

# Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

## EVALUATING SUCCESS



**€1.4 billion**  
invested in  
the Scottish  
economy



**31,900**  
jobs created  
or safeguarded



**£2.30**  
generated  
for every  
£1 spent



**42,963**  
businesses  
received  
support



**€1m**  
for rural  
broadband



**24,789**  
placed into  
training

**The Rural Development Programme allocates European Union funding for economic, environmental and social projects throughout rural Scotland. It runs in seven-year cycles. In 2015 the Scottish Government commissioned an independent report into the **Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) 2007-2013**, shedding light on the achievements, and what needed to be done better.**

## Strategy

- Stakeholders believed that the SRDP strategy was sound and in line with rural development priorities
- There was an emphasis on environmental projects as a response to a decline in farmland biodiversity
- Sustainability was more important than expansion for non-agricultural businesses

## Implementation

- Implementation was a topic of concern and needed to improve
- A complex IT system made the application process difficult
- Regional assessment committees were seen as highly beneficial, sharing approaches and targeting resources

## Effectiveness and efficiency

- The SRDP contributed substantially to the rural economy and safeguarding jobs, and stakeholders emphasised these successes
- Stakeholders felt that the SRDP had a positive effect on climate change, renewable energy and water quality
- The LEADER programme funded many effective community-based initiatives
- Bureaucracy was often perceived as an obstacle
- The aims and objectives of the SRDP, particularly in innovation and modernisation, were achieved
- Small rural businesses felt supported

To view examples of projects funded under the SRDP 2007-2013, and learn about funding available under the current programme, visit [www.ruralnetwork.scot](http://www.ruralnetwork.scot)

To view the full SRDP 2007-2013 ex-post evaluation visit <http://bit.ly/2jlrX34>

