



South West Mayo
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY CLG
Comhlacht Forbartha
Iardheisceart Mhaigh Eo CTR

South West Mayo Development Company CLG
(SWMDC)

In the Loop

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LEADER Programme 2023-2027

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has issued the first of a two-stage process for the delivery of the LEADER programme in Ireland. Companies like SWMDC are being invited to engage in this process for delivery of the next LEADER programme. These are the main points:



- County Mayo will have a budget of €8.8m. At least €6.6m of this money will be available in grant aid to communities, businesses, and individuals.
- This money is not available now, and we don't expect the new programme to start until late 2023.
- **Stage One:** Expression of Interest (EOI) to deliver LEADER 2023-2027.
- **Stage Two:** Those successful in stage one will be invited to develop a Local Development Strategy (LDS). The organisations that submit the best LDSs will be chosen to deliver the next LEADER programme.

LEADER is a hugely important programme for Mayo and SWMDC, and we aim to play a central role in the delivery of the next LEADER programme, like we have in all LEADER programmes since 1991.

NEW
WRDATF Regional Drug & Alcohol Awareness Week 2022
Monday 14th November to Friday 18th November
[Book Now](#)

**WRDATF
Drug &
Alcohol
Awareness
Week 2022**

November 2022 will see a full week dedicated to drug and alcohol awareness across the west region. Most of the events are available online and include:

- Talking to Family Members about their Substance Use
- Addiction: Myths and Fact
- Grief, Loss and Addiction
- Teenagers and new cannabis products: what parents need to know!
- Recovery through Connection & Pro-Social Behaviour

For all the details you need, please see: <https://www.wrdatf.ie/training-awareness-week.php>

Social Farming Awareness Week 2022

In October 2022, SWMDC hosted an open farm on Mary & Niall Murphy's farm near Athenry in County Galway. The event attracted a great crowd, and the presentations on the day gave an insight into the impact of social farming on everyone involved. Special thanks to Deidre Fahey, RDO and Sinéad O'Malley who co-organised the day. We were very grateful to our Board member, Noreen McGarry who represented SWMDC and Western Care on the day.



A fond farewell...

Rachel Rose, Roma/Migrant Support Worker is taking up a position with Mayo County Council. Rachel joined SWMDC almost six years ago on our Syrian Resettlement Programme, working to help support and integrate our new Syrian population into their new communities. Since then, she has worked with Roma and migrant communities, including the Ukrainian refugees now living in Mayo. We wish Rachel every success in her new role, where we know she will make a really positive contribution.

Welcome aboard!

Linda Groarke has joined our SWMDC team in an administration role, supporting our Rural Social Scheme and Tús teams. A former scheme participant, Linda showed huge potential while on her placement, and we were delighted when she secured this position which was advertised in a competitive recruitment process.



Exciting New Job Opportunity

SWMDC is inviting applications for a Community Connector role, funded by the HSE. This is a new role in County Mayo, and offers the right candidate the opportunity to work with older people in our community.

The deadline for applications is 12noon on Friday, 4 November 2022. Send your CV and application form to jobs@southmayo.com. All the details you need are here: <https://southmayo.com/new-job-open-for-applications/>. Please feel free to share with your friends, family and extended network!

Welcome Pamela Boyle

We are delighted to welcome Pamela Boyle (pictured with CEO, Sabina Trench) to the SWMDC Board. Pamela replaces will represent the Clew Bay & Islands area. A native of Tiernuar, Pamela lives in Tonragee with her family, where she runs her successful fitness business. A dedicated community volunteer, Pamela will be an excellent addition to SWMDC.



Some October 2022 Highlights

Cooperating to Succeed

The final event of our social enterprise cooperation programme came to its successful conclusion in Limerick. Led out by Norita Clesham, LEADER Project Officer, she was supported by Olivia Kitterick, SICAP Enterprise & Social Enterprise Officer. We also worked very well with our neighbours, Mayo North East LEADER Partnership, via Rita Hopkins.



Clogher Loop Walks Launch

Funded through the Outdoor Recreation Investment Scheme, with match funding from Clogher Environmental Group, we were delighted to attend the launch of this new walking hub. The project was coordinated by our Rural Recreation Officer (RRO), Martin Dillane who worked hand-in-glove with the local community to complete with ambitious project, and Majella Mulchrone, SWMDC Finance Officer who ensured the funding was drawn down and spent as planned.



Celebrating Community Connections

Together with Mayo Volunteer Centre, SWMDC hosted a hugely successful event in Breaffy House Hotel showcasing Mayo agencies, organisations and community groups and their services.

Pictured are some of the SWMDC team with Deirdre Finnerty, Mayo County Council. **L-R:** Natalya Pestova, Mikhail Kolchanov, Deirdre Finnerty, Catherine McCloskey, Oleksandra Sikach, Anne-Marie Carroll, Margaret Lawless and Breda Murray.



Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)

While our work is very rewarding, it can also be very draining. In an effort to support our team, SWMDC is launching our first EAP in November 2022. The EAP will offer our team support with personal and professional challenges. It is one thing to say that our people are our greatest asset, but another to back it up with action. We hope it will be of great benefit for everyone who uses it.

SWMDC Contact Details

Newport Office | 098 419 50 | info@southmayo.com

Balla Office | 094 936 6692 | rss@southmayo.com

