

FRANCE PORTUGAL

Implementing local development strategies

Location

Península de Setúbal,
Portugal; Pays du Mans,
France

Programming period

2007 - 2013

Axis / Priority

Axis 4 – LEADER

Measure

M421 – Transnational
cooperation

Funding (EUR)*

Total budget 69 258

EAFRD 62 332

* Portuguese part

Project duration

2010 – 2012

Project promoter

LEADER du pays du Mans (FR)
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Transnational cooperation between a French and Portuguese LAG on the topic of urban-rural relations has resulted in mutual learning about new ways to improve the scope and effectiveness of short supply-chains for local food.

Summary

This transnational cooperation project concentrated much of its work on increasing regional development stakeholders' awareness about how to enhance practical links in the food chain. Rural territories from France's Pays du Mans and Portugal's Península de Setúbal took part in the project.



They worked together towards common goals aimed at increasing understanding among urban consumers about how to source supplies of fresh rural produce. Both partners collaborated in order to enhance economic growth in their peri-urban territories by providing environmentally-friendly food that had a lower carbon footprint (from reduced transport and storage requirements). Local food chain support activities were developed in each LAG area. These included working with supply-chains for public sector canteens and private sector restaurants. Information about the different project actions were then assessed and discussed during exchange meetings and visits within the two territories.

Results

Outcomes helped the LAG areas to identify new ideas and opportunities for strengthening short supply-chains of local food.

Portuguese beneficiaries learned about prospects for diversifying private sector food supply systems into the public sector market.

French participants gained knowhow about networking food producers using the Internet to supply households and other private sector clients.

Food jobs, product quality, direct sales, and environmental sustainability were all shown to benefit from such rural development action.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Participants in the project learnt that commercial buyers in urban areas are not always aware about the availability of local food. This is key information towards further strengthening rural-urban linkages.
- ❑ A key lesson from this project was the synergy that can be gained from transnational cooperation. Both areas gained new development ground that they would not have been able to if they had been working alone. The cooperation inspired new ways of working and the adoption of multi-thematic approaches proved to be a success factor because this brought in more potential buyers and sellers, as well as their knowledge and ideas.