



The added value of transnational cooperation in LEADER

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Workshop "Networking as a tool for successful community-led local development"

Open Days 2012

Overview of the presentation

1. What is transnational cooperation under LEADER (EAFRD) ?

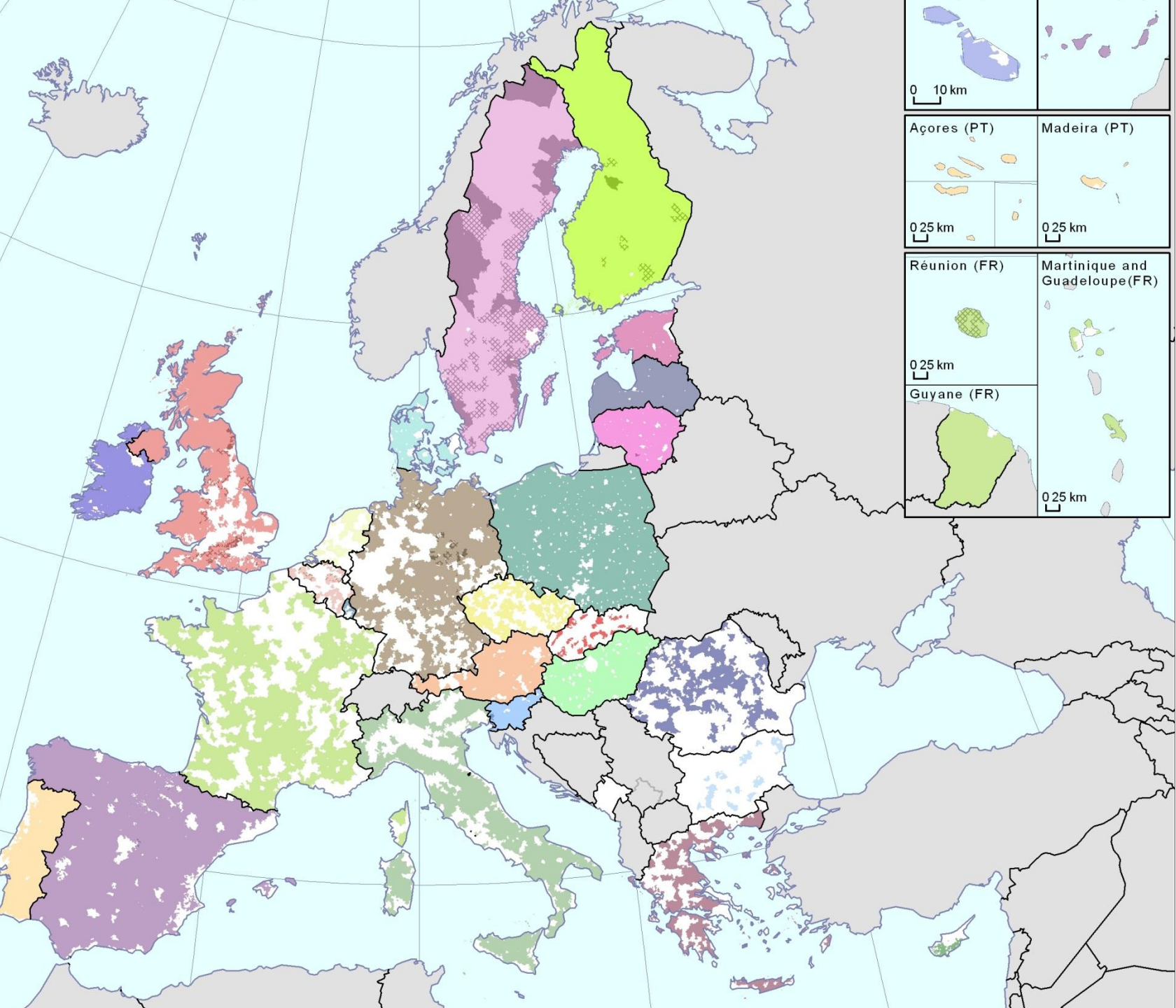
2. The added value: Why cooperate?

FROM LEADER I TO «CLLD»

		<u>Funds</u>	<u>EU Budget (EUR)</u>	<u>LAGs (TNC projects)</u>
LEADER I	1991-1993	EAGGF-Guidance, ESF, ERDF	450 million	217 (only local projects)
LEADER II	1994-1999	EAGGF-Guidance, ESF, ERDF	1.7 billion	821 (250 TNC projects)
LEADER+	2000-2006	EAGGF-Guidance	2.1 billion	893 in EU-15 (383 TNC projects) + 250 under LEADER+ type measure 2004-2006 in 6 NMS (26 projects)
LEADER Axis	2007-2013	EAFRD	5.5 billion → 6% of the EAFRD funding	2.331 (selection in BG and RO not completed) (257 TNC projects – situation Sept 2012)
„CLLD“ (Leader 5th generation)	2014-2020	EAFRD, ESF, ERDF, EMFF	EAFRD: at least 4.5 billion (min. of 5% proposed for each RDP) Other Funds: ...	

LEADER Local Action Group Draft version

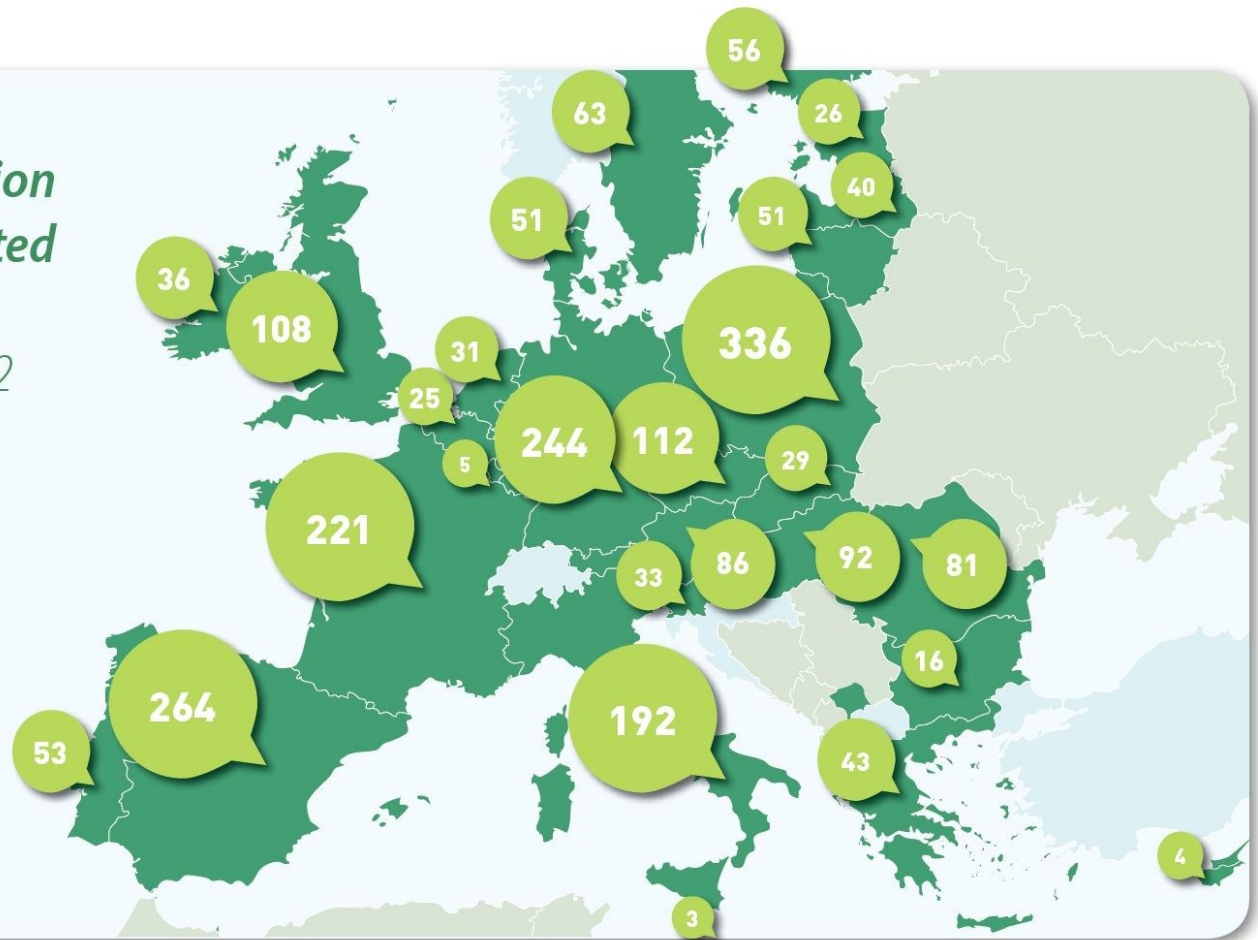
Geographical coverage
based on the LAU
(Local Administrative Units)



Cartography:
DG AGRI GIS-Team
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Number of **Local Action Groups (LAGs)** selected
per Member States
as of September 2012



Number of **notified**
transnational cooperation
projects per Member States
(coordinating LAG per MS)
as of **SEPTEMBER 2012**

total number of projects **257**

Origin of project partners: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Slovakia, United Kingdom, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine, Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Netherlands and Portugal



Participation in **transnational
cooperation projects**
per country
as of *SEPTEMBER 2012*

(based on the number of projects notified
to the European Commission)

- Panama 1
- Nicaragua 1
- Honduras 1
- Guatemala 1
- Belice 1
- El Salvador 1
- Costa Rica 1



EAFRD- European framework for cooperation

- Specific measure under rural development programmes co-funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)*
- Projects implemented until 31 December 2015 (Art.71.Regulation 1698/2005)*
- More than 2300 LEADER territories, with similar issues*

7 distinctive features for LAGs

- Area based local strategies
- Public-private partnerships (local action groups)
- Bottom up approach
- Multi-sectoral and integrated
- Innovative
- **Cooperation**
- **Networking**



Cooperation as part of the LEADER approach...

Is funded under Axis 4 (LEADER) of the EAFRD (Art.65 of of Regulation 1698/2005) through the national or regional rural development programmes from 2007-13.

-> can be part of the implementation of local development strategies by local action groups (LAGs)

Transnational cooperation is desired by the European Commission, but not mandatory at LAG level.

-> All rural development programmes have though foreseen a budget for cooperation within the LEADER-axis

-> and most RDPs have a target (at least one cooperation project per LAG)

What is done for cooperation between rural areas ?

*Budget for measure code 421 in financial plans
278 million Euro = 5% of the EAFRD budget for
Axis 4 (Leader)*

A preparatory support to develop projects

*Technical assistance and training by national rural
networks*

ENRD Facilitation tools



Two main types of cooperation

Inter-territorial cooperation - cooperation between different rural areas within a Member State;

Cooperation within a Member State concerns at least one LAG selected under the LEADER axis and it is open to other local groups using a similar participatory approach; and

Transnational cooperation - cooperation between different rural areas from at least two Member States; or one Member State and a third country

Covers at least one LAG selected under the LEADER axis and partners could include other local groups using similar participatory approach. It is also possible to extend this cooperation to groups in third countries following a similar approach.

ENRD Focus Group on Cooperation

Four main issues discussed:

1. *Different timing in decision-making and different administrative rules*
2. *Different expectations towards beneficiaries in different programmes (eg definitions of common action and common costs)*
3. *Information needs of different partners involved in implementation.*

Why cooperate?

(Findings of LEADER+ ex post evaluation)

Innovation fostered by:

- *enabling local actors to work in new ways*
- *combining existing activities in new ways*
- ***linking local competences to external sources of knowledge and technology***

Success factors:

- ***co-operation with other areas***
- ***networking***
- *participation at local level*
- *communication*

LEADER should maintain its 'laboratory' character, with a strategic perspective.



Findings of LEADER+ ex post evaluation: The added value of cooperation and networking

Networking and cooperation are mainly seen as a source of inspiration and know-how for making improvements to LAGs domestic efforts.

Co-operation activity was positively correlated with LAG's views that they had reinforced local identity and helped create lasting rural networks that would enable future co-operation.