



Funding Schemes



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



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RURAL REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND (RRDF)

The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) provides funding (>€500k) for the development and construction of capital projects in towns and villages and rural areas across Ireland. The Fund is targeted at towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas.

The RRDF supports projects of scale that have the potential to revitalise rural towns and villages in line with the Town Centre First Policy through planned and sustainable regeneration that will drive greater economic activity and footfall, address vacancy and dereliction and ensure the reuse of heritage and other existing buildings and provide the necessary facilities and infrastructure in settlements, which will assist in attracting people to live, work and invest in rural areas. Projects funded under this scheme are likely to be multi-annual and multi-faceted, involving a number of elements or phases as part of a broad strategic plan.

The type of activities that will be supported from the Fund can include:

- Measure to address building vacancy and dereliction in order to encourage town centre regeneration.
- Projects which encourage the co-location of facilities to create a focal point of activity in a town or village centre
- Large scale infrastructure and public realm projects that aim to fundamentally contribute to the strategic development of the town/village.
- Projects which make a clear contribution to the economic development of a town/village
- Projects which deliver on multiple objectives and demonstrate complementarity/additionality.
- Projects which consolidate the tourism offering
- Projects that support the development, diversification, and sustainability of the agri-food sector in rural areas

Calls for applications to the Fund are sought under two categories – Category 1 and Category 2.

Category 1 (Major Projects) relates to large scale ambitious capital projects with all necessary planning and other consents in place and which are ready to proceed.

Category 2 provides smaller grant funding to enable the development of project proposals suitable for future calls for Category 1 applications.



For more information contact soreilly@clarecoco.ie

TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme supports small to medium capital projects which enhance the environment of town or village centres. Grant funding for projects will range from €20,000 to €500,000.

The Scheme is targeted at towns and villages with a population of 10,000 or less and all projects funded under the Scheme must be completed within a 12-to-18-month period.

The 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme was designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland through a renewed focus on town centre economic and social vibrancy and regeneration in line with the Town Centre First policy.

The types of projects funded under this scheme include:

- Regeneration projects that assist in revitalising our rural towns and villages, in line with the *Town Centre First* Policy, through planned and sustainable regeneration and development projects that will drive greater economic activity and footfall, address vacancy and dereliction and ensure the re-use of heritage and other existing buildings.
- Renovation or refurbishment to existing community centres (where there is a clearly identified need / rationale)
- Projects to support the establishment of town or village centre markets (e.g. farmers markets, open-air markets, local trader markets, artisan markets or similar) – i.e. groundworks, provision of stalls, equipment, and services provision.
- Projects to develop town / village centre plazas, public outdoor dining spaces, parks, green spaces (including allotments and community gardens) and recreational spaces/amenities (to include outdoor sports facilities such as skate parks, basketball courts, tennis courts, etc.) in town centres
- Projects that bring vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces

- Enhancement of heritage assets (e.g. local museums/tourism attractions focused on historical aspects of the area, heritage sites/buildings, etc.) located in towns and villages, including energy efficiency measures



When the Scheme is launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Council will advertise for Expressions of Interest from community groups in the local papers and on the council's website.

For more information contact soreilly@clarecoco.ie

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. It also provides support for the necessary repair, maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland.

The scheme supports sporting and recreational pursuits. It helps to make use of the resources of the countryside that contribute to healthy active lifestyles. It supports the economic and tourism potential of the area for both local communities and tourist visitors alike.

It provides funding for:

- development, extensions and repair of trails, walkways, cycleways, and blue ways
- improved access to outdoor leisure or recreational facilities
- development of outdoor recreational infrastructure

Projects applications are accepted from Local Authorities (All Measures), Local Development Companies (Measure 1) and/or State Bodies (Measure 3/Project Development Measure) under the scheme:



- **Measure 1** for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €30,000,
- **Measure 2** for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000,
- **Measure 3** for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000, and
- **Project Development Measure** funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large-scale projects.

For more information contact soreilly@clarecoco.ie

CLÁR – (CEANTAIR LAGA ÁRD-RIACHTANAIS)

The CLÁR programme provides funding for small scale projects in rural areas. The programme is divided into three measures, which cover the different initiatives supported by the scheme.

- **Measure 1:** grants from **€5,000 to €50,000** are provided to support the development of community and sports facilities, youth clubs, playgrounds, sensory gardens, walking tracks and much more. *Measure 1 is administered by Local Authorities in consultation with local communities and applications will only be accepted directly from Local Authorities.*
- **Measure 2:** supports voluntary groups that provide free transport to people receiving cancer care and other treatment as well as Community First Response Support and Search and Rescue organisations. For 2024, organisations providing a meals on wheels service were eligible to apply.
- The measure comes with maximum grants of **€50,000** for a car and **€100,000** for a bus.
- **Measure 3:** is designed to support offshore island communities, with maximum grants of **€120,000** available for community transport projects and up to **€50,000** available for amenities projects.



Measure 2 and Measure 3 are administered directly by the Department of Rural and Community Development and applications are being accepted via email to CLAR@drcd.gov.ie

When the Scheme is launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Council will advertise for Expressions of Interest from community groups in the local papers and on the council's website.

For more information contact soreilly@clarecoco.ie

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND

The Community Recognition Fund was first introduced in 2023 to recognise the huge efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland. The Community Recognition Fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

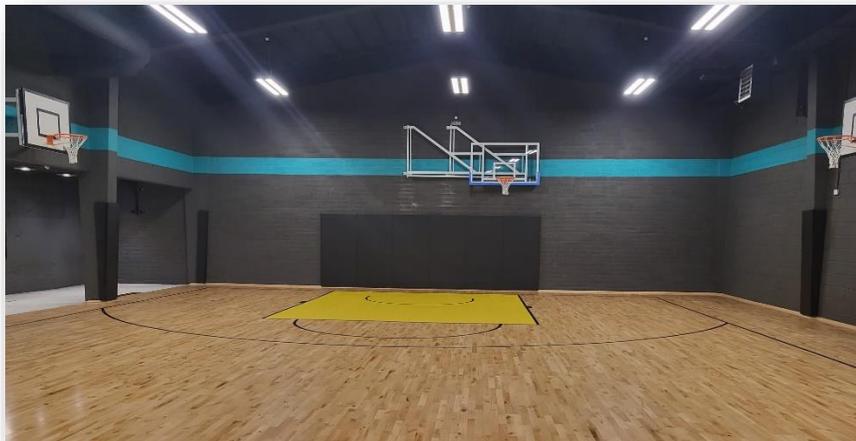


The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in cities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme. The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The type of projects eligible for funding are:

- development, enhancement or refurbishment of community or cultural facilities including play areas, walkways, parks, community/sensory gardens, allotments, and recreational areas.

- development, enhancement or refurbishment of local club and sports facilities including facilities such as community swimming pools, changing rooms, toilets, digital aids such as score / information boards etc.
- enhancement to school/parish facilities which are open to use by all of the community after school hours.
- purchase of equipment for local clubs, festivals, community events and organisations e.g. music, arts or sports equipment.
- transport infrastructure such as the purchase of community vehicles, bus shelters and attendant information boards; (any vehicle funded must be in good condition and not more than 5 years old)
- projects that help address dereliction and/or wider local economic and community development objectives.
- purchase and refurbishment of vacant or derelict buildings for community use where a clear need is identified.
- Purchase of land and associated works for the development of community facilities such as play areas/ MUGAs or town parks/ community gardens, recreational areas etc. (purchases must only be administered by the local authority).
- Min Grant 50k-500k Up to 100%



For more information contact crf@clarecoco.ie

LOCAL FUNDING SCHEME – CLARE LOCAL AREA GRANT SCHEME (CLAGS)

Clare County Council recognises the important role of local communities and as part of our commitment to supporting communities, the Council operates a Local Area Grant Scheme to provide financial support to assist communities and voluntary groups in projects they undertake which contribute to the development of their communities and improve the quality-of-life experience in their areas.

The available funding is based on Clare County Council's Annual Budget, as adopted by the Elected Members. It is available to support the community and voluntary groups wishing to undertake specific projects under the relevant categories of the Scheme. Grants from €200-€3,000 are available depending on the funding category.

Any Community and Voluntary group operating in County Clare may apply. The Support Scheme for the Arts is the only category open to both groups and individuals. All other categories apply to community and voluntary groups only.

The following is the list of support schemes included within this grant scheme:

1. Public Realm Initiatives & Amenity Projects
2. Maintenance of Open Spaces in Private Housing Developments
3. Burial Ground Maintenance
4. Irish Language
5. Christmas Lighting
6. Best Kept Local Authority Estate
7. Tourism Promotion
8. Sustainable Tourism
9. Community Playgrounds
10. Support for the Arts
11. Community Project Development



The Scheme opens for applications in January each year and applicants are required to submit their funding applications through an online system.

For more information contact clags@clarecoco.ie

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) ALIGNMENT

All community groups applying for funding must demonstrate how their projects align with the goals/objectives of the Clare Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP).

For more information on Clare LECP please see:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/publications/clare-local-economic-and-community-plan-2024-2030-54742.pdf>



RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Unique to Clare, and to support local communities in County Clare, Clare County Council has established a Rural & Community Development Officer (RCDO) Team within the Rural & Community Directorate.

The role of the RCDOs is to build the capacity of voluntary community leaders & organisations and to identify and support the implementation of projects, which will provide the county with an identifiable comparative advantage in terms of securing national funding for projects.

Outside of the core DRCD (Department of Rural & Community Development) funding streams, the RCDOs also support communities and projects in accessing other funding streams such as the annual Sports Capital and Equipment Funding, and LEADER funding, in association with our partner agency CLDC (Clare Local Development Company).

The RCDOs provide a key role in linking cross-directorate working with community engagement and capacity building, working in collaboration with Elected Members, Municipal District Staff, the Climate Action Team, the Integration Team, Heritage and Biodiversity Staff and the Town Centre First Team.

Projects supported by the RCDOs are aligned to the objectives of the LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan) and the Clare Rural Development Strategy. This work is underpinned by engagement that is based on established community development principles and practices.

Where local communities require additional long term sustainable community development supports, albeit in, group restructuring and governance, inclusivity, succession planning and project development, the RCDOs provide significant support and guidance.

For more information on the above schemes and other funding opportunities, please contact the Rural & Community Development Officer for your area. See below for details.



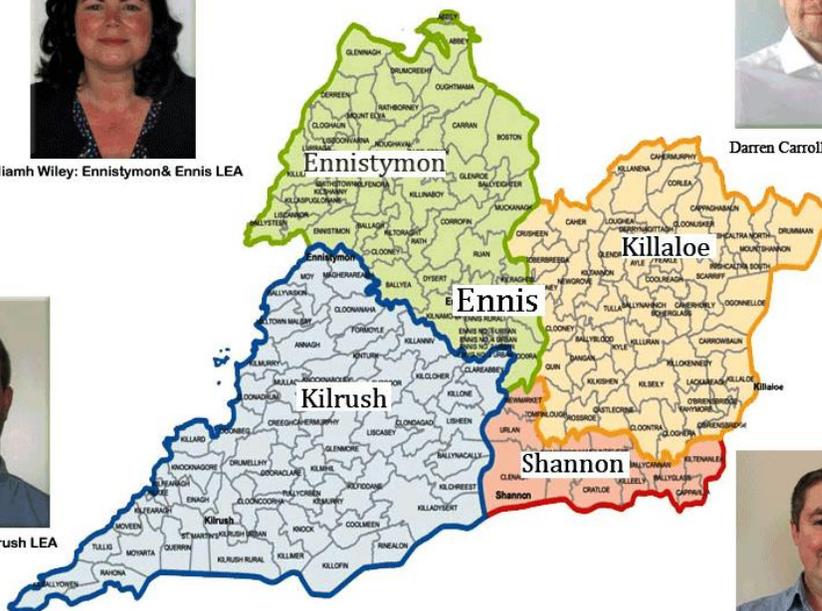
Niamh Wiley: Ennistymon & Ennis LEA



Darren Carroll: Killaloe LEA



Seamus Murrhly: Kilrush LEA



Connor Leyden: Shannon LEA

Niamh Wiley:	Ennistymon & Ennis LEA	☎ 087-0611943	✉ nwiley@clarecoco.ie
Seamus Murrhly:	Kilrush LEA	☎ 087-3834382	✉ smurrhly@clarecoco.ie
Conor Leyden:	Shannon LEA	☎ 087-1868433	✉ cleyden@clarecoco.ie
Darren Carroll:	Killaloe LEA	☎ 087-2784391	✉ dcarrroll@clarecoco.ie

APPENDIX I – PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

The terms public procurement refers to all activities involved in the process of buying and supplying goods, services or works using public monies.

There are a number of procurement policies and procedures that must be followed depending on the value of the contract from low to National and EU Value thresholds, As the contract value increases, the procurement process becomes more formal and detailed.

A "**Quotation**" is the relatively straightforward exercise of seeking a price for the supply of goods, services or works which are easily specified and of low value.

A "**tender**" is the more formal and detailed exercise of obtaining sealed bids for services or works where the value is above certain thresholds, the specification will be detailed and special terms and conditions will apply.

Etenders the national public procurement website www.etenders.gov.ie is a central facility to display and advertise all procurement opportunities, both above and below the EU thresholds

If your community group is engaging in a large-scale works project (circa 25k or more) then Clare County Council would advise that you engage the services of a Quantity Surveyor, Architect or Engineer who can manage the project and associated procurement on your

The table below sets out the basic procurement process that must be followed depending on the nature of the project being funded.

PROCESS

QUOTES

- (1) For goods and services and works-related services contracts under €5,000 ex vat, seek quotes from at least one supplier by email but best practice is to seek a minimum of three quotes by email. Easiest way to do this is to email yourself and bcc (blind carbon copy) 3 suppliers. Set out the specifics of what you require. Take time to figure out the exact spec. NB give an end date for receipt of the quote. It is no problem if less than 3 suppliers email back with a quote. You have done your due diligence by sending out the request.
- (2) For goods and services and works-related services contracts over €5,000 and under €50,000 ex vat, seek quotes from a minimum of three suppliers by email. Easiest way to do this is to email yourself and bcc 3 suppliers. Set out the specifics of what you require. Take time to figure out the exact specifications of what you require to be priced to ensure that everyone is quoting for the same thing. NB give an end date for receipt of a quotation. It is no problem if less than 3 suppliers email back a quote. You have done your due diligence by sending out the request.
- (3) For goods and services and works-related services contracts over €50,000 ex vat, see 'Tenders on eTenders' below.
- (4) For works contracts between €0 and €200,000 ex Vat, seek quotes from a minimum of five suppliers by email. The easiest way to do this is to email yourself and bcc 5 suppliers. Set out in detail the specifics of what you require using the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF) – on the assumption that you have a Quantity Surveyor or architect, they will likely draw up these documents for you. NB give an end date for receipt of the quote. It is no problem if less than 5 email back a quote. As long as you have sought the quotations you have done your due diligence.

For works contracts over €200,000 ex Vat, see 'Tenders on eTenders' below.

EVALUATION REPORT

A short **evaluation/tender report** should be drawn up to summarise the tender process i.e. details of what the specifics for which quotations were sought; the number of quotes sought/who you sought them from/ and what quotes were received. Unless good reason for not choosing the lowest cost supplier, go with the lowest cost supplier. Where the lowest cost supplier is not chosen, state the reason (quality grounds) for not choosing the lowest cost supplier. Retain the soft copy (word doc.) for 7 years.

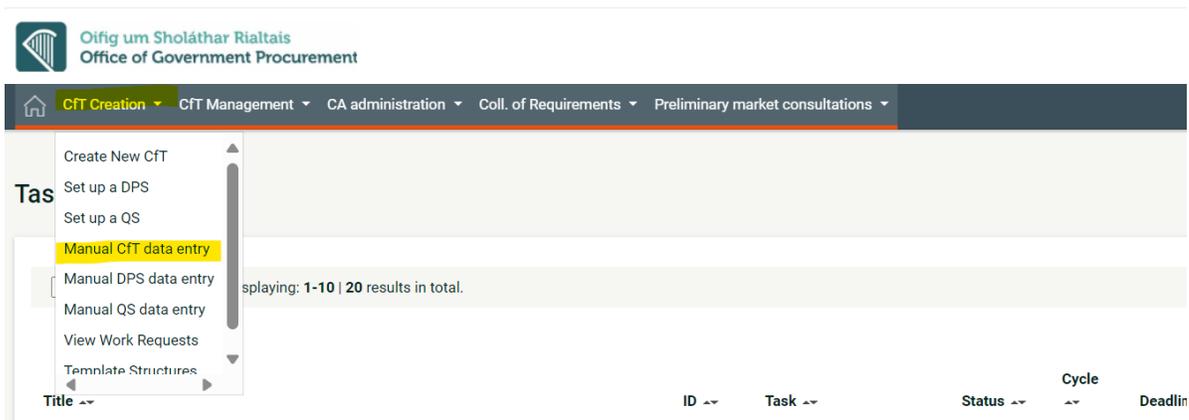
An Evaluation report template should set out details under the headings below:

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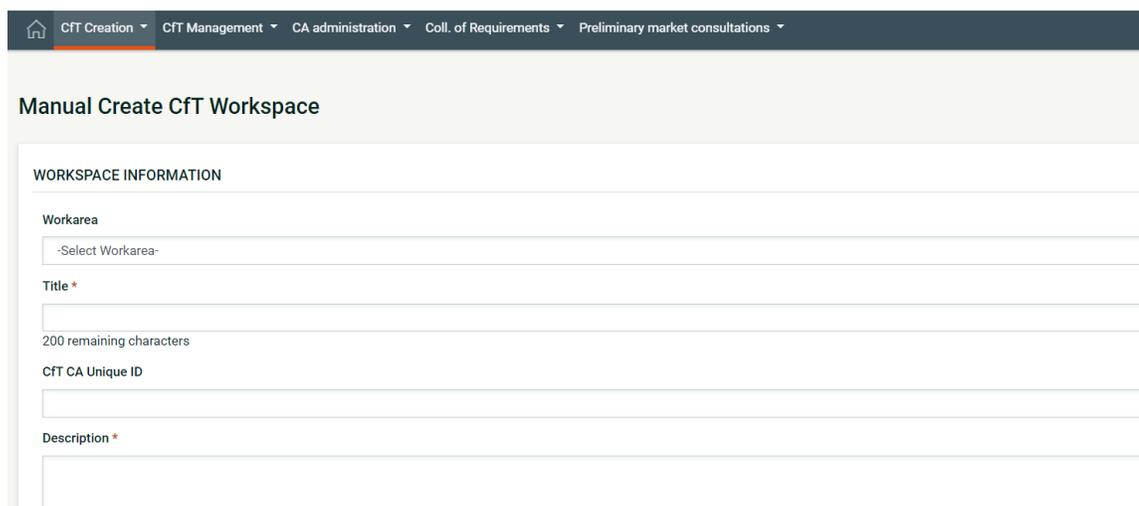
Evaluation Report for Procurement of X

- **Introduction** – *Background to the Project*
- **Scope & Value of the contract**- *Set out in detail what suppliers/contractors were asked to price. E.g. 80m of fencing; 6 notice boards etc*
- **Details of who was asked to provide a quote and when**
- **Details of quotes received**
 - Company X: quotation received*
 - Company Y: quotation received*
 - Company Z: quotation received*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the characteristics and relative advantages of the successful bidder in comparison to the unsuccessful bidders. • Recommendation Based on the above quotes, we propose to award the contract to Company X Signed: Name / Title Date:
TENDERS ON ETENDERS	<p><u>For contracts greater than €50,000 ex Vat for goods or services or works related services (i.e. design consultants) and contracts greater than €200,000 for works ex Vat, these contracts need to be processed/advertised through the eTenders Platform</u></p> <p>To use eTenders your group/organisation will need to register as a buyer on eTenders . Register here . The user manual for first login after registering is here . A guide to using eTenders as a buyer is attached to this email.</p> <p>If you have no experience of launching a tender on eTenders and you are working with a Quantity Surveyor/Architect/Engineer they should be able to assist. Any tender, once completed, must also have a contract award notice posted on the eTenders platform.</p>
RECORD RETENTION	<p>Community groups should retain all of the above – quotes, evaluation reports etc. for 7 years and submit a copy of same to Clare County Council for Audit Purposes.</p>
	<p><u>Requirement to Publish a contract award notice on eTenders where you've procured a goods/services/works contract greater than €25,000 ex VAT in value.</u></p> <p>The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) Circular 5/2023 requires that Contracting Authorities publish contract award information for all procurements over €25,000 (exclusive of VAT), including any contract awarded under a Framework Agreement, on the eTenders website on completion of the award whether the procurement was advertised on eTenders or procured by requesting quotes (for example, via email).</p> <p>So, if you award a contract > €25,000 (exclusive of VAT), the requirement will to be log in to eTenders and post the award information. To do this, your organisation will need to register as a buyer on eTenders . Register here .</p> <p>Once registered, you need to input a “Manual CfT data entry”. To do this you need to log in to eTenders and then click on ‘CfT Creation’ then ‘Manual CfT data entry’ in the drop down list. (see below)</p>



The following screen will appear:



Fill in the fields as follows:

- **Workarea:** your organisation will only have one work area (presumably it doesn't have multiple departments)
- **Title:** This is the title of the contract e.g. "Provision of Works to erect extension to GAA Clubhouse"
- **CFT CA Unique ID:** Can leave blank
- **Description:** Description of the contract / project.
- **Procurement Type:** Select Procurement type – in this case – works
- **Directive:** select 'None' (this is NB)
- **Publish on behalf of:** Can leave blank
- **CPV Codes:** These are the codes that relate to what it is was you went to market for; click on the magnifying glass and then find the appropriate code e.g. 'Construction work' is code 45000000
- **NUTS codes:** Select 'IE' for Ireland.
- **Contract Value:** state the value of the contract ex VAT - this would be between €25,000 and €50,000 for goods and services and works related services; or between €25,000 and €200,000 for works. If the contract value is below €25,000 you do not need to do this procedure. If its above the €50,000 for goods and services and works related services /€200,000 for works, then a full tender should be launched on eTenders.
- **Above or Below threshold:** Select 'below'.
- **Date of Publication/Invitation:** Insert date the contract was awarded.

- **Date of Awarding:** Insert date the contract was awarded
- **Evaluation Mechanism:** If the contract was awarded on the basis of price alone then choose 'Price/Cost Effectiveness'. If it was awarded based on cost and also quality criteria, then choose 'Best Price-Quality Ratio'.
- **Contract awarded in Lots:** Select 'No'.
- **Economic Operator Organisations:** Select the supplier who won the contract.
- **Contract Award Date:** Insert date the contract was awarded
- **Date Accepted by Contractor:** Insert date the contract was awarded
- **Language of publication:** Select 'EN'.
- Click 'NEXT STEP'

The contract award is then saved in the eTenders system.