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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Ability Focus Roscommon Project
- Erasmus+ Youth Enterprise through Art
- Certified and non-Certified Training Opportunities Offered
- Project Match Castlerea
- Roscommon Friendly Call Service
- Save Roscommon Campaign

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Welcome to the latest issue of the Roscommon LEADER Partnership Newsletter.

This quarter, we have information on the new Ability Focus Roscommon Project, which aims to support young people with disabilities (including Autism) to transition from second level to further education and training.

We also have details of Certified and non-Certified Training Opportunities Offered by RLP, as well as updates on the LEADER Programme 2014-2020; SICAP, Erasmus+ Youth Enterprise through Arts and Project Match Castlerea.

Information on the Roscommon Friendly Call Service and the Save Roscommon Campaign is also provided.

*Sitting silently, Doing nothing, Spring comes;
 And the grass grows by itself
 (Basho 1644 – 1694)*

We look forward to working with you in 2016.

Martina Earley, CEO,



Ability Focus Roscommon Project

Roscommon LEADER Partnership, in collaboration with the Brothers of Charity Services Roscommon, Youth Work Ireland Roscommon/NE Galway, Regari Recovery College, Roscommon County Council and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, has been granted funding under the Dormant Accounts funds to provide support for young people 15yrs to 24yrs with Disabilities, including Autism. The project focuses on individuals abilities, with the aim of supporting young people with disabilities (including autism) to make the transition from school to further education and training, and to improve participants employability prospects.

The **Ability Focus Roscommon Project** will link training to work; improve motivation, build confidence and enhance personal skills, through the provision of QQI certified programmes, including a two week work experience placement designed to guide participants in the most appropriate direction to allow realisation of their individual ambitions.

The project is an exciting new initiative which will empower the participating young people, their families and care givers to focus on abilities, perceptions, norms and behaviours thus assisting and promoting positive capacity building.

All participants will be supported to identify their skills and abilities through guidance, mentoring and goal setting supports. The methods used during the programme will build the capacity of the participants to become effective communicators and confident goal-focused individuals.

For further information or to express an interest in this new and exciting programme, please contact Roscommon LEADER Partnership Ability Focus Project Co-ordinator on 090 663 0252.



LEADER Programme 2014–2020



Roscommon LEADER Partnership is the implementing Body for the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 in Co. Roscommon.

In recent weeks, RLP, together with Roscommon LCDC and Roscommon Co. Council, has submitted additional information to the Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the implementation of the Local Development Strategy (LEADER Plan) for Co. Roscommon.

Roscommon LEADER Partnership continues to accept LEADER Project Proposal / Expression of interest forms for the LEADER Programme 2014-2020. Please download a form from the Roscommon LEADER Partnership website (www.rosleaderpartnership.ie) or call us on 090 663 0252.

Further information on the commencement of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 will be posted on the RLP website and in the local press.

If you or your groups have already submitted an expression of interest you do not need to take any further action at this time. You will, however, need to complete a full application when the new programme commences. Full details about how to do this will be provided at a later date.

Roscommon Friendly Call Service

LAUNCHED in October 2008, the Roscommon Friendly Call Service has gone from strength to strength over the past number of years and provides an innovative and unique service to County Roscommon's older community. Operated by Roscommon LEADER Partnership and staffed by trained volunteers and workers, the Friendly Call Service provides a weekly phone call to clients and provides social contact for at times, a forgotten generation.

Roscommon Friendly Call Service provides a free telephone support service to the clients making a phone call to each client once or twice a week to ensure their well-being, have a quick chat and/or also to remind them of hospital and doctors appointments if needed, etc. There are currently 6 volunteers and one part-time worker who have had training in communication skills and computers. The volunteers who operate the service are senior citizens, who have plenty in common with the clients and understand issues concerning older people living in County Roscommon. This is a free and innovative service which is being currently used by over 150 clients.

The Friendly Call Service works towards improving and protecting social living standards, and very importantly in reducing the feeling of isolation often experienced by people living in rural areas. The service is fully supported by public health nurses around the county who engage with older people, and they encourage people to avail of the service.

The Friendly Call Service also acts as an emergency action service. In the event of there being no response to the call by the client, the friendly call service volunteer will contact a next of kin to check on the clients well-being before contacting emergency services if it is deemed necessary.

To see a interview with Irish TV highlighting the service offered by Roscommon Friendly Call, you can use the link below:
<http://www.irishTV.ie/roscommon-matters-43/>

For further information, call 090 663 0252 or email sandra@ridc.ie.



Roscommon Native scoops Major Award for RTE programme featuring Roscommon

A Roscommon native has recently won a major award for a television programme which focused on tourism in Co. Roscommon and featured a number of projects and promoters who have been supported by Roscommon LEADER Partnership. The programme also featured RLP directors, staff and volunteers.

The Travel Extra Travel Journalist of the Year - Broadcasting Award was presented to Mary Fanning, a native of Knockvivar, who directed the RTE programme 'Nationwide' which showcased the wide variety of tourism attractions on offer throughout Co. Roscommon.

Presented by Mary Kennedy, the programme was recorded and broadcast in September 2015 and visited the Lough Gara Lake & Legend's tour, Rathcroghan and Owennagat cave, Elphin Windmill, Boyle Abbey, King House, Lough Key Forest Park and Castlecoote House.



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
- Low Income Worker/Household
- Disadvantaged Women

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 for up to date information on our 2016 Training Courses.

Save Roscommon Campaign

Roscommon LEADER Partnership is an enthusiastic supporter of the Save Roscommon Campaign, which is aimed at preventing the planned annexation of the Monksland area of south Roscommon to Co. Westmeath.

Roscommon LEADER Partnership has been a leading player in the delivery of services and funding to the business, community and voluntary sector throughout Co. Roscommon for over 20 years. Over this period, RLP has developed vast experience dealing with all sectors of the community throughout Co. Roscommon, under the various schemes and programmes operated by us. RLP has grave concerns that the relationships, trust and experience built up would be lost to the Monksland area should the proposed boundary change take place.

RLP also has fears about the effects of a reduction in the population of Co. Roscommon. These could include less funding available under schemes and programmes, which would in turn have a knock-on effect on job creation, rural isolation, deprivation, etc.

RLP will continue to work with the Save Roscommon Committee in order to protect the Roscommon county boundary.



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The Erasmus+ Youth Enterprise through Arts is a dynamic project to encourage and support young entrepreneurs in the field of Cultural Creative Industries. YEA will find new ways to integrate high quality entrepreneurship education into existing youth services and structures by training youth workers.



For Roscommon LEADER Partnership, one of the first steps in this process was to meet with and plan the 22 month long project with our Partners Organisation. This meeting took place and was facilitated by the Project Lead Partner Dungannon Enterprise Centre in Northern Ireland. RLP also met the other partner organisations from BEAM UK(NI), Herve and Cyrielle from Musiques de Nuit in France and Antoine from VisMedNet Association in Malta and Orla from Momentum in Leitrim. The team then began to plan working collaboratively to develop a Training Programme for young people to learn skills to establish Enterprises through the Arts.



Delegates at the EU Erasmus+ meeting in Dungannon

The follow on step from this was to establish a Regional Alliance in Co Roscommon. Its main aim is to bring all the main stakeholders from the Art, Enterprise and Youth sectors together to map out where the services were operational and to get their input into conducting a small scale SWOT analysis of the region to help inform the development of resources, toolkit and course curriculum for delivery to Young People in the Youth Enterprise through Arts Project. The second Regional Alliance Meeting took place on Thursday, 25th February in Roscommon.

For additional information or to get involved, please contact Gail on 086 853 2915 or email gail@ridc.ie. Further information is also available on the RLP website www.rosleaderpartnership.ie and <https://www.facebook.com/youthentpreneurshipinarts/>, the Erasmus+ YEA Facebook page.

WARMER HOMES SCHEME

The Warmer Homes Scheme (WHS) is funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to install energy efficiency improvements in the homes of the elderly and vulnerable, making the homes more comfortable, healthier and more cost effective to run.

The service involves the installation of standard energy efficiency measures appropriate to the eligible household, subject to a house (building) survey, budget allocation and available capacity. The service is provided at no cost to the household and the measures currently available under this scheme are:

- Attic insulation
- Draught proofing
- Lagging jackets
- Low energy light bulbs
- Cavity wall insulation
- Energy advice
- Ventilation
- BER

The WHS is available to homes which meet the following criteria:

- Owner occupied non-Local Authority homes
- Constructed before 2006
- The owner is in receipt of one of the following
 - Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme
 - Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and with children under 7 years of age
 - Family Income Supplement
 - One Parent Family Allowance

For further information or to make an application, contact Midland Warmer Homes at 090 663 0252 or email warmehomes@ridc.ie.

Project Match Castlerea

Roscommon LEADER Partnership, through SICAP, is working closely with Project Match in Castlerea. Project Match Castlerea is a community initiative which uses the skills and talents of local residents, the support of local agencies and all available resources to build a safe and healthy community for all. An element of Project Match that was focused on this year was to carry out a needs analysis on young people in Castlerea and their experiences of the town they live and socialise in.

Following on from this research, the young people from Transition Year were invited to present the research to the newly established Towns Team in Castlerea and the Chief Executive of Roscommon County Council, Eugene Cummins, in collaboration with Castlerea Community School and with support from the Transition Year Co-ordinators Eileen and Julie.



Project Match Castlerea Students with Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive, Roscommon Co. Council, Gail Murray, RLP and Project & TY Co-ordinators

This was a great opportunity for the young people to get their voices heard at a local level. The young people prepared the Powerpoint Presentation from the research, picking out issues that were most relevant to them; issues that they felt the Town Teams Committee could assist and support them with. The two main themes that were presented were the need to promote awareness of mental health and wellbeing of Young People and also their need to have a Social Space where they could hang out with friends off the streets.

The Young People then made recommendations on how they could work together with the community and Town Teams for the betterment of Castlerea. One recommendation was to arrange Darkness into Light walk in the town. This was very important to the Young people as they felt it would bring the community together in a positive way. It would also highlight and include the healthy aspect of walking, which promotes health and wellbeing, as well as addressing the issue that came out in the research that the Demesne in Castlerea was unsafe. The young people felt that having the walk through the Demesne would show people what a nice area it was. The Darkness into Light walk is scheduled to take place on May 7th at 4:30am from Castlerea Enterprise Hub. Registration will be on the day or online via the Darkness into Light web page <http://dil.pieta.ie/about>.

Non Accredited Training for potential Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Clients (BTWEA)

Training & Mentoring Courses

Could I be my Own Boss?

This training course is targeting at the pre-enterprise stage. Participants are mentored & trained in how to appraise and evaluate their enterprise ideas with regard to the potential viability of their projects.

Business Planning

Business planning training consists of group and one-to-one training sessions that mainly cover market research techniques, marketing strategies and financial projections. The outcome from this training is a completed business plan.

Introduction to Bookkeeping

Back to Work Enterprise Allowance clients are introduced to basic bookkeeping skills.

The above training and mentoring courses are provided when a suitable number of participants can be identified. Potential Back to Work Enterprise Allowance clients are also referred to a wider choice of training and mentoring options that can add further value through the Local Enterprise Office. For further information, contact Noel on (090) 663 0252 or email noel@ridc.ie.



Wellness programme for parents



Workshops will be held throughout the County subject to demand



Would you like some time out to gain skills to better manage life's daily challenges?



Wellness tools
Triggers
Developing supports
Daily maintenance plan
Relaxation techniques
Taking back control



For more information or to book a place contact Teresa O'Brien on 086 0291215



Certified Training Opportunities Offered by RLP*

**All courses are Certified - All courses are free of charge to qualifying persons – Qualifying Criteria and Terms & Conditions will apply – All courses will run subject to demand in conjunction with our partners.*

Roscommon LEADER Partnership is in the process of organising the following training courses to be held throughout 2016. For further information or to apply for a course, please contact Linda or Anthony at 090 6630252 or email linda@ridc.ie or anthony@ridc.ie.

General Training Courses

Train The Trainer - QQI L6	Sustainable Building Technology - NFQ L5
IT Game Analysis Design - QQI L5	Occupational First Aid - QQI L5
Food hygiene / HACCP - QQI L5	Care Skills - QQI L5
Media/Radio Skills Training - QQI L3	Health & Safety at Work - QQI L5
Communication Skills - QQI L3 & L4	Customer Service Skills - QQI L3 & L4
Computer Literacy - QQI L3	Team working - QQI L4
Work Experience - QQI L3 & L4	Personal/Interpersonal Skills - QQI L3 & L4
Career Planning - QQI L4	Managing Personal Finances - QQI L3
Nutrition & Healthy Options - QQI L3	Tourism - QQI L3
Boom/knapsack - QQI L5	Digger, Lorry & Tele-porter - QQI L5
Horticulture Tools & Equipment - QQI L4	Landscape Construction & Maintenance - QQI L5
Chainsaw Maintenance & Operation - QQI L5	Quad Bike Training - QQI L5
Plant Care & Maintenance - QQI L4	Home Repair & Maintenance - QQI L4
Traditional Stone wall Building - QQI L5	Care of the Older Person - QQI L5

Industry Certified Courses in:

Manual Handling & Safe Pass	Primary certificate in food safety (EHA1)
Forklift Driving (RTITB)	

Uncertified Short Courses Available:

On line service training for farmers	Tractor Safety driving training
Social Media	Farm Safety training
Digital Photography	Email/Attachments etc.
Internet Skills	Retail Sales Techniques
Woodturning Skills	Blacksmith Skills