

**Subject Area:** EU Programmes

**Clients:** Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

**Study:** Evaluation of the impact and economic and social return on investment of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), 2007-2013.

**Date:** December 2013 – September 2014

**Description:** EKOS was commissioned by DEFRA to undertake detailed research into the quantitative and qualitative impacts from investment. The study explores the economic, social and environmental benefits of RDPE Axis 1 and Axis 3 for the rural economy throughout England since 2007.

In more detail the research seeks to improve the evidence of which type of Programme measures offer higher or lower returns on investment, including levels of deadweight and displacement. This includes an assessment of levels of Gross Value Added for supported (forestry, agricultural and non-agricultural) businesses and communities, net and gross jobs and businesses created or safeguarded.

Our methods include large scale telephone and face-to-face surveys with more than 2,500 beneficiaries across rural England.

**Output:** A detailed research report will be produced. In addition, a communication and dissemination plan will be produced for the study to ensure that knowledge-exchange and learning will be shared with a wide group of stakeholder and the Programme Management Authority.