

Overview of Recommendations

1

Delivering on the Roadmap for Social Inclusion

- **Strengthen SICAP**
Invest an additional €6.1m to begin the work of restoring SICAP's real value and to ensure it can respond to rising and more complex community needs.
- **Provide certainty for integration supports**
Embed New Arrivals funding of €10m in SICAP to support sustained, community-led integration.
- **Base wider Sláintecare Healthy Communities rollout on a strengthened implementation and funding model**
Review funding and delivery model, and ensure sustainable delivery by addressing funding gaps, administration costs, and staffing issues.
- **Adopt a more integrated approach to social inclusion**
Deepen cross-government partnerships with LDCs to enable place-based, joined-up responses to interconnected challenges (e.g., poverty, climate, health), and embed a Human Learning Systems/Relational Approach to policy development across departments.

2

Acting on the OECD Rural Policy Review

- **Secure the future of LEADER**
Protect LEADER and the LEADER approach to ensure LEADER funding is ringfenced and expanded under the next MFF.
- **Address immediate LEADER funding gaps**
Invest an additional €10.2m in the current programme to respond to strong demand for funding in strategically important areas and to unlock the latent potential of the rural economy.
- **Address inconsistencies and shortcomings in funding arrangements for community-based services**
Ensure that funding models for community-based services (i) reflect the true cost of delivery and (ii) do not expose delivery partners to excessive levels of funding precarity.
- **Recognise and resource the “hidden workforce” that sustains essential community services**
Invest €12m to increase Tús/RSS top-ups by €7.50 per week in 2027 and €500k to strengthen and expand the Ireland's network of Rural Recreation Officers.

