



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



First Twinning Event in Ardara, Donegal, Ireland

7–9 August 2026

Project number	101287598
Project name	ARDARA² – Two Lands, One European Vision
Call / Topic	CERV-2025-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT
Coordinator	Comune di Ardara, Sardinia, Italy
Associated partner	Awake Tourism CLG, Ardara, County Donegal, Ireland
Dates	7–9 August 2026
Venue	Ardara, County Donegal, Ireland

Friday, 7 August 2026

Arrival and check-in | *Afternoon session*

Venue: Ardara, Donegal. Accommodation facilities: Nesbitt Arms Hotel, holiday homes and/or private homes, according to final arrangements.

Main contents

- Arrival of the Italian delegation in Ardara, Donegal. The delegation is expected to arrive as early as possible, subject to final travel arrangements.
- Check-in at the agreed accommodation facilities and first logistical coordination with the hosting partners.
- Participant registration, circulation of the programme, project information materials and EU visibility information.



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Formal welcome and first community meeting | *Afternoon / evening session*

Venue: Nesbitt Arms Hotel or other venue confirmed by the Irish hosting partners.

Main contents

- Official welcome by Awake Tourism CLG and the Irish hosting community.
- Institutional greeting by Dr. Francesco Dui, Mayor of Ardara, Sardinia, Italy.
- Institutional greeting by Cllr Gary Doherty, Chair / Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council.
- Greetings by Cllr Anthony Molloy, Michael Rowsome (Area Manager) and Shane Smyth (Tourism), subject to availability.
- Short introduction to ARDARA² – Two Lands, One European Vision and to the meaning of the first twinning event.
- Informal introduction of the Italian and Irish participants and sharing of the objectives of the visit.
- Official photograph with the delegations, local representatives and community participants.
- Exchange of institutional gifts and local products between the two Ardara communities.
- Welcome dinner and first community exchange with Awake Tourism CLG, local representatives, Donegal County Council representatives where available, and members of the host community.

Saturday, 8 August 2026

Institutional opening, project presentation and civic framing | *Morning session*

Venue: Heritage Centre Ardara.

Main contents

- Presentation of ARDARA² – Two Lands, One European Vision by Focus Europe ETS. The speaker will be confirmed in the final event arrangements.
- Presentation of the project objectives, the CERV framework, the approved revised order of events, expected results and the European relevance of the twinning.
- Focus on rural communities, civic participation, inclusion, cultural diversity and the role of local cooperation in strengthening European awareness.
- Exchange with participants on the shared challenges and opportunities of small rural communities in Europe.

Local heritage and rural identity visits | *Late morning session*

Venue: John Molloy Factory and Ardara Distillery.

Main contents

- Local cultural heritage visit and weaving demonstration at John Molloy Factory.
- Visit to Ardara Distillery as a local community/economic initiative, with focus on territory, identity, rural economy and community-based development.
- Informal exchanges between the Italian delegation, local hosts, businesses and community actors on heritage, local production and rural development.



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Public community activities, civic dialogue and cultural exchange | *Afternoon session*

Venue: Ardara Agriculture and Industrial Show 2026

Main contents

- Participation of the Italian delegation in the Ardara Agriculture and Industrial Show 2026, based on the official programme of the Show.
- Public community engagement with local citizens, associations, exhibitors and stakeholders attending the Ardara Show.
- Civic dialogue theme: Rural communities and the future of Europe – countering euroscepticism through local cooperation and cultural exchange.
- Cultural and linguistic exchange focused on Gaelic and Sardinian heritage, including informal testimonies, storytelling, music and community contributions.
- Collection of feedback, short evaluation inputs, testimonies, photos and videos for project documentation, communication and dissemination.

Intercultural evening and community engagement | *Evening session*

Venue: Corby Pantry Kitchen and Nesbitt Arms Hotel.

Main contents

- Intercultural community dinner at Corby Pantry Kitchen, subject to final logistical confirmation.
- Attendance at the Ardara Show Dance at Nesbitt Arms Hotel, featuring local music and cultural engagement.
- Informal networking among citizens, local representatives, community actors and the Italian delegation.

Sunday, 9 August 2026

Local landscape visit and shared reflection | *Morning session*

Venue: Assaranca Waterfall and Glengesh mountain pass.

Main contents

- Morning bus tour to Assaranca Waterfall and Glengesh mountain pass, as proposed by the Irish hosting partners.
- Informal exchange on landscape, place identity, sustainable tourism, rural heritage and the connection between community and territory.

Closing, evaluation and future cooperation | *Morning session*

Venue: Venue to be confirmed

Main contents

- Closing institutional session with the Italian delegation, Awake Tourism CLG, local representatives and community participants.



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- Summary of the main outcomes of the visit and exchange of lessons learned.
 - Exchange of acknowledgements and discussion of future cooperation perspectives between the two Ardara communities.
 - Reference to the second and concluding twinning event to be scheduled in Ardara, Sardinia, Italy, within the project implementation period
 - Final collection of evaluation inputs, testimonies, photographs, videos and attendance documentation.
 - Departure of the Italian delegation towards Dublin according to travel arrangements.