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## Laois Partnership Company LEADER Rural Development Programme 2023-2027

Expression of Interest (EOI)

**Application Process:**

1. **Complete** this Expression of interest form to determine if your proposal meets the objectives of the Laois Local Development Strategy/Laois LEADER Programme 2023-2027 Framework
2. Projects that are **eligible in principle** will be invited to submit a **full application** with detailed costings and a business/community development plan

**Completion Guidance Notes:**

* Please complete this form in full. All fields are mandatory.
* Forms must be signed and dated
* Email completed form to leader@laoispartnership.ie or post to; Laois Partnership Company, New Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 VY22. If required a hardcopy of this form is available from Laois Partnership Company.
* If you need assistance in completing this from, please contact a LEADER Team Member on 057 8661900
* A LEADER Team member will contact you when your Expression of Interest form has been reviewed
* If you have not received an acknowledgement of your EOI within 2 weeks, please contact us.

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**Data Protection:**

Laois Partnership Company is responsible for the Rural Development Prograrmme LEADER 2023-2027 (The Programme). As the Local Action Group, Laois Partnership Company is required to collect information on project promoters to comply with lawful obligations and legitimate interests in operating the programme. Collection of processing of data will be in accordance our privacy statement which is attached to this form.

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| **GENERAL INFORMATION***(All fields are mandatory and must be completed)* |
| **Applicant Name:** |  |
| **Contact Name:**  |  |
| **Phone:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Applicants Address:** |  |
| **Classification of Applicant:**  | **Classification of Applicant***Tick appropriate box and include copies of supporting governing documents with this application* | **Tick box** |
| Sole Trader  |  |
| Farmer *(If Yes, herd no / flock no is required below)*  |  |
| Formalised Community/Voluntary group  |  |
| Companies Limited by Guarantee  |  |
| Company Limited by shares |  |
| Designated Activity Company limited by shares |  |
| Community Council |  |
| Public Body |  |
| Private Individual |  |
| Registered Charity  |  |
| Trust |  |
| Partnership |  |
| Cooperative society (*registered under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act)* |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Note: Public Bodies are not eligible for LEADER**  |

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| **Herd Number (if applicable)** |

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| **Has the Applicant received LEADER funding previously** *(If yes, list the date when and how much funding was received)* |  Yes [ ]  |  No [ ]  |

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| **PROJECT INFORMATION** |
| **Name of Project:** |  |
| **Location of Project:** |  |
| **Eircode:** |  |
| **Total Estimated Project Costs:** |    |
| **Amount of LEADER Funding required for project (***the minimum LEADER grant is €5,000***):** |  |
| **Match Funding sources:** |  |
| **Please give a brief description of the proposed project** |
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| **Estimated project start/completion:** | Start date:Completion date: |
| **Has work commenced on the project/elements of the project that aid is being applied for?** (*If yes, please provide details*) | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **Does the applicant(promoter) have evidence of ownership/lease/legal agreement to carry out works on the property/land associated with this project**? |  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Obtaining [ ]  N/A [ ]  |
| **Is planning permission required for the project concerned?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ] If planning permission is required what stage is the application at? Granted [ ]  Pending [ ]  Not yet applied for [ ]  |
| **Is this project supporting Social Inclusion?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **Is this project related to a Smart Village Strategy?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **Is this project related to renewable energy production including bio-based?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **Is this project related to knowledge transfer, including advice, training and knowledge?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **Are there heritage aspects to the project? e.g. protected structure, SAC etc** *(If yes please provide details)* | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **Have you received funding from any other public body/agency over the last three years?** *(If yes, please stage total amount and agencies involved)* | Yes [ ]  No [ ]  |
| **Have you applied to any other agency for funding towards this project?** | Yes [ ]  No [ ] If yes, please state total amount and agencies involved: |

**Signed for and on behalf of the Project Promoter / Group:**

I / We confirm that the details supplied are true and correct to the best of my / our knowledge

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| **Print Name:** (in *block capitals)* |  |
| **Signature:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

Part or all of the information you provide will be held on computer and hard copy format. This information will be used for the administration of Expression of Interests and producing monitoring returns. LAG’s may share information with each other and government departments/agencies to enable them to prevent fraudulent applications or for detecting crime and to co-ordinate processing of complementary applications.

This policy does not affect your rights and your information will be held as prescribed under the Data Protection Acts.

The project promoter/group, the DRCD and **Laois Partnership Company** are subject to the data protection and privacy laws of Ireland and the EU, in particular the Data Protection Act 2018 and Regulation (EU) 2016/679, known as the EU General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”). Any personal information that you provide as part of the application process will be obtained and processed in compliance with Data Protection legislation.

When you submit an EOI for LEADER funding your personal data will be made available to DRCD and **Laois Partnership Company** and may be made available to those organisations listed below. By signing this EOI form, the project applicant acknowledges that the information contained in this form, the accompanying documentation and all subsequent documentation submitted regarding this EOI, may be made available to the DRCD and **Laois Partnership Company** and those organisations listed below:

* Evaluation Committee, LAG and Board of **Laois Partnership Company**
* The Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine;
* Pobal;
* E.U. Commission and E.U. Court of Auditors;
* Comptroller and Auditor General and any other Government Department or Agency;
* Relevant Accreditation Body.

but only where there is a valid legal basis to do so. The purpose of this sharing of data is for processing purposes, audit, evaluation purposes, controls relating to the legislation underpinning all Rural Development measures, as required by CAP EU Regulations, including Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 as well as relevant secondary legislation. Article 151 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and Article 101 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116. DRCD and **Laois Partnership Company** will not otherwise release any information received as part of this application except as may be required by law, including under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Personal data may be used for statistical, research and analysis purposes in some circumstances, but will only be done so in compliance with the Data Protection legislation in force. Data used for such purposes will be pseudonymised (masked) or anonymised, as appropriate, to protect the security and confidentiality of the data. The use of the data in this way may facilitate DRCD in informing policy decisions into the future.

As part of the LEADER programme, if you are approved into the LEADER programme, you may be requested by DRCD and **Laois Partnership Company**, to supply data in relation to your participation in the LEADER programme and facilitate on-site inspections/assessments, where required for the purpose of assessment, verification, evaluation or research purposes as provided for under the Regulations (EU Regulation 2021/2116). Not to supply such information may invalidate/cancel your application.

Retention Period: Personal data, data submitted in support of the EOI by the data subject under the LEADER programme will only be retained by DRCD and **Laois Partnership Company** for the period necessary for the purposes for which the data was collected and processed, or where subject to statutory requirements. Personal data no longer required will be destroyed or deleted in a secure manner in line with internal guidelines or guidelines for destruction received from the National Archives Office or associated permissions received from them.

This EOI may also be subject to meeting obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. The DRCD and **Laois Partnership Company** retain the right to disclose for the purposes of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 or otherwise, in connection with this EOI:

i.  any information supplied by the project promoter/group to the DRCD and **Laois Partnership Company**

ii. any relevant data gathered by the DRCD and **Laois Partnership Company** in processing this EOI, except where the information is considered to be personal or commercially sensitive.

**For Office Use Only**:

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| **EOI Ref ID**: *(Generated from LEADER IT System)* |  |
| **Call Type:** *(Rolling / Time Limited)* |  |
| **Main Programme Theme**: |  |
| **LPC Project Officer Signature:** |  |
| **Printed name of LPC Project Officer:** |  |
| **Date form received from Applicant in LPC:** |  |
| **LPC Date Stamp:** |  |