

## **Project Title: LEADER II Evaluation**

### **BACKGROUND**

AB Associates was commissioned by Shetland Enterprise in 1999 to produce an evaluation of the implementation of the EU LEADER II programme for 1994–1999 in Shetland.

The main objective of this project was to undertake a systematic ex post evaluation of the LEADER II programme and to assess the results against the original aims, objectives and targets. Key performance indicators were identified and quantified where possible and qualitative analysis undertaken to address some of the less tangible aspects such as raising community confidence, diversification, promoting new ideas, and networking.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Data for the study was gathered primarily from three main sources – postal questionnaire to all beneficiaries, desk-based analysis of project files and face-to-face interviews with a sample of project sponsors.

The methodology used tested the degree of additionality (deadweight) and displacement.

Headline activity and impact indicators were identified which showed that the programme had been very successful in financial performance terms and in stimulating local community activity and supporting studies, but had performed less well in relation to the development of indigenous products and increased diversification.

### **OUTPUT**

The report was able to identify and highlight examples of good practice and some of the lessons that need to be learnt for future programmes.

The general consensus from project applicants was that LEADER funding had enabled individuals and communities to discover their potential, to develop and to introduce innovative projects with the potential of sustainability throughout Shetland.

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