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The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027

SICAP 2024-2028

End of Year Review

Lot Name:	Waterford City & County (24-1)
LCDC:	Waterford City/County
LDC Name:	Waterford Area Partnership CLG
Pobal Coordinator:	Aileen Gilchrist

Financial Compliance

SICAP Admin % is 23.52% and New Arrivals Admin % is 21.98%, both of these are within the maximum threshold of 25%.

The Goal splits are within the approved splits from the Annual Plan for both SICAP and New Arrivals SICAP G1 45.35% G2 54.65%, and New Arrivals G1 27.48% G2 72.52%.

The total grant amount reported is within the maximum 7.5% of the total Action Costs % budget for SICAP and New Arrivals.

SICAP 5.96% and New Arrivals 3.88%.

The underspend on the SICAP budget is €113,276.55, which is in excess of the maximum 5% carryover amount of €76,158.78. The excess will not be carried over into 2026.

The underspend on the New Arrivals budget is €44,976.01, which is in excess of the maximum 5% carryover amount of €15,438.14. Please submit a completed long term carryover template in order to carry over any of this excess in 2026.

Grant Compliance Check

There are no issues with any grants entered in 2025.

Payments

There are no issues with either PI or VAT payments entered into the 2025 Annual Plan.



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KPI Targeting and Local Priority Target Groups

The LDC exceeded targets set for both KPIs, with KPI 1 (Community organisations) at 80 (101%) and KPI 2 (individuals supported) at 1278 (135%).

The LDC has 3 Local Priority Target Groups –people living in communities affected by disadvantage, people living in households that are jobless or low-paid and/or precariously employed, and disabled people.

For people living in communities affected by disadvantage, specific areas were identified and the LDC adopted a bottom up approach. For example, this is evident in their work in Larchville and Lisduggan (areas categorised as very disadvantaged) where the LDC is working as part of a task group to address issues such as child poverty and low educational attainment, as well as implementing actions based on their climate action report - The People's Transition: Larchville & Lisduggan.

The LDC demonstrates extensive work with those who are jobless/in precarious or low paid work. This includes work, in partnership with employers and other key stakeholders, supporting life-long learning, employability, self-employment and soft skills. In 2025, over 500 labour market courses were completed and 107 grants provided for training (Action 2.2). 20 individuals progressed to employment and 42 progressed to self-employment.

The LDC also details work with disabled people through both Goal 1 and Goal 2 activities. The report highlights that Waterford has a higher rate of disability than the national average (14.4% v 13.5%). The LDC supports community organisations working with disabled people and the Autism friendly Dungarvan initiative. The LDC also provides individual training and employment supports, as well as inclusive access to out of school activities for children with additional needs.

Other target groups supported under KPI1 included older people (14%), and Climate Justice (8%) and under KPI 2 were people affected by educational disadvantage (36%) Refugees (17%), IPAs (5%), Lone Parents (10%), Travellers (2%) and Roma (2%).

Progress on Actions

The LDC provides a clear and comprehensive update on the delivery of each action in the Action Progress Report, documenting what has been delivered across both KPI1 and KPI2.

Of note, the LDC has a clear focus on empowering and sustaining communities. For example, the LDC published a feasibility study on the need for a community facility in Dungarvan, mapping out a clear pathway for community groups and service providers to advance this project. A Steering Group has also been established to develop a strategic plan in 2026.

The LDC has also been working with community groups and networks to increase awareness of the



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Social Enterprise Model, with 11 social enterprises now registered. The LDC developed an 8-module learning programme for Social Enterprises and is supporting the Comhar Comaraigh Network which focuses on harnessing the role of Social Enterprises in rural regeneration. The Network held a well attended conference this year.

New Arrivals work is evident across the annual action and progress reports. The LDC supported 174 individuals, with 160 courses completed and 76 people progressing to employment (Action 2.4). The LDC supports migrant focused local organisations, including 2 Ukrainian organisations, as well as working closely with the new LCDN 'Community Connection' project which will run for 18 months. The LDC also established the 'Grow Together' project. This is a community development project which engaged 12 participants from a diverse range of new communities in weekly gardening sessions. The aim of the project is to foster integration, inclusion and a sense of belonging.

The LDC identifies some challenges to their work, including new and emerging projects that are working in the area of social inclusion, who are failing to engage or collaborate with SICAP, creating a sense of duplication. This has been raised with Waterford County Council. The LDC also highlights insufficient funds to meet the scale of demand for English language provision.

The Annual Progress Report shows concrete examples of how SICAP's horizontal principles are applied to the work.

The LDC reports extensive work to support Traveller rights in their LOT area, as a member of the Waterford Traveller Interagency Group. The LDC supports the local Traveller organisation Mincéirí Portlairge (Traveller CDP), and this year work included a participative Traveller needs analysis in Dungarvan and a successful Traveller Pride event.

The LDC also shows a commitment to community work principles, including the participation of marginalized communities. This is evident in projects such as the Ballybeg 50 year celebrations and video, bringing a social housing community together in a range of intergenerational activities across a calendar of events.

Communication and Visibility

The contact details for the LCDC and LDC are up to date on IRIS.

The LCDC and the LDC have the relevant logos and straplines on their websites.

We note the new layout of the LDC website.

On the About Us page ideally the logos should be in a vertical line, one under the other with the Government of Ireland logo first, followed by EU logo and then SICAP. We understand there may be an issue with space, however the logos could all be made smaller to fit the space available. (If additional logos are displayed, the Government of Ireland Mark and EU emblem shall have at least the same size as the biggest of the other logos).



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Social Inclusion &
Community Activation
Programme



government supporting communities

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On the header page we noticed that there are two EU logos at the top of the page. Ideally there should only be one EU logo as per the guidelines.

Data Quality Check

The dialogue box for each action has been updated. There is a high level of data recorded against each action, as well as detail on the outcome of the delivery of each action for the end of year Action Progress update section on IRIS.

The overall quality of the data on IRIS is excellent and there are no follow-ups outstanding.

Case Study

The Title of the case study is 'The Impact of SICAP English Language delivery on the Social, Economic & Cultural Integration of Migrant Communities' It demonstrates how SICAP has supported New Arrivals to improve their language proficiency.

This response has developed and grown since 2022 in recognition of the importance of language to the integration of New Arrivals coupled with the inconsistencies of existing English language provision owing to the rising number of Temporary Protection/ International Protection Applicants living in the county.

The case study consists of a video and narrative report. The video is 6 minutes long and includes many inputs from participants who highlight their appreciation for the language supports and outline how the classes have positively impacted on them building their confidence and has led to getting jobs, starting college courses and are in a better place to support their children in school, while getting involved in their local community and building a life for themselves. The English language classes are integrated with other Buíon programmes.

The narrative report provides additional context which includes a number of quotations, CSO/ IRIS data along with a project description, it outlines SICAP contribution and the outcomes reported by the participants, followed by conclusions.

The narrative report highlights the additional complementary SICAP supports provided to support progression of New Arrivals in 2024 such as targeted employment programs including training in manual handling, HACCP (food safety), CV preparation, and interview skills. Information support sessions were delivered in multiple accommodation centres to ensure individuals were informed of available resources and pathways. Also, financial assistance was provided for training and employment courses and programs to enhance skills and opportunities.

Of note, were the number of interventions, participants and progressions in 2024. 300 individuals attending weekly Fáilte Isteach Conversation classes in 38 groups established across the county, delivered by 32 volunteers and 132 participants attended proficiency classes. Courses were pitched at various levels including Proficiency Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, English with Professional



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Module and IELTS Preparation. Many of the English language classes are integrated across wider programmes such as health, employability and community.

While collaborations with various stakeholders are referenced with Waterford Library Service, Third World, Volunteer Centre, Private Language School Providers, IPAS Centre staff, other Buíon programmes etc, it would have been useful to obtain their inputs, views and perspectives and draw out further the benefits of local collaborations and complementarity.

Both the case study narrative report and video meet the EU Communication and Publicity requirements of the programme. We would encourage all LDCs going forward to include a 45-90 second segment that could be easily extracted and used in programme publicity campaigns.

The case study submitted is in line with guidance issued and the role of SICAP is evident in the video and narrative report.