

# Leader funding under the new Alignment Proposals. Implications?

Since 2009, the LEADER programme has funded festivals and events to the tune of €5million. The 2007-2012 programme is winding down and the Government wish to transfer the monies from LEADER Companies to Local Authorities.

# Irish Rural Link

- Founded in 1991
- Membership consists of community development groups in rural Ireland
- Aim to promote sustainable rural communities, through policy advocacy.
- A MEMBER OF THE Community Pillar
- Involved in the provision of training programmes

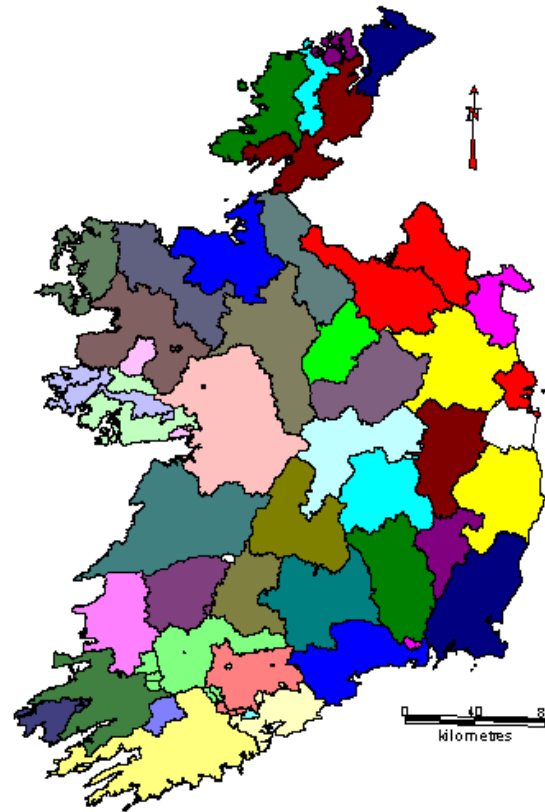
# Current Position Re; Leader

- Current Programme coming to a close
- Next Programme still subject to negotiations within each of the National states
- 2014 seen as a transition year: Payments should continue to be made.
- Actual amount still to be decided

# Next Budget

- Under the proposed EU Budget for 2014-2020, Ireland will receive an EU funding allocation for Rural Development of approximately €313m each year for seven years.
- In last round 10% has gone to LEADER
- Suggestions that that may be 5%; next programme.

# Leader Areas – 36 companies



# Current Leader Programme

- 36 individual companies administering LEADER
- as Integrated Local Development companies or (LAG).
- Each LAG will have different priorities based on their local plan and the needs of the area
- Overall fund €425,m

# Categories funded.

- Diversification into non-agricultural activities
- Support for the creation and development of micro-enterprises
- Encouragement of tourism activities
- Basic services for the rural economy and population
- Village renewal and development
- Upgrading of Rural Heritage
- Training and Skills

# Alignment

- The Local Government Bill 2013 gives legislative effect to proposals set out in *Putting People First — Action Programme for Effective Local Government* (published October 2012).
- Sets out Government policy for a range of reforms to the local government
- The two overarching objectives of the Bill are:
  - to provide for the significant reorganisation of local government structures and
  - the strengthening of governance and accountability in local government, with particular emphasis on rebalancing powers appropriately between the executive and the elected council.



# Alignment

- Merger of 6 city and county councils in Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford into 3 local authorities;
- The dissolution of all 80 town councils and their replacement by municipal districts;  
The formulation of a new integrated county/sub-county relationship,
- The replacement of the existing regional structures with new consolidated regional assemblies;

# Community Development

- The establishment of Local Community Development Committees within the local government system.
- Provision for a plebiscite in relation to the possible establishment of an office of directly elected mayor for the Dublin metropolitan area and related governance options.

# Some Questions on how the community sector can contribute.

- The role of the LCDC
  - Powers to decide;
  - Powers in terms of finance and money distribution
  - Powers to ensure social inclusion principles are maintained.
  - Powers to develop new initiatives
  - Powers to ensure that the social agenda is not lost.

# LCDC

- Of what form should it take?
- Who will be selected to participate?
- How will selection of the community sector take place?
- How will we ensure that the capacity of this sector to participate in an effective way will be sustained.?
- How do we ensure that there is a separation between electoral representation and participative representation?
- And More??????????

# LEADER going Forward.

- New Programme will have a smaller budget.
- Will either be 5% or 10% of overall budget
- 2014 is transition year; Possible impact on funding
- Organisations may need to create strong alliances to get best deal.