



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

# ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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# Time to reaffirm the core values of the ‘European project’

Elected in June 2011, I am the new president of AEIDL. For over 20 years now I have been actively involved in local and rural development and social inclusion, especially in relation to the Roma community, in my native Hungary, in Eastern Europe and in the Balkans and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). I currently work for a regional office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for Europe and for the CIS in Bratislava.

As a founding member of the PRE-PARE (PRE-accession Partnership for Rural Europe) network, and as president of the Hungarian Rural Parliament, I am a great believer in the power of citizens' networks and I was, therefore, delighted to have had the opportunity to become a member of AEIDL 10 years ago.

Established in 1988 by European citizens with shared values and a common vision of Europe, AEIDL is a social enterprise, active in the coordination of European networks for rural development, social cohesion and sustainable development.

In the words of my predecessor, Jean-Pierre Pellegrin, the members of the association are united in the conviction that: *“local initiative, citizen involvement and solidarity between local areas in Europe and elsewhere, and the evolution of new forms of multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance, can all contribute to renewing the Europe we love - a Europe rich in diversity, open to the world, and striving for a better balance between the needs of society, the environment and the economy.”*

In 2011, the European Commission took stock of the contribution and added value of local initiatives and ‘community-led development’. In con-

sidering ways of better mobilising EU funds to support social inclusion and the green economy, as well as the implementation of certain flagship initiatives of the Europe 2020 strategy, the Commission is recommending a greater emphasis on such territorial approaches in the future.

AEIDL contributed to these discussions, through its work for the LIFE+ programme, the European Social Fund (*“ESF actions to promote Local Employment Initiatives”*), and, in co-operation with Metis, for the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development (RurEval).

In partnership with Grupo Alba, the association is also involved in the FAR-NET Support Unit, which, in addition to several thematic seminars, also organized two important conferences in 2011 on the future of Europe's fisheries areas. The first and very promising results from over 200 local groups were also showcased at these events.

More recently, AEIDL began to work on a new contract with DG REGIO, on the identification of good practices in urban development, and, as part of a consortium, it also won a contract with DG MOVE on the Transport Research Knowledge Centre (TRCK).

Seeking to keep pace with wider developments, and to reassess its own contribution and added value, AEIDL also engaged in an important internal reflection during 2010 and 2011, which culminated in the adoption of a new five year strategy in May 2011. This strategic planning process has helped to reunite the entire AEIDL team around a common global vision of *sustainable development through active citizenship and local initiative*.

Our desire is to better articulate our unique added value, to improve the

quality of our services, and to be more accessible to all those throughout Europe, and even in neighbouring countries, who are working to create a more sustainable future.

In October 2011, at my invitation, the board of AEIDL visited the Roma communities living in Cserehat (Northern Hungary), where it participated in a workshop on inclusion. The workshop highlighted the need for community-based territorial development, including active employment policies, the development of social enterprises and improvements in quality of life. I look forward to further engagement on these and many other issues in the coming months.

In the context of the current crisis, which is different and more complex than any previous crises, we at AEIDL have never felt more strongly about the relevance and the appropriateness of our work. In these difficult times, we are determined to show that local initiative, participation, sustainability, volunteerism and social entrepreneurship are essential if we are to create a Europe based on sustainable economic and social development. At the same time, we say no to increasing poverty and to the widening gap between social groups, territories and local communities in Europe.

More than ever, we are determined to reassert the core values of the “European project”, which is now threatened by national self-interest and the re-emergence of protectionist and self-centered thinking.

Based on my experiences from Eastern Europe, I appreciate the importance of this challenge. But for us at AEIDL, the answer is clear: there is only one Europe! Let's take care of it!



**Márta Márczis,**  
*President.*

February 2012

# Investment(s)

**For AEIDL, 2011 was characterised by the continuation of contracts linking it - either alone or in partnership - with its main clients including several European Commission Directorates-General.**

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

Contracts with the European institutions again represented a major proportion of AEIDL activities (99.3% of revenue), while services rendered to territorial authorities and networks only accounted for 0.7% of total revenue.

The Association's overall revenue was lower than last year's, as was the forecast budget (-13.05% and -15.67% respectively) due to a drop in service orders in the context of the ESF-TCI contract (DG Employment and Social Affairs) and a cautious approach to invoicing for projects with DG Agriculture and DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Turning to expenditure, this rose at an acceptable rate (+2.45%

against 2010), though nevertheless a lot lower than budgeted (-9.53%). Controlling costs, together with optimising the budgets available to our contractors, has allowed us to record a net profit, thereby consolidating the balance sheet.

In line with our budget, 2011 investments were focused on renewing our communication facilities (website, database software and MS Office and Video Streaming upgrades), thereby improving our working environment. As regards staff training, a number of hours were spent on a general upgrading for MS Office 2010.

Looking at the volume of work done, we saw a rise of 173 hours against 2010, a slight increase of 0.53% and reflecting continuity in our task fulfilment. 2011 saw employees and free-lancers working a total of 32,260 hours, representing 18 full-time equivalents (FTEs). This was spread between 30 people - employees, free-lancers, and partners.



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Last but not least, specific resources were invested in getting the new strategic plan up and running. This plan is more aligned with the European and global changes expected in the years to come.

**Jean Vanweydeveld,**  
*Managing Director.*

# LIFE+: at the service of the environment



## 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 environmental 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.

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

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”.

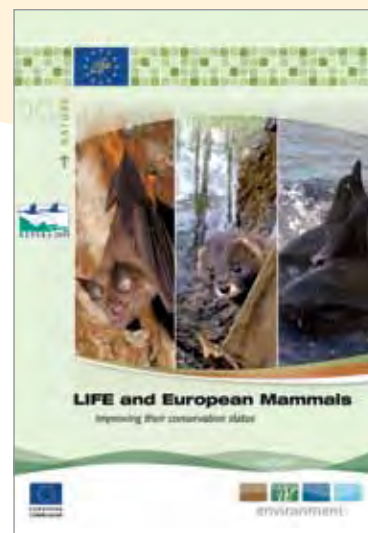
The LIFE+ programme has a budget of EUR 2 143 409 000 for the 2007-2013 period. 78% of this budget is allocated for supporting projects.

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.



## 2011 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



### LIFE website maintenance, updating and development

The LIFE website (<http://ec.europa.eu/life>) is updated on a daily basis. New features incorporated in 2011 include:

- > A new section devoted to the LIFE Environment conference which took place in the European Parliament on 25 - 26 May 2011.
- > The development and launch of a new LIFE Video Player (currently 199 videos available)
- > The development and launch of a mini-website commemorating the

20th anniversary of LIFE ([www.life20.eu](http://www.life20.eu)).

- > LIFE is now available on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/LIFE.programme](http://www.facebook.com/LIFE.programme)) and on Twitter ([twitter.com/LIFE\\_Programme](http://twitter.com/LIFE_Programme)).
- > The production of a video showing the results of LIFE Environment ([http://lifevideos.eu/videos/?id=LIFE11\\_ENV\\_EN\\_EU\\_01\\_EN\\_PROG.mp4](http://lifevideos.eu/videos/?id=LIFE11_ENV_EN_EU_01_EN_PROG.mp4)).
- > The introduction of the DG Environment's new banner and adaptation to the European Commission's new IPG (Information Providers Guide) (<http://ec.europa.eu/ipg/>).
- > The introduction of a new open-source statistical system (<http://piwik.org/>), which is now working well.
- > The design of the logo for the 20th anniversary of LIFE.

### Summaries of completed projects

In the course of 2011, AEIDL published 116 summaries.

### Compilations of new projects

Three compilations (one for each strand) of new projects (183 in total) were put together and added to the website, covering projects selected in 2010.

### LIFEnews newsletter

The new-look November issue of the LIFEnews newsletter focused on European freshwater policy (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/newsletter/index.htm>). With regard to potential new subscribers, the Commission awarded the LIFE team the task of updating the existing mailing list. The team came up with 2 179 new e-mail addresses.

### Thematic publications

Three thematic brochures were compiled and published in 2011: "LIFE and European Mammals" (Nature), "LIFE and resource efficiency" (Environment) and "LIFE preventing species extinction" (Nature).

A brochure commemorating the 20th anniversary of the LIFE programme is currently being prepared. It is due to in May 2012.

"Coastal areas" has been chosen as the theme for a future joint Nature and Environment brochure, while an upcoming brochure on "Mountain areas" will benefit from the support of the two associations Euromontana and AEM (the European association of elected Representatives from mountain regions).

### A database of all LIFE Nature projects since 1992

Wishing to improve the public awareness and visibility of LIFE Nature projects and assess their impact in such areas as land purchase, DG Environment commissioned AEIDL, as an extension of the LIFE+ contract, with the execution of the following tasks:

- > completing and/or correcting the presentation of all LIFE Nature projects carried out in the period 1992 - 1999;
- > taking stock of land purchases carried out in the context of LIFE Nature projects in the period 1992 - 2006.

All in all, nearly 1 000 projects were processed by AEIDL between November 2010 and October 2011, entailing a total of 321 days of work.



### Brochures on the best LIFE projects

The LIFE team has published a brochure on the best 2010 LIFE-Environment projects (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/index.htm>). The brochure on the best 2010 LIFE-Nature projects is currently being finalised.

### Thematic dissemination of the results of LIFE projects to stakeholders and decision-makers

Since 1 September 2009, one workplace (70% FTE) has been devoted to disseminating the results of LIFE projects to stakeholders and decision-makers.

### “Country overviews” (summaries of LIFE in each Member State)

We are updating the country overviews of the 27 Member States, integrating projects selected in 2010 (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/countries/index.htm>). Each overview is translated into the respective country's language(s).

### LIFE+ promotional material

Three banners were prepared in 2011.



### Multimedia database

2011 saw a new project search tool being made available online: more user-friendly, more powerful and offering greater functionality, it allows information on 3 500 LIFE projects to be easily found.

In the course of 2011, some 7 000 additional photos were registered and referenced in the LIFE image database, bringing the total number of photos up to around 29 000.

The video database with its collection of DVDs on the best LIFE projects is growing constantly: between January and November 2011, 78 videos were added, bringing the total number of DVDs available on the LIFE video player up to almost 200 ([www.lifevideos.eu/videos](http://www.lifevideos.eu/videos)).

As for its collection of scientific publications (best practices, manuals, etc.), AEIDL uploaded almost 345 new multilingual publications (brochures, posters, field reports, guides, etc.) in 2011 via the Butler interface. These documents are available in the new online library developed jointly with the DG Environment's IT department: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.searchDocs>.



### PR assistance for LIFE projects

At the request of LIFE project beneficiaries, AEIDL provided PR advice and support.

### Review of PR activities

AEIDL assisted the LIFE Units within DG Environment in working out a LIFE PR strategy. AEIDL was also commissioned to compile statistical data on how often the LIFE website was visited, providing a quarterly analysis.



**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 to fly high in 2011.**

## 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 relied upon to reply to calls for tender in these fields and to boost AEIDL's experience in animating networks.

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

### Thematic analysis: Measures benefiting the young

AEIDL was asked by the Commission to analyse Member States' responses to its questionnaire on the measures benefiting the young within the context of their Operational Programmes (OPs). Of the total 27 Member States, 25 replied, furnishing data on 67 out of 117 OPs. Despite the available data being incomplete, AEIDL was able to provide an overview, highlighting the priority accorded to solving the training and employment problems of young people in difficulties (more than 80% of the young beneficiaries involved). Measures included the fight against young people dropping out of school, increasing the numbers



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of young people in vocational training or studying, the transition from school to work, preventing unemployment, youth entrepreneurship and actions targeting unemployed young graduates. The summary presented to the Commission also highlighted 108 best practices put forward by Member States to illustrate their work.

### Thematic analysis: Social innovation

With the whole topic of innovation, and social innovation in particular, gaining in importance at the European level, the European Commission would like to carry out a survey of ESF intervention in this area in 2012. AEIDL has been given the task of compiling the questionnaire to be sent out to the Member States.

### Support for the Polish Managing Authority

Poland, a country which established a major portfolio of transnational cooperation projects (more than a hundred calls for projects) in the period 2007 - 2013, is mainly cooperating with Sweden, Finland, Germany and the Baltics States. At the request of the Ministry of Employment and its technical assistance office, AEIDL supervised the preparation and organisation of a transnational forum for partners search, held in Warsaw in June 2011. The main task here was to validate the method of organisation and to make sure that the tools proposed to the project sponsor (project profile, socio-professional nomenclature, keywords, etc.) were consistent with overall ESF programming.

### Monitoring 13 transnational 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 more in 2010.



# Fund: enduring

These 13 networks met together in Brussels in May and November 2011. Under the coordination of AEIDL's ESF team, these two coordination workshops looked respectively at:

- > The methodological aspects of their work: peer reviews, internal communication and dissemination of their results;
- > Preparations for the next request for proposals for network projects in 2012, along with joint or specific messages to be communicated to political decision-makers at European, national or regional levels with regard to the next programming period (2014-2020).

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

In addition, ad-hoc methodological tools have been included in the partner search forum headed by Poland and in various networks: Empowerment and inclusion and (ex-) prisoners

## Working groups of the ESF Committee

AEIDL has continued its support work for the Ad-hoc Group on Transnationality and Innovation in the ESF, preparing

and following up the February and October 2011 meetings.

In September, AEIDL had the task of facilitating the Berlin workshop on transnationality in the ESF, a meeting which brought together 67 participants from 14 Member States. The purpose of the meeting was to look at ways of jointly exploiting the work of the Transnationality Network, with a special focus on:

- > Learning from each other within the network;
- > Implementation models;
- > Territorial cooperation;
- > The necessary tools.

The provisional results on the measures targeting young people were presented to the ESF's Technical Group in October.



**esf-tci**  
European Social Fund  
Transnational Cooperation and Innovation

**Client:** European Commission  
(DG Employment and Social Affairs)  
**Duration:** 2009-2013  
**Budget (2011):** 810 000 €  
**Team:** 9 persons + a network of thematic experts

# 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.



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Renewed in May 2011, 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 cul-

ture. The ultimate goal is to have some 270 FLAGs operating across the EU.

The FARNET Support Unit is responsible for the following activities:

- > Methodological support for the [management authorities](#) and groups (FLAGs).
- > Providing [various tools](#) on the website targeting those involved in the implementation of Axis 4 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), as well as Country Profiles, FAQs and FLAG Fact Sheets .
- > Compiling examples of best practices found in Axis 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 Axis 4 (1 - 2 meetings a year).

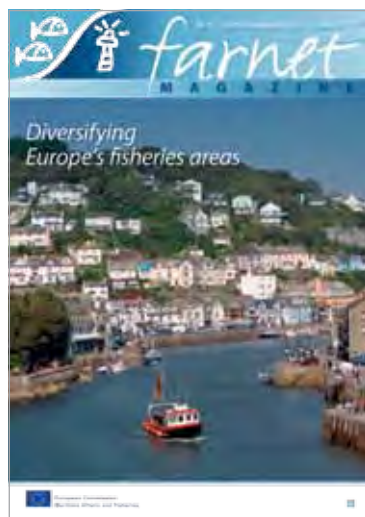
# Europe's fisheries areas

## 2011 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### Methodological support

In 2011, this branch of activities covered the following:

- > A meeting of Management Authorities in May 2011 in Bornholm (Denmark).
- > The publication of a series of 13 **best practices** in 11 languages (EN, FR, DE, ES, EL, ET, LT, LV, PL, RO, BG).
- > Participation in a training workshop for evaluators in Poland.
- > The coordination of training workshops for future FLAGS in Bulgaria and Romania.
- > Informal participation in the discussions on preparations for the next programming period of Structural Funds.



### Internet

The website [www.farnet.eu](http://www.farnet.eu) rounds off the information on FARNET. In 2011, apart from theme pages, news, events, tools and publica-

tions, the website was enhanced by individual reports on FLAGS as and when they were approved.

### Public relations

#### FARNET Magazine

The two issues of the FARNET Magazine published in 2011 had as subjects "Diversifying Europe's fisheries areas" (No. 4) and "Sustainable futures for fisheries areas" (No. 5).

#### Methodology Guides

Three FARNET guides were produced in 2011: "Adding Value to Local Fishery and Aquaculture Products", "Steps for Success" and "Diversification of Fisheries Areas"







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2011 also saw the creation of a Twitter account (@EU\_FARNET), the coordination of 16 discussion and cooperation groups on LinkedIn as well as support being given for making FARNET videos and the web publication of the FARNET channel on YouTube.

### Events

In April 2011, the FARNET Support Unit prepared, co-organised and co-ordinated FARNET's [first annual conference](#), bringing together 4 European Commission DGs (DG MARE, REGIO, AGRI and EMPL) to discuss "The future of local development in fisheries areas (post-2013) - How to improve the impact of EU interventions at local level". 120 people took part.

The Unit went on to prepare, co-organise and coordinate FARNET's [second annual conference](#), this time on "Sustainable Futures for Fisheries Areas". Held on 3 - 4 November 2011 in Brussels, the event attracted 350 participants.

The FARNET Support Unit also organised two major transnational workshops bringing together FLAGS, Management Authorities and officials from the European Commission: the workshop "[FLAGs on the move: the second wave](#)", held in March 2011 in Sofia (Bulgaria), attracted 125 participants; the workshop "[FLAGs in business: promoting diversification in fisheries areas](#)", held in July 2011 in Gdynia (Poland) attracted 154 participants.



**Client:** European Commission,  
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

**Duration:** 2009-2015

**Budget (2011):** 1 830 000 €

**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 is the first EEIG that AEIDL set up with a European partner. This has allowed AEIDL to develop management tools transferable to other EEIGs.

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.

## 2011 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS



© Helpdesk of the Evaluation Expert Network

- > Involvement and permanent support for the revision of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF). Working closely with the European Commission in the “internal working group for the revision of the CMEF after 2013”, the Evaluation Helpdesk helped with the revision of the CMEF performance indicators and methodologies. This methodological help was based mainly on the work of the thematic working groups, on the Helpdesk’s recurrent activities (SWOT analyses, missions, responding to requests for information) as well as the numerous contacts maintained with various evaluation stakeholders in the Member States.
- > The Evaluation Helpdesk also helped in the preparation, implementation, organisation and publishing of the minutes of the “Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for CAP post-2013 Stakeholder Conference”. This conference was held in September 2011.
- > The Evaluation Helpdesk supported the European Commission’s desk officers in enhancing their evaluation skills through the development of various tools. The aim of this activity was to make the evaluation of mid-term evaluation (MTE) reports from Rural Development Programmes easier through the development of guidelines and tools. For this purpose the Helpdesk developed an evaluation tool targeting desk officers in the various geographies as well as a user’s guide.

A number of MTE reports were also coordinated by the Evaluation Helpdesk by way of example.

- > *Ad hoc* training was also given to the desk officers from the different geographies, along with permanent support during the evaluation of MTE reports.
- > The Evaluation Helpdesk gave its feedback on the evaluation tool used by the desk officers for all the MTE reports. This feedback revolved around the methods used by the evaluators, the impacts identified and the validity of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the MTE reports.
- > The Evaluation Helpdesk compiled an overview of the results with regard to the evaluation methods, the impact and the

validity of the conclusions and recommendations, presenting it to the Committee of Experts in charge of the evaluation.

- > The Helpdesk prepared the launch of a working group on the evaluation of impacts (explanatory notes and a schedule of intended activities).
- > The updating of the “Working document on the evaluation of National Rural Networks programmes” is now underway, with the evaluators of 4 national rural networks having been interviewed. The intervention approach used by these networks has also been examined. A workshop to discuss the results will be held in early 2012.
- > The ongoing thematic work on the evaluation continues, with



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interviews being conducted with the managers of the evaluators and the management authorities. The results of these interviews are currently being analysed and will be condensed into a working document in early 2012.

- > Articles and a number of presentations have been compiled and the team has taken part in numerous evaluation events in various Member States.
- > The website (<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/evaluation/>) has been updated in English, with its different sections translated into French and German.

Rounding off the list of services provided in 2011, we can also refer to:

- > The review and extension of the section on best practices.
- > The continuing expansion of the pool of thematic experts
- > The web publication of the English glossary, with translations into French and German.
- > The updating of the FAQ section and its translation into French and German.
- > Taking stock of requirements in the Member States via the setting up of focus groups, round-tables and workshops.
- > Updating the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis based on the results of taking stock of requirements and other research.



- > Missions undertaken in Greece, Cyprus, Romania and Finland.
- > Welcoming evaluation actors from Italy, Finland and Wales.
- > The training of regional experts in managing focus groups.
- > The contribution of the Select Committee of Experts and several telephone conferences on the Annual Work Programme and on the evaluation tool for the European Commission's desk officers.
- > The updating of the computer-based library containing the main documents used in evaluating rural development programmes as well as summaries of other key publications.
- > The continuing expansion of a mailing list (1 590 contacts in November 2011).

- > The compilation, translation and dissemination, with e-mail alerts, of the 6th and 7th issues of the Newsletter in three languages and the preparation of the 8th issue.
- > Cooperation with the European Rural Development Network and its Contact Point.
- > Collaboration with the European Commission's Committee of Evaluation Experts (presentations and discussions).



European Evaluation Network  
for Rural Development

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

**Duration:** 2008-2013

**Budget:** 3,6 M€ (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 field of activities, AEIDL won two major contracts in 2011.

## TRKC 2.0 - TRANSPORT RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

### 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.

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 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, AEIDL is in charge of various editorial and dissemination tasks.



**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:** n.c.

**AEIDL team:** 10 persons concerned

<http://www.transport-research.info/web/>





## GOOD PRACTICE IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT



### ADDED VALUE

With this contract, 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.

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 include 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.



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

**Duration:** 2011-2013

**Budget:** 543 500 €€

**AEIDL team:** 31 persons concerned

# AEIDL in 2011



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Evaluation Helpdesk

## 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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