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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LEADER – Community applications 'Open'
- Start Your Own Business - advice
- Roscommon Volunteer Awards – nomination process
- Dysart Rural Men's Group – Celebrating 10 years in existence
- Lough Ree Angling Hub & Taste of the Lakelands 2017

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Update on LEADER Programme 2014-2020

Roscommon LEADER Partnership is delighted to announce to all community and voluntary organisations that the LEADER Programme in Co. Roscommon is now **'Open for Business'**.

The Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities is the section of the programme which provides the main funding element for the community and voluntary sector projects, i.e. community, social, recreational and cultural facilities and community services in Co. Roscommon, providing much needed funding for larger scale projects which would not proceed otherwise.

Recent structural and administrative changes to the programme will allow community and voluntary organisations to set the agenda and timetable for their own local projects, rather than having to fit in with LEADER specified deadlines and timeframes.

In order to start the application process, groups are invited to contact a member of the LEADER staff at Roscommon LEADER Partnership with a view to discussing their project idea. If the project is considered to be eligible, then you will be invited to submit an Expression of Interest and, from there, a full application and supporting documentation. You can contact Roscommon LEADER Partnership by phoning 090 663 0252 or by completing the contact page on the RLP website, www.rosleaderpartnership.ie.

Project enquiries are also welcome from the private and business sectors.

Five very good financial reasons to start your own business if you are unemployed & signing on the Live Register or if you become redundant

1. Retention of your weekly SW income payment for up to 2 years while setting up your business if you are on Job Seekers Allowance or up to 9 months if on another eligible SW payment category;
2. In addition to the above income support (your weekly payment), you can also get financial grant support with the costs of setting up your business. These supports are provided under a scheme called the Enterprise Support Grant (ESG). You can get the ESG up to €2,500 if you have been approved for the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme;
3. For those who become redundant, you can retain your Jobseekers Benefit for up to 9 months and get up to €1,000 grant aid under the ESG;
4. The Start Your Own Business Scheme gives income tax relief for 2 years, up to €40,000 per annum, if you are unemployed and signing on;
5. Local Development LEADER Partnership Companies have negotiated more accessible loan applicant conditions to Micro Finance Ireland for amounts under €5,000.

If you think you might be eligible for any of these schemes, contact us to check it out. For those who meet the eligibility requirements there is plenty of support, mentoring and training available to undertake the necessary market research to complete your business plan and establish as a business/trading entity. For more details contact Noel Connolly at noel@ridc.ie or 090 663 0252 or log onto www.rosleaderpartnership.ie.

Roscommon LEADER Partnership Education & Training Fair 2017

FREE

Wednesday, 18th October 2017,
11.00am – 2.30pm
in Kilbride Community Centre, Four Mile House, Roscommon, F42 N277

All welcome - especially school leavers, mature students & unemployed

For further information, see www.rosleaderpartnership.ie or email sandra@ridc.ie

Manual Handling 1/2 day workshop in Roscommon Town



Preference given to job seekers including CE & TUS scheme participants

FREE

Wednesday, 4th October, 10am to 1pm
in Roscommon LEADER Partnership Offices, Roscommon Town

For more information, contact Teresa O'Brien on 086 029 1215, Roscommon LEADER Partnership on 090 6630252 or email teresa@ridc.ie

CCIC - Creative Communities Igniting Change

CCIC Conference - "Putting Creative into Communities"

The promotion of Creative Communities Igniting Change in developing new and effective creative local industries was a key focus at the Creative Conference & Showcase which was organised by Roscommon LEADER Partnership in Kiltoom on the 2nd of June 2017. This showcase and conference is a key event in the delivery of the project and plays a very important role in continuing to raise awareness of the CCIC project locally. This Erasmus+ funded initiative has trained and mentored 13 creative entrepreneurs in the newly established "Ignite Creative Pod" in Ballaghaderreen Co. Roscommon. Momentum Consulting has worked with Roscommon LEADER Partnership with the intention of establishing creative industries in the town.

The Conference heard from an illustrious line-up of speakers derived from both a local and international level. Micheal Frain, chairman of Ballaghaderreen Town Team, said CCIC "ticked all the boxes as to what we wanted in the town of Ballaghaderreen, going back to what we (the community) did before". He spoke of the area's rich culture which has produced internationally recognised individuals such as theatre director Garry Hynes and Matt Molloy of the Chieftains, as well as the importance of Knock airport to the region.

Speaking at the launch Mairead McGuinness MEP said "the Europe of future will be built in local communities at grassroots level. It's important the EU listens to what people are saying, making connections with projects". All attendees at the conference were given an insight as to what CCIC was achieving on an international basis with contributions from our Polish, Swedish and Northern Ireland Partners.

There were also contributions on financial supports available from Mena Doherty of Bank of Ireland, Roscommon and Louise Ward of the Local Enterprise Office. This creative seminar was a hive of activity and ended with a fantastic showcase from Ignite CCIC participants in the Roscommon LEADER Partnership Marquee. Please visit www.creativecommunities.how for more information.



Mairead McGuinness MEP with members of the International CCIC Partnership at The Creative Communities Igniting Change Conference in Kiltoom, Co. Roscommon on June 2nd 2017

YEA-Youth Enterprise through Arts

Preparations are underway for our fifth and final Youth Enterprise through Arts International project partner meeting which is taking place on the 13th & 14th of September in Malta. To date, YEA has proved to be a major success not just here in Ireland but indeed in all participating regions. From an Irish perspective, Roscommon LEADER Partnership has established a Youth Enterprise through Arts Regional Alliance. This alliance brings together youth, enterprise and social policy stakeholders to explore best practice in integrating entrepreneurship education into creative arts and youth work.

The alliance also generates individual and collective commitments and turns them into realistic outcomes through this YEA Action Plan. We are delighted to have established an Irish YEA Regional Alliance which has achieved some very tangible outcomes for the region such as:

- Contributed to the development of "The Youth Enterprise through Arts Toolkit" to encourage the creation of further Alliances across Europe.
- Revised and updated a Youth Service Directory and Digital Map which will be used as an informative tool by all youth organisations in the region
- A key player in developing a YEA Course Curriculum which is designed for youth workers and those working with young people in a formal or informal setting, particularly in the Arts. It seeks to promote Entrepreneurship education and Social Entrepreneurship among young people by integrating entrepreneurship training into youth services in the field of creative, performing and digital arts.
- Organised a course to equip participants involved in youth work in our region with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver, assess and evaluate a training and development intervention in the field of creative arts youth entrepreneurship.
- Facilitated the first ever Youth Work Showcase and Conference in Co. Roscommon. This event brought together key stakeholders in youth work under the one roof to explore opportunities and network.

Please visit the YEA Website www.yea-project.eu for more information.



Pictured are some of our guest speakers from the first ever Youth Work Fair and Conference for Co. Roscommon held last October in Kiltoom Community Centre

Young Community Mediators (YCM)

YCM International Showcase & Conference

Preparations are well underway for our upcoming YCM International Showcase & Conference which will take place on October 18th 2017 in Kiltoom Community Centre, Co. Roscommon. Stakeholders from youth work, community & social development, local authorities, training and education providers are invited to attend this landmark event and explore the opportunities surrounding peer-peer mediation. Why not join us and increase your knowledge on YCM and see the perspective of other similar regional partnerships from various European countries.

Reasons to attend:

- Join us to celebrate the outcomes of the Young Community Mediators project
- Acquire the relevant resources to promote peer to peer mediation among young people in your community
- Learn from a panel of expert speakers on the fundamentals of establishing effective youth focused regional partnerships
- Explore the opportunities of the Erasmus+ Programme

Who we are: Roscommon LEADER Partnership are the lead Partners on this exciting Erasmus+ project. We want to provide young people, community leaders and educators with convenient and effective training to address the issue of conflict within their communities. For more information, please call the Erasmus Team on 090 663 0252 or see the full schedule of events on www.youngcommunitymediators.how.

Other YCM News: Representatives from Roscommon LEADER Partnership attended the 4th International YCM Project meeting which took place in Onești, Romania on the 2nd and 3rd of August. This meeting allowed for partners to share knowledge and experiences gained through the implementation of YCM and plan for achieving the next steps in the project.



YCM Project Partners attending the 4th International meeting in Onești, Romania on the 2nd of August 2017

Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship (MASTER)

Another EU Erasmus+ Project that we are involved in is Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship. This is the latest edition to our Erasmus+ portfolio of projects in Roscommon LEADER Partnership and is progressing very well to date. Here's a gentle reminder of what's involved in MASTER ...

- Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship is designed to improve entrepreneurship education for students of all ages, not just those individuals who express an interest in starting a business.
- We provide lots of practical information and guides to help you to help students to start up and become more entrepreneurial! Check out our regional alliances, student entrepreneurship toolkit and project multiplier events!
- Entrepreneurship is now understood as a mind-set with a specific set of competences of value to all individuals not just those who want to start up or run a business. These competences – creativity, innovation, risk-taking; autonomy, initiative; problem solving and design etc. are all very valuable traits and skills for students which better their chances for success in all aspects of their professional (and personal) life.

Thanks to the unique structure, our Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship will generate a tangible impact on the ability of 80+ intermediary organisations to liaise with key actors and to provide information, guidance, and training to students who, as a result, will be more likely to develop entrepreneurial mind-sets and possibly set up their own businesses. In the next issue we will have a full update on how we are progressing with our Regional Alliance and how we intend to pilot test best practice initiatives from other regions. For more information about MASTER or if you would like to become involved please visit www.studentstartup.how.



Screenshot of our exciting new Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship Website

FITR – Food Incubators Transforming Regions

Roscommon LEADER Partnership would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who attended our recent Food Incubators Transforming Regions International showcase and Conference which took place in Kiltoom recently. Just to remind you all that the objective of FITR is to forge and replicate existing EU models to provide learning and structures to develop food kitchens and incubators as enterprise drivers to sustainable economic development and production. In Ireland we have worked alongside stakeholders such as Roscommon County Council, Roscommon Local Enterprise Office and Enterprise Castlereagh in the establishment of "An Chistin", a new and exciting time-share kitchen in Castlereagh Co. Roscommon.

Participants from Northern Ireland, Holland and Slovakia were among the array of speakers at the conference who enlightened attendees to learn and promote innovation in the food industry. The event was launched by MEP Mairead McGuinness and opened by representatives of Banbridge District Enterprises. Later a live demo kitchen representing a virtual time-shared kitchen was demonstrated by Jonathan Keane, Head Chef at the Lodge Ashford Castle. There were also wide-ranging discussions on how food incubators have transformed regions from Frank Hiddink, Project Manager at Business Development Friesland, and Zuzanna Palkova of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia. The discussion was followed by the launch of local training programmes with Orla Casey of Momentum Consulting and Canice Hamill of Canice Consulting in Northern Ireland. Local action plans and partnerships were unveiled by Martina Earley of Roscommon LEADER Partnership.

The official opening of "An Chistin" took place recently over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Roscommon LEADER Partnership are delighted to be a key stakeholder in this exciting new venture and look forward to ensuring its success long into the future.

Please visit our website www.foodincubators.how for more information.



Amanda Mee, RLP (second from left) pictured with other stakeholders at the official opening of 'An Chistin' in Castlereagh recently

SICAP – Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme

Roscommon LEADER Partnership designs and delivers specialised training programmes and interventions for our SICAP target groups. RLP will utilise a number of actions to enable socially excluded people to work together in developing a fairer and more equal society in Co Roscommon. All of our supports under the SICAP programme are **free** to eligible individuals and groups. SICAP offers support to:

- Children and families
- Lone parents
- Disadvantaged communities
- People with disabilities
- Travellers / Roma
- New communities (including refugees/asylum seekers)
- The Unemployed (including those not on the live register)
- Young unemployed people

For further information on training and supports provided by RLP, please call us on 090 663 0252 and/or visit our website www.rosleaderpartnership.ie.



How to prepare you for your job!

Are you looking for a job or want to improve your skills?

- Compile or improve your CV
- Help onto a training course
- Looking at local employment options
- Developing interview skills

Free of Charge

Eligibility criteria applies

Contact Teresa O'Brien on 086 029 1215 for more information

Get your career off to the right start.

Log on to www.countyroscommonjobs.ie and find the right job for you. An initiative of Roscommon LEADER Partnership and Roscommon County Council, this programme encourages all students to register and upload their CV's and search for suitable jobs in the region.

Heading to college? Don't miss out. Register Now.

<https://www.countyroscommonjobs.ie/jobs/roscommon-graduates-register/> Go on line and fill out the form in the Graduate Register section of our website and keep up to date with all the jobs on offer in the region. We cover counties Roscommon, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo and Westmeath.



Frenchpark Youth Space held an opening evening in June 2017. A large crowd attended where Jim Maher, Foroige Development Officer, spoke to the group in relation to establishing a Foroige Club in Frenchpark in early Autumn. A survey was conducted in the local schools and on the night to establish what the young people wanted in the centre. Needless to say there were several ideas ranging from movie nights, book club, pizza evenings, art/music/guitar lessons/grinds and cookery lessons.

The Parents on the night expressed interest in the following areas

- Volunteering
- Mentoring programme
- Computers
- Advice Support
- Mental Health
- Make Up/Fashion Shows
- Cookery Classes

The Centre is equipped with a suite of computers, a fully fitted kitchen, TV area, and a small sit down area. The Centre will be available for other small projects such as computer training and has great potential. This project is supported by Roscommon LEADER Partnership.

For more information or if you would like to be part of the management committee please email susanryanfp@yahoo.co.uk or visit the Frenchpark Youth Space Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/frenchpark.youthspace>.



Coming soon

Train the Trainer Course

X 5 days

Contact Teresa O'Brien
086 029 1215 or teresa@ridc.ie

Procurement Training

Roscommon LEADER Partnership are hosting a 2-hour session in October for Groups on "Understanding Procurement".

This may be of particular interest to groups applying for LEADER Funding.

The training is free of charge to eligible groups, however places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis.

For further details and to register your interest please contact Linda Sice, SICAP Co-ordinator on linda@ridc.ie.

Practical Inter-culturalism Training

Roscommon LEADER Partnership and Roscommon Citizens Information Service are hosting a 1-day workshop on "Practical Interculturalism". This may be of particular interest to individuals working with Refugees.

The training is free of charge to eligible individuals, however there are only a small number of places left and these will be offered on a first come first served basis.

For further details and to register your interest please contact Linda Sice, SICAP Co-ordinator on linda@ridc.ie.

Roscommon Volunteer Awards 2017

The launch of the Roscommon Volunteer Awards 2017 took place on Wednesday September 6th in the offices of Roscommon LEADER Partnership.

An additional category was announced for 2017 – a category specifically for schools – "Schools Civic Social Engagement." This is in addition to the Young Volunteer Award, Older Volunteer Award, Group or Organisation Award and Volunteer of the Year Award.

So if you know an individual, organisation or school in County Roscommon who deserves to have their volunteer work rewarded – nominate them for a Roscommon Volunteer Award.

Nominations open in early September and close at midnight on October 9th. For further information and/or nomination forms, contact Bridie on 094 986 2565 or email roscommonvolunteerawards@gmail.com.

**"Celebrating Volunteering
Activity in Community
Life in County
Roscommon"**



are you young,
unemployed or out of
education or training?

FOUNDATIONS

STARTING
TUESDAY, 19th
SEPTEMBER
10am

FREE DRIVER
THEORY
TEST

€250
towards
driving
lessons

3 days per week
Sep - Dec 2017
Roscommon Town

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:
MIRIAM.WALSH@GRET.BE
037 055 2292
#FOUNDATIONSROSSIE

gretb
Roscommon Sports Partnership
WILLIAM J. KELLY
Roscommon

Wellness programmes

Calling organisations who work
with groups that may benefit
Eligibility criteria applies

Mindfulness techniques
Wellness tools
Building self esteem
Developing supports
Techniques to manage
stress and anxiety

For more information or to book a place contact Teresa
O'Brien, Roscommon LEADER Partnership on 086 0291215
Free of charge



New bus for Keadue Social Service

Keadue Social Services are delighted to announce that they will shortly be launching their new 16-seater wheelchair accessible minibus. Funding for the bus has been provided by the Dormant Accounts Fund. Further information on the bus route(s) and service will be available soon.

Congratulations to all in Keadue Social Services who completed the 4 week IT Basic Skills training.

Keadue Social Services will be celebrating Positive Aging Week (25th September to 1st October 2017) with a range of activities for older people (and their families and friends). For further information on this and all services at Keadue Social Services, visit the Roscommon LEADER Partnership website www.rosleaderpartnership.ie or contact the Manager on 071 964 7777 or 086 174 9816.

Dysart Rural Men's Group - Celebrating 10 years in existence

October 2017 marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Dysart Men's Group in south Roscommon. Set up to provide a social outlet for men from a wide catchment area around Dysart and providing social interaction and helping prevent isolation, the group meet in the local Community Centre every Tuesday from October to April. Weekly activities include organised talks and projects relating to improving their lives and well-being, as well as physical activities organised by Roscommon Sports Partnership. There's also time for a song and chat and a nutritious meal is also provided. Outings and excursions are undertaken, including this year where Rathcroghan Visitor Centre, King House, Boyle Abbey and Glenview Folk Museum, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim were visited in July.

Since their formation 10 years ago, Dysart Rural Men's Group have organised and implemented a number of projects, including a calendar showing important heritage sites in Co. Roscommon, the Mounting Stone Project and projects aimed at reviving traditional farming skills such as straw rope making. Visits are undertaken to local national schools to share the men's experiences of by-gone days.

Another project, spearheaded by Dysart Men's Group in 2014, resulted in native trees been planted in a large number of primary schools in County Roscommon with the aim of bringing awareness of the patron saint of Roscommon - St. Comán. This was followed up later that year with a remembrance walk on the 26th December, the feast day of St. Comán. This walk is now an annual event.

From October, a bus service to Dysart Community Centre will be provided by Local Link Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon. The lack of regular transport to the Centre has prevented some men from joining Dysart Men's Group and attending the weekly gatherings.

A number of celebratory events have been organised by Dysart Men's Group to mark their 10th anniversary. These include:

- The inaugural Tom Kelly Memorial Lecture which was held in Curraghboy in August. Tom, who died in 2010, was a noted historian and genealogist and a founding member of Dysart Men's Group;
- A publication marking the many projects, achievements and activities of Dysart Men's Group has been involved in over the past 10 years;
- A night of music and craic in Dysart Community Centre with renowned musician John Dunning and other local artists on Sunday, 29th October.

Dysart Men's Group would like to acknowledge the support they have received over the past 10 years, both financial and social, from local agencies, local businesses, community groups, the local voluntary committee and individuals.



Members of Dysart Men's Group with Noel Hoare, Rural Men's Group Co-ordinator.
Standing (L-R): M. Gacquin, J. Harrington, L. Donnelly, S. Finnerly, P. Fallon, S. Regan, P. Connolly, D. Connolly, J. Taylor, F. Ryan, J. Mooney, M.J. Mannion.
Seated (L-R): N. Hoare, B. Gately, E. Fallon, T. Gilligan, J. Kelly, A. O'Neill, J. Geraghty, J.J. Feeney, B. Mulligan.
Missing from photo: L. Tansey, P. Mc Donnell, J. Donoghue and J. Byrne.

Lough Ree Angling Hub & Taste of the Lakelands 2017

Based in Ballyleague, Lanesborough, Lough Ree Angling Hub has had a very busy summer with not one but two International fishing competitions.

The hub is run by a voluntary not for profit committee and supported by Roscommon LEADER Partnership under the TUS scheme. Since November 2016, Debbie Tierney from Ballyleague has been on placement as a TUS worker in the Angling Hub office in Ballyleague where she has used her expertise in social media, marketing and administration to help organise the two International events with the local hub volunteers.

"It has been a very busy and a very exciting time" Debbie says, "I have enjoyed the experience of working with so many International tourists and learned many skills through my TUS placement."

The 2017 International Pike competition was won by a Polish angler in late June, taking away a prize fund of €2,500 and Debbie is now assisting the Angling Hub's Food Festival Committee as they prepare for their annual **Taste of the Lakelands** event on October 8th and 9th.



Debbie Tierney (TUS), Michael Galvin, Camlin & District Anglers Club and Clr. Nigel Dineen at the International Fishing Festival, Lough Ree Angling Hub in June

"The angling hub is very grateful to Debbie and Yvonne McCormack from Roscommon LEADER Partnership for their help with our ongoing events" Hub chairman Hugh Keane said, "we could not have carried out our operations and attracted so many people into County Roscommon without their expertise."

For more information on the Lough Ree Angling competitions and the Taste of the Lakelands Food Festival on October 7th and 8th, e-mail loughreeanglinghub@gmail.com.
Ciaran Mullooly, Lough Ree Angling Hub