

Research Projects

An Identification and assessment of models of how communities outside the UK participate in the management of their landscapes.

This project was undertaken in conjunction with Countryside and Community Research Unit (CCRU), University of Gloucestershire (Paul Selman), and researchers from New Zealand; Hungary; Netherlands; USA; Germany.

The research focused on the kinds of approaches used outside the UK to foster the participation of communities in the management of their landscapes. The research consider issues on how communities could be brought into the management process; the influence of social, economic, historical or other cultural factors and indications of eth success of participatory action in delivering sustainable landscape management.

[Commonage/Common Lands in the West of Ireland - their economic importance and management.](#)

This HEA funded project examined the shared management of common property in rural Ireland through exploring the changing role and multi-functionality of commonage and how it provides a unique perspective on how people, societies and governments contend with the challenges of globalisation. The monitoring of commonage in the way it changes (becomes degraded, developed or privatised for example) provides an excellent opportunity to assess how effectively rural Ireland contends with the forces of modernisation.

The Voluntary/Community Sector and Rural Development: A Critical Analysis of the Role of EU Funding in the Border Region

This project, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, investigated the impact of EU funding (specifically the funding scheme operated under the European Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, hereafter EUSSPPR) on voluntary community activism in the border region of Ireland (specifically the catchment area of the Slieve Beagh Development Association which spans the counties of Monaghan, Fermanagh and Tyrone. In more specific terms, this research sought to provide: an overview of voluntary/ community groups in relation to their evolution (in their own localities); explore the relationship between voluntary/community groups and the providers of funding for projects of rural development; consider the effectiveness of funding in providing for the needs and desires of local communities; and determine which connections between voluntary/community groups, local government and national agencies work best and under what conditions.