

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER 2023-2027 Allocation  
**Date:** Sunday 5 December 2021 12:26:21

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed allocation of €180million for the LEADER 2023-2027 programme in Ireland. This funding falls far short of the level it needs to be for rural areas in Ireland to achieve their full potential. It also undermines the viability of Local Development Companies in Ireland to deliver LEADER and other complementary programmes in their areas of operation.

Therefore, I am asking the Irish Government to provide a sustainable budget of **€389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027** to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities, as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

In the 30 years of LEADER in Ireland, never has a meaningful budget been more important. The Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit have inflicted unprecedented damage on our rural communities and businesses, and it will take years of developmental LEADER intervention to build them up again.

I hope that you take these views into consideration from someone who has worked on four of the five LEADER programmes in Ireland to date.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ballyhaunis Chamber](#)  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER Programme 2023-2027  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 09:16:57

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**“Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.”**

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*Kind Regards*

*The Enterprise Centre, Clare Road, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, F35 HC66*

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER budget allocation  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 10:40:48

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*Dear Sir/Madam,*

*I am a member of Sneem TidyTowns and the village of Sneem in Co. Kerry has benefited greatly from Leader funding over the past years, receiving funding to enable us to be the first village in Kerry to install a bottle filler, plant street trees, carry out a Biodiversity Feasibility Study and more recently we have been granted funding to carry out a feasibility study into creating a Story House for Sneem. In order for our small community to continue to be a leader in Biodiversity, Climate Action and Sustainability, we are asking you to provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.*

*Regards,*

[REDACTED]

*Sneem TidyTowns*

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Charlestown District Development Association](#)  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** cut on Ireland's LEADER programme  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 10:56:00

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**To whom it may concern:**

**Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.”**

*Regards* [REDACTED]

\*Charlestown & Dist. Dev. Assoc.\*  
\*Barrack Street, Charlestown, County Mayo\*  
\*Contact: \*

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on the CAP for LEADER  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 13:22:52

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Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission on the CAP Strategic Plan.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Over the years, the Local Development Companies (LDC's) have always been prepared to adapt to the new requirements, while at the same time being proactive to the needs of the communities within their area. KLP is one of the few remaining Independent LAGS in the country, which enables the LAG to react quickly, to the arising needs in The county.

As the [REDACTED], for the company, I have looked at the budgets which are being proposed, with interest and dissatisfaction, and see that there is yet again to be a major cut in the budgets nationally which will effect the efforts on the ground in each county. In order to operate a system, which has such high levels of bureaucracy, while at the same time observing the LEADER Principles and Methodology, to sectors who by their nature community groups and small enterprises, do not have the skills to address. This process requires, that the LAGS have a high number of staff to provide the animation and administration supports necessary. As a result of COVID and Brexit, costs on construction and equipment Projects in particular have risen significantly resulting in projects no matter how small being very costly, and this will be reflected going forward in the cost of projects.

The proposed reduction in the budget to the indicative figure of €180m, is significant representing 57.6% reduction since 2007-2013 programme.

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Actual 2007- 2013</b>	<b>Actual 2016-2020</b>	<b>Transition funds 2021/2020</b>	<b>Projected 2023- 2027</b>
<b>Total National budget</b>	<b>425m</b>	<b>250m</b>	<b>70m</b>	<b>180m</b>
<b>% reduction of previous</b>				

programme	41.17%	28%
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These cuts are making the programme unsustainable, they will reduce the resources as the admin Budget which is 25% of the total, will be cut proportionately, requiring reduced staff to deliver the Programme, resulting in less supports, to communities and enterprises in making the initial applications, Let alone the amount for the projects themselves.

KLP believe that there should be a way, to have the LAGS deliver a number of different programmes, from the Rural Development Pillar 11 which could support each other, allowing LAG's to utilise the existing resources, and contacts, to get better coverage on the ground, by combining, these programmes, all in one central location. This will allow assurance that there is no double funding, while at the same time ensuring that the systems, and resources which are already there are utilised, for the needs of the community, enterprises and farm families.

[REDACTED], and seen the benefits that

The programme has brought, both as a [REDACTED] initially and now as the [REDACTED]

I believe a way has got to be found, to increase the budget, for the delivery of the 2023-2027 programme,

To the region of €389m, in order to allow the programme, be of any significant benefit to Rural Ireland.

Rural communities have a battle ahead of them, with new requirements, for protection of Environment, energy, recovery post COVID and new ways of doing things, the 2023-2027 will have a major

Role in helping them keep small enterprises sustainable, creating new ones, providing facilities For people to work in their own local area, small energy projects, environmental work, but this cannot

Be done on €180m it has to be more. In the extract below from Page 70 of the Governments National

Development Plan 2021-2030, you outline the role you see for the programme:

**Extract from Pg 70 National Development Plan 2021-2030**

The next LEADER Programme will begin in 2023 and will form part of Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027. The plan is currently being drafted, the current draft outlines that the LEADER Programme will continue to provide capital funding, supporting bottom up approach to rural development, economic development, and job creation. There will be a larger focus on climate change and the sustainability of the rural environment, thereby supporting a stronger green ambition.

We can do it but you need to give us a fighting chance with the funding, give €389m to make a

real

Impact as per your strategy, in Rural Areas, supporting communities, enterprises and farm families.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership Company *The 'Local Action Group' for County Kilkenny*

8 Patrick's Court,  
Patrick St.,  
Kilkenny

[Redacted line]

[Redacted signature]

website: [www.cklp.ie](http://www.cklp.ie)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kilkennyleader](https://www.facebook.com/kilkennyleader)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kilkennylp>

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/kilkenny-leader-partnership](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kilkenny-leader-partnership)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Cuts to LEADER Funding proposed for the 2023 to 2027 Programme Period  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 14:32:38

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to request the provision of a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, to enhance the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER 2023 to 2027  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 15:18:23

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It is more important now than ever to provide a sustainable budget of at least €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023 to 2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023 to 2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Trusting the Department will consider & support this submission as best they can in these extremely challenging times. A strong LEADER programme in Ireland will be an efficient vehicle to deliver successful climate change initiatives & provide supports for rural, local & social development post Covid in a very cost effective and timely manner.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER Programme 2023-2027  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 15:40:18  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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A chara,

On behalf of Mayo Community Transport CLG I am writing to you regarding the next round of the European Union's CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) funding allocations in particular regarding the LEADER rural development programme for County Mayo.

The LEADER Programme in Mayo is a catalyst that drives community and rural development. It is essential to the rural economy that sufficient funding is allocated to county Mayo for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to continue to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment. An adequately funded LEADER programme will allow the Local Action Group to build on their experience and continue to create and sustain employment in rural communities; invest in the rural environment and support climate change initiatives in cooperation with the following: -

- The Climate Action Plan.
- The National Development Plan.
- The National Planning Framework.
- Regional and Economic Spatial Strategy.
- Sectoral strategies e.g. Fáilte Ireland, IDA, Údarás Na Gaeltacht.
- Local Development Plans.

This is a hugely important matter for rural development. It is vital that programme funding allocated is sufficient and sustainable and is not impacted by budget cuts.

Le meas,



[www.locallinkmayo.ie](http://www.locallinkmayo.ie)



Mayo Community Transport CLG, trading as Local Link Mayo, is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Ireland with registered office at Áras an Chontae, The Mall, Castlebar, Co Mayo. [REDACTED] The company is also a charity, [REDACTED]

Local Link Mayo, Glenpark House, The Mall, Castlebar, Co Mayo, F23 XF40 [REDACTED] Website: [www.locallinkmayo.ie](http://www.locallinkmayo.ie)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER 2023-2027 Allocation  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 17:14:43  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Good Afternoon,

Due to the recent announcement I feel it is vital and of utmost importance that there is a revision made to the upcoming LEADER allocation in order to provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

South West Mayo Development Company CLG, Carey Walsh Building, George's Street, Newport, Co. Mayo, F28 X329.

[REDACTED] | Web: [www.southmayo.com](http://www.southmayo.com)



**From:** [I.R.D. Waterville CLG](#)  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER FUNDING 2023-2027  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 18:37:21

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To Whom it may Concern,

With regard to the progressive cuts to the LEADER Programme budget, we, as a community group who has benefited from the funding since its inception, are writing to request that there would be a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 provided to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, to enhance the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

The progressive cuts to the LEADER Budget will deprive rural communities of critical capacity building supports and funding for vital enterprise, tourism, and community-led developments and will also undermine the future viability of Ireland's rural based Local Development Companies and we are asking the relevant ministers (Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine Charlie McConalogue and Minister for Rural & Community Development Heather Humphries) to revisit these allocations as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,



IRD Waterville CLG

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** submission  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 18:55:53

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The funding proposed for the LEADER Programme up to 2027 is less than what was allocated in the previous Programme and is completely inadequate to meet the range of emerging challenges facing rural communities, over and above the historic challenges.

I believe that it is imperative that LEADER has a sustainable budget up to 2027 of at least €390 million in order to be in a position to drive a bottom-up, community-led approach to investment that is needed to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland.

It will be near impossible for LEADER to achieve the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan or support the rural environment and climate change mitigation measures without a significant increase in the proposed Budget to 2027.

I hope that this point can be considered in advance of any final decision on the allocation of CAP funding.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER Funding  
**Date:** Monday 6 December 2021 22:18:28

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*I am emailing from Kenmare Tidy Towns. We have benefited from LEADER funding over the years, most recently, LEADER funding as allowed us to run community biodiversity and climate change training, which both engages the community and builds resilience and sustainability into our community.*

*We would be grateful if you could provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.*

*Rural communities need access to funding to drive creative solutions for challenges ahead. LEADER has proven an effective tool to do so,*

[REDACTED]  
*Kenmare Tidy Towns*



## CLARE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

### CAP STRATEGIC PLAN SUBMISSION

#### 30 years of Clare LEADER

For almost 30 years, Clare Local Development Company, the LAG for Co. Clare, has successfully delivered the LEADER programme to rural communities and small enterprises in every corner of the county. Community-led rural development in Co. Clare has gone from strength to strength over those 30 years and played a significant role in transforming rural areas struggling to create a viable future, into communities which are driving their own development with the support of civil society organisations and statutory bodies.

#### The Future of LEADER

As we look forward in Clare to celebrating LEADER's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in March 2022, CLDC has grave concerns about the future of the programme. The continuing decline in support for LEADER in the CAP budget and in government policy points to a future of significantly diminished resources and impact. With a substantially reduced budget LEADER will no longer be equipped to deliver a developmental programme which animates and builds the capacity of rural communities to develop their own sustainable future. Instead, there is a strong probability that LEADER will become a grant administration service with a minimal level of grant funding and an overbearing layer of bureaucracy.

Since 2014, LEADER in Ireland and in Clare has been on a slow but undeniable trajectory of decline. A much diminished annual budget (see table below) together with the takeover of most community led LAGs by local authorities (not in Co. Clare however) has inflicted serious damage on the effectiveness of the programme and the integrity of the seven key principles on which LEADER was founded by the EU in 1991.

Furthermore, the future viability of the LAGs (LEADER Groups) themselves as development bodies with the expertise and relationships to deliver LEADER is under grave threat as current and future administration budget cuts erode the resources needed for the survival of the LAG organisations (Local Development Companies) which support rural communities.

#### LEADER Funding 2007-2027

Programming Period	Total Programme Allocation	Average Annual Allocation
2007-2013 (delivered 2009-2013)	€425,000,000	€85,000,000
2014-2020 (delivered mid 2016 to 2020)	€250,000,000	€50,000,000
2021-2022 (Transitional)	€ 70,000,000	€35,000,000
2023-2027 (indicative budget)	€180,000,000	€36,000,000
<i>2023-2027 (Minimum Required)</i>	<i>€389,000,000</i>	<i>€77,800,000</i>

### **A €389mn LEADER Budget and Independent Community-Led LEADER Groups**

The Board of Clare Local Development Company calls on the Government, through the CAP Strategic Plan, to deliver the following;

1. The provision of a LEADER budget of €389 mn for the 2023-27 period which is essential to bring the decline of LEADER to an end and restore the programme as a force for innovation and sustainable change in rural Ireland.
2. The 2020 Programme for Government commitment to fully restore independent community-led LAGs across the country for the 2023-27 period must be honoured.

As we face into a potentially devastating climate crisis and the economic and social challenges of transitioning to a low carbon rural economy, never was the transformational power of LEADER more needed in rural Ireland.

**Clare Local Development Company**

**December 7<sup>th</sup> 2021**



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Inishowen Submission CAP Strategic Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 11:16:20

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To Whom it Concerns

Inishowen Development Partnership would like to make a submission in relation to the CAP Strategic Plan

We believe the monies allocated to LEADER do not reflect either the spirit or ambition outlined within the draft plan.

We would propose a sustainable budget of 389 million euro for the LEADER programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom up , community led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Our rural community in Inishowen are facing Covid, Brexit and Mica together with environmental challenges and there was never a more important time for sustainable LEADER funding to help maintain a" living countryside" as outlined in the Cork declaration.

Yours

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Inishowen Developement Partnership  
Pound Street Business Park  
Pound Street  
Carndonagh  
Inishowen  
Co. Donegal  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 12:13:57  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-rzls5fko.png](#)

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Dear sir/madam,

I am disappointed with the recent decision re Leader fund.

I wish that a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 be provided to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan."

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
South West Mayo Development Company CLG, Carey Walsh Building, George's Street, Newport, Co. Mayo, F28 X329.

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Web: [www.southmayo.com](http://www.southmayo.com) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/southwestmayo](https://www.facebook.com/southwestmayo) |  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/southwestmayo](https://www.twitter.com/southwestmayo)

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Registered Company No. [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER Programme  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 14:29:59  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hey all,

Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Thank you very much for your consideration!

**Best regards**



**Holbein Carpentry & Joinery Ltd**  
Sneem Road  
Kenmare Co. Kerry  
V93YH21

[REDACTED]  
[office@holbein.ie](mailto:office@holbein.ie)  
[www.holbein.ie](http://www.holbein.ie)  
[www.facebook.com/Holbeincarpentry](https://www.facebook.com/Holbeincarpentry)



**Comhar LEADER Fhine Gall**  
**Fingal LEADER Partnership**

"Geata chun todhchaí níos fearr"  
"Gateway to a better future"

A SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF  
FINGAL LEADER PARTNERSHIP –  
IMPLEMENTING PARTNER OF  
DUBLIN RURAL LEADER



## 1. Submission in Brief

- > The LEADER Programme is a key rural development tool for supporting the economic, social and environmental development of rural communities, by providing the resources necessary for rural communities to support their own development and create capacity at local level.
- > For thirty years the LEADER Programme, delivered by Local Development Companies has maximised the drawdown and impact of EU funds, to create jobs in rural areas, and develop rural communities in keeping with the LEADER approach and evaluated as very successful by EU institutions.
- > The aim of the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 as identified in the draft CAP Strategic Plan is to continue to support a community led local development (CLLD) approach to rural development by animating and funding initiatives that emerge at a local level to address local challenges and needs.
- > Ireland's CAP SWOT analysis and Needs Assessment identified several challenges in rural Ireland for which the LEADER approach can assist with the delivery of Government objectives. These include the need to support private enterprises and communities to improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas; and the need to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland with a focus on social inclusion and climate change mitigation.
- > Representing 1.8% of Ireland's total CAP Budget, an indicative Budget of €180 million has been allocated for LEADER 2023-2027. The Budget for the 2007-2013 Programme stood at €425 million (€85 million annual average) with the successor Programme that operated from mid-2016 to 2020 reduced to €250 million (€50 million annual average).
- > A further cut to €180 million is now proposed for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 (€36 million annual average), and when examined on a year-by-year actual basis marks another significant reduction of almost 40% (not allowing for the effect of inflation in real terms) in the funds available for the delivery of important rural enterprise, tourism, job creation, and community-led projects the length and breadth of the country.
- > ***Fingal LEADER Partnership calls for the allocation of a sustainable minimum of €389 million (€77.8 million annual average) for the LEADER***

***Programme 2023-2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and maintain enterprise in rural Ireland, to enhance the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities, as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.***

## **2. Fingal LEADER Partnership Proposals**

Fingal LEADER Partnership calls on the Department of Agriculture Food & Marine and the Department of Rural & Community Development to:

- > Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.
  
- > Ensure a sustainable Budget for each Local Development Company at local level to ensure the efficient delivery of the LEADER Programme 2023-2027

### **3. About Fingal LEADER Partnership & Dublin Rural LEADER**

#### **Fingal LEADER Partnership:**

Fingal LEADER Partnership (FLP) was formed in 2008 and is 1 of 49 Local Development Companies operating throughout Ireland. FLP is a not-for-profit, volunteer-led organisation that provides a national service through locally based services. The company's ethos is bottom-up, taking a holistic view of the individual and the community. The services offered are integrated so employment supports, enterprise grants, social inclusion, training, well-being, and environmental supports are available under one roof. During the last 13 years the company has successfully delivered a wide range of European and National Programmes throughout our catchment area.

Fingal LEADER Partnership promotes local development and social inclusion across County Fingal, and in the rest of rural Dublin. FLP has vast experience in rural development and has delivered the LEADER Programme in Dublin since 1991 (previously as the Rural Dublin LEADER Company prior to the amalgamation to form FLP in 2008) until the most recent programme. FLP is the current Implementing Partner for Dublin Rural LEADER Programme governed by the Dublin Rural Local Action Group.

#### **Dublin Rural LEADER:**

Dublin Rural LEADER provides funding to enterprises and community groups throughout the rural areas of Fingal, South Dublin County and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown for projects that are selected by the Local Action Group (LAG).

The Dublin Rural Local Action Group (LAG) was established to deliver the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme for the period 2016-2021 in the Dublin rural region. The Dublin Rural LAG geographical area encompasses the rural areas which surround the city of Dublin on three sides and is comprised of rural parts of the local authorities of Fingal, Dun

Laoghaire-Rathdown, and South Dublin, all within the County of Dublin. The Dublin LAG consists of local representatives across the three local authority areas from both the public and private sector. Dublin Local Action Group has the overall responsibility for the delivery of the Dublin Rural LEADER programme.

Fingal LEADER Partnership CLG are the Implementing Partner and first point of contact for information and enquiries about the programme and Fingal County Council are the Financial Partner.

The Dublin Rural LAG successfully delivered the 2014-2020 LEADER programme supporting 91 projects across rural Dublin to the total value of €5,149,385. The LEADER programme in Dublin is vital to the rural communities. During the Transition programme the LAG have widened their geographic catchment to support more areas and doubled the population of which can avail of LEADER funds.

A decrease in funding for the next programme would be detrimental to these rural communities and a step backwards for rural Dublin.

#### **4. What does a reduced LEADER Budget mean?**

The continued erosion of the LEADER Budget will:

- > Deprive rural communities of critical capacity building supports and funding for vital enterprise, tourism, and community-led development (more than 5,000 projects supported in the most recent Programme period). Weaker communities and particular groups will be left behind including our youth, women, older people as well as the many social enterprises which LEADER has been able to support to date.



- > Call into question the Government's capacity to deliver on ambitions outlined in its National Rural Strategy – Our Rural Future which are specifically linked to the LEADER approach.
- > Hinder the Covid19 recovery in rural areas denying enterprises including farmers and farm families of critical funding opportunities and their ability to mitigate the effects of COVID19 and Brexit .
- > Inhibit the capacity of rural communities to deliver climate mitigation and biodiversity projects.
- > Curtail the delivery of complementary schemes such as PEACE, the Walks Scheme, the Rural Social Scheme, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme. EIP and LIFE programmes etc.
- > Undermine the future viability of Ireland's rural based Local Development Companies.

#### **5. Purpose of LEADER 2023-2027 (Draft CAP Strategic Plan)**

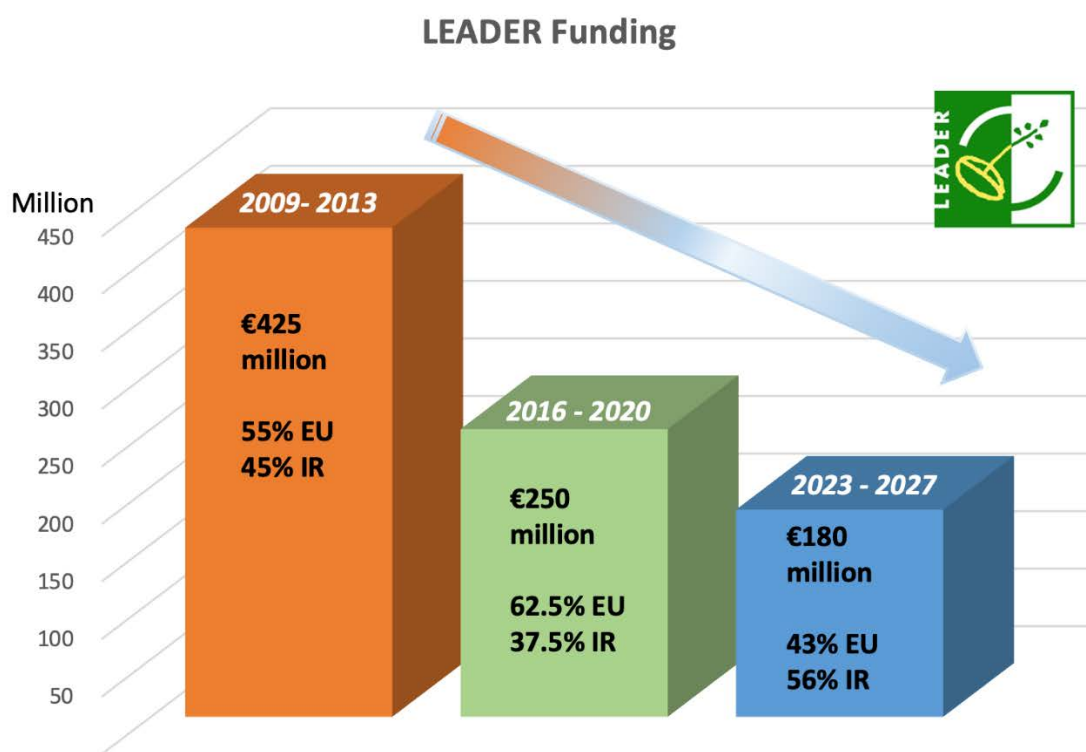
The aim of this intervention is to support a community led local development (CLLD) approach to rural development by funding initiatives that emerge at a local level that aim to address local challenges and needs. Ireland's SWOT analysis and Needs Assessment identified several challenges in rural Ireland for which the LEADER intervention can provide assistance. These include the need to support private enterprises to create rural jobs and communities to improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas; and the need to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland with a focus on social inclusion and climate change mitigation. The LEADER Programme is a key rural development tool for supporting the economic and social development of rural communities, by providing the resources necessary for communities to support their own development and create capacity at local level.

The indicative high-level LEADER themes are as follows:

- Sustainable Development of Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation
- Economic Development and Job Creation
- Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

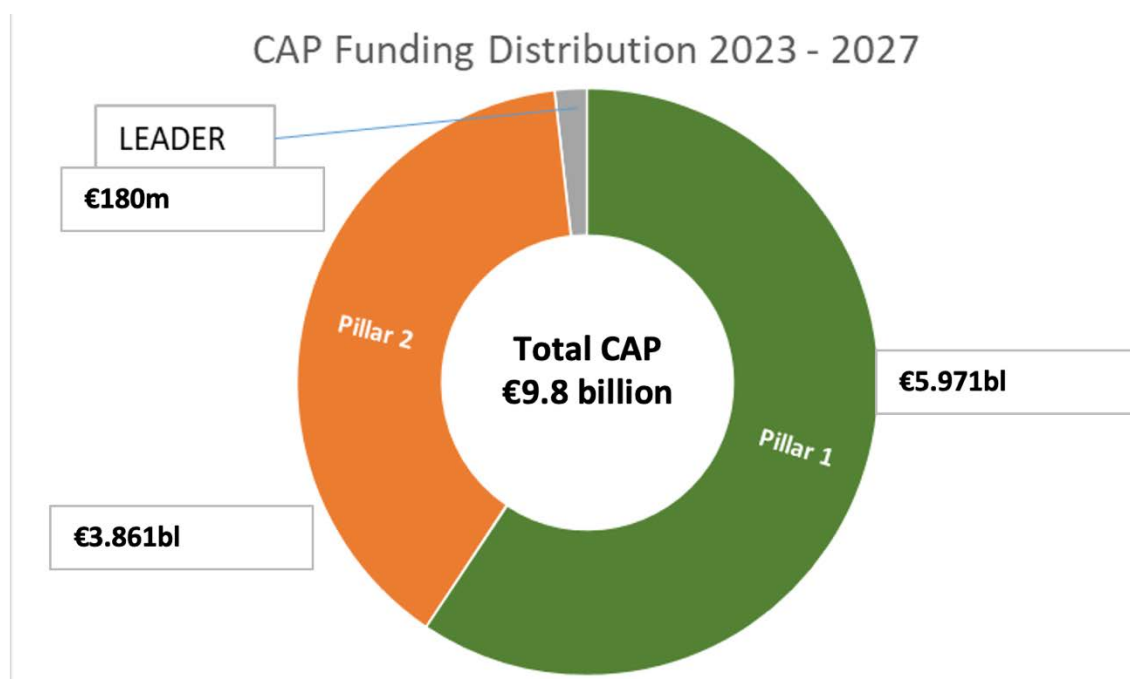
## 6. LEADER FUNDING 2007-2027

Programming Period	Total Programme Allocation	Average Annual Allocation
2007-2013 (delivered 2009-2013)	€425,000,000	€85,000,000
2014-2020 (delivered 2016 to 2020)	€250,000,000	€50,000,000
2021-2022 (Transitional)	€ 70,000,000 (plus exchequer funding as requested)	€35,000,000
2023-2027 (indicative budget)	€180,000,000	€36,000,000
<i>2023-2027 (Minimum Required)</i>	<i>€389,000,000</i>	<i>€77,800,000</i>



## 7. LEADER 2023-2027 Indicative Allocation analysed

The EU budget agreement provided for a total CAP funding for Ireland of €7.5 billion over the 5 year period from 2023 to 2027. The funding is split between Pillar 1 (Direct Payments and Sectoral Interventions -€5.9billion) and Pillar II (Rural Development - €1.56billion). The allocation for the national exchequer to co-fund the Rural Development element of the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) of €2.3bn has been agreed. This will bring the total funding for the CSP to €9.8bn and to €3.86bn in respect of the Rural Development component of the plan. Pillar II measures include LEADER interventions to be delivered by the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Funding will be phased over the 2023-2027 period in line with the requirements of intervention design and the annual national budgetary process.

In accordance with Article 92(1) of the draft CAP Strategic Plan regulation, “At least 5% of the total EAFRD contribution to the CAP Strategic Plan as set out in Annex XI

shall be reserved for LEADER. The maximum permissible Exchequer co-funding rate for the next LEADER programme will be 80%”.

The indicative €180m financial allocation for LEADER over the 2023-27 period will consist of €77.9m (43.28%) funding from European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) with the remainder funded by the National exchequer. This equates to 1.8% of Ireland’s total CAP Budget.

Notwithstanding the increased national exchequer funding for the overall CAP Programme 2023 to 2027 there is a significant cut in LEADER funding for rural areas with the proposed allocation for the Programme falling from €425 million for the 2007-2013 Programme to just €180 million for the 2023-2027 programming period. Furthermore the co-funding element of 56.72% falls well short of the 80% permissible under EU regulation. Increasing the co-funding rate to the maximum allowable rate affords the Government the opportunity to deliver a sustainable LEADER Budget of €389 million for the period 2023-2027.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** South West Mayo Development Company CLG Submission  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 16:22:00  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[LEADER 2023-2027 MayoSubmission FINAL.pdf](#)

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To whom it may concern,

Please find attached South West Mayo Development Company's submission to the CAP Strategic Plan consultation process.

We are calling on the Department of Agriculture Food & Marine and the Department of Rural & Community Development to:

- 1. Provide €389 million for Ireland's LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to:**
  - o Drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment in rural areas
  - o Create and sustain employment
  - o Support investment in climate change actions
  - o Deliver on CAP strategic plan ambitions for LEADER 2023-2027
- 2. Ensure independent Local Action Group status for all Local Development Companies (as per Programme for Government)**
- 3. Deliver a fair minimum budget for all Local Development Companies under LEADER 23-27**

In summary, the proposed €180million is completely inadequate for the LEADER 2023-2027 programme. It equates to an annual investment of €36million per annum, **62% down on Ireland's LEADER 2007-2013 programme** (€85million per annum).

A budget of €389million will go some way towards restoring 2007-2013 funding levels and ensure that rural Ireland and Mayo make a full and prosperous recovery from Covid-19, Brexit and the many other challenges faced by peripheral communities across our territory.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

South West Mayo Development Company CLG, Carey Walsh Building, George's Street, Newport, Co. Mayo, F28 X329.

T: [REDACTED]  
M: [REDACTED]

Web: [www.southmayo.com](http://www.southmayo.com) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/southwestmayo](http://www.facebook.com/southwestmayo) | Twitter: [www.twitter.com/southwestmayo](http://www.twitter.com/southwestmayo)



South West Mayo Development Company (SWMDC) is a company limited by guarantee without share capital. Registered Company [REDACTED].

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sender of this email.

## What Rural Future? Sustaining LEADER 2023-2027

**We are calling on the Department of Agriculture Food & Marine and the Department of Rural & Community Development to:**

Provide **€389 million** for Ireland's LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to:

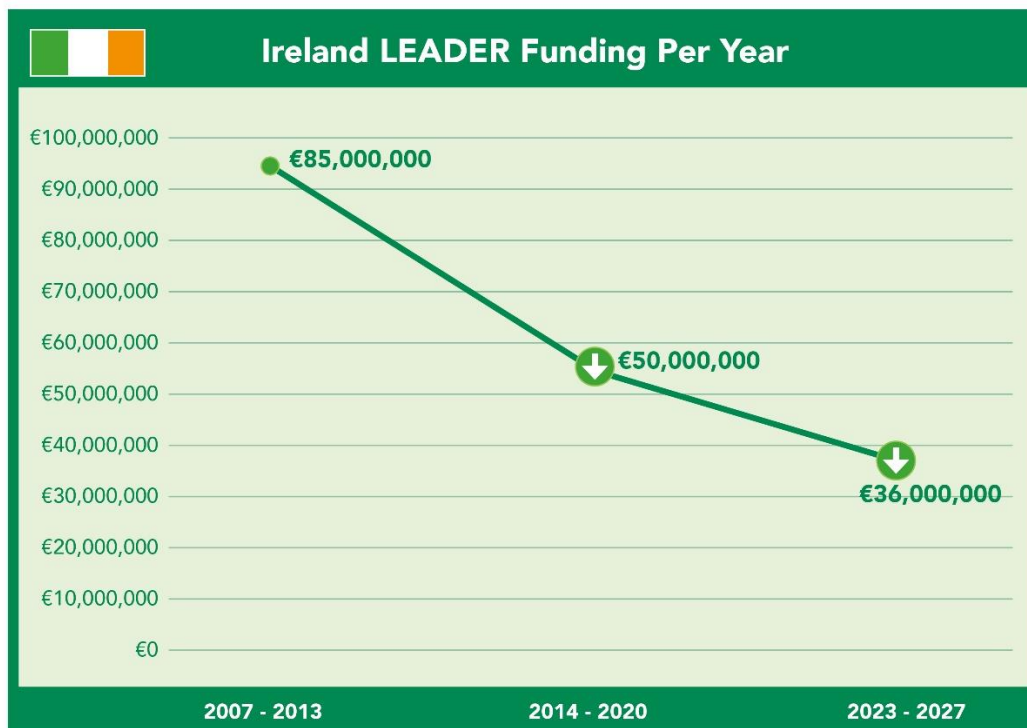
- Drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment in rural areas
- Create and sustain employment
- Support investment in climate change actions
- Deliver on CAP strategic plan ambitions for LEADER 2023-2027

**Independent Local Action Group status for all Local Development Companies.**

**Fair minimum budget for all Local Development Companies under LEADER 23-27**

### What is being proposed by the Government?

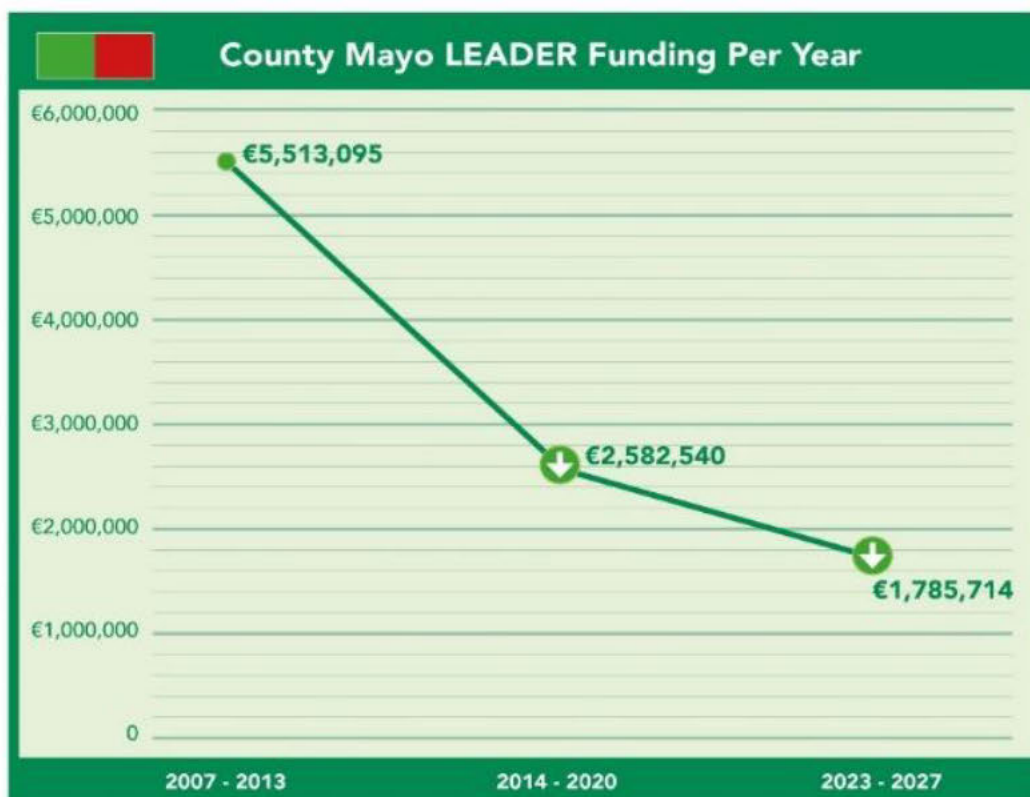
An indicative budget of €180 million (€36 million per year) has been allocated for LEADER 2023-2027. This represents just 1.8% of Ireland's total CAP Budget.



**62% cut** on Ireland's LEADER 2007-2013 budget.

## What does this mean for County Mayo?

Based on current percentages of Ireland's total LEADER budget, County Mayo will have less than €1.5million per year for LEADER projects across three themes.



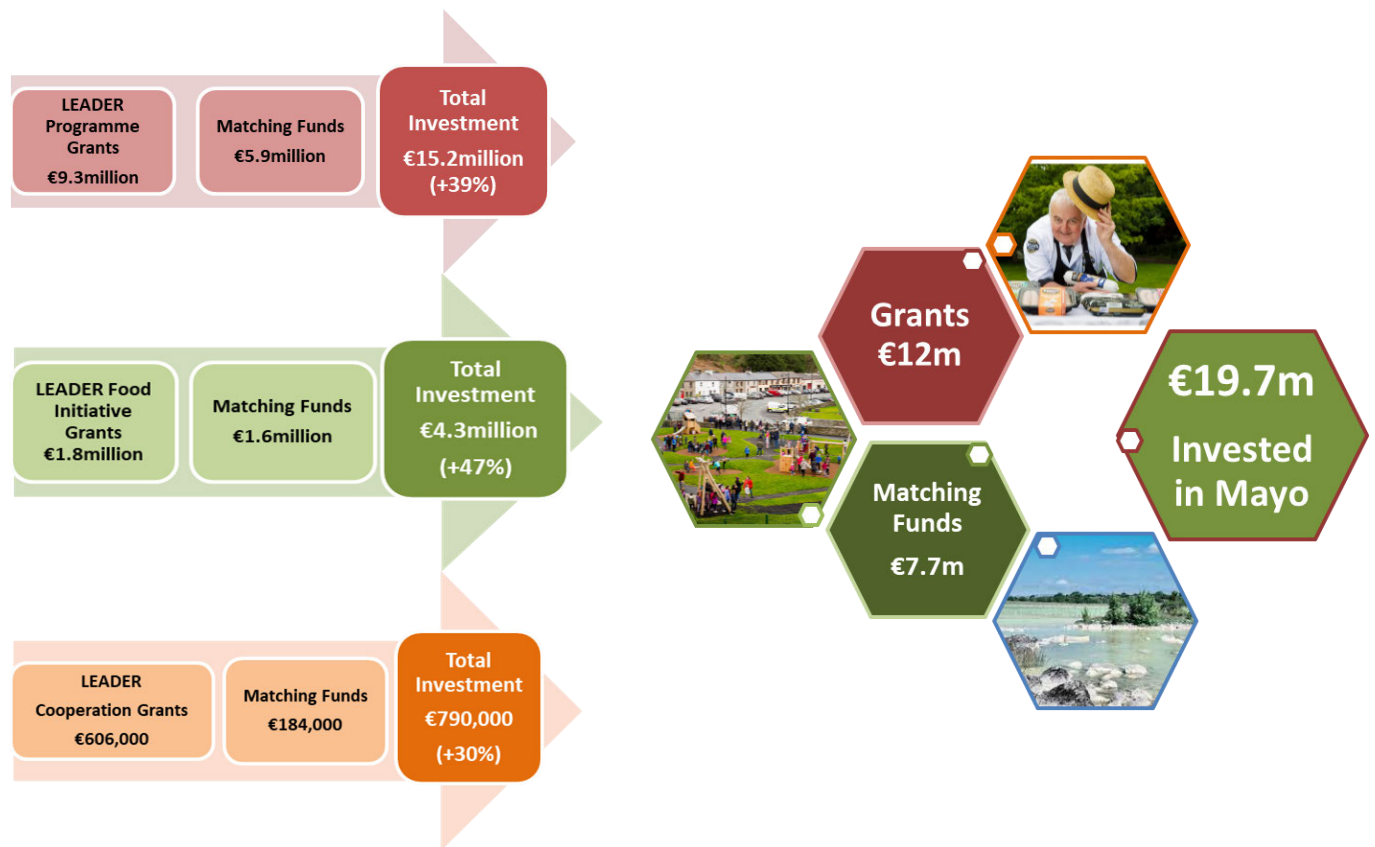
**68% cut** on Mayo's LEADER 2007-2013 budget.

## What does a diminished LEADER 2023-2027 programme mean for County Mayo?

- **LESS MONEY FOR COUNTY MAYO.**
- Large investments in flagship community projects won't be available.
- Substantial investments in existing and growing businesses will be impossible.
- Innovative climate mitigation and biodiversity projects will be curtailed.
- Mayo businesses and communities will suffer the impacts of Covid-19 and Brexit for longer.



## LEADER 2014-2020 – Maximising Impact for County Mayo



### What was the impact of LEADER 2014-2020 in south and west Mayo?

130 projects approved for capital, training and feasibility investments, which included:

- 67 investments in tourism, enterprise, rural towns and broadband
- 27 new and growing businesses funded (████████████████████)
- Average grant of €79,500 to 24 community-based projects (████████████████████)
- 20 Rural Environment projects including training, feasibility studies and capital grants.
- 13 Food Businesses Supported (████████████████████)
- 7 Co-operation Projects (████████████████████)
- SWMDC-led countywide initiatives – REBOOT for business, Mayo Food & Drink Network and Training, Biodiversity and Climate Action programmes, Social Enterprise supports and Foundation4Life youth training programme.

### What will a LEADER 2023-2027 impact look like in south and west Mayo?

- Based on current programme average grant (€44k), the impacts will include:
  - Less than 100 investments over 5 years (max. 20 projects per year)
  - No new community centres or major upgrades to existing community facilities
  - No possibility of offering €150k or €200k for major business investments
  - No SWMDC-led countywide programmes

## **What does a reduced LEADER 2023-2027 mean for SWMDC?**

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- We will be restricted in our ability to support the ambitions for a *'thriving rural Ireland'* outlined in Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021-2025.
- We will be unable to sustain other valuable, but financially challenging, programmes.
- Our viability as a vehicle for national programme delivery will be significantly undermined.

## **Purpose of LEADER 2023-2027 (Draft CAP Strategic Plan)**

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The aim of LEADER 2023-2027 is to support a community led local development (CLLD) approach to rural development by funding initiatives that emerge at a local level that **aim to address local challenges and needs.**

Ireland's SWOT analysis and Needs Assessment identified several challenges in rural Ireland for which the LEADER intervention can help. These include the need to:

- Support private enterprises to create rural jobs and communities to improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas
- Create and sustain employment in rural Ireland with a focus on social inclusion and climate change mitigation.

## **The indicative high-level LEADER themes are as follows:**

1. Sustainable Development of Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation
2. Economic Development and Job Creation
3. Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

## **List of Appendices:**

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**Appendix 1** - LEADER Funding in Ireland 2007-2027

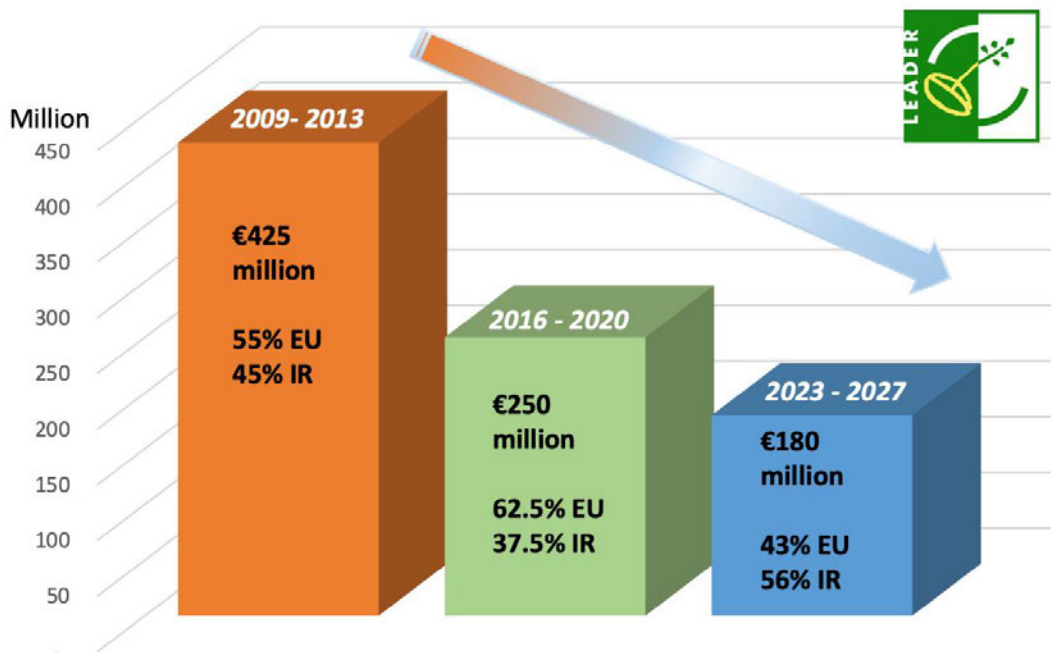
**Appendix 2** - LEADER 2023-2027 Indicative Allocation Analysed

**Appendix 3** - About South West Mayo Development Company CLG

## Appendix 1 - LEADER Funding in Ireland 2007-2027

Programming Period	Total Programme Allocation	Average Annual Allocation
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<i>2023-2027 (Minimum Required)</i>	<i>€389,000,000</i>	<i>€77,800,000</i>

### LEADER Funding



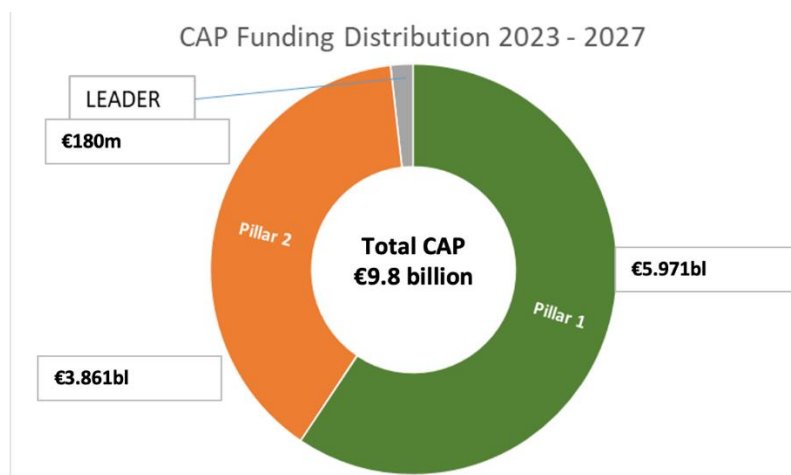
## **Appendix 2 - LEADER 2023-2027 Indicative Allocation Analysed**

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- Pillar 1 (Direct Payments and Sectoral Interventions - €5.9billion)
- Pillar II (Rural Development - €1.56billion)

The allocation for the national exchequer to co-fund the Rural Development element of the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) of €2.3bn has been agreed. This will bring the total funding for the CSP to €9.8bn and to €3.86bn in respect of the Rural Development component of the plan.

**Pillar II measures include LEADER interventions** to be delivered by the Department of Rural and Community Development.



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In accordance with Article 92(1) of the draft CAP Strategic Plan regulation, *“At least 5% of the total EAFRD contribution to the CAP Strategic Plan as set out in Annex XI shall be reserved for LEADER. The maximum permissible Exchequer co-funding rate for the next LEADER programme will be 80%”*.

The indicative €180m financial allocation for LEADER over the 2023-2027 period will consist of €77.9m (43.28%) funding from European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) with the remainder funded by the national exchequer. **This equates to 1.8% of Ireland’s total CAP Budget.**

The co-funding element of 56.72% falls well short of the 80% permissible under EU regulation. Increasing the co-funding rate to the 80% rate affords the Government the opportunity to deliver a **sustainable LEADER budget of €389 million for 2023-2027, with a minimum viable LEADER budget guaranteed for all Local Development Companies as LAGs.**

### **Appendix 3 - About South West Mayo Development Company CLG**

South West Mayo Development Company CLG is an integrated Local Development Company operating in Mayo. However, through various programmes, we have expanded into other parts of Mayo, Roscommon and Galway.

#### **We implement the following programmes:**

- LEADER
- Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
- Tús Initiative
- Community Employment Schemes
- Walks Scheme & Rural Recreation
- Social Farming
- SICAP (Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme)
- WIN (Welcoming & Including New Communities)
- WRDATF (Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force) Projects

#### **Amongst others, we contribute to the success of the following:**

- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)
- Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA)
- Various Social Enterprise Initiatives

#### **We host employees on behalf of Mayo County Council and the HSE as follows:**

- Community Futures x 2
- Emergency Reception & Orientation Centre (EROC) Ballaghaderreen x 2

**South West Mayo Development Company CLG is best placed to deliver the next LEADER programme, and all subsequent programmes, as an independent Local Action Group.**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** What Rural Future? LEADER 2023-2027  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 16:41:07

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Good evening all,

[REDACTED] to ask that you provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment. This will create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]



A teal-colored footer banner containing social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, followed by a redacted contact area.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Our Rural Future - LEADER 2023-2027  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 17:05:27

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Dear CAP Strategic Plan,

**“Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.”**

Thank you and Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Community Services Programme (CSP)  
Crossmolina Community Council CLG  
Enterprise Centre,  
Mullenmore Street,  
Crossmolina,  
Co. Mayo. F26 A0C7

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Website: [www.crossmolina.ie](http://www.crossmolina.ie)

The logo for Crossmolina Community Council CLG features a stylized mountain range in shades of brown and orange above the text 'Crossmolina' in a large, bold, serif font, with 'Community Council CLG' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

This email and any attachments to it may be confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of Crossmolina Community Council CLG

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From: [REDACTED]  
To: [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: CAP 2023 to 2027  
Date: Tuesday 7 December 2021 17:24:30

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to record my displeasure at the continuing reduction in funding for the LEADER programme. Research presented at the recent meeting of South Kerry Development Partnership outlined the continual decline in funding over recent years. A draft plan for funding LEADER projects up to the end of 2027 tells a story of continued denial of resources. It is clear from the proposals outlined in the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027 that it is the intention of government to squeeze the life out of this vital resource for disadvantaged areas.

The plan is called “Strategic” – well the only strategy I can see therein is “Lets shaft the LEADER programme – let’s squeeze the life out of it”

I ask Why?

Has LEADER been too successful?

Why do our planners want to starve LEADER of funds?

In the period **2007 – 2013**, LEADER funding was **€85 million each year**. (€425million in total)

In **2016 – 2020** it was **€50million each year** (€250 million total)

Now you propose **€35million annually for 2023 – 2027** (€180 million in total)

This miserable allocation will mean less employment and fewer enterprises in rural Southwest Ireland.

No more Walks schemes;

Gone will be Rural Social Scheme;

No more Community Activation programmes. Actions to help rural communities mitigate Climate change will disappear.

Ye might as well rip up the National Rural Strategy and bin it while ye are at it.

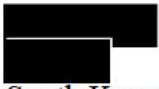
Increasingly in rural Ireland we become aware of a total ignorance and lack of understanding of the pressures on our communities from lack of transport, isolation, unemployment, poor broadband, poor access to services – the list goes on and on.

Advice, following detailed research, indicates that a more realistic and honest strategy requires an investment of €389million for the period 2023-2027 to sustain the LEADER programme.

I urge you to reconsider the amount of funds you will make available to the CAP plan for 2023-2027.

Yours sincerely





South Kerry Development Partnership



A SUSTAINABLE  
LEADER PROGRAMME  
2023-2027

A SUBMISSION ON  
BEHALF OF THE  
SOUTH TIPPERARY  
DEVELOPMENT CLG



***SOUTH TIPPERARY DEVELOPMENT CLG calls for the allocation of a sustainable minimum of €389 million (€77.8 million annual average) for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' development in Rural Ireland***

## 1. Submission in Brief

- > The LEADER Programme is a key rural development tool for supporting the economic, social and environmental development of rural communities, by providing the resources necessary for rural communities to support their own development and create capacity at local level.
- > For thirty years the LEADER Programme, has been delivered in Tipperary. Prior to the Cohesion process, it was delivered by Tipperary LEADER Group. Post cohesion, it is delivered in South Tipperary by South Tipperary Development CLG. For the past thirty years, LEADER has been a key part of the development of Rural Tipperary.
- > The aim of the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 as identified in the draft CAP Strategic Plan is to continue to support a community led local development (CLLD) approach to rural development by animating and funding initiatives that emerge at a local level to address local challenges and needs.
- > Ireland's CAP SWOT analysis and Needs Assessment identified several challenges in rural Ireland for which the LEADER approach can assist with the delivery of Government objectives. These include the need to support private enterprises and communities to improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas; and the need to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland with a focus on social inclusion and climate change mitigation.
- > Representing 1.8% of Ireland's total CAP Budget, an indicative Budget of €180 million has been allocated for LEADER 2023-2027. The Budget for the 2007-2013 Programme stood at €425 million (€85 million annual average) with the successor Programme that operated from mid-2016 to 2020 reduced to €250 million (€50 million annual average).
- > A further cut to €180 million is now proposed for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 (€36 million annual average), and when examined on a year-by-year actual basis marks another significant reduction of almost 40% (not allowing for the effect of inflation in real terms) in the funds available for the delivery of important rural enterprise, tourism, job creation, and community-led projects the length and breadth of the country.

- > ***SOUTH TIPPERARY DEVELOPMENT CLG calls for the allocation of a sustainable minimum of €389 million (€77.8 million annual average) for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and maintain enterprise in rural Ireland, to enhance the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities, as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.***

## **2. SOUTH TIPPERARY DEVELOPMENT CLG Proposals**

SOUTH TIPPERARY DEVELOPMENT CLG calls on the Department of Agriculture Food & Marine and the Department of Rural & Community Development to:

- > Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.
- > Ensure a sustainable Budget for each Local Development Company at local level to ensure the efficient delivery of the LEADER Programme 2023-2027

### **3. About SOUTH TIPPERARY DEVELOPMENT CLG**

South Tipperary Development CLG was established in 2007 as a result of the cohesion process. STDC works with relevant stakeholders to facilitate and resource community led local development to address social, economic, environmental challenges for the benefit of all in south Tipperary.

STDC delivers the following programmes in South Tipperary

- LEADER
- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
- Tus
- Rural Social Scheme
- Rural Recreation / Walks Scheme
- Traveller Community Health care Programme
- Early years learning Services
- Community Food Initiative (Safefood)

LEADER is a keystone in the bridge that continues to link rural enterprises and communities to the future of sustained economic and social development of south Tipperary as it has done over the last 30 years. Because of its pivotal role in Rural Society, it complements the delivery of Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Rural Social Scheme, Tús, the Rural Recreation Programme, the Walks Scheme,

STDC is governed by a voluntary board of directors, all of whom live and / or work in South Tipperary. Each director is fully versed on the needs of individuals and communities of South Tipperary. Our directors are nominated through agencies and organisations that provided services in the area, thus enhancing their understanding of the needs of the area.

STDC is fully accountable to all government and EU funders, through robust governance structures as well as rigorous audit and inspectorate regimes, including the CRO and the Charity Regulator.

STDC is one of 48 member Local Development Companies who are members of Irish Local Development Network. ILDN members operate in rural, urban and island communities of all population profiles and densities supporting 173,000 individuals and over 15,000 community groups annually. Through our social inclusion work members of ILDN endeavour to reach out to all people who require extra support in the face of deprivation, unemployment, and exclusion.

#### **4. What does a reduced LEADER Budget mean Nationally and in South Tipperary?**

The continued erosion of the LEADER Budget will:

- > Deprive rural communities of critical capacity building supports and funding for vital enterprise, tourism, and community-led development (more than 5,000 projects supported in the most recent Programme period). Weaker communities and particular groups will be left behind including our youth, women, older people as well as the many social enterprises which LEADER has been able to support to date.
- > Call into question the Government's capacity to deliver on ambitions outlined in its National Rural Strategy – Our Rural Future which are specifically linked to the LEADER approach.
- > Hinder the Covid19 recovery in rural areas denying enterprises including farmers and farm families of critical funding opportunities and their ability to mitigate the effects of COVID19 and Brexit .
- > Inhibit the capacity of rural communities to deliver climate mitigation and biodiversity projects.
- > Curtail the delivery of complementary schemes such as PEACE, the Walks Scheme, the Rural Social Scheme, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme. EIP and LIFE programmes etc.
- > Undermine the future viability of Ireland's rural based Local Development Companies.

## **5. Purpose of LEADER 2023-2027 (Draft CAP Strategic Plan)**

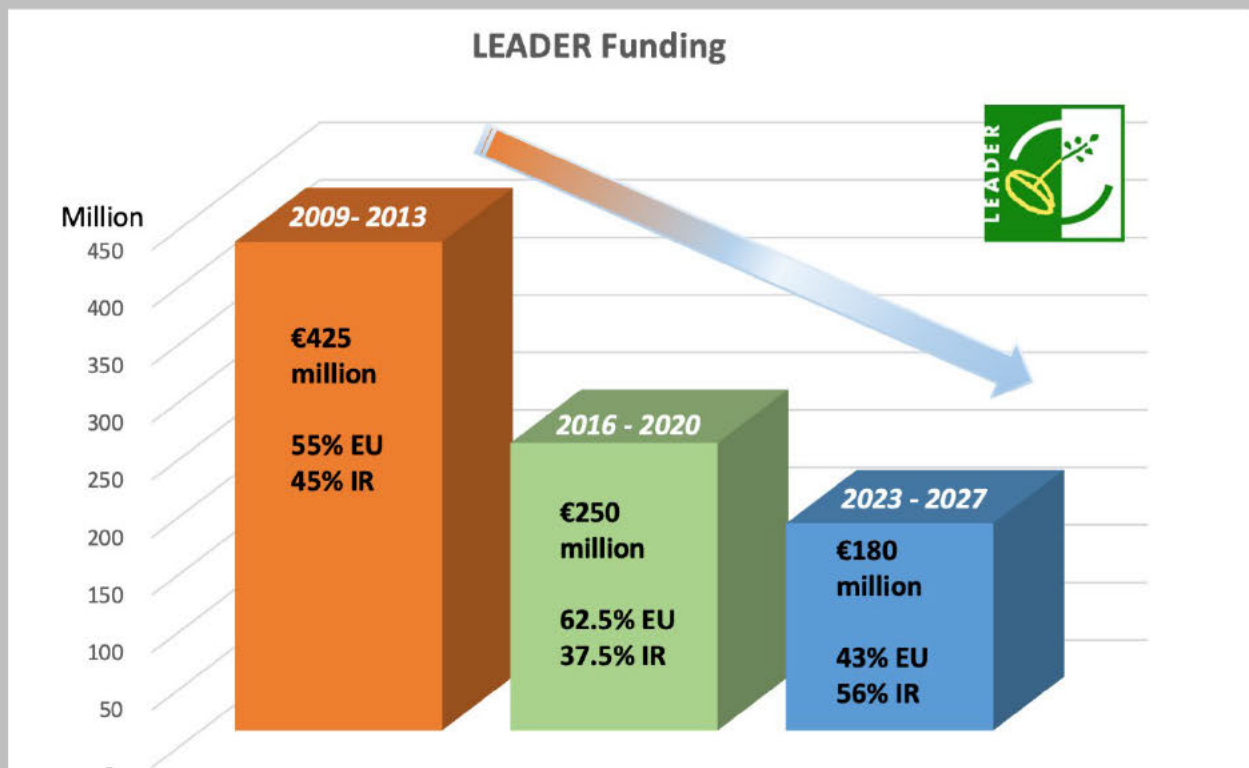
The aim of this intervention is to support a community led local development (CLLD) approach to rural development by funding initiatives that emerge at a local level that aim to address local challenges and needs. Ireland's SWOT analysis and Needs Assessment identified several challenges in rural Ireland for which the LEADER intervention can provide assistance. These include the need to support private enterprises to create rural jobs and communities to improve quality of life and economic activity in rural areas; and the need to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland with a focus on social inclusion and climate change mitigation. The LEADER Programme is a key rural development tool for supporting the economic and social development of rural communities, by providing the resources necessary for communities to support their own development and create capacity at local level.

The indicative high-level LEADER themes are as follows:

- Sustainable Development of Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation
- Economic Development and Job Creation
- Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

## 6. LEADER FUNDING 2007-2027

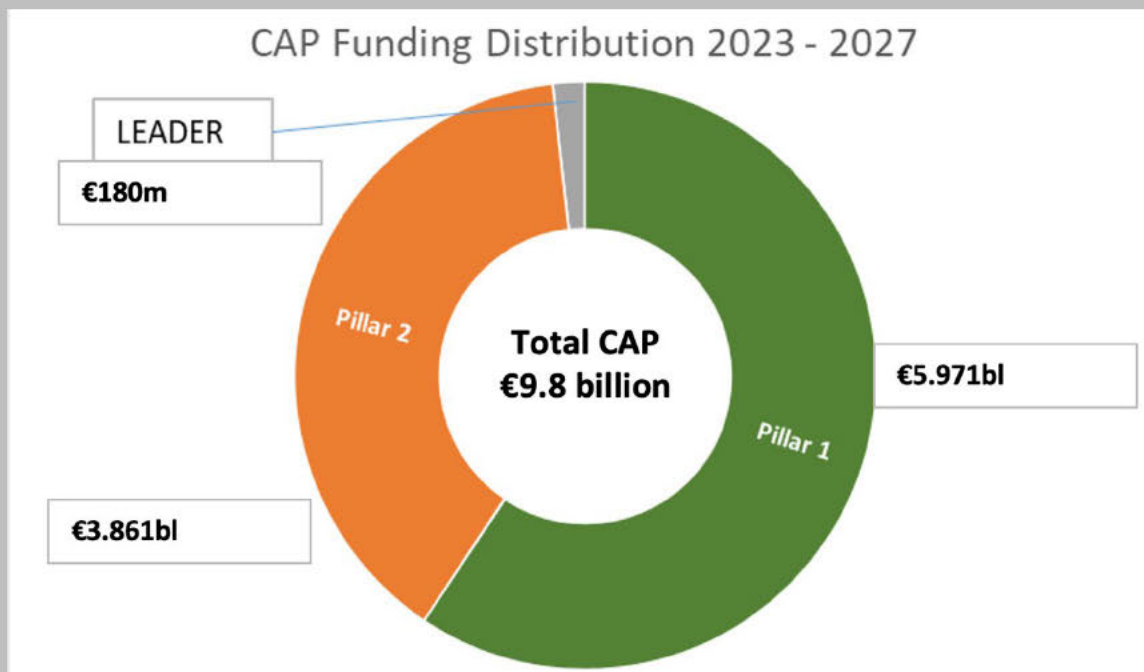
Programming Period	Total Programme Allocation	Average Annual Allocation
2007-2013 (delivered 2009-2013)	€425,000,000	€85,000,000
2014-2020 (delivered 2016 to 2020)	€250,000,000	€50,000,000
2021-2022 (Transitional)	€ 70,000,000 (plus exchequer funding as requested)	€35,000,000
2023-2027 (indicative budget)	€180,000,000	€36,000,000
<i>2023-2027 (Minimum Required)</i>	<i>€389,000,000</i>	<i>€77,800,000</i>





## 7. LEADER 2023-2027 Indicative Allocation analysed

The EU budget agreement provided for a total CAP funding for Ireland of €7.5 billion over the 5 year period from 2023 to 2027. The funding is split between Pillar 1 (Direct Payments and Sectoral Interventions -€5.9billion) and Pillar II (Rural Development - €1.56billion). The allocation for the national exchequer to co-fund the Rural Development element of the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) of €2.3bn has been agreed. This will bring the total funding for the CSP to €9.8bn and to €3.86bn in respect of the Rural Development component of the plan. Pillar II measures include LEADER interventions to be delivered by the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Funding will be phased over the 2023-2027 period in line with the requirements of intervention design and the annual national budgetary process.

In accordance with Article 92(1) of the draft CAP Strategic Plan regulation, “At least 5% of the total EAFRD contribution to the CAP Strategic Plan as set out in Annex XI shall be reserved for LEADER. The maximum permissible Exchequer co-funding rate for the next LEADER programme will be 80%”.

The indicative €180m financial allocation for LEADER over the 2023-27 period will consist of €77.9m (43.28%) funding from European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) with the remainder funded by the National exchequer. This equates to 1.8% of Ireland's total CAP Budget.

Notwithstanding the increased national exchequer funding for the overall CAP Programme 2023 to 2027 there is a significant cut in LEADER funding for rural areas with the proposed allocation for the Programme falling from €425 million for the 2007-2013 Programme to just €180 million for the 2023-2027 programming period. Furthermore the co-funding element of 56.72% falls well short of the 80% permissible under EU regulation. Increasing the co-funding rate to the maximum allowable rate affords the Government the opportunity to deliver a sustainable LEADER Budget of €389 million for the period 2023-2027.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Programme  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 17:49:25

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I write on behalf of rural communities all over Kerry who are totally let down by the Leader Funding Plan.

The reduction of over 50% from the last CAP is totally unacceptable as it will have a devastating effect on rural communities, we must realise that the cost of materials and fuel are increasing on a daily basis to an all time high, cutting the funding in half from 389M to 180M for the next five years 2023-2027 will actually mean we will hardly have any leader programme at all.

Sincerely yours

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** CAP Strategic planning  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 18:42:59

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Please include the following as part of teh CAP strategic planning process

***a sustainable budget of €389 million will be provided for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan."***

***thanking you***

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER budget  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 19:18:13

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Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, to enhance the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Donegal Local Development Clg  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 19:23:42  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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On behalf of Donegal Local Development Clg we ask that the next round of CAP funding provides a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

## Kind Regards

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]  
**Donegal Local Development CLG – “Supporting our Communities”**  
**Millennium Court**  
**Pearse Road**  
**Letterkenny**  
**Co. Donegal**  
**Eircode F92 W50R**  
**Tel No.** [REDACTED]

cc. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

*We work flexibility at Donegal Local Development. I’m sending this message at a time that suits me. Please feel comfortable knowing that I don’t expect you to read, respond to or action it outside of your own regular working hours.*



<https://www.facebook.com/DLDC.CLG/>



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



“No liability whatsoever is accepted by Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC) for any action taken in reliance on the information provided by DLDC staff. You should not act or refrain

from acting, on the basis of any information provided but rather you should always seek specific legal and/or other professional advice.”

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 19:31:31  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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*To whom it concerns,*

***Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.***

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]  
South Tipperary Development CLG  
Unit 2C | Carrigeen Business Park | Clogheen Road | Cahir | Co. Tipperary | E21 HV20  
Company [REDACTED] | Charity [REDACTED]



Phone: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED]  
[www.stdc.ie](http://www.stdc.ie) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)



South Tipperary Development Company is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital; Company Registration [REDACTED]; Charitable Status No: [REDACTED]; Registered Charity Number [REDACTED]. This email and any attachments are confidential and may be legally privileged. The information contained within is intended solely for the attention and use of the addressee(s). If you are not an intended recipient of this email, you may not use, disclose, copy, distribute, print or retain this message or any part of it. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately and delete all copies of this email from your computer system(s). Although South Tipperary Development Company scans incoming and outgoing emails and email attachments for viruses we cannot guarantee a communication to be free of all viruses nor accept any responsibility for viruses. The views expressed may not necessarily be those of South Tipperary Development Company, therefore South Tipperary Development Company cannot be held responsible for any loss or injury resulting from the contents of a message. Visit us on the Web @ [www.stdc.ie](http://www.stdc.ie)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER 2023-2027  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 19:48:05

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The Budget for LEADER 2023-27 reflects in no way the need on the ground. It is much of the same old approach to struggling rural areas that have had to endure pathetic responses to what is really required: a real, dynamic response.

The budget has actually been decreased because the period it covers has been stretched from five to seven years. A piece of elastic that is sure to snap!

What we see, yet again, are areas that need real LEADER support being sold short. Disadvantaged areas continue to be squeezed, the disadvantaged discriminated, every likelihood of jobs being lost in agencies that are battling against the odds. Mayo LEADER funding is plummeting instead of going the other way to tackle the bias tilted against the region, an age-old jaded piece of discrimination.

What we need is the provision of a sustainable budget of at least €400 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027.

We drastically need investment in rural Ireland grassroots' level that can be channeled to stimulate and maintain jobs, and feed into rural environmental initiatives and boost climate change mitigation objectives while meeting and underpinning the high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 as outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

I say this as someone who has campaigned for rural regeneration over many, many years. I saw LEADER as a big breakthrough in that cause but now, if funding is to be scaled back instead of being increased, I am far from convinced. The slow-tracked, begrudging approach of live horse and get grass will get us nowhere but on the slippery slope of descent. We have got to think bigger than that.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

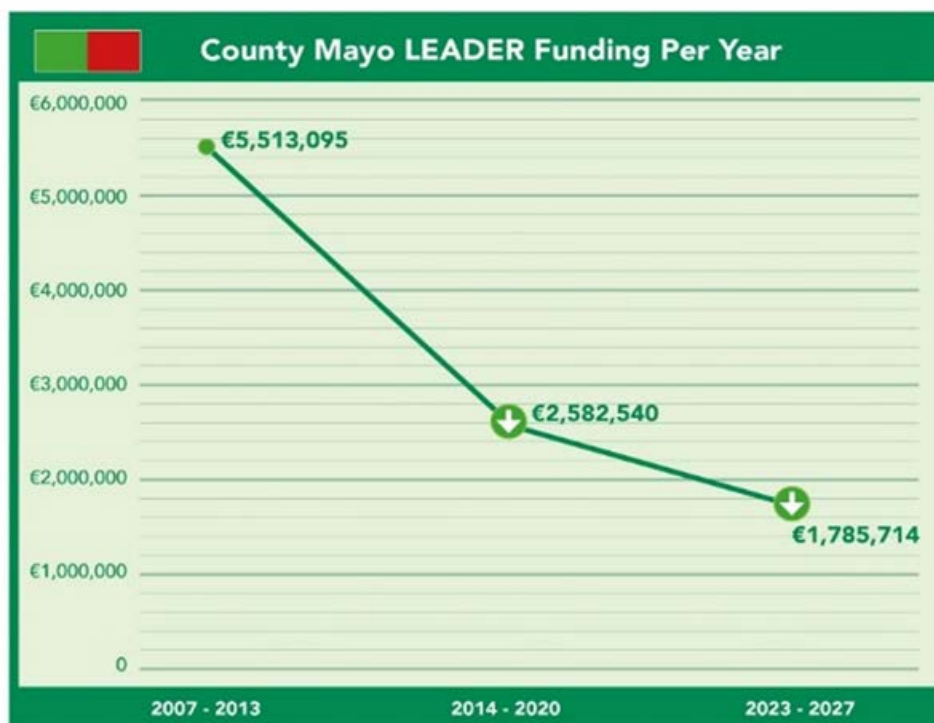
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Our Rural Future - LEADER 2023-2027  
Date: Tuesday 7 December 2021 20:47:40  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)  
Importance: High

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A Chara,

I am very concerned at the potential impact of Leader funding proposals on Mayo.

An indicative budget equating to a €36 million per year programme has been announced. When we look at these figures for Mayo in the context of previous allocations, this is what it will mean:



There is a narrative that, combined with the €70million funding provided for 2021/2022, this funding is in line with the previous programme. This is an inaccurate reflection of the situation. This is effectively a five-year budget for a seven-year programme.

In my view we should provide an ambitious budget for the 2023-2027 Leader Programme which will reflect the pent up ambition within communities in Leader funded areas. A budget closer to €400 million euro will allow communities to develop programmes to create and sustain employment, to create and sustain a climate change agenda from within rural communities as well as supporting a just transition in those rural communities who will be most effected by the economic changes required by

climate change adaption.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** [REDACTED] Submission for Sligo Community  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 21:16:07

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To whom it concern

I hope this finds you well. I am very concerned regarding the recent announcement of CAP funding of 180m for the new Rural Development Programme (2023-2027). This represents a 70m cut of the last programme but if you look back at previous programmes there has been cuts from 85m per year to 36m per year (nationally). I am seeking an increase to bring it back to 77.8m per year. Any cut in funding is another nail in the coffin for rural Ireland and I am making a submission on behalf of the Sligo community to increase the funding as per ILDN proposal. Rural Ireland and in particular Sligo has never needed the Rural Development Programme more to help tackle Climate Action, the depopulation of rural towns and job creation. The RDP offers the local community a helping hand in tackling these issues and if Covid had taught us anything there are opportunities to build a plan that would start breathing life back into our communities.

***Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan."***

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Draft interventions for CAP strategic plan  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 21:21:05

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Dear Sir/Madam,

[REDACTED] I wish to make a submission in respect of the CAP strategic plan 2023-2027.

I would respectfully ask that the CAP strategic plan 2023-2027 provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

LEADER funding has dropped over the last number of programmes from €425 million in the 2009 – 2013 programme to the proposed €180 million for the 2023 programme, a drop of almost 60%. An increase in funding will have a hugely positive impact for Laois as a rural area and allow us to continue to support communities and private enterprise in Laois by animating and funding initiatives at a local level to address local challenges and needs through creating and sustaining employment and improving quality of life as we have successfully done for over 25 years.

I would be grateful if you could please my submission into consideration and I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

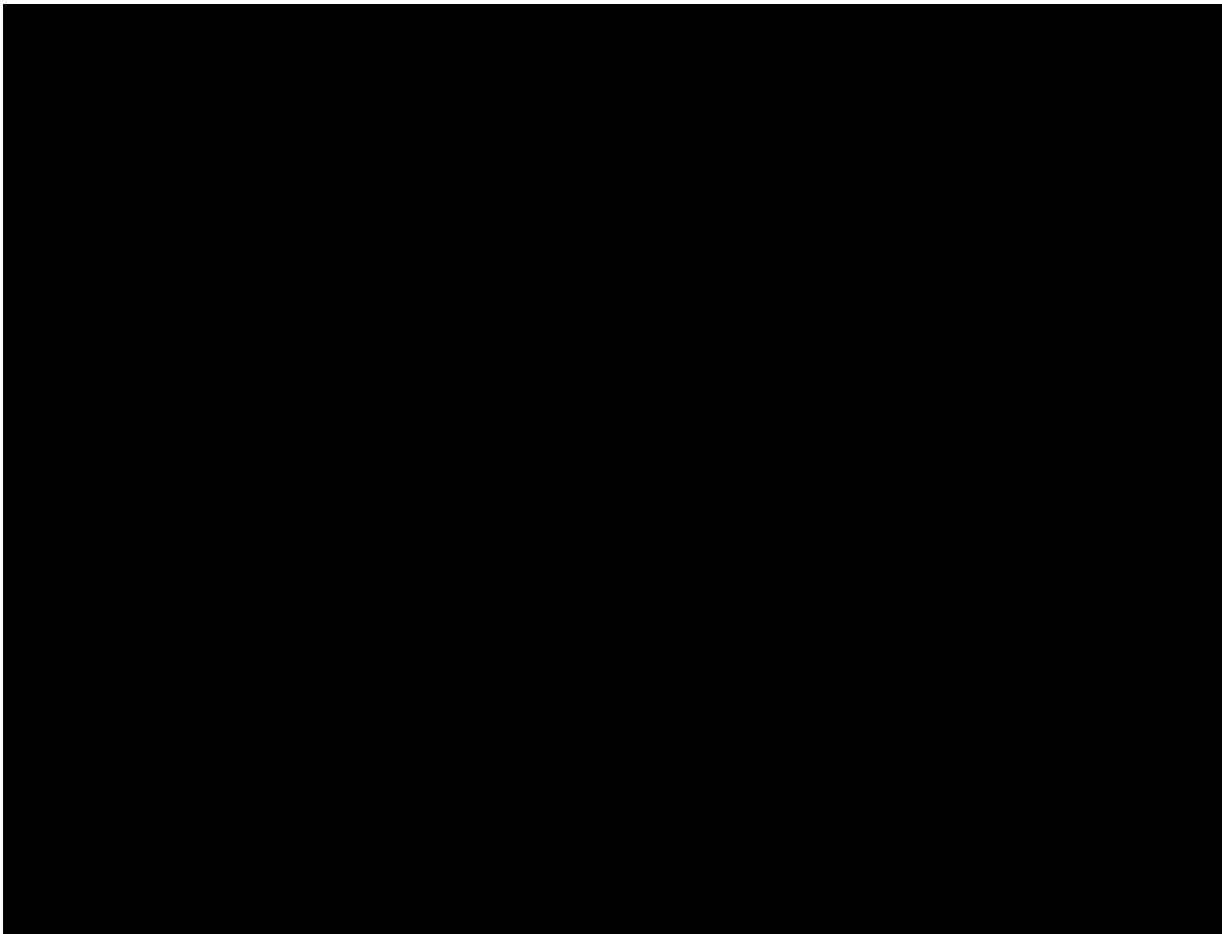
Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Borris-In-Ossory/Mountmellick LEA

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Programme 2023 - 2027  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 22:10:53

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Attention of:

[REDACTED]  
Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine

[REDACTED]  
Minister for Rural & Community Development

Dear Ministers

My name is [REDACTED]

I am an [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Community development is mainly rewarding, interesting, enjoyable and educational work. It is also difficult, and sometimes frustrating, requiring barrels of diplomacy and patience. Much like your own jobs, I suspect. But in the main, one does it, because it must be done, can be done, and is worth doing.

In my experience, the glue that binds the whole thing is the Leader Programme. The reality is that little can be achieved without real resources. The Leader Programme and those who administer it are beacons on the rural landscape. It is vitally important that this programme is not only maintained, but enhanced.

A huge part of our infrastructure, as well as our commercial and cultural organisations, have been instigated by the support of the Leader Programme. Therefore, I appeal to you to provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, to enhance the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Please assist. The investment returns will follow.

*Regards*





**SKELLIG**  
**SIX 18** DISTILLERY



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Funding  
**Date:** Tuesday 7 December 2021 22:29:38

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***To Whom it may concern;***

***My submission on the proposed Leader funding for next 4 years.***

***Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.***

***It is so important to keep Rural Ireland alive.***

***Thanks***

[REDACTED]



SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP CLG.

Community Contact Points:

Library Place, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.

21 Henry Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

Local Employment Service, West Main Street, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry. V23 P981

37 High Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Local Employment Service, 37 High Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Killarney Jobs Club, 37 High Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Killarney, Co. Kerry.



# South Kerry Development Partnership company limited by guarantee

[Redacted]

December 8<sup>nd</sup> 2021

By Email To: [CAPStrategicPlan@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:CAPStrategicPlan@agriculture.gov.ie)

To Whom it Concerns

Re: LEADER Funding proposed for the 2023 to 2027 Programme Period.

I write on behalf of South Kerry Development Partnership with regard to the allocation of €180 million for the LEADER programme as part of the indicative CAP measures for the period 2023 to 2027. South Kerry Development Partnership wishes to make the following submission on the indicative LEADER allocation.

The allocation of €180 million marks a continued decline in support for Rural Communities through LEADER over the course of successive programmes. Prior to 2016 the LEADER Programme exceeded over €400 million over the budgetary period. The indicative allocation of €180 million points to another very significant cut to the Programme over the course of the last decade.

For 30 years in South Kerry and in many other rural communities across the Country LEADER has been a driver for rural development. It is extremely disappointing to see how funding for the Programme has diminished significantly over recent Programmes. LEADER has been the life blood of rural community groups and businesses in areas where alternative investment is simply not available. It has provided rural communities with the capacity, confidence and funding to address many of the economic, social and environmental challenges facing their areas. An allocation of €180 million for the 2023 to 2027 LEADER programme is inadequate and the continued erosion of LEADER programme funding will deprive rural communities of critical capacity building supports and funding for vital enterprise, tourism, and community-led development.

**A sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 is required to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, to enhance the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.”**

SKDP are calling on the Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine Charlie McConalogue and Minister for Rural & Community Development Heather Humphries to revisit the allocations under CAP to ensure that the LEADER Budget is increased to €389 million over the 2023-2027 period. The increase can be achieved if the maximum permissible exchequer co-funding rate of 80% was provided.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature and address]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Submission  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 09:03:38

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Good afternoon

We submit that a sustainable budget of at least €389 million should be provided for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan. Funding has dropped by 60% over successive programmes and should be reinstated to 2009 - 2013 levels to allow communities and businesses in rural Ireland a real opportunity to address the challenges of Brexit and Covid recovery, and address climate change through innovation and sustainability at a local level, a bottom up approach from the ground which has always been the strength of CLLD.

We respectfully submit that LEADER must be delivered through independent LAGs as outlined in the Plan for Government and in accordance with the Community Led Local Development ethos of the LEADER programme.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Laois Partnership Company

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 09:05:06

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***Hi all***

***I would be hoping that a sustainable budget of €389 million would be provided for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.***

***You might come back to me on this request***

***Regards***

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER Programme 2023-2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 09:24:40  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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To whom it may concern,

Westport Family & Community Resource Centre, call on the Department of Agriculture Food & Marine and the Department of Rural & Community Development to:

Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Investment in the LEADER Programme is essential in supporting sustainable, empowered, vibrant and inclusive communities in rural Ireland.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Westport Family & Community Resource Centre,](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

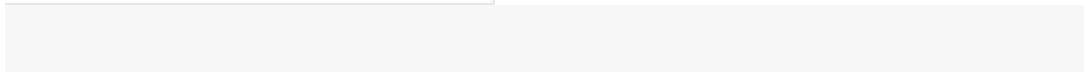
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Westport



*Family and Community Resource Centre*



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER 2023-2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 09:26:44

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To whom it may concern,

As a member of the LEADER Independent Evaluation Committee I wish to submit the following statement for your consideration:

A sustainable budget of €389 million would be provided for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive ‘bottom-up, community-led’ investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Knockanrawley Resource Centre CLG.  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Provision of Sustainable Budget for Leader  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 09:35:24  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Good Morning

Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



THE LOCAL ACTION GROUP FOR TIPPERARY



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER budget  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 09:35:59

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A Chara

I would appreciate if consideration could be given to the provision of a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high-level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

[REDACTED]  
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**Bord Oideachas agus Oiliúna Thiobraid Árann**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to Plan  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 09:46:45

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Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the CAP strategic plan. My key observations are -

### **LEADER and Rural Development**

As has been recognised by Our Rural Future and its predecessors, creating a vibrant rural society is essential to encourage farm families and especially younger farmers to remain within rural Ireland. The importance of off farm incomes to sustain farming as a way of life is incontrovertible. Thus rural development outside the farm gate has and must continue to be an essential element of CAP. Thus it is with disappointment that I note that a minimal approach has been taken to the allocation to the LEADER programme. While the CAP budget has increased, the allocation to LEADER has reduced in real terms. This will restrict the community led local development approach so essential to post COVID recovery and to future sustainability.

A sustainable budget of €389 million should be provided for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding in the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 outlined in the draft CAP strategic plan.

### **Environment and BioDiversity**

There is unequivocal evidence from reports by EPA and others that agriculture in Ireland is causing pollution and damage to ecosystems and biodiversity. The sector is responsible for approximately a third of national greenhouse gas emissions and over 99 per cent of national ammonia emissions, and is the largest significant pressure on our water resources. It is clear from published assessments of agriculture that change is now required in the sector to ensure – and 'assure' – its environmental sustainability.

Despite its aspirations towards sustainability, and some positive incentives for the future, there remains a question as to whether the CAP is adequately ambitious to meet the current challenges. In the final document I would welcome a stronger commitment to biodiversity and to allow and encourage such initiatives as rewilding where appropriate. As well as planting new hedgerows and trees, we need to actively sustain what we have and farmers need to be encouraged to do this.

While the incentives for organic and sustainable farming are welcome, it is important that they be designed to support small enterprises as well as large farms.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and I look forward to seeing the final plan.

[REDACTED]

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