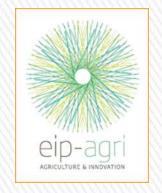
# EIP-AGRI Operational Groups Ireland



Dr Maura Farrell – NUIG/NRN Margaret Murray – DAFM SCAR-AKIS Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019



An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine





Ireland's EU Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014 – 2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



- » Introduction Dr Maura Farrell
- » EIP-AGRI OGs Ireland» Background and Selection

Margaret Murray DAFM

- » OGs Up and Running
- » 'Off the Ground' Research Results
- » NRN and EIP-AGRI OGs

Maura Farrell NUIG/NRN

# Operational Groups: Background and Selection

## Ireland's EIP AGRI: Operational Groups

Themed – Hen Harrier = €25m

Themed – Pearl Water Mussel = €10m

**Open Call – Environment = €20m** 

**Open Call – General = €4m** 







# **Themed Projects**

### » Hen Harrier



### » Pearl Mussel



- Both themes agreed with Commission as part of our RDP.
- Operational Groups recruited by competitive tender
- Responsible for developing local partnerships on the ground and developing actions

## Open Call Projects General and Environment

- Bottom-up Operational Group Call
- Recruited by a simple application process
- Designed to be **accessible** to all.
- Stream A: General
- Stream B: Environmental



# **First Call: Results**

- 118 Applications
- 23 Successful to stage 2
- 12 Successful to full implementation
- Stream A: 3 General OGs



• All projects have commenced

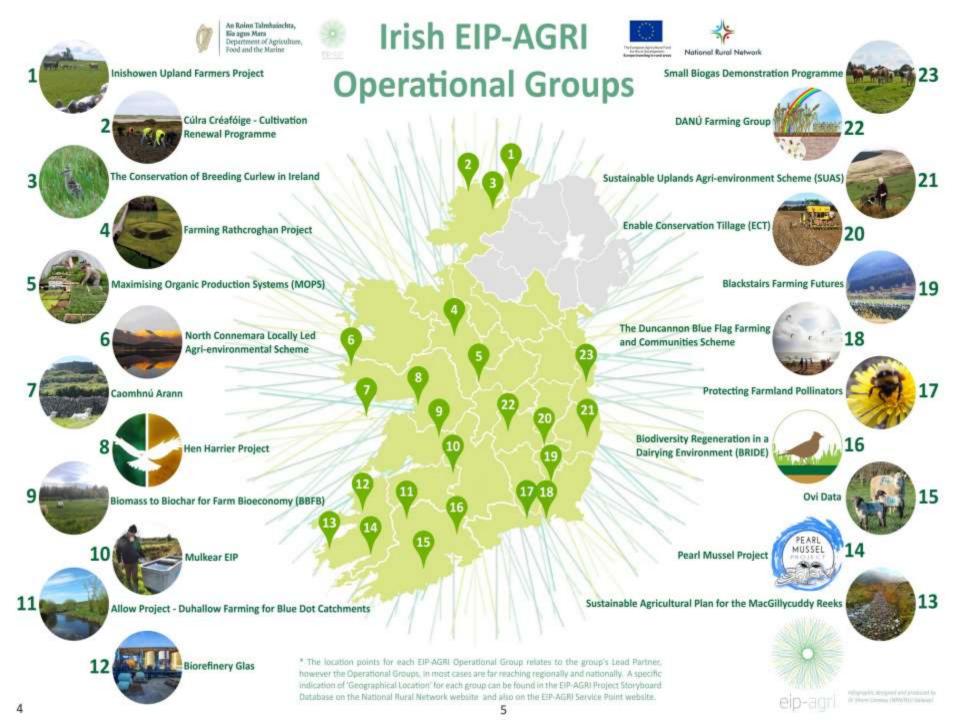


# **Second Round: Results**

- 69 Applications
- 19 Successful to stage 2
- March 2018: Workshop for all successful in stage 1
- **Stream B:** Environmental 9 Successful to full implementation
- November 2018: Workshop for Groups successful in second call



# Operational Groups – Up and Running



# **Themed Projects**



EIP-AGRI Operational Groups

Groups Internet and the second second



Geographical Location	IE 011 Border Region, IE 013 West, IE012 Midland, IE 025 South-West, IE 023 Mid-West
Keywords	Hen Harrier, Special Protection Area, High Nature Value Farming
Project Leader	Fergal Monaghan, the Hen Harrier Project Ltd. (email: fergal.monaghan@henharrierproject.ie)
Project Type	Operational Group
Starting Date	2017
End Date	2022
Project Status	Ongoing
Main Funding Source	Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020
Total Budget	€25,000,000



National Rural Network

HEN HARRIER PROJECT.

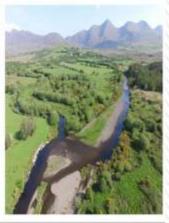


EIP-AGRI Operational Groups



#### Pearl Mussel Project Farming for nature in a vibrant rural economy

Geographical Location	IE 025 South-West, IE 013 West, IE 011 Border Region
Keywords	Farming practice, Landscape management, Fertilisation and nutrients management; Water management, Biodiversity & mature management
Project Leader	Dr Patrick Cruzhell, The Pearl Mussel Project Ud. Jernal: patrick@proproject.ie!
Project Type	Operational Group
Starting Date	2018
End Date	2023
Project Status	Orgoing
Main Funding Source	Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020
Total Budget	E10,00,000



## Stream A – General EIP-AGRI OGS

	Project Title	Project Overview	Location	Calls
1	Biomass to Biochar for Farm	Biomass to Bio-carbon for farm Bio-	Limerick / Clare	Stream A
	Bioeconomy (BBFB)	economy (BBFB)		
2	Maximising Organic Production	Maximising organic production	Westmeath	Stream A
	Systems (MOPS)	through integrated cropping systems		
3	Ovi Data	Increasing sheep genetic gain in	Cork / Kerry	Stream A
		Ireland through scientific data		
		capture and analysis		







## **Stream B: OGs: Environment**

	Project Title	Project Overview	Location	Calls
1	Allow Project - Duhallow Farming for Blue Dot Catchments	Protection of high ecological status water bodies.	North Cork	Stream B
2	iodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying EnvironmentBiodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment (BRIDEBRIDE)Project)		Cork / Kerry	Stream B
3	Biorefinery Glas	Small Biogas Demonstration Programme	Nationwide	Stream B
4	Blackstairs Farming Futures	Sustainable farming project in the Blackstairs Mountains	Carlow / Wexford	Stream B
5	Caomhnú Arann	Managing the habitats of the Aran Islands to maximise their agricultural and ecological output	Mayo	Stream B
6	Cúlra Créafóige - Cultivation Renewal Programme	Restoration of small scale farming enterprises	Donegal	Stream B
7	DANÚ Farming Group	Project plan for a biological farming transition programme	Nationwide	Stream B
8	Enable Conservation Tillage (ECT)	Wider adoption of sustainable conservation tillage systems	Leinster	Stream B
9	Farming Rathcroghan Project	Sustainable farming in the Rathcroghan Archaeological Landscape	Roscommon	Stream B
10	Inishowen Upland Farmers Project	A whole farm approach landscape management	Inishowen, Donegal	Stream B
11	Mulkear Integrated Catchment Management Partnership	On Farm Technology Transfer to Enhance Water Quality in the Mulkear Catchment	Limerick and Tipperary	Stream B
12	North Connemara Locally Led Agri-environmental Scheme	Conemara West Locally Led Project	Galway/Mayo	Stream B
13	Protecting Farmland Pollinators	Encouraging whole farm polinator friendly	Waterford	Stream B
14	Irish BioEnergy Association (IrBEA)	Small Biogas Demonstration Programme	Nationwide	Stream B
15	Sustainable Agricultural Plan for the MacGillycuddy Reeks	Conservation and restoration of Upland Habitat in the MacGillycuddy Reeks	Cork / Kerry	Stream B
16	Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS)	Addressing the complex agricultural, environmental and socio- economic challenges associated with the land management of the Wicklow/Dublin uplands	Dublin / Wicklow	Stream B
17	The Conservation of Breeding Curlew in Ireland	Conservation of Breeding Curlew in Ireland	Galway / Midlands	Stream B
`18	The Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme	Sustainable Farming Scheme	Wexford	Stream B

## 'Off the Ground': Research Results

### **NRN OG Survey**

» Aims: Examine the initial 'Start-Up' Process for the Irish OGs

Set-Up

**Expectations and Changes** 

**Challenges and Successes** 

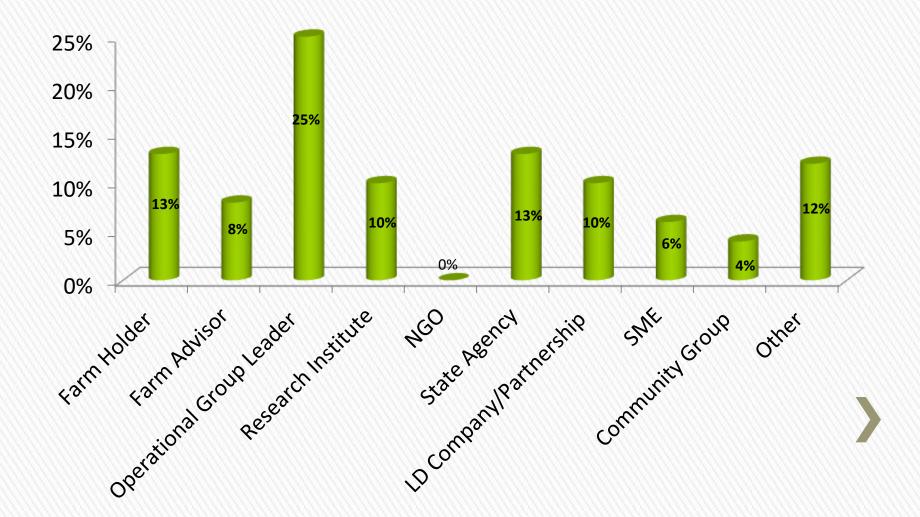
**Assistance Required** 



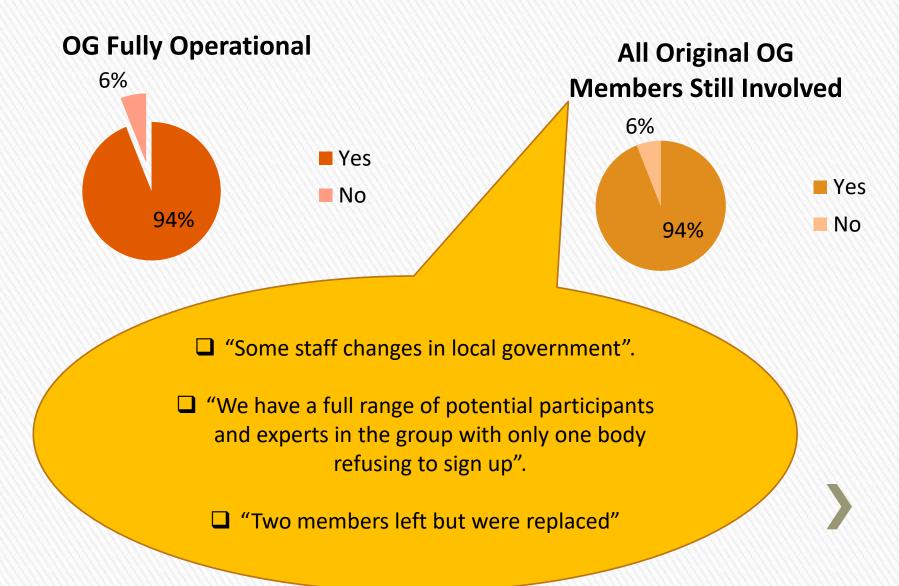
### **Some Initial Results**

## **On-line Survey**

### All OGs: 52 Responses: 23 Operational Groups



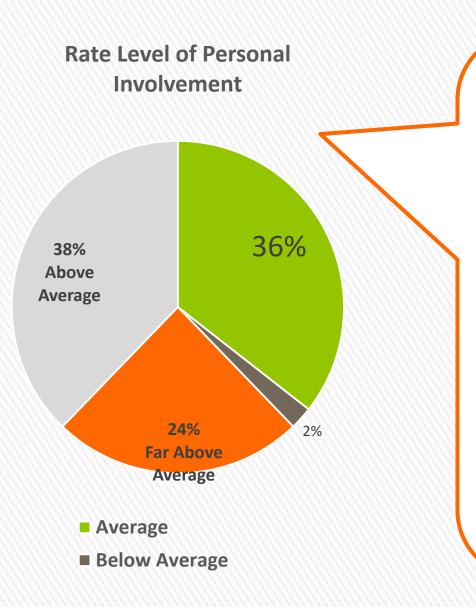




## Rate Level of Involvement of All OG Members

- "Everyone involved has volunteered their time and expertise towards bringing this project to fruition".
- "It has been a big investment to all involved over the years and all are pleased and more than willing to see it through".
- "An excellent diverse group of people that put a lot of their own time into it".
- "OG meets on a quarterly basis and their input to the project is through various ways such as advisory/ research/ farm visits/ application forms and other data collection".

## **Level of Personal Involvement**



- *"We are the lead organisation, so the main active member is ourselves*
- I attend all meetings and keep in touch with some other members
- I may have under estimated the scale of the personal investment I have had to make in the running of the project.
- As Project Coordinator I may not be best positioned to answer this question. At a personal level, it sometimes feels all consuming!!!"

# **Challenges in Setting up an OG**

eip-agri Achiculture e involation	NOT AT ALL CHALLENGING	SLIGHTLY CHALLENGING	MODERATELY CHALLENGING	VERY CHALLENGING	EXTREMELY CHALLENGING
Administration	7.32%	26.83%	34.15%	29.27%	0.00%
Working with the different OG members	43.90%	36.59%	17.07%	2.44%	0.00%
Organising the OG finances	34.15%	9.76%	41.46%	9.76%	2.44%
Networking	56.10%	24.39%	17.07%	2.44%	0.00%
Communications	46.34%	34.15%	19.51%	0.00%	

#### Administration Challenges

### WORKING WITH THE DIFFERENT OG MEMBERs

 "Developing a relationship with stakeholders has been very successful. There is a lot of goodwill towards the project from many quarters and this has been of huge assistance".

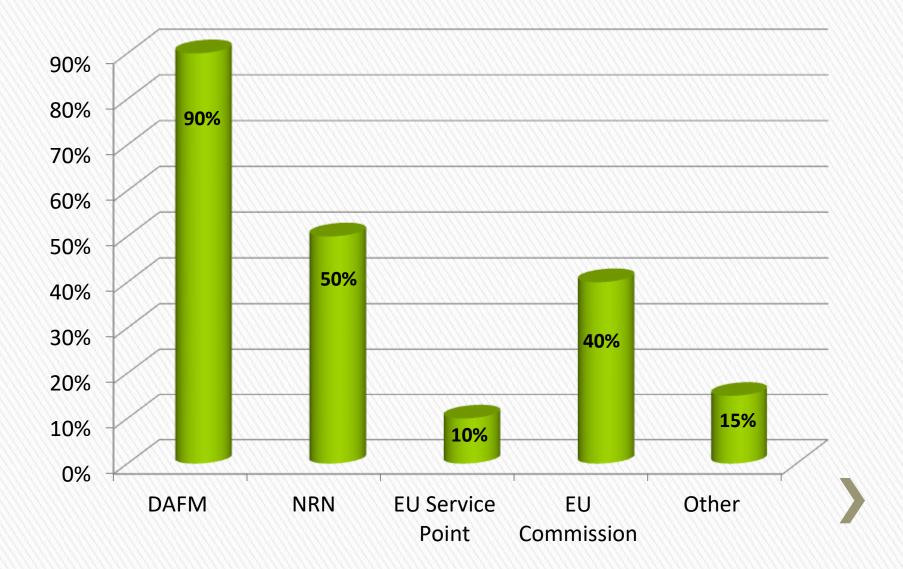
 "Communication was identified as key very early on with all team members and to be fair advisors and participants have helped spread the word".

#### **Networking and Communication**

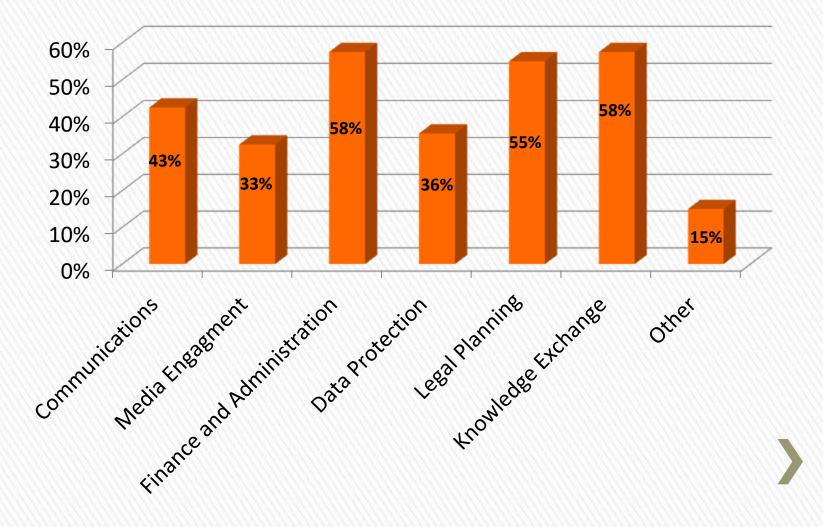
# Other Areas Of Challenge and Success in Setting-Up the OG

*"Our existing Environment Working Group with experience in overseeing Life and some elements of LEADER facilitated the EIP"*  **Sooon Sooon So** 

## **OGS - Sources of Information**



# **Workshops Needed**



# **Key Learnings From OG Set-Up**

- » Strong multi-actor approach in many OGs
- » Groups with a shared history or ethos appeared to establish themselves quicker and easier.
- » High level of commitment needed from all OG members, with many underestimating this.
- » Challenges across the board, but most felt they were surmountable
- » Many positive successes at this early stage
- » Definite need for continuous workshop assistance, networking and communication skills development.

# **National Rural Network**



tome About Biodiversity Climate Change LEADER EIP-AGRI Farm Viability News Blog Contact

### **About the NRN**

Championing rural development across Ireland

Read More

# **National Rural Network**

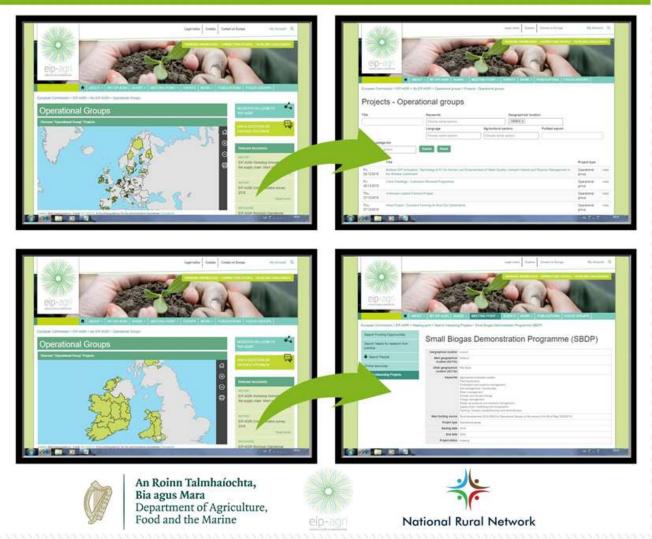
- Support the DAFM with EIP-AGRI Programme and Support OGs
  - Evaluation
  - **EIP-AGRI Advisory Committee**
  - Meeting and Workshops
  - □ Abstracts

- National and EU Dissemination



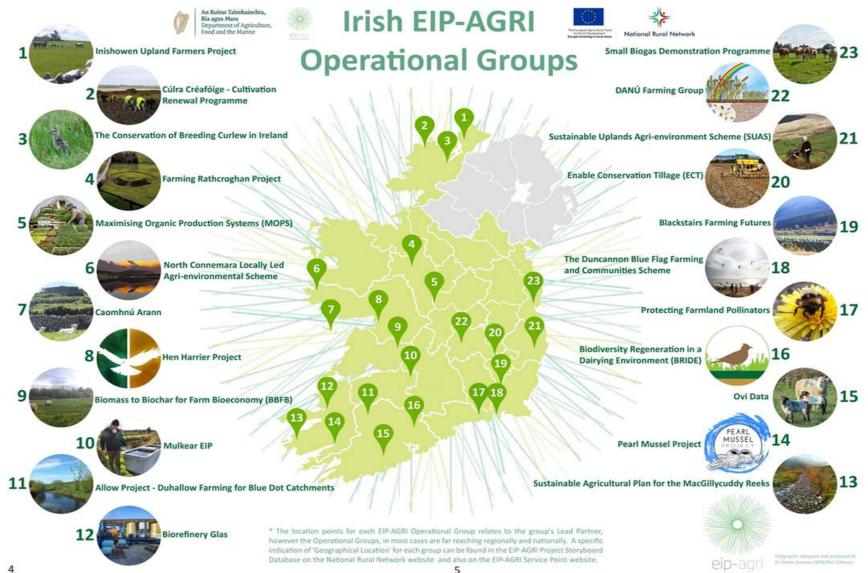
# **OG Abstracts**

### Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Group Projects



All Irish OG Abstracts have been uploaded to EU Service Point Website.

### **EIP-AGRI Operational Groups Infographic**



### **Irish EIP-AGRI Operational Groups Posters**



#### EIP-AGRI Operational Groups



A Sustainable Agricultural Plan for the MacGillycuddy Reeks Conservation and Restoration of Upland Habitat in the MacGillycuddy Reeks

#### Geographical Cocation

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Keywords	property in the line of the second second second
Project Leader	New Taillaine, South Kerry Development Partnership Collinson, Spaniere Bildes net1
Project Type	Operational lineage
Starting Date:	April 1818
End Date	April 3003
Project Status	Owing
Main Funding Source	Auro Development Programme (RDP) 2018 2020
Total Budget	475L00E

#### Project Rationale

Landowners on the MacGillycuddy Reeks face Increasingly difficult challenges in farming. Farming in this unique upland landscape, encompassing over eight thousand hectares of Natura designated, privately owned HNV farmland, is subject to economically unviable labour-intensive practices, coupled with rising pressures bought about by the largely uncontrolled and unmonitored recreational use by over 125,000 people on the Reeks annually.

#### Project Aines & Ojectives

The project aims to improve the sustainability and economic viability of farming in the MacGillycoddy Reeks through the development of practical, achievable actions and invovative solutions to address the issues facing farmers on the Reeks, and to protect the biodiversity of this unique Natura 2000 area.

D achieve thinse goals, the project will pursue the fullowing spistip objectives over a four-year print locally led agri-environmenta shorme, surgeting 1500ha of injtiand hiskitiats.

(i) Empower landowners to continue upland farming through development of sustainable agricultural management practices.
(ii) Develop, with landowners, innovative management interventions for the preservation, restoration and enhancement of upland habitation) Create positive outneach programme and to prevent further habitat damage due to increasing recreational pressures through the formation of a landowner ranger system.

(v) Improve conservation status of Annex I habitats



#### Project Activities

 Set up farmer-led collective management groups to manage the uplands in a sustainable manner.

 Develop an incentive system for improving agricultural management of upland heaths and peatlands,

 Establishing a landowner ranger system to manage recreational pressures impacting on the agricultural practices & the habitats

 Remove rhododendron and bracken scrub to enable the restoration of peatland/& grassland habitats.

 Trail definition works to manage the impact of recreational dise, installation of sediment traps & to provide aggregate for trail maintenance.
 Training events for scheme partici-

- pants.
- Schools education programme development and public outreach.



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#### Pearl Mussel Project Farming for nature in a vibrant rural economy

<b>Geographical Location</b>	a on hours and it of I word it has been beginn
Keywords	Control product continues transporters, Forthodist and Controls reprogeneers: Water reprogeneer Rectored, E Maker management
Project Leader	De Farris Couler, The Post Massel Propert IM. Secul participations, The Post Massel Propert IM.
Project Type	Operational Group
Starting Data	hrts.
End Date	803
Project Status	Departure
Main Funding Source	Aural Development Programme (AGP) 2014 2020
Total Budget	4.013002/008

#### Project Nationale

The freshwater pearl mussel is a mussel species of clean rivers that is on the verge of extinction in treland and western Europe, where populations have declined by 90% over the past century. The primary cause of this decline is related to altered and intensifying land use. The species is on the IUCN Red List, and is one of the 165 most endangered species in the world. It is listed for protected under the EU Habitats Directive. In Ineland, eight river catchments ontain 80% of the total lish freshwater pearl mussel population, and are known as the "Top eight catchments". While these rivers support the highest remaining numbers of freshwater pearl mussels in Ireland, these populations are also undergoing a slow decline, and face extinction unless action is taken.

#### Project Aims & Ojectives

The Pearl Mussel Project aims to design and implement a voluntary results-based agri-environmental scheme with farmers that will help protect the endangered freshwater pearl mussel, as well as benefiting the wider environment.

It achieves there goals, the project will pursue the followng specific objectives within eight priority fresh-water pearl wasset satchments in trebast:

(i) Protect and enhance the conditions of the freshwater pearl mussel rivers and local environment by maintaining & improving natural habitats (such as wetlands, grasslands, and bogs); (ii) Deliver an opportunity for farmers in eight priority catchments to earn an additional income from their land. Farmers will receive a score for the delivery of a defined environmental result, with higher scores being rewarded with higher payments;

(iii) Provide sustainable benefits for biodiversity and river ecosystems, while supporting a vibrant rural economy.



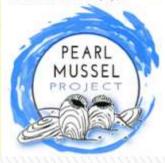
#### Project Activity

 Developing and implementing a results-based agri-environmental scheme which will financially reward farmers for delivering environmental benefits.

 Community outreach to promote environmental awareness amongst local communities in each of the project areas.

 Promoting innovative agriculture by sup porting novel approaches to land management that are relevant to the aims of the project.

 Developing market opportunities for agricultural producers that complement the project's overall environmental targets.
 Supporting research and development relevant to the aims of the project.



# Database Grou Project Operational Storyboard NRN 'One-Stop-Shop' Irish



EIP-AGRI Service Point Project Database

**NRN Operational Group Project Abstract** 

**Project Social Media** 

## **EIP-AGRI Guest Blogs**







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### **EIP-AGRI Videos**

**Featured in** Newsletters, Local Newspapers, National **Newspapers** etc.

#### THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP AND THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK

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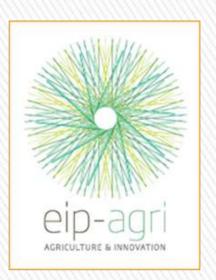
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of Ot Phase familiand Drillion: Canada Ind Characterist Cong) attracted The Her-





"The OG provides a unique opportunity of working and learning together to achieve a shared vision. Hopefully, this will leave a lasting legacy for future locally led initiatives" (OG Member, 2019)



## On behalf of Margaret Murray and Dr Maura Farrell

## Thank you for listening

# Ø

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine





Ireland's EU Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014 - 2020

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