

West Cork Development Partnership

LAG-MANAGED SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMMES IN
IRELAND

IAN DEMPSEY



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DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

WCDDP Overview

1. LAG since 1991
2. Multiple Development Programmes (LEADER, SICAP, Labour Market Activation, Environment Management & Energy Efficiency, Community Development, Rural Recreation, etc.)
3. Social Inclusion Programme since 2008
4. Recognised Expertise in Community and Economic Development & LAG Management
5. Locally-based and Community-led (> 200 years collective board and staff experience in LEADER)



Social Inclusion Programming in Ireland

1. National SI Programmes introduced in the late 1980's
2. Various Iterations (CDP, 1986; PESP, 1989 – 1994; OPLURD, 1994-1999; LDSIP, 2000-2006; LCDP, 2007-2013; SICAP, 2014-2020)
3. Locally-based Action in Targeted Communities of Spatial & Issue-based disadvantage
4. Cohesion Process mid 00s (expansion of multi-programme approach and co-delivery of Social Inclusion and RDP within 36 rural based LAG's)
5. Investment in Capacity of Local Community
6. Services, Supports and Advocacy

Consistent Poverty in Ireland - A Snapshot

1. The percentage of Irish people living in consistent poverty in 2014 was 8%, up from 4.2% in 2008.
2. The consistent poverty rate for the unemployed in 2013 was 22.6%, up from 9.7% in 2008.
3. Children remain the most vulnerable age group with 11.2% living in consistent poverty in 2014.
4. Consistent poverty in single parent households continues to rise increasing from 17.8% in 2008 to 22.1% in 2014.

Source: European Anti Poverty Network Ireland 2016



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SICAP 2014-2020

The aim of SICAP is to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.

Its vision is to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment through community development approaches, targeted supports and interagency collaboration, where the values of equality and inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.



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SICAP 2014-2020

1. Oversight by Local Community Development Committees (Committees of Local Government)
2. Contracts Awarded via Public Procurement Process
3. Pre-determined Territories & Budgets
4. Changed Contractual Relationship
5. Three Programme Goals
6. Prescribed Target Groups and Priority Delivery in Designated Areas of Disadvantage
7. Target Driven Dynamic - Determined Centrally



Goal 1: STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



SICAP aims to strengthen local communities, supporting them to speak for issues that affect them



Goal 2: PROMOTING LIFELONG LEARNING



SICAP offers back to education courses and recognised qualifications – providing specialist advice and support



Training options include:

- LITERACY
- NUMERACY
- IT SKILLS
- & LOTS MORE



Goal 3: HELPING PEOPLE BECOME MORE JOB READY



A SICAP specialist will work with you by:

- Improving your CV and interview skills
- Helping you onto a training course
- Looking at local employment options
- &
- Offering support and advice to set up your own business...
- ...or social enterprise



SICAP West Cork

1. National Budget: €37.5m (2016)
2. West Cork Budget : €451,000 (2016)
3. LAG Population 98,000 - 20 Designated Areas of Disadvantage (4363 pop)
4. 5 Development Officers Assigned to Specific Projects and Territories
5. Modest Third Party Project Costs Across 3 Programme Goals
6. Delivery and Reporting in 2 Separate “lots”- Challenging
7. Formal Mid-term and End of Year Review - Specific Performance & Financial Penalties



SICAP Actions – West Cork

Goal 1- Community Development

Community Skills Development; Support for Stakeholder Groups; New Communities; Support for Mental Health

Goal 2- Education & Training

Education Supports: Adults; 12-15 years; Under 12s; Parenting Programmes

Goal 3 – Employment

One to One Job Seeker Support; Small Business Programme; Social Enterprise



LEADER 2015-2020

LDS strategies and planned actions will develop Priority 6 of the RDP Programme, ***Promoting Social Inclusion, Poverty Reduction and Economic Development in Rural Areas*** and its focus areas:

1. Facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation
2. Promoting local development in rural areas
3. Enhancing accessibility to, use and quality of ICT in rural areas

LEADER Themes & Sub-Themes

Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation

- Rural Tourism
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Towns
- Broadband

Social Inclusion

- Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities
- Rural Youth

Rural Environment

- Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources
- Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity
- Development of Renewable Energy



LEADER 2015-2020

- Reform of Local Government Act 2014
- Establishment of Local Community Development Committees
- 31 LAG's as Implementing Partners
- 4 as Independent LAG's
- National Programme Budget reduced (€400m - €220m)
- Territory Redefined to Accord with Local Authority Boundaries
- Sub-regional Financial Allocations Pre-determined
- Scope Broader, More flexible – based on LDS
- Potential to Match Other Agency Funding

Advantages

1. Legacy and Social Inclusion Corporate Memory
2. Wider Portfolio of Development Supports
3. Integrated Development Strategy (strategic pillars & objectives)
4. Maximise Available Resources & Build Capacity
5. Complementarity and Synergy between Programmes (**skills**, **resources**, **stakeholders**, **beneficiaries**, etc.)
6. Meet a Greater Variety of Local Need
7. Intensive Engagement & Depth of Intervention Through Multiple Supports



Disadvantages

1. Prescriptive Nature of Programme & Loss of Flexibility (Top Down V Bottom-up)
2. Minimal Input From LAGs into Programme Design
3. Defined as “*Programme Implementer*” to Deliver Annual Plan
4. Highly Target Driven (KPI 1: 563 individuals; KPI 2: 33 organisations)
5. Depth of Intervention (3 engagements)
6. Balancing of Development & Service Provision Role - transition Issues
7. Level of Resourcing
8. Blurred Lines between Programmes

Issues to Consider

1. LEADER Programme Focus & Positioning?
2. Support From Managing Authority & National Network?
3. Local Context for LDS? Baseline & Starting Point?
4. Participative Planning and LDS Elaboration?
5. Resources Required & Resources Available?
6. Weighting of Social Inclusion Objectives within LEADER?
7. Maintaining Coherence between Economic Development and Social Inclusion within LDS?

Issues to Consider

8. Achieving Synergies & Complementarity?
9. Methodologies to Engage *Hard to Reach* Stakeholders?
10. Representation of Stakeholders in LAG?
11. Partnership & Strategic Integration?
12. Opportunities for Transnational/Inter-territorial Co-operation?
13. KPI's & Performance Measurement?
14. How is Optimal impact and VFM achieved?

Thank You

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