



Identification, Dissemination and Exchange of good practice in
Local Employment development and promoting better governance

IRD Duhallow - Ireland

Background on leader organisation IRD Duhallow is a community-based rural development company established in 1989 to promote rural development in Duhallow, which covers North West Cork and part of East Kerry.

IRD Duhallow administers the LEADER+, Local Development and Social Inclusion, CLÁR and EQUAL programmes.

Purpose of the project Rural Development & Community Development: IRD Duhallow is a community-based rural development company that promotes rural development in the Duhallow area. The company combines the efforts and resources of the State Bodies, Local Authorities, local communities and individual entrepreneurs for the benefit of the local area. The main objective of IRD Duhallow is to establish and to support initiatives directed towards the generation of enterprise for the benefit and welfare of communities in Duhallow who may be deprived due to rural depopulation, immigration, lack of training, economic deprivation or poor infrastructure.

The LEADER programme provides the main funding to IRD Duhallow, but it also gets substantial funding from the local development programme as well as from many other EU, Local Authority and Government Agencies.

Geographical focus North West Cork and parts of East Kerry, Ireland.

Project partnership Government Departments, state agencies and other LEADER groups.

Activities Training, analysis, enterprise development, natural resources, social & cultural enhancement, environmental improvements, transnational partnership working, development of rural and agri tourism and capacity building.

It was a major achievement when IRD Duhallow was awarded LEADER I funding. This was project-driven and enabled the infrastructure for tourism to be put in place with flagship projects, e.g., Millstreet Country Park; the Duhallow driving trail; and the Blackwater walking way. More over other important enterprise projects created much needed employment.

LEADER II was community-based. Plans were put in place in consultation with each community dealing with economic, social and environmental issues. The face of Duhallow changed. LEADER money primed the pump and encouraged communities to help themselves. Heritage centres and teach ceoils were developed etc.

Target groups Youth, women, asylum seekers and long term unemployed over 40 yrs of age.

Particular New enterprises and jobs have been created.

successes

Lessons learnt

Importance of local organisations and the bottom up approach and the desirability of integrating different programmes.