



Association Européenne pour l'Information
sur le Développement Local a.s.b.l.



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AEIDL 2013

A new impetus	4
---------------------	---

ASSOCIATION

2013 – A year in the Association	5
--	---

AEIDL PROJECTS

AEIDL's own projects	8
----------------------------	---

ENVIRONMENT

LIFE+: At the service of the environment	10
--	----

TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

FARNET: Sustainable development of Europe's fisheries areas	12
---	----

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

European Social Fund: ESF-TCI	14
-------------------------------------	----

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development	16
---	----

TRANSPORT RESEARCH

TRIP: Disseminating European research on mobility and transport	19
---	----

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Missions, studies and assignments in the area of local development	20
--	----

See you, Marie-Lise

After teaching philosophy for 28 years, Marie-Lise Semblat became a research professor at the Collège Coopératif (Paris) in 1993. She was subsequently involved in the delivery of training sessions for adults in Senegal, Madagascar and Haiti. It is in this latter country that she died, in a car accident, on 23 April 2013.

A former president of AEIDL (2002-2006), Marie-Lise was involved in community networks and associations to promote local development as well as to promote the role of women. She founded ASTER (Actrices sociales des territoires européens ruraux), a European and international network involved in gender issues.

25 years young!

AEIDL, the European Association for Information on Local Development, is a social enterprise that applies commercial strategies to maximise improvements in human and environmental well-being, rather than maximising profits for external shareholders. It is a non-profit organisation, with the aim of contributing to a free flow of information and strong local citizen initiatives for Europe. This report summarises the results of both our own initiatives and business activities in 2013.

Established in 1988 by European citizens with shared values and a common vision of Europe, AEIDL celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013. This signed year inspired us to look both inside the organisation and outside, focusing on developing our organisational culture and provoking debate on the political perspectives for Europe and for local development.

The 25th anniversary was marked by the European conference '*Local Initiative Reinvents Europe*' held in February 2014 and the participation of the whole AEIDL community in 2013 in the preparation of this important event. The anniversary was also marked by the completion of the renovation of AEIDL's 'home' under the supervision of the Director.

2013 was the second year of the implementation of the new AEIDL strategy adopted in 2011. During the year a number of important milestones were achieved and the process has continued to gain momentum and benefit from experience. The four sub-committees complemented with the 25th Anniversary Task Force remain the main drivers of the implementation process unifying team and board and empower our innovation champions. They initiated among others the preparation of an internal communications plan and the labelling of AEIDL as a

dynamic eco company. They drew up the methodology for setting up and managing European Economic Interest Groupings (EEIGs), finalised the concept on admission rules for membership of the General Assembly and recruitment procedure, and suggested working in task-forces created for all contracts and positioning AEIDL for new markets and contracts.

In 2013, working with a budget of €50 000 AEIDL issued the first in a series of annual calls for proposals, to which it invited the whole 'AEIDL community' – members, staff and freelance workers – to respond.

In harmony with the strategy and above associative activities, and thanks to the efforts of the project teams, the work under contracts fully met our own and the clients' expectations – but the closing of the EU programming period and the shift to the new period (2014-2020) presented an additional challenge. On one hand, we prepared for the important timelines in 2014 in the four target areas/subjects of AEIDL (environment, employment, rural development and coastal development) to ensure the sustainability of the company. On the other hand, we also ensured that we were ready for other markets based on our expertise and aim to "reinvent Europe through local initiative".

AEIDL was born at a great moment in recent European history. Significant changes were occurring in 1988. In June, the Commission of Jacques Delors gave a new momentum to the process of the European integration by finalising the conditions for the internal market and laid the foundations for the single European currency.

Also in 1988 President Gorbachev introduced his policy perestroika. It was the time of the Second Solidarity in Poland when Lech Wałęsa scored a

public-relations victory, and the year of rebuilding civil society's voice in Central and Eastern Europe that led to political change in the communist countries.

In the same year, the European Commission Communication on "The Future of Rural Society" (COM(88) 501) was the first strong statement of the need for a European rural development policy and led to the aim and setting up of the LEADER Programme using the bottom up approach in EU policy and practice for the first time and strengthening local citizen initiatives across Europe. AEIDL would later play an important role in LEADER, which made us known in the whole of Europe.

On a warm summer evening Bruce Springsteen was on stage in East Berlin playing a concert in front of 300 000 East Germans in 1988. He stepped up to the microphone and told the crowd why he had come to the city. "I'm not here for or against any government," he said. "I've come to play rock 'n' roll for you in the hope that one day all the barriers will be torn down." And the Berlin wall was torn down in the following year.

After 25 years, we feel that the time has arrived again to tear down some symbolic walls and reinvent the Europe that we love, a Europe which is, in the proper use of these adjectives, '*smart, sustainable and inclusive*'.



Márta Márczis,

President.

3 April 2014

A new impetus

2013 saw AEIDL continuing to work on contracts linking it - either alone or in partnership - to its main clients, including several European Commission Directorates-General.

The nature of the services rendered involved both our core business (network management, evaluation, communications, publications, event management, website creation and maintenance) and topics directly involving local stakeholders: employment, the environment, urban and rural development, etc.

Contracts with the European institutions again represented a major proportion of AEIDL activities (98% of revenue), while services rendered to territorial authorities and networks only accounted for 2% of total revenue, (as was the case in 2012).

Overall AEIDL 2012 revenues were down 16% against 2012 and slightly lower than those budgeted (-3.41%), the result of a decline in turnover basically in business with DG ENV. This decline is attributable to the late approval of the final report, missing the deadline for closing the accounts.

On the expenditure side, they followed the same trend as revenue, a 5% decrease compared to 2012 while still in line with the 2013 budget (-0.18%). Controlling costs, along with optimising the budgets available to our contractors, has allowed us to record a net profit, thereby consolidating the balance sheet.

In line with the budget and to improve its working environment, AEIDL invested more than €300 000 in 2013 in refurbishing its offices. This renovation has included modernizing the electric system to meet the latest requirements of computer wiring, installing a fire detection system and the installation of a more efficient lighting which consumes far less electricity than the previous one. This was accompanied by a complete reconstruction of the ground floor to improve working conditions (better soundproofing, light etc.) and to have modern meeting rooms worthy of the "brand" AEIDL.



As for staff training, the budget was invested in database management; a major effort has indeed been devoted to the implementation of a new documentation system. Many working hours were also devoted to the maintenance of AEIDL's website to make it an exemplary information tool for social, environmental and territorial issues. Looking at the volume of work completed, we have seen a major rise of 8 600 hours against 2012, reflecting the growth of the new LIFE contract. 2013 saw employees and free-lancers working a total of 44 480 hours, representing 26 full-time equivalents (FTEs). This workload was spread among 35 people - employees, free-lancers, and partners.

Finally, numerous meetings involving the whole Association were held, for the purpose of drafting a strategic plan more in sync with the institutional and socio-economic changes expected in the years to come.

25th Anniversary Task Force

A task force was formed at the beginning of 2013 to coordinate activities related to AEIDL's 25th anniversary. It gathered 4 members of the Board and two members of the Team.

Gradually, it has been decided to focus on the organisation of a major conference in Brussels.

A meeting in Paris, in March 2013, helped set up the guidelines and acknowledge the principle to invite representatives of 25 initiative. Regular meetings of the Task Force took place on the occasion of each Board meeting. Several meetings were also held on Skype.

A draft manifesto was developed in early 2013. It was the subject of comments and proposals from multiple contributors. It resulted in the contribution «Rethinking the European project from citizens and territories» which served as a support for the 19 and 20 February 2014 conference, «Reinventing Europe through Local Initiative». The preparation of the conference was greatly accelerated from December 2013, from the time the date of the Conference could be set, based on room availability at the European Parliament and the agreement of two MEPs to support the event.

Jean Vanweydeveld,
Managing Director

2013 - A year in the Association



During 2013, AEIDL undertook the following key activities: Statutory activities, three General Assemblies were organised, the implementation of the Strategic Plan approved by the 2012 General Assembly, the preparations to celebrate the 25th anniversary of AEIDL.

Statutory Activities

The General Assembly of April 2013 was followed by another General Assembly (GA) in November which focused mainly on the question of defining the criteria for membership of the GA. To date, after four new candidates were accepted (from Bulgaria, Italy and Sweden): the total number of members is now 30. AEIDL strives to ensure that all Member States, especially from the new countries, mainly Eastern Europe, are represented, and to ensure a balance of knowledge and expertise. So far, 13 European countries are represented: Belgium (8 members), France (6), Italy (4), Hungary (2), United Kingdom (2), Bulgaria (1), Germany (1), Spain (1) Ireland (1) Lithuania (1) Portugal (1), Serbia (1) and Sweden (1).

Five board meetings were held, the members of which ensured that:

- Activities were followed-up, and that the budget was monitored.
- The renovation work and upgrading was led by the Director. The proposals were discussed and tracked as the work progressed.
- The desire to hold a board meeting outside Brussels was not realised, but remains an objective.
- Information was provided to GA members by regular mails from the Director and through the two-weekly publication of AEIDL Flash.

Strategic Plan

The four sub committees established under the Strategic Plan approved in June 2011 by the General Assembly have made progress. The first results of the sub committees were presented at the GA in June 2012 and April 2013: a progress report will also be made at the 2014 GA.

- A consensus was arrived at on the joint involvement of Board members and the team on very concrete projects.
- Each SC has established a work plan and budget for the implementation of planned activities.

25th anniversary of AEIDL

The idea of organising an event to mark the 25th anniversary of AEIDL very quickly received general approval.

It was not possible, due to time constraints, to schedule an event in late 2013, thus, it was held in February 2014 in Brussels.

The preparation and implementation was entrusted to a Task Force composed mainly of board members and representatives from the team.

The theme and title has been the subject of much discussion. It was after all these debates that the title was chosen, to illustrate the objectives and values of AEIDL: **“Reinventing Europe through Local Initiative”**.



© Toby Johnson

To illustrate this point, members and staff of AEIDL were asked to identify 25 local development initiatives. This entailed a lot of work to identify innovative practices and to reactivate old contacts.

This preparation allowed AEIDL to resume and to reinforce contacts and partnerships with projects and organisations based on shared values.

Yves Champetier played a pivotal role in gathering together all the diverse elements.

In short, in 2013 the activities in AEIDL were intense and productive.

- The team was involved, engaged and committed.
- The identity of AEIDL has been strengthened: after 25 years - still going strong.

AEIDL's own projects

The ongoing strategic process at AEIDL has led to the implementation of several projects initiated by the Association, notably: “Sustainable Constellations in Urban Areas” and SEWA.

“SUSTAINABLE CONSTELLATIONS IN URBAN AREAS”: Training course

Cities are laboratories for the future to solve problems, for sustainable development, and also as sources of innovative solutions. That is why AEIDL, in partnership with Greenloop, has developed a one-week training course to discover and to discuss local initiatives which have successfully tested new partnerships and changed attitudes towards a more sustainable urban development.

The objective of this training course is to engage participants, students, professionals, both from the EU and outside, to learn from these examples, in order to launch similar approaches in their cities/areas/territories.

The training programme takes place mainly in Brussels, but also includes a one-day visit to another European city (e.g. Paris).

Using a methodology based on collective intelligence and collaboration, this innovative programme includes a conceptual approach (ecological paradigm), on-site visits to pilot projects and initiatives, meetings with pioneers in the field, as well as practical exercises and debate on this topic, etc.

The training course has the support of Philippe Van Parijs, Professor of Economics and Social Ethics at Saint-Louis University (Brussels), Louvain (UCL), Oxford, Bielefeld and Berkeley; the course is also supported by Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur to the United Nations on food security and Professor of Economics and Social Law (UCL).



Initiator: AEIDL

Duration: 2013 - ...

Budget: n.a.

Team: 2 persons concerned

SEWA, Serving the needs of self-employed women

SEWA, the Self-Employed Women's Association, has drawn inspiration from the values promoted by Gandhi – such as community mobilisation and self-help – to promote the empowerment of disadvantaged women in all spheres of life, both private and public. Jyostna Patel of AEIDL did a study on the association.

The association was established in 1972, as a trade union to represent the rights of women who are working, but without any formal contract. These workers tend to have irregular low-paid work and no social security provisions. One of SEWA's main objectives is to help them improve their working conditions and to negotiate better rates of pay.

Based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, the independent association has over 350 000 members in this, and other Indian states. It has also provided expertise to set-up similar schemes in other countries such as Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

Initiator: AEIDL
Duration: 2013 - ...
Budget: n.a.
Team: 1 person concerned
E-mail: jyostna.patel@aeidl.eu



LIFE+: At the service of the environment

Informing, promoting, making known, publicising – since 2001 AEIDL has been the “Communications Team” for this major European environment programme.

ADDED VALUE

This contract strengthens AEIDL's position and reputation, combining its know-how in communications and European environmental policy. It has also allowed AEIDL to establish and maintain contact with numerous experts throughout Europe in a wide range of fields linked with environment, nature and biodiversity protection. The experience gained through LIFE demonstrates AEIDL's ability to produce high-quality information in a specialist area. This can be exploited in other fields linked to the environment, such as climate change, renewable energy, and more generally, sustainable development.



© Estació Nàutica Sant Carles de la Ràpita

LIFE, the EU's financial instrument to support environment and nature conservation projects, was launched by the European Commission in 1992. Since then, there have been several phases of the programme (LIFE, LIFE II, LIFE III, LIFE+) for which AEIDL has been awarded communication contracts. The current phase of the programme, LIFE+ is a continuation of the previous LIFE III programme, with some changes to reflect the restructuring the European financial instruments for the 2007-2013 period.

LIFE+ brings together budget lines previously dispersed within DG Environment (LIFE, support for European environmental NGOs, networks of sustainable cities, Forest Focus, etc.). It covers three main strands or components: “Nature and Biodiversity”, “Environment Policy and Governance” and “Information and Communication”.

The LIFE+ programme has a budget of EUR 2 143 409 000 for the 2007-2013 period. 78% of this budget is allocated for supporting projects. Of this, half is earmarked for “Nature and Biodiversity” and 15% for transnational projects.

In the context of the LIFE+ communications contract, AEIDL's task is to provide technical support and assistance to European-level communication activities for end-of-programme

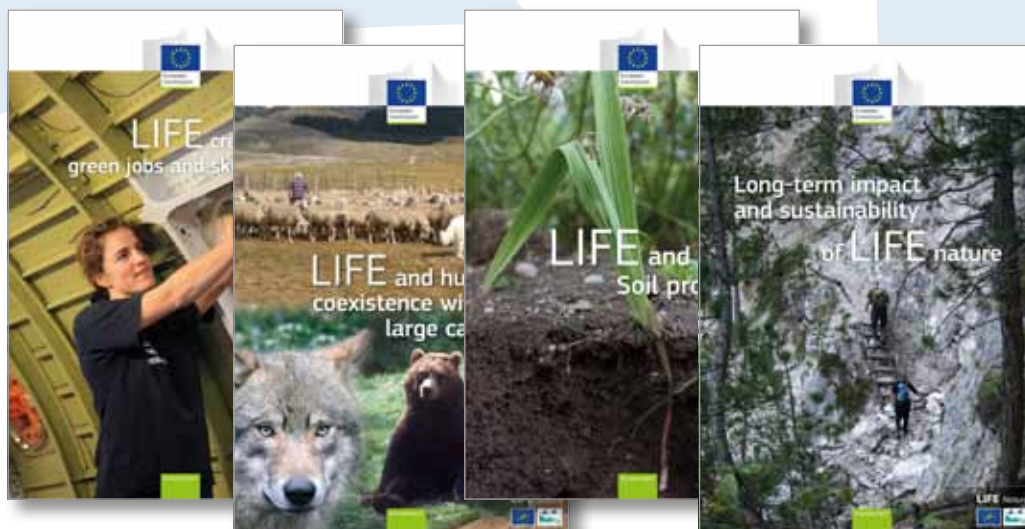
LIFE III projects and projects belonging to the new LIFE+ programme. This contract began in January 2009 and runs for four years.

In September 2012, the European Commission selected Astrale GEIE (in which AEIDL is a partner) for providing technical assistance in the monitoring of LIFE projects and in the communication activities for two further years (2013-2014).

As the Communications Team of LIFE. AEIDL is responsible for the following tasks on a permanent basis:

- LIFE website maintenance, updating and development
 - Updating the LIFE website (<http://ec.europa.eu/life>) on a daily basis
 - Feeding new content into the LIFE Video Player (<http://lifevideos.eu/videos/>)
 - Managing LIFE's Facebook (facebook.com/LIFE.programme) and Twitter (twitter.com/LIFE_Programme) accounts)

- Summaries of completed **projects** (some 130 a year)
- **Collections** of new projects
 - 3 collections (1 per thematic area) covering a total of more than 200 new projects selected each year
- The **LIFEnews** newsletter (10 issues a year)
- **Thematic brochures** (4 a year)
- Brochures on the **best LIFE projects** (2 a year)
- Thematic diffusion and dissemination of the results of LIFE projects to stakeholders and decision-makers
- “**Country overviews**” (summaries of the LIFE situation in each EU Member State)
 - We update the country overviews of the 27 Member States, integrating each year's selection of projects. Each overview is translated into the respective country's language(s).
- LIFE promotional material
- Multimedia **databases** (photos, videos, documents, publications, etc.)
- PR assistance for LIFE projects
 - At the request of LIFE project owners, AEIDL provides PR advice and support



- Review of PR activities
 - AEIDL assists the LIFE Units within DG Environment in working out a communication strategy. AEIDL is also responsible for compiling statistical data on how often the LIFE website is visited, providing a quarterly analysis.

2013 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

- Since the beginning of 2013, the publications of **LIFEnews** have covered the following themes:
 - January: interviews with the Heads of Unit of LIFE/Nature, LIFE/Environment
 - February: LIFE in Cyprus
 - March: LIFE and Climate
 - April: LIFE and Hunting
 - May: LIFE and Agriculture
 - June: LIFE and the Green Week – special edition on air
 - July/August: LIFE and the new biogeographic processes
 - September: LIFE and the Social Media
 - October: LIFE in Croatia
 - November: LIFE and Soil
 - December: interview with the Heads of Unit of LIFE/Nature, LIFE/Environment

- The following **thematic brochures** are being prepared:
 - The long term effects of LIFE Nature
 - LIFE and Soil
 - LIFE and Air Quality
 - LIFE and Invasive Species
- The following **thematic brochures** were published:
 - Green Jobs and Green Training
 - Large Carnivores
- Publication on the Compilations of new projects selected in 2012
 - Four compilations (one **by component** + environmental **NGOs**) concerning a total of around 248 new projects and 30 NGOs selected this year.
- Participation in around ten conferences/workshops per month throughout Europe.



Client: European Commission (DG Environment)
Duration: 2009-2013
Budget: € 4 000 000
Team: 16 persons (10 FTEs)

<http://ec.europa.eu/life>, <http://life.aeidl.eu>,
<http://www.aeidl.eu/en/projects/environment/life.html>

FARNET: Sustainable development of

Within the framework of the DevNet EEIG, established in partnership with Grupo Alba (Spain), AEIDL is participating in the Support Unit for FARNET, the European Fisheries Areas Network.

ADDED VALUE

FARNET represents an opportunity for AEIDL to apply its experience in rural development (gained in the context of LEADER) in a new context, as well as to exploit its expertise in communications relating to European programmes. It also ensures that AEIDL is associated with an initiative which is set to become one of the key features of European fishery policy in the future.



© Giuseppe Scordella

This contract covers technical support to the European Commission in coordinating the implementation of Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). Axis 4 promotes the community-led development of fisheries areas, and in particular those areas hit by the EU policy of reducing fishing quotas.

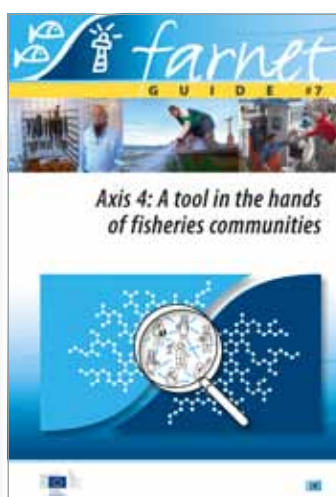
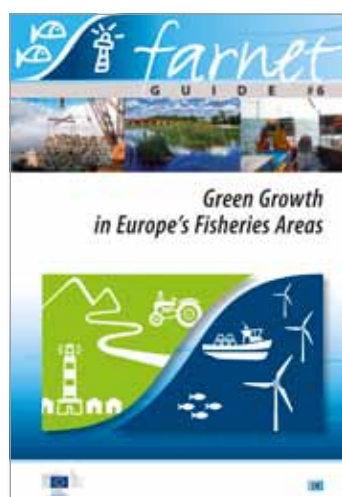
The aim of the FARNET Support Unit is to provide support in setting up Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs), which are strategic partnerships that lead the development of local projects in areas such as exploiting fishery products, or diversification into the fields of tourism, education and culture. The ultimate goal is to

have some 270 FLAGs operating across the EU.

The FARNET Support Unit is permanently responsible for the following activities:

- Methodological support for the **management authorities** and groups (FLAGs).
- Permanently adding content to the various sections of the website. <http://www.farnet.eu>.
- Providing **various tools** on the website targeting those involved in the implementation of Priority 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), as well as Country Profiles, FAQs and FLAG Fact Sheets.
- Compiling examples of **best practices** found in Priority 4 and other programmes.
- Publishing the **Newsletter** (appearing 6 times a year, in EN, FR, DE, and ES).
- Publishing the **Magazine**: (appearing in April and October, in EN, FR, DE, and ES).
- Producing the **Methodology Guides** in 11 languages (EN, FR, DE, ES, IT, PT, EL, PL, RO, BG, DK).
- Presenting and promoting FARNET at different types of events at different levels.
- Coordinating an Advisory Group on EFF Priority 4 (1 - 2 meetings a year).

Europe's fisheries areas



2013 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

- On-going methodological support to different priority countries.
- Support for transnational cooperation between FLAGs: Mediterranean (FR, ES, IT), Baltic Sea (FI, PL, LT, LV, SE).
- Organisation and facilitation of two meetings of Managing Authorities in Brussels (March and September).
- Support to DG REGIO on participative local development– Community Lead Local Development (CLLD).
- Organisation and facilitation of meetings on CLLD for the geographical Units of DG MARE.
- Contribution to a seminar organised by DG MARE and the World Bank on CLLD.
- Put on line the 39 new FLAGsheets, bringing the total to 238.
- Put on line the 5 new FAQ, bringing the total to 47.
- Put on line the 7 new Good Practices, bringing the total to 35.
- Put on line the Guide N° 6 on The Green Growth in Fishing Areas.
- Put on line the Guide N° 7: Axis 4, a tool in the hands of Fishing Communities.
- Put on line the leaflet: Axis 4 – a tool in the service of Fishing Communities.
- Put on line the new videos (projects, events) on the FARNET YouTube Channel, bringing the total to 26.
- Organisation and facilitation of a transnational seminar in Stockholm (June): FARNET.lab “Marketing the Local Catch”.
- Organisation and facilitation of a transnational seminar in Sardinia (November): FARNET.lab “Linking fisheries to the tourism economy”.



Client: Commission européenne (DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries)

Duration: 2009-2015

Budget (2012): € 1 890 000

Team (AEIDL): 5 persons

www.farnet.eu

European Social Fund: ESF-TCI

Started in 2009, the ESF-TCI project really took off in 2010 and continued flying high until its end in 2013.

ADDED VALUE

The ESF-TCI project helped AEIDL to expand and deepen its expertise in the field of employment and social inclusion, with a particular focus on people in difficulty. It also enabled AEIDL to expand its network of experts, who can be called upon to reply to calls for tender in these fields and to boost AEIDL's experience in managing networks.



© FreePhotoBank

AEIDL was responsible for supporting the European Commission in three areas: a thematic analysis of priority problem areas, the monitoring of 13 transnational (between Member States) cooperation networks and supporting the ESF working groups on transnationality and innovation.

2013 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Continued monitoring of 11 of the 13 “Learning Networks”. These *Learning Networks* are each managed by a lead Member State. AEIDL's role is to carry out the *monitoring*, to report on what is being done, and to draw the Commission's attention to points of interest both for the other networks and for

the ESF as a whole. Ten networks were selected in 2009 and three others in 2010.

Monitoring of eight new Learning Networks up to September 2013, on the following themes:

- Active Inclusion
- Career & AGE

TOPICS	COUNTRIES (the lead country in bold)
Inclusive entrepreneurship	BEfr – BE nl – CZ – ES – LT
Social economy	BEnl – CZ – FI – IT – PL – SE – UK
Empowerment and inclusion	BEnl – ES – GR – PL – PT – UK
Youth employment	BEnl – CY – DE – EL – IT – LT – SE
Migrants and ethnic minorities	BEnl – DE – EE – ES – SE – UK
(Ex-) prisoners	BEnl – DE – GR – IT – NL – RO – SI
Partnership	BEnl – DE – GR – HU – IE – PL – PT – RO
Transnationality	CZ – DE – ES – FR – GR – PL – SE – SI – UK
Public administration reform	BG – GR – LT – PL – RO
Results-based management	BEfr – BE nl – GR – LT – NL
Gender mainstreaming	AT – BEfr – BEnl – DE – ES – FR – IT – PT – SE
Age	BEfr – BEnl – DE – EE – ES – FR – IT – NL – PL – UK
Asylum seekers	BEnl – DE – ES – FI – GR – IT – SE

- Result based management RBM+
- Social Entrepreneurship Network (SEN)
- Reinforcing Policy Learning for Roma Inclusion
- ESF Transnational Cooperation 2014-2020;
- Youth mobility
- Gender Mainstreaming

May 2013. Preparation and facilitation of the meeting to launch these eight new networks.

June 2013. Technical assistance to the meeting of the Ad Hoc Group on ESF Transnationality and Social Innovation.

July 2013. Delivery of three documents– presentation, case study,

products – on each of the eight Learning Networks.

September 2013. Delivery of 16 case studies on Community Led Local Development (CLLD) in the ESF.

This contract ended in September 2013.



esf-tci

European Social Fund

Transnational Cooperation and Innovation

Client: European Commission (DG Employment and Social Affairs)

Duration: 2009-2013

Budget (2012): € 780 000

Team: 6 persons + a network of thematic experts

<http://www.esf-tci.eu/index.php>

Helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for

Through the RurEval EEIG, AEIDL is responsible for the dissemination of good practices and the acquisition of skills in evaluating rural development programmes.

ADDED VALUE

This contract has allowed AEIDL to extend its network of experts in the field of evaluation. RurEval was the first EEIG that AEIDL set up with a European partner. This has allowed AEIDL to develop management tools transferable to other EEIGs (which was already the case with the DevNet EEIG for FARNET).



© Aleksander Kowalski

In January 2008, the European Commission's DG Agriculture commissioned the European Economic Interest Group (EEIG) RurEval, a consortium involving AEIDL and the Austrian company Metis (formerly ÖIR Managementdienste GmbH), to assist it in setting up and managing the helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development.

This network of experts acts as a central point of contact (help-

desk) for all information relating to the evaluation of rural development programmes. It also promotes best practices and the acquisition of skills in evaluating these programmes.

The "Evaluation Helpdesk" provides support and advice on evaluation methods and tools. It also supports the European Commission and the Member States in their activities relating to ad hoc evaluation. The Helpdesk consists

of a permanent team in Brussels, supported by some 20 specialists located throughout the 27 Member States, all with extensive experience in evaluating rural development measures and programmes.

Thematic working groups have also been set up to examine and improve know-how on key subject areas, such as organic farming, impacts on the environment and employment, evaluation of the LEADER approach, etc.

Rural Development

2013 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

In 2013, the work of the Helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development will prepare the post 2013-period in terms of Monitoring and Evaluation, prepare the ex post evaluation and share evaluation practices and methods.

Elements of the Annual Work Programme include:

Good practice workshops

The aim is to provide a forum for an exchange of know-how among evaluation practitioners about the methodological issues related to the evaluation of RD programmes 2007- 2013; discuss critically the approaches and practices applied and; disseminate the lessons to the wider network.

Thematic Working Group on “Establishing and implementing the Evaluation Plan of 2014-2020 RDPs”

For the next programming period, there will no longer be specific provisions on ongoing evaluation in the legal framework. Instead, there will be a requirement to establish an evaluation plan for each RDP. The Evaluation Helpdesk has therefore set up a Thematic Working Group (TWG) to develop the content and use of the Evaluation Plan as part of the RDP.

Thematic Work on the Common Evaluation Questions for the next programming period

The Evaluation Helpdesk organised in early July a workshop with the European Commission and various experts from the Core Team and external experts on Evaluation Questions for the period 2014-2020. Following the workshop, the Evaluation Helpdesk developed a draft working document containing a preliminary set of Common Evaluation Questions which was submitted for comments to the members of the Evaluation Expert Committee. A second draft was presented in November the members of the Committee.

Organisation of Focus Groups in the Member States

In order to feed in the Annual Work Programme 2014 and to assess the needs of the Member States, the Evaluation Helpdesk organises Focus Groups in the Member States each year.

In 2013, most sessions of the Focus Groups have been held in the Member States. The Evaluation Helpdesk presented outcomes of some of the Focus Groups (AT, CZ, IE, IT, MT and SK) on summary posters (available upon request)



© Aleksander Kowalski

to the members of the Evaluation Expert Committee in November. A synthesis on the findings of the Focus Groups will feed in the Needs Assessment that is due in the 1st quarter of 2014.

Wider Communication

The 12th issue of the Rural Evaluation News was disseminated in English in December 2013.

Thematic Working Group “Ex post evaluation guidelines”

In December 2013, the Evaluation Helpdesk kicked off a Thematic



Working Group (TWG) on the ex post evaluation. The TWG will prepare and disseminate guidelines to assist Managing Authorities in preparing and steering the ex post evaluation process and to support evaluators to conduct assessment of RDP impacts applying advanced evaluation methods.

New set of FAQs

The Evaluation Helpdesk receives many questions from evaluators



and programming bodies to which they answer in close collaboration with the relevant European Commission services. In the past months, the Helpdesk provided answers and explanations for specific issues related to evaluation of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) for the period 2014-2020. Most questions relate to the first development stage of the RDP, i.e. the SWOT, the needs assessment and the ex ante evaluation. These answers were compiled in a FAQ

document that can be downloaded from the website.

A.O.B.

The Evaluation Helpdesk also develops many other activities on an ongoing basis:

- Developing topics from the “thematic pool”: finalizing the update of the working paper on the Evaluation of National Rural Network Programmes;
- Further developing the trilingual glossary;
- Updating guidance related to the CMEF and supporting the CMEF review;
- Supporting the capacity building on evaluation in the Member States: the Helpdesk is currently preparing a new series of Focus Groups that will take place after the summer;
- Managing a library of relevant studies and other information
- Replying to technical questions from the Member States.



European Evaluation Network
for Rural Development

Client: European Commission (DG Agriculture)

Duration: 2008-2013

Budget: M€ 3,6 (€ 900 000 x 4 years)

Team AEIDL: 6 persons (4 FTEs)

<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/>

TRIP: Disseminating European research on mobility and transport

As part of a consortium consisting of NEA (coordination), KIT, ISIS, ITC, IGES and DEMIS, AEIDL is involved in the TRIP project supported by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE).

The purpose of TRIP (*Transport Research and Innovation Portal*) is to continue the already existing Transport Research Knowledge Centre (TRKC) portal which aims at giving a complete picture of all finished and ongoing EU-funded transport research projects, as well as becoming a central information point on current national and regional transport research priorities and programmes.

Within TRIP, AEIDL is in charge of various editorial and dissemination tasks including video production.

2013 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

- The following publications were produced (graphic design and reporting by AEIDL):

- o "Innovation in urban transport policy making and planning"
- o "Innovative transport infrastructure for a fully integrated Europe"
- o "Innovation in urban mobility"
- o "Increasing the sustainability of air transport"
- The production of on-line videos by AEIDL accompanying these publications is underway (<http://www.transport-research.info/web/publications/video.cfm>).
- The first «Transport Research Summaries» were published and are in the process of being translated (graphic design, iconography and reporting by AEIDL):
 - o "Innovative technologies"
 - o "Water transport"
 - o "Transport management"
 - o "Passenger transport"
 - o "Economic and regional impacts"
 - o "Road transport"
 - o "Urban transport"
- The "Compendium 2013" was published (graphic design, iconography and coverage by AEIDL).

ADDED VALUE

TRIP allows AEIDL to use its base skills in a new sector - mobility and transportation -, working together with high-class partners mainly from the academic and research world. This enlargement of its scope opens up very interesting new perspectives for AEIDL.



Client: European Commission (DG Mobility and Transport)
Partners: Panteia/NEA (coordinator, Netherlands), KIT (Germany), ISIS (Italy), ITC (Bulgaria), IGES (Germany) and Demis (Netherlands)
Duration: 2011-2013
Budget: € 2 250 000
Team: 10 persons concerned
<http://www.transport-research.info/web/>

Missions, studies and assignments in the area of local development

In this context, AEIDL has monitored three projects. Three sectors are involved: rural development, urban development and cross-border cooperation.



© Jean-Luc Janot



© Jean-Luc Janot

EVALUATION OF LEADER IN AQUITAINE

ADDED VALUE

This mission reaffirmed AEIDL's presence on the French market for evaluating rural development.

In September 2012, Pays et Quartiers d'Aquitaine, the regional development resource centre of the Aquitaine Region (France), selected AEIDL to conduct the evaluation of LEADER in Aquitaine. The 7-month mission covered 14 rural areas and local action groups from the European

Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) since 2007, as well as other non-beneficiary rural areas.

In the current generation, LEADER is the fourth Axis - the methodological axis - of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The LEADER approach aims to support local development strategies devised and run by a partnership of public and private actors. The EAFRD budget for LEADER Aquitaine amounts to €19.34 million (2007-2013).

The evaluation targeted two levels: the local level (interviews with the stakeholders in each territory, forecasting round-tables), and the regional level (consolidation of pro-



gramming analyses, cooperation benchmarking, recommendations and forecasts).



Client: Aquitaine Regional Council (France)

Duration: 2012-2013

Budget: € 111 450

Team: 6 persons concerned

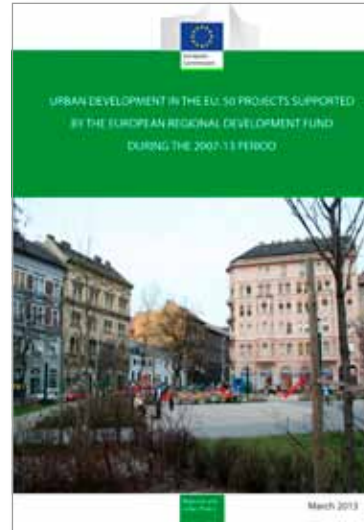
URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE EU

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy ('DG REGIO') has chosen AEIDL to do a study on "Good practice in urban development: projects and approaches supported by the ERDF during the 2007-2013 programming period".

With this study, DG REGIO wished to "provide a basic input for com-

municating how cities may best address urban development within programmes supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and provide guidance for the urban dimension in the future cohesion policy."

AEIDL's tasks included the analysis and dissemination of 50 examples of good practice according to six thematic areas: 1. Sustainable urban projects delivering the Europe 2020 strategy; 2. Implementation of sustainable integrated urban development operations under Article 8 of the 2007-2013 ERDF Regulation; 3. Use of regulatory provisions in the fields of housing in favour of marginalised groups and their implementation in urban areas; 4. Use of financial engineering; 5. Local empowerment and public participation; 6. The role of cooperation, networking and learning.



The city profiles are available online (in English) on the [AEIDL website](#).

The study report was the subject of an official European Commission publication.

ADDED VALUE

With this contract (which allows AEIDL to re-establish contact with DG REGIO), AEIDL exploited its core competences and preoccupations in a key sector of local development. The contract also gave AEIDL the opportunity to use, and thus maintain, a large network of experts covering the whole EU - valuable contacts and addresses for looking beyond 2013. The integrated approach highlighted in the specifications was based on the principles of community-led local development (CLLD) found in the 2014-2020 Regulations.



Client: European Commission (DG Regional Policy)
Duration: 2011-2013
Budget: € 543 500
Team: 31 persons concerned

EVALUATION OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN HUNGARY, SERBIA AND CROATIA

Within the framework of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), AEIDL analysed the contribution of the Hungary-Croatia and Hungary-Serbia cross-border cooperation programmes to EU regional policy.

Within the framework of IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance), the National Development Agency of Hungary awarded the

contract for the ongoing evaluation of cross-border cooperation to a consortium led by HBH in Budapest. Among the consortium partners, Ex Ante sub-contracted some EU-related analysis to AEIDL.

The tasks consisted of providing methodological input on the evaluation plans, analysis of the contributions of IPA cross-border cooperation to EU regional development

policy, and comparing them with similar programmes in France.

ADDED VALUE

This mission reaffirms AEIDL's presence in Eastern Europe in the field of evaluating territorial cooperation.



Client: Ex Ante (Hungary)
Duration: April-September 2013
Budget: n.a.
Team: n.a.

AEIDL in 2013



© Jean-Luc Janot

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT:
Márta Márczis (Hungary)

VICE-PRESIDENT:
Odile Plan (France)

SECRETARY:
William Van Dingenen
(Belgium)

TREASURER:
Yves Champetier (France)

ADMINISTRATORS:
Fernando Barreiro (Spain)

Aisté Cerniauskaite
(Lithuania)

Holger Kuhle (Germany)

Jose Menéndez (Belgium)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Nelly Bandarra Jazra
(Belgium)

Pierre Barge (France)

Zoltán Barna-Lázár
(Hungary)

Luca Bizzarri (Italy)

Monique Braem (Belgium)

Éveline Durieux (Belgium)

Georgia Efremova (Bulgaria)

Renato Girelli (Italy)

Eileen Humphreys (Ireland)

Jean-Luc Janot (France)

Toby Johnson (United
Kingdom)

Kjell-Roger Karlsson
(Sweden)

Katalin Kolosy (Belgium)

Michel Laine (France)

Hilde Maelstaf (Belgium)

Marco Milano (Italy)

Jacqueline Miller (Belgium)

Jean-Pierre Pellegrin
(France)

Catia Segnini (Italy)

Paul Slachmuylder (Belgium)

Paul Soto (Spain)

Ivana Stefanović (Serbia)



© Jean-Luc Janot

TEAM

Jean Vanweydeveld,
Managing Director

Simona Bacchereti, LIFE

Yves Boisselier,
ESF-TCI

Éric de Borchgrave,
Canvassing

Monique Braem, LIFE

Sophie Brynart, LIFE

Gabriella Camarsa, LIFE

Thomas Chullikal, LIFE

Anita Cortés, LIFE,
other contracts

Serge Delvaux, Accountancy

Hugues De Middelaer,
ICT

Éveline Durieux, LIFE

Jon Eldridge, LIFE

Stephen Gardner, LIFE

Florence Gérard,
ESF-TCI, FARNET

Serge Gomes da Silva,
FARNET

Tim Hudson, LIFE

Jean-Luc Janot,
FARNET, other contracts

Toby Johnson, ESF-TCI

Wendy Jones, LIFE

Sabine Kariger, FARNET

Katalin Kolosy,
ESF-TCI, autres contrats

Christine Kotarakos,
Business Development Unit

Armelle Ledan, ESF-TCI

Allen Mercer, ESF-TCI

Enrique Javier Nieto,
Helpdesk Evaluation

Eamon O'Hara,
LIFE, FARNET, other contracts

Jyostna Patel, ESF-TCI,
other contracts

Fanny Pauwels, Accountancy

Peter Ramsden, ESF-TCI,
other contracts

Daniel Renders, LIFE

João Silva, LIFE

Christophe Thévignot, LIFE

Ed Thorpe, LIFE

Justin Toland, LIFE

Margot Van Soetendael,
Helpdesk Evaluation

AEIDL PROFILE

Name: Association Européenne pour l'Information sur le Développement Local (AEIDL) / European Association for Information on Local Development

Legal status: asbl (non-profit organization).

Founded: 1988

Purpose: To contribute to a Europe based on solidarity and citizen involvement, founded on sustainable development and equal opportunities, by offering a wide range of services to local development and civil society stakeholders, as well as various institutions, including the European Commission.

Services: Managing networks and technical assistance; evaluation and advice; information, communications and publishing; training.

Fields of activity: Territorial development (local, regional, rural, urban); the environment and sustainable development; employment and social development; citizenship.

Partner institutions: European institutions; local, regional, national and European authorities, decision-makers and “developers”; development agencies; citizen groups; professional organisations; non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Contact:

AEIDL, Chaussée St-Pierre 260, B-1040 Brussels

T. +32 2 736 49 60 – F. +32 2 736 04 34

info@aeidl.eu – www.aeidl.eu

