

## LEADER RDP – the basics

The LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 and the Transitional LEADER Programme 2021-2022 are supported under the “*The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas*” and by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

LEADER is a key component of Ireland’s Rural Development Programme. It will provide funding to enterprises and community groups throughout rural Ireland for projects that are selected by Local Action Groups, consisting of local representatives from both the public and private sector.

For Further information, see;

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/rural-development\\_en#leader](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/rural-development_en#leader)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/179274-leader-rural-development/>

<https://www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/LEADER/Pages/LEADER.aspx>

## Contact Us

Please return your fully completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form to the address below with any additional information you feel may be of relevance to your EOI. The EOI form can be downloaded/printed from the Monaghan Integrated Development website.

Monaghan Integrated Development CLG, Unit 9, Drumillard Business Park, Castleblayney, Co Monaghan. A75 HR59

Phone: 042-9749500 Email: [LEADER@midl.ie](mailto:LEADER@midl.ie) Web: [www.midl.ie](http://www.midl.ie)



# LEADER ‘Expression of Interest’ Form Guidance Notes

## Monaghan LEADER

Monaghan Integrated Development CLG,  
Unit 9, Drumillard Business Park,  
Castleblayney, County Monaghan A75 HR59

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

#MonaghanLEADER



Funded by the Department of Rural  
and Community Development

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## What is LEADER?

LEADER stands for "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale" which translates as "Links between the rural economy and development actions".

# LEADER Local Action Group (LAG)

## Monaghan Integrated Development CLG.



Monaghan LAG for LEADER is an initiative of Monaghan Local and Community Development Committee (LCDC) in partnership with Monaghan Integrated Development CLG as implementing partner and Monaghan County Council.

## Monaghan Local Community Development Committee



Monaghan LCDC is the Local Action Group is the decision maker in respect of delivery of LEADER RDP 2014-2020 and the Transitional Programme 2021-2022 in County Monaghan.

## Monaghan County Council



Monaghan County Council is the financial partner of the Monaghan LAG.

# Your Expression of Interest

This is the first step in seeking funding support through the LEADER Transitional Programme 2021-2022. Include as much information as you can on this form to provide us with an as clear as possible picture of what your proposed project entails.

In advance of completing the form, please check the latest information available on the [www.midl.ie](http://www.midl.ie) website about the LEADER programme. If you have not done so already, come along to a LEADER information session which will be organized throughout County Monaghan from time to time.

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*The submission of this Expression of Interest form does **NOT** constitute an application for funding.*

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We recommend that you attend a LEADER information session, but if cannot attend a LEADER information event please contact us on 042-9749500 or email [LEADER@midl.ie](mailto:LEADER@midl.ie). You can discuss the outline of your project proposal with one of the LEADER development staff directly.

All project details and information will be treated with the strictest confidence.

# Monaghan LEADER Application Process

## Stage 1 – Expression of Interest Form



The Expression of Interest (EOI) form is used to outline your project proposal and check if it is eligible to progress to the second stage Full Application form. Eligibility is checked against the LEADER Operating Rules of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and Transitional Programme 2021-2022 and the Monaghan Local Development Strategy.

## Stage 2 – LEADER Application Form



When your EOI form has been reviewed and if eligible, you will receive your LEADER Application pack. You will then be invited to attend a pre-application workshop to assist you in completing the application form and address any queries you may have.

# Preparing your EOI form

## What to Include?

Please fully complete this Expression of Interest (EOI) form. Failure to complete this EOI form fully will result in a delay in dealing with your Expression of Interest and any further processing of any subsequent application arising therefrom for funding under the Transitional Programme 2021-2022.

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*“Failure to fully complete the EOI form will result in delays in dealing with your expression of interest”*

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## Monaghan LEADER funding, how it works.

LEADER funding for County Monaghan has been allocated based on the Local Development Strategy (LDS) which was prepared following public consultation in 2015. The Monaghan LDS sets out how the funding is targeted under a number of LEADER themes/sub-themes which are further sub-divided into Strategic Actions.

**Theme 1:** Priorities for Economic/Enterprise Development and Job Creation

**Theme 2:** Priorities for Social Inclusion

**Theme 3:** Priorities for Rural Environment

The Transitional Programme 2021-2022 sets out six further priorities.

1. Supports to rural businesses seeking to reach new markets, expand, innovate and/or diversify in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or Brexit, with a particular emphasis on providing support to businesses in the food sector.
2. Community-based projects that seek to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Supports and capacity building for communities that have not previously received assistance under LEADER or other rural programmes, engage directly with new applicants to develop projects and enhance collaboration within communities.
5. Support for new and innovative projects in the areas of climate change, environmental protection and the green economy.
6. Maximise the potential of broadband and the digital economy in communities, including through skills development and building awareness and usage of available remote working facilities.
7. Encouragement of projects that utilise the Smart Village approach to local area development.

When your EOI form has been reviewed, and if it is eligible, you will receive your LEADER Application pack. You will then be invited to attend a pre-application workshop to assist you in completing the application form and address any queries you may have.

## EOI form essentials

- Please **FULLY** complete the EOI
- If you are completing by hand writing, please ensure that your writing is legible.
- Please ensure that all contact details and all information are correct. Cross check before sending
- The EOI form can be completed online, printed off, scanned and emailed to [LEADER@midl.ie](mailto:LEADER@midl.ie)
- A Development Officer from Monaghan Integrated Development CLG will contact you when your **Expression of Interest Form** has been reviewed.