13th December 2016

**Irish Rural Link in Brussels for the kick-off meeting of the MICRO project**

Irish Rural Link in Brussels to launched the MICRO Project (Enhancing Competitiveness of Microenterprises in Rural Areas) in Brussels, on 21st and 22nd of November 2016. The project is co-funded by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission.

MICRO brings together experienced partners from 6 countries (Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Macedonia and Spain) coordinated by Irish Rural Link (IRL), with extensive experience in EU-funded projects: National University of Ireland Maynooth, IE; IDP European Consultants, IT; Internet Web Solutions, ES; IHF asbl, BE; CDI Community Development Institute, MK; Brainstorming, EL. During the kick-off meeting in Brussels, partners agreed upon the timeline and the implementation of project activities, set the activities schedule and agreed on the next steps of implementation.

The idea behind MICRO is to sustain the growth and competitiveness of rural microenterprises by developing practical training resources and a dedicated Open Educational Resource.

*-Ends-*

**For more information about MICRO project and IRL**, contact us: [mary@irishrurallink.ie](mailto:mary@irishrurallink.ie) or 0906482744

Visit our website: [www.irishrurallink.ie](http://www.irishrurallink.ie)

**Irish Rural Link the Organisation**

Irish Rural Link (IRL), formed in 1991, is a national network of organisations and individuals campaigning for sustainable rural development in Ireland and Europe. IRL, a non-profit organisation, has grown significantly since its inception and now directly represents over 600 community groups with a combined membership of 25,000.

The network provides a structure through which rural groups and individuals, representing disadvantaged rural communities, can articulate their common needs and priorities, share their experiences and present their case to policy-makers at local, national and European Level.

Irish Rural Link is the only group represented at the national social partnership talks solely representing rural communities’ interests.

***‘Our vision is of vibrant, inclusive and sustainable rural communities that contribute to an equitable and just society’***



