

## IRELAND

# Risk management for RDPs

### Location

West Cork

### Programming period

2014 - 2020

### Funding (EUR)

No EU funding

### Duration

2014 – On-going

### Implemented by

West Cork Development  
Partnership

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## Developing an approach to risk assessment for RDPs in Ireland.

### The challenge

West Cork Development Partnership Ltd. is one of network of 36 local development companies operating in the rural areas of Ireland. They provide a broad range of supports and services and undertakes initiatives for the development of the West Cork region. A risk assessment strategy was assessed to be a requirement for the setup and implementation of the Local Development Strategy for West Cork in the delivery of the RDP, enabling the Local Action Group to meet the contractual obligations. This entailed the development of an appropriate Financial Management Systems and procedures for control and reporting functions, with project and financial management governed and supported by defined procedures, with clear procedures for both internal and external oversight and responsibilities for governance. A clear decision was made to undertake a whole company risk management approach by the West Cork Development Partnership to ensure mitigation of risk and error avoidance.

### Main steps and features

A series of project management principles were applied which conformed to the accreditation standards of the International Project Management Association (IPMA). This ensured that project delivery and applications meet the code of governance through having appropriate systems to capture and verify information. The requirements that LAGs must meet include the following when assessing funding applications:

- eligibility of the project and the promoter
- viability of the project
- appropriateness of contributions in kind
- verification of match funding
- evaluation of cost
- compliance with public procurement requirements
- compliance with State aid rules

The system that has been used in the data collection to meet these requirements is a customised customer relationship management (CRM) system, when enables the recording and collation of both data and metrics.

### Results

The process adopted has been an iterative process which focused on continuous improvement, utilising the companies experience and expertise to develop the model. In the 2007-2013 RDP, the LAG had overseen the development of 255 projects with a total value of €10.25m. All project funds were fully drawn down, with no disallowances or disqualifications. The average project grant was €40 241, with the highest single grant of €210 000.

As such, the project has been determined as 'low risk' by the Managing Authority, and further accreditation is sought to meet both PQASSO and EFQM standards. The adoption of the standards to date has underlined the value of an IT System to record and collate data and metrics, and has led to an effective communications strategy for the RDP.