



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

# ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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# Together let's rebuild a warm, generous and imaginative Europe!

AEIDL was founded 25 years ago by like-minded individuals who believed that European integration could make a positive contribution to citizenship and sustainable development of local communities. The objective it set itself at that time was to contribute to bringing Europe closer to its citizens and to promote interaction between all those who at a local level wanted to open up new development perspectives.

During the course of these 25 years, AEIDL has been involved in numerous European projects aimed at contributing to the equilibrium proposed by Jacques Delors: "Competition that stimulates cooperation that strengthens, and solidarity that unites." To cite just a few of the initiatives we have been involved in: the Local Development and Employment Initiatives (LDEIs), the "Carrefours Ruraux", Territorial Employment Pacts, rural development policies including the LEADER Community Initiative and its subsidiary programme for fisheries areas (FARNET), the EQUAL Community Initiative, numerous cooperation programmes, urban development initiatives (URBAN, URBACT) and the environmental programme, LIFE. These numerous European programmes have helped to build a warm, generous and imaginative Europe, a proud achievement for countless local players and project owners who have gained EU support for their projects, helping them to strengthen their livelihoods and feel involved in the construction of a space unique in this world on account of its extreme diversity.

Despite all the difficulties encountered, the results are there to see, unprecedented transformation in Member States, high-quality infrastructures in all regions including

ones at the very periphery of the EU, a major reduction in inequalities between countries and a European social model, which serves as an example to the rest of the world.

But the Europe we have grown to love is now in great danger - unemployment is exploding, jobs are becoming increasingly insecure, polarisation is rampant, populism and protectionism are gaining ground - and citizens are losing confidence. Unfortunately, at the start, the "rules of the game" were not sufficiently established, leading to results built on sand, or worse, not even real. European decision-making mechanisms, which have become increasingly complex and incomprehensible for citizens, do not appear to be sufficient to provide solutions to actual global and European challenges.

Yet, out there on the ground, in the face of crisis, a few initiatives - though still fragile - are beginning to appear. Fresh forms of entrepreneurship are emerging: social and citizen enterprises, social networks for new forms of exchange, solidarity and mobilisation, network enterprises, cooperatives, etc. Citizens are mobilising in support of these initiatives.

We are convinced that these trends can be the catalysts for renewal, together with local initiatives, citizen involvement, local innovation and experimentation. The identification of and respect for, shared assets, solidarity between regions, the invention of new forms of multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance, all are contributing to renewing the Europe we love, rich in diversity of territories, people and cultures, opened to the world and searching for economic and social equilibrium.

AEIDL's ambition is to help different players come together within and between territories at regional, national, European and international levels. We remain attentive to what is emerging, deciphering early signs of social innovation, drawing a dividing line between desperate anger, reflected by the plethora of populist trends, and everyday inventions of new collective values. We seek to keep our eyes and ears open for hopeful signals from all those people there "in the outback" who are working on developing new responses to needs. We see it as our job to identify still marginal, perhaps premonitory practices, to circulate them through the network to become part of a virtuous circle of solutions and hope.

In 2013 AEIDL, the European Association for Information on Local Development celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 2011 we already started with fresh wind, creating and implementing a new strategy by setting up "sub-committees" responsible for working out new practices with the participation of our team and of our general assembly members. This momentum continued into 2012 with the financing of our own projects. Now, in our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we would like to reflect for a moment and to link new and old local initiatives to European institutions, with a view to initiating a joint outlook for an action agenda and to create room for intellectual and inspiring dialogue; to contribute, together, to rebuilding a "smart, sustainable and inclusive" Europe or, in our words, "a warm, generous and imaginative Europe."



**Márta Márczis,**  
*President.*

March 2012

# Major (sustainable) refurbishment work

2012 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 2011).

Overall AEIDL 2012 revenues were up 16% against 2011, but lower than budgeted (-4.81%) following a decrease in ESF-TCI orders. Turning to expenditure, this rose at an acceptable rate (+12%), though nevertheless much lower than budgeted (-8%). Controlling costs, along with optimising the budgets available to our contractors, has allowed us to

record a net profit, thereby consolidating the balance sheet.

Looking at the volume of work completed, we have seen a slight rise of 32 hours against 2011, i.e. basically maintaining status quo and reflecting continuity in our task fulfillment. 2012 saw employees and free-lancers working a total of 32 516 hours, representing 18 full-time equivalents (FTEs). This workload was spread among 30 people - employees, free-lancers, and partners.

As for staff training, no less than 456 hours were devoted to a general upgrading of IT and image processing skills.

In line with the budget and to improve its working environment, in 2012, AEIDL completely refurbished - from the ground floor to the roof - its whole building. The roof deserves special mention as it has now become a "green" roof rated

as exemplary by the Brussels eco-construction specialists (who chose to hold a mini-workshop on the subject on our premises in November).

This refurbishment however, has in no way prevented us from holding numerous meetings involving the whole Association, for the purpose of drafting a strategic plan more in sync with the institutional and socio-economic changes expected in the years to come.

**Jean Vanweydeveld,**  
Managing Director.

# 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.

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 Envi-

ronment (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](https://www.facebook.com/LIFE.programme)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/LIFE\\_Programme](https://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.



### AEIDL's LIFE team in Cyprus

In November 2012, AEIDL's LIFE team went on a three-day study visit to Cyprus – a country with a rich biodiversity and a readiness to pioneer environmental innovations. The visit was an opportunity for the whole LIFE communications team to see up close the positive impact that the LIFE programme is having on the island.

Several LIFE Nature projects are helping conserve the wide range of flora – 12 plant species are endemic – and fauna in the 93 km<sup>2</sup> national park in the Troodos Mountains, while the University of Cyprus has demonstrated through a LIFE Environment project the feasibility of recycling wastewater produced in wineries.

The study trip included visits to the main project sites, such as an EMAS-certified winery and, in the nature reserve, renovated houses and mines that are now home to a range of bat species. It was a chance for the LIFE team to learn more about the running of the programme first-hand as well as enjoy valuable time away with colleagues.

## 2012 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



- > Daily update of a mini-website commemorating the 20th anniversary of LIFE ([www.life20.eu](http://www.life20.eu))
- > The [LIFEnews](#) issues since the beginning of 2012 have covered the following topics:
  - January: interviews with the heads of LIFE Units
  - February: mountain and upland environments
  - March: coastal and marine environments
  - April: Green Infrastructure
  - May: 20th anniversary of the LIFE programme
  - June: LIFE & Green Week 2012
  - July & August: soil conservation
  - September: ecosystem services
  - October: air quality
  - November: invasive species
  - December: interview between Anne Burrill et Joaquim Capitão (Deputy Heads of the Units LIFE

Environment & and Eco-Innovation and LIFE Nature)

- > The following thematic brochures were compiled, edited and published:
  - "LIFE and coastal management"
  - "LIFE's Blueprint for water resources"
  - "LIFE and invertebrate conservation"
  - "LIFE managing habitats for birds"
- > The brochures on the [best LIFE projects 2011](#) have been published.

### The Voices of LIFE

To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LIFE programme in 2012, AEIDL published for DG ENV LIFE Units a special brochure - [The Voices of LIFE: 20 years of getting things done](#) - containing interviews with more than 75 individuals from 20 countries who explain, in their own words, the impact that LIFE co-funding has had on their work, their environment, their communities and their lives.

As an extra feature in this, it is also possible on the [website](#) to listen to extracts from some of the interviews given by LIFE stakeholders to present the achievements of the programme or to highlight the value of the LIFE's bottom-up approach, the scale of its projects and the importance of EU recognition for those projects.



**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>

# European Social Transnationality, ever

Started in 2009, the ESF-TCI project really took off in 2010 and continued flying high in 2012.

## ADDED VALUE

The ESF-TCI project is helping 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 enables 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.



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AEIDL is 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.

## 2012 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

> **Finalisation of the study of ESF-supported measures for young people.**

> **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.



# Fund: enduring

## > Preparation and realisation of the first annual meeting of the 13 networks on 29/30 May 2012 in Belfast.

Topics discussed included the experience gained in the nature networks and its use as input for the next programming period 2014-2020, the main messages and tools of the Networks, and transnationality examples in Northern Ireland. There was also an exhibition.

## > Monitoring of the final period of the Learning Networks.

## > Preparation of a series of documents (30 + a summary) on the accomplishments of the Learning Networks.

For each Network there will be: a presentation of their activities and their key messages, a collection of the main tools they have created, and a short case study illustrating the added value of their approach.

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

## > Technical support at the June and December meetings of the ESF Ad Hoc Group on transnationality and innovation.



© ESF-TCI


**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>

# FARNET: sustainable development of

Within the framework of the EEIG DevNet, 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.



Renewed in May 2012, 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.

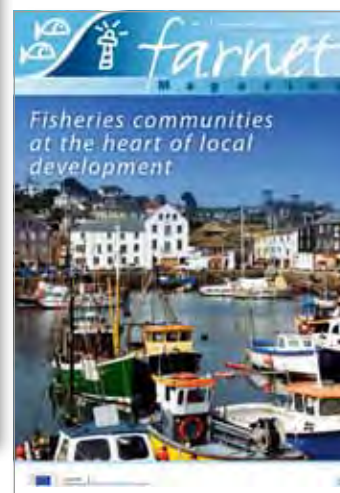
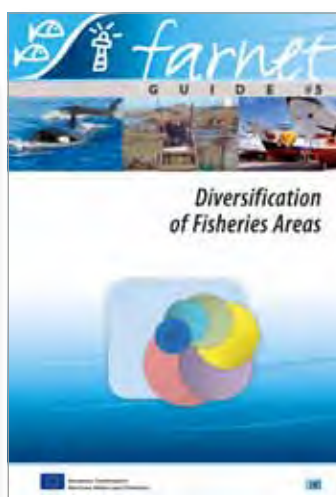
The aim of the FARNET Support Unit is to provide support in setting up Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs), which are strategic partnerships that lead the development of local projects in areas such as exploiting fishery products, or diversification into the fields of tourism, education and culture.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

## 2012 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



- > Continued methodological support for the various lead countries.
- > Support of the transnational cooperation between FLAGs: the signing of the Charter for Mediterranean FLAG Cooperation (FR, ES, IT), cooperation around the Baltic Sea (SE, FI), the blueprint for an Atlantic cooperation project.
- > The organisation and conduct of two meetings of the Management Authorities, one in February on the transition to the next programming period, and one in September on specifying the projects in greater detail.
- > Posting new online FLAGsheets, bringing the total up to 153.
- > Posting new Best Practice reports in 11 languages (EN, FR, DE, ES, EL, ET, LT, LV, PL, RO, BG), bringing the total up to 30.
- > The organisation and conduct of two transnational conferences for FARNET groups, management authorities and DG MARE,
  1. in June 2012 in Olhao (Portugal) on "FLAGs: Drivers of Green Growth in European Fisheries Areas",
  2. in November in Quiberon (France) on governance, under the heading "Positioning FLAGs for the Future: Fisheries Communities at the Heart of Local Development":
- > Adding new videos on projects and events to the [FARNET YouTube Channel](#), bringing the total up to 16.
- > Running 18 LinkedIn groups (527 members) and the Twitter account @EU\_FARNET (255 subscribers)
- > Creating and running the Facebook page (119 Likes).



**Client:** European Commission,  
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
**Duration:** 2009-2015  
**Budget (2011):** €1 890 000  
**Team (AEIDL):** 5 persons  
[www.farnet.eu](http://www.farnet.eu)



# Helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development

**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).



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 (helpdesk)

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.



# tion

## 2012 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

In 2012, the Helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development did the follow-up of the main lessons learnt from mid-term evaluation (MTE) of the Rural Development Programmes 2007-2013, contributed to the preparation of the next programming period (2014-2020) in terms of monitoring and evaluation and shared evaluation practices and methods with evaluation stakeholders.

New elements of the [Annual Work Programme](#) included:

### > 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 Rural Development Programmes 2007-2013; discuss critically the approaches and practices applied in the context of the mid-term evaluation and; disseminate the lessons to the wider network.

In 2012, five good practice workshops took place in Brussels, Edinburgh, Vienna, Budapest and Lisbon respectively.

### > Thematic Working Group on the development of guidelines for the ex ante evaluation of 2014-2020 RDPs

The Evaluation Helpdesk set up a Thematic Working Group (TWG) to provide methodological support to the European Commission for the preparation of the post-2013 ex ante



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guidance. While Article 48 of the draft Common Provisions Regulation COM(2011)615 provides some elements of what is required for the ex ante evaluation, more elaborate guidance was specifically called for by the Member States.

A draft version of the guidelines is available [here](#). Translations of extracts of the guidelines will soon be available in BG, DE, ES, FR, HU, IT, PL and PT. The final version of the ex ante guidelines will only be published after adoption of the related legal acts.

### > Annual Focus Groups in the Member States

Focus Groups were organized across the 27 Member States under

the following heading: Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Programmes on the transition from the current to the next pro-



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programming period. They focused on the main changes and on the level of preparation of the rural development stakeholders as well as the consequences for ongoing, ex post and ex ante evaluations. Newsletters in English for each Focus Groups have been published on the website of the network and served as a basis for the Needs Assessment 2012.

#### > Wider communication

The Evaluation Expert Network continued to tour the Member States

with the latest missions to the UK and Ireland in October and November 2012. The aim of these missions is to further improve collaboration, foster synergies and discuss needs on the ground.

#### > Finally, three issues of the Rural Evaluation News were published:

- Issue n°8 May 2012
- Issue n°9 August 2012
- Issue n°10 December 2012

The website is now available in French and German and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) facility has been expanded, with further questions commonly asked by Member States added.



**European Evaluation Network  
for Rural Development**

**Client:** European Commission, (DG Agriculture)

**Duration:** 2008-2013

**Budget:** €3 600 000 (€900 000 x 4 years)

**AEIDL team:** 6 persons (4 FTEs)

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



# Missions, studies and assignments in the area of local development

In this context, AEIDL has monitored two projects launched in 2011. It began its work with an evaluation contract started in 2012. Three sectors are involved: transportation, urban development and rural development.

## TRIP: DISSEMINATING EUROPEAN RESEARCH FINDINGS ON MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION

As part of a consortium consisting of NEA (coordination), KIT, ISIS, ITC, IGES and DEMIS, AEIDL is involved in the TRKC 2.0 project supported by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE).

The purpose of TRKC 2.0 is to continue the already existing Transport Research Knowledge Centre

(TRKC) portal (<http://www.transport-research.info>) 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 TRKC 2.0, now renamed “TRIP” (*Transport Research and*

*Innovation Portal*), AEIDL is in charge of various editorial and dissemination tasks including video production.

### ADDED VALUE

TRKC 2.0 allows AEIDL to use its base skills in a new sector - mobility and transportation -, working together with high-quality 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:** NEA Transport research & training (coordinator, Netherlands), KIT (Germany), ISIS (Italy), ITC (Bulgaria), IGES (Germany) and Demis (Netherlands)  
**Duration:** 2011-2013  
**Budget:** €2 250 000  
**AEIDL team:** 10 persons concerned  
<http://www.transport-research.info/web/>



## GOOD PRACTICE IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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 wishes to "provide a basic input for communicating 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 includes 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



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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 will be the subject of an official European Commission publication.

### ADDED VALUE

With this contract (which allows AEIDL to re-establish contact with DG REGIO), AEIDL is exploiting its core competences and preoccupations in a key sector of local development. The contract also gives 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 is based on the principles of community-led local development found in the 2014-2020 Regulations.



**Client:** European Commission (DG Regional Policy)

**Duration:** 2011-2013

**Budget:** €543 500€

**AEIDL team:** 31 persons concerned



## EVALUATION OF LEADER IN AQUITAINE



### ADDED VALUE

This mission reaffirms 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 covers 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 €9.34 million (2007-2013).

The evaluation targets 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

# AEIDL in 2012



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## 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).

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