

# SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT



# DAY OF THE REGION BACKGROUND

## CONCEPT

Day of the Region is a community capacity building programme. It was first delivered in Germany in 1999 followed by The Netherlands in 2004. The programme, which has its origins in the LEADER transnational concept, also fits well with the key policy frameworks operating for local authorities in Scotland, particularly in the context of the Single Outcome Agreement approach to coordinating community development and the principles of bottom up community development enshrined in the Community Empowerment Bill. Since the generic development of the concept more widely, it has been given a more detailed and specific 'Dumfries and Galloway' flavour by the incorporation of the approach to well-being established by the new economics foundation based on their '5 Ways to Well-being' concept.



## OPERATION

The aim of Day of the Region was to develop a region-wide initiative that primarily brought together a variety of community groups and organisations within a geographical area and private businesses with support from public agencies to deliver a series of community centred activities and events as part of an annual regional celebration. The project aims were:

- To encourage local people to volunteer and engage more within their local communities.
- To strengthen connections between communities in Dumfries & Galloway
- To encourage more people to be active.
- To encourage people to continue to learn new skills.
- To encourage networking and exchange of knowledge between communities.
- To strengthen links between communities and public sector agencies.
- To raise confidence and encourage a sense of pride in the area.
- To encourage wider networking and cooperation with international partners.

Day of the Region has been led by a dedicated project officer, who has been supported by other members of the LEADER team and provided with strategic direction by a Programme Steering Group, comprising members of the Dumfries and Galloway Local Action Group and representatives from individual communities.

# THE LEADER APPROACH



Each LEADER area is required to produce a Local Development Strategy to underpin its particular approach to delivering rural development. The key themes within the Dumfries & Galloway LDS are set out below. Day of the Region is based within the '**strengthening community spirit and civic pride**' theme.

## LEADER PRIORITIES DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

The aim of Day of the Region was to develop a region-wide initiative that primarily brought together a variety of community groups and organisations within a geographical area and private businesses with support from public agencies to deliver a series of community centred activities and events as part of an annual regional celebration. The project aims were:

- Assist the development of affordable housing solutions
- Assist in the development of new transport solutions
- Develop a diverse and dynamic business base
- Promote a learning and skilful region
- Add value to local products
- Create opportunities to improve health
- Link communities and land together
- Forge better links between the generations
- Foster positive inter-cultural relationships
- **Strengthen community spirit & civic pride**
- Safeguard, improve and promote habitats for wildlife
- Demonstrate and promote a greener lifestyle

*The Scottish Government is committed to our communities being supported to do things for themselves – community empowerment – and to people having their voices heard in the planning and delivery of services – community engagement and participation*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/engage>



# THEME

Day of the Region adopted the theme of 'well-being' and used a model researched by the New Economics Foundation 'The 5 Ways to Well-being'.



## Five Ways to Wellbeing



The 5 Ways to Well-being are a set of evidence-based actions. They are: **Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning** and **Give**. These activities are simple things individuals can do in their everyday lives to increase our sense of 'well-being'.

The 5 Ways to Well-being were developed by the New Economics Foundation from evidence gathered in the UK government's Foresight Project on 'Mental Capital and Well-being'. The Project, published in 2008, drew on state-of-the-art research about mental capital and mental well-being through life. It asked New Economics Foundation to develop the criteria to communicate its key findings.

The outcomes from the research have been used by health organisations, schools and community projects across the UK and around the world to help people take action to improve their well-being. They've been used in lots of different ways, for example to get people to start thinking about wellbeing, to develop organisational strategy, to measure impact, to assess need, for staff development, and to help people to incorporate more wellbeing-promoting activities into their lives.

The team designing Day of the Region in Dumfries & Galloway identified these themes as an ideal conceptual structure to connect the broader policy objectives (and their European Union and national contexts) with local communities.



# FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

A review of the most up-to-date evidence suggests that building the following five actions into our day-to-day lives is important for well-being.

## CONNECT

With the people around you. With family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. At home, work, school or in your local community. Think of these as the cornerstones of your life and invest time in developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

## BE ACTIVE

Go for a walk or run. Step outside. Cycle. Play a game. Garden. Dance. Exercising makes you feel good. Most importantly, discover a physical activity you enjoy and that suits your level of mobility and fitness.

## TAKE NOTICE

Be curious. Catch sight of the beautiful. Remark on the unusual. Notice the changing seasons. Savour the moment, whether you are walking to work, eating lunch or talking to friends. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you.

## KEEP LEARNING

Try something new. Rediscover an old interest. Sign up for that course. Take take on a different responsibility at work. Fix a bike. Learn to play an instrument or how to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you will enjoy achieving. Learning new things will make you more confident as well as being fun.

## GIVE

Do something nice for a friend, or stranger. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Join a community group. Look out, as well as in. Seeing yourself, and your happiness, linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and creates connections with the people around you.





# PARTICIPATION

Community	2011	2012	2013	2014
Crocketford				
Castle Douglas				
Creetown				
Gatehouse of Fleet				
The Glenkens				
Kirkconnel & Kelloholm (2)				
Moniaive				
Sanquhar				
Dalbeattie				
Dundrennan				
Lochmaben				
Moffat				
Penpont, Keir and Tynron (3)				
Canonbie				
Eskdalemuir				
New Galloway				
Whithorn				



**20**

DIFFERENT  
COMMUNITIES  
PARTICIPATED AT  
LEAST ONCE



**4**

COMMUNITIES  
PARTICIPATED 3  
TIMES



**2**

COMMUNITIES  
PARTICIPATED TWICE



## PROJECT AIMS

- To encourage local people to volunteer and engage more within their local communities.
- To strengthen connections between communities in Dumfries & Galloway.
- To encourage more people to be active.
- To encourage people to continue to learn new skills.
- To encourage networking and exchange of knowledge between communities.
- To strengthen links between communities and public sector agencies.
- To raise confidence and encourage a sense of pride in the area.
- To encourage wider networking and cooperation with international partners.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

To establish, develop and coordinate with rural communities a Day of the Region in Dumfries & Galloway. This will include:

- To set up a working group to steer the project / recruit project officer to coordinate project.
- Promotion of the concept to agencies, businesses and local communities.
- Call for communities to come forward for inclusion in the programme.
- Development of criteria for community selection.
- Set up help pack / tool kit for communities.
- Develop branding and buy-in shared resources / materials.
- Set up joint marketing activities for the region and The Netherlands.
- Develop research / monitoring programme.
- Organise learning journeys and organise joint conference.
- Prepare report and secure future interest in further development of the initiative.

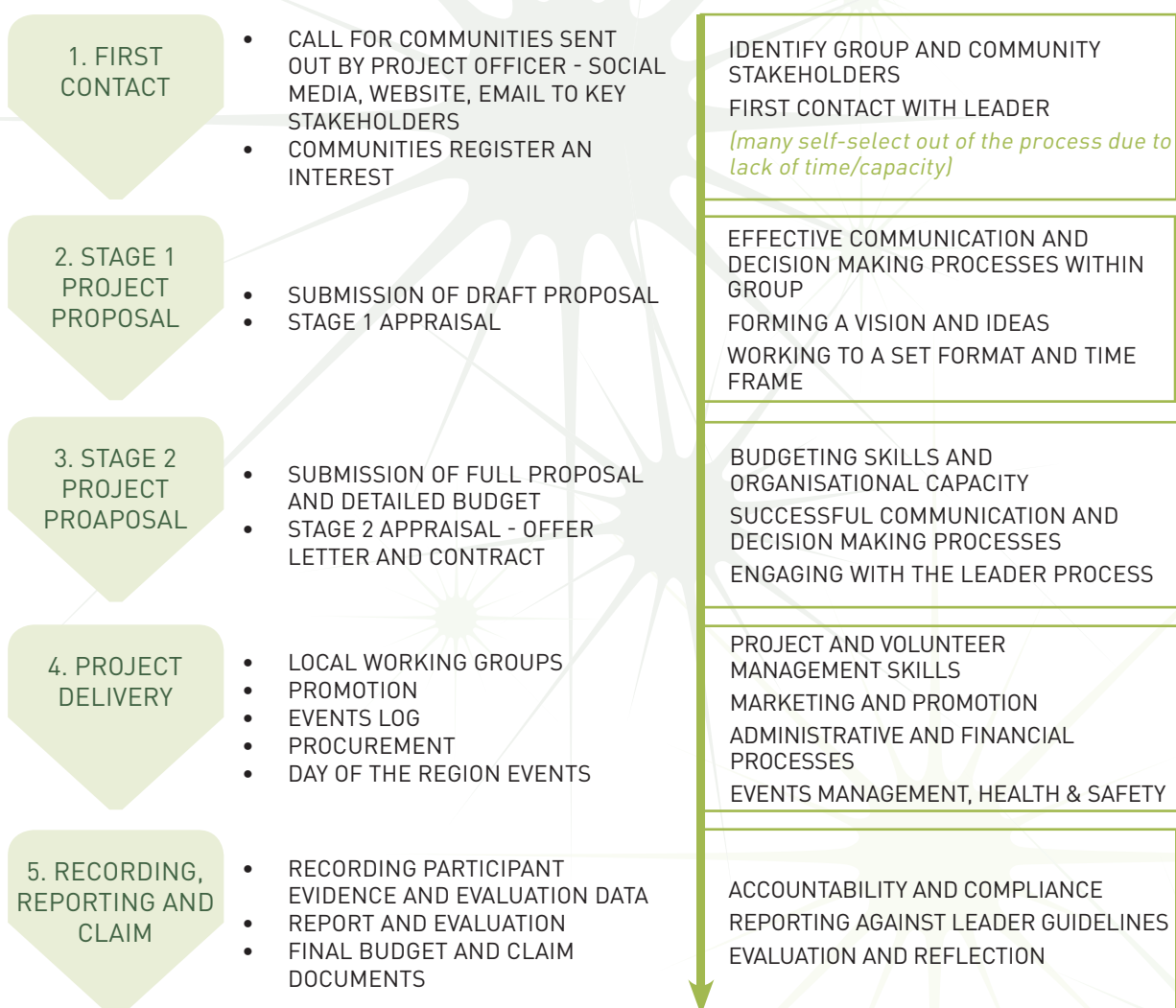
# KEY CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

In addition to the usual conditions associated with a project of this kind, there are a number of specific conditions associated with Day of the Region:

- Establish a local working group that will meet regularly to develop the project.
- Full programme of events must be delivered as per the Guidance and Framework.
- All legacy items must be made available free of charge to community groups and organisations beyond the lifetime of the project. Items may not be sold or exchanged.
- All events must be free to attend and participate in.
- Participation in a joint celebration.
- Match funding – communities must pay a cash contribution [% varies in different years].
- Procurement procedure.
- Target group evidence and volunteer time must be recorded and evidenced, each community must record at least 400 hours volunteer time.

Some of these conditions met with a mixed response from communities, particularly the procurement procedure, which is necessarily stringent, the condition that all activities must be free, services (admin, project management, music and arts performances) must also be offered and procured at no charge and the evidence collection requirements. It appears that it was not one specific condition that led to the perception of 'onerous paperwork' but the quantity and variety of work involved in delivering a local project overall.

## PROCESS



# TIMELINE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY & ACROSS EUROPE

	EUROPEAN/ COOPERATION EVENTS	DAY OF THE REGION DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY
1999	First Tag Der Regionen, Germany	
2004	First Dag van der Regio, Netherlands	
2009	Scoping visit by D&G to Groningen, Netherlands	
2010	Community groups from D&G visit Netherlands and Germany during Dag van de Regio and Tag der Regionen	
2011	Representatives from Netherlands and Ireland visit Day of the Region D&G	<b>First Day of the Region Events with five communities in Dumfries &amp; Galloway:</b> Castle Douglas, Creetown, Gatehouse of Fleet, The Glenkens, Crocketford
2012	<p>In 2012, a parallel and closely affiliated project to Day of the Region was the Grundtvig funded CORDERA project. The project involved eight partners from six European countries: Scotland, Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Poland and Austria working together to disseminate Day of the Region best practice and to stimulate bottom up approaches to rural development. A manual, curriculum, leaflets and glossary were developed to encourage uptake of the project in rural areas; <a href="http://www.cordera.eu">www.cordera.eu</a></p>	
	<p>First 'Discover Duhallo... A Day of the Regions', Ireland developed as a result of good practice shared by the D&amp;G project</p> <p>Communities from D&amp;G visit Duhallo, Ireland</p> <p>CORDERA meeting: Brodnica, Poland</p>	<b>Second year of Day of the Region D&amp;G with seven communities:</b> Crocketford, Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie, Kirkconnel, Kelloholm, Moniaive, Sanquhar
2013	<p>CORDERA meeting: Schlierbach, Austria</p> <p>CORDERA meeting: Dumfries and Galloway</p> <p>Communities from Duhallo, Ireland visit D&amp;G</p> <p>CORDERA meeting: Feuchtwangen, Germany</p>	<b>Third year of Day of the Region with ten communities:</b> Crocketford, Dundrennan, Kirkconnel and Kelloholm, Lochmaben, Moffat, Penpont, Keir and Tynron, Sanquhar
2014	<p>Communities from D&amp;G visit Duhallo, Ireland</p> <p>Communities from Duhallo, Ireland visit D&amp;G</p> <p>CORDERA meeting: Hoogeland, Netherlands</p> <p>CORDERA meeting: Lappeenranta, Finland</p>	<b>Fourth year of Day of the Region with eight communities:</b> Kirkconnel and Kelloholm, Lochmaben, Canonbie, Eskdalemuir, New Galloway, Sanquhar, Whithorn

<sup>2</sup> Now replaced by Erasmus+, Grundtvig was an adult life long learning programme



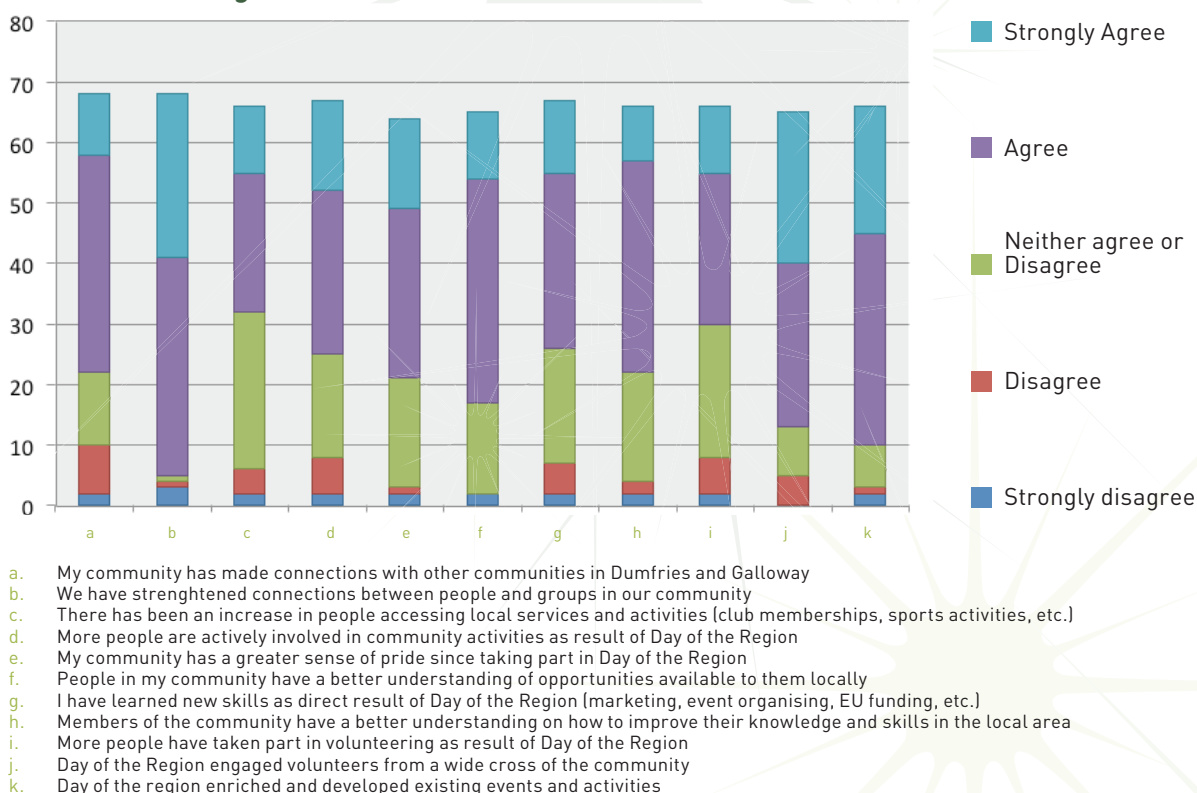
# SURVEY RESULTS

We asked participants to indicate to what extent they agree/disagree with the following statements:

- My community has made connections with other communities in Dumfries & Galloway
- We have strengthened connections between people and groups in our community
- There has been an increase in people accessing local services and activities (club memberships, sports activities etc.)
- More people are actively involved in community activities as a result of Day of the Region
- My community has a greater sense of pride since taking part in Day of the Region
- People in my community have a better understanding of the opportunities available to them locally
- I have learned new skills as a direct result of Day of the Region (marketing, event organising, EU funding etc.)
- Members of the community have a better understanding of how to improve their knowledge and skills in the local area (eg access to learning providers, volunteering opportunities)
- More people have taken part in volunteering as a result of Day of the Region
- Day of the Region engaged volunteers from a wide cross section of the community
- Day of the Region enriched and developed existing community events and activities



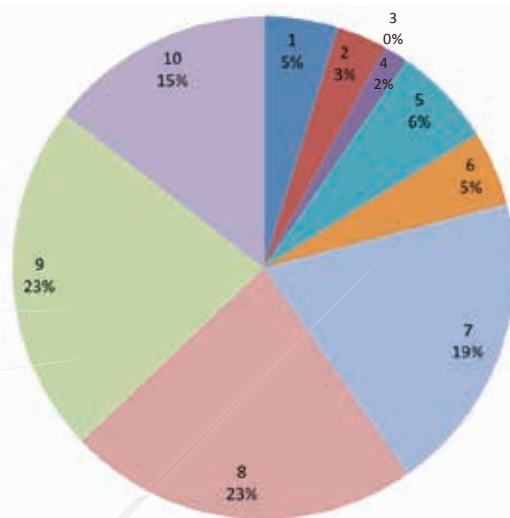
**In relation to your involvement with Day of the Region, how much do you agree/disagree with the following statements:**



We asked the following question and asked participants to rate the success of Day of the Region in relation to their own experience of the project. This is a question that has been used with community event participants in each Day of the Region year to assess the impact of the project.

**Overall how successful do you feel Day of the Region has been in encouraging you to explore your community/region, making you feel more connected within your community and making you more aware of what is going on in your local community?**

The response to this question is largely positive with 79% of respondents gave a rating of 7-10, where 10 is excellent.



**We asked this open question to participants:**

**Do you have any ideas about what would help your community to run events in the future (networking, skills sharing, examples of best practice, access to joint marketing etc.)?**

The suggestions can be summarised as follows:

- Access to funding , advertising and joint marketing
- Creation of a centralised 'arms-length' support framework
- Help with recruiting volunteers
- Sharing skills, knowledge and best practice
- Networking to get new ideas and share experiences.
- Easier accounting procedures
- Working together as one team



# SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

## RELEVANCE



Day of the Region is a very relevant approach to **building social capital** in rural communities. The approach of Day of the Region, which encourages rural communities to engage in a “celebration” of their community and to showcase the clubs, activities and “assets” of the community, helps to build social capital in small rural communities by providing a “neutral space” where community groups can see one another’s contributions to the community.

Day of the Region is relevant to the local strategic context. It is looking to build regional identity (as the name implies) and cohesion across the region. The online survey showed that 2/3 of respondents (67%) believed they had made connections to other communities across the region as a result of Day of the Region. This result is relevant to the Single Outcome Agreement and the objectives of the Local Strategic Partnership.

The Day of the Region is also a very relevant way of utilising EU funds, as it has the overt purpose of building transnational linkages. Although the community members who were asked through the online survey nearly all said that they were aware of the transnational dimensions, 35% didn’t know if it added value and 13% said it did not. On the other hand, all attendees at the Gathering event believed they learned something or a lot from the transnational dimension. By definition those who attended the event were more motivated and informed.

## EFFECTIVENESS

Effectiveness should be assessed against the LEADER criteria, as represented in the 7 principles of LEADER (including collaboration, integration and cooperation) and the NEF 5 Ways to Well-being (Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give).

The Day of the Region initiative has delivered notable achievements against these goals and has clearly:



- Stimulated volunteering – e.g., new volunteers at Clark’s little Ark and the Eskdalemuir Hub.
- Stimulated group membership – e.g., most events led to new members for participating clubs and societies.
- Stimulated group formation – e.g., new riding and potting groups in Canonbie.
- Built the capacity of communities to attempt bigger challenges, e.g., Lochmaben and Crocketford.

Whilst the Social Return on Investment assessment gives a value to these achievements, it is also important to recognise the breadth and variety of the achievements, as highlighted above. This is a product of the fact that communities are encouraged to respond to the Day of the Region opportunity in ways that fit their own circumstances, consequently leading to an (unpredictably) wide range of activities taking place.

The great value of Day of the Region is as an “**entry level**” activity where communities can “cut their teeth” in a structured programme, where guidance is clear, application processes are relatively simple and there are well trained staff and a wider community of people on hand to help the learning processes. On the other hand, the process of communities “**stepping up**” doesn’t currently appear to be a strong or structured component.



## NETWORKING



The Day of the Region principle that communities should be represented by a group constituted of at least 3 separate local groups is a good principle that helps to ensure that the events and development take place in a “neutral space” within that community. This is an important principle, as it tries to ensure that no single group dominates the activities. Rural communities can be very divided places and connections between individuals and sections of the communities can be interrupted for social and perceptual reasons. Day of the Region can help communities find a way to make connections that overcome this issue.



The Networking capacity of the Day of the Region is yet to be fully realised, as each Day of the Region project largely runs as a discreet individual initiative, with few people beyond the public sector workers seeing what is happening in more than one community. The design of the 2014 programme was changed so that the event took place over the course of 4 weekends in September, rather than on a single weekend. One of the reasons for this change was to give communities the ability to visit one another's events. Although this may have diluted the term 'Day' of the Region, it is a more effective way of using resources, meaning that the LAG and LEADER staff can

also engage better with individual initiatives.

Networking events have been run that bring the participating communities together, however, there is scope for more such events, building connections between communities and helping them to learn from one another more effectively.

Mentors have been available through the Day of the Region network, but have yet to be fully utilised. As one of the designated mentors stated, when reflecting on the fact that no request had been made for their services, perhaps communities are not looking for the support of someone from another community.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The project has three main routes to sustainability:

- The assets and items which are bought through the project and continue to be available to the community after the event, e.g., projection or display facilities (such as Crocketford and Canonbie)
- Building the capacity and confidence of communities to attempt bigger and more ambitious projects, such as Lochmaben; and
- Building the capacity and confidence of individuals within the community, e.g., those who learnt new skills through Day of the Region and who are now have sufficient confidence to mentor others.

Day of the Region can demonstrate significant achievements in all these areas and therefore has strong sustainability characteristics.

In those communities where Day of the Region has been successful, it is clear that the enthusiasm and confidence developed will carry forward to activity in future years, whether this is funded by Day of the Region or not. Factors that can influence against this are:



**Initiative fatigue** – some communities simply have too many similar activities going on;

**Pressure on key people** – a particular issue with small communities is that much of the organisation falls on the shoulders of a small group of individuals, and events can stand or fall on the availability or health of these individuals;

**Emphasis on free events** – once communities have an expectation that something is free, it is very hard to change this view. This makes the job of establishing a sustainable successor to Day of the Region harder. In some communities, particularly the less well off, being free is seen as critical, in more well off areas, there is less need for events to be provided free of charge. The choice for the Steering Group will be whether to allow/encourage the introduction of charges, or to introduce training for communities in approaches to fund raising that will enable them to maintain free events.

The longer term building and harnessing of this developed capacity needs careful thought and management. For example, with regard to the mentoring capacity; this has not been as widely taken up as had been hoped. Reasons for the relative lack of success have been put down to insufficient promotion or awareness, lack of confidence on the part of the mentors that their knowledge is of use outside their own communities and perhaps a suspicion of those from other communities, some of whom are very different in character.

Regarding those communities who tried bigger projects, again a mixed picture emerges, in Crocketford, the community felt empowered after their success with Day of the Region to take on the purchase of a farm, which was eventually unsuccessful; in Lochmaben an initiative to buy the loch, on behalf of the community was given extra momentum by Day of the Region 2013 and the loch has been successfully bought.

## CONCLUSIONS AND OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The large majority of respondents support the utility and value of Day of the Region. Every respondent that was asked whether the money spent on Day of the Region could be better spent in other ways made it clear that they regarded Day of the Region as good value for money and would support the LEADER Local Action Group in making the same commitments again, if asked to do so.

Day of the Region could have a significant role to play in providing capacity, tools and confidence for rural communities across Dumfries and Galloway to take advantage of their assets and to become more active participants in their own destinies, management and quality of life. The Day of the Region model is effective in that it has given communities the ability to arrange events, participate in partnerships and learn from other communities. The model could be developed to address more challenging issues, if the appetite exists in the communities.





# SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

As a further means of seeking to substantiate a judgement on outcomes delivered by Day of the Region we identified case studies for the 7 communities covered in 2014, where we were able to take a wider view on the impact delivered by the programme. SROI is described and defined as:

*Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a framework for measuring and accounting for [a] much broader concept of value; it seeks to reduce inequality and environmental degradation and improve well-being by incorporating social, environmental and economic costs and benefits."*

In seeking to establish an overview of the impact of Social Return on Investment on a community, we have developed a series of measures, which take account of the Egan Principles of Sustainable Development. In 2003, Sir John Egan was commissioned to undertake an assessment of the skills required to deliver sustainable communities. He identified 8 key indicators, which form a very useful basis on which to consider the relative sustainability of places. This has been codified into "The Egan Wheel" as set out below:

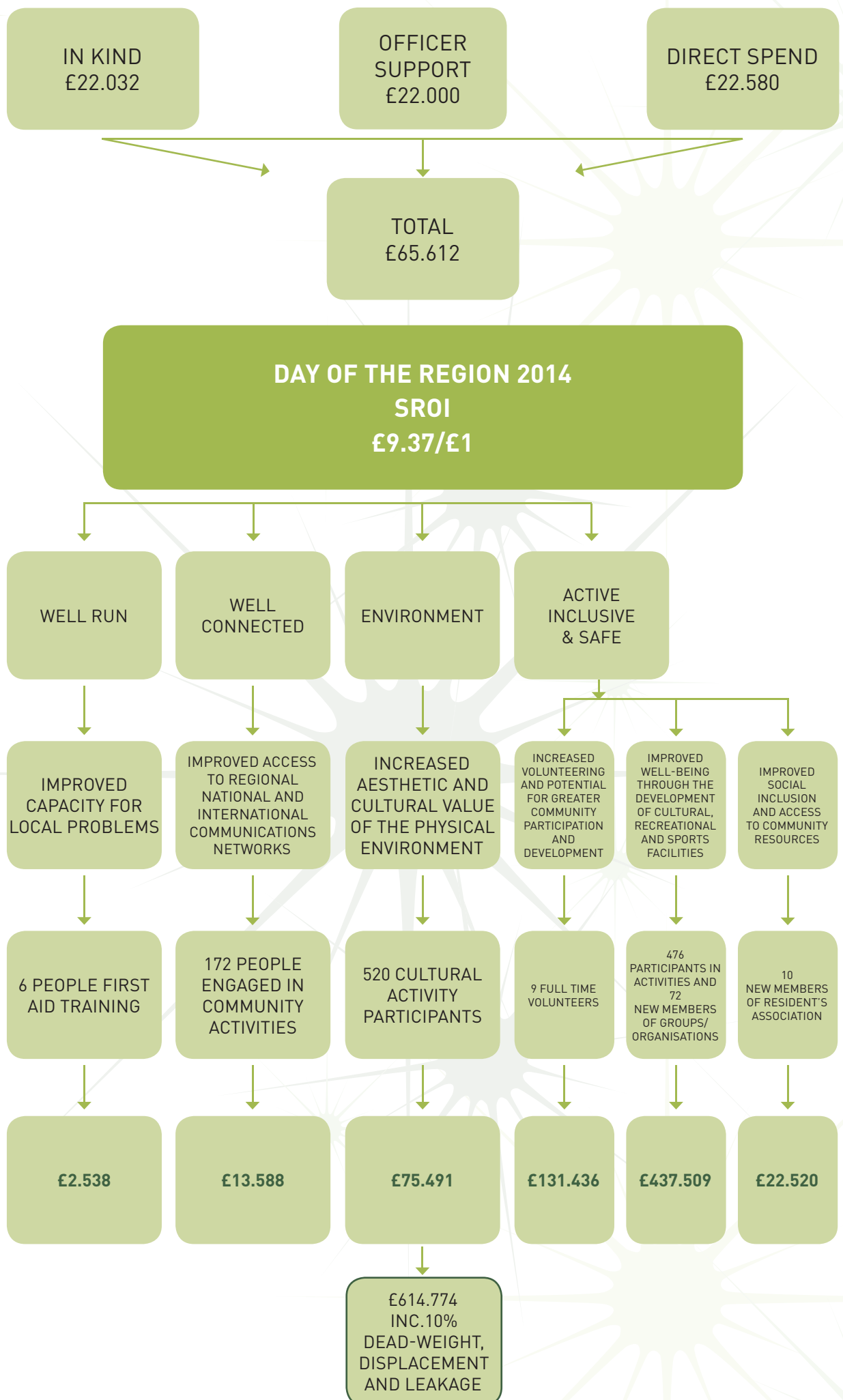


Using a suite of 40 monetised outcome proxies, developed in conjunction with an Interreg IVC initiative (VERSO <http://www2.eastriding.gov.uk/living/community-groups-and-volunteering/verso/?locale=en>), those proxies which best described the achievements of the programme were used to quantify its impact and form the basis of the detailed SROI assessment. The visualisation and table on the next page show how this process worked. They demonstrate a social return for the project of **£9.37** for each **£1** invested within the outcomes listed.

<sup>3</sup> Nicholls, Lawlor, Neitzert and Goodspeed – A Guide to Social Return on Investment 2012 – SROI Network

<sup>4</sup> Egan J "The Egan Review – Skills for Sustainable Communities" Office of the Deputy Prime Minister 2004





# DAY OF THE REGION 2014

## CANONBIE, ESKDALEMUIR, KIRKCONNEL AND KELLOHOLM, LOCHMABEN, NEW GALLOWAY, SANQUHAR & WHITHORN

SR01: £9.37/£1

BristolAccord Domain	Proxy	Volume	Value
Well Run	Improved capacity for local solutions to local problems	6 people first aid training	£2,538
Well Connected	Improved access to regional national and international communications networks	172 people engaged in community activities	£13,588
Environment	Increased aesthetic and cultural value of the physical environment	520 cultural activity participants	£75,491
Active Inclusive & Safe	Increased volunteering and potential for greater community participation and development	9 full time volunteers	£131,436
	Improved social inclusion and access to community resources	10 new members Canonbie and District Residents Association	£22,520
	Improved well-being through the development of cultural, recreational and sports facilities	476 participants in activities and 72 new members of groups/organisations	£437,509
Total Value: £614,774 inc 10% deadweight, displacement and leakage			
<b>Input Costs</b>			
In Kind = £22,032			
Direct Spend = £21,580			
Officer Support = £22,000			
Input Total = £65,612			

# CONCLUSION

Day of the Region in 2014 made a contribution to the sustainability of the communities it operated in and Dumfries and Galloway more widely in terms of: enhanced local facilities, improved access to services, improved environmental and cultural outcomes and greater participation in local organisations and groups, leading to a more active, inclusive and safer series of communities.

Day of the Region in 2014 delivered a Social Return of £9.37 for every £1 of investment. Benchmarked against 28 other projects and programmes assessed using the same methodology this is towards the upper end of the levels of social return on investment generated by community focused social activities.

On the ground engagement with the actual events themselves and attendance at the subsequent “gathering” of all participating communities provided considerable qualitative evidence of the positive impact of the programme on individuals and groups active in the local communities engaged with the programme.

## LESSONS LEARNT





# RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1. MERGE DAY OF THE REGION AND C4C

Development of Day of the Region in the new programme should incorporate succession to both C4C and Day of the Region. The new merged initiative should use the Day of the Region brand and should facilitate the development of a “Community” of *social entrepreneurs or community activists* around Day of the Region. The project has led to the development of a great deal of capacity and this needs to be allowed to develop further.

## 2. ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY-LED FORUM TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT STAGE OF DAY OF THE REGION

There should be greater encouragement to the communities themselves to take more of a lead in the development of Day of the Region. A formal link could be made with the governance structure, with the Forum selecting its own representatives for whatever decision-making group replaces the Steering Group.

## 3. FOCUS ON THE COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROCESS

*At the project level* – this means designing a more holistic successor project, that facilitates communities in making a “developmental journey”. This should continue to be a relatively open process with the community choosing what it wishes to focus on, but including concrete projects in the manner previously supported by C4C, as well as events. A menu of support could be developed, that included compulsory and optional elements and it would be for the community to make their own **Objective Led** proposal incorporating the options that make most sense in their context. It is important that community proposal are Objective led, as this will ensure that the community has made a choice about where it wants to “go” with its programme.

*At the officer level* – officers should make strenuous efforts to ensure they are facilitating the communities in their actions. Communities, particularly the more hard pressed are used to depending on public sector officers for a considerable range of services. The future for the public sector is likely to involve doing markedly less in this area, which offers opportunities for community led actions. Whilst public sector time is still available in this area, it should be focused on facilitating development and ensuring that each participating community is left with the capability to deliver the supported activities on their own in future. Communities have a very wide range of capabilities and some will be readily able to respond to an “Objective led” approach, whilst others will take greater support. The role of the public sector workers, led by the LEADER Team, is to identify where support is needed and provide it accordingly.

*At the community level* - new and existing communities should be encouraged to see Day of the Region as a process of development, rather than simply an event. The process should include the before, during and after of preparation, the event, and crucially the outcome for the community. Moving to an “Objective led” approach will change the way that the community looks at the support on offer and hopefully promote discussion about the future of each participating community.



## 4. TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

The transnational element of the programme is valuable. There is scope to build on it in a number of ways. Identifying, in the context of Social Return on Investment, a methodology for capturing the outcomes arising from the transnational aspect of the programme is a particularly important issue to consider going forward. This would enable the value of the collegiate and transnational learning from the programme to be captured and evidenced.

The consultation with transnational partners suggested that Day of the Region may work particularly well as a joint international project by having just the right balance of a strong and tangible core concept – strengthening and celebrating regional identity – with enough flexibility in both the method of delivery and the specific expected outcomes (e.g., supporting local enterprise, promoting community activation) to allow innovative and successful approaches in each country. This subtle and nuanced approach provides an ideal route map for the evolution of the trans-national element of the programme.

It would be particularly useful to convene a Day of the Region transnational workshop with EU partners to discuss these aspects of the evaluation of the programme.

## 5. INVENTORY

Establish an online database to replace the existing PDF document on the website to which all communities have equal access, where all the legacy items would be logged, along with their “ownership”, contact details and any restrictions on their use outside their host communities. Model loan agreements could be produced for portable equipment, so that responsibilities are clear.

## 6. MORE CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS AND OTHER MECHANISMS THAT BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

The Gathering in October 2014 was clearly a successful event and other such events would be welcomed by communities, as long as they are purposeful and well located. Topics for future events could include:

- Fund raising, helping communities to secure a sustainable approach to supporting their future activities and events.
- Bid development, e.g., focusing on Lottery Funds and reflecting on success stories from around the region.
- Supporting local development – how communities can play a positive and confident role in their own development.

In most cases it should be possible to showcase the capacities and achievements of Day of the Region communities, increasing the opportunities for communities to learn from one another and help to develop the network/community around Day of the Region and its successor initiative. We also suggest widening the scope of such events to include C4C communities.

## 7. SPLITTING EVENTS ACROSS COMMUNITIES

A consistent finding was that those communities that split events over a number of locations in a community struggled to gain the critical mass and focus at their events and experience would lead such groups to concentrate their events on a smaller number of localities in future.

## 8. STEERING GROUP FUNCTION

Currently applications are circulated by email for appraisal. There is potential for more active and meaningful engagement from the steering group in the appraisal process.



*Report prepared by*



# CATALYS

capacity for change

*In partnership with*



*24 October 2014*

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