

FLAG Cooperation in Ireland

Introduction

The first cooperation initiatives in Ireland are expected to emerge in 2017 following a **national call for cooperation projects**, which the Managing Authority (MA) plans to launch **mid-2017**. Although cooperation was not a strong element of the 2007-2013 Axis 4 programme in Ireland, the MA hopes that the call in the current programming period will result in at least one cooperation project per FLAG.

It is expected that the first cooperation projects are likely to take place inter-territorially or with the FLAG in Northern Ireland, however the Managing Authority is open to Irish FLAGs cooperating with the UK or the rest of the EU. Irish FLAGs will also be able to co-operate with partners outside the EU.

In terms of budget available in Ireland, €350,00, effectively **€50 000 from each FLAG's** budget allocation, has been reserved at national level for cooperation projects. Should this centrally managed pot be fully subscribed, FLAGs will be able to allocate further funding from the budget of their local development strategies. In terms of themes, this will be open for FLAGs to make proposals.

Number of FLAGs in Ireland: 7

Organising Cooperation

- Cooperation is organised by the MA in Ireland. It will open a call for projects in 2017 which will remain open for the rest of the period.
- The MA will provide guidance on cooperation, including an application form and details on delivery.
- FLAGs can then apply for cooperation funding with their project ideas at any time.
- Projects are evaluated and approved at national level.

Possible Partners

- Cooperation projects in Ireland can be implemented by the FLAGs, LEADER LAGs or other NGOs, for example Inshore Fisheries Forums on behalf of the FLAG.
- FLAGs can cooperate with partners in Ireland, the EU or in third countries.
- Irish FLAGs can cooperate with partners from CLLD groups funded by all European Structural and Investment Funds and/or with non-EU funded CLLD-type public-private partnerships.

Eligibility and Financing Rules

- Cooperation projects are subject to the same financing rules as any other FLAG project.
- No specific provisions have been made for preparatory support to cooperation projects in Ireland.

For any further information or assistance for cooperation in Ireland...

Ireland has not yet established a National Network but the Implementing Body is available for additional information. Contact: Ian Lawler, Bord Iascaigh Mhara: lawler@bim.ie