



Comhpháirtíocht Leader Waterford Leader
Phort Láirge Partnership

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT117469
Project Type:	L.O. 1 Tourism as a Key Driver of Economic Development
Project Name:	Euri-Lismore Music Festival CLG
Promoters Name:	Lismore Music Festival CLG
Address:	C/O, 8, Main Street, Lismore, Co. Waterford
Description:	The Lismore Music Festival t/a, the Blackwater Opera Festival operates an annual opera festival in Lismore Castle and Dromore Yard every June since 2009. It is operated by a voluntary committee that has become a well-structured organization. The festival compliments both in timing and location the Wexford Opera Festival. The festival has focused on providing a quality product in a rural location (similar to Clybourne in England), has opened up access to the great houses of the Blackwater Valley for that week, has a co-existing education programme for local young people to introduce them to the nuts and bolts of music and has opened up the Valley to a group of people who would not normally travel to rural areas. The LEADER Programme is being asked to part fund the venue rental, logistics, i.e., Marquees, Seating, Sound, H & S, and pianos.
Theme:	L.O. 1 Tourism as a Key Driver of Economic Development
Sub-theme :	S.A. 1.2 Culture and Heritage Product Development
Link to Transitional Rural Development or EURI	Community-based projects that seek to address emerging challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting greater social inclusion.
Link to LDS	L.O. 1 Tourism as a Key Driver of Economic Development

Total Project Costs	€86,506.15
Eligible Project Costs	€86,506.15
Funding sought by promoter:	€50,000
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or	First Review

Not Recommend			
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	The Total Cost Expenditure was reviewed to see what is eligible for funding equal to the remaining budget. The revised total project costs are €52,684.15 @ 40% = €21,073.66 A maximum of €21,073.66 or 40% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
Details of private funding:	Yes. Donations/Box Office		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	Funding for the Blackwater Opera Festival		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report) Total Funding	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 40 %
	Lismore Castle Venue	€14,634.15	€ 5,853.66
	Dromore Yard Venue	€ 5,000.00	€ 2,000.00
	Pianos	€ 4,250.00	€ 1,700.00
	Medical Cover	€ 1,800.00	€ 720.00
	Seating Hire	€22,000.00	€ 8,800.00
	Sound Desk	€ 5,000.00	€ 2,000.00
		€52,684.15	€21,073.66
Was an assessment completed?: Date:	06/05/2022		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, the Procurement process was followed. Some of the items tendered are unique.		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	Yes. As outlined above, some of the items such as the venue hire is unique. The seating is specific to the design of the facility.		
Innovative Element of the project:	Lismore Music Festival is the only summer outdoor music festival that takes place in Ireland using the natural beauty of the architecture of Lismore Castle as its backdrop		
Consideration of Deadweight:	It would proceed on a reduced basis.		
Consideration of Displacement:	Its main complimentary opera is the Wexford Opera which is held in September, so there is no displacement.		
Economic justification for project:	This project will generate revenue for the local economy both directly and indirectly and therefore fits the Local Development Strategy plan for providing cultural and heritage activities.		
Average Score for Project:	70/100 (5)		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €21,073.66 or 40% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:- 1. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan for supporting		

	Culture and Heritage type projects. 2. The project scored 70/100 A maximum of €21,073.66 or 40% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser
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Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
	1.5	Yes	€48,000

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Lisa Grant	WCCC	09/05/2022
Ivona Carr	Failte Ireland	06/05/2022
Brid Kirby	WLEO	09/05/2022
Niall Doyle	Arts Council	18/05/2022

The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -

- Mr Jimmy Taaffe outlined the project to the Evaluation Committee advising that due to Covid the Local Authority has agreed, subject to the Evaluation Committee's recommendation, to fund the Lismore Opera Festival one last time. Most of its funding is coming from the Arts Council and WC&CC. It has become very successful and will become a fixture on the Arts Council agenda for funding each year. With success comes increased costs but there are only a few items that we can fund, such as the marquee, seating, etc.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that he recommends 40% rather than 50% as the continuous support from LEADER has led to substantial funding from the Arts Council and WC&CC.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that Michael Alen Buckley is the Executive Chairman and has brought several new members onto the Committee.
- The Committee noted that the Castle venue hire nearly doubled in cost going from €10,000 to €18,000.
- It was questioned if any of the other big houses other than Buckley's were charging for the venue? Mr Jimmy Taaffe confirmed that they were not but that he suspected that the €5,000 charged by Buckley was being put back into the festival. Whereas the fee of €18,000 for the Castle will not.
- Concerning the accounts, the Evaluation Committee noted the following:-
 - a) the accountancy fees are very high at €14,000 with separate auditing fees also included. Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that the accountants work part of the year for the festival and assisted with the application.
 - b) final accounts for 2021 should have been submitted with the application. Mr Jimmy Taaffe contacted the promoter who forwarded a copy of a trial balance for the period 1st Aug to 30th 2020 to Sept 2021. The promoters explained that they have not received the final audited accounts yet.
 - c) They also queried what the director's remuneration of €75,000 was for? The Director's remuneration went to the Festival Director and the Artistic Director and not Board Members.

- It was noted that there are very few quotations obtained. Mr Jimmy Taaffe explained that given the nature of the festival a lot of the items required are specialists.
- The Evaluation Committee agree that it is an excellent event and well worth supporting one final time.
- As the funding is limited it was agreed to recommend funding the other four projects as presented and to allocate the remaining budget to the Lismore Opera Festival which has received substantial funding from the Arts Council and WC&CC. It was agreed that Mr Jimmy Taaffe will identify key areas to fund rather than a percentage of the overall budget to reduce administration.
- A Committee Member expressed the opinion that it is a wonderful cultural event that is open to the wider community and not just opera fans as it is more of a production and about the ambience and experience.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that funding this project is a good use of EURI funds and agreed to recommend funding to the LCDC.

The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:-

1. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan for supporting Culture and Heritage type projects.
2. The project scored 70/100

A maximum of €21,073.66 or 40% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Amount Recommended: €21,073.66, or 40%, whichever is the lesser amount.

40% of Eligible Project Funding: €21,076.66

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Evaluation Committee

Committee Member

Date: _____

Date: _____

Issues / Queries raised by Evaluation Committee	Project Officers Response

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

WLP Project Officer

Please insert photos below of reference purposes:

(for example a photo of the building to be renovated/machinery being purchased, etc)

Evaluation Committee Scoring Record

Date: 16/5/2022

Time: 11am.

Project Title: Eilei - Lismore Music Festival CLG

Project Reference Number: 3120RWAT017469.

Assessment Criteria	Objective	Issues raised by Evaluation Committee	Weighting	Score
Compatibility with Local Development Strategy	Do the project proposals meet the criteria set out in the LAG business plan for the relevant measure?		Yes / No	
Innovation	Is the product innovative in its nature and does it displace existing enterprises? - Product / Service 9/19 <u>8</u> - Displacement 5/19 <u>5</u> - Job Creation 5/19 <u>5</u>		19	18
Promoters experience	Does the promoter have the training/skills, track record or experience to deliver? - Standards of Operation 6/25 <u>5</u> - Track Record 6/25 <u>5</u> - Structure of Business 6/25 <u>5</u> - Necessary skills base 7/25 <u>5</u>		25	20
Financial Viability	Are the project costs justifiable (reasonableness of costs) and / is funding available to co-fund the project? - Overall Costs 7/25 <u>4</u> - Co Funding 6/25 <u>4</u>		25	15

	- Financial Plan	6/25	4			
	- Deadweight	6/25	3			
Sustainability	Is the project viable and will the service continue to be delivered?			13		7
Requirement	Does the proposal target a specific need or address a specific gap in the market?			18		10
Total				100		70

N.B. Project must receive a minimum score of 65% prior to being recommended for approval.

• Has the potential level of deadweight been assessed for this project? YES / NO

• i.e. would the project proceed without LEADER funding? YES / NO

YES / NO *less risk*
Approval of

Recommendations of the Evaluation Committee: _____

Signature: _____

Signature of Evaluation Committee Chair

Date: _____

16/05/2022

Denise Walsh

From: pclerkin@cablesurf.com
Sent: Wednesday 18 May 2022 21:29
To: Denise Walsh
Subject: Draft Minutes.

Dear Denise,

I have reviewed the draft minutes of the WLP Evaluation Committee meeting held on 16th May 2022 and I am in agreement with them.

Regards,

Paul Clerkin
Chairperson
WLP Evaluation Committee

