

Connecting Rural Development Programmes – Across the UK

Key Information NORTHERN IRELAND



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| Rural population/Demographics | Rural Northern Ireland is home to 693,790 people representing approximately 41% of the overall Northern Ireland population (<i>Based on the NI Census 2001</i>). |
| Themes (Axis) & Allocation | <p>The NI RDP is worth over £500 million and is comprised of fourteen separate measures aimed at improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector, improving the environment and the countryside and contributing towards the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy. The Programme is promoted under 3 principle themes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming and Food (Axis 1 measures) - £45 million • Environment and Countryside (Axis 2 measures) - £390 million • Rural Life and the LEADER approach (Axis 3 and 4 measures) - £100 million |
| Delivery (i.e. structure) | <p>The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) are the Managing Authority for the programme. The programme is delivered through a range of agents including DARD, Local Action Groups (LAGs) and Joint Council Committees (JCCs) and third party delivery organisations :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming and Food (Axis 1 measures) DARD; Countryside Agri- Rural Partnership (<i>Partnership managed by Countryside Services Ltd and including AI Services and Northern Ireland Rural Development Council</i>) • Environment and Countryside (Axis 2 measures) – DARD; Forest Service • Rural Life and the LEADER (Axis 3 and 4 measures) – LAGs and JCCs |
| No. of LAGS | There are 7 LAGs in Northern Ireland covering the rural region. LAGs are comprised of social partners and elected representatives. There are a total of 196 LAG members across the 7 Clusters. |
| Progress | All measures of the programme have opened at least once. Total programme expenditure as at October 2009 £112.3 million. Mid Term Evaluation commissioned. |

Key Information
ENGLAND



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| Rural population/Demographics | Rural England is home to over 9.5 million people representing approximately 19.3% of the overall population for England (<i>Based on the Census 2001</i>). |
| Themes (Axis) & Allocation | <p>The RDPE 2007-2013 has a budget of £3.9 billion and is comprised of 29 measures.</p> <p>£3.3 billion of the total budget will be allocated to agri-environment and other land management schemes. This funding will help farmers to manage the land more sustainably and deliver important outcomes on biodiversity, landscape and access, water quality and climate change.</p> <p>Some £600 million will be made available to make agriculture and forestry more competitive and sustainable and to enhance opportunity in rural areas.</p> |
| Delivery (i.e. structure) | The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are the Managing Authority for the programme. Delivery of economic and social funding in the 2007-2013 Programme is the responsibility of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). Responsibility for delivery of agri-environment schemes (such as Environmental Stewardship) and of the Energy Crops Scheme is the responsibility of Natural England and delivery of forestry schemes is with the Forestry Commission. |
| No. of LAGS | 65 |
| Progress | All measures of the programme have opened at least once. Total programme expenditure as at January 2010 is £378 million. Mid Term Evaluation is currently being tendered for. |

Key Information SCOTLAND



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| Rural population/Demographics | Rural Scotland is home to almost 1 million people representing approximately 19% of the overall Scottish population. |
| Themes (Axis) & Allocation | <p>The Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) contains economic, environmental and social measures, with around £1.5 billion designed to develop rural Scotland. The Programme is promoted under 4 principle themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the competitiveness of agricultural and forestry sector – Axis 1 • Improving the environment and the countryside – Axis 2 • Improving the quality of life in rural areas & diversification of the rural economy – Axis 3 • The LEADER approach – Axis 4. |
| Delivery (i.e. structure) | <p>The Scottish Government's Rural Directorate (SGRD) is the Managing Authority for the SRDP. The Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID) is the paying agency for the SRDP. The measures in SRDP are delivered through seven distinct 'delivery mechanisms':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crofting Counties Agricultural Grant Scheme • Food Processing, Marketing and Co-operation Grant Scheme • Forestry Commission Challenge Funds • The LEADER initiative • Less favoured Area Support Scheme (LFASS) • Rural Development Contracts • Skills Development Scheme. |
| No. of LAGs | There are 20 Local Action Groups , covering around 95% of rural Scotland. The LAGs are built from a partnership of public (normally local authority), private and Third sectors. They are regulated and the local authority lead partners have Service Level Agreements with the Scottish Government. |
| Progress | All measures of the programme have opened at least once. As at January 2010, £257.8M had been approved from the Rural Priorities Scheme (which covers Axis 1, 2 and 3), funding around 3600 projects. In addition, under LEADER (Axis 4) well over 600 projects have been approved. The Mid Term Evaluation has been commissioned. |

Key Information WALES

Rhwydwaith Gwledig Cymru
Wales Rural Network
Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



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| Rural population/Demographics | The rural parts of Wales covered by the RDP comprise a population of 985,060 (LAG areas only) which is approximately 34% of the overall Welsh population (<i>Based on the Census 2001</i>). |
| Themes (Axis) & Allocation | <p>The RDP for Wales is worth £796.7 million and is comprised of 22 measures under 4 Axes. The Programme is funded under the 4 Axes as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the Competitiveness of the Agriculture and Forestry Sector (Axis 1) - £89.5 million (11%) • Improving the Environment and Countryside (Axis 2) - £594.2 million (75%) • Quality of Life in Rural Areas / Diversification of the Rural Economy (Axis 3) – 76.5 million (9%) • The LEADER approach (Axis 4) - £31.7 million (4%) |
| Delivery (i.e. structure) | The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) are the Managing Authority for the programme. The programme is delivered through a range of agents including WAG, Forestry Commission for Wales (Axis 2 Better Woodlands for Wales scheme), Local Partnerships (Axis 3) and Local Action Groups (Axis 4 LAGs). |
| No. of LAGS | There are 18 LAGs in Wales covering the rural region. LAGs are comprised of economic and social partners and elected representatives. |
| Progress | Total programme expenditure as at December 2009 £237.07 million. A Mid Term Evaluation has been commissioned. |



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