**PRESS RELEASE**

**7th December 2017**

**ATHLONE, 8 DECEMBER: IRISH RURAL LINK AND NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK TO** **HOST FREE SEMINAR ON EU LIFE PROGRAMME**

Irish Rural Link and The National Rural Network will host a free seminar on the EU LIFE Programme on Friday 8th December 2017 at 9.30am in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. The seminar will showcase Irish projects that have benefited from the EU LIFE programme and how they have contributed to the protection and sustainability of the Irish environment.

The LIFE programme is the EU’s funding instrument for the environment and climate action. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects.

Attendees will be briefed on the EU LIFE Programme and given helpful tips how to submit a successful application. The conference will hear from existing Irish EU LIFE Projects such as KerryLIFE, AranLIFE, Raptor LIFE and the Living Bog Project on how they have contributed to the protection and sustainability of their local environment as well as Scottish Speaker from Community Land Scotland speaking about Community Land Management in Scotland and how this is progressing in Scotland.

Visit [www.nationalruralnetwork.ie](http://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie) for further information.

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**For more information contact Seamus Boland (Chief Executive) 0862491153 or Louise Lennon (Policy and Communications Officer) 0861069244**

**About Irish Rural Link:**

Irish Rural Link represents the interests of locally based rural groups in disadvantaged and marginalised rural areas by highlighting problems, advocating appropriate policies, sharing experiences and examples of good practice. It has a membership of over 600 rural community groups dedicated to sustainable rural development and represents rural communities at a national and international level

**About the NRN**

The National Rural Network (NRN) is part of the Rural Development Programme (RDP)

2014-2020.

Managed by a consortium led by Irish Rural Link in partnership with The Wheel, NUI Galway and Philip Farrelly & Co., the overall aim of the NRN is to build and sustain a membership-based network that maximises the beneficial outcomes of the RDP.

Our ambition is to bring the RDP into the lives of as many people and communities as possible by communicating its key opportunities and outputs to all relevant stakeholders. Visit [www.nationalruralnetwork.ie](http://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie) for further information.