

LEADER Capacity Building Event

A stylized illustration of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with a white bench on a path. To the right, a house with a red roof and blue windows is visible. In the middle ground, three white wind turbines stand on a hill. The background features light blue mountains and a clear sky.

LEADER

Forbairt á stiúradh ag pobail áitiúla
Development led by local communities

Marie Duffy

21 May 2026

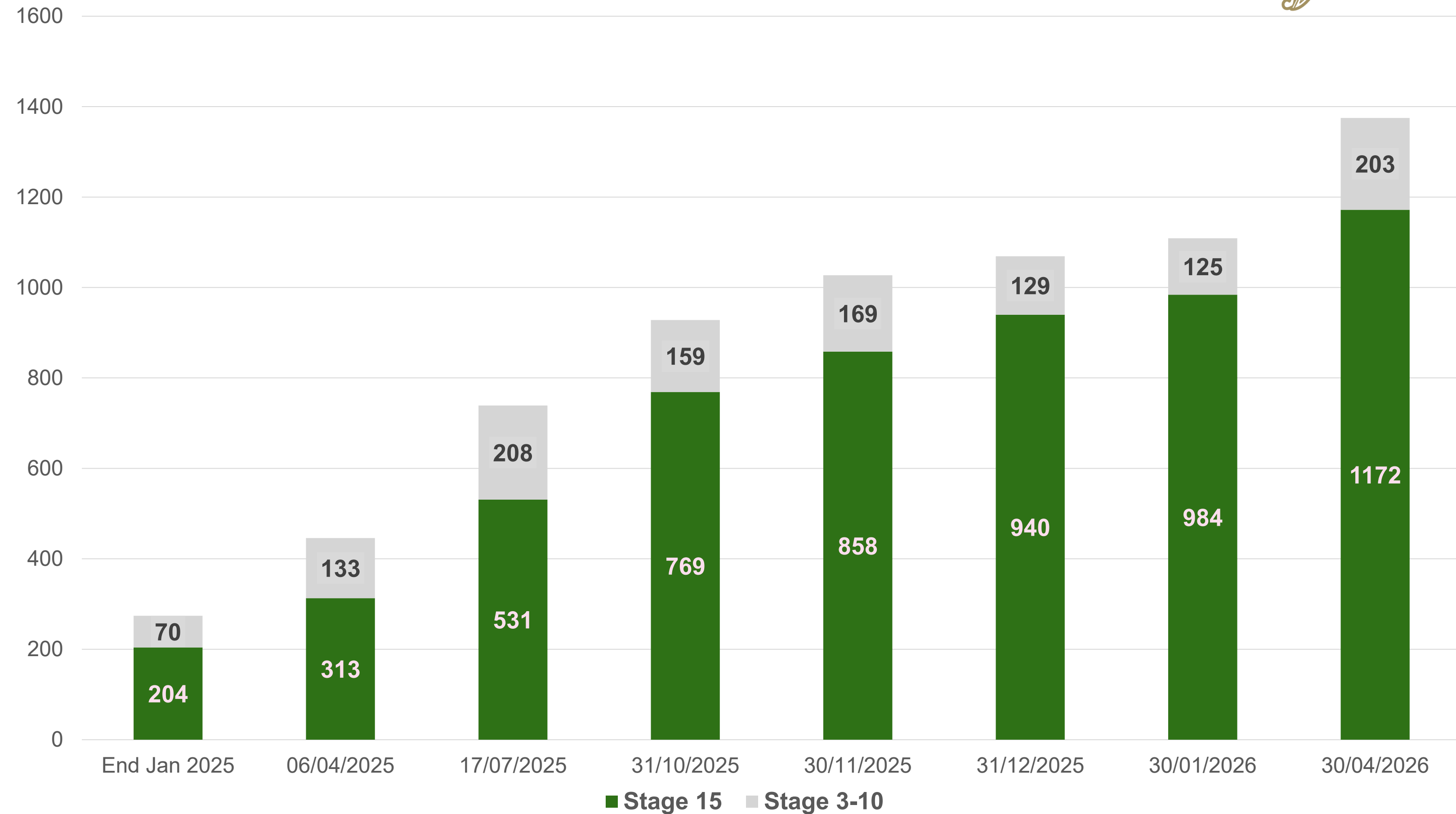
1. 2023 – 2027 LEADER Programme - *Projects*



	30/04/2026
No of Projects - Final Approval - Stage 15	1172
Value of projects - Final Approval - Stage 15	€57.8
% of overall project budget allocation	43%

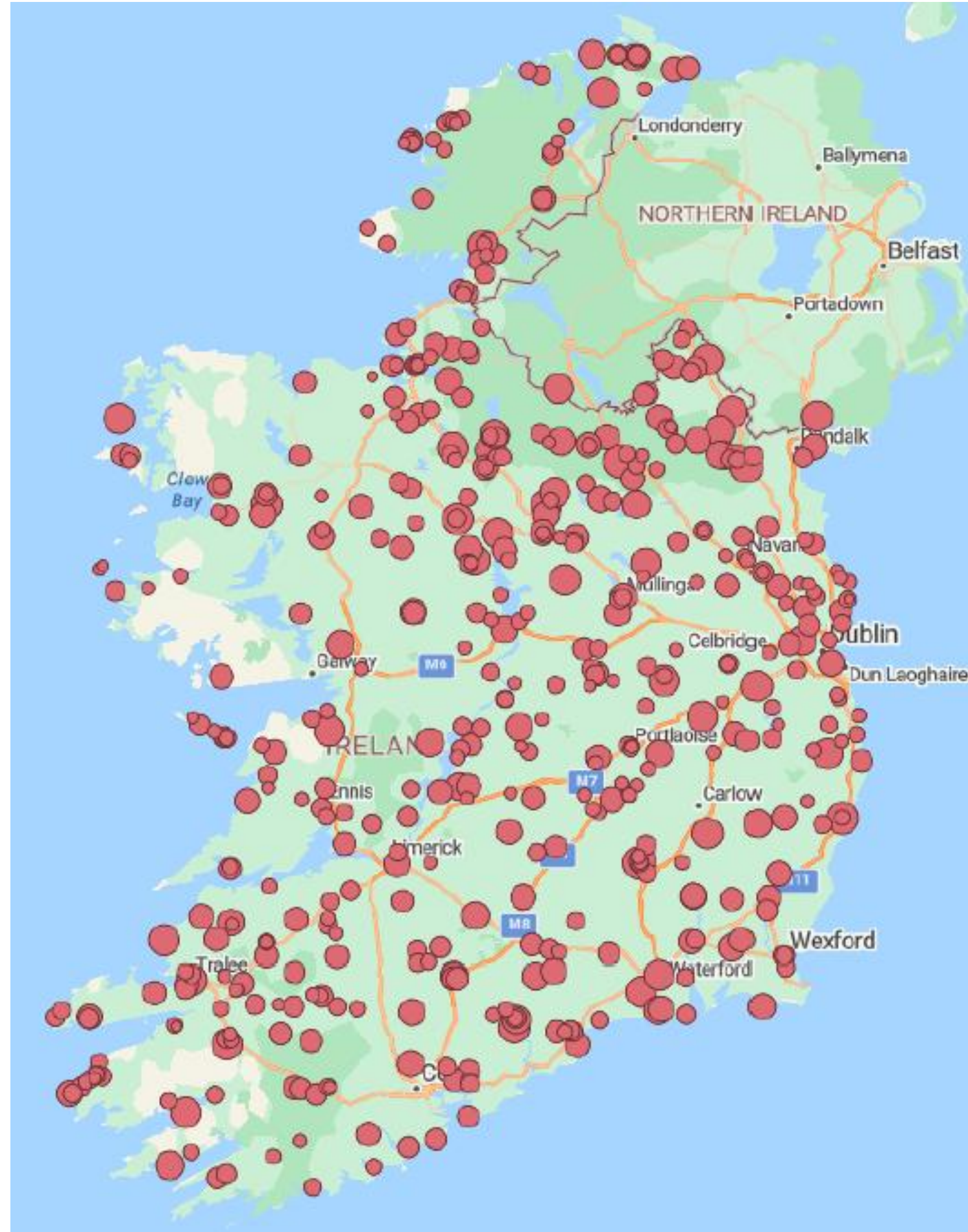
	30/04/2026
LEADER Programme Spend	€34.4m
Admin Expenses	€16.1m
LEADER programme project spend	€18.3m

Progress Status



1 . 2023 – 2027 LEADER Programme - *Projects*

538 Rural Economic Development Projects



434 Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion Projects



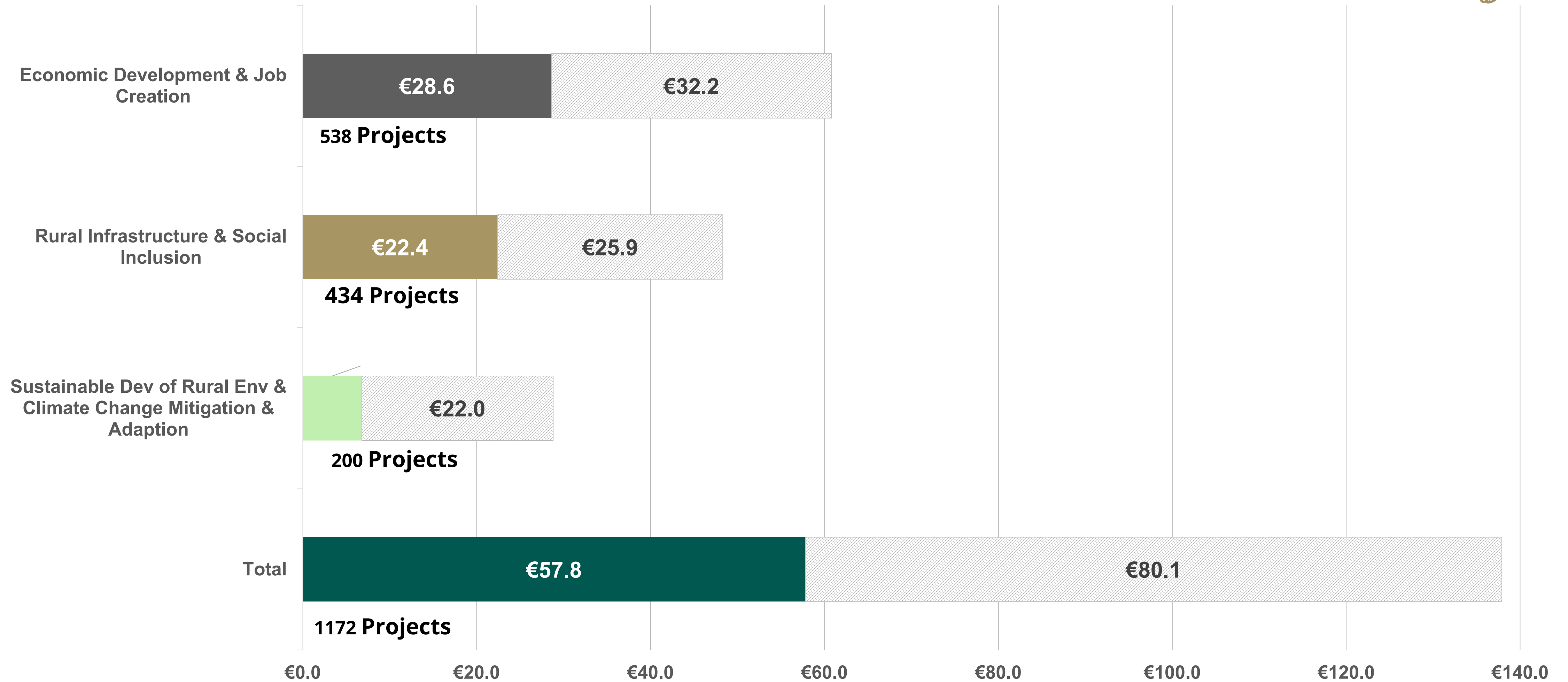
Over 200 Rural Environment & Climate Projects



1. 2023 – 2027 LEADER Programme – *Projects by theme*



2023-2027 Project Approval Value with Remaining Budget by Theme



(*Based on LDSs and subject to change as Programme matures)

1. 2023 – 2027 LEADER Programme – *Projects by sub-theme*



Project Approval Value with Remaining Budget



2. Key Message on Programme Performance



- Continued momentum on the level of project approvals - expect continued growth over the coming months
- Good pipeline of project payments
- Acknowledge the level of project completions and approvals varies across LAGs, however the Department expects all LAGs to utilise their budget
- LAGs are expected to manage both the project and administration budget over the programming period
- Department will be completing profiling exercise with LAGs/IPs to update estimated expenditure for 2026 - line with the Department's budget management processes

3. CAP Post 2027 Negotiation Update

Danish Presidency July –Dec 2025

- Initial read through completed
- Regulations divided into blocks
- MS submitted written questions after initial read-through of each block was completed
- Commission issued responses to written questions

Cyprus Presidency Jan –June 2026

- Detailed CION answers to MS written questions on all blocks
- Advanced the transfer of NRPP articles into the CAP Regulation
- Developed entire compromise CAP regulation with transferred articles included
- Will have completed two rounds of drafting suggestions on original CAP regulation by July

Irish Presidency July- December 2026

- **Planned approach:**
- Begin with drafting suggestions on transferred articles
- Build on work of CY presidency to achieve compromise texts on remaining articles
- Ireland to be neutral broker

4. Department Updates

- Rural Development and the Irish Presidency
 - *Rural Development Conference 3rd-4th November*
 - *LEADER Showcase on Day 2*
 - *Expressions of Interest for projects to be exhibited at the LEADER showcase should be submitted by cob 21 May 2026*

- Online EOI
 - *Developed by Pobal and available for use by LAGs/IPs*
 - *Questions in line with EOI in Operating Rules*
 - *Online demonstration*