rural areas.
- Aim - To strengthen the rural economy and improve quality of life in rural areas.

# Rural Development Programme

## Measures:

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- **Support for business creation & development**
  - To develop the economic infrastructure in rural areas by creating employment opportunities and promoting entrepreneurship.
  
- **Basic services for the economy & rural development**
  - To increase the attractiveness of rural areas by supporting the improvement of basic services/ amenities.
  
- **Village renewal & development**
  - To enhance and preserve the identity and the built environment of villages and fully develop the potential of rural areas.



# Rural Development Programme

## Measures:

- **Conservation & upgrading of the rural heritage**
  - To support local initiatives to preserve and upgrade the rural heritage.
  
- **Training**
  - To support relevant training on a geographic and sectoral basis.
  
- **Transnational & Inter- territorial co- operation**
  - Working with other counties, regions and countries for the benefit of rural areas
  
- **Diversification into non-agricultural activities**
  - To increase farm household income and create employment opportunities through Non- Agricultural activities



# Encouragement of Tourism Activities

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- **To support tourism development which make best use of natural and cultural resources.**
- **Provision of Infrastructural needs for tourism and countryside recreation.**
- **Development of niche tourism.**
  - Craft
  - Speciality food provision
  - Ecotourism
  - Genealogy
  - Archaeology
- **Maintenance of Vernacular features**
  - Disused Railway lines, Canal towpaths, bog roads

# Encouragement of Tourism Activities

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- **Forests for countryside recreation**
- **Internet and ecommerce facilities**
  - Provision of bookings, information services to tourist
- **Tourism facilities and amenities**
- **Tourism marketing**

# Eligibility Criteria

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- Projects should be innovative
- Generate economic activity –additional & alternative incomes
- Identify a market for the product/service
- Job creation & sustaining of existing jobs
- Will not create displacement of existing jobs



# Eligibility Criteria

- The 'de minimus rule' applies – the promoter shall not have received funding from any organisations in excess of €200,000 over any 3 year period
- A project is eligible for aid only when the work commences after the promoter has formally accepted the offer of grant aid and grant payments can only be made upon completion of the project
- Leasing/hire purchase and VAT are not eligible
- A ceiling of €150,000 per project applies
- **Quotes**

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| up to €5,000     | 1 quote  |
| €5,001 - €50,000 | 3 quotes |
| ≥€50,001         | 5 quotes |



# Non-Eligible Sectors

## Mainstream categories

- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Childcare
- Education
- Greyhound Industry
- Healthcare activities
- Housing
- Race & sport horse industries

## Activities

- Conventional motor vehicles
- Conventional retail
- Training as part of 'normal' education
- Insurance
- Loans
- Mainstream activities of sporting clubs
- Nursing homes
- Planning application fees
- Purchase of land or buildings
- Working capital (including stock)



# Thank You

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Brendan O' Loughlin  
Offaly Local Development Company,  
Millennium House,  
Main Street,  
Tullamore,  
Co Offaly.

057 9322650  
boloughlin@offalyldc.ie



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