

LEADER Priority : Support micro and small businesses and farm diversification NDLAG Objective: Making Connections between Businesses and within the Economy; Making connections within the Land Based Sector	Priority Level	Calls
<p>The range and diversity of businesses in our area is a strength but we know rural enterprises need support to create better employment opportunities, to start a new business and increase productivity. We want to help micro and small businesses in key sectors and farm diversification projects achieve growth and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Our key sectors are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local products, including food and drink; • Creative Industries and • Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for new business start-ups; new businesses should look to extend the breadth and vitality of the rural economy and help improve the business start-up and survival rates; we particularly want to support sustainable projects in the north west of the LAG area; • Projects which encourage innovation and help existing businesses to grow; • Projects to add economic value to a farming enterprise through diversification; • Projects to improve routes to market for local products and strengthen the supply chain; • Projects which best use of underutilised assets e.g. redundant buildings to provide affordable workspace; 		
	High	At launch
	High	At launch
	High	At launch
	High	At launch
	Medium	At launch
LEADER Priority: Support for Rural Tourism NDLAG Objective: Making Connections between businesses and within the Economy	Priority Level	Calls
<p>We are excited by the untapped tourism potential of our area and invite projects which enhance and promote what we have to offer all year round; particularly along and around our trails and around the inspiring built and natural environment. Successful projects will be those which develop high quality visitor products and services, support the creation of a strong identity and sense of place, linking tourism providers and offer opportunities to extend the visitor stay and increase spend.</p> <p>Types of projects we want to fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that add value to the area's trails and secure and maintain the network of businesses surrounding them; 		
	High	At launch

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that improve tourism facilities, especially to the promotion of local food and cultural activities e.g. Farm shops, farmers markets, restaurants, food events etc.; • Collaborative projects and joint promotion which encourage visitors to move between destinations e.g. a thematic approach based on places, events, activities and accommodation etc.; • A single project to put the area on the map – to create a digital platform to promote the area and what it has to offer, including businesses, accommodation, events; • Projects to improve the diversity and quality of tourist accommodation alongside trails. Conversion projects should not affect the local housing supply. 	High	At launch
	High	At launch
	High	2016
	Medium	At launch
<p>LEADER Priority: Provide cultural and heritage activity NDLAG Objective: Making connections between communities between communities; Making connections between places</p>	Priority Level	Calls
<p>We already have successful cultural events and creative sector in our area but we want to help develop stronger and better connections between our cultural and natural heritage and tourism.</p> <p>Projects will need to focus on the promotion, enhancement and maintenance of cultural heritage assets and events, where this promotes growth in the tourism economy and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creates a sense of local identity through raised awareness of their importance; or • helps protect cultural heritage features against damage and degradation. <p>We want to support projects for the construction and / or restoration of heritage assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • which aim to enhance, restore and upgrade the cultural and natural heritage of market towns, villages which aim to enhance, restore and upgrade the cultural and natural heritage of market towns, villages and rural landscapes and high nature value sites; • for the conservation of small scale built heritage; • for funding to enhance cultural and community activities and investments to enhance venues providing cultural and heritage activity; • to support events linked to cultural activity. 		
	High	At launch
<p>LEADER Priority: Provide Rural Services NDLAG Objective: Making connections between communities between communities; Making connections between places</p>	Priority Level	Calls
<p>We want to encourage rural communities to find innovative solutions to some of the difficulties facing their residents, especially the lack of access to services. We particularly want to hear from strong community partnerships. Projects should make a contribution to growing the local economy. We wish to support:</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative projects that set up, improve or expand essential rural services for the local community, e.g. equipment and IT solutions, community hubs for social and economic use, social enterprises supplying and sharing rural services and facilities; Projects that develop community infrastructure and access to key services, which may include tourism projects that increase services for the local community and contribute to village renewal; Small-scale village infrastructure projects, including amenity buildings and village access, for example footpaths and cycle ways. 	High	At launch
	High	At launch
	Low	At launch
<p>LEADER Priority: Increase farm productivity NDLAG Objective: Making Connections within the Land Based Sector</p>	Priority Level	Calls
<p>These grants will support a wide range of farm investments. They are particularly for businesses that want to invest in innovative business practices and new technologies to help them become more sustainable and productive. In particular we wish to fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects to improve the processing, marketing and distribution of local products; that improve the links and networks for local products and raise their profile, that improve consistency of supply and quality of product to access larger markets including food and drink networks of suppliers and farmers markets We also want to hear from collaborative farm projects to increase productivity and that introduce new technologies across several farms. 		
	High	At launch
	Low - Medium	January 2016
<p>LEADER Priority Increase forestry productivity NDLAG Objective: Making connections within the Land Based Sector, Making connections between Businesses and within the Economy</p>	Priority Level	Calls
<p>Funding under LEADER will aim to deliver permanent new supply chains and jobs that, at the same time, restore regular management to local woods and encourage a greater degree of added value to the timber output. Our funding will be directed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects that develop the supply chain for local woodland products, including their promotion and development; Projects that bring unmanaged areas of woodland back into management and supply a local market, including collaborative forestry projects that increase productivity. 		
	High	At launch
	Medium	At launch