

CO-OPERATION PARTNER SEARCH REQUEST FORM

Name & Contact Details of LAG	<p>North East Region LAG Contact</p> <p>Andrew McAlister Strategy Manager Ecos Centre Broughshane Road Ballymena Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT43 7QA andrew.rdp@ballymena.gov.uk http://www.northeastrdp.com/</p>
Region	<p>The LAG covers the council areas of Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Larne and Moyle in the north east of Northern Ireland. It has a rural population of approximately 95,000 and covers a geographical area of about 2,300 sq. Km.</p> <p>The North East area has an extensive coastline, over 80 miles in extent. It covers a very varied landscape with the Antrim Hills rising to nearly 2000 ft. There is also a major river valley – the Bann.</p> <p>In addition there are fertile agricultural areas in the centre of the region. Agriculture is still an important industry. There are also extensive employment opportunities in the main towns, Ballymena, Coleraine and Larne. Unemployment is increasing but in general is still low by UK standards (4.5%). Community Development is strong with several very active and dynamic groups. This reflects a strong local pride and culture. This has resulted in a strong Tourism sector especially on the North Coast.</p> <p>The area includes the Giants Causeway, Northern Irelands only World Heritage site. It also contains 2 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a small part of a third. There are also significant events such as the North West 200 Bike Races and the Lammas Fair. The close links with Scotland both geographical (only 17km at nearest point) and culturally is also significant. The only inhabited Off shore island – Rathlin (population 85) is within the area.</p>
Theme or Topic of interest	<p>Food & Cultural Tourism</p>
Brief description of	<p>To tie in to the existing strong tourism product in the region we wish to develop a co-operation project that would develop best practice in how to give the area a distinctive food and cultural ethos</p>

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cooperation idea

Enhancing environmental capacity

We wish to look at how the Rural Development programme process and funding could be best used to help businesses and communities to adapt to the needs of a low carbon economy.

Farming and access to land

Under this theme we would like to develop a co-operation project that would work with farmers and landowners, particularly on uplands, to look at how the recreational use of land by walkers, climbers and other social users can be complementary to traditional farming practices.

Partner Search Requirement
Please tell us where you would like us to search. You may tick more than one.

Northern Ireland



Ireland



UK



Europe



Other



Please Specify _____

Please return to your relevant Rural Network:-

			<p>Rural Network for NI 17 Loy Street, COOKSTOWN, Co. Tyrone Northern Ireland BT80 8PZ T: +44 (0) 28 8676 6980 W: www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk E: info@ruralnetworkni.org</p>
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