



**NEWKD**  
NORTH, EAST AND WEST KERRY DEVELOPMENT  
FORBAIRT CHIARRÁI THUAIDH, THOIR AGUS THIAR

# NEWKD Annual Report

COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

## Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

FORBAIRT ÁITIÚIL FAOI STIÚIR AN PHOBAIL

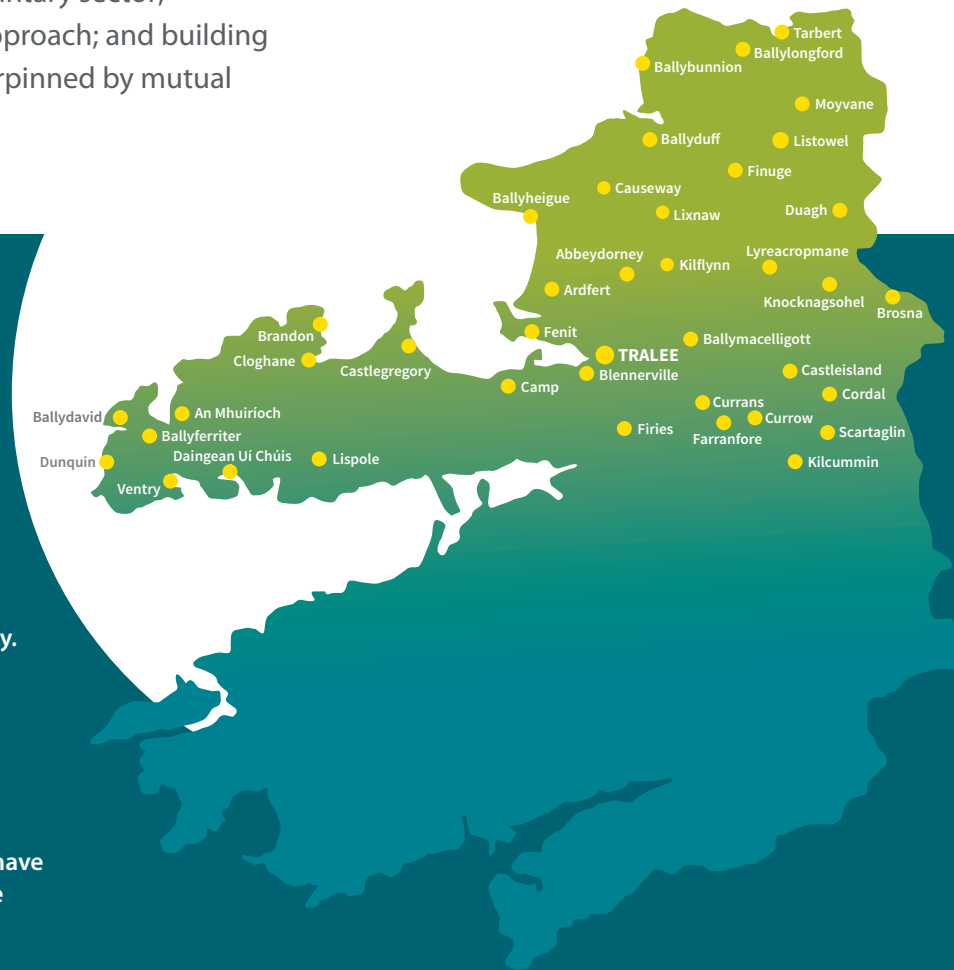
# 2023





**NORTH, EAST AND WEST KERRY DEVELOPMENT**  
**FORBAIRT CHIARRAÍ THUAIDH, THOIR AGUS THIAR**

NEWKD’s vision is an improved quality of life for all of the people in our area, by implementing our mission of developing and delivering actions based on their needs, with our core values being: serving the people; valuing the work of the community and voluntary sector; using a community development approach; and building and maintaining relationships underpinned by mutual respect, fairness and dignity.



- One of 49 local development companies throughout the country that deliver community-led local development in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.
- Not-for-profit company limited by guarantee (CLG), and a registered charity.
- Delivering social inclusion, rural and community development since our establishment in 2009 (predecessor companies since mid-1990s).
- Voluntary board and professional staff have up to 30 years’ experience and expertise responding to local needs and opportunities.
- Since 2009 has contributed €55m to the economy of our area, employing more than 300 people, at any one time.
- While largely funded by public funds, NEWKD also relies on contributions from businesses, communities, and individuals in order to more fully respond to local needs and opportunities.
- Established many projects over the years that are now self-sufficient (e.g. rural transport, volunteering, food poverty, etc.).

[www.newkd.ie](http://www.newkd.ie)

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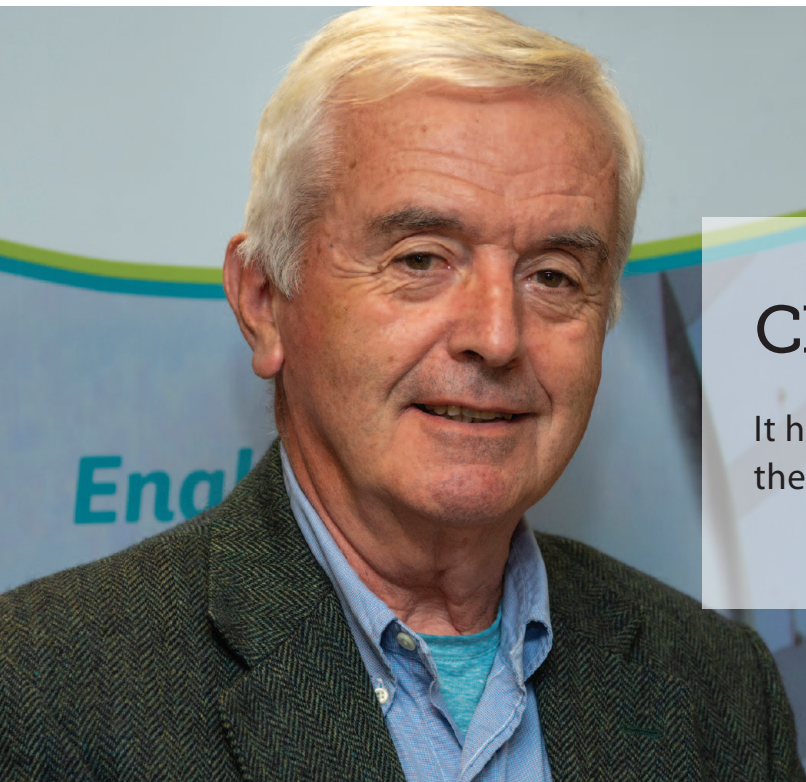
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## Programmes

	NEWKD STRATEGIC AREAS				
	ENTERPRISE & RURAL TOURISM	EMPLOYMENT	SOCIAL SUPPORTS	COMMUNITY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT	
Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	12
LEADER Rural Development Programme	✓			✓	13
Community Employment Tralee		✓		✓	14
TÚS Community Work Placement Programme		✓		✓	14
Rural Social Scheme	✓		✓	✓	15
TEAM Community Employment Scheme		✓	✓		16
Older Persons Home Maintenance Community Services Programme	✓	✓	✓		16
Sustainable Energy Communities				✓	17
Revamp Furniture Upcycling Community Services Programme	✓	✓		✓	17
Tralee Sports Hub			✓	✓	17
Home Visitation Service Programme			✓		18
Rural Food Skills Net	✓	✓			19
SEMI Project - Social Enterprise for Migrant Integration	✓	✓			19
Kingdom Trust Fund			✓	✓	19
Senior Alert Scheme		✓			20
Rural Recreation Programme	✓			✓	20
Kerry Local Area Employment Service		✓			21

## APPENDIX 1



## Chairperson Address

It has been an honour to have served on the Board and as Chair for the past year.

During that period the Executive and full NEWKD team, under the guidance the CEO, have continued to deliver a wide range of programmes to our community with the aim of building a more equitable and sustainable society. On behalf of the Board I extend our admiration and thanks for that community service.

The publication and distribution to households of the Community Newsletter will raise the profile of NEWKD and its work in the community. Even a cursory glance at the document will help people to appreciate the huge undertaking involved.

While the Executive manages the day to day affairs of the company, we are reminded that the Board cannot delegate responsibility for outcomes and consequently the adoption of the revised and updated Governance Manual will help us to meet the challenge of a constantly evolving business, social and regulatory environment.

The Governance Policy urges open communication between the Board and Executive, a strategy that was implemented in the development of the Strategic Plan and the Equality and Human Rights Policy. All sections of the NEWKD team had an input to the formulation of these policies.

The recent review of the LAACs has resulted in a reappraisal of the function, terms of reference, composition, and administrative support available to them as they carry out the vital role of providing a bridge between the Board and their local community.

At Regional and National level the Board is represented by the CEO and Chairperson who are involved in the Core Funding and Remuneration working groups respectively. The capacity of the Irish Local Development Network to carry out its core activities satisfactorily depends on adequate, i.e. increased funding being made available.

The Governance Policy recommended that “the Chairperson will ensure that there is an annual evaluation of the performance of the board and while it can be internal, it should be an external evaluation every three years”. I regret that this was not conducted this year. Mea Culpa

I wish to express my thanks to my fellow board members who contributed to the company and the area we serve. Their commitment and expertise enables the Board to “set the ethical tone for the company and its values” and this plays a central role in the ultimate success of NEWKD.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish my successor, the board, executive and all the staff continued success into the future.

*Sean Mac Carthy*

**Sean Mac Carthy**  
*Chairperson (2023/24)*



## CEO Statement

As CEO of NEWKD, it is a great privilege to report on the impressive work that has been achieved through the dedication of both volunteers and staff during 2023.

NEWKD continues to focus on helping people to help themselves, whether as individuals, families, communities or businesses, and the challenges that people in our communities face continue to evolve, but unfortunately many are persistent. While the economy has improved in recent years, some people still find it very difficult to source work appropriate to their skills, aptitudes and circumstances. Even those who have jobs are finding it more and more difficult to get housing/accommodation. Opportunities for education, training, personal development, etc., have never been more available, yet many still struggle to enhance their own lives due to a issues such as disadvantage, addiction, etc. We have welcomed many new arrivals into our area over the past number of years and it is likely that this trend will continue, so there is work to be done to ensure inclusion and integration. In response to the ever-changing needs of our communities NEWKD are developing a new strategic plan and hope to launch it in late 2024 - early 2025.

In the face of in these changes and cognisant of the absolute need for bottom-up / community-led solutions to complement government policy responses as well as private sector initiatives, a major challenge for NEWKD is the continued reduction of funding in some of our main programmes. Coupled with the additional work within our communities are the growing demands in relation to governance and compliance, which we take very seriously.

However, we commit to delivering services of the highest possible quality of services to the communities that we serve, and I say a huge thank you to all volunteers and staff for their work during 2023.

I would especially wish to pay tribute, on behalf of all our staff, to our outgoing Chairperson Sean McCarthy representing the North Kerry Local Area Advisory Council (LAAC), and outgoing Vice-Chairperson and Vice-Treasurer John O'Sullivan of the Greater Tralee LAAC, who have both served on our board since 2015. Their commitment to the organisation and the experience they brought to our discussions and decisions, have proved invaluable over that time.

Go n-eirí an t-adh libh.

*Eamonn O'Reilly*

**Eamonn O'Reilly**  
CEO

# Financial Statement

DIRECTORS REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (EXTRACT)

## Principal Activity and Review of the Business

NEWKD is managed by a voluntary board and the principal objective of the company is to promote, support, assist and engage in:

- a) Social development;
- b) Enterprise development to facilitate rural and urban regeneration; and
- c) Community development designed to benefit and promote the welfare of local communities and to deal with the causes and consequences of social and economic disadvantage or poverty.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital and has charitable status.

There were no significant additional issues our organisation had to contend with in 2023, but in response to the ever-increasing focus on governance more resources and time is being given to this area across the organisation. The directors are focused on keeping up-to-date with such requirements through ongoing discussion at board and committee levels, implementing training as appropriate, and developing comprehensive documentation and processes to cover all aspects of this area in appropriate and accessible formats.

It is also important to note that in continuing to respond to community-led local development issues faced by our areas, NEWKD board, committees, staff and volunteers demonstrate significant flexibility and innovation in responding to the needs and opportunities, especially in the manner in which we work with all our partners in the wider community-voluntary, private and statutory-public sectors.

## Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal area of risk and uncertainty is our financial situation, whereby our organisation is required to take part in wholly unnecessary competitive tendering processes for programmes that we have delivered over many years. While we have been mostly successful in recent times this creates difficulties for all involved, including the individuals, communities and businesses with whom we work through our various programmes and initiatives. It is especially so for our employees, as this unsatisfactory approach places staff positions at risk each time and has resulted in staff leaving NewKD for more predictable employment.

## Financial Results

While the financial results in these statements report that approximately €5.2m went through our accounts, our overall development activity generated additional funds through RSS and Tus (€2.4m administered by Pobal per Note 8 below) and LEADER grants (€0.6m administered by KCC), demonstrating that NEWKD directly contributed a total of almost €8.2m to the local economy.

## Future Developments

The directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the business in the near future. Funding has been secured for the foreseeable future and employees are kept as fully informed as practicable about developments within the business. However, LEADER - one of our pillar programmes - is threatened with a reduction in funding of approximately one-third, and the directors will continue to explore ways that our area does not suffer from regional disparities in support and development.

## INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	€ 2023	€ 2022
<b>INCOME</b>		
Pobal Funding	373,908	346,245
Department of the Community & Rural Development	348,100	779,607
Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection	1,648,252	1,594,765
Other Income & Funding	610,902	527,059
Kerry County Council	2,146,408	2,131,685
Department of Justice & Equality	54,570	152,110
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,182,140</b>	<b>5,531,471</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>5,011,533</b>	<b>(5,378,787)</b>
Surplus before Interest	170,607	152,684
Interest Payable and Similar Expenses	(24,551)	(13,129)
Surplus for the Financial Year	<b>146,056</b>	<b>139,555</b>

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

	€ 2023	€ 2022
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	858,323	743,009
Financial assets	100	100
	<b>858,423</b>	<b>743,109</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	532,413	336,031
Cash and cash equivalents	1,149,790	945,705
	<b>1,682,203</b>	<b>1,281,736</b>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>(1,611,017)</b>	<b>(1,256,092)</b>
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>71,186</b>	<b>25,644</b>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>926,609</b>	<b>768,753</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts falling due after more than one year	(376,801)	(362,001)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>552,808</b>	<b>406,752</b>

# Governance

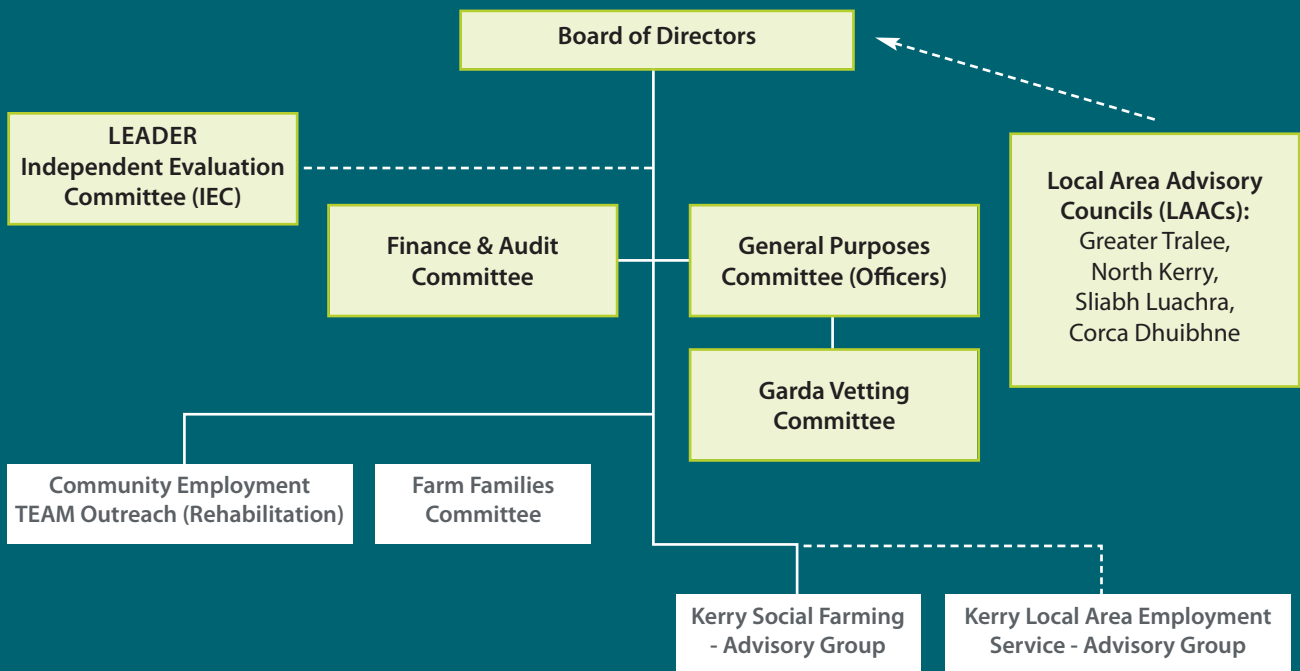
North, East and West Kerry Development (NEWKD) strives to meet the best governance standards driven by the principles of transparency, openness and accountability.

NEWKD is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The Board of Directors are the ultimate decision-making body within the organisation. The Board includes representatives from the community and voluntary sector, public representatives, social partners and statutory agencies to devise and implement solutions to social exclusion and local development needs in the North, East and West of County Kerry.

In addition to an annual independent financial audit, NEWKD is subject to internal audits by each funder. The Board have adopted the 6 Principles of the Charities Governance Code.

NEWKD is a charitable company with a registered office at Aras an Phobal, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry, NEWKD's Authorised Company Number is 454570.

NEWKD has been granted Charitable Status, Charity No. CHY 18448 and is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, RCN 20070717.







NEWKD Board of Directors 2023

## NEWKD Board of Directors

### Community and Voluntary Sector

**Sean McCarthy (Chairperson)** North Kerry Local Area Advisory Council (Listowel Area)

**Noel Lynch (Company Secretary)** North Kerry Local Area Advisory Council (Listowel Area)

**Denis Griffin** Sliabh Luachra Local Area Advisory Council (Castleisland Area)

**John O'Sullivan (Vice Chairperson)** Tralee Local Area Advisory Council

**Patrick O'Shea (Treasurer)** Corca Dhuibhne Local Area Advisory Council (Dingle Area)

**Breda Keane** Sliabh Luachra Local Area Advisory Council (Castleisland Area)

**Sean Lyons** Tralee Local Area Advisory Council

**Gearóid O'Shea** Corca Dhuibhne Local Area Advisory Council (Dingle Area)

### National Social Partners Sector

**Kenny Jones (Chairperson)** Irish Farmers Association (IFA)

**David Diggins** Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association / Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society (ICMSA/ICOS)

**Suzanna Griffin** Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU/SIPTU)

**Niamh Kelly** Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC)

### Statutory Sector

**Claire McAuliffe** Teagasc

**Kevin Fay** Kerry Education and Training Board (KETB)

**Una Moynihan** Munster Technology University (MTU)

### Local Government Sector

**Councillor Michael Kennelly** Kerry County Council - Elected Member

**Councillor Michael Sheehy** Kerry County Council - Elected Member

**Liam Quinlan** Kerry County Council - Executive

# NEWKD Staff Structure



## People Summary 2023

2023 was an exciting year for NEWKD with the introduction and development of the Human Resources (HR) function to provide support for employees and leaders alike across the organisation. The initial work was to establish how functions of HR were currently being utilised. It was certainly an extraordinarily busy year for recruitment in 2023 with 35 vacancies across 30 roles, the majority of which were within the SICAP Programme. That meant that our headcount peaked at 100 direct staff in 2023.

In 2023 the HR function undertook a number of valuable projects across NEWKD including:

- Improving the Garda vetting process,
- Introducing BambooHR, our NEWKD HR system, training delivered across the organisation.
- Our Wellbeing EAP was re-established and re-launched along with the introduction of 5 newly trained Mental Health First Aiders across the organisation.

### CASE STUDY

In 2023 the KLAES team introduced the HR Teams to a new government program titled WPEP – Work Placement Employment Programme, which aims to give a participant the opportunity to re-train and get experience in a new role, while on a work placement in a host organisation. We felt that based on our values and ethos we should take a lead as an employer in supporting this new government program.

Since the inception of the WPEP pilot, we have supported 15 individuals from diverse backgrounds, skills and cultural needs, including Irish, Polish and Ukrainian participants. Four of these have secured roles directly with NEWKD, three continue to work with NEWKD through employment schemes, and two have since found employment with other companies. These individuals have gained valuable experience across various areas, including Administration, Community Development (SICAP and Ukrainian programs), Marketing and HR.



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# NEWKD Impact 2023

**7,261**



## Individuals

*(family, parenting, education, training, employment, social supports, social farming, referrals, etc.)*

**347**



## Businesses

*(including €3.5m in past 7 years in start-up grants for tourism, services, food enterprises, rural tourism, etc.)*

**638**

## Community Groups



*in every parish in our area (including €3m grants in last community centres, recreatic all-weather, estate enhancer*

# NEWKD Programmes Delivered 2023

## Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

Administered by Pobal and funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development, it also receives funding from the European Social Fund.

SICAP addresses high and persistent levels of deprivation through targeted and innovative, locally-led approaches. It supports disadvantaged communities and individuals including unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on a low income, members of the Traveller and Roma community and other disadvantaged groups.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 717 SICAP Registered Individuals
- 58 Community and Voluntary Groups Supported
- 27 Self Employments Supports
- 12 Social Enterprises Supported

## 'Get Started' in the Kitchen - Kitchen Fundamentals

The "Get Started" in the Kitchen program, delivered by NEWKD in collaboration with MTU Kerry and Rural Food Skillnet, was a targeted initiative designed to empower Ukrainians with limited English skills to enter the workforce. Funded under the SICAP programme, this free course aimed to enhance participants' engagement in civic life, education, and employment.

Running from May 20th to 28th, the course introduced 15 participants to essential kitchen skills and the hospitality industry. The curriculum included basic vegetable cuts, sandwich making, meal production, breakfast cookery, food safety, and food waste management. By focusing on practical skills in a collaborative environment, the programme not only equipped participants for entry-level positions in restaurants and catering services but also aimed to boost their confidence and improve their language abilities through hands-on practice.

Participants gained vital knowledge about the hospitality industry and local educational pathways, developed communication and teamwork skills, and enjoyed work experience in a professional kitchen. They also earned certifications in Food Safety Level 1 (HACCP) and manual handling, further enhancing their employability. The course effectively served as a stepping stone for participants to pursue careers in the hospitality sector, supported by ongoing guidance from SICAP staff.

## LEADER (Rural Development Programme)

The aim of the LEADER Programme (2014-2022) is to improve the quality of life of the people and to diversify the rural economy of North, East and West Kerry. The measures supported under the programme include:

- Rural Tourism
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Towns and Villages
- Basic Services to Communities
- Rural Youth
- Rural Environment
- Food Initiatives

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Total investment €5,777,535

### LEADER CASE STUDY

**PROMOTER NAME:** *Farranfore Development Association*

**PROJECT NAME:** *Farranfore Transport History & Amenity Park*

*The Farranfore Community Plan which was commissioned by the Farranfore Development and published in 2013 showed a need to provide more green/amenity space within the village as well as to recognise and promote the history of transport in the area. The development of part of the site around the old water tower at the start of the Farranfore-Valentia line has helped achieve both the aims of providing a public green area as well as a location to highlight the transport history of the area.*

*The aim of the project was to develop a community space that would enhance the appearance of the village, foster local civic pride, increase visitor footfall into the village as a destination rather than merely passing through Farranfore en-route to larger centres, in particular visitors with an interest in Railway & Transport history.*

*Farranfore is the main transport hub for Kerry and has a long history of transport within the County, which is unbroken for 200 years from the horse drawn coaches of Charles Bianconi in the early 19th Century to the Ryanair jets of Michael O'Leary now in the 21st Century. This project now enables Farranfore to tell its story and celebrate its unique transport heritage which is likely to be unrivalled not only in Ireland but throughout Europe.*

*The old water tower has been renovated and forms the centrepiece of the development. The area is now a new focus point for the village by creating a multi-purpose community space for families and also attract visitors interested in Transport & its History.*



## Community Employment Tralee

CE is an employment and training programme, which helps long-term unemployed people to return to the workforce by breaking their experience of unemployment through a return to work routine. The programme assists them to enhance and develop both their technical and personal skills which can then be used in the workplace. The CE programme is sponsored by groups who want to benefit the local community, namely community and voluntary bodies involved in not-for-profit activities.

The NEWKD Community Employment scheme is based in the Tralee area and currently has approximately 25 participants filling a variety of roles such as administration, accounts, office support, reception, information provision, research, caretaking, childcare and maintenance of sporting facilities

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 25 participants
- 14 Community and Voluntary Groups supported

## Tús Community Work Placement Programme

### PROGRAMME AIM

The programme aim is to provide short term quality and suitable working opportunities for those who are unemployed and on the live register for 12+ months, while at the same time carrying out beneficial work within communities in both rural and urban areas. There are 7,500 placements nationally with NEWKD securing 120 placements for the North and East of the country. Tús is a work initiative for both rural and urban areas.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 120 participants supported to participate in labour market programmes
- 40 Community and Voluntary Groups supported

### CASE STUDY

*Joe is employed with NEWKD on the Tús Community work placement initiative here in Castleisland and has been with us for last 16 months. A skilled carpenter, he holds the position of furniture restorer with Revamp in Castleisland, and has brought his expertise and craftsmanship to the project contributing to many restored items donated to the project. Joe has a 'great flair' for carpentry, a unique approach to design, a strong attention to detail, and ability to create aesthetically pleasing and functional woodwork.*

*An example of Joe's creativity and skill as a carpenter was to repurpose old broken furniture into a sweet cart giving new life to materials that would otherwise be thrown away. The sweet cart is a charming, functional addition to any setting, whether it's for a community event, a market, or as part of a local initiative. Joe brings a positive, enthusiastic attitude to his work and is a pleasure to work with!*

## Rural Social Scheme

### PROGRAMME AIM

To provide income support for farmers and fishermen in Ireland who are receipt of long-term social welfare payments. In return, those participating in the scheme will provide certain services that benefit rural communities including

- Maintaining and enhancing various walking routes (that is, way marked ways, agreed walks) and bog roads.
- Energy conservation work for older people and those at risk of poverty
- Villages and countryside enhancement projects
- Social care and care of older people, community care for both preschool and after school groups
- Environmental maintenance work: maintenance and care taking of community and sporting facilities
- Projects relating to not-for-profit cultural and heritage centres
- Community administration or clerical work

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 95 individuals supported
- 70 Community and Voluntary Groups supported

### CASE STUDY

*Situated close to the Kerry, Limerick and Cork borders, the village of Brosna has a strong sense of community spirit. It is a very picturesque village with views of Mount Eagle to the forefront, and has a population of 174 people according to Census 2022. The RSS team has been aiding Brosna Village in its upkeep since its inception in 2004, and currently there are participants under the supervision of Kay O'Connor, assisting 3 community groups maintain the village.*

*'Without the consistent input of the Rural Social Scheme participants in the village it could not be upheld to current standards'; according to James McAuliffe Chairman of Brosna Le Chéile Tidy Towns, which is a very active group. In the 2024 Tidy Towns Competition it successfully increased its score by 11 points, which was a major achievement for a small village: 'The increase in the Tidy Towns result this year is down to the hard work of the RSS team, for which we are very grateful' relayed James McAuliffe.*

*The work is carried out for the most part by two RSS members, Richard O'Connor with us since RSS commenced in 2004 and Liam Fitzmaurice who joined in 2017, and is carried out to a very high standard and both men have a sense of pride in their work, which includes, cleaning, skirting and brushing the Main Street, the Square, the back roads, and the Picnic Area on the road to Patsy's Cross it has a lovely seating area adjacent to the small River Clydagh.*

*Liam Downey joined the team in 2017 and divides his time between this group and the other two community groups operating in the village. Other area they look after include the Handball Alley, the Bottle Bank recycling area, flower beds and boxes. Brosna Old Graveyard is a gem in the Village Square and the team carry out general maintenance, including strimming and weeding.*

*St. Moling's Holy Well, path and garden are also looked after; this is a quiet, serene, seated area with a lovely fish pond. The pathway leading to St. Moling's Holy Well is dedicated to a previous committee member and advocate of the Rural Social Scheme, Josie McCreesh RIP, who devoted many years of her life ensuring Brosna Village Heritage and The Rambling House and its museum were preserved to educate future generations on how difficult life was in the area in past times.*

*Brosna GAA pitches are maintained by Liam Lane and James Casey, who are on the scheme since 2013 and 2010. The pitch is renowned in GAA circles for its upkeep and maintenance, and with matches held there most weeks of the year, its playability throughout the year is down to consistent maintenance. Liam Lane takes great pride in cutting and lining both pitches, strimming and general maintenance.*

*Marie Cronin joined the Castleisland Rural Social Scheme team in July of this year and maintains Brosna Parish Hall to a very high standard, and the committee is very happy with the standard and quality of the work carried out by Marie. The Parish Hall is a hive of activity; it is the hub of the village, with traditional music, indoor soccer, Pilates, tea dances, ceílís, concerts by various artists and drama societies.*

## TEAM Community Employment Scheme

The TEAM Project gives people who are in recovery from addiction a safe space to find out what they want to do next. Often people in addiction have chaos in their lives. TEAM is a calm environment in which every person is nurtured while they grow roots to anchor themselves in life.

The aims of the scheme are individualised depending on the future goals of the participant. The main aim is to improve the participants' life by:

- Encouraging health and well-being
- Supplying access to training and education
- Sourcing relevant work placements and work experience
- Supporting progression to further education and/or employment

The group participants are referred to by HSE, Coolmine and The Grove. Each participant has an individual learning plan to aid them on their recovery journey and lead them to further education, training, employment and community participation.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 32 total participants
- 12 participants have exited the scheme
- 9 into employment, 3 into other training programmes
- 53 training and education programmes completed

## Older Persons Home Maintenance Community Services Programme

NEWKD/North Kerry Home Maintenance Service employs a maintenance team to provide a low cost maintenance and minor repair service in the North Kerry area. Our team of workers are:

- Based in designated areas of North Kerry. This ensures that all workers are locally known and trusted by the community
- Trained in Manual Handling, First Aid, Health & Safety and Chemical & Outdoor Maintenance Training and are Trained First Responders also
- Garda vetted
- Friendly, trustworthy, reliable and offer a confidential service
- Informed of other services in the area to signpost clients when necessary

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1,000 individual home maintenance support services provided





## Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)

The Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) programme is a nationwide initiative which aims to support Ireland's transition to a more energy efficient, sustainable future. NEWKD in partnership with Ballyhoura Development supports communities across the North Kerry area to participate in the sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Network, a network of almost 600 groups working to improve their communities.

A sustainable Energy Community is any group of people who come together to improve how energy is used for the benefit of their community. They look at how we can use energy in a sustainable, holistic way. A SEC can include a range of different energy users in the community such as homeowners, sports clubs, community centres, local businesses and churches. In this way, a SEC connects sustainable energy, local economic development and public wellbeing. Communities are provided with mentoring and technical support at every stage, so there is no need for communities to have any prior energy knowledge or experience.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 15 Energy Community Groups supported
- 2 Energy Master Plans (EMP's) completed
- 6 Energy Awareness Events Organised/Contributed To (420 Individuals Engaged)

## Revamp Furniture Upcycling Community Services Programme

Established in 2010, newly located in our Castleisland Office (former Bank in Main St, Castleisland). Revamp both a circular economy intervention and integrated employment social enterprise. Revamp's goal is to create a Kerry brand that is recognised as a leading provider of furniture recycling. To achieve this goal we deliver our services to the highest quality service standard. We work hard to provide a quality service to households and partners including Kerry County Council to recycle unwanted bulky waste rather than send it to the landfill. Our showroom is open Monday to Friday where you will receive a warm welcome from our staff, we believe if you are a happy customer, you will be a loyal customer and will talk about your positive experience with us. We know that offering you the best service in the business is good business. We know that our success depends on your satisfaction. We care about the environment and push towards a greener service.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1900 individuals supported
- 10 Community and Voluntary groups supported

## Tralee Sports Hub

Tralee Sports Hub is an initiative of a partnership between NEWKD, Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership and Sports Ireland. Based at Rahonanne Community Centre, the Sports Hub is delivered on an outreach basis.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 33 community initiatives delivered
- Types of initiatives:
  - HomeWork Club
  - Women Empowerment Fitness Class
  - Bounce Fitness
  - Movement through Yoga
  - Healthy Food Made Easy
  - Bike workshops, Safety and Learning to Cycle
  - Childrens Activity Programmes
  - Social International Soccer
- 168 adults participated
- 169 young people participated

## Home Visitation Service Programme

Set up 2021 in response to the need identified by the Rural Social Scheme and the HSE to provide free social visiting service for people over 60 years in the North Kerry Area in particular Moyvane, Listowel, Ballydonoghue, Duagh, Causeway, Ballyduff, Tarbert, Ballybunion, Asdee, Ballylongford.

NEWKD/RSS offers once a week visitation for social purposes, to support an older person and to link them to other existing community services in the area. It is to give the older person time to chat and have contact with dedicated pair of RSS/volunteers who are there to listen and engage with them on regular basis.

### HOME VISITATION UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2023

#### Number of people availing of the HV Service:

On average we visit fifteen people every Tuesday. Although our average has not increased from 2022 figures, our service user base is ever changing with the loss of some existing clients and the addition of new clients. We now cover the following areas: Listowel, Duagh, Finuge, Lixnaw, Causeway, Tarbert, Ballyduff, Kilflynn and Ballybunion (MOW).

#### Number of Volunteers/RSS Participants engaged:

At present we have three volunteers helping to deliver the service along with three RSS participants directly involved with the Home Visitation Service. There are also two RSS participants involved with the Meals On Wheels service.

Home Visitation Service  
booklet produced in association  
with NEWKD



## Rural Food Skillnet

Rural Food Skillnet supports the growth of Ireland's food and hospitality sector, by enhancing specialised skills and knowledge, broadening access to skills development opportunities and encouraging ongoing professional development.

We focus primarily on supporting those in employment within the sector. To meet the needs of member companies, we also offer a number of fully-funded programmes for jobseekers, subject to eligibility criteria.

The benefits of your company joining Rural Food Skillnet:

- Assist businesses to identify and address their skills needs
- Information regarding successful approaches to learning and talent development
- Flexible training programmes tailored to the needs of the sector
- Access to a network of businesses within the sector
- Conferences, seminars, and other informal learning and networking events

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 115 businesses supported
- 460 individuals who undertook employment based training

## SEMI Project - Social Enterprise for Migrant Integration

The SEMI Project is a programme that helps migrants, especially refugees and asylum seekers, get to know their local community, and which allows the local community to get to know them. It includes:

- Flexible work experience placements with community based social enterprises
- Personal development skills training
- Employment skills mentoring

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 50 Individuals supported
- 10 training initiatives delivered

## Kingdom Trust Fund

The Kingdom Education Trust Fund is delivered by NEWKD to support access to third and further level education. The fund is allocated in the form of scholarships to students who may not be in a position to continue their education because of financial difficulties. An application process applies annually.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 25 students received funding support to continue in their third and further level education

## Senior Alert Scheme

The Seniors Alert Scheme is to enable older persons to continue to live securely in their homes with confidence, independence and peace of mind by providing them with a free personal monitored alarm. People over 65 get a free personal alarm or pendant. The alarm can be worn as a pendant or around the wrist like a watch. When pressed it connects wirelessly to a base unit, usually attached to a phone. The base unit immediately sends a call to a 24 hour monitoring centre.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 900 Individual alarms fitted to date

*"Having the Seniors Alert Alarm gives me great piece of mind. I know that if I have a fall or need help with anything, assistance is just a press of a button away."*

**Mary Enright, Listowel**

*"Sometimes older people can feel vulnerable or isolated particularly if they are living alone. We've found that the Seniors Alert Scheme gives them great reassurance and comfort. It helps them to feel protected and secure."*

**Dympna O'Carroll, NEWKD**

## Rural Recreation Programme - Rural Walks Scheme

NEWKD's Rural Recreation Programme works with a broad range of stakeholders - especially local trail committees, to support the development, enhancement and maintenance of outdoor recreation infrastructure in North, East & West Kerry, and be responsible for the management and administration of the Walks Scheme in the area, including conducting trail inspections.

This involves the preparation and monitoring of a trail management plan, particularly in relation to the Walks Scheme, and the coordination of trail maintenance with the local landowners, contractors, Rural Social Scheme Supervisors and Participants, the Local Authority and Trail Management Committees, with due regard for environmental considerations.

### THE PROGRAMME ALSO HAS A ROLE IN:

- protecting the natural and heritage environment of the trail and its locality
- liaising with landowners, trail users and other stakeholders such as: Sports Trails Ireland, Coillte, Fáilte Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Kerry County Council and Inland Fisheries Ireland
- assisting with Trail Marketing and Promotion.

Kerry County Council in partnership with SKDP and NEWKD and with the support of the Department of Rural and Community Development's 'Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme' have developed the Kerry Trails Map available on [www.kerrycoco.ie/tourism/kerry-trails-map/](http://www.kerrycoco.ie/tourism/kerry-trails-map/)

It includes over 130 trails and walks located throughout the county with essential information such as location, length, difficulty, duration, GPS co-ordinates, directions to the trailhead/parking areas, etc. It can be downloaded for use off-line or can be used in the Google Maps app, and offers a 3D view of trails to enhance the user experience.

To find out more please contact: Joanna Jankowska, Rural Recreation Officer

Email: [joannajankowska@newkd.ie](mailto:joannajankowska@newkd.ie)

Tel: 066 7180190

## Kerry Local Area Employment Service

In 2023, Kerry Local Area Employment Service continued its mission to support long term unemployed individuals in the County Kerry region in securing sustainable employment, enhancing skills, and improving overall economic mobility. Through a combination of training programs, job placement services, and tailored supports KLAES has made strides in addressing local unemployment challenges and creating meaningful pathways to employment.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Over 1,000 individuals supported** through 1 to 1 monthly activation meetings and progression plans with a dedicated Employment Officer over a 12-month period.
- **Job Placements in full-time or part-time jobs** in a variety of sectors.
- **Self-Employment opportunities** explored, development and established.
- **Enhanced partnerships with local employers**, resulting in over 500 new job opportunities.
- **Wrap around service** in collaboration other partnership programmes, e.g. SICAP programme and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) programme offering additional training and supports to clients, e.g. Safepass, First Aid and Manual Handling certification.
- **Employment Support and Job Placements**  
Kerry LAES prides itself on building and maintaining strong relationships with local businesses to ensure that employment opportunities align with the skills and aspirations of job seekers. In 2023, there was a focus on expanding the network of employers engaged with KLAES, resulting in more job placements and training opportunities. KLAES achieved success in placing individuals into meaningful employment. This was accomplished through a combination of:
  - **One-on-one Adult Guidance:** Personalised support to help individuals identify career paths, polish CVs, and prepare for interviews.
  - **Employer Engagement:** Information Support on Employment Initiatives, e.g. Jobs Plus and Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP) and Free Vacancy Advertising for Local Employers.
  - **Job Fairs and Networking Events:** Collaborative efforts with local employers to offer real-time job opportunities.
  - **Job Placement Services:** A matching process that connects job seekers with employers in sectors such as hospitality, retail, healthcare, and construction.
  - **Free Advertising of Vacancies:** Free advertising of vacancies in our weekly jobs newsletter which has over 3,000 subscribers and NEWKD Employment Supports Facebook page (over 12,000 followers).

### LOOKING AHEAD: 2024 AND BEYOND

As we move into 2024, Kerry LAES is committed to building on its successes and continuing to address the evolving needs of the local workforce. Key priorities for the upcoming year include:

- Expanding upskilling programmes to meet the growing demand for skills in all sectors.
- Strengthening partnerships with local businesses to further enhance job creation.
- Continuing to adapt services based on employer needs and the changing landscape of work in Kerry.

### CONCLUSION

The success of Kerry Local Area Employment Service in 2023 underscores the importance of community-driven initiatives that prioritise sustainable employment, skills development, and inclusivity. By working collaboratively with job seekers, employers, and stakeholders, KLAES has contributed significantly to improving the employment prospects of individuals across the county.

## APPENDIX 1 | NEWKD STAFF, PROGRAMME &amp; UNIT DETAILS

PROGRAMME	JOB ROLE	NAME	AREA	TEL.	EMAIL
	Chief Executive Officer	Eamonn O'Reilly	All NEWKD area	066 7180190	eamonnoreilly@newkd.ie
	Financial Administrator	Sheila Evans	All NEWKD area	066 7180190	sheilaevens@newkd.ie
	Human Resource Manager	Sean O'Connell	All NEWKD area	066 7180190	seanconnell@newkd.ie
	Operations Manager	Patricia Dowling	All NEWKD area	066 7180190	trishadowling@newkd.ie
<b>Rural Development Programme</b>	Manager	Sean Linnane	All NEWKD area	066 7142576	seanlinnane@newkd.ie
	Officer	Mary Stack	Listowel	068 23429	marystack@newkd.ie
	Officer	John Loughrey	Tralee/Dingle	066 7180190	johnloughrey@newkd.ie
<b>Rural Walks Programme</b>	Rural Recreation Officer	Joanna Jankowska	All NEWKD area	066 7180190	joannajankowska@newkd.ie
<b>Tus Community Work Programme</b>	Co-ordinating Supervisor	Michael Crean	All NEWKD area	066 7180190	mikecrean@newkd.ie
	Supervisor	Tina Moriarty	Tralee	066 7180190	tinamoriarty@newkd.ie
	Supervisor	Helena Houlihan	Listowel	068 23429	helenahoulihan@newkd.ie
	Supervisor	Emma Edwards	Castleisland	066 7142576	emmaedwards@newkd.ie
	Supervisor	Steve Moore	Tralee	066 7180190	stevemoore@newkd.ie
<b>Rural Social Scheme</b>	Supervisor	Aine Stack	Tralee	066 7180190	ainestack@newkd.ie
	Supervisor	Geraldine Kelly	Listowel	068 23429	geraldinekelly@newkd.ie
	Supervisor	Anita Bodenham	Listowel	068 23429	anitabodenham@newkd.ie
	Supervisor	Joanne O'Sullivan	Castleisland	066 7142576	joanneosullivan@newkd.ie
	Supervisor	Kay Daly	Castleisland	066 7142576	kayoconnor@newkd.ie
<b>Senior Alert Scheme</b>	Administrator	Helen Canty	Listowel	068 23429	receptionlistowel@newkd.ie
<b>Community Employment Tralee</b>	CE Supervisor	Claire O'Mahony	Tralee	066 7180190	claireomahony@newkd.ie
<b>Team Community Employment</b>	CE Supervisor	Nola Hellstrom	Tralee	066 7180190	nolahellstrom@newkd.ie
	CE Supervisor	Joanne Reilly	Tralee	066 7180190	joannereilly@newkd.ie
<b>Older Persons Home Maintenance Community Services Programme</b>	Home Maintenance Manager	Diana McCarthy	Listowel	068 23429	dianamccarthy@newkd.ie
<b>Revamp Furniture Upcycling Community Services Programme</b>	Revamp Manager	Marie Keane	Castleisland	066 7142576	mariekeane@newkd.ie
<b>Home Visitation Service and Sustainable Energy Communities</b>	Co-ordinator	Ed O'Connor	All NEWKD area	068 23429	edoconnor@newkd.ie
<b>Social Enterprise for Migrant Integration</b>	Development Worker	Pat O'Donovan	Tralee	066 7180190	patodonovan@newkd.ie
	Development Worker	Magdalena Krupka	Tralee	066 7180190	magdalenakrupka@newkd.ie
<b>Kerry Local Area Employment Service</b>	Manager	Elaine McKenna	All NEWKD area	068 23429	elainemckenna@newkd.ie
<b>Rural Food Skillnet</b>	Manager	John Moriarty	Tralee	066 7180190	info@ruralfoodskillnet.com

PROGRAMME	JOB ROLE	NAME	AREA	TEL.	EMAIL
<b>Social inclusion and Community Activation Programme</b>	Manager	Robert Carey	All NEWKD area	068 23429	robertcarey@newkd.ie
	Estate Management/ Social Enterprise Office	Dave Fitzgibbon	Listowel	068 23429	davefitzgibbon@newkd.ie
	Community Development Worker	Pamela Dillane	Tralee	066 7180190	pameladillane@newkd.ie
	Equality/Employment Officer	Dee Keogh	Listowel	068 23429	deekeogh@newkd.ie
	Youth Projects & Employment for Under 25s	Jennifer O'Sullivan Coffey Louise Lyons	Castleisland Listowel	066 7142576 068 23429	jennifersullivan@newkd.ie louiselyons@newkd.ie
	Enterprise Officer	Eibhlis Hanrahan	Listowel/Tralee	068 23429	eibhlishanrahan@newkd.ie
	Community Development Worker	Ger Brosnan	Rahoonane	066 7185248	gerbrosnan@newkd.ie
	Social Enterprise Officer	Elaine Kennedy	Castleisland	066 7142576	elainekennedy@newkd.ie
	Community Development Worker	Zaid Kassoob	Tralee	066 7180190	zaidkassoob@newkd.ie
	Community Development Worker	Natalia Krasnenkova	Dingle	066 1742788	nataliakrasnenkova@newkd.ie
	Community Development Worker	Magda Krupka	Tralee	066 7180190	magdalenakrupka@newkd.ie
	Community Development Worker	Olha Maryntseva	Tralee	066 7180190	olyamaryntseva@newkd.ie
	Community Development Worker	Oksana Tabalyuk	Tralee	066 7142788	oksanatabalyuk@newkd.ie
	Community Engagement Manager	Daniel O'Shea	All NEWKD area	066 7180190	danieloshea@newkd.ie
<b>Tralee Sports Hub</b>	Co-ordinator	Ray Lally	Tralee	066 7180190	sportshub@newkd.ie
<b>Kingdom Trust Fund</b>	Family/Education Supports	Pamela Dillane	Tralee	066 7180190	pameladillane@newkd.ie
<b>Social Farming Programme</b>	Development Officer	Rena Blake	All NEWKD area	068 23429	renablake@newkd.ie
<b>Rahonnane Community Centre</b>	Centre Administrator	Mary Cahill	Tralee	066 7185248	marycahill@newkd.ie





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