

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of a chemical structure, likely a polymer chain segment, rendered in a light gray color. The pattern is arranged in a grid-like fashion, creating a textured, scientific backdrop for the text.

Networking and cooperation between areas

Networking and cooperation: additional tools

Networking



Cooperation

⇒ All services and tools

- ✓ intended for local development players
- ✓ to encourage exchanges and cooperation

⇒ Formalised mechanism to complement informal relations

⇒ Instrument for

- ✓ reinforcing the activities of local actions groups
- ✓ resolving problems
- ✓ adding value to local resources
- ✓ injecting dynamism into the economy

⇒ Formal commitment

Objectives of networking

- ▶ **Forging links**

- ▶ **Exchanges and transfers**



- ▶ **Stimulation of cooperation between areas**

- ▶ **Capitalising on lessons learned**

Networks: different types ...

Geographical level

- Local
- Regional
- National
- European

Type

- Institutional
- Associations
- General
- Thematic

... and different roles

Geographical level

- Local
- Regional
- National
- European

Type

- Institutional
- Associations
- General
- Thematic

Role

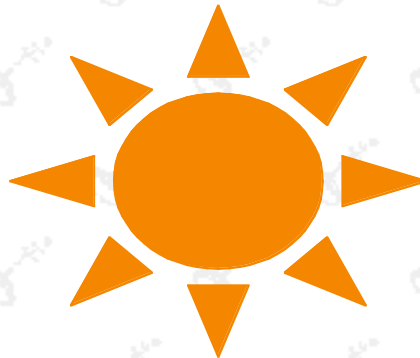
- “Animator”
- Operator
- Mediator
- Political

Mission of the LEADER European Observatory

↪ **Identification
and analysis of
good practices**

**Analysis of
lessons learned**

**Information on rural
areas**



**Organising
exchanges**

**Stimulation of
cooperation**

**Exchanges between
administrations**

**Meeting
beneficiaries**

The impact of networking

Accessing useful information



Broadening the horizons of the LAG

Reinforcing the credibility of the project

Enhancing the approach collectively

Encouraging mainstreaming

Promoting cooperation

Transnational cooperation in LEADER II

46% of groups involved in

255 projects known to the Observatory

Often limited number of partners (3 on average)

Sectors

Agri-food production

Rural tourism

Information technology

Environment and heritage

Rural services

Objectives of cooperation

Enhancing
complementarities



Achieving
critical mass



Capitalising on
similarities



From idea to action: the project path

→ **Emergence of
the need for
cooperation**

↪ **Definition of the
need**

↪ **Partner
search**

↪ **First
meeting**

↪ **Definition
of the
cooperation project**

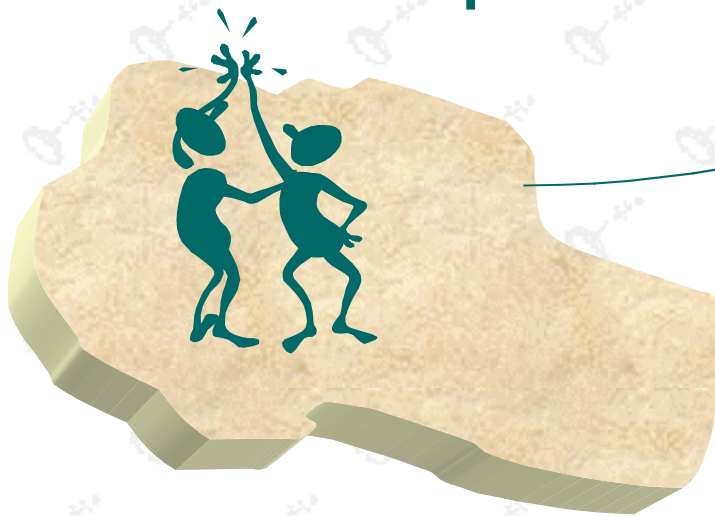
↪ **Implementation**

↪ **Feasibility
analysis**

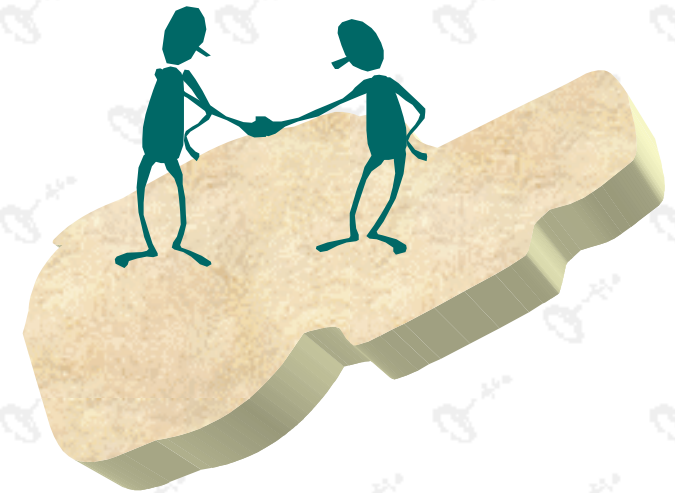
Qualitative aspects of cooperation

**Opening up
and cultural melting pot**

**Emergence of a culture of
cooperation**



**Spin-off outside the
local group**



**Learning through
experience**

Transnational cooperation in LEADER+

- ⇒ **Inter-territorial cooperation**
- ⇒ **Transnational within the Union**
- ⇒ **Areas outside the Union,
set up according to the LEADER
approach**

Cooperation: a demanding process

- ⇒ Focused on the **unifying theme** and the added value for the sectors, development players and communities
- ⇒ Precise identification of the **relevance**
- ⇒ Consideration of **respective interests**
- ⇒ Arises in the process “**in its own good time**”
- ⇒ Major **harnessing of time and energies** for a sometimes unpredictable outcome

Difficulties and tips to overcome them

(1/2)

Difficulties

unclear or over-ambitious objectives

coordinating the action →

Tips

objectives responding to real local needs

well-defined plan of action

effective coordination structure

Difficulties and tips to overcome them

(2/2)

Difficulties

administrative, financial
and legal problems

local recognition

Tips

→ effective coordination structure

→ external assistance

→ realistic budget

→ combination of public
and private funds

→ suitable legal models

→ good communication

Looking ahead

A) Participation in networks:

- Why?
- What is the added value?
- What are the obstacles?

B) Transnational cooperation:

- Why?
- What can it bring?
- What are the impediments?