

FRANCE

Technical assistance

Location

France, Bulgaria, Estonia,
Spain, Romania

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local
development

Measure

M20 – Technical assistance

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 474 355

EAFRD 201 040

National/Regional 178 280

Private 95 035

Project duration

2018 – 2020

Project promoter

LEADER France

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The ACCESS'R project aimed at collecting and disseminating ideas on how to develop new services for people living in rural areas.

Summary

The ACCESS'R project (Accessibility of Services for the population in Rural areas) fostered innovative approaches that promote the accessibility or maintenance of services for populations in rural areas across all fields of public life (health, mobility, culture, public services, education, local shops etc.). The objectives of ACCESS'R were to identify good practices in terms of revitalising the services offered, collect them in an online project directory and disseminate a variety of experiences so that they would be multiplied over the wider territory.



Results

The principal objective of the ACCESS'R project was of a social nature. There were no quantifiable targets; however, the project facilitated the improvement of public services available in rural areas. The social objective was reinforced by the positive economic impact.

Context

The ACCESS'R project was launched under the call for proposals framework “Collective Mobilisation for Rural Development” (MCDR), initiated by the French Rural Network. The idea was to establish networks and find operational solutions that would respond to the needs of the populations living in French rural areas around health, mobility, culture, public services, education, local shops etc.

Objectives

The main objective of this project was to capitalise on best practices for improving access to public services in rural areas, not just from France but other European countries as well, and to ensure their dissemination at a large scale.

Activities

The project established a broad partnership, including several local authorities (a French territorial department and two federations of municipalities), a national park, LEADER networks from other European countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Spain and Romania), several French regional Rural Development Networks (e.g., Mayotte, Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur) and associations. The project was structured around 3 actions:

Action 1 – state of play and analysing the data. This first action aimed at mobilising each participating network to gather information and analyse how the supply of public services matches the rural area's needs. From that, key success factors were identified as well as the conditions necessary to develop those public services. This action identified best practices in the provision of public services in rural areas in France and other European countries, including those developed through projects funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) .

Action 2 – data sharing and promotion of best practices. The second action focused on disseminating the collected data and highlighting the identified innovative practices. The communication of project outcomes was a core objective of the work plan.

Action 3 – stakeholder support. This third action was the operational part of the project. It was dedicated to supporting different stakeholders from the public or private sector at each stage of their various projects, starting from the concept to implementation, and covering both EAFRD funding applications and the development of methodological support tools.

The project deliverables included:

- a toolbox for each potential stakeholder containing administrative forms, administrative guides, contact lists and interactive tools;
- a series of technical and methodological documents for broad dissemination (brochures, flyers, guides, articles, websites and e-learning tools);
- seminars and workshops to share experiences about the project results and create incentives for local actors to propose innovative multi-actor projects and share methodologies;
- press articles to inform the public about collective initiatives and innovations identified by the project; and
- seminars and study visits to the participating countries.

Main results

The principal objective of the ACCESS'R project was social in nature. There were no quantifiable targets; however, the project facilitated the improvement of public services available in rural areas to address the population's needs. The social objective was reinforced by the positive economic impact.

Additional sources of information

<https://leaderfrance.fr/category/projet-accessr/>