**Local Diaspora Engagement Fund**

**Applications for Funding 2016**

Applications are now being invited for funding for local diaspora engagement projects and initiatives under the Local Diaspora Engagement Fund from local and community groups and organisations based in Ireland.

**Purpose of funding**

The purpose of the funding is to promote diaspora engagement at a county, local and community level. This is in line with the objectives of *Global Irish: Ireland’s Diaspora Policy* which was published in March, 2015 and acknowledges the importance of a sense of place to the members of the Irish diaspora and the potential for communities and counties in Ireland to reach out to their own diaspora and build relationships for mutual benefit. The aim is to provide support to local and community projects and initiatives that are focused on developing strong diaspora links within the community. A copy of the policy is available at <https://www.dfa.ie/news-and-media/publications/publicationarchive/2015/february/global-irish/>

Priority will be given to projects which fall under the following categories:

1. Culture and Heritage
2. Genealogy
3. Communications
4. Building Networks

**Qualification and evaluation criteria**

In order to qualify for consideration, applicants will have to confirm compliance with the conditions of the scheme as to funding and timescale for delivery. The evaluation criteria will include:

* the quality and relevance of the proposal;
* the likely impact of the project relative to the size of the grant sought;
* the nature of the activities planned.

**Budget and grants available:**

**There is a total of €350,000 available under this grant scheme. The maximum amount of an individual grant to be awarded to a project is €20,000 and no more than 75% of the overall cost of any project will be funded.**

**Application process**

The Local Diaspora Toolkit <http://www.merrionstreet.ie/en/News-Room/Releases/Minister_for_Diaspora_Affairs_Launches_Local_Diaspora_Toolkit.html>

may be a useful resource for applicants wishing to devise diaspora engagement projects.

The closing date for funding applications is **12 noon on Tuesday, 1 March** **2016**

Please return your completed application via email to [localdiasporafund@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:localdiasporafund@taoiseach.gov.ie).

Alternatively, if you would like to return this via post, please send your application to: Peter McHugh, Department of the Taoiseach, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2.

You can also contact us via [localdiasporafund@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:localdiasporafund@taoiseach.gov.ie) if you have any queries.

Funding decisions will be made in late April – early May and applicants will be notified accordingly.

**Department of the Taoiseach**

**27 January, 2016**

**Local Diaspora Engagement Fund 2016**

**Application Form**

*\*\* Please note: Applicants may alter the formatting of this form as necessary \*\**

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| 1. **Contact and project details** 2. Name of Organisation: 3. Title of Project:  Please indicate which category your diaspora engagement project comes under: 4. Culture and Heritage  5. Genealogy  6. Communications  7. Building Networks       1. Address of Organisation: 2. Website: 3. Funding requested: 4. Overall cost of the project and the elements to be covered from the Local Diaspora Activation Fund: 5. Project Manager name, position, email and telephone number: |
| 1. **Your Organisation** 2. Please provide information about your organisation, including its aims, membership, and governance. 3. Has your organisation previously organised an event or project related to diaspora engagement? 4. Did you receive funding under the 2015 Local Diaspora Engagement Fund? |
| 1. **Project Implementation** 2. Please describe the proposed project in **no more than 500 words**, to include: 3. **Project type/purpose and relevant information** (For publication or website-based projects, please give relevant titles and web address and circulation statistics. For event-based projects, please state venue, indicative date and anticipated attendance). 4. **Who the project is aimed at/target audience** 5. **The timetable for the project** 6. **Promotional plans** 7. **The goals and envisaged outcomes of the project and how achievement will be measured/demonstrated** 8. **How the project meets the criteria for funding** 9. **Other information which you consider relevant** (more extensive information can be attached if required). |
| 1. **Financial information** 2. How much funding is being sought from the Local Diaspora Engagement Fund? **The maximum grant available is €20,000 and no more than 75% of the overall cost of the project will be funded.** 3. Indicate total cost of the project and other sources of funding, where applicable[[1]](#footnote-1). 4. Itemise all costs for the proposed project. **Note that additional documentation may be sought by the Department of the Taoiseach.** |
| 1. **Declaration**   **I hereby declare that the particulars given in this application are correct.**  **I have read the attached terms and conditions of the scheme, and confirm that the proposal complies with the conditions of the scheme as to funding and timescale for delivery.**  Signature:  Name (in block capitals):  Date: |

**2016**

**Standard terms and conditions**

1. The grant should only be used in support of the project as set out in the funding application. Any proposed substantial amendment to the programme or to its timing should be notified in advance to the Department of the Taoiseach and agreed in writing.
2. Financial support is given on the understanding that the grant is properly administered, that activities funded under the budget shall be recorded fully and accurately and that funds shall be assigned to the project only by persons whom you have empowered to do so.
3. As the Department cannot fund projects retrospectively, the work to be funded must begin after the Department’s offer is accepted. As the Department cannot roll over funding from one year to the next, all projects must be completed by **30 November, 2016**.
4. The Department does not specify the number of projects to be funded or the individual grant amounts. The maximum amount of an individual grant to be awarded to a project is €20,000 and no more than 75% of the overall cost of any project will be funded.
5. The assistance of the Local Diaspora Engagement Fund must be acknowledged in all publicity relating to the project.

**Reporting requirements**

1. Grantees are required to submit a concise report to the Department of the Taoiseach, **not later than one month after completion of the project**, describing the activities undertaken. For any project which concludes late in the year, an interim report may be submitted not later than **30 November, 2016**, followed by the final report within one month of completion of the project.
2. The report should include the following:

* Description of the activity/event undertaken and the extent to which planned outcomes were achieved;
* An assessment of the impact of the activity/event on developing local/community level connections with diaspora members;
* any other information which you consider relevant or feedback on the scheme generally.

1. For event-based projects, digital links and media files (pictures, video, website links etc) should be provided for use on the Department’s website or for other publicity purposes.

**Payment arrangements**

1. For any grant up to and including €5,000 the full amount will be paid up-front. For larger grants, 75% will be paid up-front with the balance payable upon submission of the final report. **All claims for payment must be made not later than 30 November 2016. It will not be possible to make payments for any claims submitted after that date.**
2. Any part of the grant paid which has not been spent must be refunded to the Department of the Taoiseach **within one month of completion of the project**. The Department reserves the right to charge interest, at ECB base rate, on any outstanding monies from the date of project completion.

**Accounting requirements**

1. Grantees are required to submit a financial statement detailing all expenditure and originals of all invoices, vouchers and supporting documentation, to the Department of the Taoiseach, **not later than three months after completion of the project**.

**Department of the Taoiseach**

**27 January, 2016**

1. *Projects which are approved for funding in 2016 under the Emigrant Support Programme which is administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will not be eligible to receive funding under this grant scheme - the Local Diaspora Engagement Fund.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)