

## PROFILES OF LOCAL ACTION GROUPS – IRELAND

<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>CARLOW LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Carlow Local Community Development Committee, County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Michael Brennan <a href="mailto:mbrennan@carlowcoco.ie">mbrennan@carlowcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Eamonn Moore <a href="mailto:eamonn.moore@emeritius.itcarlow.ie">eamonn.moore@emeritius.itcarlow.ie</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Mary Walsh <a href="mailto:mwalsh@carlowdevelopment.ie">mwalsh@carlowdevelopment.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Tourism, Food, Micro Enterprise		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
	<p>County Carlow is an inland County, located in the South East Region and bordered by Counties Wicklow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Laois and Kildare. The County is 943 sq. km. in area.</p> <p>The varied rock pattern of County Carlow is reflected in the topographic contrasts in the landscape. The County is bordered to the South and East by the granite, mountain ridge of the Blackstairs Mountains, with Mount Leinster as its highest peak, rising to a height of 796m. The West of the County is bordered by the hills of the Castlecomer Plateau, composed of Shale and Sandstone from which commercial deposits of coal were extracted up until the mid-twentieth century.</p> <p>The main rivers flowing through County Carlow are the Barrow and Slaney Rivers and their associated tributaries. According to the 2011 CSO census the population of County Carlow is 54,612.</p> <p>The principal towns in the County are Carlow, Tullow, Muinebheag, Hacketstown and Borris. County Carlow has a pivotal location as a County Town in the South East Region with a strong relationship to the Midlands and South Leinster region. County Carlow's strategic location close to Dublin has been enhanced by the opening of the M9 motorway from Dublin to Waterford.</p>		



\*Information contained within has been generated from LAG Local Development Strategies provided to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and supporting information gathered from the CSO website (2016).

<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>CAVAN LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	<b>Cavan County Council, Courthouse, County Hall, Cavan</b>		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> John Donohoe <a href="mailto:johndonohoe@cavancoco.ie">johndonohoe@cavancoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Tommy Ryan <a href="mailto:tryan@cavancoco.ie">tryan@cavancoco.ie</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Brendan Reilly <a href="mailto:breilly@breffniint.ie">breilly@breffniint.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	<b>Contact LAG</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	<p>Cavan is located in the province of Ulster and is part of the Border Region. It is named after the town of Cavan and is based on the historic Gaelic territory of East Breffny (Bréifne).</p> <p>The county has a population of 76,092 according to the 2016 census. Cavan is a predominately rural county with 70 per cent of the population living in rural areas and very small settlements.</p>		



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>CLARE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Unit 1, Westgate Business Park, Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co. Clare		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Doreen Graham <a href="mailto:dgraham@cldc.ie">dgraham@cldc.ie</a>		
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Sustainable Coastal Tourism, Arts and Craft Trails, Wood Energy		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	<p>Largely bounded by water, Co. Clare is situated on the west coast of Ireland, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Shannon Estuary to the south, Lough Derg and the Sliabh Aughty mountains to the east and Galway Bay to the north. The area for proposed delivery for the LEADER programme 2014 – 2020 is Co. Clare. On the date of the CSO 2011 census, the population of the County was 117,196.</p> <p>Co. Clare is a county of immense opportunity; world-class scenery and a living, lively culture make it a premier tourism destination. Its location between Galway and Limerick, its international airport and free zone make Clare fertile ground for commerce and industry. Clare is a predominantly rural county with a substantial agricultural community.</p> <p>The area of Co. Clare is 3,450km<sup>2</sup>, making it the 7th largest county in Ireland. The population density of the county is 33.8 people per square kilometre – the 6th most sparsely populated county, lying between Co. Donegal (32.9) and Co. Sligo (35.5) in national population density rankings.</p>		



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>NORTH CORK LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Cork County Council, Floor 6, County Library Building, Carrigrohane Road, Cork		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Niall Healy <a href="mailto:Niall.healy@corkcoco.ie">Niall.healy@corkcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Cllr. Gerard Murphy <a href="mailto:gmurphycork@gmail.com">gmurphycork@gmail.com</a>	<b>IP CEOs:</b> Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG: Valerie Murphy, <a href="mailto:valerie@avondublackwater.com">valerie@avondublackwater.com</a> IRD Duhallow LTD: Maura Walsh, <a href="mailto:duhallow@eircom.net">duhallow@eircom.net</a> Ballyhoura Development Limited: Padraig Casey, <a href="mailto:pcasey@ballyhoura.org">pcasey@ballyhoura.org</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	Diaspora, Historic Graves, Water Catchment Management, Walking tourism, Tourism		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	<p>North Cork is a diverse rural area that extends from the Kerry border in the west to Counties Waterford and Tipperary in the east – a distance of 90km.</p> <p>The sub-region is bordered to the north by County Limerick, and its southern boundary is approximately 15km from Cork City. The sub-region encompasses 2 Municipal Districts, and 106 Electoral Divisions.</p> <p>The area has a total population of 89,531; an increase of 10.8% since 2006. It has a total surface area of 2,535km<sup>2</sup>.</p>		



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<b>NAME:</b>	<b>DONEGAL LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Donegal Local Community Development Committee, Donegal County Council, Co Donegal		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Paddy Doherty, <a href="mailto:Paddy.doherty@donegalcoco.ie">Paddy.doherty@donegalcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> <b>Seamus Neely,</b> <a href="mailto:sneely@donegalcoco.ie">sneely@donegalcoco.ie</a>	<b>IP CEOs:</b> Inishowen Development Partnership: Andrew Ward, <a href="mailto:andrew@inishowen.ie">andrew@inishowen.ie</a> Donegal Local Development Co. Ltd: Padraic Fingleton, <a href="mailto:pfingleton@dldc.org">pfingleton@dldc.org</a> Comhar na nOileain Teoranta: Maire Ui Mhaolain, <a href="mailto:marie@oileain.ie">marie@oileain.ie</a> Udaras na Gaeltachta: Steve O Culain <a href="mailto:stoc@udaras.ie">stoc@udaras.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Natural, Maritime and Built Heritage, Recreation Trails, Outdoor Recreation		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	The proposed geographical catchment area for the Local Development Strategy (LDS) is the Donegal Local Authority area, which has a population of 161,137 persons and a landmass of 4,861 sq. km's or 6.9% of the total land area of the State.		



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>Dublin Rural LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Dublin Rural LAG, Economic Development Services, County Hall, Swords, Co Dublin		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Breffni O'Rourke	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Pat O'Connor <a href="mailto:Pat.oconnor@itb.ie">Pat.oconnor@itb.ie</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Mary McKenna, <a href="mailto:mmckenna@fingalleaderpartnership.ie">mmckenna@fingalleaderpartnership.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	Women in entrepreneurship, edge cities, horticulture and food		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	<p>The Dublin Rural Local Development Strategy (LDS) area is spatially unique, comprised of rural parts of the local authorities of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin, all within the County of Dublin. The designated Dublin Rural area reflects its peri-urban nature. The basis of the designated area is a series of 19 Electoral Divisions (EDs), as defined by the Central Statistics Office, across the three local authority areas. However, the entire area of the Electoral Area is not automatically selected. Each ED is in turn made up of a number of 'Small Areas', as defined by the Central Statistics Office, which is the smallest level for which census data is collected. Where a Small Area comprises part of a settlement within the Dublin conurbation, it is excluded from the analysis so that the Dublin Rural area, as defined, relates solely to the parts of the ED that lie outside the urban settlements.</p> <p>This selection methodology complies with the Area Selection process as outlined in the Local Development Strategy Framework Guidelines, and ensures that small areas are not split. The Dublin Rural area comprises an area of 410 sq.km (42,000 ha), which is approximately 51% of the total area of the three relevant local authorities. However, the population within this area is 66,603, only accounting for 13% of the total for the three local authorities (745,457). Compared with the urban areas of these local authorities, this reflects a relatively less densely populated area.</p>		



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>KERRY LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Kerry Local Community Development Committee, County Buildings, Rathass, Tralee, Co. Kerry		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Niamh O' Sullivan niamh.osullivan@kerrycoco.ie	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Cllr Norma Moriarty <a href="mailto:moriartynorma@gmail.com">moriartynorma@gmail.com</a>	<b>IP CEOs:</b> North, East and West Kerry Development: Eamonn O'Reilly, <a href="mailto:eamonnoreilly@newkd.ie">eamonnoreilly@newkd.ie</a>  South Kerry Development Partnership: Noel Spillane <a href="mailto:nspillane@skdp.net">nspillane@skdp.net</a>  IRD Duhallow: Maura Walsh, <a href="mailto:duhallow@eircom.net">duhallow@eircom.net</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	Culture, Tourism, Outdoor Classrooms, Social Farming		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	The Local Development Strategy area encompasses the County of Kerry. County Kerry is located in the South West of Ireland and covers an area of 1,815 sq. miles. It is the 5th largest of the 32 counties of Ireland by area and the 13th largest by population. The CSO 2011 census recorded the population of County Kerry as 145,502. Kerry is a coastal county and is bordered on its western coast by the Atlantic, and landward by County Limerick to the east and County Cork to the south-east.		



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>KILKENNY LEADER PARTNERSHIP</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Kilkenny LEADER Partnership, 8 Patricks Court, Patrick Street, Kilkenny, Tel (353) 056 7752111 Email info@cklp.ie		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Mr. Declan Rice <a href="mailto:declan.rice@cklp.ie">declan.rice@cklp.ie</a>		
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Tourism and recreation, artisan food, social enterprise		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	The geographic area of the Local Development Strategy proposed by KLP is the entire sub-regional area covered by County Kilkenny, including Kilkenny City, with a population of 95,419. Kilkenny covers a total geographic extent of 2,072 km <sup>2</sup> and a land area of 2,061 km <sup>2</sup> . There are 377 small areas (SAs) in Kilkenny that nest into 113 EDs.		





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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>LAOIS LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Laois Local Community Development Committee, Laois County Council, Aras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co Laois		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Michael Rainey, <a href="mailto:mrainey@laoiscoco.ie">mrainey@laoiscoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Paddy Buggy <a href="mailto:paddybuggy@mountmellickdevelopment.com">paddybuggy@mountmellickdevelopment.com</a>	<b>IP CEOs:</b> Anne Goodwin, <a href="mailto:annegoodwin@laoispartnership.ie">annegoodwin@laoispartnership.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Contact LAG		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	<p>Co Laois covers an area of 1,719km<sup>2</sup> or 171,990 hectares, 2.4% of the surface area of the state. It is bordered by counties Offaly, Kildare, Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary. Population as per 2011 Census was 80,559 persons. The effect of its proximity to the Greater Dublin Area can be seen through the increase in population between 2006 and 2011 of towns such as Portarlinton and Portlaoise.</p> <p>The population of Portarlinton has grown by 148% between 1996 and 2011 and the population of Portlaoise by 132%. This is in marked contrast to the west of the county where the population of the largest town Rathdowney decreased in the same period by 9%.</p>		



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>LEITRIM LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Leitrim Local Community Development Committee, Aras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Mr. Joseph Gilhooly, <a href="mailto:jgilhool@leitrimcoco.ie">jgilhool@leitrimcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Frank Curran, <a href="mailto:fcurran@leitrimcoco.ie">fcurran@leitrimcoco.ie</a>	IP CEOs: Donal Fox, <a href="mailto:donal@ldco.ie">donal@ldco.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Contact LAG		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	<p>Leitrim is the 26th largest of the 32 counties, by area, and the smallest by population on the island.</p> <p>Leitrim is bordered by the counties of Donegal to the north, Fermanagh to the north-east, Cavan to the east, Longford to the south, Roscommon to the south-west and Sligo to the west. Leitrim has a population of 31,798 according to the 2011 census.</p>		



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>LIMERICK LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	<b>Limerick Local Community Development Committee, City Hall, Merchants Quay, Limerick.</b>		
	<b>Chief Officer:</b> Mr. Seamus O'Connor, <a href="mailto:seamus.oconnor@limerick.ie">seamus.oconnor@limerick.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Cllr Eddie Ryan, <a href="mailto:eddie.ryan@limerick.ie">eddie.ryan@limerick.ie</a>	<b>IP CEOs:</b> <b>Ballyhoura Development Limited:</b> Padriac Casey, <a href="mailto:pcasey@ballyhoura.org">pcasey@ballyhoura.org</a> <b>West Limerick Resources: Shay Riordan</b> <a href="mailto:ShayRiordan@wlr.ie">ShayRiordan@wlr.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	<b>Diaspora, Historic Graves, Mountain Biking, Heritage, Rural Youth</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
The Local Development Strategy (LDS) area covers a geographic area of approximately 2,700sq km. It is bounded to the north by County Clare and Limerick City, to the east by County Tipperary, to the south by County Cork and to the west by County Kerry. The LDS area formed part of the former Mid-West Region and currently forms part of the newly established Southern and Eastern Region. For the purposes of LEADER the LDS area is divided two areas – east Limerick and west Limerick, each with its own Programme Implementer.			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>LOUTH LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Louth Local Community Development Committee, Louth County Council, Dundalk, Co Louth		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Joe McGuinness <a href="mailto:joe.mcguinness@louthcoco.ie">joe.mcguinness@louthcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Colm Markey <a href="mailto:colmmarkey1@gmail.com">colmmarkey1@gmail.com</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Mary-Ann McGlynn <a href="mailto:mary-ann.mcglynn@louthleaderpartnership.ie">mary-ann.mcglynn@louthleaderpartnership.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	<b>Contact LAG</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>Co. Louth is the smallest county in the State. It is also one of the most densely populated, containing two large county towns, namely Dundalk and Drogheda. In addition to these major urban centres, the County also contains a number of substantial towns and villages including Ardee, Dunleer, Clogherhead and Carlingford.</p> <p>The county is strategically located on the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor, and has strong links to Northern Ireland. By reason of this location combined with high quality infrastructure (road and rail), accessibility to ports and airports (north and south), high speed broadband, a skilled and educated workforce, the county is well placed for the future.</p> <p>Co. Louth is one of twelve counties in the province of Leinster. Despite being on the coast and its small size, it shares a border with three other counties. They are Armagh to the north, Monaghan to the northwest and Meath to the southwest.</p>			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>MONAGHAN LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Monaghan Local Community Development Committee, Monaghan County Council, The Glen, Monaghan, Co Monaghan		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Mr. Fintan McPhillips, <a href="mailto:fmcpillips@monaghancoco.ie">fmcpillips@monaghancoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> <b>Emer Brennan</b> <a href="mailto:emerbrennan@eircom.net">emerbrennan@eircom.net</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Gabriel O'Connell <a href="mailto:goconnell@midl.ie">goconnell@midl.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Contact LAG		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>Monaghan forms part of the Border Region and is in the province of Ulster. The population of the county is 60,483 according to the 2011 census.</p> <p>Notable mountains include Slieve Beagh (on the Tyrone and Fermanagh borders), Mullyash Mountain and Coolberrin Hill (214 m, 702 ft).</p> <p>Lakes include Lough Avaghon, Dromore Lough, Drumlona Lough, Lough Egish.</p> <p>Monaghan is divided into four local electoral areas: Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Monaghan.</p>			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>MAYO LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Mayo Local Community Development Committee, Mayo County Council, Aras an Chontae, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Declan Turnbull, <a href="mailto:dturnbu@mayococo.ie">dturnbu@mayococo.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> <b>Pater Hynes,</b> <a href="mailto:phynes@mayococo.ie">phynes@mayococo.ie</a>	<b>IP CEOs:</b> South West Mayo Development Company: Gerry O'Neill, <a href="mailto:goneill@southmayo.com">goneill@southmayo.com</a> Mayo North East LEADER, Justin Sammon, <a href="mailto:Justinsammon@mnelp.com">Justinsammon@mnelp.com</a> Comhar na nOileain Teoranta: Maire Ui Mhaolain, <a href="mailto:marie@oileain.ie">marie@oileain.ie</a> Animating Partners, Moy Valley Resources IRD, William P Lewis, <a href="mailto:wplewis@moyvalley.ie">wplewis@moyvalley.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS</b>	<b>CONTACT LAG</b>		
<b>INCLUDE :</b>			
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>County Mayo has a significant and geographically and historically important natural and cultural heritage. Mountains and uplands are found in the northern whilst the western part of the county is characterised by peatland, heath and woodlands. Croagh Patrick (765m) is Mayo's most famous mountain but Mweelrea (819m) is the highest mountain in Connaught, situated just north of Killary Harbour. Co. Mayo is the third largest of Ireland's 32 counties in physical area, and is the 15<sup>th</sup> largest in terms of population. According to the Central Statistics Office Census of Population, Co. Mayo had a population of 130,638 persons in April 2011.</p>			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>MEATH LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Meath Local Community Development Committee, Community Section, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Navan, County Meath.		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Barry Lynch <a href="mailto:barry.lynch@meathcoco.ie">barry.lynch@meathcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Sinéad Smith <a href="mailto:sineadsmith@hotmail.com">sineadsmith@hotmail.com</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Michael Ludlow <a href="mailto:michael.ludlow@meathpartnership.ie">michael.ludlow@meathpartnership.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	Ecotourism Networks, Artisan Food		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
County Meath is a sub-regional area within Ireland. There are no census towns as defined for the 2011 Census of population within county Meath. Therefore, the entire territory as defined by the county boundary is subject to the LDS. County Meath covers an area of 234, 490 hectares approximately with is 3.3% of the total area of the state. Navan is the principal urban centre, the county town and the seat of the main administration functions of local government. As a county, Meath is located in the greater Dublin area and development trends in parts of the county are considerably influenced by opportunities and pressures emanating from the Dublin metropolitan area.			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>OFFALY LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Offaly Local Community Development Committee, Aras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore Co Offaly.		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Declan Kirrane <a href="mailto:dkirrane@offalycoco.ie">dkirrane@offalycoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Dominic Doheny <a href="mailto:dominic@flangroup.ie">dominic@flangroup.ie</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Brendan O'Loughlin <a href="mailto:boloughlin@offalyldc.ie">boloughlin@offalyldc.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	Tourism, Recreation, Craft		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>The geographical area for the LDS is County Offaly; a predominantly rural county with a population of 76,687 (Census 2011). Tullamore is the County Town with a population of 14,361, with other main centres of population being Edenderry, Birr, Banagher, Shinrone, Clara, Kilcormac, Daingean and Portarlinton (based on population density of greater than 100 persons per square kilometre being classified as a rural town). The County is bordered by seven counties which are Galway, Roscommon, Tipperary, Laois, Westmeath, Kildare and Meath.</p> <p>Approximately one fifth of the County comprises peatlands with the majority of lands being used for mix of agriculture and forestry. Offaly is primarily a flat county with the exception of the Slieve Bloom Mountains and their attractive foothills, located to the south west of the County.</p> <p>Other significant landscape features include the River Shannon (and Callows) which runs along the western boundary of the County, the River Brosna, a tributary of the Shannon, the Grand Canal which traverses the County, important archaeological and historical landscapes such as Clonmacnoise and Durrow and Croghan Hill, an extinct volcano. A comprehensive system of eskers also exists in Offaly, mainly concentrated in the northwest and centre of the County.</p>			





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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>ROSCOMMON LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Roscommon Local Community Development Committee, The Courthouse, Abbey Street, Roscommon Town.		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Pat Murtagh <a href="mailto:pmurtagh@roscommoncoco.ie">pmurtagh@roscommoncoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Martina Earley <a href="mailto:martinaearley@ridc.ie">martinaearley@ridc.ie</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Martina Earley <a href="mailto:martinaearley@ridc.ie">martinaearley@ridc.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	Tourism, Food, Enterprise, Heritage, Rural Youth, Biodiversity		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>The geographic area to be covered by this Local Development Strategy is the county of Roscommon, excluding the DED of Athlone West Urban and the east urban area of Ballinasloe, i.e. the administrative area of Roscommon County Council, comprising the Municipal Areas of Athlone, Boyle and Roscommon. It consists of 112 electoral areas, listed in Appendix 6 ranging in population size from just 88 (Estersnow) up to 4,782 (Roscommon Rural). The majority of these are below the national average in terms of disadvantage and relative deprivation indices.</p> <p>Roscommon is a land of lakes and rivers, gently rolling hills, bogland and picturesque mountains. Framed to the east and west by Lough Ree and the Rivers Shannon and Suck, Roscommon is bordered by Sligo and Leitrim to the north, Galway and Mayo to the west, Offaly to the south and Westmeath and Longford to the east. Its central location gives rise to a hinterland population of approximately 300,000 persons within a 60km radius. It is the only inland county in the West region, and is therefore more centrally located, having a lot in common with other inland counties in the midlands in terms of geography, population trends and economic development.</p> <p>Spread over an area of 2,547km<sup>2</sup>, Roscommon is the 9th largest county in Ireland. Roscommon has 3.6% of the national landmass but just 1.4% of the national population, illustrating its predominantly rural nature, with the third lowest population density in the State.</p>			



\*Information contained within has been generated from LAG Local Development Strategies provided to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and supporting information gathered from the CSO website (2016).

<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>SLIGO LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Sligo Local Community Development Committee, Sligo County Council, City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo.		
<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b>	Ms. Dorothy Clarke, <a href="mailto:dclarke@sligococo.ie">dclarke@sligococo.ie</a>	<b>Sean MacManus</b> <a href="mailto:seanmacmanus@eircom.net">seanmacmanus@eircom.net</a>	Chris Gonley <a href="mailto:cgonley@sligoleader.com">cgonley@sligoleader.com</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS:</b>	<b>Contact LAG</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>County Sligo is located in the Northwest of Ireland, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on its western side and by counties Leitrim, Roscommon, and Mayo. It is 179,608 sq. km in size, making it the 16th largest county in Ireland. The landscape is largely mountainous with Benbulbin to the north, the Bricklieve and Curlew Mountains to the south and the Ox Mountains to the West. The county has a particularly rich and varied archaeological heritage, with around 220 megalithic monuments alone including Carrowmore, Carrowkeel and Maeve's Cairn. It also has a strong cultural and literary identity, stretching from its notable associations with W.B. Yeats, to the strength of traditional Irish music, to a vibrant modern cultural scene in music, art and theatre.</p> <p>Ireland experienced a significant population growth of 30.1% over the past 20 years, with the Border Region growing at a marginally lower rate (27.8%). County Sligo has grown at the lower rate still of 19.4% over the same period and by 7.4% between 2006 and 2011 and currently stands at approximately 65,393 (Census 2011)<sup>1</sup>. There are however some notable variations within the county.</p>			



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<b>NAME:</b>	<b>TIPPERARY LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Tipperary Local Community Development Committee, County Hall, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Ms. Sinéad Carr <a href="mailto:sinead.carr@tipperarycoco.ie">sinead.carr@tipperarycoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Charles Stanley-Smith <a href="mailto:charles@r495.com">charles@r495.com</a>	<b>IP CEOs:</b> North Tipperary LEADER Partnership: Michael Murray <a href="mailto:mmurray@ntlp.ie">mmurray@ntlp.ie</a> South Tipperary Leader Partnership: Isabel Cambie, <a href="mailto:isabelcambe@stdc.ie">isabelcambe@stdc.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	Area specific (Contact LAG)		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>The Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 programme which will cover the five Municipal Districts of Nenagh, Templemore-Thurles, Clonmel- Cahir, Carrick-on-Suir and Cashel-Tipperary. The total population of County Tipperary is 158,754 (CSO: 2011) with a population density of 37 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. With a geographical area of 4,282 sq. km. Tipperary is the sixth largest of the 32 counties by area and the eleventh largest by population. The centre is known as ‘the Golden Vale’, a rich pastoral stretch of land in the Suir basin which extends into counties Limerick and Cork. The county is traversed by key national arterial routes such as M7, M8, N24, as well as train lines from Dublin to Cork and Limerick and Waterford to Limerick. Tipperary is bounded by eight counties, namely, Galway in Connaught, Clare, Limerick, Cork, Waterford in Munster and Kilkenny, Laois and Offaly in Leinster. The settlement pattern within the county is based on a strong network of towns and villages with service centres provided at strategic locations throughout the county. The major towns of Clonmel (17,908 pop) and Nenagh (8,439 pop) are located at opposite ends of the county thus ensuring the potential for strong, social, economic and community linkages within the county and strong service centres for their sub regions. The towns of Thurles, Roscrea, Tipperary, Carrick on Suir, Templemore, Cahir and Cashel function as service centres for their local hinterlands.</p>			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>WATERFORD LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Waterford LCDC, Waterford City and County Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Mr. Don Tuohy <a href="mailto:dtuohy@waterfordcouncil.ie">dtuohy@waterfordcouncil.ie</a>	<b>Chairperson:</b> <b>Cllr. Adam Wyse</b> <a href="mailto:cllr.awyse@waterfordcouncil.ie">cllr.awyse@waterfordcouncil.ie</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Jimmy Taaffe <a href="mailto:jimmy.taaffe@wlp.ie">jimmy.taaffe@wlp.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	<b>Contact LAG</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>The LDS covers all of rural County Waterford, but excludes the area covered by the original Waterford City boundary.</p> <p>Thus, the LDS has been prepared on the basis of the inclusion of the Municipal Districts of Dungarvan-Lismore, Comeragh, and part of the new Municipal Districts of Tramore-Waterford City West, Waterford City East, and Waterford City South.</p> <p>The CSO Census 2011 records the population of area as 67,063 persons. This includes the population of the Gaeltacht area.</p>			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>WESTMEATH LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Westmeath LCDC, Westmeath County Council, Aras An Chontae, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Mr Hugh O Reilly <a href="mailto:horeilly@westmeathcoco.ie">horeilly@westmeathcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Pat Gallagher <a href="mailto:pat.gallagher@westmeathcoco.ie">pat.gallagher@westmeathcoco.ie</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Joe Potter <a href="mailto:jpotter@westcd.ie">jpotter@westcd.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE :</b>	Waterways, Tourism, Walking Tourism, Artisan Food		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>For the purposes of the LEADER 2014-2020, the geographical area concerned is the administrative area of County Westmeath including Mullingar the principal town and administrative headquarters and Athlone, the largest town. Known as the “Lake County”, Westmeath is situated in the centre of Ireland. It has borders with counties Meath, Longford, Cavan, Roscommon and Offaly and covers an area of 1,756 square kilometres. The landscape is distinctive in that it comprises of rich pastureland with rolling hills, lakes, rivers, woodlands and bogs. Its rich environment supports a wide range of diverse and species rich habitats including also wetlands and eskers. The Royal Canal traverses the county encircling Mullingar. The highest point of the county standing at 258m is located in Mullaghmeen Forest in the north of the county.</p> <p>The population of the county is 86,164 with the two main towns forming the main population centres with 23% of the population living in Mullingar and its environs and 18.1% in Athlone. These two towns also provide much of the economic and commercial activity for the county. Other population and service centres include Moate, Kilbeggan, Castlepollard and Kinnegad. There are many picturesque villages including Tyrrellspass, Multyfarnham and Finea which are dotted on the landscape and these too provide services to the rural population in their hinterland.</p>			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>WEXFORD LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Wexford Local Community Development Committee, Wexford County Council, Carriglawn, County Wexford.		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Mr. Ger Mackey <a href="mailto:ger.mackey@wexfordcoco.ie">ger.mackey@wexfordcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Cllr. Tony Dempsey <a href="mailto:tony.dempsey@wexfordmc.c.ie">tony.dempsey@wexfordmc.c.ie</a>	<b>IP CEO:</b> Brian Kehoe <a href="mailto:bkehoe@wld.ie">bkehoe@wld.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Blueways, Creative Clusters, Artisan Food, Incubation Clusters		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>The area covered by this LDS is County Wexford, including Wexford Town. The county is about 43km at its widest point and 80km long with a total area of 2,350km<sup>2</sup>. The county is characterised by fertile farmland, upland areas and a coastline of 246km with a further 18km on off-shore islands. County Wexford has high quality infrastructural links to Dublin and Waterford and is connected to the United Kingdom (UK) and mainland Europe through Rosslare Europort. Wexford is a county rich in biodiversity. Habitat diversity includes reefs, sea caves, coastal dune systems, lagoons, lakes, rivers, grasslands, marshes, woodlands and peatlands.</p> <p>Natural heritage hotspots include the coastal systems of Bannow Bay and Ballyteige, The Raven Nature Reserve, the lagoons at Lady's Island Lake and Tackumshin Lake and woodlands at Killoughrim, uplands of the Blackstairs mountains and river valleys of the Barrow and Slaney Rivers. The county is divided into 4 Municipal Districts (MD), 124 Electoral Divisions (ED) and 611 Small Areas (SA). According to the 2011 Census, the total population in Wexford is 145,320. This represents an increase of 10.3% from 2006 (131,740). Wexford is now the 13th most populated LA in Ireland and accounts for 3.16% of the State total.</p>			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>WICKLOW LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Wicklow Local Community Development Committee, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow.		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Michael Nicholson, <a href="mailto:MNichols@wicklowcoco.ie">MNichols@wicklowcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Cllr. Grainne McLoughlin <a href="mailto:mcloughlingrainne@gmail.com">mcloughlingrainne@gmail.com</a>	
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Heritage tourism, Ancient East, Costal Communities, Men's Sheds		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>County Wicklow's Local Development Strategy (LDS) will operate throughout the entire county of Wicklow in order to deliver the LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020. This LDS will serve a population of some 136,640 people (CSO, 2011) and will cover an area of 2,017 square kilometres. The typical topography of Wicklow is one of mountains, rolling foothills, forests and lakes. The county is dominated by the Wicklow Granite Mountains which present unique challenges and opportunities to the area. The spine of the mountain range runs in a northeast-southwest direction across the county. East-west movement across the county can be severely restricted by the mountains, particularly during severe weather conditions. Wicklow's upland areas are rich in biodiversity and form the largest unbroken area of high ground in Ireland. The Sally Gap, Powerscourt Waterfall, Lugnaquilla (925 metres) and Glendalough are other notable features in the county, along with its 66km coastline. Wicklow National Park stretches across some 20,000 hectares and attracts over one million visitors per year. Wicklow possesses a number of ports and harbours along its coast including Arklow, Wicklow, Greystones, and Bray. According to the 2011 Census, the county's population showed an increase in population of 8.3% (10,446 persons) and resulting in a total population of 136,640.</p>			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>FORUM Connemara Ltd,</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	<b>Letterfrack, Co. Galway.</b>		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> John Coyne, CEO j.coyne@forumconnemara.ie		
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	Contact LAG		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>The FORUM LDS covers an extensive catchment territory that extends from Lough Corrib on the outskirts of Galway City to Clifden on the edge of the Atlantic coast and from Killary Harbour which borders with County Mayo to Lettermullen on the South at the entrance to Galway Bay. It also has four inhabited islands Inishmore, Inishmaan, Inisheer and Inishbofin, a 35km border with County Mayo and a coastline which stretches from Leenane to na Forbacha, just west of Galway City. Another important feature is that the territory contains the largest Gaeltacht area in the State. The territory is an innate functional area and corresponds naturally with the administrative area of the Municipal District of Connemara (here after referred to as Connemara). It has a surface area of 2050Sq/Km and a population of 39,238 (CSO, 2011). Clifden with a population of 2,613 is the main town in the territory.</p>			





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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>South Cork LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	<b>South Cork Local Community Development, Cork County Council, Floor 6, County Library Building, Carrigrohane Road, Cork</b>		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Niall Healy, <a href="mailto:niall.healy@corkcoco.ie">niall.healy@corkcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Cllr. Michael Hegarty, <a href="mailto:michael.hegarty@corkcoco.ie">michael.hegarty@corkcoco.ie</a>	<b>IP CEOs:</b> Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLGI: Valerie Murphy <a href="mailto:valerie@avondhublackwater.com">valerie@avondhublackwater.com</a>  IRD Duhallow CLG Maura Walsh <a href="mailto:duhallow@eircom.net">duhallow@eircom.net</a>  South and East Cork Area Development CLG Ryan Howard: <a href="mailto:rhoward@secad.ie">rhoward@secad.ie</a>  Údarás na Gaeltachta Steve Ó Cúláin, <a href="mailto:stoc@udaras.ie">stoc@udaras.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	<b>Contact LAG</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>The South Cork sub-region presents a particularly diverse socio-economic profile, spanning from deeply rural areas through to the peri-urban periphery of Cork city. The west of the area is bounded by the Mhúscraí Gaeltacht . The west and north of the area has significant uplands including the Derrynasaggart and Boggeragh Mountains. The east is characterised by more fertile lowlands on which agriculture predominates. These yield to a varied coastline, along which villages interspersed with cereal farms dominate. The Co. Kerry border, west of Baile Bhuirne, is over 100km from the town of Youghal at the mouth of the River Blackwater. The area is both dominated and divided by Cork City, which presents a number of developmental challenges and opportunities.</p>			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>West Cork LCDC</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	<b>West Cork Local Community Development, Cork County Council, Floor 6, County Library Building, Carrigrohane Road, Cork</b>		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Niall Healy, <a href="mailto:niall.healy@corkcoco.ie">niall.healy@corkcoco.ie</a>	<b>CHAIRPERSON:</b> Finbarr Harrington <a href="mailto:finbarrcurley@gmail.com">finbarrcurley@gmail.com</a>	<b>IP CEOs:</b> Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLGI: Valerie Murphy <a href="mailto:valerie@avonhubblackwater.com">valerie@avonhubblackwater.com</a>  South and East Cork Area Development CLG Ryan Howard: <a href="mailto:rhoward@secad.ie">rhoward@secad.ie</a>  Comhar na nOileáin Teoranta Máire Uí Mhaoláin <a href="mailto:maire@oileain.ie">maire@oileain.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	<b>Contact LAG</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
West cork is one of the three LCDC regions in County Cork. It is a sub region, and administrative area located in the south west of Ireland. It is a diverse geographic, historic and cultural region of some 3,200 km2. West cork comprises the electoral areas of Bandon, Skibbereen, Bantry and parts of Macroom.			



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<b>LAG NAME:</b>	<b>LONGFORD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Longford Local Community Development Committee, Longford County Council, Great Water Street, Longford .		
	<b>CHIEF OFFICER:</b> Ciaran Murphy, <a href="mailto:cmurphy@longfordcoco.ie">cmurphy@longfordcoco.ie</a>		<b>IP CEO:</b> Adrian Greene <a href="mailto:Agreene@lcr1.ie">Agreene@lcr1.ie</a>
<b>COOPERATION INTERESTS INCLUDE:</b>	<b>Contact LAG</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE LAG AREA:</b>			
<p>Longford is located within the Northern Development Area as set out under the Midlands Regional Planning Guidelines.</p> <p>In April 2011 Longford had a recorded population of 39,000 (Census 2011).</p> <p>Longford has many important heritage sites as well as a a significant music and literary tradition.</p>			