

LEADER

Community-Led Local Development



National Rural Network

LEADER 2014-2020 (EXTENDED TO 2022) NRN CASE STUDY

Provision of Sound Equipment - Ankara Festival

Summary

The Ankara Festival is a unique annual cultural event promoting diversity and social inclusion among the Nigerian community in County Clare. The colourful Ankara fabric, commonly worn in Nigeria, gives the festival its name and represents the country's diverse cultural heritage. Organised by the Association of Nigerian Community in Clare (ANCC), the Ankara Festival brings the local Nigerian and wider community together to celebrate, showcase and preserve Nigerian culture, cultural values and heritage. In 2017, the ANCC successfully gained LEADER support to purchase their own sound equipment for use at this festival, as well as at other ANCC and community events.

Context

The ANCC is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation which aims to promote Nigerian culture, cultural values and heritage and also strives to bridge the gap between themselves and other ethnic groups in the community. The organisation was set up in 2006, with just 15 members, and this has since grown to over 100 members.

As a means of encouraging and promoting Nigerian culture and integration, the ANCC develop and promote events throughout the year. They have four main events, with the Ankara Festival being the showpiece event for the ANCC. The Ankara Festival is a celebration of cultural values and

Project name: Provision of Sound Equipment - Ankara Festival

Date: 2017-2018

Local Action Group: Clare Local Development Company

Implementing Partner: Clare Local Development Company

Type of Beneficiary: Non-profit, non-governmental organisation

Priority & Focus Area: Theme 2: Social Inclusion / Subtheme: Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities

Project Beneficiary Name/Organisation: Association of Nigerian Community in Clare (ANCC)

Address: Ennis, Co. Clare

Further information:

[ANCC | Website](#)



Examples of the Ankara Fabric – Source: ANCC

the name is derived from a fabric in Nigeria called Ankara fabric which is the most commonly worn fabric by all ethnic groups in Nigeria. This name was chosen because it is indigenous, cultural, and does not segregate one culture from the other. It breaks down the barriers between Nigerian multi-ethnic groups. On the day of the festival, Nigerian culture is promoted through food, music, dance, and fashion.

The Ankara Festival had been growing in popularity year on year and the task of getting sound equipment for this festival and other events on the ANCC calendar was proving difficult. There were no businesses renting in the area and sound equipment generally can be very costly.

In 2017, the ANCC lodged an application and successfully gained LEADER funding to support the purchase of sound equipment which would ensure the sustainability of the festival and of other ANCC events. As well as utilising the sound equipment themselves, the ANCC share it with other groups within the community at an affordable price which benefits the whole community rather than just the ANCC.

Objectives

- To alleviate the problem of accessing affordable sound equipment for the ANCC and other groups within the community

Activities

The ANCC was first introduced to the Clare Local Development Company (CLDC) through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). It was the SICAP development officer who referred the ANCC to the LEADER programme for capital support and development planning for the organisation. They approached CLDC with this project idea and the CLDC helped to guide them through the application process, regularly giving feedback at different stages.

"The Ankara Festival is an important event to highlight the culture of the Nigerian community in Clare. The addition of high quality sound equipment will ensure the success of not only this event but a number of other events that promote social inclusion in Clare. The LEADER application process grew the promoters' capacity to look strategically into the future needs of their organisation and plan accordingly" *Agnes Shaughnessy, Development Officer CLDC*

As part of this process, the project needed to be economically viable, and not just for the ANCC but also to other groups within the community. In preparing the LEADER proposal, the President of the ANCC, Abu Ladigbolu, approached the leaders of other community groups to see if they would be interested in participating in the project. These community groups responded by providing a letter of support stating their willingness to be part of the project and affirming that it would be of benefit to them.

The ANCC submitted their application to CLDC and received 75% of the funding. The remaining 25% was obtained from a small amount of SICAP funding. Clann Credo also provided a loan to bridge the financing of the project.

Results

This project supported the purchase of a number of sound equipment items including an audio mixer, 4 speaker boxes, 6 subwoofers, 4 monitors, drum mics, 12 F50 mics and 15 mic stands. This equipment, purchased through LEADER



The Ankara Festival in full swing – Source: ANCC

and some other smaller funds, has supported the ANCC to enhance the experience of those attending the Ankara Festival and has increased the scale of the event. The sound equipment has made the festival easier to run, more professional and more economical.

"This has taken us to another level. We are more professional now and the sound effects of the music that people play have really been brought to life" Abu Ladigbolu, ANCC

This project has not only benefitted the ANCC and their events, but it has also benefitted other groups within the community and helped fill the void of a lack of availability of moderately priced sound equipment in Ennis. The ANCC sometimes charge a fee to external groups depending on what they need, but this is generally to help cover the insurance costs. This project, therefore, has increased integration between the different community groups, in line with the aims and objectives of the ANCC.



New sound equipment in use at the Ankara Festival – Source: ANCC

Lessons

Enhanced integration between community groups

By involving other community groups in the application process and giving them access to the sound equipment, this has helped to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between all the local community groups.

"Even though the equipment belongs to the ANCC, we couldn't have done it without the other community groups, so you see them as a member of your group rather than an outsider" Abu Ladigbolu, ANCC

Application process

The application process is a long process that requires a number of different elements such as a statement of accounts, clearance certificates, and launching a tender process. Therefore, the project is not something that can be rushed through, and requires care and attention.

"The most challenging and daunting aspect is the length of time it takes. It's not a project that you can just rush through and finish within a week or so. You have to be patient, you have to be in a position to do it because there are a lot of requirements" Abu Ladigbolu, ANCC

Funding

Total project budget (i)+(ii)+(iii) =	€9,157.35
+ (i) Rural Development Programme support (a)+(b)	€6,860.00
+ (a) EAFRD (EU) contribution	€4,308.08
+ (b) National / Regional contribution	€2,551.92
+ (ii) Private / Own funds	
+ (iii) Other funding sources	€1,797.35 (Clann Credo) € 500.00 (SICAP)

Contact details

Project beneficiary name	Association of Nigerian Community in Clare (ANCC)
Contact person	Abu Ladigbolu
Email	http://ancc.ie/contact.html
Address of beneficiary or implementing body	Ennis, Co.Clare