

**COMPRENDRE**



# COMPARATIVE VIEWS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS AND THE FRENCH RURAL AGENDA



This publication presents the main results of the "Comparative Views of European Funds and the French Rural Agenda" study. This work, based on data from the Observatoire du Développement Rural (ODR-Inrae), the ASP (Agence de Service et de Paiement) and the Europe Department of the ANCT, aims to highlight the share of European funds, and in particular the EAFRD, in the financing of rural development policies in France. This study also aims to identify not only the quantitative weight of the contribution of European funds, including the EAFRD, but also the impact of these funds in qualitative terms.

This study was commissioned by the ANCT and funded by the National Rural Network. It was conducted in 2023 by Leader France, selected after a call for tenders and procurement contract.

The entire study was coordinated by Patricia Andriot (ANCT) and Marie Laurent (ANCT).

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**Director of Publication:** Stanislas Bourron (ANCT); **Editorial Staff:** Patricia Andriot and Marie Laurent (ANCT); **Authors:** Alexis Lebrat, Marie Permingeat, Adeline Hamel et Quentin Legouy (Leader France) ; **Editorial Secretary:** Muriel Thoin (ANCT)

**Press Contact:** [relations.presse@anct.gouv.fr](mailto:relations.presse@anct.gouv.fr)

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The European Structural Funds are important for regional cohesion in France. The National Agency for Territorial Cohesion coordinates ERDF and ESF funding, and also works with the EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) as co-director of the National Rural Network alongside the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty and the Regions of France. In addition, since 2017, the French government has developed a proactive policy for rural areas with a rural agenda, followed by a new programme launched in 2023: Rural France.

Understanding how these funds interact and the roles that they play, particularly that of the EAFRD, in national rural development issues, and observing other countries' practices in policies for rural and mountainous areas are therefore, naturally, some of our primary concerns.

With the help of the National Rural Network, the agency has therefore decided to conduct research in order to:

- assess and demonstrate how European funds contribute to rural and mountainous areas. In particular, we seek to highlight the EAFRD's support of measures that contribute to advancing the Rural Agenda,
- identify how French and European public policies address issues relating to development in rural and mountainous areas.

The results of these studies are published in three reports<sup>1</sup> and confirm the structuring, and in some cases determining, nature of European funds in France, as well as in the other countries studied, in terms of rural development.

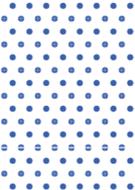
Beyond the different histories and trajectories of each of the countries studied, this research highlights common issues: a widely observed feeling that rural areas have been neglected, public policies that are being developed to support rural and mountainous areas as they face climate change, a shared resurgence of initiatives that begin in these regions, as well as the role of engineering.

These 3 reports on how the EAFRD is used to facilitate rural development and what kind of support is provided for adapting to climate change in the countries studied all highlight the key role of engineering in meeting these new challenges. These studies confirm how important the agency, its programmes and adaptive engineering are, as well as the role of engineering in better use of European funds.

Stanislas Bourron  
Director general of  
the national agency for territorial cohesion

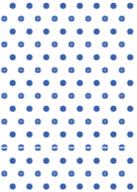
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<sup>1</sup>This report, *Comparative Views of European Funds and the French Rural Agenda*, as well as *Rural Areas and Rural Policy in Europe and Climate Change in the Mountains: Meeting the Challenges of Adapting to Climate Change in Water and Tourism Management* (available on the ANCT website <https://agence-cohesion-territoires.gouv.fr/>)



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# PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY

## WHY THE NEED FOR A STUDY ON "COMPARATIVE VIEWS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS AND THE FRENCH RURAL AGENDA"?

### Rural development: shared challenges that require cross-analysis

Today, it is impossible to broach the subject of rural development in France without bringing up rural development in Europe.

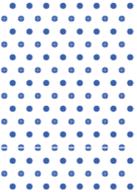
According to the studies and criteria used, between one quarter and one half of Europe's population lives in rural areas, representing between one half and three quarters of the territory of the European Union. Rural areas, in all their diversity, are home to 22 million French people and make up over 88% of the territory. Rural areas are at the centre of the transitions that are affecting France and Europe: demographic, ecological, energy, agricultural, digital, economic and social.

Rural areas are directly affected by these major transitions, but they also hold within them the answers to these major challenges. Although, historically, rural areas account for a considerable land area of the European Union and France, their inclusion in the European Union's public policies and development programmes has not always been visible, and **the history of European action for rural areas is one of slow, patchy development, often encouraged by stakeholders on the ground themselves.**

Rural development in Europe only really emerged in the 1970s, with the introduction of the first directive on the territorial approach in the Common Agricultural Policy, in the interests of economic balance, to stop the agricultural and rural exodus which was threatening the survival of some rural areas, along with the protection of the natural environment and landscapes. It became properly established in the 1980s with the Single European Act of 1986 and in the context of a new reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, with a new European approach to rural development: an integrated, spatial and humanist approach in contrast to the previous structural approach which was somewhat sectoral and production-oriented. It was accompanied by the first zoning programmes set up in conjunction with regional development policy. The concept of rural development reaching beyond the agricultural sector was developed in 1988 in the European Commission's communication on "The future of rural society". The European Commission's communication on "The future of rural society" was thus the first strong political affirmation of the need for a European rural development policy.<sup>2</sup>

#### Notes .....

<sup>2</sup> European Commission (1988), The future of rural society, Bulletin des Communautés européennes, Supplement 4/88



In France, policy for rural areas has undergone many developments over the years. First introduced in the 1960s, rural development policy in France has been structured by European policy in favour of rural development, particularly through European funds managed by the French Ministry of Agriculture, which explains why rural development was initially conceived through agricultural development.

In the 1990s and 2000s, specific rural development policies were introduced to meet the needs of rural areas, in particular with the implementation of measures to support agriculture, promote local initiatives and improve infrastructure. This new approach enabled the concept of land development to evolve and has allowed the specific characteristics of rural areas to be taken into account in regional development policies. We have thus seen the launch of specific programmes to combat desertification, stimulate local employment and improve accessibility of rural areas.

In Europe, since the 2000s, two main financial instruments have taken rural areas into account, without being completely dedicated to them: the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) through its second pillar in support of rural development - the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) - and the Cohesion Policy through the European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD).

Since the creation of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), **rural development policy in France and in Europe has rested on a number of closely-linked strategic frameworks and programmes** that aim to support rural areas, promote sustainability, boost the local economy and improve quality of life for residents.

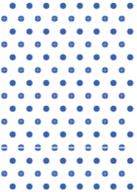
This connection has become further pronounced in recent years. In addition to the wish expressed by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in 2019, to develop a new long-term vision for rural areas, France has rolled out the French rural agenda. Taking rural areas into account at the national and European levels will give greater visibility to rural areas in future debates and has made it possible to develop a Long-Term Vision for the Future of rural areas up to 2040.

This study, commissioned by the Agence Nationale de la Cohésion des Territoires and partially funded by the Réseau Rural français via EAFRD appropriations, should make it possible to measure how these **two European and French dynamics work together and complement each other**. Numerous studies<sup>3</sup> highlight the fact that rural development policy in France depends heavily on European programmes and appropriations, but without drawing up a precise report. The aim is therefore to measure quantitatively and qualitatively the contribution of the CAP financial instruments and the cohesion policy to regional and national rural development policies in France.

The CAP and the Cohesion Policy not only share the ambition to take part in the development of rural areas, but also share common funding lines which represent opportunities for rural areas, whether they are considered as hyper-rural, peri-urban, coastal, mountain or overseas. This study aims not only to draw up an inventory of the contributions from European funds, and in particular the EAFRD, to national public policy in favour of rurality, notably via the rural agenda, but also to have a forward-looking

Notes .....

<sup>3</sup> Rural development policy in France. Initial analyses of rural development programmes in the metropolitan French regions for the 2014-2020 period, Hai Vu Pham and Marielle Berriet-Sollic, January-March 2018



analysis of the relationship between European funds and the rural agenda, which would be part of the 2021-2027 European programming period and within the framework of France Ruralités.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study is based on the collection of quantitative and qualitative data:

First, quantitative data was collected from THE Unité de Service de l'Observatoire du Développement Rural (US-ODR, INRAE), Agence de Services et de Paiement (ASP), various regional councils, the Direction générale des Collectivités Locales (DGCL), the European Commission via its open data platform, Cohesiondata, and the Europe division of the Agence Nationale de la Cohésion des Territoires. Through compiling and analysing this digital data, a factual analysis of the situation can be put forward.

Three funding categories have been analysed:

- Data concerning the EAFRD, which in particular allowed for the analysis of the sums committed and paid by measure and sub-measure, then by region, for the 2014-2022 programming period, specifically for rural development (rural development measures include all measures and sub-measures other than agricultural development);
- Data concerning the DSIL provision for local investment and the DETR annual provision of equipment for rural areas, which enabled EAFRD sums to be compared with the DSIL and DETR sums allocated to agricultural development over the same period, by region and by type of beneficiary;
- Data concerning the ERDF, which enabled the analysis of the amounts of this policy earmarked for rural development over the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods.

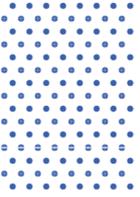
The data in question concerns the amounts of the dedicated financial budgets, the sums committed (i.e. applications that have been subject to legal and regulatory instruction and commitment on the EAFRD management software, Osiris), and the sums finally paid (i.e. actually paid to the project sponsors).

Then, and to explore in further depth this first quantitative image created, two surveys were carried out:

1. One form-based survey of French Local Action Groups with the purpose of completing the data collected on Measure 19 "support for local development under LEADER". Out of the 339 territories questioned, 272 replies were collected
2. A form and telephone-based survey of regional management authorities to complete EAFRD and ERDF data. Out of the 18 regions questioned, 14 replies were collected.

The study focuses on certain subjects addressed by the EAFRD, defined by specifications and selected as representative of rural development in Europe: digital technology, mobility, youth, public accessibility of services, access to care/assistance for the ageing population and small businesses in rural areas. In an initial work phase, these subjects were coupled with the corresponding measures of the rural agenda defined as agricultural, i.e.:

- Measure 2: Advisory services, farm management and relief services. This measure aims to promote access to advisory services, farm management and farm relief services. Advisory services target farmers, forest and land managers and



businesses in rural areas in order to improve their economic and environmental performance.

- Measure 3: Quality schemes for agriproducts and foodstuffs. This measure supports the development of agricultural products from quality systems.
- Measure 7: Basic services and village renewal in rural areas - excluding grazing (sub-measure 7.6). Measure 7 aims to support development of the rural economy, local infrastructure and basic services in order to encourage their potential for economic growth, promote social inclusion and encourage the sustainable development of rural areas.
- Measure 16: Cooperation Against a backdrop of dispersed stakeholders in rural areas, this measure encourages collective action for the emergence and dissemination of innovation. It supports various forms of cooperation, involving at least two entities from among the stakeholders in rural areas.
- Measure 19: Support for LEADER local development (CLLD). LEADER supports the territorial development of rural areas. This approach corresponds to a specific form of governance for the implementation of EAFRD measures.

It should be noted that, without having precise data on the actions of each project approved, a choice was made to take into account all projects related to these measures. Projects that could be assigned to an "agricultural" category, in particular measures 2, 3 and 16, have been accounted for, but classified as "outside the scope of the study" in order to show the proportion of projects dedicated to rural development and to the themes concerned alone. Concerning Measure 19, all sub-measures have been taken into account: sub-measure 19.2 "support for implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy" and 19.3 "preparation and implementation of cooperation activities and 19.4 "support for running costs and animation", which is more technical but makes an active contribution to the rural development of a territory because it directly affects the organisation and principles of democratic representation in a given area.

Although rural development policies in France can be funded within the framework of the European Social Fund, theme-based programmes (e.g.: Erasmus +) or indirectly under other EAFRD measures, the choice of methodology was to focus the study on the previously mentioned measures.

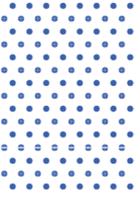
## RURAL DEVELOPMENT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In order to have a better understanding of the subject, it is essential to redefine the very concept of rural development and its involvement in the various European, national and regional policies.

However, there is currently no exact and shared definition of rural development. For Paul Houée, rural development is "*a process of improving the living and working conditions of rural populations, based on the development of local resources and the participation of local stakeholders.*" In addition, as underlined by the work of Pierre-Yves Le Meur and Philippe Lavigne Delville,<sup>4</sup> "*rural development is an expression that seems to speak for itself, encompassing everything to do with the processes of technical, economic and social change in rural areas. It refers to farmers, breeders, sowing of crops, land, trees,*

Notes .....

<sup>4</sup> Pierre-Yves Le Meur and Philippe Lavigne Delville (2009), *Anthropologie de l'aide humanitaire et du développement*, Chapter 3, pages 73 to 96



*markets, access to natural resources, LEADERship, organisation, etc. Rural development is also about development interventions in rural areas – agricultural or land policies, development projects and management of natural resources. However, the limits and content of the field of rural development have varied over time and according to the representations, interests and objectives of the stakeholders who have given it substance. The definition of rural development has evolved from technical approaches focused on infrastructure, cultivation techniques and the organisation of supply chains in cash-crop or marginalised areas, to more systemic approaches that take into account the various dimensions of agrarian systems and moving towards local approaches to land management and community development."*

## **The EAFRD and the ERDF: the main European instruments to fund rural development**

Two main European financial instruments take rural areas into account, but without being completely dedicated to them: the CAP through its second pillar in support of rural development - the EAFRD - and the Cohesion Policy through the ERDF.

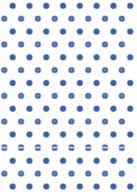
### **The EAFRD: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development**

Originally introduced within the Cohesion Policy, the rural development policy now mainly comes under the "second pillar" of the CAP and since 2007 has benefited from a specific fund, the EAFRD. Designed to adapt to the diversity of rural situations, this pillar brings together a range of measures covering several subjects, from helping farmers to set up to environmental protection, or the territorial development of rural areas.

The EAFRD, and more broadly structural funds, contribute to the development of rural areas and a more balanced, climate-friendly, climate-resilient, competitive and innovative agricultural sector.

For the 2014-2020 period, extended until 2022 (in this document, we will refer to the "2014-2022" period), studied in this survey, its action focuses on the following six rural development priorities:

- Priority 1: Transfer of knowledge and innovation
- Priority 2: Viability of farms, competitiveness of all types of agriculture in every region, promotion of innovative agricultural technologies and sustainable forest management.
- Priority 3: Organisation of the food chain and risk management
- Priority 4: Restoration, protection and reinforcement of ecosystems linked to agriculture and forestry
- Priority 5: Effective use of resources and transition to a low-carbon economy resilient to climate change
- Priority 6: Social inclusion, reduction of poverty and economic development.



These priorities are broken down into 20 measures for the 2014-2022 period. For this period, France was allocated a substantial EAFRD budget to support rural development, i.e. €11.4 billion spread over 27 regional programmes.

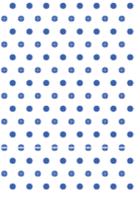
In this national context of decentralisation, EAFRD management is mainly entrusted to regional councils, which now define the programming of actions and manage the programmes. The French state remains the management authority for the two national programmes: the "national rural network" programme and the "risk management and technical assistance" programme. Each regional council is thus the management authority of an EAFRD rural development programme. By derogation, the departmental council is the EAFRD management authority for Reunion Island, and the State, via the regional prefecture, in Mayotte. The regional councils and the State have agreed to frame certain elements at the national level: the national framework proposes common guidelines for rural development programmes in France. Regional management authorities set up regional rural development programmes (RRDP) which define a strategy and implementation objectives through joint measures.

Thus, EAFRD actions in France, excluding LEADER, are focused on helping young farmers to set up, payments in areas with natural or specific constraints, agro-environmental and climatic measures, support for organic farming and payments under Natura 2000 and the framework directive on water management.

Inspired by new thinking and methodologies developed by development economics trends, the LEADER Community initiative programme was introduced in 1991 against a backdrop featuring an increased awareness of the specific issues of rural areas, the growing importance of a different approach to development (rural development) and the stated ambition for an in-depth reform of European policies. The approach was the result of a paradigm shift in public intervention policies and led to a change in Community policies, first the regional policy, which later became the Cohesion Policy, then the CAP, which became the European Union's rural policy.

As the territorial section of the EAFRD, LEADER is designed as an approach to support multi-sectoral strategies, developed and administrated by the territories, thus providing them with a framework conducive to the emergence of high-quality collective projects. The approach involves stakeholders from the territories and from different backgrounds: public service, civil society, entrepreneurship or the social sector, representing all the themes developed in the territory.

From 2007, with the creation of the EAFRD, the CAP became a rural policy, comprising an "agricultural pillar" to finance direct aid for farms, and a "rural pillar" based on four areas or intervention objectives: support for the competitiveness of business sectors, funding of agro-environmental measures and conversions to organic farming, improvement of quality of life in rural areas and support for the diversification of economic activities and encouragement for local rural development strategies via the LEADER programme.



## The ERDF: European Regional Development Fund

The second financial instrument is the ERDF. Managed in France by the regional councils within the framework of regional operational programmes, the ERDF is a structural fund of the European Union that aims to promote economic and social cohesion between different EU regions. It aims to reduce development disparities between the least developed and the most developed regions in the European Union.

For rural areas, the ERDF plays an important role by funding projects that aim to improve living conditions, stimulate local economy and reinforce infrastructure in these areas, and is particularly involved in the following areas:

- Local economic development: funding of projects aimed at promoting local entrepreneurship, supporting small businesses and encouraging innovation in rural areas.
- Improvement of infrastructure: this may include investments in roads, transport networks, access to drinking water, sewage networks, etc., to improve connectivity and quality of life in rural areas.
- Agricultural and agrifood development: funding of projects to modernise agriculture, encourage sustainable farming practices, promote processing of local agricultural products, etc.
- Rural tourism: support to develop rural tourism by funding tourism infrastructure, accommodation, hiking paths, etc.
- Training and skills development: funding of training and skills development programmes to reinforce local labour and boost employability.
- Environmental protection and renewable energies: funding of projects to promote environmentally-friendly practices, such as the transition to renewable energies, protection of biodiversity, etc.

## The French rural development policy: the rural agenda and France Ruralités

### The French rural agenda

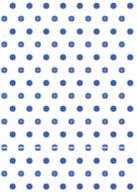
The French rural agenda is an action plan to support rural areas. It does not aim to be a specific programme dedicated to rurality, but to adapt public policies to the needs and specific characteristics of rural areas.

In response to the French government's ambition to improve quality of life in rural areas, the rural agenda was launched in September 2019 by Édouard Philippe, based on proposals from five elected representatives (Mission Agenda rural).<sup>5</sup>

With the establishment of this "rural agenda", France, through the Minister for Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Territorial Authorities, was the first EU Member State to support the development of a "European rural agenda" which, once in place, will be the counterpart to the "European Union's urban agenda".

#### Notes .....

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.vie-publique.fr/rapport/268391-200-propositions-pour-un-agenda-rural>



The French rural agenda and the EAFRD, and in particular the LEADER measure, share a common methodology and vision: boost the regeneration of rural areas and support local initiatives by involving and engaging local people as much as possible in the creation of territorial strategies. Digital technology, health, culture, education, shops and services, employment and economic activity, ecology, travel, etc., are some of the many fields covered by the action plan to support development introduced by the French government and called the "rural agenda". These fields affect residents' everyday lives, both in their personal and professional activities, and contribute to the social and territorial cohesion of rural areas.

## France Ruralités

To formulate a global response in line with the requirements of rural areas, the French government presented "France Ruralités" in June 2023, an action plan for rural areas in line with the French rural agenda.

Through this policy, France Ruralités aims to act globally:

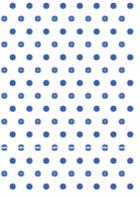
- By providing engineering solutions to rural municipalities to help them carry out the projects for investment and equipment expected by their residents;
- By giving local authorities the means to maintain and enhance rural amenities that make up the natural and ecological wealth of rural areas;
- By acting in every area of the daily life of French people to provide them with solutions for housing, mobility and safety;
- By giving these territories tools to boost their economic appeal and to attract healthcare professionals and personal services providers.

## National financial schemes for rural areas

In addition to national policies for rural development, several national instruments provide funding for projects in rural areas, in particular the DETR and DSIL provisions.

The DETR (annual provision of equipment for rural areas) was set up by Article 179 of French law 2010-1657 on finances for 2011 and results from the merger of the Dotation Globale d'Équipement des Communes (local authority equipment provision) and the Dotation de Développement Rural (rural development provision). It is a funding scheme set up to support investments made by territorial authorities in rural areas. Its aim is to encourage the development and improvement of public infrastructure and equipment in these areas, thus helping to boost the attractiveness and quality of life for residents of rural areas.

The DSIL funds the main investment priorities of municipalities or their groupings. It also intends to support rural area development operations as part of a contract signed between the State and groups of municipalities.



## Regional rural development policies in France

The policies of regional councils in terms of rural development in France can vary from one region to another depending on local specificities and priorities defined by regional elected representatives. Issues related to rural development are mainly incorporated in territorial development policies and meet the objectives of plans for regional development, sustainable development and territorial equality (SRADDET).

The SRADDETs restore the strategic role of territorial planning: the possibility of prescribing; integration of sectoral plans; co-construction, and they strengthen the role of the regional institution, invited to formulate a political vision of its priorities in terms of regional planning.

The SRADDETs set medium and long-term objectives in connection with a variety of themes: balance and equality of territories; installation of various infrastructures of regional interest; opening up of rural areas; housing, economical management of space; multi-modality and development of transport; control and development of energy; combating climate change and air pollution; protecting and restoring biodiversity; waste prevention and management. Within the framework of implementing these policies, the regional councils finance projects related to territorial development in rural areas with their own funds, in line with the European appropriations they manage.

# KEY FIGURES FROM THE STUDY



Three surveys conducted  
On management authorities and  
Local Action Groups

30 interviews carried out  
With management authorities  
and other qualified persons



Two European  
programming  
periods studied

2014 – 2022 / 2023 - 2027



Four main data sources

ASP data, US-ODR processing,  
INRAE  
DGCL  
COHESIONDATA  
Surveys



5 EAFRD measures studied



73 measures of the French  
rural agenda studied



20,545 projects approved  
under measure 19



29,563 projects approved under  
the measures studied



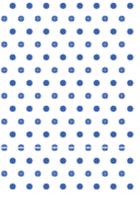
€917,346,626:  
ERDF sum committed to rural  
development in 2014-2021



€1,118,533,654: EAFRD  
sum committed to rural  
development in 2014-2021



€1 billion:  
Annual provision of equipment  
for rural areas (DETR)



# THE USE OF EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A MARKER OF THE PRIORITIES OF RURAL AREAS

## THE EAFRD: A MARKER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Initial analyses of French data on EAFRD measures taken under the second pillar of the CAP confirm that Member States, and also the regions, have the possibility of adapting Community support to their rural development priorities.

As shown by the work of Hai Vu Pham and Marielle Berriet-Sollicec,<sup>6</sup> the implementation of the EAFRD in France underlines the importance of so-called agricultural measures.

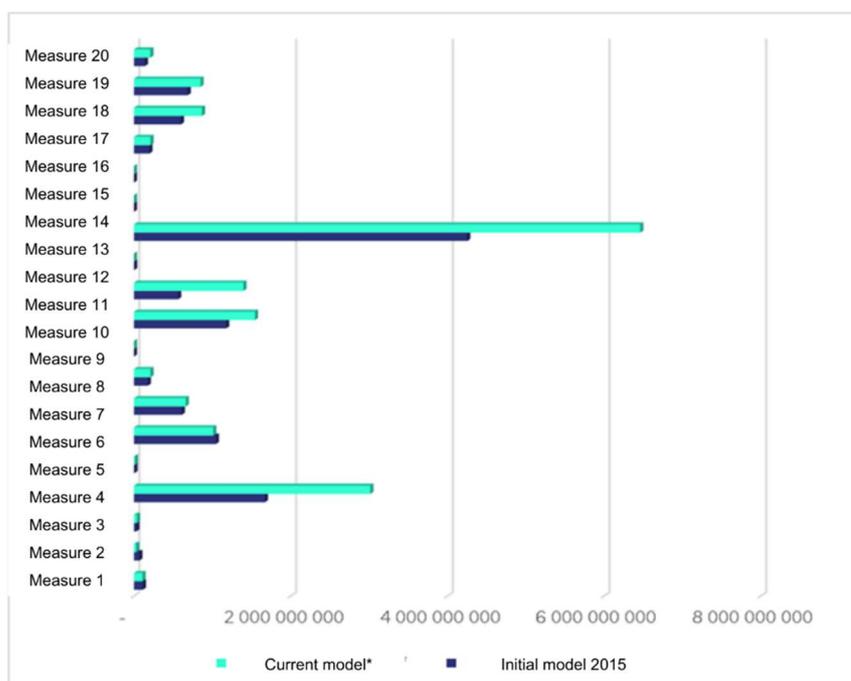
Therefore, concerning the 20 measures potentially available to the regions, the main ones used in France are:

- Measure 4 on tangible and intangible investments to improve performance and sustainability of farms, in terms of production, processing and marketing. The importance of this measure in France can be interpreted by its relevance to the French agro-ecological project at the time the programming documents were drawn up.
- Measure 6 on support for the development of farms and businesses and which covers, in particular, aid for young farmers and non-agricultural entrepreneurs setting up in rural areas.
- Measure 10 on agri-environment and climate measures: this measure is granted to farmers, groupings of farmers and other managers who commit to develop environmentally-friendly practices.
- Measure 13 on payments to compensate farmers working in areas facing significant natural or other specific constraints.

### Notes .....

<sup>6</sup> Hai Vu Pham and Marielle Berriet-Sollicec (2018), La politique de développement rural en France. Premières analyses des programmes de développement rural dans les régions françaises métropolitaines sur la période 2014-2020, Economie Rurale, No. 363, p. 141-159

Graph 1 - EAFRD Budget by measure in France for the 2014-2022 period (€)



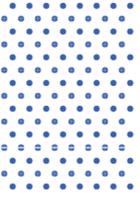
Data source: ISIS, OSIRIS and ODARC for Corsica

\*The "current model" column takes into account the introduction of 2021 and 2022 transition credits in the RDP models, including EURI funds and P1-P2 2021 transfers.

Graph 1, which shows the breakdown of the EAFRD financial budget by measure, underlines this concentration of funds on the four measures mentioned above, both in the initial budget at the start of the programme and in the budget at the end of the programme, including budget amendments. The sum of these four measures represents around 70% of EAFRD expenditure. This predominance of agricultural measures in the EAFRD budget demonstrates the declared intention to concentrate funds on this theme and, by correlation, limits the financial impact of so-called non-agricultural rural development measures within the framework of priority 6 "Social inclusion, reduction of poverty and economic development". The breakdown of the EAFRD financial budget demonstrates the importance of agricultural measures within the EAFRD.

## A necessary regional adaptation of the EAFRD which has encouraged the concentration of funds

Without taking into account the concentration of appropriations on the so-called agricultural measures, the implementation of the EAFRD varies depending on the regional rural development programmes. It should be noted that the European Commission permitted Member States and regions to adapt Community support to their own rural development priorities. As mentioned above, in France this approach was then itself decentralised and entrusted to the regions (MAPTAM law, completed by decree [2015-445 of 16/04/2015]). Each Region established its RRDP based on a territorial diagnosis and by taking into account obligations defined in the national framework.

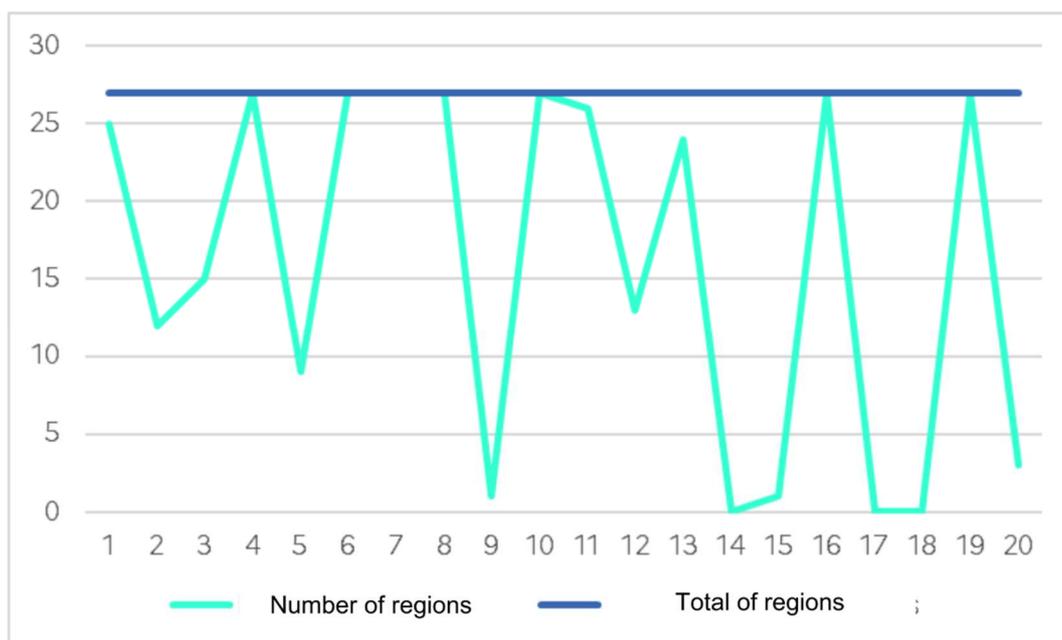


The territorial diagnoses in question were established by consultation work between 2012 and 2015 with all stakeholders in the agricultural, agrifood and forestry sectors, as well as those from rural and peri-urban areas, to define the priorities for EAFRD interventions according to the specific challenges of the region.

On the national scale, it is possible to identify five major strategic areas of the EAFRD in France: strengthen support for farmers, ensure the food and ecological transition, promote sustainable agriculture, encourage innovation, training and support, and support the development and sustainable land management of rural areas. However, depending on the regional context, in order to support the above-mentioned strategic areas, not all measures have been activated in all RRDs (Graph 2).

Out of the 20 EAFRD measures, only seven have been deployed in all of the regions in France, and three measures have not been deployed.

Graph 2 – Number of French regions that have deployed measures at regional level, for the 2014-2022 period, by measure



Source: ASP data, US-ODR, INRAE, January 2023

Concerning the measures examined as part of this study, despite the regional breakdown, examining the EAFRD budget of January 2023 highlights a concentration of funds on three measures: Measure 7 on basic services and village renewal in rural areas, Measure 16 on cooperation and Measure 19 on support for local development under LEADER (CLLD).

These three measures account for 97% of the funds, i.e. €1,724 billion out of a total €1,793 billion, and are deployed in all regions. (Table 1)

The breakdown of measures in the RRDs has evolved between the initial RRDs and the measures finally activated during the programming period.

Table 1 – Change in the concentration of EAFRD funds

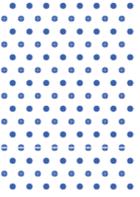
<b>EAFRD measures</b>	<b>Number of times the measure was initially included in the RRDPs</b>	<b>Number of times the measure was approved in the RRDPs</b>	<b>Amount of the EAFRD budget allocated (January 2023 – in €)</b>	<b>Amount of the EAFRD budget allocated (January 2023 – in %)</b>
<b>Measure 2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29,354,574</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Measure 3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39,241,464</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Measure 7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>662,450,374</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Measure 16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>212,131,776</b>	<b>11.8</b>
<b>Measure 19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>850,332,127</b>	<b>47.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,793,511,315</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: ASP data, US-ODR, INRAE, January 2023*

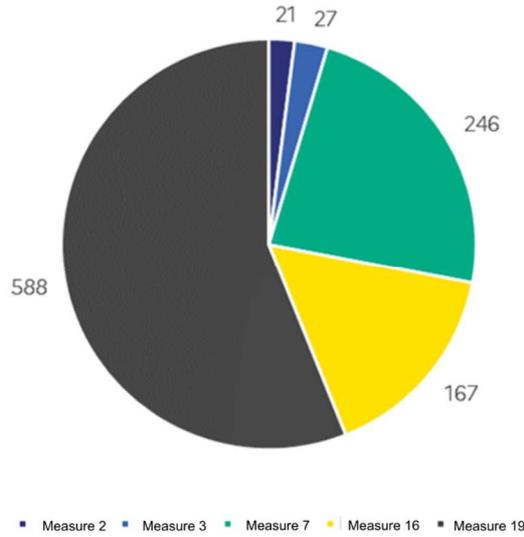
These differences can be explained by the choice of regional councils to mainly support measures that complement regional agricultural development policies and to concentrate support on measures that are most complementary to their territorial planning policies, because territorial planning remains a major competence of the Regions. They intervene in many areas, such as rural or urban development, land and planning or regional nature parks, directly with the project territories.

## **EAFRD commitment appropriations in line with the priorities of the regional development policy in France**

The concentration of funds and the commitment of EAFRD appropriations at the end of the European programming period (Graph 3) show the determination of the parties involved in rural areas and public policy in France to revive the countryside and support local initiatives. One factor of these measures is that local initiatives involve and engage local stakeholders as much as possible in the creation of territorial strategies on a variety of themes that affect the daily life of residents, both in their personal and professional activities, and contribute to the social and territorial cohesion of rural areas. Measures 7, 16 and 19 are the three most transposable and adaptable EAFRD measures at territorial level and make way for multi-sectoral and collective projects.



Graph 3 – Breakdown of the EAFRD 2014-2022 budget committed by measure at the end of the programming period (in € million)

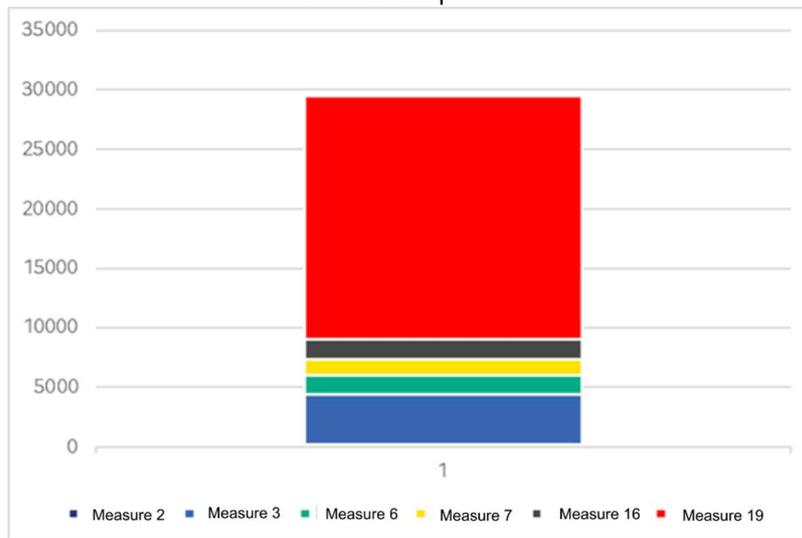


Source: ASP data, US-ODR, INRAE, January 2023

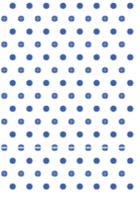
The subject field of these measures also corresponds to the expectations raised by SWOT (Strengths - Weaknesses - Opportunities - Threats) analyses carried out as part of writing the RRDPs.

According to the survey on EAFRD management authorities carried out as part of this study, the management authorities underlined that these three measures were also accompanied (in particular within the framework of the regional rural networks) by specific communication efforts, unlike the other measures, in particular targeted digital communication and information and awareness-raising meetings in the territories for local stakeholders. Deemed "specific and important", in particular for Measure 19 - LEADER, this communication was carried out by all management authorities. This communication also took the form of theme-based seminars, support for cooperation, project capitalisation and videos.

Graph 4: Breakdown of the number of projects approved by measure in France for the 2014-2022 period



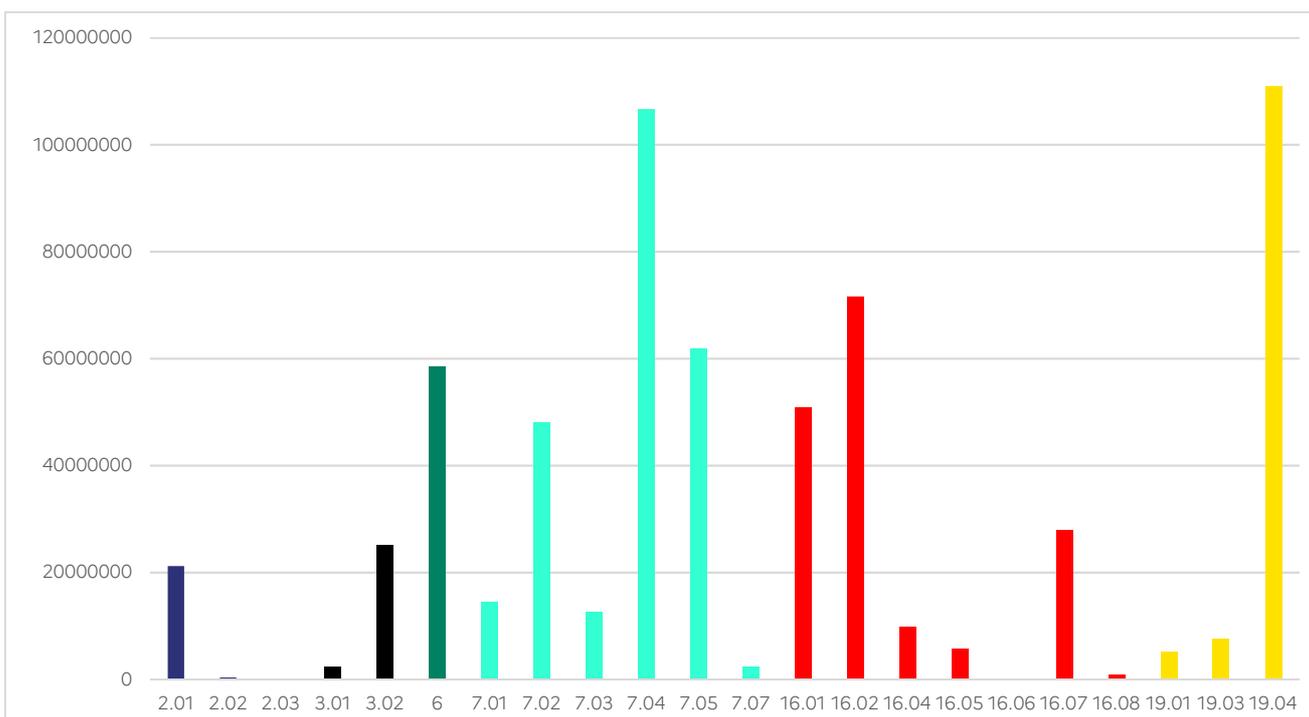
Source: ASP data, US-ODR, INRAE, January 2023



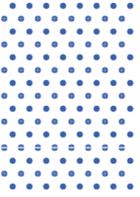
This concentration of projects under measures 7, 16 and 19 can also be seen in the number of projects approved. Out of the 29,563 projects approved under all measures in the study, 80% concerned these three measures (of which 87% under Measure 19). (Graph 4)

This can be explained, in particular, by the fact that the financial budget allocated and therefore the amount of the commitments for these three measures is greater than for measures 2, 3 and 6. This is also true in terms of the amount committed per measure and sub-measure (graph 5) and is also true for each of the regions (graph 6).

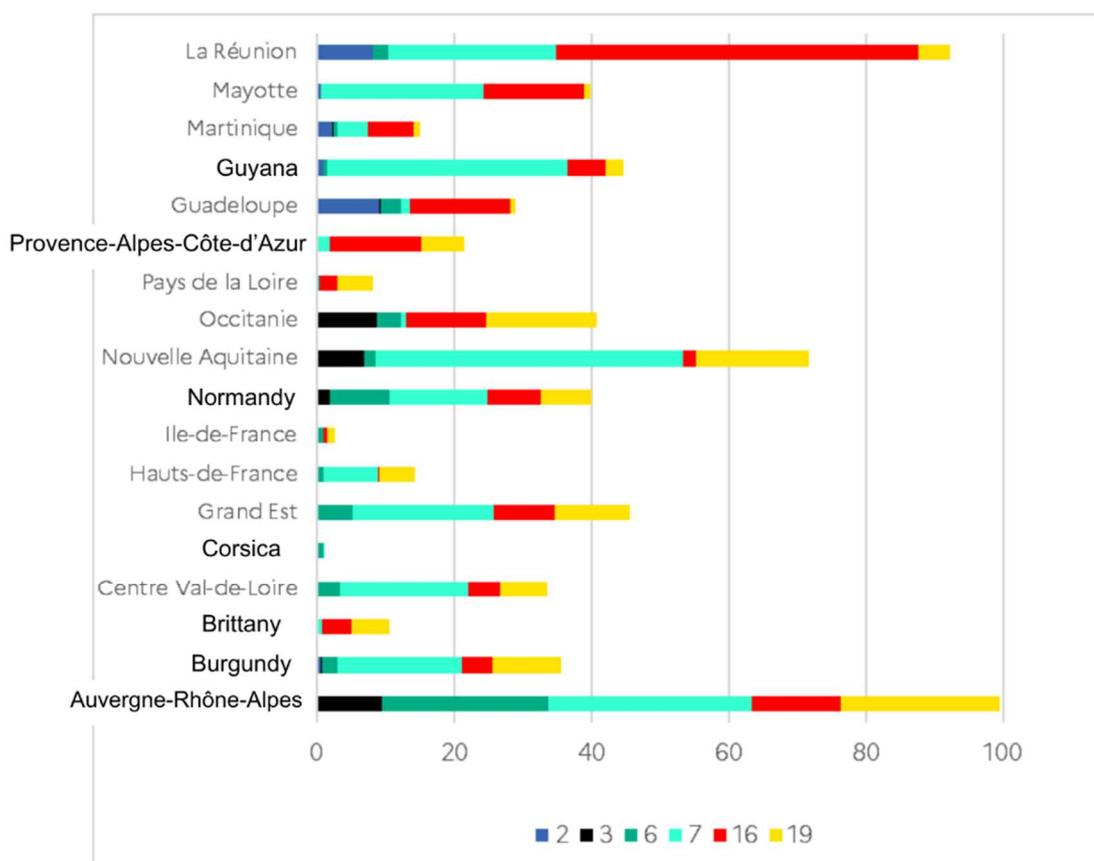
Graph 5 – EAFRD amount committed by sub-measure in France for the 2014-2022 period (in €)



Source ASP (OSIRIS), US-ODR processing, January 2023



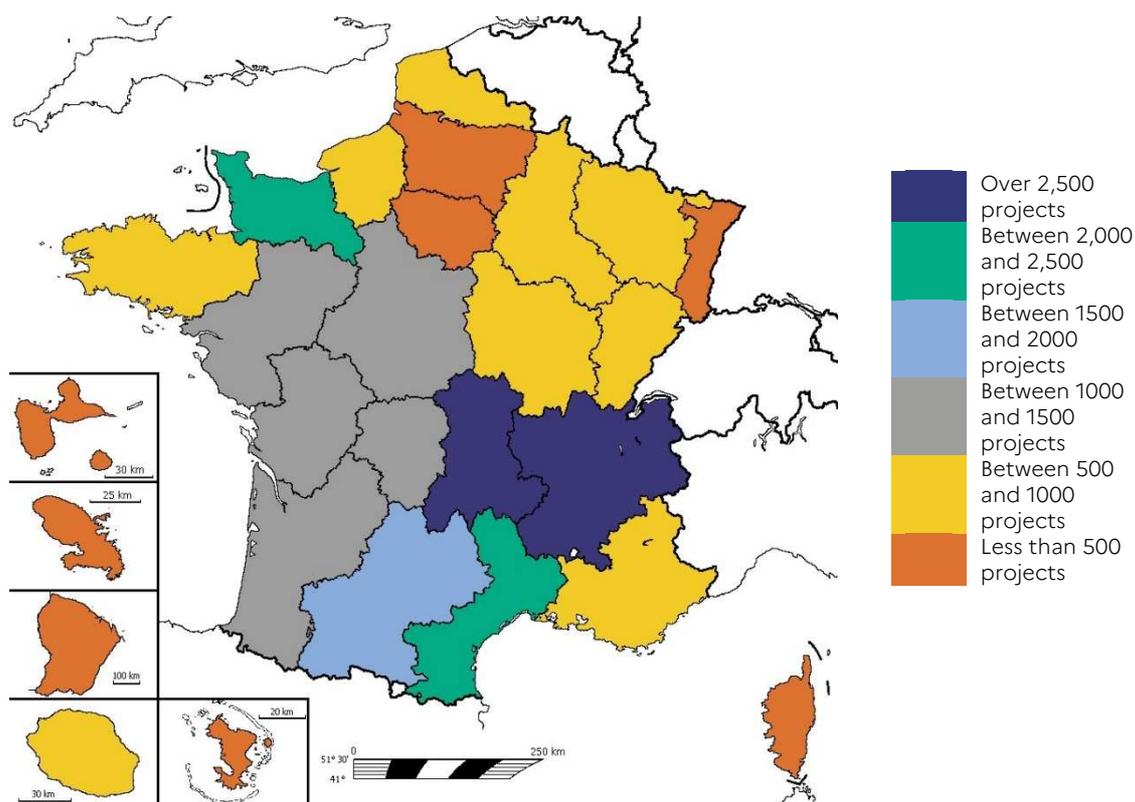
Graph 6 – EAFRD amount committed by region for measures 2, 3, 6, 7, 16 and 19 for the 2014-2022 period (in € million)



Source: ASP (OSIRIS), US-ODR processing, January 2023

From a regional point of view, the breakdown of projects approved under all of these measures by RRDP is proportional to the EAFRD budget committed. Thus, the RRDP of Auvergne (3,817 projects), Rhône Alpes (4,813 projects) and Midi-Pyrénées (2,001 projects) have the highest number of projects approved nationwide. (Figure 1)

Figure 1: Number of projects approved by RRD

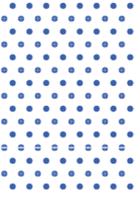


Source: ASP data, US-ODR, INRAE, January 2023

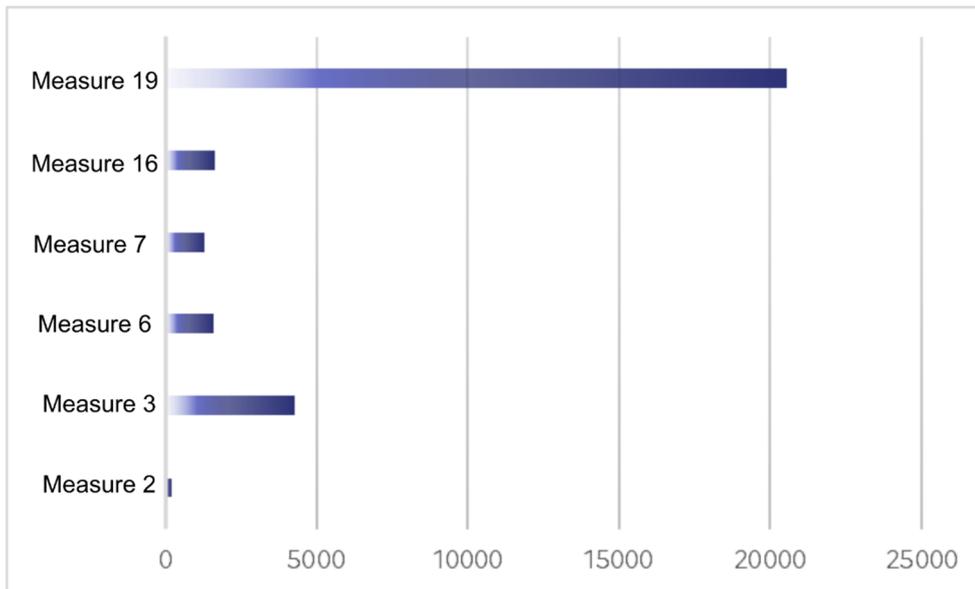
## Measure 19 on support for local development under LEADER at the centre of EAFRD support

The LEADER measure is the only EAFRD measure subject to specific governance and has been developed in nearly 338 territories in France, i.e. nearly 28,000 municipalities. Developed on a territorial basis and within the framework of a public-private partnership set up as a Local Action Group (LAG), the approach is designed to support multi-sectoral strategies, developed and managed by the territories.

Despite representing just 5% of the total EAFRD budget in France for the 2014-2022 programming period, i.e. nearly €850 million of EAFRD funding (including additional appropriations for the 2021-2022 transition period), Measure 19, known as "LEADER", represents 70% of the projects approved and studied under all the measures in this study, i.e. over 20,000 projects financed in the whole of France. (Graph 7)



Graph 7 – Number of projects approved by measure  
In France for the 2014-2022 period



Source: ASP data, US-ODR, INRAE, January 2023

As highlighted by the examination of Measure 19 of the EAFRD conducted by Réseau rural français,<sup>7</sup> LEADER supports projects on a number of themes: 82% of all 338 LAGs fund local and sustainable economy projects, 72% of all 338 LAGs fund projects regarding tourism and heritage, 65% of all 338 LAGs fund projects concerning the ecological transition and social solidarity, etc.

Through the multi-sectoral vision, engineering support, local development led by local stakeholders and numerous principles, the LEADER measure, which is part of the EAFRD, is in line with the rural agenda and is helping to change the perception of rural areas, which are now seen as solutions to the major changes taking place around us.

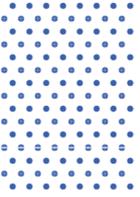
## THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE EAFRD FOR RURAL PLAYERS HIGHLIGHTED BY A WIDE RANGE OF FUNDING AND PROJECT SPONSORS

### The EAFRD: main source of European funding for rural areas

Like all other European structural funds, the principle of "additionality", which means that contributions from structural funds do not replace the structural expenditure of Member States, raises the question of how they tie in with other tools for funding local public policies, first and foremost with State-region planning contracts, of which the purpose and implementation methods are similar to those of operational programmes.

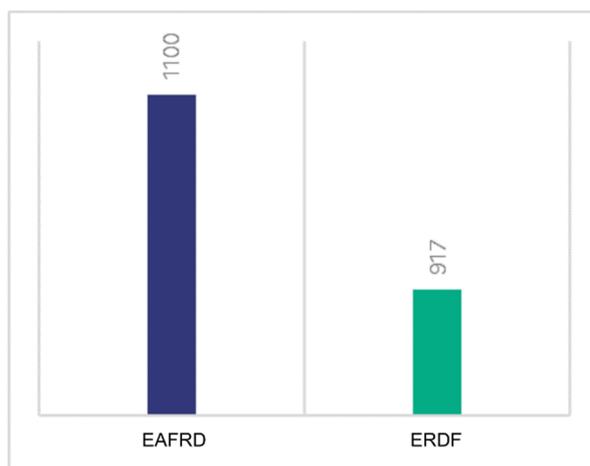
Notes .....

<sup>7</sup> Study on Measure 19 LEADER of the 2014-2020 RRD carried out on behalf of Réseau Rural National



For the 2014-2022 programming period, the data analysed within the framework of our study shows that nearly €1.1 billion in EAFRD funding and €917 million in ERDF<sup>8</sup> funding will be used to finance projects in rural areas that fall within the scope of rural development. The contribution of the EAFRD to rural development is therefore the main European financial instrument used by rural areas (Graph 8).

**Graph 8 - Amount dedicated to funding rural development for the 2014-2022 period (in € million)**



*Source: ASP data, US-ODR processing, INRAE, Janvier 2023 / raw data: DG Regio*

Note that these figures only reflect investments clearly allocated by the programmes to rural areas. Around 60% of investments from the Cohesion Policy are not related to a specific type of territory. It is therefore likely that the rural areas actually benefit from more investments within the framework of the Cohesion Policy.

## **A wide range of co-funders which complicates coordination**

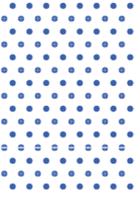
The principle of additionality means that compulsory public co-funding (excluding the project owner) is required in order to "call in" EAFRD funding. This may be provided directly by the project sponsor, as part of a public structure, or through public co-funding by another public body, which may be national, regional, departmental or local.

Therefore, nearly €1.1 billion of public co-funding has been mobilised under the measures in the study in return for EAFRD funding.

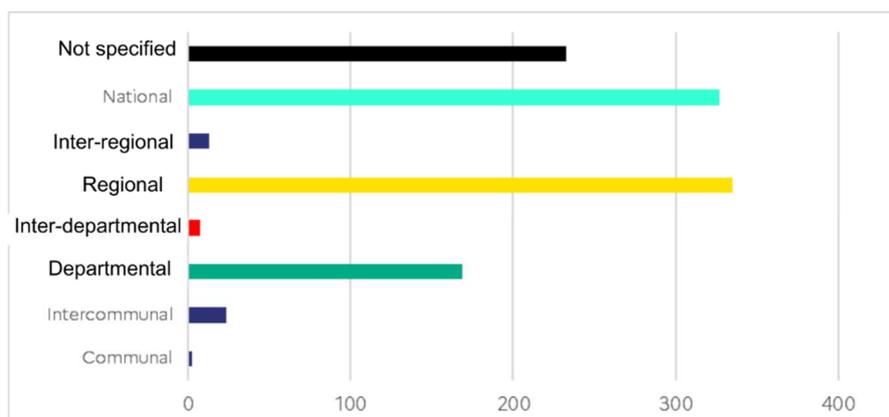
The EAFRD, although organised by region, is still mainly co-funded by the State if all measures are taken into account. However, the measures examined in this study show that regional co-funding is the main source of public funding in return for the EAFRD (Graph 9).

### **Notes .....**

<sup>8</sup> Source: DG Regio <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/u9a9-5ucd>



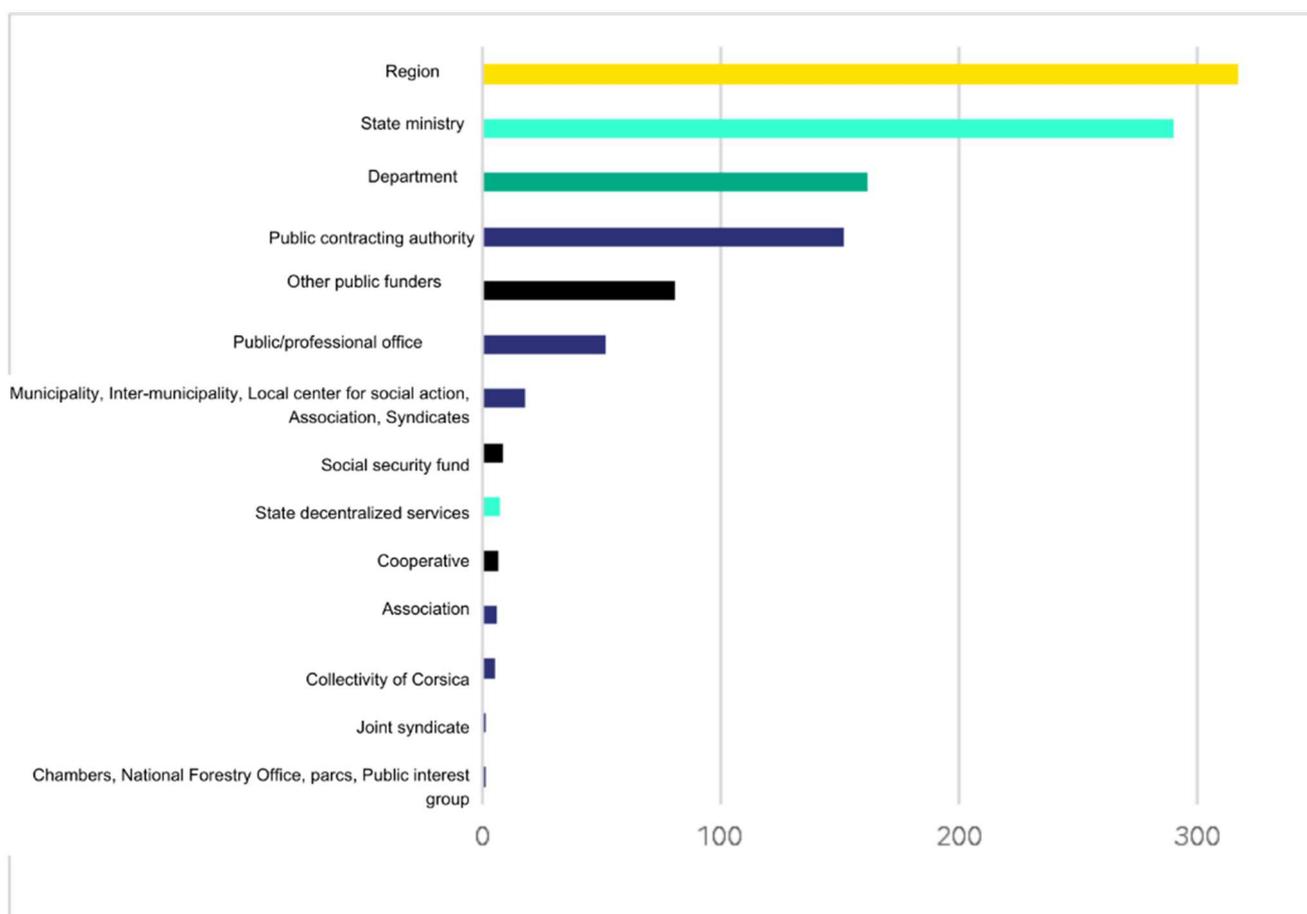
Graph 9 – Breakdown of the main co-funders within the framework of EAFRD 2014-2022 by sum committed (in € million)



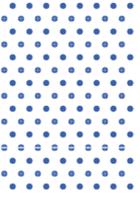
Source ASP (OSIRIS), US-ODR processing, January 2023

The terminological analysis, i.e. the analysis of the full list of co-funders, highlights that 1,653 different public co-funders (excluding public contracting authorities) intervene in return for EAFRD funding (Graph 10).

Graph 10 – EAFRD 14–22: Main co-funders in France (in € million)



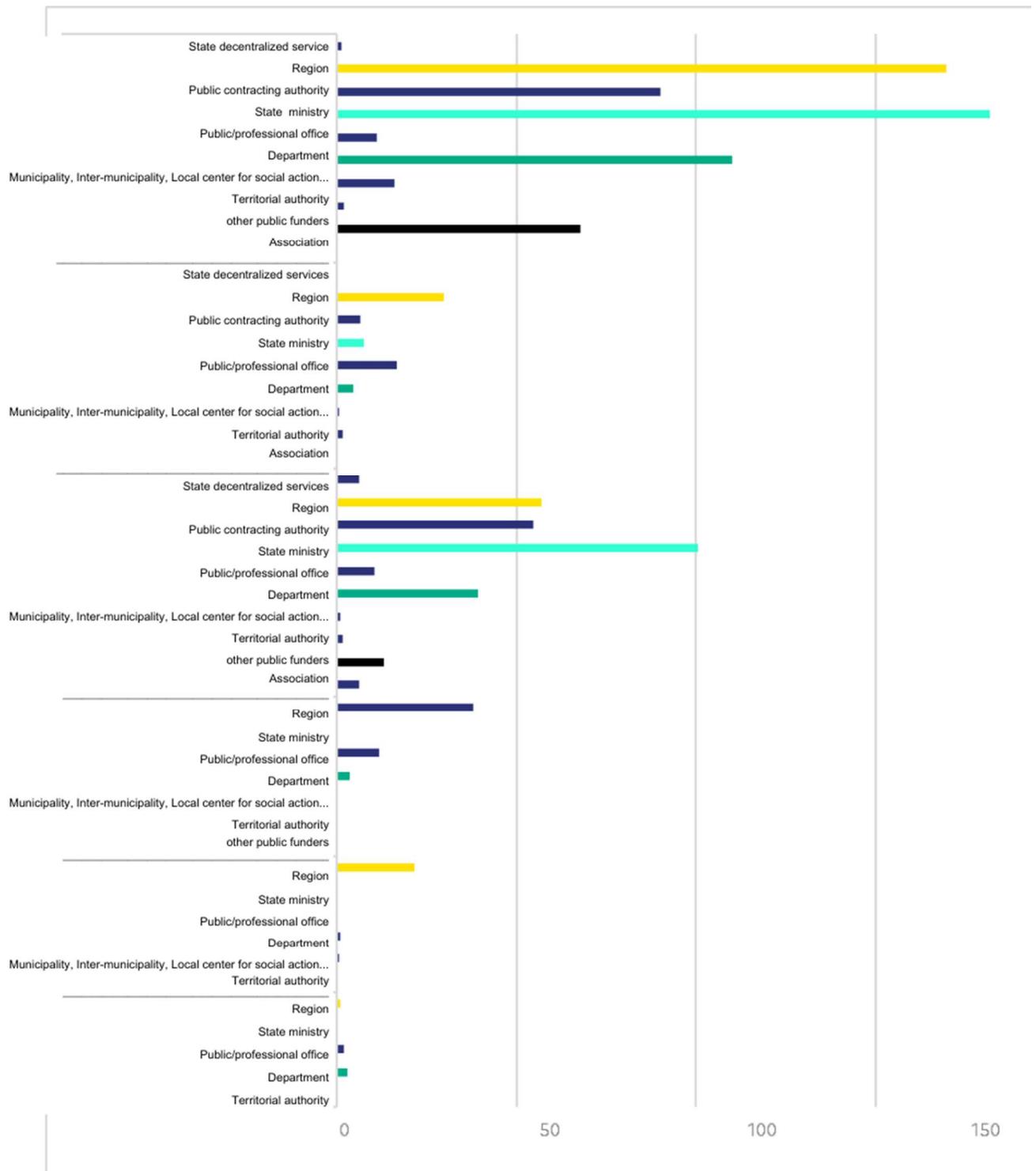
Source ASP (OSIRIS), US-ODR processing, January 2023



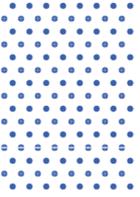
The use of several co-funders can be explained by the high number of different project sponsors and by the lack of systematic dedicated co-funding for these EAFRD measures.

It is also interesting to note that co-funders are the most varied for Measure 19 and involve the highest number of local stakeholders (Graph 11).

Graph 11 – Main EAFRD co-funders by sub-measure (in € million)



Source ASP (OSIRIS), US-ODR processing, January 2023



According to the survey conducted by LEADER France on Local Action Groups on the implementation of Measure 19, the lack of systematic dedicated co-funding has two main consequences: the difficulty for project sponsors, in particular from the private sector, to find public co-funding in return for EAFRD funding and the lack of coordination with rural development policies at regional or national level.

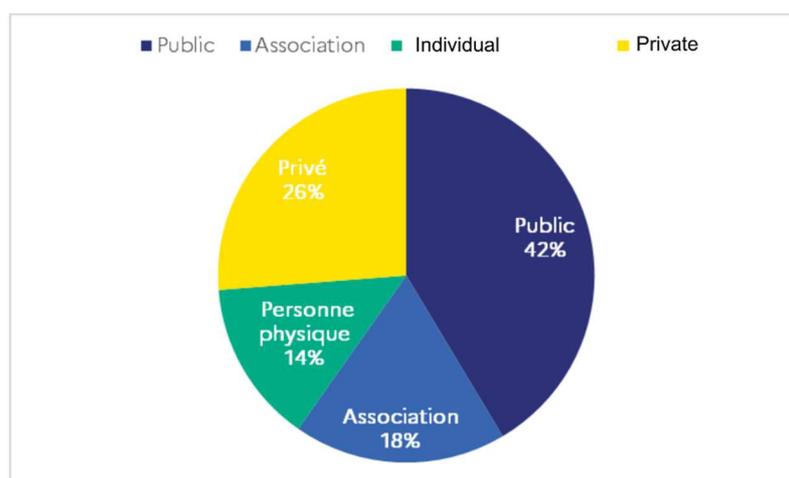
Concerning national co-funding, the French government co-funds EAFRD-funded projects to the amount of almost €326 million (*Raw data source: ASP (OSIRIS), US-ODR processing, January 2023*). The data analysed does not make it possible to precisely identify the government systems that match EAFRD funding. However, discussions with stakeholders, and in particular "public" project sponsors, highlight the importance of the DSIL and DETR provisions in funding projects under Measure 7 or 19. A cross-analysis of the amounts from DETR-SDIL grants allocated by subject per year (*Raw data source: DGCL, 2023*) highlights that €197 million was allocated to rural areas.

## Different types of beneficiaries depending on the measure

The examination of ASP data processed by US-ODR, INRAE, on the analysis of the SIRET numbers of EAFRD beneficiaries shows that around 12,000 beneficiaries have submitted an EAFRD project for all of the measures studied, broken down as follows (Graph 12). Beneficiaries mean direct beneficiaries of EAFRD aid. This study does not take into account the indirect beneficiaries of projects funded, which represent a substantially larger total number of beneficiaries.

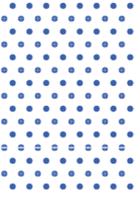
Although the graphs shows a very small imbalance in project sponsorship, we can see that the difference between public-sector project sponsors increases substantially for measures 7 and 19, where 80% of projects have public-sector sponsors. This data reinforces the analysis of the impact of public-sector co-funding in return for EAFRD.

Graph 12 – Type of project sponsors in France for the 2014-2022 period

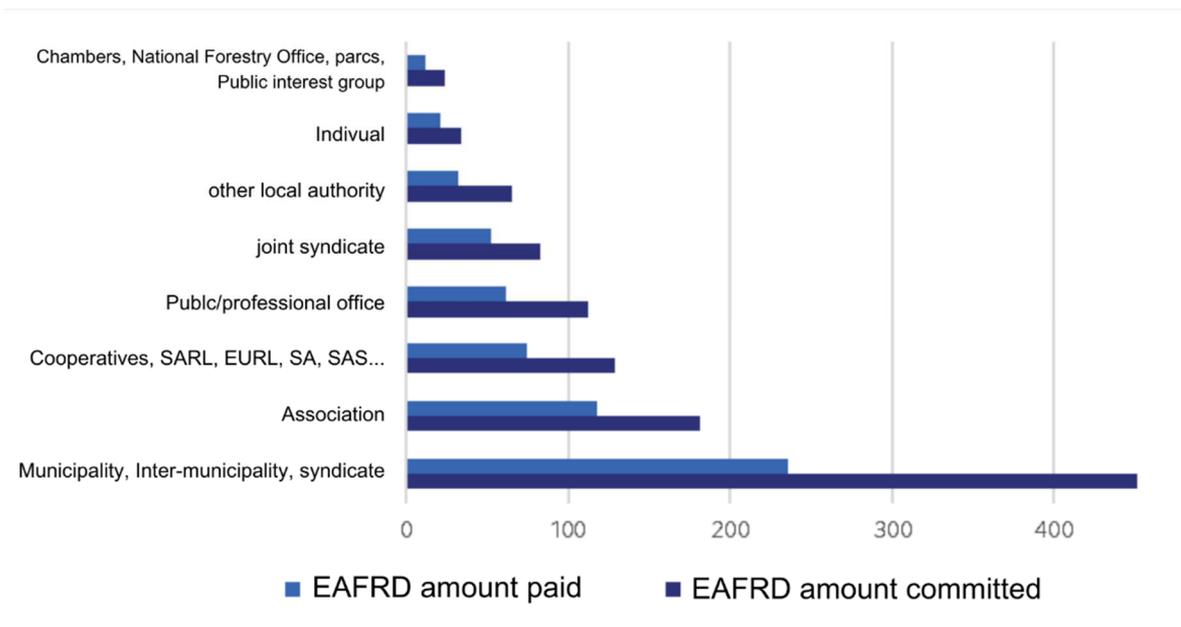


Source ASP (OSIRIS), US-ODR processing, January 2023

Out of the 29,714 projects approved that were analysed, nearly 42% are sponsored by public structures, 26% by private structures, 18% by associations and 14% by natural persons. This is also reflected in the sums committed and paid (Graph 13). It should be highlighted that, within the framework of a project sponsored by an association, the data collected does not make it possible to classify the associations as private or public structures, even though many are recognised as "bodies governed by public law".



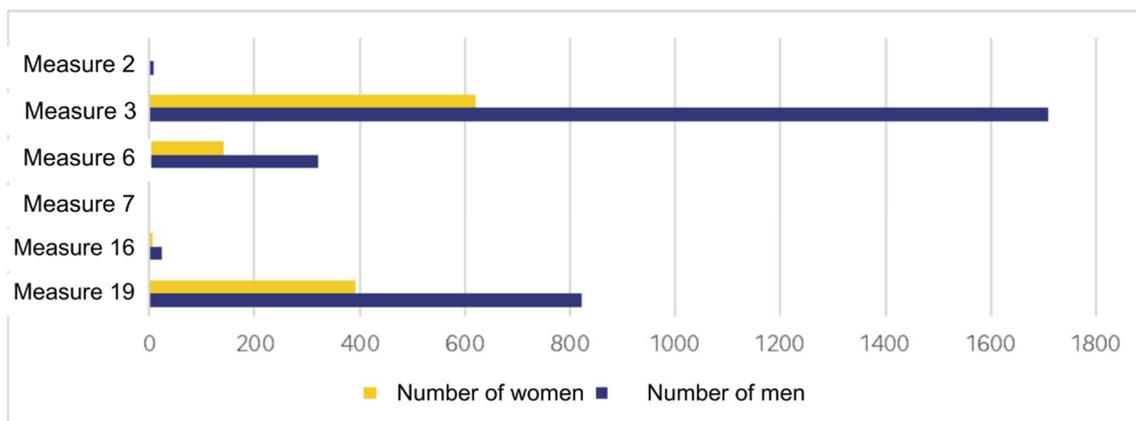
Graph 13 - Amount committed and paid by type of beneficiary – EAFRD 2014-2022 in France (in € million)



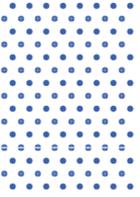
Raw data source: US-ODR, July 2023

Concerning projects sponsored by natural persons, the data collected shows that 69% are put forward by men compared to 31% by women, and that the average age is 47 and that project sponsorship by individuals mainly concerns measures 3 and 19 (Graph 14).

Graph 14 – EAFRD 2014-2022 in France: gender breakdown of individual beneficiaries by measure



Source: US-ODR, July 2023



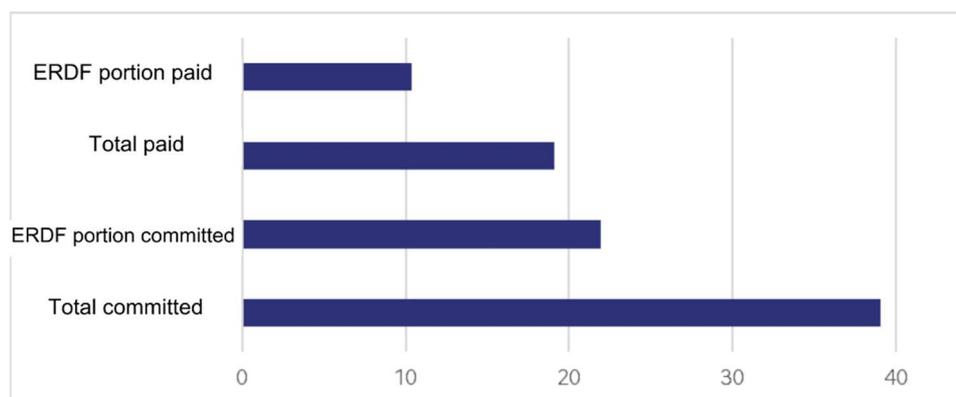
# TAKING RURAL DEVELOPMENT INTO ACCOUNT IN THE ERDF

## Reduced visibility of the impact of the ERDF during the 2014-2020 programming period

For the 2014-2022 programming period, no funding was specifically earmarked for rural development, unlike urban development, in the national rural development plan. However, according to a survey conducted among regional councils, 55.6% of them emphasise the contribution of the ERDF to rural development through a number of schemes which have contributed to this development by way of "sectoral" interventions. It is estimated that €917 million of ERDF funding was allocated to rural development out of the total €8.4 billion, supplemented by €2.6 billion as part of the "React-EU" relaunch. Due to the lack of earmarking and data, it is not possible to precisely measure how many projects linked to rural development themes have been supported in the 2014-2022 programming period, and this contributes to reinforcing the feeling of inaccessibility of this fund for rural areas.

However, thanks to analysing European data available on-line (Cohesiondata: DG Regio, 6 March 2023), nearly €21 billion of ERDF funding in Europe was allocated to rural areas between 2016 and 2022. These sums are the result of adding the amounts filtered by area of action dedicated to rural and very sparsely populated areas (Graph 15 - for more details, refer to the combined database in the appendix).

Graph 15 – ERDF 2014-2021 – Amounts spent on rural areas (in € billion)



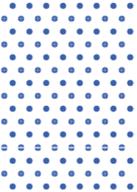
Source: DG Regio, 6 March 2023

## A new objective of the ERDF 2021-2027 focused on rural development<sup>9</sup>

Support for rural areas is a new feature of the 2021-2027 programming period in relation to previous periods. The approach to rural areas in regional programmes is concentrated within Specific Objective 5.2, dedicated to supporting development strategies in rural areas, but other Specific Objectives can be deployed, in particular through dedicated territorial tools, such as integrated territorial investments (ITI). Twelve management authorities are planning actions to support rural areas within the framework of SO 5.2

Notes .....

<sup>9</sup> Source: Thematic sheet on rural areas produced by the ANCT



(amounting to nearly €289 million, via integrated territorial approaches). Several management authorities are also planning to support development of rural areas through other SO via dedicated territorial approaches. In total, nearly €401 million of ERDF<sup>10</sup> funds is earmarked for rural areas and allocated to a variety of themes out of a total budget of €9.070 billion.

Revitalisation (in the broadest sense) of rural areas is an important issue in terms of the budget dedicated to rural areas (representing nearly half of this). In regional programmes, support for the revitalisation of rural areas is reflected in the development of public spaces and local facilities in these areas, as well as improved access to services. This concerns different types of service:

- Access to health services
- Other types of facilities and services, such as multi-service facilities (sports and leisure facilities), or digital facilities and services.
- Support for companies and, more widely, economic activities in these areas.
- Development of infrastructure dedicated to digital technology
- Deployment of innovative mobility solutions
- Actions for housing in rural areas
- Training in rural areas
- Develop the cultural and (sustainable) tourism potential of rural areas
- Protect the natural wealth of rural areas

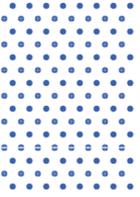
Acting historically in these areas, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), as part of the 2023-2027 French Strategic Plan, intends to allocate nearly €600 million to the issues of rural development (excluding agriculture), via LEADER approaches, support for business creation in rural areas, or the improvement of basic services and infrastructure in rural areas.

Links with the EAFRD are predefined in the partnership agreement and, regionally, depending on the thematic choices made within each ERDF programme and EAFRD Regional Strategic Plans. These links concern the following types of action in particular:

- Business creation
- Anaerobic digestion or support for the wood industry
- Protection of biodiversity
- Improvement of basic services in rural areas
- Water treatment and purification (in RUPs)
- Health centres

Notes .....

<sup>10</sup> <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/2021-2027-Categorisation/Planned-investment-by-territory-type-2021-2027-/74gj-7992>



# THEMED COMPARATIVE VIEWS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS AND THE FRENCH RURAL AGENDA

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A BROAD SUBJECT BASE

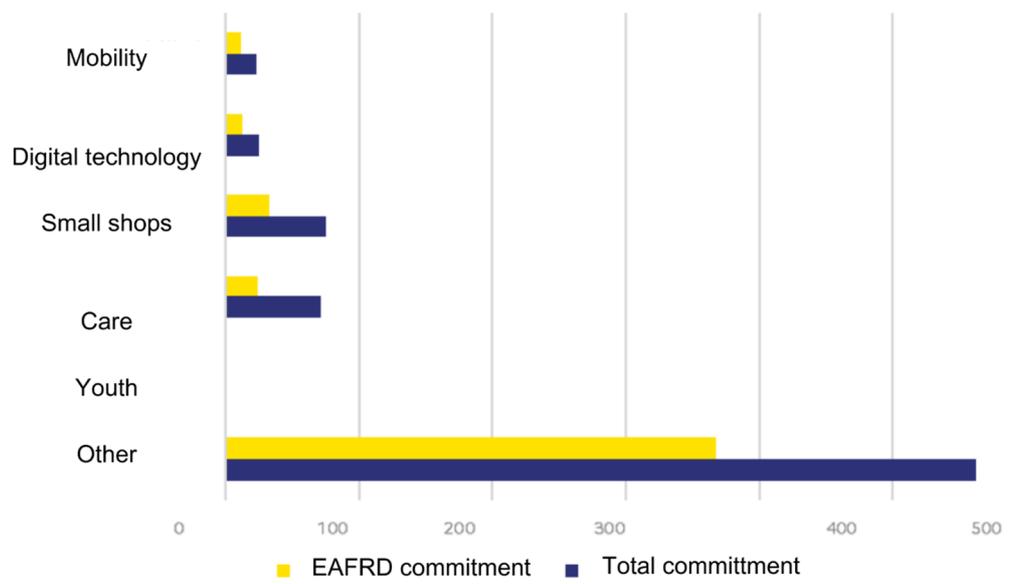
In order to be able to converge RRD measures with measures of the rural development agenda, excluding agriculture (including measures 7, 16 and 19, and others), and to group them into subject areas, the study was based on the typology of projects collected by the Rural Development Observatory from the Agence de Services et de Paiement (which included the title of the projects in question), and the two surveys carried out with the regional councils and Local Action Groups.

The theme-based approach developed may be open to interpretation because the same theme may have different orientations depending on the regional or national policy approach and the EAFRD. The cross-analyses of EAFRD measures and rural agenda measures demonstrate this.

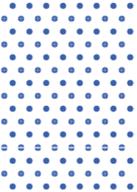
With regard to the data collected and the collection tools available for European funds, the theme-based analysis focuses on the specific study conducted on Measure 19 "LEADER", which represents 72% of the projects approved under the measures selected.

According to the survey conducted on Local Action Groups, it is estimated that 6,100 projects out of the 20,545 projects approved under Measure 19 fall within the scope of the study, i.e. €218 million of EAFRD funding committed. (Graphs 16 and 17)

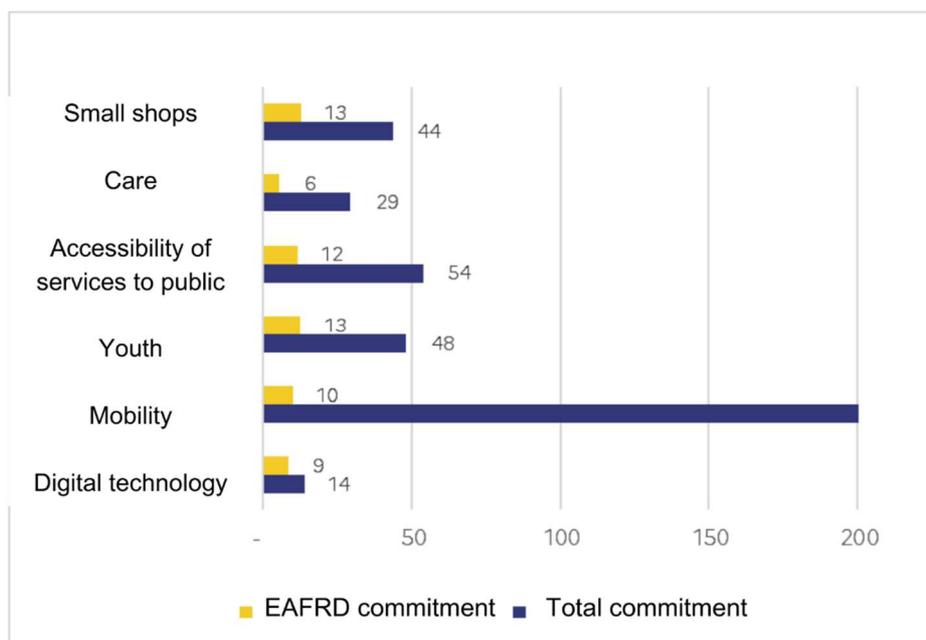
Graph 16 – National commitment by theme for measures 2,3,6, 7 and 16 for the 2014-2022 period (in € million)



Source ASP (OSIRIS), US-ODR processing, January 2023



Graph 17 – National commitment by theme for Measure 19 (in € million)



LEADER France data, July 2023

## A subject field broader than the scope of the study

In addition to the subjects targeted in the study, the management authorities and Local Action Groups highlighted, through various surveys, other subject areas funded by the EAFRD, in particular under Measure 19 and Measure 7, which have contributed to the development of rural areas and, often indirectly, to the objectives of regional policies and of the rural agenda, namely: tourism, promotion of heritage, promotion of local produce, energy transition, revitalisation of village centres.

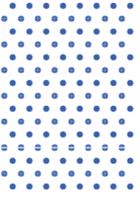
It is estimated that over 20,000 projects supported under measures 7 and 19 contribute in particular to priority 1, "Make rural areas the spearheads of the energy transition", or priority 2 "Boost the attractiveness of rural areas". Other themes developed include tourism, culture and natural heritage;<sup>11</sup>

Tourism receives particular attention under Measure 19 and represents a significant proportion of the budget earmarked for rural areas. In fact, boosting the tourism offering in rural areas is largely supported in local development strategies, particularly through the development of sustainable tourism (sustainable tourism facilities). This includes the development of services, tourism facilities and sustainable mobility, among others. To support the tourism sector, actions to promote and renovate tourism heritage through enhancing outstanding sites and viewpoints have also been funded under Measure 19. The area of culture also features prominently in these measures, particularly through actions to renovate and protect cultural heritage and the restoration and promotion of built and non-built heritage (monuments, museums, etc.).

Environmental issues also significant in rural areas. To respond to this, local development strategies of Local Action Groups fund measures to protect and enhance natural and intangible heritage by promoting the wealth of biodiversity, raising awareness and

Notes .....

<sup>11</sup> Study on Measure 19 LEADER of the 2014-2020 RRD carried out on behalf of Réseau Rural National



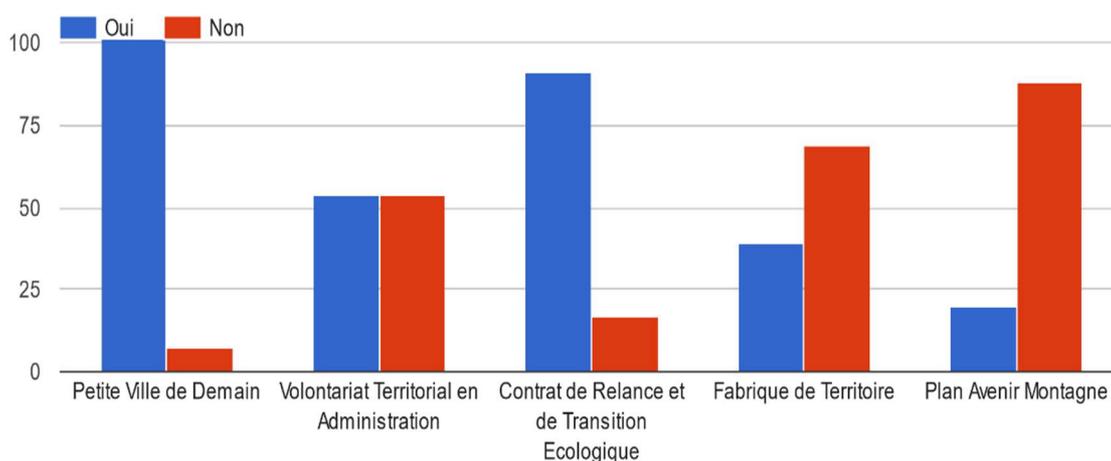
educating the population about protecting this intangible heritage and, more broadly, sustainable development.

It is important to draw attention to the fact that the contribution of European funds, and in particular the EAFRD, to rural development policies in France cannot be limited to the subject areas studied and makes a greater contribution to these policies.

## Rural agenda schemes are known but have limited links with the EAFRD

While a large majority of Local Action Groups say they are familiar with the main rural agenda schemes (Graph 18 and Graph 19),<sup>12</sup> more than half emphasise the lack of coordination between the schemes implemented in rural areas and their local development strategies for 2014-2022. The main schemes studied are flagship schemes connected to the local development strategies of rural areas, namely: Petite Ville de Demain, Volontariat Territorial en Administration, Contrat de Relance et de Transition Ecologique, Fabrique de Territoires and Plan Avenir Montagne.

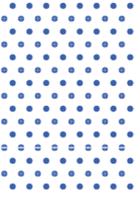
Graph 18 – Evaluation of LAGs’ knowledge of rural schemes (in %)



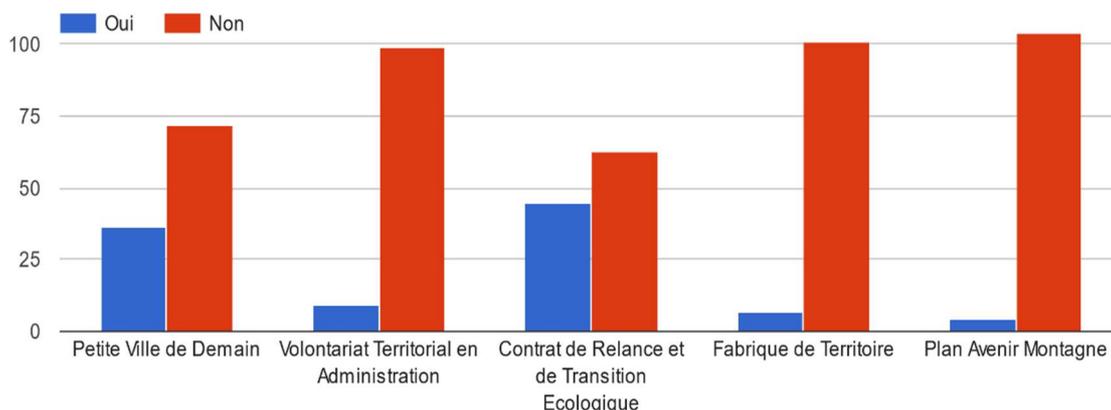
LEADER France data - Survey conducted on LAGs, July 2023

Notes .....

<sup>12</sup> Survey conducted on Local Action Groups for this study



Graph 19 – Evaluation of the links between local development strategies under Measure 19 and rural agenda schemes (in %)



LEADER France data - Survey conducted on LAGs, July 2023

The lack of coordination highlighted is partly explained by the different time-frames involved. In fact, the local development strategies of the areas involved in Measure 19 were drawn up and agreed before 2019, before the official launch of the French rural agenda. We can imagine that the local development strategies for the 2023-2027 programming period will be more closely linked with the measures of France Ruralités.

The survey conducted on management authorities by way of interviews carried out for this study show that the majority of measures by France Ruralités are eligible for European funding in the regions, in particular within the framework of LEADER and EFRD strategic objective 5 "a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives."

## FOCUS ON THE THEMES OF THE STUDY

### Digital technology

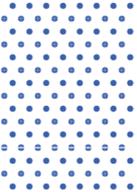
*Rural agenda measures concerned: 34, 35, 84 to 87, 94, 100 to 102 / EAFRD measure concerned: 19*

In France, the roll-out of digital technology in rural areas is a major issue to reduce the digital divide and encourage the economic and social development of these areas.

### A major focus for rural areas mainly funded by the ERDF

Digital technology is a cross-cutting them of European funding. Although it is not the subject of a dedicated measure in the EAFRD, taking account of digital technology is one of the filters, in the same way as sustainable development, which is considered in all projects. Digital technology is a subject that is often on the dividing line between the ERDF and the EAFRD. In view of the sums committed, the regions mainly have access to this subject through the ERDF.

In the EAFRD 2014-2022 programming period, digital technology was essentially covered under Measure 19. According to the survey conducted on LAGs, nearly 780 projects representing €20 million of EAFRD funding have been developed on this subject.



According to the study on Measure 19 by Réseau rural français, 34 LAGs chose to act on the issue of digital and new technologies.

Projects funded include many digital third places, "micro-folies" or IT equipment with a marketing or tourism objective. This subject has often been treated as a cross-cutting issue in the same way as sustainable development.

The ERDF has made it possible to develop infrastructure dedicated to digital technology in rural areas. Several regions have supported the development of digital uses through awareness-raising, communication and training. The roll-out of super-fast broadband in rural areas has also been given special attention in the programme. According to raw data from DG Regio updated on 6 March 2023, €434 million of ERDF funding has been committed to this theme.

In general, the EAFRD, via Measure 19, has been involved in local actions related to investment in equipment and the roll-out of digital third places. The ERDF has supported more structuring investments, such as the roll-out of broadband or the development of remote consultations to facilitate access to healthcare.

Comparatively, digital technology received €18.8 million in funding from the national DTER - DSIL schemes over the same period.

## Digital roll-out: a major priority of the rural agenda

As part of the rural agenda, the French government has prioritised the roll-out of digital technology all over the country. The French rural agenda has contributed to digital development by setting up policies and initiatives to promote digital access, skills and use in rural areas. The French rural agenda has developed two priorities on the subject of digital technology to "improve the everyday life of residents in rural areas" and to "boost the attractiveness of rural areas."

The rural agenda has used resources for projects involving the roll-out of super-fast fixed broadband, the introduction of France Services Digital Advisors and Fabriques de Territoire (territorial third-place resource centres).

## A natural link between European funds and the French rural agenda

The common goals and the nature of the types of eligible projects has enabled coordination between European, national and regional policies to support the roll-out of digital technology. The EAFRD and the ERDF have thus contributed significantly to the objectives of the French rural agenda. This coordination has been strengthened by the contribution of regional policies. Many regions have made the roll-out of digital technology a regional priority, particularly for rural areas, and supported numerous projects and intervened as public co-funders for rural project sponsors. A very large majority of projects supported under Measure 19 LEADER has been co-funded by regional co-funding.

### *Project example*

## "L'Établi: Fab Lab" by Université du Temps Libres Landes Côte Sud (Measure 19)

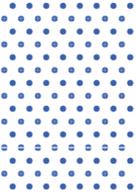


Funded under Measure 19 of the EAFRD to the tune of €32,835, L'Établi is a Fab Lab in the MACS (Maremne Adour Côte-Sud) intercommunal area in the south of the Landes department.

The scheme is based on two initial priorities: economic action, and education and young people. It is an open platform consisting of information, electronic and machining equipment for creating, repairing or prototyping. L'Établi connects the region to higher education clusters while disseminating a scientific and technical culture to the general public.

This project aims to contribute to the digital transformation of the southern Landes area through a programme of different activities:

- Scientific mediation and events on digital subjects (open days, exhibitions, demonstrations, conferences, company-university meetings, etc.);
- Theme-based workshops (3D printing, electronics, robotics, IT programming, etc.);
- Training in Fab Lab equipment and software, digital manufacturing concepts;
- Help with setting up and running digital projects (economics, culture, arts, education);
- Provision of equipment and skills;
- Discovery and DIY workshops;
- Activities in the field of the social and solidarity-based economy and insertion.



## Access to care / Assistance for the ageing population

*Rural agenda measures concerned: 52; 57 to 66; 68; 69 / EAFRD measures concerned: 7, 16, 19*

The issue of access to healthcare has become the leading concern of residents in rural areas. Rural areas are faced with many challenges: the installation and maintenance of health structures, access to healthcare, the ageing population, etc.

### An under-developed subject within the framework of the EAFRD despite the health crisis.

Although mainly a matter for Member States, European funds play an important role in funding health projects and programmes in European Union Member States. They contribute to reinforcing health infrastructure, promoting medical research and supporting initiatives to improve public health.

During the EAFRD 2014-2022 programming period, several regions funded projects aiming to improve access to health services in rural areas via the construction and rehabilitation of local public health facilities and infrastructure (such as multi-professional health centres, health centres and medical and social establishments, etc.).

In the EAFRD 2014-2022 programming period, digital technology was mainly covered under measures 19 and 7. According to the survey conducted on LAGs, nearly 280 projects representing €39 million of EAFRD funding have been developed in relation to this subject. Among the projects funded, there are many that finance, in particular, work necessary to create a medical centre in which doctors can easily set up practice, and the development of remote consultations.

### A concern at the heart of the French rural agenda

The French rural agenda has made access to healthcare and assistance for the ageing population a key focus with 12 dedicated measures to reinforce the presence of healthcare staff and facilitate access to healthcare in rural areas and to support the elderly. The French rural agenda aims to improve coordination and cooperation and strengthen the healthcare provision (health centres, medical assistances and salaried doctors). The pace of building multi-professional health centres shows no sign of slowing, with 1,889 structures counted in January 2022 (compared to 900 in 2017), of which 657 in rural areas.

The crisis led to remote consultations gaining ground. To support this development, particular provisions have been set up to encourage the use of remote consultations (more flexible conditions for the use of remote consultations, opening up remote expertise to all patients and among medical professions).

To support this momentum, around €130 million in DETR-DSIL provisions has been granted to fund projects to access healthcare in rural areas, part of which served as the public counterpart to the European funds.

### A natural link between European funds and the French rural agenda

As with digital technology, the common goals and the nature of the types of eligible projects have enabled coordination between European, national and regional policies to

improve access to healthcare. The EAFRD and the ERDF have thus contributed to the objectives of the French rural agenda.

This coordination has been strengthened by the contribution of regional policies. Following the health crisis, many regions made access to healthcare a regional priority, particularly for rural areas, and have integrated this issue into European regional policies. A very large majority of projects supported by EAFRD measures has been co-funded by regional co-funding.

### *Project example*

## Development of a medical centre in Chalus (Measure 7)

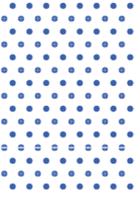


The municipality of Chalus (1,700 residents), accompanied by Mutualité française, developed a project for a medical centre in a vast building close to the village centre, acquired in 2014. The project brought medical and paramedical professions together in a single unit that complies with recent standards relating to accessibility, and has solved problems related to practitioners retiring.

For this project, the municipality decided to renovate an old building and create an extension on a 4,800 m<sup>2</sup> area of land in the middle of the town. This project pools spaces to share expenses, reduce travel and energy costs, while offering a venue in line with current standards and accessibility requirements.

On a total area of 224 square metres on two levels, three general practitioners, one dentist, one chiropodist, one physiotherapist and two midwives have set up practice. The Red Cross, which is a stakeholder, has also transferred its nursing centre and its home care service to this new building.

The municipality of Chalus received €550,027.23 (i.e. 55% of the project) from the European Union thanks to the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) subject to the town hall complying with the commitments made.



## Mobility

*Rural agenda measures concerned: 111 to 118 / EAFRD measure concerned: 19*

### EAFRD intervention complementary to regional and national policies

Like digital technology, the subject of mobility is often on the dividing line between the ERDF and the EAFRD. In view of the sums committed, the regions mainly have access to this subject through the ERDF. Only 20% of the regions have committed to this subject via EAFRD.

The subject of soft mobility is only covered under Measure 19, with nearly 1,400 projects representing €37 million of EAFRD funding. Mobility is often dealt with through the creation of soft connections, the acquisition of shared electric equipment, the deployment of bicycles and the funding of studies.

The ERDF has funded larger infrastructure (often as part of studies funded by the EAFRD). This takes the form of programmes to restructure roads and to develop cycling infrastructure and pedestrian routes. The aim is to support the roll-out of innovative mobility solutions through the development of charging or fuelling infrastructure for carbon-free mobility, but also to support multi-modality in rural areas through the development of interconnecting points and car-pooling areas.

### The French rural agenda and the reinforcement of rural mobility

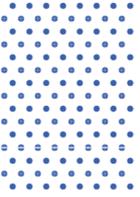
The mobility measures of the French rural agenda are focused on improving mobility and innovative collective alternatives. The government supports this through its France Mobilités approach. After supporting the inter-municipalities with engineering advice, providing information resources, etc. it provides financial assistance and technical support for projects.

The government has also entered into a partnership with all the regions to modernise 1,500 km of small regional railway lines, with financial support of €530 million, of which €300 million under France Relance.

In addition to these commitments, a budget of €100 million in DETR-DSIL provisions was granted to rural areas in support of their projects.

### Complementarity through different approaches

Although rural agenda measures are complementary to EAFRD and ERDF funding, there is a difference in vision between rural agenda measures, which are focused on the last-mile policy, and projects funded through European funds focusing on soft mobility and the acquisition of shared electric equipment. This differentiated vision does not make it possible to link national and European schemes, and limits the contribution of European funds to rural agenda objectives.



*Project example:*

## Shared communal car in Villerouge-Termenès (Measure 19)



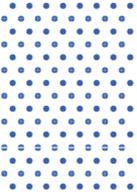
The municipality of Villerouge-Termenès and its residents have opted for an innovative mobility service: a shared electric car available to residents of the municipality.

The "shared communal car" project is located in the little municipality of Villerouge-Termenès, with 140 residents, in a sparsely populated area in the Corbières mountains, which has to deal with being geographically remote from the main public services and shops.

In response to the travelling difficulties of some residents, in particular the young and the elderly, the town hall acquired an electric car to share. Charged via a photovoltaic canopy, this shared car opens up the region and offers an ecological and innovative solution to the sustainable mobility issues of this rural area. Residents and tourists can hire the car for a modest sum for short distances via an on-line platform and a digital box.

This car-sharing scheme also strengthens social ties and cooperation within the village's population. In operation since 2018, the project meets its objectives with 10 half-days of rental per week, with nearly half of residents using the service.

Amounting to a total of €46,355, the project received €29,667 in EARDF funding under Measure 19 within the framework of the local strategy developed by the Est Audois LAG.



## Youth

*Rural agenda measures concerned: 36, 42, 43, 44, 56, 70 to 79, 91 to 93, 95 to 97, 108*  
*EAFRD measures concerned: 2, 7, 16, 19*

Taking young people into account in rural development policies is crucial for many reasons. Young people represent a significant proportion of the rural population and their active participation is essential to guarantee the sustainable and prosperous development of rural areas.

### An area often handled indirectly

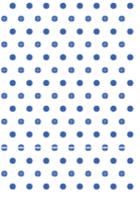
While half of the RRDs targeted the need to develop projects for young people in their SWOT analyses, this subject appears to be more cross-cutting, a recurring selection criterion and does not appear explicitly in the project typology. Although many projects related to educating and training young people have been covered via the European Social Fund, youth has been covered in the EAFRD through material investments for projects linked to sport, culture, childhood and awareness-raising. According to the study carried out for Measure 19, 960 projects developed under this measure have been supported, amounting to €30 million of EAFRD funding.

### A priority focus for the rural agenda

Youth is an important focus of the French rural agenda, with 22 measures concerning schemes to support young people in training, education, isolation and equal opportunities. Through schemes such as "cordés de la réussite" or "campus connectés", the rural agenda mobilises a number of measures for quality rural education and to provide more resources for young people in rural areas, particularly through civic services.

### Very limited coordination

Often linked to national competences such as education, civic service and vocational training, there is very little coordination between rural agenda measures and European funds. Youth is, however, funded through DETR-DSIL provisions for the amount of €913 million, which makes it the subject that receives the most DTER-DSIL funds over the period of the study.



## *Project example*

### Youth centre in Crots (Measure 19)



The association *Les Villages des jeunes* rallied round to renovate a house in which to host four to six vocational trainees. Thanks to a local partnership with a training organisation, trainees on long-term courses in "Heritage Restoration" and who are having trouble finding accommodation will be able to live in a house that has been renovated sustainably.

Maison des Crots is close to Serre-Ponçon Lake. It was purchased in 1966 by the association Les Villages des Jeunes to be renovated by volunteers and made available to groups of young people in difficulty for their holidays. It was run until 1996 by the Comité Régional des Organisations du Travail Social (C.R.O.T.S), an association set up for this purpose, and then made available to the Samu social and refugee families.

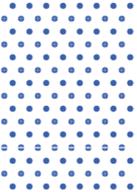
In view of its state of disrepair, the association shut it down in 2009.

Unwilling for the building to be left unused, in 2016 the association decided to bring the house back to life and use it to accommodate vocational training students and seasonal workers in difficulty.

Thanks to support from the LEADER programme of Pays S.U.D, the ANAH, the Hautes-Alpes Department, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and the BTP+, JM Bruneau and Abbé Pierre foundations, major work was carried out from 2016 to 2020: removal of asbestos from the house, replacement of the roof and reinforcement of the framework, installation of interior insulation in all rooms, renovation of the floors and walls, modification of the circulation inside the house and construction of staircases in line with standards in the basement and on the floors, replacement of interior and exterior joinery with double-glazed windows and doors, installation of a wood pellet boiler, fitting of new sanitary facilities and a functional kitchen area, painting and whitewashing and purchase of bedding and household appliances.

The work was completed entirely by local companies and by the insertion and training centre, Le Gabion, in Embrun.

Today, Maison des Jeunes de Crots is available to young people on vocational training courses and can accommodate a small group of 10 people from time to time.



## Accessibility of services to the public

*Rural agenda measures concerned: 55; 80 to 83; 88 / EAFRD measures concerned: 7, 16, 19*

Maintaining and improving services for the public is a very topical subject in rural areas. This issue, which is central to the concerns of residents in rural areas, requires thinking on new forms of presence and pooling for different services, such as postal, school, medical and social. The services are undergoing radical change, users' habits are changing, in particular with digital technology, but the need for proximity and social ties remains. To meet these challenges of territorial equality, rural areas often demonstrate a great capacity for innovation and adaptation, such as during the Covid-19 crisis.

### An important subject for EAFRD funding that underlines real expectations of rural areas

Revitalisation (in the broadest sense) of rural areas is an important issue in terms of the budget dedicated to rural areas.

In EAFRD regional programmes, support for the revitalisation of rural areas is reflected in the development of public spaces and local facilities in these areas, as well as improved access to services.

Accessibility of services to the public is geared towards maintaining or reinforcing all commercial and non-commercial services considered to be a necessity for residents. We can approach services to the public by levels of service (local, intermediate, central), by baskets of services (everyday life, parents, young people, etc.) or by families of services (public services, health, shops, etc.).

Based on EAFRD's definition, services to the public represent around 3,000 projects, i.e. the vast majority of projects under Measure 7, and over 1,000 projects funded under Measure 19 for the amount of over €200 million. This is the most significant subject funded by the EAFRD's "rural development" measures.

This project dynamic is supported by the DETR-DSIL provision which funds local projects related to this subject to the tune of €213 million.

### From services to the public to public services: Efficiency of public administration and social inclusion as priority measures of the rural agenda

The French rural agenda concentrates its measures on facilitating access to public services, in particular relying on public services centres (MSAP) and Maisons France Services.

The rural agenda focuses on rolling out the France Services offer throughout the whole of France to improve access to public services and make day-to-day administrative procedures easier, thanks to the presence of at least two trained and available reception staff. To date, 2,197 France Services are labelled, of which 1,417 in rural areas (i.e. 64% of France Services). It is worth noting the development of France Services buses, particularly in rural areas, the deployment of which has been supported by three waves of calls for expressions of interest, singling out 110 projects.

### Different priorities that complicate coordination

Accessibility of services to the public is an issue that covers a very wide subject area. The French rural agenda focuses its measures on facilitating access to public services in the sense of public administration. In the EAFRD or ERDF, the concept of services to the population goes beyond the term "public service". Services to the population encompass

shops, services and facilities, both commercial and non-commercial, public and private, used by the population in their everyday or occasional activities.

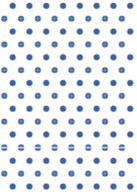
### *Project example*

#### Proxibus, the clever corner of the elders (Measure 19)



Funded under Measure 19 to the tune of €30,000, the ADMR federation in Aube (home help in rural areas) has developed a range of services for senior residents in response to the current challenges of ageing well and combating isolation. The operation involves the acquisition of a utility vehicle fitted out to accommodate a few people and designed to be a mobile meeting place to complement Public Services Centres (MSAP).

The aim of this project is to offer seniors a friendly meeting place in the rural municipalities of Côte des Bar. The targeted municipalities are Bar-sur-Aube and Barséquanais. The municipalities selected based on an assessment by the Prevention team of the ADMR Federation in Aube are characterised by not having any clubs or association headquarters aimed directly at seniors, or any local services (supermarket, bakery, etc.). The operation complements the work of the MSAP and makes it easier for residents in these areas to access support for on-line procedures. Anyone aged 60 and above can meet up and socialise over board games, a coffee or a newspaper. To make it easier for seniors to use the internet, and in particular dematerialised services, two touch-screen tablets are available in the vehicle, along with a router to be able to access the internet.



## Small shops and businesses

*Rural agenda measures concerned: 23; 36; 37; 45; 67 / EAFRD measures concerned: 7, 16, 19*

Small shops and businesses in rural areas play a crucial role in the local economy and contribute to the vitality of communities. However, they often face specific challenges linked to their location and competition.

### A major focus for rural areas funded by European funds

Support to revitalise rural areas also involves supporting businesses and, more widely, economic activities in these areas. Within the framework of the EAFRD, this involves programmes that aim to revitalise local commerce (in particular, the creation and modernisation of commercial and artisanal premises), or traditional measures for business creation (support for innovative local approaches, development of entrepreneurship, etc.). According to the raw data source of DG Regio, €576 million of ERDF funding has been committed in seven regions.

The EAFRD also contributes to the dynamics of rural agenda measures, in particular the development of small shops through offering support for material investment to maintain, restore or create shops, often multi-service, in isolated areas, with the aim of regenerating social ties within the population and developing local production.

Although the development of small shops could have been processed under measures 3 and 16, the areas developed correspond to projects funded solely under measures 7 and 19. According to the survey conducted on LAGs, nearly 1,600 projects representing €42 million of EAFRD funding have been approved under this subject. The projects funded include a number of grocery stores and multi-service cafés.

This project dynamic is supported by the DETR-DSIL provision which funds local projects related to this subject to the tune of €197 million.

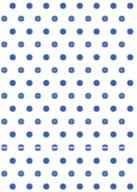
### A key objective for the rural agenda in terms of small shops and businesses: Encourage small shops and businesses to stay or set up in the regions

The rural agenda directly supports several initiatives aiming to encourage small shops or businesses to stay or set up in rural areas as places for socialising. The "1,000 cafés" scheme operated by SOS Group has supported the opening of 55 cafés. Other initiatives supported by the rural agenda budget include Bouge ton coq, Comptoirs de campagnes, Villages vivants and Bistrots de pays (124 bistros labelled in 2021) to support businesses in rural areas, as well as the fund for rural trade (€12 million per year).

### A natural link between European funds and the French rural agenda

As with digital technology, the common goals and the nature of the types of eligible projects have enabled coordination between European, national and regional policies for small businesses. The EAFRD and the ERDF have thus contributed to the objectives of the French rural agenda.

This coordination has been strengthened by the contribution of regional policies. The issue of keeping local shops and businesses in rural areas is not just a simple matter of economic development: it is also, and above all, a matter of social links and proximity.



Many regions have made it a priority to keep small shops and businesses, particularly in rural areas, and have included this issue in their European regional policies. A very large majority of projects supported by EAFRD measures has been co-funded by regional co-funding.

*Project example*  
**Eco-friendly and community laundry-grocery in Mamoudzou  
(Measure 19) - Mayotte**



Funded under Measure 19 of the EAFRD, the eco-friendly and community laundry-grocery is a multi-service, community and sustainable grocery shop (laundry, grocery store, place for recycling and raising environmental awareness) set up in 2016 by the *Yes We Can Nette* association. It acts to protect the environment and water resources from a social and territorial perspective.

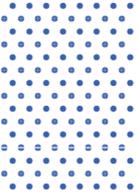
Mayotte has exceptional natural heritage and, at the same time, insufficient waste management in public and natural spaces. The lack of infrastructure, the difficulty for some residents to access mains water and the inaccessibility of certain districts are leading to a proliferation of waste discharged in the streets.

The Yes We Can Nette association operates as a multi-service, community-based, sustainable grocery shop. Residents collect cans that are discarded in their environment and take them to the Association's premises, where they are exchanged for reduced-price food. The cans are recycled, involving a wide range of people, and give rise to multiple objects.

In the premises of the Yes We Can Nette Association, two washing machines take up the back room and enable residents in the Cavani-Mamoudzou district to do their laundry for barely €2, without polluting rivers and the lagoon. Ecological detergent is used.

The association also organises food collections to collect products for its grocery shops and regularly takes part in waste collection actions in different parts of the island.

Finally, it raises awareness, in particular among children, of the need to protect the environment, thanks to the operation "cartables à coeur" or regular presence at the island's markets.



# CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

## THE LEVERS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

This study "Comparative views of French rural development: the use of the EAFRD 2014-2022 fund for the objectives of the French rural agenda" shows that although the links between the EAFRD and regional rural development policies, including for example measures of the French rural agenda, cannot always be measured due to the tools in place, it is possible to conclude that European funds contribute to the financing of the French rural agenda. However, it is necessary to strengthen the complementarity of EAFRD territorial measures. As the study shows, rural development accounts for only a small proportion of European funding in view of the challenges faced by rural areas. It is therefore necessary to strengthen links with rural development policies in France in order to increase the effects and achieve the objectives.

To develop real coherence and increase the efficiency of rural development policies, and in particular the French rural agenda, it is necessary to develop both a certain number of tools in order to measure qualitatively and quantitatively the impact of EAFRD and European funds in general on rural areas and thus encourage rural proofing, and to implement measures and support systems to encourage their complementarity.

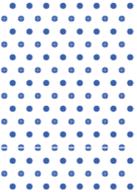
### Strengthen the role of rural development within the EAFRD and the ERDF in future European policies

This study shows that only around 10% of EAFRD and ERDF funding has been used in rural areas in this programming period. Within the framework of the EAFRD, 70% of appropriations have been earmarked for four so-called agricultural measures. To support the development of rural areas, it therefore seems necessary to concentrate more European appropriations on rural areas and to develop integrated territorial approaches in rural areas.

Some Member States, such as Spain, have thus decided to devote over 10% of the EAFRD budget to the LEADER measure for the 2023-2027 programming period, and the Czech Republic has introduced integrated multi-fund territorial approaches to guarantee a minimum budget for rural areas. The EAFRD 2023-2027 guidelines in France, with specific objective 5.2, are an important first response. However, the decision to keep just 5% of EAFRD appropriations, i.e. the regulatory minimum, within the framework of the 2023-2027 national strategic plan does not make it any easier to consider the needs of rural areas. An increase in and ring-fencing of appropriations for so-called rural development measures within the Common Agricultural Policy seems essential to support the development of rural areas in the many challenges they face today.

### Develop links between rural development policies and European funds by strengthening support for territorial engineering

The European Rural Pact underlines the need to encourage links at the European, national, regional and local levels to deal with the integrated development of rural areas. As with the European Rural Pact, it seems essential to improve the links between the French rural agenda and European, regional and local policies. Although rural areas and management authorities are familiar with the mechanisms of the French rural agenda, today the links are insufficient to enable a shared and collective vision of rural



development that meets the expectations of residents in rural areas. **The role of Local Action Groups needs to be recognised and strengthened, and territorial engineering needs to be supported** as, like the LEADER programme or the Petites Villes de Demain programme, this facilitates knowledge of and access to the various funds and the coordination of all European, national, regional and local schemes. Although Measure 19 seems to be the most representative measure of rural development in France, this is largely due to territorial engineering funded under sub-measure 19.4. The development of specific objective 5.2, which plans to fund actions to support rural areas through integrated territorial approaches based on the local development method carried out by local stakeholders, reinforces this need.

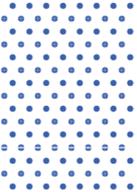
This must also involve improving **training and communication for European fund stakeholders (management authorities, Local Action Groups, potential beneficiaries, etc.)**. During interviews and surveys with regional and local stakeholders, the lack of knowledge of rural agenda measures and possible links was highlighted many times. For example, the Ile-de-France region set up the Agence de la Ruralité in 2023. The aim of this agency is to become the single point of contact for municipalities in order to streamline the processing of grant projects in connection with the Region (referral to the right services, releasing files, etc.). Although complementary to schemes like Petites Villes de Demain or Villages d'Avenir and the LEADER at EAFRD level, this agency now operates independently.

## **Set up automatic dedicated co-funding in return for EAFRD rural development measures**

One of the main obstacles highlighted in all studies and assessments carried out during previous programming periods is the compulsory public co-funding in return for EAFRD funding. The financing plan for operations is a particular challenge due to the multitude of public co-funding available, as shown by this study. The creation of a new dedicated fund by the State or management authorities would make it possible to co-fund projects supported in particular by LEADER Measure 19, which focuses on this issue with an identical instruction scheme. The creation of this dedicated budget would simplify public co-funding for project sponsors and would support the development of rural areas by being based on the fundamentals of LEADER: local governance, bottom-up approach, innovation, multi-sectoral projects, public-private partnerships. One area of thought is that this fund could be financed by earmarking DETR/DSIL appropriations in particular. In fact, the examination of the DETR-DSIL provision in our study shows that these schemes support the dynamics of rural areas, without being directly linked to rural agenda measures. This dedicated line has already been operational, particularly under Measure 19 in the Sud PACA region, Guyana or Martinique. This has reinforced the visibility of the scheme supported in these regions and made it possible to support territorial dynamics by lifting certain administrative and financial constraints.

## **Develop monitoring and evaluation tools for rural proofing**

"Rural proofing" is a mechanism that can contribute to stimulate rural revitalisation by ensuring that all relevant policies, aside from rural development, are aligned to the needs and realities of rural areas. The analysis of the data made available within the framework of this study highlights a shortcoming in analytical tools available to assess EAFRD commitments. The terminology and numerical study, as well as the lack of data on the inclusion of rural development in the ERDF 2014-2022, only serve to reinforce this shortcoming. The regionalised instrumentation of the EAFRD management tool for the 2023-2027 programming period could potentially reinforce a lack of legibility on the national scale. At a time when the European Commission wants to reinforce the mechanisms for evaluating European funds and when this study "Comparative views of European funds" identifies the use of EAFRD 2014-2022 funds for the objectives of the French rural agenda, it seems essential to anticipate evaluations and create new tools adapted to the range of projects funded by the EAFRD and ERDF.



This would improve understanding of European funds by rural areas and strengthen the links between future rural development policies and structural funds.

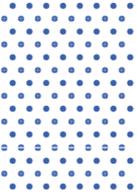
## OUTLOOK: NEW PROGRAMMING PERIOD - FRANCE RURALITÉS

The implementation of France Ruralités, which is an action plan for rural areas and in line with the French rural agenda, at the start of the new European 2023-2027 programming period, should allow for better coordination of European and national policies for rural development.

During the interviews conducted with the management authorities, it was highlighted that the vast majority of France Ruralités measures would potentially be eligible for European funds, and in particular the LEADER programme and SO5 of the ERDF. Out of the 15 measures targeted by France Ruralités, only two measures were deemed ineligible by the management authorities, 12 eligible under LEADER depending on the local strategies, and 9 potentially eligible under the ERDF.

Graph 20: Potential eligibility of France Ruralités measures for ERDF / EARDF funding 2023-2027

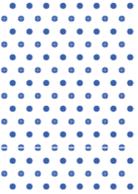
Sous mesure	Leader (Feader)		Feder	
	Eligible	Non éligible	Eligible	Non éligible
Villages d'avenir	■			■
Aménités rurales	■			■
Déploiement d'une offre de mobilité durable du dernier kilomètre	■		■	
Volontariat territorial en administration	■		■	
Action en faveur des commerces ruraux	■		■	
Installation de France services en milieu rural	■		■	
Développer des lieux de convivialité dans les communes de moins de 3 500 habitants.	■		■	



Développer les projets locaux d'économie sociale et solidaire (ESS)	■		■	
Lancement de 100 medicobus	■		■	
Création de maisons de santé	■		■	
Mise en place d'un plan en faveur de l'ingénierie culturelle en ruralité	■		■	
Implantation des micro-folies	■		■	
Accompagnement à la réalisation et à l'animation d'opérations programmées d'amélioration de l'habitat dédiées à la revitalisation rurale	■			■
Installation de relais info jeune dans les espaces France services	■		■	

*Source: Leader France – Interviews conducted with the management authorities –  
The answers correspond to the majority of respondents – subject to local development strategies  
relating to the particularities of certain ERDF/ESFE+ OPs*

Linking ERDF / EAFRD European appropriations with the new measures can help to meet the objectives and provide substantial support for rural areas in this new programming period.



# APPENDICES

## GLOSSARY

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY: The management authority is in charge of managing and implementing a programme, in particular selecting projects co-funded by European Structural Investment Funds. It has financial and legal responsibility for the programme. It ensures the regularity and completion of the projects it finances and monitors the performance of its programme.

BENEFICIARY: A beneficiary is any project sponsor whose funding application has been approved by the management authority and who has received a funding agreement setting down the terms and conditions of the funding.

CO-FUNDING: Financial contribution from a public authority (government, local authorities, public establishments, inter-municipal organisations) to the financing plan of a project to be subsidised. The principle of co-funding or additionality means that European structural and investment funds co-fund national public funds. Structural funds are not intended to replace public structural expenditure by a Member State (Article 95 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013).

DETR: Dotation d'Équipement des Territoires Ruraux - annual provision of equipment for rural areas. The DETR is a state subsidy to support investment projects carried out by local authorities or unions.

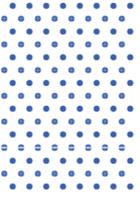
DSIL: Dotation de Soutien à l'Investissement Local (provision for local investment) - this provision is used to fund the main investment priorities of municipalities or their groupings.

The EAFRD: The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is a financial instrument of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It is dedicated to rural development.

The ERDF: The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is one of the European Union's structural and investment funds. It aims to reinforce economic and social cohesion within the European Union by correcting regional imbalances.

STRUCTURAL FUNDS: European structural and investment funds (ESIF) are the five European Union funds designed to enable member states to show solidarity while remaining competitive in the global economy. They have an in-depth impact on the economic and social structures European regions, while reducing inequalities in development throughout the European territory.

ESF The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of the structural funds that helps to implement national public policies to act in favour of employment. Managed at the national level, it has a scope of actions and solutions at the heart of the territories.



LAG: A Local Action Group, or LAG, is a group of private and public socio-economic partners in rural areas in charge of setting up a development strategy organised in accordance with the LEADER European programme.

LEADER: LEADER (Liaison entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale) is a European rural development programme designed to support the development of rural areas. As the territorial section of the EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development), LEADER is designed as an approach to support multi-sectoral strategies, developed and administrated by the territories, thus providing them with a framework conducive to the emergence of high-quality collective projects.

SO or Specific Objective: "The result to which an investment priority or Union priority contributes in a specific national or regional context through actions or measures undertaken within such a priority." Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013

CAP: Common Agricultural Policy The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a policy implemented by the European Union to develop and support agriculture in member states. Its way of working and its missions have evolved since it was set up in 1962.

RRDP: Regional Rural Development Programmes (RRDP) are the regional frameworks that specify the terms and conditions for implementing the EAFRD, which is the financial instrument of the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy, dedicated to rural development.

OP: Operational programmes are detailed planning documents in which Member States indicate how European funds will be used during the programming period.

Project sponsor: The project sponsor is a legal entity (company, authority, association) which requests European funding for its project.

## SURVEYS ON LOCAL ACTION GROUPS

As part of this study, LEADER France launched a form-based survey (below) among French Local Action Groups. The aim of this survey was to complete data collected on Measure 19 "support for local development under LEADER" and identify the themes of local development strategies to measure the concrete impact of Measure 19 on national and regional rural development policies. Out of the 339 territories questioned, 272 replies were collected, i.e. 80% of all rural areas involved in the LEADER approach.



agence nationale  
de la cohésion  
des territoires

Rubrique 1 sur 2

### Enquête Leader France : Etude concernant l'articulation du FEADER et des mesures de l'Agenda rural

En ce mois de mai, Leader France lance une enquête auprès de l'ensemble des territoires engagés dans le programme LEADER.

La présente enquête, financée par le Réseau Rural National, porte sur l'étude sur l'articulation du FEADER et des mesures de l'Agenda rural, ensemble de mesures mises en place par l'Etat pour mieux prendre en compte les territoires ruraux dans les politiques publiques, mesures mises en place depuis 2019.

Depuis septembre 2019, elle fait l'objet d'un plan d'action co-construit avec les élus des territoires ruraux : [l'Agenda rural](#). Cette feuille de route pilotée et suivie par l'ANCT comprend 181 mesures concernant des domaines variés : mobilité, numérique, santé, jeunesse et égalité des chances, accès aux services publics... L'objectif de l'agenda rural est clair : favoriser le développement des territoires ruraux et améliorer la vie quotidienne de leurs habitants, dans une démarche interministérielle.

L'Agence Nationale de la Cohésion des Territoires a confié, après consultation publique, à Leader France une mission de 6 mois "Regards croisés sur le développement rural français". L'objectif principal de cette étude est de mesurer quantitativement et qualitativement la contribution du FEADER et notamment de LEADER aux politiques de développement rural et de réaliser un panorama régional et national.

Nous vous remercions pour votre réponse attendue avant le **vendredi 02 juin 2023**.

Pour toute question, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter à l'adresse mail : [leader.adelinehamel@gmail.com](mailto:leader.adelinehamel@gmail.com)

Après la section 1 Passer à la section suivante

### Etude concernant l'articulation du FEADER et de l'Agenda rural



Le Réseau Rural Français souhaite réaliser une étude qui vise à valoriser la contribution des fonds européens en faveur de la ruralité. Il s'agit plus particulièrement de mettre en valeur la contribution du FEADER au soutien de mesures qui concourent à l'avancée de l'Agenda rural et notamment de la mesure 19 "LEADER".

La présente étude a identifié les thématiques prioritaires suivantes : numérique, mobilité, jeunesse, accessibilité des services publics, accès soins/aide au vieillissement, petit commerce en milieu rural.

Les questions ci-dessous se portent sur la **programmation 2014 - 2022**.

Quel est le **nom** de votre GAL ? \*

Réponse courte

Quel est le **code** de votre GAL ? \*

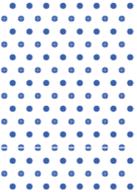
Réponse courte

Quel était le **montant** de l'**enveloppe** accordée à votre GAL pour la programmation 2014-2022 \*  
(le cas échéant, avec l'enveloppe complémentaire de la période de transition) ?

Réponse courte

Votre GAL a-t-il financé des projets sur les thématiques prioritaires suivantes dans le cadre de votre stratégie 2014-2022 ? \*

	Oui	Non
Numérique	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Mobilité	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jeunesse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibilité des services publics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accès soins/aide au vieillissement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Petit commerce en milieu rural	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Combin de projets votre GAL a-t-il financé sur la thématique du **numérique** ?

Réponse courte

Obligatoire

Quel est le **montant total** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique du **numérique** ? \*

Réponse courte

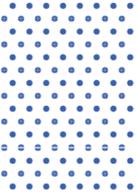
Quel est le **montant FEADER** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique du **numérique** ? \*

Réponse courte

Quelles actions ont-elles été financées sur la thématique du **numérique** ?

Réponse longue



Combien de projets votre GAL a-t-il financé sur la thématique de la **mobilité** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quel est le **montant total** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique de la **mobilité** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quel est le **montant FEADER** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique de la **mobilité** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quelles actions ont-elles été financées sur la thématique de la **mobilité** ? (ex : acquisition d'une voiture électrique autopartagée, acquisition de vélos électriques, etc.)

Réponse longue

.....

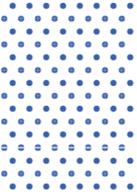
Combien de projets votre GAL a-t-il financé sur la thématique de la **jeunesse** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quel est le **montant total** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique de la **jeunesse** ? \*

Réponse courte



Quelles actions ont-elles été financées sur la thématique de la **jeunesse** ? (ex : Evénements culturels, etc.)

Réponse longue

.....

Combien de projets votre GAL a-t-il financé sur la thématique de l'**accessibilité aux services publics** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quel est le **montant total** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique de l'**accessibilité aux services publics** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quel est le **montant FEADER** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique de l'**accessibilité aux services publics** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quelles actions ont-elles été financées sur la thématique de l'**accessibilité aux services publics** ? (ex : Service itinérant, café culturel, etc.)

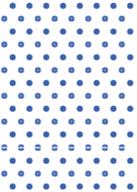
Réponse longue

.....

Combien de projets votre GAL a-t-il financé sur la thématique de l'**accès aux soins** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....



Quel est le **montant total** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique de l'**accès aux soins** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quel est le **montant FEADER** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique de l'**accès aux soins** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quelles actions ont-elles été financées sur la thématique de l'**accès aux soins** ? (ex : Maison de santé, télé médecine)

Réponse longue

.....

Combien de projets votre GAL a-t-il financé sur la thématique des **petits commerces** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....

Quel est le **montant total** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique des **petits commerces** ? \*

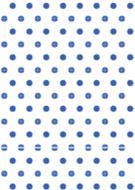
Réponse courte

.....

Quel est le **montant FEADER** des projets financés par votre GAL sur la thématique des **petits commerces** ? \*

Réponse courte

.....



Quelles actions ont-elles été financées sur la thématique des **petits commerces** ? (ex : Boutique à l'essai, épicerie associative)

Réponse longue

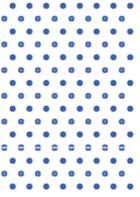
.....

Quelles sont les principaux cofinanceurs de vos projets ? (A classer de 1 à 6 / 1 correspondant au principal cofinanceur)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Conseil régi...	<input type="radio"/>					
Conseil dép...	<input type="radio"/>					
EPCI / Com...	<input type="radio"/>					
Communes	<input type="radio"/>					
Etats (DETR ...	<input type="radio"/>					
Autres	<input type="radio"/>					

Avez vous connaissance des dispositifs de l'ANCT mis en place sur votre territoire GAL ? \*

	Oui	Non
Petite Ville de Demain	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volontariat Territorial en Adminis...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contrat de Relance et de Transiti...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fabrique de Territoire	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plan Avenir Montagne	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Existait-il une articulation entre les dispositifs de l'ANCT mis en place sur votre territoire et la stratégie de votre GAL sur la programmation 2014-2022 ? \*

Oui

Non

Petite Ville de Demain

Volontariat Territorial en Adminis...

Contrat de Relance et de Transiti...

Fabrique de Territoire

Plan Avenir Montagne

En soumettant ce formulaire, j'accepte que les informations saisies soient exploitées dans le cadre de cette étude. \*

Oui

# SURVEYS ON MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

As part of this study, LEADER France launched a form and telephone-based survey of regional management authorities to complete EAFRD and ERDF data. Out of the 18 regions questioned, 14 replies were collected.



Rubrique 1 sur 6

## Etude sur l'utilisation du FEADER 2014-2022 pour les politiques publiques en faveur du d veloppement rural.

[L'Agence Nationale de la Cohesion des Territoires](#) a confi , apr s consultation publique   [Leader France](#) une mission de 6 mois en tant que prestataire sur l' tude "regards crois s sur le d veloppement rural fran ais". Cette  tude vise   mettre en valeur la contribution du FEADER/FEDER aux politiques de d veloppement rural r gional, incluant par exemple des mesures de l'[Agenda rural](#), ensemble de mesures mises en place par l'Etat pour mieux prendre en compte les territoires ruraux dans les politiques publiques, mesures mises en place depuis 2019.

Cette  tude est soutenue et supervis e en partie par R gions de France, membre du comit  de pilotage.

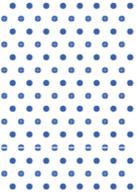
Le d veloppement rural est le « deuxi me pilier » de la politique agricole commune (PAC), qui renforce le « premier pilier » des aides au revenu et des mesures de march  en am liorant la durabilit  sociale, environnementale et  conomique des zones rurales. Le d veloppement rural sugg re une approche globale et coordonn e des territoires ruraux dans leurs diverses composantes : il a pour objet de mieux tirer parti, de valoriser les ressources sp cifiques des territoires ruraux et d'assurer un d veloppement territorial  quilibr  des  conomies et des communaut s rurales.

Le pr sent **questionnaire**, d'une dur e approximative de 15 minutes lorsque vous disposez des donn es n cessaires, est une **premi re  tape** qui doit permettre de r colter l'avis des Conseils r gionaux, autorit s de gestion du FEADER, sur le champ de l' tude de mani re rapide et efficace.

Dans un **second temps**, il est propos  que le questionnaire soit compl t  d'un **entretien** pour approfondir les donn es r colt es sur la base d'une grille d'entretien qui vous sera pr alablement transmise. (dur e de l'entretien : 30 minutes   r aliser en visio)

Ce questionnaire se divise en trois parties :

- La premi re partie est consacr e aux montants de votre maquette r gionale (vous  tes invit s   ce sujet   vous munir des donn es en votre possession).
- Un deuxi me temps sera concentr  sur la gestion des mesures s lectionn es avant de voir les diff rentes



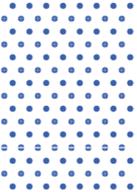
- Une dernière partie questionnera le développement rural dans le FEDER.

Nous vous remercions pour votre réponse attendue avant le **vendredi 26 mai 2023**.

Pour toute question, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter à l'adresse mail : [etudefeader.leaderfrance@gmail.com](mailto:etudefeader.leaderfrance@gmail.com) ou par téléphone au 07 85 03 69 77 (Alexis Lebrat, coordinateur de l'étude).

Votre région : \*

1. Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
2. Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
3. Bretagne
4. Centre-Val de Loire
5. Corse
6. Grand Est
7. Hauts-de-France
8. Île-de-France
9. Normandie
10. Nouvelle-Aquitaine
11. Occitanie
12. Pays de la Loire
13. Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
14. Guadeloupe
15. Martinique
16. Guyane



17. La Réunion

18. Mayotte

Après la section 1 Passer à la section suivante

Rubrique 2 sur 6

### Données chiffrées régionales (temps estimé : 10 minutes)



Les données récoltées serviront uniquement dans le cadre de l'étude et ne feront pas l'objet de communication.

Les questions ci-dessous se portent sur la **programmation 2014 - 2022**.

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consacré** à la mesure 2 (Services de conseils, services d'aide à la gestion agricole et services de remplacement sur l'exploitation) ?

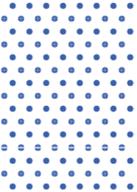
Réponse courte

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consommé** sur la mesure 2 ?

Réponse courte

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été payé** sur la mesure 2 ?

Réponse courte



Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consacré** à la mesure 3 (Systèmes de qualité applicables aux produits agricoles et aux denrées alimentaires) ?

Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consommé** sur la mesure 3 ?

Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été payé** sur la mesure 3 ?

Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consacré** à la mesure 7 (Services de base et rénovation des villages dans les zones rurales) ?

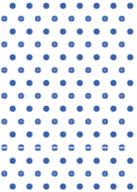
Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consommé** sur la mesure 7 ?

Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été payé** sur la mesure 7 ?

Réponse courte  
.....



Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consacré** à la mesure 16 (Coopération) ?

Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consommé** sur la mesure 16 ?

Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été payé** sur la mesure 16 ?

Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consacré** à la mesure 19 (Soutien en faveur du développement local au titre de Leader (DLAL)) ?

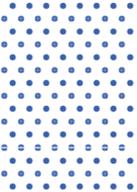
Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été consommé** sur la mesure 19 ?

Réponse courte  
.....

Sur la maquette 2014-2022 du FEADER, quel montant de votre maquette régionale **a été payé** sur la mesure 19 ?

Réponse courte  
.....



La maquette régionale du FEADER a-t-elle fait l'objet d'une réaffectation et d'une diminution de maquette en cours de programmation ?

- Oui
- Non

Cette réaffectation ou diminution de maquette concerne-t-elle les mesures 2, 3, 7, 16, 19 ?

- Oui
- Non

Si oui, merci de préciser les modifications de maquette. (Question non obligatoire)

Réponse longue  
.....

Y-a-t-il un cofinancement régional sur ces mesures ?

	Oui	Non
Mesure 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 16	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Gestion des mesures sélectionnées (temps estimé : 3 minutes)**



La présente étude se concentre sur les mesures identifiées suivantes :

- Mesure 2 (Services de conseils, services d'aide à la gestion agricole et services de remplacement sur l'exploitation),
- Mesure 3 (Systèmes de qualité applicables aux produits agricoles et aux denrées alimentaires),
- Mesure 7 (Services de base et rénovation des villages dans les zones rurales),
- Mesure 16 (Coopération),
- Mesure 19 ( Soutien en faveur du développement local au titre de Leader (DLAL))

Les questions ci-dessous se portent sur la **programmation 2014 - 2022**.

Ces mesures ont-elles fait l'objet d'une animation / communication particulière dans votre région ?

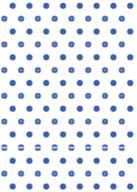
A fait l'objet d'une ... Au même titre que... N'a pas fait l'objet ... A fait l'objet d'une ...

Mesure 2 (Service...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 3 (Systèm...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 7 (Service...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 16 (Coopé...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 19 ( Soutie...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment les projets ont-ils été sélectionnés sur ces mesures ?

Au fil de l'eau      Appels à projets thémat...      Appel à projets annuel /...

Mesure 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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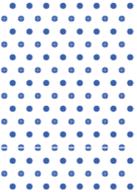
Mesure 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mesure 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mesure 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dans le cadre d'appel à projets, avez-vous eu plus de projets que de dossiers sélectionnés ?

	Oui	Non
Mesure 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 16	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Des alternatives ont-elles été trouvées pour financer les projets non sélectionnés ?

- Oui pour chaque dossier
- Oui en partie sur des crédits régionaux
- Oui en partie sur d'autres financements européens
- Pas souvent
- Non



Avez-vous reçu un accompagnement d'autres structures pour mettre en place ces mesures (cabinets extérieurs, organismes externes, délégation de service...)?

	Oui	Oui en partie	Non
Mesure 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 16	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

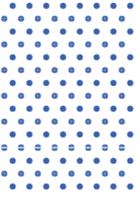
Le réseau rural régional a-t-il participé à l'accompagnement de ces mesures (animation, communication, etc.) ?

	Oui	Oui en partie	Non
Mesure 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 16	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mesure 19	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Si oui, lesquelles?

Réponse courte

.....



agence nationale de la cohésion des territoires



# FRAMEWORK OF INTERVIEWS WITH MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

## Study on the use of the EAFRD 2014-2022 for public policies to support rural development - Interview grid for management authorities

The Agence Nationale de la Cohésion des Territoires entrusted LEADER France with a six-month mission as service provider for the study "Comparative views of the French rural agenda". This study aims to highlight the contribution of EAFRD/ERDF funding to regional rural development policies, including for example measures of the French rural agenda.

Rural development is the "second pillar" of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which reinforces the "first pillar" of income support and market measures by improving the social, environmental and economic sustainability of rural areas. Rural development suggests a global and coordinated approach to the various components of rural areas: it aims to make better use of the specific resources of rural areas and ensure balanced regional development of rural economies and communities.

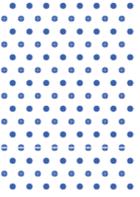
This interview grid will complete the information collected through the on-line form and will collect the opinions of regional councils, the EAFRD management authorities, on the scope of the study. (interview duration: 30 minutes by video call)

**1 /** What do you think of the contribution of the EAFRD in your region to issues related to rural development, excluding agriculture, to ensure a balanced regional development of rural economic and communities?

.....  
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**2 /** Has the EAFRD budget been reallocated or reduced during the programming period? If yes, how do you explain it?

.....  
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.....



**3 /** This study focuses on the following identified measures:

- Measure 2 (Advisory services, farm management and relief services),
- Measure 3 (Quality schemes for agriproducts and foodstuffs),
- Measure 7 (Basic services and village renewal in rural areas)
- Measure 16 (Cooperation)
- Measure 19 (Support for LEADER local development (CLLD))

What activities/communication drives have been carried out to promote these measures? (e.g.: advertising in the territories, media coverage)

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**4 /** For measures 2, 3, 7 and 16, within the framework of the call for projects, do you have more projects than applications selected? How do you explain this?

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 .....  
 .....

If yes:

Have alternatives been found to fund these projects?

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**5 /** Has there been greater political commitment to measures 2, 3, 7, 16 or 19 compared to all EAFRD measures?

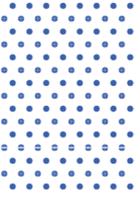
.....  
 .....  
 .....

**6 /** This study identified the following priority subjects:

- Digital technology,
- Mobility,
- Youth,
- Accessibility of public services,
- Access to care / Assistance for the ageing population
- Small businesses in rural areas

How would you assess the results in each of these subject areas? And will they be renewed for the next programming period?

.....  
 .....  
 .....



**7 /** Has any other rural development subject been supported by the EAFRD in your region? If yes, which?

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.....

**8 /** Over the entire programming period, how has the use of EAFRD changed?

.....  
.....  
.....

**9 /** Has the treatment of these themes evolved over the course of the programming period and the context? (e.g.: did Covid cause a reallocation of funds? change in objectives, new priorities, etc..)

.....  
.....  
.....

**10 /** Do you have any good and/or innovative practices in the use and management of EAFRD for rural development (e.g.: multi-funds, speed of processing, consultation of stakeholders, etc.) ? Can you describe them?

.....  
.....  
.....





# COMPRENDRE

## COMPARATIVE VIEWS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS AND THE FRENCH RURAL AGENDA



At the end of the 2014-2022 EAFRD programming period and in the context of the transition from the French « Rural Agenda » to the « France ruralités » plan, the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT) intended to better measure the contribution made by the EAFRD and the ERDF for the development of rural areas in matters such as mobility, public services, access to healthcare, small businesses, etc.

To this end, the ANCT has commissioned Leader France to carry out a study on these topics.

National and regional French partners were brought together through a steering committee responsible for monitoring the study. The study is based on data from the Rural Development Observatory, the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food, as well as interviews and questionnaires conducted by Leader France with local action groups (LAGs) and the French regions (EAFRD managing authorities).

