

Head Office: Roscommon West Business Park, Golf Links Road, Roscommon Town F42 TD98
Sub Office: Arigna Enterprise Centre, Arigna, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Roscommon N41 D2N8
Sub Office: The Shambles, Market Street, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon F45 EW98
Sub Office: Curraghboy, Athlone, Co. Roscommon N37 K102

Tel: 090 663 0252

Email: reception@ridc.ie

Web: www.rosleaderpartnership.ie

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Roscommon LEADER Partnership wins National Training Contract for Digital Skills
- Third Level Graduate Skills Register - Sign Up Today!
- New Communities English Language Programme
- Traveller Primary Health Care - Heart Health
- Co. Roscommon LEADER Programme 2014-2020
- Government recognition of Traveller ethnicity

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Ability Focus Roscommon Project
- How to prepare you for your job
- Roscommon Partnership are delighted to welcome a new staff member
- Active Citizenship and Politics – QQI Level 5
- Presentation of Volunteer Awards
- Erasmus+:
 - CCIC - Creative Communities Igniting Change
 - YEA-Youth Enterprise through Arts
 - Young Community Mediators (YCM)
 - Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship (MASTER)
 - Upcoming Events with Erasmus+ Projects

Roscommon LEADER Partnership wins National Training Contract

Digital Skills for Citizens Training Scheme

Roscommon LEADER Partnership, lead organisation of a steering committee of stakeholders representing national organisations, has secured the **largest nationwide allocation of funding** under the Digital Skills for Citizens Training Scheme.

Funded by the Dept. of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the overarching objective of the Scheme is "To provide citizens who are unable to use the internet with confidence, motivation and skills to reap the benefits of participating in today's digital world". Funding is being provided to deliver basic digital skills training to those with little or limited computer skills.

The Digital Skills Training Scheme is aimed at the following target groups:

- Age profile 45+
- Farming communities
- Small business owners (less than 10 people)
- Unemployed persons
- Persons with disabilities, and
- Disadvantaged groups.

For RLP, the main focus will be to deliver relevant **Agri-Digital Skills Training** to farmers, farm families and the farming community. Through the Agri-Digital Skills Training, farmers will be trained in the use of Agfood.ie, as well as 'Online Banking' internet and email, Internet safety & security, online transactions, etc.

A key function of Agfood.ie will be to show farmers how to utilise and operate the Animal Identification and Movements (AIM's) system online, thus replacing the hard copy version of the Herd Register of Bovine Animals. The Digital Skills Training aims to increase farm efficiency and ultimately reduce the soon-to-be redundant paperwork by registering calves, viewing herd profiles and processing farm-to-farm movements online.

The project stakeholders include Teagasc, Agricultural Consultants Association (ACA), IFA, ICMSA, ICOSA, ICA, Macra na Feirme, Bank of Ireland, Older People's Council/Active Age (OPC), Leitrim Development Company, Gary Greene Accounting & Tax Service and the Irish Farmers Journal (IFJ). These organisations have worked with RLP over the past year to help secure this contract with a farm family focus.

The courses are now being rolled out nationwide across the country, including Co. Roscommon. For further information or to book a place, contact Christopher Scally on 090 663 0252 / 086 144 8915, email: roscommon@ridc.ie or contact any of the above organisations.



Online agfood.ie Training

- View Herd Profile
- Birth Registration
- Animal Movements

Banking Online

- Making Payments Online
- Staying Safe Online

For further information, contact **Roscommon LEADER Partnership** on (090) 663 0252



Digital Skills Training Commencing Nationwide in 2017



Third Level Graduate Skills Register - Sign Up Today!

If you are studying or have a son or daughter attending university who will graduate within the next year, then encourage them to sign up to www.countyroscommonjobs.ie, our Graduate Skills Database. Roscommon LEADER Partnership is working with employers in County Roscommon and the wider region to advertise vacant positions of interest to graduates.

Third Level Student Graduates are invited to become part of this Skills Register. We have a LinkedIn group that we also encourage graduates to join where we will promote opportunities in the region: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8506930/profile>.

New Communities English Language Programme

Roscommon LEADER Partnership is currently organising the second New Communities English Language programme in Cortober, Carrick on Shannon. This initiative follows on from the training provided to 20 people, representing 11 countries ranging from Europe to as far afield as India, last Autumn and Winter.

The unique aspect and benefit to participants of the RLP training is in the provision of free parallel childcare service in a comfortable, safe and close-by environment for participants, i.e. two adjoining houses in Cortober – one house for training course with childcare next-door. This comfortable environment has proven to encourage take-up of training and provides both a social outlet and cultural melting-pot for a wide spectrum of the new community population in Cortober, Carrick on Shannon, Co Roscommon. For further information or to book a place on the course, contact Mary on 086 047 1430.

Ability Focus Roscommon Project

The Ability Focus Roscommon Project is in its final stage as the project will end in June this year. This project focuses on and supports young people aged 15 to 25 years with disabilities, including autism, to make the transition from school to further education and training. Currently, participants are busy attending Drama classes on Wednesdays in preparation for their drama performance which will take place at the Ability Focus event this month in Boyle.

QQI accredited modules continue and all participants have participated in or are involved in various work experience placements throughout the county in a myriad of different employments. The Ability Focus Roscommon team wish to express sincere gratitude to all the employers who have helped the project by providing excellent work experience opportunities for the participants.

On Wednesday 15th March, the project will host a function to celebrate **Ability Focus Participants Parents and Support Staff**. The venue is Whistlers, The Crescent, Boyle and the event will commence at 7.30pm. The creative drama/dance routine currently in practice sessions will be performed by the Ability Focus participants. Citizens Information will provide an informative presentation on the night and refreshments will be served after the performance.

For further details please contact Mary on rlp@ridc.ie or 086 047 1430.

Traveller Primary Health Care - Heart Health

Our current outreach theme is on heart health and this information is being given to Travellers in their homes by the Community Health Workers.

The Irish Heart Foundation visited the project and gave useful information on risks, signs and prevention of heart disease. Heart disease and stroke is number 1 killer of Traveller Women in Ireland.

Take some positive steps to prevent heart disease and stroke:

- ♥ Step out and get some fresh air
- ♥ Eat well & watch the weight
- ♥ Stop smoking
- ♥ Easy on the booze
- ♥ Enjoy life & de-stress
- ♥ Get to know your GP
- ♥ Know your family history



All information sourced from the Irish Heart Foundation

www.irishheartfoundation.ie.

If you think you are having a heart attack get help and dial 999 or 112. For more information on the Traveller Primary Health Programme contact Teresa O'Brien on 086 029 1215.

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 on to a training course



Looking at local employment options



Developing interview skills

FREE OF CHARGE

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

Roscommon LEADER Partnership are delighted to welcome a new staff member to our team:

Siobhan Bigley, Digital Marketing & Research, who will be responsible for our Graduate Skills Register and County Roscommon Jobs Programme. Siobhan has extensive experience working with businesses in the region having previously worked with the chamber of commerce and in marketing, having worked with the Sonas Group, National Learning Network and the National Safety Council. In addition, she has worked in a voluntary role with the Inland Waterways Association, the Shannon Boat Rally, People of the Year Awards and is fully committed to promoting all the opportunities in Roscommon.

Active Citizenship and Politics – QQI Level 5

Roscommon LEADER Partnership, in conjunction with Roscommon Public Participation Network and Roscommon Women's Network, is offering community leaders and activists the opportunity to build their skills and affect real change by participating in Active Citizenship Training.

- ☐ Are you a member of a community group? Or are you interested in establishing a community Group?
- ☐ Do you want to help make a change to your own situation and that of others or locally within your community?
- ☐ **Do you want to be listened to, and represent your community?**

If so, this course may be for you. It will help you identify how best you can engage in active citizenship and how you can influence decision makers!

What will you learn?

- ☐ What Active Citizenship is all about!
- ☐ It will provide you with the confidence to engage effectively as leaders and to help create change.
- ☐ It will support you to work through conflict within groups.
- ☐ It will teach you how to engage in the decision-making process at various levels.
- ☐ It will provide an understanding of local government and development structures.
- ☐ And it will provide the 'How to' of lobbying; the process and purpose.
- ☐ It will teach you practical skills of running meetings, applying for funding and ensuring your group is aware of good governance structures.

This course will begin in **April in Roscommon Town** and it is likely to run over 6 afternoons! **The course is free to eligible candidates; however, places are limited and early booking is advisable.** For more information or to request an application form, please contact Linda on (090) 663 0252 or linda@ridc.ie.

Presentation of Volunteer Awards

Roscommon Volunteering Information Service hosted the inaugural Roscommon Volunteer Awards on January 20th in Aras an Chontae, Roscommon. Minister Denis Naughten, T.D. presented the awards on the evening.

Rachel Regan from Ballaghaderreen scooped the Young Volunteer of the Year award, while Elizabeth Naughton from Ballaghaderreen has been honoured as Older Volunteer of the Year for 2016.

The Roscommon Association Supporting People with Special Needs won the Group of the Year award and the Transition Year Students of 2015/2016 from Castlereagh Community School received a special award for their work on the Project Match initiative, Darkness into Light.

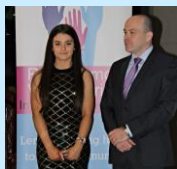
Bernie Kearney won the overall Volunteer of the Year award, sponsored by the Roscommon Herald. Bernie has been involved in voluntary work in his native Four Mile House and with organisations throughout County Roscommon for many years.

An enjoyable evening was had in Aras an Chontae honouring Roscommon's finest volunteers.

2017 Roscommon Volunteer Awards: Nominations will be sought in the Autumn for the 2017 Roscommon Volunteer Awards. Further details will be posted on the Roscommon Volunteering Information Service website <http://www.volunteerroscommon.ie/> in due course.



Bernie Kearney, winner of the overall Volunteer of the Year award accepting his award from Minister Denis Naughten



Rachel Regan Young Volunteer of the Year with Minister Denis Naughten



Minister Denis Naughten presents the Older Volunteer of the Year Award 2016 to Elizabeth Naughton.



Roscommon Association Supporting People with Special Needs, winners of the Group of the Year award, with Minister Denis Naughten.



Co. Roscommon LEADER Programme 2014-2020

LEADER is a funding initiative open to all. From community and voluntary groups to private individuals and micro, small and medium enterprises, LEADER can offer grant aid and support to projects aiming to promote the quality of life and economic opportunities for Roscommon dwellers within the framework of the approved Local Development Strategy (LEADER Plan).

The first step in the application process for funding under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 is to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) form. All EOIs received will be assessed for Eligibility in Principle (i.e. eligibility under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 Operating Rules and compatibility with the Co. Roscommon Local Development Strategy). Applicants whose EOIs are deemed Eligible in Principle will be invited to submit a full application for funding. Application packs, including guidance notes, will be issued and advice with the application process will be provided.

Roscommon LEADER Partnership accepts Expression of Interest (EOI) forms on both a **'Rolling Call'** ('first-come, first served') basis and on a **'Targeted Call'** basis. Projects funded under a **'Rolling Call'** can submit an EOI Form at any time. Projects funded under a **'Targeted Call'** can only submit an EOI Form after the call opens. Details of the Targeted Calls (2017 only) and Rolling Calls are outlined below:

TARGETED CALLS

- Targeted Calls (also known as Closed Calls) are new to the LEADER Programme
- Targeted Calls have specific opening and closing dates for receipt of EOI
- Targeted Calls ensure that funding is provided where it delivers the most value
- In Targeted Calls funding is awarded based on a comparative and competitive assessment
- Targeted Calls secure equal opportunities for all potential applicants
- Targeted Calls ensure that funding is available for the duration of the Programme
- Targeted Calls represent approximately 60% of the overall project budget

No.	Targeted Calls 2017	Call Opens	Call Closes
1	Rural Tourism (Product & Infrastructure) 2017	Call has CLOSED for 2017	
2	Traditional Business Sectors 2017	10:00am on Wed, 1 st March 2017	4:00pm on Wed, 15 th March 2017
3	Youth Facilities & Skills Development 2017	10:00am on Wed, 1 st March 2017	4:00pm on Wed, 15 th March 2017
4	Enhancement & Regeneration Programme (Rural Towns & Villages) 2017	July 2017 (TBC)	July 2017 (TBC)
5	Social, Cultural & Recreational Facilities 2017	July 2017 (TBC)	July 2017 (TBC)
6	Social & Cultural Aspects of Rural Towns 2017	October 2017 (TBC)	October 2017 (TBC)
7	Community Facilities 2017	October 2017 (TBC)	October 2017 (TBC)
8	New Business Sectors 2017	October 2017 (TBC)	October 2017 (TBC)

ROLLING CALLS

- Open Calls can be applied to throughout the programme
- Open Calls are allocated on a first come, first served principle
- Open Calls must complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) initially
- Open Calls are similar to how all previous LEADER programmes worked
- Open Calls focus on sectors of the programme that require capacity building, training, engagement and development

No.	Rolling Calls 2017 - 2020	Status
1	Tourism Marketing and Promotion	OPEN
2	Development of the added-value food and agri sectors in Co. Roscommon	OPEN
3	Support for new business sectors with growth potential in Co. Roscommon	OPEN
4	Enhancement/regeneration programmes for rural towns, villages and their hinterlands including unused buildings	OPEN
5	Promote and facilitate Internet usage and Broadband uptake in Co. Roscommon (Training & Capacity Building)	OPEN
6	Promote and facilitate Broadband uptake in Co. Roscommon - Small scale infrastructure	OPEN
7	Develop Community Facilities and actions to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the communities of Co. Roscommon	OPEN
8	Community Services - Develop actions and programmes to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the communities of Co. Roscommon	OPEN
9	Support for youth entrepreneurship and employment in Co. Roscommon	OPEN

Project applications will be evaluated based on the submission of a fully completed application form and all necessary supporting documentation. Applications will be assessed by an independent committee, who make a recommendation on the project to the LCDC. The final decision on grant aid will be made by the Local Action Group, Roscommon LCDC.

Who Is Eligible for LEADER Funding? In order to be eligible for funding from Roscommon LCDC under the LEADER Programme 2014-2020, projects must be located, in their entirety, within the Co. Roscommon Sub-Regional Area (i.e. the administrative area of Roscommon County Council, comprising the Municipal Areas of Athlone, Boyle and Roscommon).

Applications may be made by any of the following:

- Private Individuals
- Sole Traders
- Farmers
- Formalised Community/Voluntary Organisations
- Community Councils
- Registered Charities
- Trusts
- Partnerships
- Companies Limited by Guarantee
- Limited Companies
- Designated Activity Companies limited by shares
- Companies having share capital
- Co-operative Societies

Types of Grant Aid Available:

- Capital – Equipment, Buildings
- Training
- Analysis and Development
- Marketing

Application, Evaluation and Approval process:

- Expression of interest form, meeting / discussion
- Application process. Quotations, planning permission, business plan, etc.
- Assessment by Evaluation Committee, recommendation to the LCDC.
- LCDC approval, refusal or deferral.
- Following approval, letter of offer and contract issued to the promoter.
- Promoter completes project and draws down grant aid retrospectively

Rates of Aid:

Maximum Funding Ceilings and Support Rates			
Type of Project	Applicant	Rate of Aid	Maximum Funding
Investment & other supports including Capital, Equipment and Marketing	Private	Up to a maximum of 50%	€200,000
	Community	Up to a maximum of 75%	
Analysis and Development	Private	Up to a maximum of 75%	€30,000
	Community	Up to a maximum of 90%	
Training	Private &/or Community	Up to a maximum of 100%	€200,000

Minimum Funding (Grant) Threshold: Roscommon LCDC will not approve funding of less than €5,000 for any project.

For further information on funding and/or to discuss your project idea, please contact the RLP LEADER Team on 090 663 0252 or check out the RLP website at www.rosleaderpartnership.ie.

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 is financed by the Irish Government under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and by the EU under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas.

Roscommon LEADER Partnership is the Implementation Partner for the delivery of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 in Co. Roscommon.



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuisithe agus Gaeltachta
Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



Roscommon Traveller Health Project (Roscommon LEADER Partnership) welcomes Government recognition of Traveller ethnicity

Last Thursday, 1st March 2017, marked a hugely important and historic day for the Travelling Community, with Taoiseach Enda Kenny making a speech in the Dáil, recognising Traveller ethnicity. This marks a step in the right direction for Ireland in response to the strong criticism received from national and international human rights organisations for failing to adequately address anti Traveller discrimination. The state has officially recognised and acknowledged the unique and undeniable status of being an ethnic group to the Traveller Community. As Emily Logan, Chief Human Rights Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission said, it was "an important message about Ireland's determination in protecting and respecting human rights and equality for all people in this state". Roscommon Traveller Health Project would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all involved over the last 30 years in lobbying and campaigning for ethnicity and for their dedication in highlighting its importance.

CCIC - Creative Communities Igniting Change

Our 13 creative entrepreneurs have been immersed in a new entrepreneurship programme called "Ignite" which has been specifically developed for creatives. Thanks to the Ballaghaderreen community and other key development agencies, a new cohort of creative entrepreneurs will benefit from

- A multi-faceted learning experience to set up a creative business. Ignite combines expert led workshops, mentoring and study visits.
- Our creative entrepreneurs have been given free working space for 6 months, a place where creative and commercial magic can happen and also a small bursary to aid in showcasing their ideas.

The Ignite Training Pod was a hive of activity on Monday, 30th January last. Roscommon LEADER Partnership, in association with Momentum Marketing & Consulting, held a very exciting and informative support workshop for our Ignite Course trainees. The showcasing and workshops included some beautiful displays of works by our very own budding Creative Entrepreneurs in Ballaghaderreen. Special thanks to all who participated in the event, and especially to those who gave our creatives in-depth knowledge on important areas such as access to finance. Some of these agencies and funding support organisations included AIB, BOI, Roscommon LEO, Roscommon LEADER Partnership and the Western Development Commission.

Our Creative Entrepreneurs have well and truly bonded as a group. They have received a lot of mentoring and support and some have even looked at avenues such as collaborations with other similar businesses to strengthen their potential business viability. Already our creatives have started putting together ideas for their final showcasing event as part of their last module. Their enthusiasm to date has been amazing as a group.



A snapshot of some of our Creative Entrepreneurs who attended the workshop and showcase.

YEA-Youth Enterprise through Arts

As part of the Youth Enterprise through Arts Project, one of the outputs was to hold a Train the Trainer Course which was held in Dungannon Enterprise Centre in Belfast. The project involved four youth workers from our region and commenced on Monday, 20th February and lasted for one week. The course gave youth facilitators working with young people in the creative, digital and performing arts sector the opportunity to:

- Improve their understanding of the needs and opportunities for entrepreneurship education;
- Acquire the concrete knowledge and skills to embed entrepreneurship education in the on-going work of their organisation.

The overall aim of the course will equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver, assess and evaluate a training and development intervention in the field of creative arts youth entrepreneurship. Each participant will attain a QQI Level 6 qualification from the training received.



Participants from Roscommon attending the YEA Train the Trainer in Dungannon Enterprise centre, Dungannon Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland recently.

Young Community Mediators (YCM)

Our third Regional Alliance Meeting took place in King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon on the 25th of January.

There was a lot of networking and discussion around the outputs of the project and how we could empower young people to become Peer-to-Peer mediators in their own communities. Discussion was facilitated on the course curriculum content which was a main objective of the meeting. It was agreed that the course must be animated; youth focussed and attractive as youth workers and young people are the direct beneficiaries of the project.

Collaborations were made with Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education and Training Board and Rossinver CE Rehabilitation Project.



Members of the YCM Regional Alliance who attended a recent meeting in King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.

Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship (MASTER)

Our newest edition to our European project portfolio is Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship (MASTER). This exciting new Erasmus+ Project being undertaken Roscommon LEADER Partnership is in its early stages, but already we can see the potential for it to hugely increase the level and indeed mind-set of entrepreneurship in our region.

Research has already begun with regards to meeting the projects objectives. The main aim of this project is to increase the proportion of second level students acquiring an entrepreneurial mind-set and engaging in early stage entrepreneurial activity. An introductory meeting has been held to identify potential stakeholders of the project and our Regional Alliance has been formed as a result.

The second two-day International Project Partner Meeting was hosted by Roscommon LEADER Partnership on the 1st and 2nd of March, in Roscommon Town. The meeting allowed partners from Northern Ireland, Spain, Belgium, Denmark and The Netherlands to share best practices and map out the roadmap to success for the MASTER Project going forward.

This joined up approach allowed synergy to exist across all aspects of the project. The partners received a warm reception in Aras an Chontae where they were greeted by the Roscommon County Council Director of Services, Martin Lydon, who gave all involved a guided tour of the fantastic new building. Entrepreneurship education was the main theme of discussions across both days.



Pictured are our YCM European Project Partners who attended the 2nd International Meeting in Roscommon recently

Upcoming Events with Erasmus+ Projects

Project	Anticipated Date
Showcase of FITR Project Results	June 2017
Showcase of CCIC Project Results	July 2017
Showcase of YCM Project Results	October 2017

- Note the information listed are potential dates for the events and are subject to change
- Please contact Amanda Mee on 090 663 0252 for more information