

**SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF:**

**COUNTY SLIGO LEADER PARTNERSHIP CLG**



**A SUSTAINABLE LEADER PROGRAMME 2023-2027**

## Purpose

In response to the recent CAP funding announcement of €180 million for the Rural Development Programme the Innovation Centre at IT Sligo on behalf of County Sligo Leader Partnership 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. The proposed budget which is significantly lower than previously will have a detrimental impact on the programme
- Ensure a sustainable Budget for each Local Development Company at local level to ensure the efficient delivery of the LEADER Programme 2023-2027

## The Importance of the Leader Programme

One of IT Sligo’s strategic priorities is to support regional development through *Research, Innovation & Entrepreneurship*. Partnering and working with development agencies e.g. Enterprise Ireland, the Local Enterprise Offices and Local Development Companies enables the centre to deliver on this strategy. The Innovation Centre at IT Sligo are involved with all the development companies in the region by both supporting initiatives and sitting on boards of the development companies. Currently the Innovation Centre Manager is a board director of the Sligo Leader Partnership Company. The LEADER Programme has had significant impact:

- 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, including the North West, which is both rural and peripheral, It has helped develop these communities in keeping with the LEADER approach and has been evaluated as very successful by EU institutions
- It is welcomed that 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

### Impact of a reduced budget

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. The following are the impacts that a reduced budget will have:

- 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

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER Programme 2023-2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:15:19

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[REDACTED]  
Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine

[REDACTED]  
Minister for Rural & Community Development

Dear Ministers,

Community development is mainly rewarding, interesting, enjoyable and educational work. It is also difficult, and sometimes frustrating, requiring barrels of diplomacy and patience. 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. It is not just a grant giving programme, it's a development programme where project officers help the group / individual with confidence and increase skills. 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.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Balla Community Centre](#)  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:15:51

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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.

**Balla Community Resource Centre**  
**Balla**  
**Co Mayo**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER Programme 2023-2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:22:28

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To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Mayo Abbey Resource Centre and our own local community, I would 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, 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.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Mayo Abbey Resource Centre

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Leader Programme 2023 - 2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:38:00

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Attention of:

[REDACTED]  
Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine

[REDACTED]  
Minister for Rural & Community Development

Dear Ministers

My name is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On that occasion we demonstrated the ambitious vision we have for not just [REDACTED] but for the whole region. We very much agree with your thinking that as we recover from the impact of COVID we need to grasp this opportunity to achieve a balanced regional and rural development across the country.

If regional industry are to captivate the minds of national and international skilled work forces, who can now work remotely, then it is critical that we can offer them vibrant sustainable communities in which to work, live and learn.

LEADER and Local Development Groups are the essential catalyst to redress the imbalance of activity in our rural areas and communities, with proper funding they can be instrumental in bridging the gap in the provision of services to ensure the level of innovation and dynamism of the working and living experiences on offer, are for everybody in our communities. Inclusivity and diversity is key – not only for workforces but for the young, the families, and our elderly communities.

The LEADER Programme, the bottom-up approach is a proven mechanism of addressing the gap between needs and resources, the LEADER teams are proven collaborators working with public and private sector institutions to develop creative solutions that leverage the speed and know how to capture, share and deliver urban service in the furthest reaches of our rural communities.

The LEADER team are well positioned to deliver on a number of initiatives on behalf of your department which would optimise on the shared effort required to mobilise community activities. However, financial resources are key to implementing a well thought

out strategic action plan on the ground which delivers on the ambitious objectives of *Our Rural Future*. Therefore, I appeal to you to provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive this '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.

I am confident together we can seize this opportunity to ensure we can deliver for you and rural Ireland.

Your sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the sender's name and signature.

Classified as General

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## Submission to the Common Agricultural Policy Consultation Process.

██████████ KLP Evaluation Committee I am pleased to be given this opportunity to make a submission to the CAP Strategic Plan.

In common with the existing KLP staff and Board I support the ILDN role in the aforementioned Strategic Plan as committed to in the current Government program which states “We will support a LEADER programme and deliver a Rural Development Programme that is led by independent Local Action Groups and supported by Local Community Development Committees.”

Those of us on the ground expect this commitment to be honoured in full and not be diluted in the process of any review of the existing structures.

We also expect that the 2023 - 2027 LEADER programme will be provided with a realistic and sustainable budget of €389 million for that period. The unrealistic indicative budget of €180 million - a cut of more than 50% - will, if implemented, ensure that the programme cannot be successful at LAG level and prevent it from meeting its requirements under LEADER methodology in the following areas:

- Bottom - up community - led approach:
- Area - based approach
- Local Partnership
- An integrated and multi - sectoral strategy
- Networking
- Innovation
- Cooperation

Without independent LAGs delivering the programme and a sustainable budget of the level of €389 million for the 5 - year period the delivery of the Leader programme with the above essential features will be seriously compromised.

In such an eventuality the new Leader program will be unable to meet the needs of rural Ireland in the context of, not alone the ambition displayed in “Our Rural Plan” but also the EU’s priorities for rural development.

As well as the above requirements for a successful implementation of the Programme there will have to be cooperation between Leader and other sections of the Rural Development Programme (Pillar II) to ensure overlap coverage on eligibilities for key groups such as disadvantaged rural communities and lower income farm families.

Rural Ireland is in crisis on a number of fronts. Without the assistance of well - funded, bottom - up, innovative and imaginative programs its future is bleak.

██████████ - KLP Evaluation Committee.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:39:29

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To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Mayo Abbey Community Council and our local community, I would 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, 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.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:40:15  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine

[REDACTED]  
Minister for Rural & Community Development

Dear Ministers,

My name is [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.

I enclose our Plean Teanga & Plean Gn imh for the area.

In my experience, the glue that binds the whole thing is the Leader Programme. It is not just a grant giving programme, it's a development programme where project officers help the group / individual with confidence and increase skills. 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.

Ar Scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine agus pobail tuaithe.

Bhéinn buíoch dá bhféadfá na moltaí seo a mheas agus cinnte a dhéanamh go mbeadh pobail in ann forbairt agus neartú de réir.

Le meas,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Fógra faoi Rúndacht agus Síniú Leictreonach: Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda agus tharlódh go mbeadh ábhar íogarach tráchtála san áireamh ann. Is leis an duine / nó daoine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chucu a bhaineann siad agus ní ceart iad a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí gan cead roimh ré ó Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo.,  
Tabhair faoi deara freisin nach nglacann Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo., le sínithe leictreonacha d'aon chineál chun conradh a dhéanamh. Caithfidh gach uile shíniú a bheith i bhfoirm fhisiciúil. Deimhníonn an fo-nóta seo chomh maith gur seiceáiladh an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo ar fhaitíos víris.

Tabhair cuairt ar ár suíomh idirlín ag <http://www.conamaralair.ie>

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Please visit our website at <http://www.conamaralair.ie>

**From:** [Management](#)  
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**Subject:** LEADER Programme 2023-2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:41:09

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To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Mayo Abbey Parish Housing Association and our community, I would 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, 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.

Yours sincerely,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Leader Programme  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:44:29

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In support of the great work of the SWMDC and the leader programme does for rural communities we would like 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]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:47:07

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***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.***



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8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**RE: Irish Local Development Networks submission 'A sustainable LEADER programme 2023-2027'**

A Chara,

I write in support of the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN)'s submission 'A sustainable LEADER programme 2023-2027'.

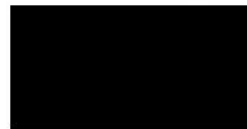
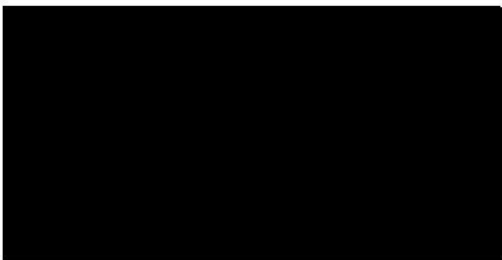
Sligo Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as the Local Action Group (LAG), has responsibility for the delivery of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and Transitional LEADER Programme 2021 -2022 within County Sligo.

Sligo LAG supports the submission by the ILDN which seeks 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.

Increasing the funding to €389million, as proposed in the ILDN submission, will maximise available funding for Sligo and support the continued delivery of LEADER funding for rural areas.

As [REDACTED] of Sligo LCDC, please note this official endorsement and support of the ILDNs submission.

Is mise le meas,



**From:** [Glen Keen Farm](#)  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** SUBMISSION CAP  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:48:41

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Dear Sir or Maddy,

My name is [REDACTED] Glen Keen Farm Ltd. I wish to make the following submission on my own behalf;

**Please 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 for your time and consideration.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

--

Glen Keen Farm  
[www.glenkeenfarm.com](http://www.glenkeenfarm.com)  
[www.facebook.com/glenkeenfarm](https://www.facebook.com/glenkeenfarm)

[REDACTED]

## A SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF COMHAR NA nOILEÁN CTR

**To the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine and the Department of Rural & community Development to provide a sustainable minimum Budget of €300 Million for the LEADER PROGRAMME 2023-2027.**

### Comhar na nOileán CTR

#### Background

Comhar na nOileán/Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann has been the representative organisation for the off-shore islands since 1994, and has delivered LEADER II and the Rural Development Programme 2000 – 2006 as well a range of other programmes, schemes and projects to island communities around the coast. Comhar na nOileán succeeded in providing funding of over € 1.5 million to promoters and this in turn leveraged private funds of in excess of €1.7million to island projects over the period. During the 2007-2013 Comhar na nOileán delivered LEADER to the tune of €5m to the Offshore Islands and laterally to the Galway Gaeltacht Community.

#### ISLANDS OF IRELAND

There are 30 inhabited offshore islands off the West coast of Ireland. The islands represent a bastion of Irish heritage, culture and language and their protection and development is guaranteed by government policy, *“Our coastal islands are an integral part of the state's heritage. Around 30 of these coastal islands are inhabited and they possess a valuable cultural heritage. It is a central purpose of the Department that sustainable vibrant communities will continue to settle on the islands.”*<sup>1</sup>

With The current funding Comhar na nOileán are able to complete the following work:

- LEADER Implementing Partners for the Donegal Islands, Mayo Islands, Cork Islands & the Three Heads (mainland Cork) and LEADER Support Partners of Galway Rural Development in East Galway;
- Administration on behalf of Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann;
- Administration on behalf of Rannóg na nOileán, for the Community Development Fund Programme;
- SICAP on the Cork Islands,
- Walks Scheme on the Cork Islands,
- RSS across all the offshore islands from Donegal, Mayo, Galway to Cork,
- Administration work on some other smaller programs.

Comhar na nOileán CTR was established during the cohesion process as the Islands LAG to work on behalf of the offshore islands in strengthening island communities and developments across all of the offshore islands. During the Alignment Process for LEADER 2014-2020, Comhar na nOileán CTR as directed, followed Government policy and aligned with the LCDs as Implementing Partners in the 4 counties. Due to the changes in the current LEADER programme and how it is now administered, Comhar na nOileán CTR are no longer a LAG, in their own right for the offshore islands.

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Comhar na nOileán CTR successfully delivered the Rural Development Programme to 33 inhabited islands from 2000 to 2013. In the previous LEADER 2007-2013, as the Islands LAG 3.3 million was spent on the islands under a targeted specific plan that took cognisance of island specific constraints and challenges.

**Comhar na nOileán is an active member of the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) and reiterates the call from ILDN to provide a sustainable budget of €300 million for the LEADER PROGRAMME 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment to create and sustain employment in rural Ireland, provide funding 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.**

**Comhar na nOileán also support the call from Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann that Islands are recognised in the Cap Strategic Plan 2023-2027 by Islands being specifically mentioned under various sections of the plan which will ensure that the special circumstances of offshore islands are recognised and that the future sustainability of island farming, the environment and biodiversity is to the forefront to meet the challenges ahead.**

While the same rural funding programmes are available to the Irish Islands as everywhere else in the country, few programmes, except LEADER, can be tailor-made to the specific and unique needs of island communities. Much of the development on Islands that can be seen today spanning the Islands from Donegal to Cork are down to the LEADER Programme. From the year 2000 onwards, it is the only funding that it can be said that is targeted to local island-specific needs. The success is due to the targeted approach used and the good working relationship, nurtured over 20 years with communities on the Islands.

For the last 5 years the programmes are being delivered, administrated and managed through the LCDC structures on a county wide basis. Due to this Islanders have to compete for limited resources with populations and interests that are much more advanced. Island-specific strategies are required, delivered by a body / organisation with an understanding and experience of the particular challenges of developing community enterprises and projects on the offshore islands. This was happening before 2015 and has been shown to work effectively.

In order to allay concerns that specific calls for Island Strategies may conflict with the alignment policy introduced in the last program, and to ensure that work under the programs is aligned with the work of the relevant LCDC, it would be recommended that the Strategies under the programs agreed and approved by the local LCDCs' in the island counties. Once it is agreed as a policy that there should be separate Island Strategies, mechanisms can be devised to ensure that it is in line with national policy.

We would ask that funding is ringfenced for the Islands so that island communities are not in competition for resources with county-based mainland communities. The additionality and synergy aspect between and across various programmes is a major contributor to the success of the LEADER Programme on Islands.

- Successive governments and departments have accepted that Islanders are more disadvantaged than their mainland counterparts. To value the contribution of islanders to the mainland economy, tourism nationally, and to the culture and heritage of the country, specific exceptional measures have been introduced over the years to combat this disadvantage:
  - • funding island-specific capital programs
  - • provide targeted supports for islanders

- • made exceptional arrangements for islanders in national mainstream programs
- • develop specific policies for the islands.
- The current Irish government needs to continue this approach and expand and strengthen the range of island-specific supports.
- The Department of Agriculture has previously introduced an increase in ANC (formerly Disadvantaged Area payment) payments to farmers who farm all or part of their land on offshore islands in the new CAP Rural Development Plan from 2015 onwards.
- It is also European policy that Member States have island-specific policies and that programs, including the Structural Funds and the ERDF, are adapted to meet the needs of the islands.
- It is recognized at national and European levels that the islands need specific and exceptional measures and policies to address the challenges they face. It would therefore be fully in line with national and European policy for the Department to ensure that specific Island Strategies are sought, as part of community and rural development programs, including the LEADER program and the SICAP program.
- Comhar na nOileán continue to work in close partnership with their local authorities and their statutory agencies. It is seen, however, that if there is no policy, island-specific programs and budgets, that they will miss out on due to the lack of a critical amount necessary to compete with other communities on the mainland. We have seen this with the small proportion of the LEADER & SICAP program spent on the islands of Ireland over the last 5 years compared to previous years when Comhar na nOileán CTR administered the programs. (e.g to date around €220,000 approved for Galway Islands in the current LEADER program compared to € 1.5 million in the 2007-2013 LEADER program)
- We would ask for an island-based organization to deliver programs such as LEADER and any other programs on the islands from 2022 onwards.
- The need for funds to be allocated nationally and ring-fenced for the islands and that one local development company be the delivery body, is central to this aim.
- For all the offshore islands to be treated as one unit and back under the remit of one local development company. It is extremely hard for island promoters/communities to compete with mainland promoters for the available budgets when it is a countywide budget.

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, with its successor that operated from mid 2016-2020 reduced to €250 million. A further cut to €180 million is now proposed for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 and when examined on a year-by-year actual basis marks another significant reduction of almost 40% 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. This does not augur well for rural communities in general but in particularly for islands in delivering on the high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 in the draft CAP Strategic Plan.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:52:03

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To whom it concerns,

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.



South Tipperary Development Company

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER 2023-2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 14:52:32

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To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to request that [REDACTED]

*“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.”*

Under the proposed CAP budget for 2023-27 announced by the Minister recently, the funding will be reduced significantly.

Please see below table and what it means for FORUM Connemara, which are based in Galway.

<b>TOTAL: 2014-20 LEADER ALLOCATION</b>		<b>Proposed: 2023-27 LEADER ALLOCATIONS</b>		<b>REDUCTION IN ALLOCATIONS 2023-27</b>
€4,540,033		€3,301,760		€1,238,273
<b>14-20 PROJECT FUNDS - BUDGET (75%)</b>		<b>2023-27 PROJECT FUNDS - BUDGET (75%)</b>		<b>2023-27 REDUCTION PROJECT BUDGET ALLOCATION</b>
€3,405,025		€2,476,320		€928,705
<b>14-20 Admin Allowance (25%)</b>		<b>2023-27 Admin Allowance</b>		<b>Reduction Admin 2023-27</b>
€1,135,008		€825,440		€309,568

In summary, it will mean a loss of nearly €1m in project funding for community groups and small businesses over the 5 years and a €309k reduction in the administration of the programme over the 5 years.

I hope that this request can be considered positively and I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Programme  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:02:07

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Dear Ministers

My name is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I would have made many successful Leader applications [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

A lot of the projects [REDACTED] would not exist today only for Leader funding. One example being ARC Clifden which was a derelict community hall in town of Clifden and today is a thriving community hub for lots of activities.

In my view it is very important that the Leader Programme is maintained and continues to support community activities in our rural area. The Leader programme in my area not only is a grant giving programme – it has also provided training and access to other sources that our community would not have opportunity to engage with otherwise.

I am asking you to provide a sustainable budget of €389 million for the Leader Programme 2023-2027 to help us keep our rural areas alive and sustain employment.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Connemara West Plc  
Letterfrack  
Co. Galway

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** European Union's CAP  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:04:28

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### To whom it may concern

I would like to make a submission on my own behalf [REDACTED] with regard to funding that will 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]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** CAP/LEADER Funding Submission  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:05:00  
**Importance:** High

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To whom it concerns,

I write in relation to the next CAP/LEADER Funding.

[REDACTED] I am acutely aware of the positive benefit the LEADER programme has had across the entire constituency of Laois/Offaly and am disappointed at the reduction in the proposed Budget for LEADER 2023- 2027.

I understand that the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 will be cut to €180 million. This is a significant cut compared to previous LEADER Programmes which ran from 2016-2020 (Budget of €250 million) and the 2009-2013 LEADER which initially had a total Budget of €450 million.

Based on an indicative CAP Budget, the proposed Budget of €180 million allocated for LEADER 2023-2027 is a mere 1.8% of Ireland's total CAP Budget.

It is my firm view that any cut to Rural Development Funding will have a significant impact on community-led local development in rural areas. Our Rural Future is ambitious plan and sets out blueprint for a post-COVID-19 recovery and development of rural Ireland over the next 5 years. However, as we continue to grapple with the effects of Covid 19, it is crucial that rural Ireland is not deprived of critical funding which is key to it's economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development.

A sustainable budget for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment is required. 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.

I would appreciate if every consideration to the above is given and in this regard I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on CAP/Leader [REDACTED] Dublin 8th December  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:07:58  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]  
**Importance:** High

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To whom it concerns!

[REDACTED] In fact many businesses [REDACTED] who are either non for profits, small rural businesses diversifying, and community/social enterprises have benefited from Leader in a very positive way over the years.

I believe that I am well placed to have a very key personal view on this as follows:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] and is invaluable from a capital and support perspective in driving their initiatives forward
- [REDACTED] - I know what has been, and can be achieved by good use of Leader.

So the fact that Leader Funding appears to be effectively reduced is simply not good enough. At a time where business has been decimated by Covid, rural businesses must diversify, and when our population is growing, and where we can encourage support of rural businesses as we improve quality of life, sustain employment, and encourage diversification.

This is simply not good enough. And we must do more as Ireland, to ensure that Leader Funding is not reduced for the period of 2023 onwards.

My points are as follows:

- The budget for Leader for 2023-2027 has already been cut due to late implementation of previous Leader.
- A further cut of this budget to €180 million now proposed is simply not on. Effectively this is a 40% reduction, with a growing population. And at a key time. This is a huge proposed cut. And is not acceptable.
- I believe that we should be looking at around €400 million for The Leader Programme for the coming years, to work in rural Ireland, Rural Tourism, Rural Sustainability and Rural Employment in order to drive and sustain enterprise within our businesses and communities.

- We must have a sustainable budget for Ireland, driven by each local Development Company from this.
- The co-funding element must also be looked at. Under EU regulations up to 80% is permissible. Yet we are now looking at a proposed 56.72%. This shows no concept of what has gone on, last 2 years, and what is needed to grow our rural economy and kick-start it again.

Ireland must protect its share of Leader Funding. And we must have adequate funding, certainly up around the €400 million mark, to deliver a real difference over this crucial 2023-2027 period.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

AE Consulting

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Web: [www.aeconsult.ie](http://www.aeconsult.ie)

[Redacted signature]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: LEADER Budget - appreciate if you would forward the email below today  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:08:56

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To whom it may concern

***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.***

[REDACTED]  
**Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme**

South Tipperary Development CLG

Unit 2C | Carrigeen Business Park | Clogheen Road | Cahir | Co. Tipperary | E21 HV20



South Tipperary Development Company [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** KTIF Submission Leader Funding 2023 -2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:11:12

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Dear Sir/Madam,

As the representative organisation for Tourism in County Kerry the board of the Kerry Tourism Industry Federation would like to express our concern at the proposed reduction in the Leader budget allocation for the period 2023 – 2027.

The proposed allocation of €180 million is a considerable reduction on the allocation provided in the previous funding tranche and far less than the requested budget of €389 Million as outlined in the submission of the ILDN network to the department.

The importance of “community-led” investment in rural areas such as Kerry cannot be understated. Leader funding has and continues to support and encourage local communities and groups to both conceptualise and promote investment projects which sustain and grow employment in rural areas. Many of these projects are focused on climate change mitigation measures which are particularly relevant to rural communities at this point in time.

KTIF would therefore strongly encourage the Department to allocate the requested funding of €389 Million to the Leader programme for the period 2023 – 2027.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Programme  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:16:36

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*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.*

[REDACTED]  
Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme  
South Tipperary Development CLG

[REDACTED]  
*South Tipperary Development CLG is the Local Action Group for the County*



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:** [Forbartha Chill Damhnait Chill Damhnait](#)  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Rural Community Survival  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:17:21

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To Whom it may concern,  
we at Forbartha Chill Damhnait are a small community development committee located on Achill Island, Co Mayo.

Without the help, guidance and funding that we receive through the leader programme and South west Mayo development company, our local community would be impacted greatly and struggle to survive.

Therefore, we feel that it is vital that a sustainable budget of €389million is provided for the leader programme 2023-2027 to drive 'bottom-up, community-lead' 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.

Is mise, le meas

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Forbartha Chill Damhnait

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:22:21  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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To whom it may concern,

Westival supports the following aim within our submission to the CAP strategic plan 2023 – 2027.

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]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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

**Westival 2021**  
**20<sup>th</sup> October – 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**"Best Small Festival 2019" Irish Festival Awards**



[Westival 2019 Video Highlights](#)

**From:** [Mescan Brewery Westport](#)  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission from Mescan Brewery Ltd.  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:22:48

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A Chairde,

We, like many other small companies, occasionally rely on State support to grow and sustain our business. We consider that the State's investment in us is good value for money as we provide employment and generate very significant sums in Excise and VAT.

We are calling on the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and the Department of Rural and 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.

le meas,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

--

<https://www.mescanbrewery.com/>

[https://instagram.com/mescan\\_brewery?igshid=1i06xh02mfwyo](https://instagram.com/mescan_brewery?igshid=1i06xh02mfwyo)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mescan-Brewery/228600377304798>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER PROGRAMME  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:32:05

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For the attention of [REDACTED]  
Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine

Dear Minister

My name is [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Community development as you know is very important work completed by many volunteers country wide. For those who are involved and give of their time free of charge ,it is rewarding, interesting, enjoyable and educational work.

It is also difficult, and sometimes frustrating, requiring lots of diplomacy and patience.

But in the main, volunteers do it, because it must be done, and is worth doing to improve their local community.

[REDACTED]

developing key community facilities to ensure better quality of life for people living in our rural area.

From my experience, the glue that binds community development 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 must be enhanced going forward.

Our community has been greatly assisted by the many Leader programmes starting back in the 1990s

A huge part of our community infrastructure, as well as our commercial and cultural organisations, have been instigated by the support of LEADER and IRD Duhallow. Therefore, I appeal to you to provide a **minimum sustainable** budget of €389 million for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027 and grant independent LAG status to the Local Development Companies that have delivered LEADER for more than 30 years to

- drive 'bottom-up, community-led' investment which has been proven in the past

Leader schemes

- create and sustain employment for communities in rural Ireland,
- 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 review and consider the above as communities and volunteers need 2 main things to keep developing their communities

- Access to adequate LEADER funding -ie higher budgets than the existing budgets proposed
- LEADER programme administration is directly via Local Development Companies who have many years of experience and liaison with the communities they represent

Many thanks

██████████



08 December 2021

Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine,  
Agriculture House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2,  
D02 WK12


**Re: LEADER Programme 2023-2027**

To whom it concerns,

On behalf of Camp Community Council, I'd like to express concerns regarding the potential funding reduction for rural communities under the LEADER Programme 2023-2027.

We ask that DAFM provide a sustainable minimum of €389 million (€77.8 million annual average - achievable by increasing Ireland's co-funding to the 80% allowable) 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. Furthermore we call for government to ensure a sustainable Budget for each Local Development Company to ensure the efficient delivery of the LEADER Programme 2023-2027.

Sincerely,

 Camp Community Council

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Urgent: Leader Programme Funding for 2023 - 2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:33:43  
**Importance:** High

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For the attention of Minister [REDACTED] and Minister [REDACTED]:

A Airí,

I wish to lend my support 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 vital climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities, as well as the identified high level ambitions of LEADER 2023-2027 (as outlined in the [Draft CAP Strategic Plan](#)). This has been agreed by the Irish Local Development Network who I understand have also been in contact with you.

Mise le meas,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:41:16

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To Whom it May Concern:-

*Please 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.*

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] - [The Kerry Food Hub](#)  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Budget Cuts  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:50:44

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Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Kerry Food Hub to express our concerns about the proposed cut to the Leader programme 2023-2027

Background of The Kerry Food Hub,

The Kerry Food Hub is a community company operated by a group of like-minded individuals who came together to make our place a better place to live through the creation of employment opportunities. We are located just outside the village of Firies in the centre of Kerry, an area which has seen the population explode, with the construction of 300 houses during the 2000s. With the local National School going from 52 in '06 to 300 today. In an area that didn't have job opportunities.

With the support of North East West Kerry Development(NEWKD), we applied for government support to construct 4 x 1000ft<sup>2</sup> food-grade production space, the first of its kind in Kerry. The Kerry Food hub opened in 2016 and has enjoyed 100% occupancy since, with 35 people are employed.

All our clients have interacted with NEWKD, getting funding for various equipment and training opportunities.

Such is the success of The Kerry Food Hub that we are currently constructing ten more units. On completion, we expect a further 120 jobs to be created.

It is vitally important that new businesses can avail of an adequately funded leader programme, supporting these businesses resulting in displacing imports, creating a shorter route to market, reducing food miles, reducing carbon footprint, and offering the local agriculture industry new crop innovation.

I am asking you to provide a sustainable minimum of €389 million (€77.8 million annual average - achievable by increasing Ireland's co-funding to the 80% allowable) 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.

Furthermore we call for government to ensure a sustainable Budget for each Local Development Company to ensure the efficient delivery of the LEADER Programme 2023-2027.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Firies**  
**Co. Kerry**

[REDACTED]



w. [www.kerryfoodhub.com](http://www.kerryfoodhub.com)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Decrease in CAP funding for Leader  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 15:57:37

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To whom it may concern,  
We have been informed that the budget allocated from the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy is to be cut for the Leader for next year. We are very disheartened to hear this as our community group were hoping to apply for funding for our rural community development. We are in need of funding and with the work that we need to have done to our community building, Leader funding seems to be the only way forward for us. By cutting the funding it could damage the last sense of community we have as all we have left is our centre which has been at the heart of the community for the past 50 plus years. Our building is in need of huge refurbishment and if completed would allow our village the venue to come together and welcome new members to our area. We ask that you reconsider this choice and where possible increase the allocation of funding back to what it was. By doing so it would allow us to get vital work done. Looking forward to hearing from you,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Derradda Community Centre.

**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."**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 16:02:06

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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.”***

[REDACTED]  
**Spa GAA Club**  
**Killarney**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** LEADER Programme 2023-2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 16:38:47

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To whom it may concern,

Tacú Ballinrobe Family 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]

Tacú Family Resource Centre Ballinrobe,

Credit Union House,

Main St.

Ballinrobe,

Co. Mayo

[REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#); [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Submission from Kerry LAG  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 16:54:44

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**To Whom it may concern,**

**Please see submission from the Kerry LAG regarding the CAP Strategic Plan. Apologies but due to storm Barra, I am having difficulty today accessing and sending emails. I would appreciate if you could confirm receipt of this email which I am submitting as [REDACTED] on behalf of the Kerry Local Action Group.**

*Kerry LAG Submission*

*It is the view of the Kerry LAG that an allocation of €180 million for the 2023 to 2027 LEADER programme is inadequate and that a reduction in LEADER programme funding at this critical time of recovery, will deprive rural communities of critical capacity building supports and funding for vital enterprise, tourism, and community-led development.*

*In light of this reduction of LEADER funding under CAP 2023-2027, the Kerry Local Action Group (LAG) calls for the allocation of a sustainable minimum of €389 million (€77.8 million annual average) for Ireland's 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.*

*The Kerry LAG would therefore like the Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine [REDACTED] and Minister for Rural & Community Development [REDACTED] 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.*

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] **LCDC/LAG**



**From:** [Inishturk Finance](#)  
**To:** [CAP Strategic Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Leader 2023-2027  
**Date:** Wednesday 8 December 2021 17:24:46

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To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] for Inishturk Community Club CLG based on Inishturk Island, Co. Mayo.

This community enterprise, in existence since 1991, has been a very grateful recipient of Leader funding in the past. What Leader funding means to us, as residents of a remote Mayo island, is that it has been a very important piece in maintaining the survival of this company which is instrumental in the survival of the island.

Today, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have seen the most ingenuitive & progressive projects come across our desks, these small entrepreneurs and businesses that are the very heartbeat of rural Ireland, particularly in a county of low population density as Mayo

Having been recently informed of the draft budget for 2023-2027 and is to say at the very least disappointing and we believe will have detrimental effects for the development & sustainability of rural Ireland.

Our desire from the ED, EC & JC committee we urge 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],

[REDACTED]  
**Inishturk Community Club CLG Finance**

[REDACTED]  
Inishturk Community Club CLG,  
Bellavaum, Inishturk Island, Co, Mayo (H91 N990), Ireland.

Other Contacts:

Community Club Facilities T: [REDACTED] E: [club@inishturkisland.com](mailto:club@inishturkisland.com)

Community Development Office T: [REDACTED] E: [development@inishturkisland.com](mailto:development@inishturkisland.com)

Registered in Dublin [REDACTED]. Recognised by the Charities Regulator as a Charity No [REDACTED]

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