



## EU – Rural Cooperation Fair, 23 -24 September 2010, Edinburgh

### LAG PROFILE

#### LAG name

Scottish Borders LEADER

#### LAG contact details

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#### LAG area

The Scottish Borders is a distinct geographical, administrative, and cultural entity within Scotland which sits on the border with Northumberland. The area has a high quality and distinctive environment that covers 4,731 km<sup>2</sup>. This represents almost the whole of the catchment area of the River Tweed. With the exception of the east, which is bounded by the coastline, the area is surrounded by a horseshoe of hills. The key strengths of the Scottish Borders continue to lie in the strong entrepreneurial tradition, the natural assets of the area and the high quality of life offered by the Borders. However, persistent areas of weakness include the low value-added nature of much of the local economy, ongoing infrastructural issues and gaps and the uneven distribution of opportunity. The Scottish Borders with a population of around 110,240 is the third most sparsely populated local authority area in Scotland, and one of most sparsely populated areas in the European Union. The small towns act as centres of economic activity and service centres for the surrounding rural areas. The area is entirely dependent on road transport and has no rail links. Most of the area is also remote from the principal transportation communications network in the UK.

When it comes to the residents there is a great deal of civic pride, energy and community spirit amongst the communities alongside a wide and varied voluntary sector. There is a marked ageing of the population and a continuing out-migration of young people in the 15 to 29 age category.

Two major infrastructure projects have recently progressed: first, the plans for the new Waverley railway link to Edinburgh have been approved, and the development is expected to bring economic, transport, housing, social, tourism and environmental benefits to the Scottish Borders; and, second, the co-location of the local college and university has been implemented bringing both improved facilities and new course provision. The joint campus project is intended to support the economy by reducing the migration of young people for studying, and providing direct benefits to the business base.

#### LAG Cooperation interests

*Please select **max. three Cooperation themes** which could help addressing your LAG Strategy:*

|                      |   |               |   |                       |   |
|----------------------|---|---------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Economic development | ✓ | Social issues |   | Culture               |   |
| Environment          |   | Tourism       | ✓ | Community development | ✓ |

Languages you speak: English and French

#### LAG Cooperation activity

**Project Title: South of Scotland Creative Enterprise Initiative**

**Summary of the project:** to strengthen the creative industry in the South of Scotland and to



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foster and support an entrepreneurial approach. Business and training support will be available for designer/makers creating tangible artistic products such as painting, illustration, pottery, small presses and those involved in creative performance (actors, singers, other performance art).

**Project lead / coordinating partner and country:** Scottish Borders LEADER

**Other partners and countries:** Dumfries and Galloway LEADER (Scotland)

**Start date and phase of project progress:** 26 May 2010

### **Project Title: 7stanes**

**Summary of the project:** the set up a Community Interest Company to undertake the marketing and development of the 7stanes mountain cycling sites within both regions.

**Project lead / coordinating partner and country:** Scottish Borders LEADER

**Other partners and countries:** Dumfries and Galloway LEADER (Scotland)

**Start date and phase of project progress:** 4 May 2010

### **Project Title: The Bridge Motorcycle Project**

**Summary of the project:** to deliver motorcycle training programmes for 14 and 17 year olds. The programme will create awareness of general safety, basic mechanical skills, team building, group discussions and off-road motorcycle training through the use of motorcycles to encourage young people that are referred to the project via youth development partner agencies.

**Project lead / coordinating partner and country:** Scottish Borders LEADER

**Other partners and countries:** Tyne Esk LEADER (Scotland)

**Start date and phase of project progress:** 2 December 2010

## **Cooperation budget for 2007-2013**

Total transnational cooperation budget: £411,100

Budget available for participation in transnational cooperation meetings: £0