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Social Economy Laboratories for the New Bauhaus in European Rural Communities

Social Economy Local Action Plan

Organisation: Meath County Council

Country: Ireland





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1) Introduction:

The Social Economy Action Plan is a written document that **includes the commitments** to action of the **stakeholders** that participated in the project and specifically in the participatory processes, agreed by all the parties involved in each of the countries.

a) Social Economy Action Plan Objectives

The **aim** is to get the **commitment** of local **stakeholders** for the **transfer** and **implementation** of the **New European Bauhaus inspired Social Economy laboratories**





co-designed during the project; also ensuring impact and sustainability beyond the lifetime of the project.

Each plan will include a **vision** on how rural local communities should address **ecological and digital transformation** through the **New Bauhaus approach** embodied in the LabHauSE labs co-designed in the project.

At least **5 recommendations** from each Local Action Plan are envisaged.

b) LabHauSE: Social Economy laboratories for the New Bauhaus in European Rural Communities

The **Social Economy Laboratory for the New Bauhaus in European Rural Communities (LabHauSE)** is a fundamental component of the Social Economy Action Plan. Its main objective is to facilitate the transfer and implementation of the New Bauhaus principles in rural communities, promoting the Social Economy as a key tool for ecological and digital transformation.

LabHauSEs play a key role in both the identification of good practices on the European New Bauhaus, and in the design and testing of the Action Plans defined at local level in the different European rural communities, as well as the Roadmap for the transfer and replicability of these recommendations. Thus, the 4 Local Action Plans & Roadmap will serve as guidance to implement and transfer these LabHauSEs in the different European territories.

The LabHauSE is an innovative approach to addressing ecological and digital challenges in European rural communities. It is based on the commitments to action of all parties involved in the project and the local participatory processes identified during project events. The LabHauSE builds on elements identified during the project events and aims to





promote sustainable transformation and inclusion in European rural communities, in line with the goals of the European New Bauhaus.

❖ Objectives of the LabHauSE:

1. To **facilitate** the implementation of the principles of the **New European Bauhaus** in rural communities.
2. To **promote** the **Social Economy** as a driver of transformation and sustainable development.
3. To **encourage** active **participation of local stakeholders** in the definition and implementation of projects related to the New Bauhaus and the Social Economy.

❖ Key Components:

- **Local Best Practices:** It is based on the local best practices and projects identified during project events, aligned with the values of the European New Bauhaus (Beauty, Inclusion, Green transition, and Digital transition). See [Good Practices](#).
- **Priority Actions:** The actions identified during project events become potential priority projects to be implemented in each rural community. These projects are selected based on their alignment with the values of the New Bauhaus. See [Local Action Plans](#).
- **Vision and Goals:** Each LabHauSE includes a specific vision on how to address ecological and digital transformation in the rural community, aligned with the principles of the New Bauhaus. See [Manifesto for the rural LabHauSE](#).

The LabHauSE will be developed through the execution of specific projects, where the commitments to action are applied and implemented collaboratively with local





stakeholders. Projects will be designed to meet the values of the New Bauhaus and promote sustainability in the community.

In addition, knowledge and results generated through the LabHauSEs are shared and transferred to other European rural communities, promoting the replication of best practices and successful projects.





2) Development of the Social Economy Action Plan

During the Local Participatory Events in each country, participants (composed of stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project) were asked to identify and *dream* about at least one action that was needed in their rural communities, as a step closer to a more inclusive, more sustainable and more accessible future.

These are the actions listed in the following section, from the higher score to the lowest, and that will compose the Social Economy Action Plan of each territory.

a) Identified Actions

In the following table the actions that were developed and identified during the Local Participatory Events are displayed.

The table includes the description of the Actions developed by the participants of the Local Participatory Actions, as well as the means to carry out this action in the territory, a timetable for implementation and who will be the entity or stakeholder responsible for doing so.





NEB points	Name of the action	Objective	Description	What is needed to bring to action	When will be implemented	Responsible entity/stakeholder for its implementation	Docs/links of reference (if available)
	Goal 1 - Sustainability	A sustainable eco-friendly County	The sustainability will come from being committed to climate action	Meath has a varied landscape and is rich in natural resources. The county must be committed to preservation of this rich heritage	Over the period of the plan 2023 -2025	Existing policy and initiatives must ensure that environmental challenges must be considered as part of all plans, strategies and developments	
	Goal 2 - Connectivity	A connected and accessible county	The county too is heavily dependent on private transportation.	Participants would like to see an increase in trains and buses along with increases in pedestrian cycle infrastructure	2025	Responsibility for this will fall to the Local Authority planning and transportation services	





	Goal 3 - Health	A healthy and thriving community	Meath has a young and relatively healthy population and the region is relatively safe.	Objective is to create and maintain Healthy Palacemaking by further increasing safety and reducing anti social behaviours	Primarily short term in 2024/25. Some longer term to 2029	Local authority, local businesses, policing bodies and medical practitioners.	
	Goal 4 - Working together	A county that works together to achieve the common good	Over 450 organisations have been identified in the county that work for the common good.	Organisations and members have indicated that they would welcome growth in collaborative approaches to economic development in the county.	2024/25	Business organisations	
	GOAL 5 - Culture and Heritage	A county that celebrates its rich culture and Heritage	Protecting its rich culture and heritage will make this county	There are over 30000 monuments and heritage sites in the county.	Both short and medium term projects	Business, tourism and social economy organisations	





			attractive to both residents and visitors.	Along with these the county also boasts a wide range of more traditional tourism attractions. Make the county a destination of choice for people to live. Work and visit.	identified. 2024/2025		
	GOAL 6 - Inclusiveness	A county that welcomes, empowers and includes all communities	Meath has a growing population with increased diversity. It is a young population, but numbers of elders is increasing rapidly. Also there has been a recent upswing in new residents from a	Expand and strengthen equitable access to community infrastructure, promote integration and inclusion and to reduce educational disadvantage.	2024/2026	Educational institutes, local authority, Partnership group	





			diverse group of countries.				
	GOAL 7 - Economic Development	A county that actively encourages and supports a growing workforce and economy	Participants identified increased connectivity as a key goal	Increase local employment, increase remote working and infrastructure upgrades	2024/2029	Local Authority, business support organisations and planning functions	





b) Timeline of identified actions

YEAR: 2024

Goal 1

Action 1	Net Zero Energy in all Council Buildings	Action 4	Green Economy Business Showcase
Action 2	Make Training courses available on Sustainability	Action 5	Promotion of Sustainable Development Goals
Action 3	Circular economy projects outlined	Action 6	Business Showcase on Green Businesses

GOAL 2

Action 1	Complete Navan Bus Interchange	Action 4	Construct Greenway from Navan to Kingscourt
Action 2	Construct new Park & Rides	Action 5	Initiate Bike rental Scheme
Action 3	Build awareness for age friendly transport options	Action 6	Complete more bike parking infrastructure





GOAL 3

Action 1	Run Community Health and Wellbeing Courses	Action 4	Implement Arts and Health programmes
Action 2	Development of Park Runs	Action 5	Develop Healty Meath Plan
Action 3	Develope positive mental health programme	Action 6	Include diversity in policing plans

GOAL 4

Action 1	Develop urban area plans	Action 4	Promote education and training by newsletters
Action 2	Encourage representation of migrant communities	Action 5	Integrate Olders Peoples Council
Action 3	Set targets for diversity across organisations	Action63	Re establish Meath Economic Forum

GOAL 5

Action 1	Implement Arts Development Plan	Action 4	Promotion of Boyne Valley Tourism
Action 2	Update Meath Heritage Plan	Action 5	Omplement Ancient Destination Experience
Action 3	Promote Gaeltacht regions	Action 6	Town Centre First Planning





GOAL 6

Action 1	<i>Develop EU projects on Diversity and Inclusion</i>	Action 4	<i>Increase asylum seekers integration</i>
Action 2	<i>Expand library locations and services</i>	Action 5	<i>Increase apprenticeship training and opportunities</i>
Action 3	<i>Deliver cultural competence and bias workshops</i>	Action 6	<i>EU+ training to reduce educational disadvantage</i>

GOAL 7

Action 1	<i>Increase awareness of funding supports available</i>	Action 4	<i>Meath Chamber to increase awareness of employment practice</i>
Action 2	<i>Targetted needs assessment for migrants</i>	Action 5	<i>Increase business networking opportunities</i>
Action 3	<i>Increased training for potential employers re migrants rights</i>	Action 6	<i>Develop new tourism development strategy</i>

YEAR: 2025





GOAL 1

Action 1	Biodiversity database for planning	Action 4	Sustainable GAA clubs initiative
Action 2	Heritage protection plans	Action 5	Community food hub in place
Action 3	Continued envoronmental training	Action 6	Digital Twin pilot initiative

GOAL 2

Action 1	New Park & Ride in Ashbourne	Action 4	Meath Digital Strategy
Action 2	Navan Oldbridge Greenway	Action 5	Hub strategy
Action 3	Cycle paths on Navan Trim Roads	Action 6	Digital tools training through community groups

GOAL 3

Action 1	Devcelopment of new refuge	Action 4	Right sizing accommodation
Action 2	Investigate step down accommodation	Action 5	Promote Slainte Care





Action 1	Development of new refuge	Action 4	Right sizing accommodation
Action 3	Increase social housing	Action 6	Use Your Brain first initiative to youth groups

GOAL 4

Action 1	Increase diversity in libraries	Action 4	Strengthen existing networks
Action 2	Increased Inclusion of minority groups in MCC events	Action 5	Multiple language available for elections
Action 3	Increase range of languages on materials	Action 6	

GOAL 5

Action 1	Creative place making	Action 4	Support Tara Conservation management Plan
Action 2	Develop architectural archive	Action 5	Promote language Implementation Plan
Action 3	Develop industrial archive	Action 6	Support high standard landscaping and outdoor recreation

GOAL 6





Action 1	Create information gateway	Action 4	Explore county level inclusion strategy
Action 2	Expand 'My open library'	Action 5	Develop routes to further education
Action 3	Explore apprenticeship training centre	Action 6	Increase facilities for community organisations
GOAL 7			

Action 1	Forge relationships between council and education institutes	Action 4	Promotion of strategic economic sites
Action 2	Targeted response to education and skill needs	Action 5	Creative placements initiative
Action 3	Explore digital and remote hubs	Action 6	Unified marketing promotion of county

YEAR: 2026 and beyond

GOAL 1





Action 1	Increased energy efficiency in homes	Action 4	Local Climate action education
Action 2	Drive environmental sustainability for county	Action 5	
Action 3	Promote sustainable farming practices	Action 6	Develop sustainable energy communities

GOAL 2

Action 1	Extend Boyne Greenway to Navan	Action 4	Initiatives to reduce digital poverty
Action 2	Implement greater Dublin transport strategy	Action 5	
Action 3	Review public transport stops	Action 6	

GOAL 3

Action 1	Explore regional hospital	Action 4	Promotion of Healthy Meath target groups
Action 2	Enhanced primary care centres	Action 5	
Action 3	Increased sport participation	Action 6	





GOAL 4

Action 1	Implement Dublin/Belfast Economic corridor	Action 4	
Action 2		Action 5	
Action 3		Action 6	

GOAL 5

Action 1	New online infrastructure for accessing heritage, local history	Action 4	Town and village reinvention
Action 2	Increased visitor management at heritage sites	Action 5	Smart and sustainable development of towns/villages
Action 3	Protection of Gaeltacht culture	Action 6	Explore new Greenways and Blueways

GOAL 6

Action 1	New third level college for Meath	Action 4	
Action 2		Action 5	
Action 3		Action 6	

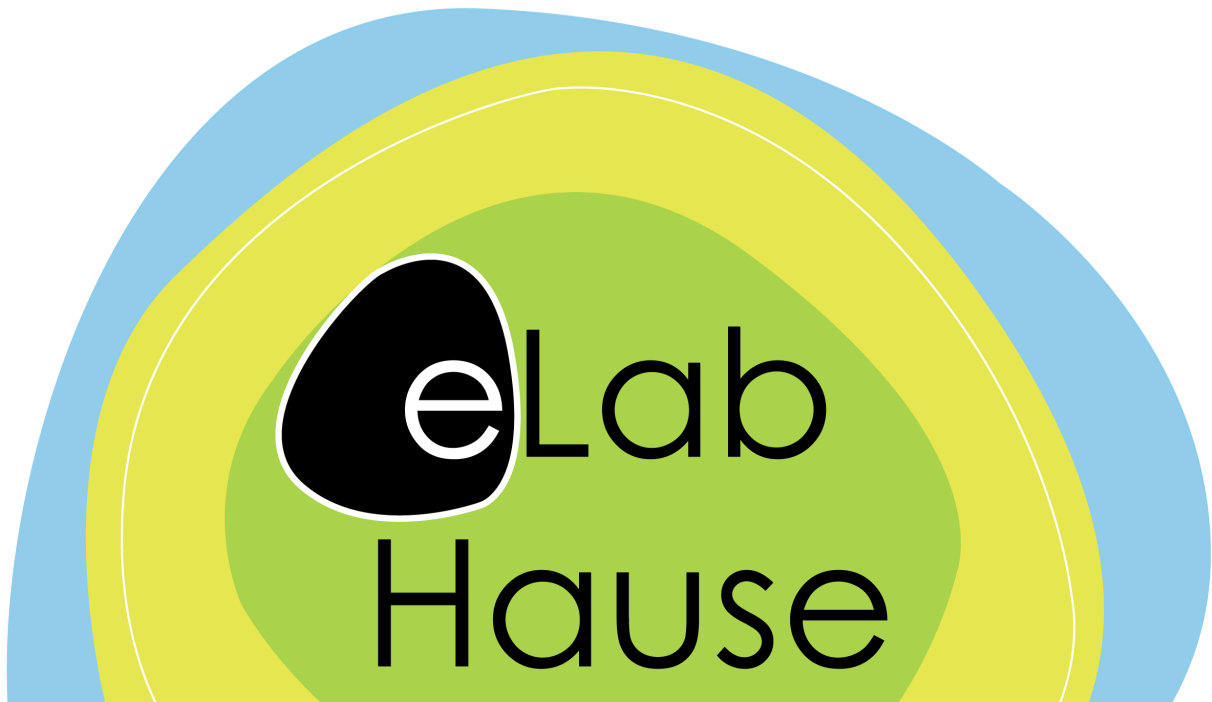
GOAL 7





Action 1	Implement Migrant Needs Analysis findings	Action 4	Develop metropolitan towns
Action 2	Continued Hub development	Action 5	
Action 3	Develop Arts Hub	Action 6	





3) Conclusions and recommendations for the creation of the LabHauSE “Social Economy laboratories for the New Bauhaus in European Rural Communities”

It is widely recognised that our physical, social, and cultural environment impacts hugely on our health and wellbeing. The available data from the most recent census sets out that the population of Meath has grown by 12.9%, the second largest increase in the country and the unemployment rate was at a record low of 3.8 per cent in May 2023. The population increase together with an ageing population will bring opportunities as well as challenges.

The Meath plan sets out the seven high level goals which were developed following extensive public consultation. This process was completed in conjunction with the wider community and stakeholders across the county.

