



**Expert evaluation network
delivering policy analysis on the
performance of Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Year 2 – 2012**

**Task 2: Country Report on Achievements of
Cohesion Policy**

France

Version: Final

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**A report to the European Commission
Directorate-General Regional Policy**

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List of abbreviations

- AIR Annual Implementation Report
- ARF *Association des Régions Françaises*
- CBC Cross Border Cooperation
- C&E Competitiveness & Employment
- CPER *Contrat de Projet Etat-Région*
- DATAR *Délégation interministérielle à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'attractivité régionale*
- HEI Higher Education Institutions
- IEED *Instituts d'Excellence en matière d'Energies Décarbonées*
- IRT *Instituts de Recherche Technologique*
- OP Operational Programme
- PACA Region Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur
- PUI Integrated Urban Projects
- PV Photovoltaic solar energy
- SRDE *Schémas Régionaux de Développement Économique*
- SRI *Stratégies régionales d'innovation*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fundamentals of regional development policy pursued have remained basically the same. The regional development policy relies on a combination of State and regional policies through *Contrats de Projets Etat-Région* (CPER) – ERDF Operational Programmes, Regional Schemes for Economic Development (*Schémas Régionaux de Développement Économique* - SRDE) and Regional Innovation Strategies (*Stratégies régionales d'innovation* - SRI). The crisis has however led to some shifts in the allocation of ERDF funding: significant strengthening of the allocation dedicated to “Human Resources” (but ERDF volumes are low for this policy area); some re-orientation in favour of “Environment and Energy” (more on energy infrastructure in Competitiveness & Employment (C&E) regions mainly for social housing, more on environment in Convergence regions); slight strengthening of the allocation to RTDI in SMEs (but diminution of investment in firms).

At the same time, the national policy in favour of regional development and competitiveness was characterised by a stronger ‘pick the winners’ approach: this approach, embodied from 2005 by the ‘poles of competitiveness’ policy (selection of 71 poles in 2005) was hardened in 2011 by the selection (through the programme ‘Investments for the Future’) of a much smaller number of top level R&D Institutes linked to the major and most performing poles, thus leading to a clearer geographical concentration of R&D resources.

A new and decisive leap forward took place in the commitment rate in 2011 and in the 1st half of 2012 with a better performance of the C&E regions (72.0% as of 1 August 2012) compared to the Convergence regions (64.1%), and a particularly high rate for Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) programmes (86.9%). The implementation rate (ERDF paid) also made a real leap as of 1 August 2012 compared to 1 January 2011 with duplication in both C&E regions (42.9%) and Convergence regions (34.8%). RTDI projects are being implemented rather smoothly; energy projects are making progress in C&E regions and environmental projects in Convergence ones; territorial development projects have now really started (social infrastructure, urban/rural rehabilitation, tourism); transport and culture projects are lagging behind.

Delays in implementing programmes are in general related either to difficulties in co-financing expenditure in relation to the crisis (budgetary constraints for small local authorities and non-profit organisations) or administrative complexity or both.

In the policy area “Enterprise Environment”, the SRIs have effectively started to be implemented. The evaluation of the ‘poles of competitiveness’ (2011-12) shows that a significant number of innovations have come out of collaborative (public research / enterprises) R&D projects, but there are doubts on how many innovations have effectively gone to the market. The mid-term evaluations show outputs and results coming out of collective actions and support to regional *filières* and clusters. 2011 is the first year with outputs in the field of financial engineering, i.e. to the benefit of enterprises (beyond allocations to funds). In the ICT field, the number of people benefiting from broadband communications has significantly increased due to ERDF intervention. ERDF has also allowed for the development of e-services, e-administration in particular.

In the policy area “Environment and Energy”, 2011 is the first year with clear results in the field of eco-management. Results in the field of energy efficiency and use of renewable in social housing are undoubtedly important, even if some administrative difficulties are pointed at; as expected due both to previous over-consumption of ERDF funding and changes in national regulations, Photovoltaic solar energy (PV) projects have been dramatically reduced. The results achieved in the field of biodiversity and the protection of environment are limited because of the small size of the projects which are generally carried out by ‘small actors’. In the policy area “Transport”, there were outputs from the large railway projects. In the policy area “Territorial Development”, ERDF has significantly contributed to the implementation of ‘Integrated Urban Projects’ (PUI) to the benefit of districts facing social problems with highly diversified operations (social inclusion, economic development) often complex to set up for administrative and technical reasons.

Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) in general do not provide sufficient and relevant information on outputs and results. They focus more on commitment on future projects than on what has been actually achieved. Moreover, they do not make reference to the national and/or regional policy context which makes difficult the understanding of the contribution of ERDF to the implementation of specific policies (e.g.: ‘poles of competitiveness’, energy efficiency) and hinders the visibility of the effects of ERDF intervention.

The “*Délégation interministérielle à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'attractivité régionale*” (DATAR) has realised a synthesis of mid-term evaluations by December 2011, complemented in June 2012 by a review of the mid-term evaluation with a focus on thematic and beneficiaries, which show that: the recommendations coming out of the evaluations are rarely of a strategic nature; the best practices identified in other regions/countries are not put in evidence for providing recommendations; the assessment of the relevance of the programmes and their priorities is rather limited; there is a lack of analysis focused on the largest projects; the relationship between the funds appears very difficult to assess; the diffusion of the evaluation reports should be improved and enlarged. It must be added that, as with the AIRs, reference to the national/regional policy context is generally absent, which reinforces the observation about the lack of a strategic dimension.

There are currently two main challenges for the future of the Cohesion policy, economic and political. On the economic side, the crisis has dramatically deepened from the end of 2011, and budget constraints may have a serious impact on national and regional investment. The government is currently pressing the managing authorities for “mobilising ERDF in favour of growth and jobs” through increasing the rate of EU co-funding, the reduction in some case of the ear-marking rate, and an acceleration of the processing of proposals for large-scale projects. At the same time, the recent (November 2012) ‘Pact for Competitiveness’ should strengthen support to innovation. On the political side, the new government intends to transfer more powers to regional authorities in the field of economic development and innovation, and in particular to transfer to them the management of Structural Funds, two measures which could change significantly the context for the use and management of ERDF.

1. THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT

In a 2006 study¹, five groups of regions were identified in mainland France: Ile de France (the capital region), Rhône-Alpes, Southern regions, Western regions, and changing regions with specific problems – the outermost regions (assisted under the Convergence Objective) presenting quite a different picture:

- Ile de France occupies a unique position with its concentration of government services and headquarters of large companies, a young and active population and life-long learning at an exceptional level, compared to the French average. Rhône-Alpes comes second in terms of population and GDP. Its share of the national value-added has increased slightly in the last 2 decades and its unemployment rate is below the national average. It has two world class R&D strongholds in Lyon and Grenoble.
- Southern Regions (Region Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur (PACA), Languedoc-Roussillon, Midi-Pyrénées, and to a lesser extent Aquitaine) constitute a French “sun belt” with a higher than average ratio of R&D expenditure to GDP. They are attracting thousands of migrants from Ile de France and Northern regions, and their population is younger. Southern regions benefit from transfers to retired people (pensions) and the unemployed (*Revenu minimum d’insertion* and *Revenu de solidarité active*) who migrate to “sunny” regions, and GDP per head is lower than the French mainland average, while the GDP growth rates are slightly higher.
- Western regions (Bretagne and Pays de la Loire) have experienced a significant increase in the proportion of highly qualified people and their major cities are among the most attractive in France, while unemployment is below the national average² and growth rates much higher at least before the crisis. In contrast, other regions do not have very specific features: some have a “rural profile” and are poor performers in higher education, R&D, the qualification of the work force (Poitou-Charentes, Champagne-Ardenne, Basse-Normandie, Corsica); others have an old industrial base (Lorraine, Nord Pas-de-Calais) and, in spite of huge restructuring efforts, still lag behind, and have an above average unemployment rate.
- The outermost regions (Convergence Objective) suffer from a number of factors: remoteness, lack of critical mass, costs of access, environmental challenges, and a high dependence on the ‘*métropole*’. Business activities depend heavily on tourism and the government sector. The economic fabric is mainly composed of micro-enterprises. However, the unemployment, while still high (2011: 25.3% on average as against a mainland average of 9.3%), is significantly lower than in 2000 (31.1%), and the outermost regions have been catching up: GDP per capita grew by 29.9% between 1990 and 2008 (national average: 22.8%).

If these groups remain valid today, it must be added that recent studies³ have renewed the approach to territorial disparities. A paradox has emerged in the last 10-15 years: the less

¹ Strategic Evaluation on innovation and the knowledge-based economy in relation to the Structural and Cohesion Funds, for the programming period 2007-2013, Country Report France, 2006.

² In 2009, the unemployment rate was 5.9% in Bretagne and 8% in Pays de la Loire (French mainland average: 9.2%).

³ L. Davezies, op.cit.

productive regions are those with significant progress in terms of income, population, employment and social well-being, while poverty is increasing in some parts of the most prosperous regions. The former regions rely on a 'public-residential economy' fed by social and public transfers⁴ which shelter them from global competition; this is typically the case of Southern regions, at least parts of them, and of some rural regions. The latter are the engines of French growth and the main providers of taxes, the best example being the Paris metropolitan area, which accounts for 30% of national GDP but whose households only receive 22.5% of the national household income. The present crisis is resulting in an aggravation of the phenomenon, leading, for some economists, to a '*fracture territoriale*'⁵ ('territorial divide'). The most recent changes are as follows:

- demographic growth has recently (from 2006) decelerated in the Southern and Western regions;
- the regions most affected by the crisis are the manufacturing regions (especially those where the automotive industry plays an important role: e.g. Franche-Comté, Haute-Normandie) and the Convergence regions (GDP per head growth rate: -3.2% for 2008-2009 against +2.5% for 2007-2008);
- the crisis has greatly increased social disparities with consequences for poverty in urban areas linked to high levels of unemployment;
- unemployment has however recently increased beyond 10% at the beginning of 2012; it is particularly high in 'old' industrial regions (Nord-Pas-de-Calais with 12.9% and Lorraine with 10.4% in 2011) and Mediterranean regions (2011: PACA with 10.3% and Languedoc-Roussillon with 12.7%).

The crisis raises questions about the future of public expenditure and investment, national as well as regional. The French government reacted by increasing expenditure and investment, which led to a further rise in the public sector deficit and a strong increase in consolidated debt⁶ of the public sector; in 2010 and 2011, government expenditure as a share of GDP has notwithstanding slightly declined⁷ while government investment as a share of GDP has stabilised at the level of the 2000-2006 average (3.1% against a peak of 3.4% in 2009). Regions have tried to maintain the level of investment, but local authorities in general are expected to face a reduction in financial transfers from the State in the near future; some of them, in rural areas, have already encountered difficulties for co-funding projects.

In parallel, 2011 was characterised by a rising debate on the French industrial competitiveness and 'de-industrialisation' following a dramatic increase of the deficit of the balance of trade (EUR 69,600 million in 2011 against EUR 51,500 million in 2010)⁸ – even if this increase was due for a significant part to fast growing oil/energy prices. This situation has of course an impact on regional development: trade surplus in some sectors benefit to specific regions, e.g. Midi-Pyrénées for the aerospace industry and Ile de France for the agro-food sector, while regions with a powerful automotive or steel sector are suffering. Moreover, it has to do with the

⁴ Social and public expenditure are over 50% of GDP.

⁵ Laurent Davezies, *La crise qui vient – Lanouvelle fracture territoriale*, Le Seuil, octobre 2012.

⁶ Debt as % of GDP rose to 82.3% in 2010 and 85.8% in 2011 against an average of 61.6% for the period 2000-6 (Eurostat).

⁷ 56.6% in 2009, 56.6% in 2010 and 55.9% in 2011 (Eurostat).

⁸ <http://import-export.gouv.fr/chiffres-2011-du-commerce-exterieur-2689/>

competitiveness and industrial policy mix since in the last decade the French competitiveness and industrial policy has been mainly region-embedded through support to clusters ('poles of competitiveness')⁹ and regional *filieres*. The question now is about taking measures at national level for lowering the labour costs which has been recently undertaken with a 'Pact for Competitiveness' (November 2012).

2. THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUED, THE EU CONTRIBUTION TO THIS AND POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PERIOD

THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PURSUED

Main points from previous country report:

- Regional development policy primarily results from the combination of CPER and ERDF Operational Programmes (OP). ERDF support to regional development policy is quite coherent with the national policy because of this combination.
- The SRDE elaborated by the French regions in 2005-2006, ahead of the 2007-13 programming period, are essentially policy blueprints which do not entail financial commitments of the regional authorities. There are no significant discrepancies between the SRDE and the CPER/ERDF OPs¹⁰.
- There are four main policy areas concerned by the priority axes of the CPER and ERDF OPs: the knowledge economy¹¹; sustainable development¹²; accessibility and transport¹³; territorial development¹⁴.
- The SRIs carried out in 2009 in all French regions have increased the awareness of the stakes represented by RTDI for regional development and led to an improvement of the 'innovation governance system'.
- Differences between Convergence and C&E regions are limited: Convergence regions give more importance to education and human resources development through the ERDF¹⁵, and of course they have a priority axis dedicated to the compensation for the cost of ultra-peripherality and structural handicaps.
- The CBC programmes have globally similar priorities. The main feature of the Territorial Cooperation OPs which involve Convergence (outermost) regions is not surprisingly the emphasis put on regional integration.

⁹ See: *Evaluation de la politique nationale des pôles de compétitivité*, juin 2012, BearingPoint / Erdyn / Technopolis ITD, coordinated by Michel Lacave (<http://competitivite.gouv.fr/la-2e-phase-2009-2012-de-la-politique-des-poles-dite-pole-20/la-synthese-des-mesures-491.html>).

¹⁰ The SRDE give to some extent more importance to employment, education and training, in particular with respect to the anticipation of economic and social change, and to internationalization.

¹¹ The knowledge economy has two related dimensions: research and technology transfer (supply), innovation and enterprise support (addressing the needs and demand for innovation of enterprises, in particular in relation with the national programme '*Pôles de compétitivité*'), with the aim of increasing the competitiveness of both the region and its enterprises – the aim of improving attractiveness is sometimes associated with that of competitiveness.

¹² Preservation of the environment, management of risks, renewable energies

¹³ Accessibility includes ICT in the OPs.

¹⁴ Issues of 'territorial development' concern 'territorial' (and often social) cohesion in general, urban areas or specific parts of the region.

¹⁵ Three of them have a priority axis dedicated to human potential or education.

These points are still valid.

There were in 2011 some significant shifts in the allocation of ERDF funding with respect to 2010 following the mid-term evaluations, interestingly with clear differences between C&E regions and Convergence regions¹⁶:

- C&E regions: the allocation of ERDF funding has strongly declined for 'Urban/rural rehabilitation' (-16%) and slightly declined for 'Environment and prevention of risks' (-1.6%) while it has significantly increased for 'Culture' (about +9%), 'Information society' (+5.6%) and Energy (about +5%);
- Convergence regions: the allocation of ERDF funding declined very slightly for 'Urban/rural rehabilitation' (about -1%), rather significantly for 'Social infrastructure' (-5%), and very strongly for 'Culture' (-39%), while it increased very slightly for 'RTDI, entrepreneurship and innovation' (+1.1%) and 'Tourism' (+2.4%), and probably very much for the policy area 'Environment and Energy' (however, data are incomplete).

Other data¹⁷ show that the crisis has led to a shift in favour of 'Human Resources' (which must not be over-estimated since in volume the allocation to this policy area is by far the lowest with respect to ERDF) for combating unemployment; however, Convergence regions have privileged 'Education and training' – a major weakness in these regions – while C&E regions have privileged the improvement of the labour market. In both groups of regions again, there was a policy re-orientation in favour of 'Environment and Energy', anew with a different focus: environmental infrastructure in Convergence regions, because of a fragile environment, and energy infrastructure in C&E regions, a major issue for housing. Budgetary constraints have in general affected investment in transport and 'other investment in firms'.

With respect to CBC programmes, the only changes concern the allocation of ERDF funding to the programme *Grande Région* with a strong re-orientation in favour of the policy area 'Environment and Energy' (+19%), and slighter ones in favour of 'Territorial Development' and 'Human Resources', to the detriment of 'Enterprise and Environment' (-16%).

On the whole, the national policy in favour of regional economic development and competitiveness has been characterised in 2011 by a 'pick the winners' approach less 'soft' than it was previously. This policy had been focused from 2005 on support to innovation-driven clusters – poles of competitiveness (*pôles de compétitivité*) – which reflected in effect a rather soft approach (low selectivity) with a total of 71 poles (to which can be added about 120 '*grappes d'entreprises*' or small-scale clusters). In 2011, the national programme 'Investments for the Future' began to be implemented, and is now resulting in strengthening the strongest and most performing 'poles of competitiveness' together with the largest and most competitive universities and Higher Education Institutions (HEI), in particular through the creation of 8 *Instituts de Recherche Technologique* (IRT) and 9 *Instituts d'Excellence en matière d'Energies Décarbonées* (IEED)¹⁸. The managing teams of the major 'poles of competitiveness' have often contributed to prepare the applications to the calls for proposals launched for IRT/IEED within the programme 'Investments for the Future', thus leading to a clearer geographical concentration of RTDI resources. Good examples are provided by Grenoble (Rhône-Alpes) with

¹⁶ Source: DATAR.

¹⁷ Processed by the core team, but partial.

¹⁸ The programme 'Investments for the Future' has entered its implementation phase by end 2010.

the pole Minalogic coupled with the IRT *Nano-électronique*, Toulouse with the pole Aerospace Valley coupled with the IRT AESE, or Bretagne with the pole *Mer Bretagne* coupled with the IEED *France Energies Marines*.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION¹⁹

Main points from previous country report:

- There was in 2010 a significant leap forward with respect to the commitment rate and some progress of the implementation rate in comparison with 2009: the commitment rate reached 39.4% in Convergence regions and 39.9% in C&E regions against respectively 26.1% and 27.6%; the implementation rate reached 17.4% in Convergence regions and 21.4% in C&E regions against respectively 5% to 12% and 8% to 14%.
- The catching up observed in the commitment rate was explained by the fact that a 'cruising speed' had been reached, and in some cases by the necessity of fighting the effects of the crisis through an acceleration of ERDF funding commitment.
- Considering the different policy areas, 'RTDI' (within Enterprise Environment') had the highest ERDF commitment rate in a number of regions, while the policy area 'Energy Infrastructure' (within 'Environment and Energy') benefited from a catching up move of its commitment rate in some regions (as Bourgogne, Languedoc-Roussillon, Poitou-Charentes). However, it must be noted that the latest available data by end 2010 show 'Territorial Development' coming first with 45.3% (especially due to 'Social Infrastructure'), followed by 'Transport' (40.2%) and 'Environment and Energy' together with 'Enterprise Environment' at practically the same level (almost 39%).
- The implementation rate was in general better in C&E regions compared to Convergence ones (a difference of 4 percentage points) and it was higher for RTDI and energy projects (around 18%-20%), and to some extent access to broadband infrastructure, than for transport and territorial development projects (around 14%).
- This situation was explained by the high level of preparation of regional authorities regarding policies and programmes supporting RTDI and the carrying out in 2009 of regional innovation strategies in all French regions. Regarding sustainable development, the French government had in parallel focused actions on environmental policies with the *Grenelle de l'Environnement*. In contrast, projects in the policy area 'Transport' were long to implement effectively for administrative as well as financial reasons while projects in the area 'Territorial Development' were very often rather small projects for which only small amounts of money are spent (there were moreover some specific problems regarding projects in 'difficult' urban areas due to their conditions of emergence through local non-profit organisations²⁰).

¹⁹ The indicators used in this section come mainly from the AIR for 2011, which relate to the situation up to the end of 2011. A more up-to-date view of the aggregate position (though not of the situation in the different policy areas) is presented in the Synthesis Report for 2012 of the Expert evaluation network delivering policy analysis on the performance of Cohesion policy 2007-2013 which is based on data for payments from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund up to the end of 2012, i.e. after the present report was completed.

²⁰ A type of problem that is also encountered in the policy area 'Sustainable Development' for the projects concerning information and sensitization to environmental issues.

Table 1 - Commitment and implementation rate (1 August 2012) (%)²¹

	Committed (ERDF)	Paid (total)
Convergence Regions (France)	64.1	34.8
C&E Regions (France)	72.0	42.9
CBC Programmes	86.9	27.2
EU27 average – end 2011*	72.3	36.6

Source: *État d'avancement des programmes européens – État financier au 1er août 2012*²²

(*) Source: Financial tables provided by the core team.

A new and decisive leap forward took place in the commitment rate in 2011 and in the 1st half of 2012, with a better performance of C&E regions compared to Convergence regions. The acceleration was particularly strong from September 2011 until the very first months of 2012. In C&E regions, the commitment rate ranged from a minimum of 59.6% (Champagne-Ardenne) to a maximum of 81.1% (Rhône-Alpes) with 6 regions above the average of 72.0%. The gap between the C&E regions was as in 2009 larger in the C&E regions than in the Convergence ones (from 58.3% to 71.2% only).

Table 2 - C&E regions – ERDF Commitment rate by main policy area (%) (situation as of end-2011)

	Commitments by end 2011 of all programmes in relation to total allocation by end 2011	Commitments by end 2010 of all programmes in relation to total allocation by end 2010
1. Enterprise environment	65.0	38.8
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	71.4	46.1
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	56.0	31.1
1.3 Other investment in firms	77.6	40.5
1.4 ICT and related services	58.9	32.4
2. Human resources	60.6	53.2
2.1 Education and training	61.1	52.0
2.2 Labour market policies	60.2	54.6
3. Transport	63.3	40.2
3.1 Road	67.1	64.6
3.2 Rail	74.8	59.2
3.3 Other	50.4	21.6
4. Environment and energy	66.2	38.9
4.1 Energy infrastructure	70.9	44.7
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	62.0	34.5
5. Territorial development	68.6	45.3
5.1 Tourism and culture	69.3	43.8
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	55.7	33.2
5.3 Social infrastructure	90.4	71.0
5.4 Other	-	-
6. Technical assistance	63.0	39.6
Total Objective	65.5	39.9

Source: DG Regio processed by the core team

²¹ A detailed table by region is given in Annex Table B.

²² <http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Des-programmes-pour-qui-pour-quoi/Avancement-des-programmes/Moteur-de-recherche-sur-l-avancement-des-programmes/2012/Les-etats-d-avancement-2007-2013-situation-au-1er-aout-2012>

Concerning the commitment rate by policy area, the main features are for the **C&E regions**:

- globally, all policy areas are more or less close to a commitment of 2/3 of the ERDF allocation, except for 'Transport' and 'Human resources' which are slightly lagging behind;
- the largest progress in the commitment rate can be seen in the areas 'Environment and Energy' and 'Enterprise Environment' (in particular in the area 'Other investments in firms')

The latest data available through DATAR and the database Présage (21 June 2012) show an improved situation while confirming in general the trends observed. The highest ERDF commitment rates are to be found in social infrastructure (153.8%), energy (94.5%), urban/rural rehabilitation (86.8%) and in the RTD, innovation and entrepreneurship area which benefits from the largest ERDF allocation (72.5%), followed by tourism and culture (slightly over 70%). The rate for the policy area 'Transport' is only 56.2%. The situation in the 'Human Resources' policy area is strongly contrasted between sub-areas²³.

Table 3 - Convergence regions – Commitment rate by main policy area (%) (situation as of end-2011)

	Commitments by end 2011 of all programmes in relation to total allocation by end 2011	Commitments by end 2010 of all programmes in relation to total allocation by end 2010
1. Enterprise environment	94.9	33.9
1.1 RTDI and linked activities	208.8	39.1
1.2 Support for innovation in SMEs	22.0	25.8
1.3 Other investment in firms	46.6	32.5
1.4 ICT and related services	42.2	33.1
2. Human resources	139.1	56.0
2.1 Education and training	49.8	56.0
2.2 Labour market policies	100.0	-
3. Transport	40.4	39.1
3.1 Road	64.0	64.7
3.2 Rail	-	0.0
3.3 Other	27.0	44.7
4. Environment and energy	54.5	59.2
4.1 Energy infrastructure	36.7	42.1
4.2 Environmental infrastructure	56.5	60.6
5. Territorial development	36.9	32.3
5.1 Tourism and culture	40.4	31.2
5.2 Planning and rehabilitation	45.8	47.0
5.3 Social infrastructure	54.5	50.8
5.4 Other	16.3	8.4
6. Technical assistance	21.3	22.8
Total Objective	53.8	39.4

Source: DG Regio processed by the core team

What we can observe in the **Convergence regions** is significantly different and illustrates the specific conditions of the French outermost regions:

²³ E.g.: very high rate for reforms concerning employment and integration (94.5%) and the lowest rate for institutional capacity (39.5%) and social integration (22.1%).

- the commitment rate is on the whole lower than in the C&E regions, with the exception of the policy areas 'Enterprise Environment' (95%), and in particular 'RTDI and linked activities.;
- the largest progress made in the commitment rate concerns the policy areas 'Enterprise Environment' – especially 'RTDI and linked activities', 'other investment in firms' and 'ICT and related services' – and 'Territorial Development' – in particular tourism and culture²⁴.

The latest data available through DATAR and the database Présage (21 June 2012) show the highest commitment rates in education and training, social infrastructure, environment and the area RTD, innovation and entrepreneurship. Transport and labour market policies are lagging behind. The high commitment rate in education and training has to be related to the re-allocation of EU funding to this area, which has been previously underlined.

The situation with the **CBC programmes** is highly versatile²⁵. The commitment rate has dramatically increased in the France (Manche)-Angleterre programme for which it was low or very low by end 2010; by contrast, it has made a more modest progress in the France-Suisse programme for which it was much higher by end 2010 (with the exception of a significant leap for the policy area 'Transport'). We can also observe an over-commitment in the policy area 'Territorial Development' in three programmes – 2 Mers, Rhin Supérieur, France(Manche)-Angleterre – mainly due to tourism and culture projects, and in the policy area 'Environment and Energy' in three programmes – 2 Mers, Grande Région and CTE Amazonie – mainly due to environmental infrastructure projects. This observation leads to consider that the fields of tourism, culture and environment are those which are the easiest where to set up CBC projects and/or those where a common interest is the easiest to be demonstrated.

If we consider now the **implementation rate (paid total)**, it has made a real leap as of 1 August 2012 compared to 1 January 2011 with duplication: 42.9% against 21.4% in C&E regions²⁶, and 34.8% against 17.4% in Convergence regions²⁷ (see Table 1 above)²⁸. The result is that the gap in the implementation rate between C&E regions and Convergence regions has enlarged. In the C&E regions, the implementation rate ranges from a minimum of 31.0% in Corsica to a maximum of 62.0% in Poitou-Charentes (6 regions are under 35% and 8 regions over 50%); in the Convergence regions, it ranges from 28.7% in Guadeloupe to 39.4% in La Réunion.

With respect to the thematic areas, we had access to DATAR data as of 21 June 2012 for the paid ERDF funding only. In C&E regions, the thematic area RTD, innovation and entrepreneurship has an implementation rate of slightly above 30% together with energy, urban/rural

²⁴ It must however be noted that some changes in the commitment rate are a mechanical consequence of the reallocation of ERDF funding in 2011 (diminution of the commitment rate for the policy areas 'Human Resources' – and in particular 'Education and training' - and 'Environment and Energy' which benefited from reallocations).

²⁵ 2 Mers, Rhin Supérieur France(Manche)-Angleterre, France-Suisse, Grande Région.

²⁶ 28.5% as of 1 August 2011.

²⁷ 22.1% as of 1 August 2011.

²⁸ The ERDF implementation rate is however lower: 30.6% for the C&E regions, and 27.9% for the Convergence regions.

rehabilitation and tourism, the (by far) highest rate being for social infrastructure (72.4%)²⁹. In Convergence regions, education and training ('human capital') comes first by far with 51.9%, followed by social infrastructure (29.5%) and a group of thematic areas around 20% (environment, RTD, innovation and entrepreneurship, ICT); culture, energy and transport are lagging behind.

These data reveal the main following features concerning implementation: RTDI projects are being implemented rather smoothly; energy projects are making progress in C&E regions; territorial development projects have now really started (social infrastructure, urban/rural rehabilitation, tourism); transport and culture projects are lagging behind.

Delays in implementing programmes are in general related either to difficulties in co-financing expenditure in relation to the crisis (budgetary constraints for small local authorities and non-profit organisations) or administrative complexity or both. This is particularly true for small projects in the field of environment and biodiversity.

DATAR has taken measures more in order to accelerate commitment than to accelerate implementation.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMMES SO FAR

Main points from previous country report:

- Globally, the achievements were in line with the policy objectives set. A majority of OPs had given priority in terms of financial allocations to the knowledge economy, innovation and competitiveness and it was in fact in this policy field that outputs were most visible and implementation relatively satisfactory, in line also with the national policy. On the other hand, the catching up of implementation (and commitment) for sustainable development and environment was in line with the national policy initiated with the *Grenelle de l'environnement*. All this highlights the relative 'victory of ear-marking' by end-2010.
- In the 12 regions selected for an in-depth analysis of outputs and results, the main conclusions were:
 - Knowledge Economy, Innovation, and Competitiveness: the regional governance of innovation has made progress in a number of regions; ERDF has significantly contributed to the first results of the policy of *Pôles de compétitivité*, in particular collaborative (business-research) R&D projects and technological platforms, thus illustrating the fact that, when there are robust national and regional policies, ERDF contribution is particularly effective; in the field of financial engineering, there were still no results for end beneficiaries (enterprises).
 - Sustainable Development and environment: ERDF has contributed to a better knowledge of problems and issues concerning environment and biodiversity and to a much lesser extent so far to the protection and management of natural areas; ERDF has started to contribute to the improvement of energy efficiency in social housing and to the development of biomass energy (wood), and it has

²⁹ As for the commitment rate, the implementation rate (ERDF) widely differs in the sub-areas of 'Human Resources'.

strongly contributed to the use of PV solar energy; it has also contributed to the prevention of the flood risk.

- Accessibility and Transport: the number of people benefiting from broadband communications has already significantly increased due to ERDF intervention; there has been a development of e-services to the benefit of enterprises and households and the setting up of cyber-bases; access to and environment of railway stations has improved in some cities; speed on the future Bretagne high-speed railroad has already accelerated on a portion of the route.
 - Territorial Development: ERDF has started to contribute to the *Politique de la Ville* (urban policy) to the benefit of districts facing social problems; the equipment of touristic sites has also benefited from ERDF and this result has been the most important contribution of ERDF to improvement in rural areas so far.
- In CBC programmes, there was no clear evidence of concrete achievements. Increased and improved networking was the main tangible result declared in the AIRs which pointed at a number of cooperation agreements between organisations and joint uses of infrastructure.
 - There had been some progress in the harmonisation and quality of the presentation of outputs and results in a number of AIRs³⁰. However, this positive assessment had to be mitigated by two remaining negative aspects. One was relatively minor: a few reports focused too much on the evolution of the context, even if it was surely necessary to take account of the crisis and of the following limited recovery. The other was of a more serious nature: a clear-cut differentiation between what was achieved and what was programmed in 2010 was still missing in a number of reports as it was in the 2009 AIRs; some regions had preferred to present the list of projects for which ERDF funding was committed³¹ and it was accordingly too often very difficult to understand what has been actually achieved.

The figures given in the table below should be interpreted very carefully due to shortcomings in the quality of indicators and some lack of reliability. Nevertheless they demonstrate a real progress in outputs and results achieved, in particular for cooperation projects between enterprises and research institutions and the creation of research jobs in comparison with 2010. The increase of both indicators can be directly related to the achievements of the 'poles of competitiveness' launched in 2006: the R&D collaborative projects that it supports have started to produce significant outputs and have been accompanied by the creation of some research jobs. There has also been progress in the number of projects related to renewable energies, in spite of changes in regulations and tax benefits concerning PV solar energy, and in the number of waste projects (in Convergence regions). While the number of additional population covered by broadband access has more than duplicated (a result of early commitment for projects of coverage of 'zones blanches') in comparison with 2010, the number of information society projects achieved has declined as well as the number of tourism projects.

³⁰ E.g.: Alsace, Bourgogne, Centre, Ile de France, Lorraine, Pays de la Loire, Rhône-Alpes, La Réunion, etc.

³¹ E.g.: Bretagne, Champagne-Ardenne, Franche-Comté, Languedoc-Roussillon, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, PACA, Guadeloupe, La Réunion.

Table 4 – Selected Core Indicators (All Regions)

Policy area	Main indicators	Outputs and results
Enterprise support and RTDI including ICT Increased access to finance by SMEs	No. of RTD projects: 1,093 No. of cooperation projects enterprises-research institutions: 1,577 No. of information society projects: 422 No. of additional population covered by broadband access: 387,788 No. of direct investment aid projects to SMEs: 536	Implementations of actions planned in the SRIs (e.g.: innovation index, mapping of competences, directories of RTDI organisations, methodological studies, etc.) Creation or reshuffling of regional innovation networks Creation of innovative enterprises Collaborative (public research/enterprises) R&D projects within poles of competitiveness and regional clusters Access to broadband communications and mobile phone (couverture des zones blanches) e-administration and e-health services Access to finance: zero-interest loans (prêts d'honneur), loan guarantees, equity investment in innovative enterprises
Human Resources (ERDF only) Youth unemployment (ERDF only)	No. of research jobs created: 1,868 No. of education projects: 42 No. of benefiting students: 12,503	Services to employment in connection with the restructuring of sectors Support to self-employment and business start-ups
Transport	No. of transport projects: 51	Railway infrastructure Urban areas public transportation systems Studies
Environment and energy	No. of projects related to renewable energies: 1,495 No. of waste projects: 101 No. of risk prevention projects: 426	Energy efficiency and renewable energies in social housing Recycling Rehabilitation and requalification of industrial sites Studies in biodiversity and protection of the environment Waste treatment (mainly Convergence regions)
Territorial development (urban areas, tourism, rural development, cultural heritage, health, public security, local development)	No. of projects ensuring sustainability and improving the attractiveness of towns and cities: 173 No. of projects offering services to promote equal opportunities and social inclusion for minorities and young people: 317 No. of tourism projects: 98	Small urban projects for economic development and social inclusion in urban districts facing social problems (as part of 'Integrated Urban Programmes') Tourism and heritage projects: restoration of cultural and natural heritage; promotion of tourism (included in CBC Programmes)

Overview of concrete outputs and results in a sample of regions

As in the previous Country Reports 2010, the qualitative analysis of concrete outputs and results was focused on 12 regions which had been selected according to the following criteria: giving more weight to the larger regions in terms of population; providing a representative view of policy intervention in the smaller regions; balancing urban regions with mainly rural ones and including at least two Convergence regions. We have also taken account of inter-regional disparities and the regional groups presented in Section 1.

The final selection (which was discussed with DATAR officials) comprises: Rhône-Alpes, PACA, Midi-Pyrénées, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Bretagne (larger regions); Centre, Champagne-Ardenne, Franche-Comté, Languedoc-Roussillon, Limousin (smaller regions); Guadeloupe and La Réunion (Convergence). Four groups of competitiveness regions identified in Section 1 are represented: Rhône-Alpes; three Southern regions (PACA, Midi-Pyrénées and Languedoc-Roussillon); one Western region (Bretagne); changing regions with specific problems, mainly rural ones (Centre, Champagne-Ardenne and Limousin), and industrial ones (Franche-Comté and Nord-Pas-de-Calais).

First of all, it must be said that, in comparison with the AIRs 2010, there has not been any significant improvement of the AIRs 2011 with respect to the presentation of concrete outputs coming and projects completed, and the existence of a clear dividing line between projects committed and projects achieved. DATAR officials themselves confess that they have paid so far more attention to progress made in the commitment rate than to outputs and that managing authorities can accordingly have felt encouraged to privilege commitment in AIRs. They have in fact.

A majority of the 12 AIRs scrutinised have mainly limited their presentation of the outputs and results achieved to the filling in of indicators, often accompanied by financial tables which are commented in some regions³². The AIR Bretagne is a typical example of a well designed and well prepared report focused on administrative elements, controls implemented, and financial tables without any comment on projects paid. The AIR Bretagne is a big document which presents rather similar patterns. Moreover, indicators are often filled in only partially (AIR Rhône-Alpes: 1/5 of quantitative indicators). Quantitative information is rather often provided concerning the number of paid projects (*projets soldés*), which reveals a diverse level of implementation (e.g.: less than 2% in PACA; about 18% in Rhône-Alpes; an average of 49% in Languedoc-Roussillon across the priority axes 'Innovation and Technology Transfer', 'Environment and Prevention of Risks', and 'Accessibility'). Clear examples of concrete outputs and results (which could put 'flesh on the bones') are relatively rare, in comparison with examples of projects committed – when the two categories can be distinguished from one another. The AIR Centre offers a positive exception among the sample of 12: the state of advancement of the implementation, and the results achieved compared with the objectives are clearly indicated, and many examples of projects achieved are given.

Moreover, the AIRs do not make reference to the national policy framework and do not accordingly allow for having a vision of how ERDF contributes effectively to the implementation and to the results and achievements of specific national policies. Two examples can be given of this major (to our opinion) shortcoming. The first regards the 'poles of competitiveness' policy: while ERDF generally contributes to the projects and actions of the different poles, the very name of "poles of competitiveness" rarely appears in the AIRs as if ERDF contribution was allocated to some 'abstract' measures. The second example concerns the measures in favour of energy efficiency and renewable in social housing: here, ERDF has started to play a significant role in a national policy born from the *Grenelle de l'Environnement*, and implemented in practically each region, but no vision is given of the strategic role played by ERDF in supporting this policy.

³² Exception: AIR Languedoc-Roussillon, Limousin, Midi-Pyrénées, La Réunion.

The main outputs and results by policy area for these 12 regions are presented below.

1. Enterprise support and RTDI (including ICT and access of SMEs to finance)

2011 appears as a transition year: on one hand, regions have started to implement the SRIs carried out in 2009, and on the other hand, mid-term revisions have entailed a slight shift of ERDF allocations to the benefit of RTDI and innovation in SMEs in C&E regions, and 'Enterprise Environment' in general in Convergence regions.

A first group of outputs relates to R&D and innovation, a second to competitiveness of enterprises, and a third to ICT.

1.1. R&D and Innovation

A major part of the outputs indicated in the AIRs concerns the implementation of the SRIs carried out in 2009, in particular through the setting up or the reshuffling of regional innovation networks and complementary studies. In Languedoc-Roussillon, a regional innovation network has been created as a result of the SRI. Midi-Pyrénées has started to implement the action plan of its SRI, with foresight studies and in parallel the setting up of thematic groups; at the end of 2011, 12 out of the 13 priority actions of the SRI had been completely launched. Nord-Pas-de-Calais has organised an 'Innovation Week' with the support of the regional network 'J'innove'. In PACA, the implementation of the SRI has entailed: the realisation of an 'innovation index' and of a mapping of the competences available within the regional innovation network, sensitisation actions, and some experimentations of a 'living lab' type. In Bretagne, a methodological study has been carried out for preparing a system aimed at accompanying enterprises in their innovation approach and process. Following the final adoption of its SRI in November 2010, La Réunion has realised a mapping of the regional competences in the field of innovation, a directory of R&D organisations located in the region, and a catalogue of innovation support measures and funding opportunities.

Other outputs regard the support to creation of innovative enterprises and R&D projects, including collaborative (public research / enterprises) R&D projects. The AIR Midi-Pyrénées signals that there are relatively few operations which are totally paid (*soldées*), mainly R&D projects and R&D infrastructures; it also indicates that there have been delays for the R&D infrastructures due to administrative burdens; moreover, 18 new business projects have been hosted in the incubator and 12 innovative businesses have been created in 2011. Two R&D projects are indicated as implemented in Nord-Pas-de-Calais through the OSEO global grant (fields concerned: energy, electrical vehicles), and a new strategy 'for initiative and entrepreneurship' has been launched. In Rhône-Alpes, the AIR points at the CALIXAR project which has been incubated in the regional incubator Crealys and has resulted in the creation of a company in 2011 (innovative techniques for the development of new and more reliable and effective medicines and vaccines).

1.2. Competitiveness of enterprises

As in 2009 and 2010, the case of Midi-Pyrénées is worth being mentioned concerning the '*contrats d'appui à l'industrie*': the AIR signals that they have a significantly positive impact on the regional economic fabric. Region Centre has implemented collective actions aimed at supporting innovation (technological or non-technological) in enterprises: for instance, the programme Innovia Touraine, which is intended to assist enterprises in their development

projects and strengthen their R&D environment, has supported 32 enterprises as of April 2012. The AIR Centre gives also one example of an action targeted at individual enterprises, with the implementation of URBAFLUX, a service of on-line booking and payment of parking places. In Champagne-Ardenne, ERDF has supported the professional event 'Salon VIT'eff 2011' dedicated to sparkling wine production techniques and innovations.

Measures relating to the creation and transfer of businesses seem to have continued to produce outputs. The AIR Nord-Pas-de-Calais indicates that the implementation of the Regional Plan for Creation and Transfer has been very positive, according to an evaluation of this programme (Feb. 2011); as of September 2011, 3013 new businesses have been created by people supported by it.

A last area for which outputs are reported is access to finance for SMEs or 'financial engineering'. The AIR Languedoc-Roussillon (one of the 3 French regions having signed a JEREMIE agreement) indicates 27 'seed' loans (*prêts d'amorçage*), 8 co-investment in firms, and 11 loan guarantees granted to companies by 31 December 2012. The AIR gives the example of an investment in ALCI, a company which sells robots to the meat industry. PACA is another region with a JEREMIE instrument, but the agreement has only been signed in 2011; however, the AIR indicates that ERDF has allowed for an extension of a co-investment fund. In Midi-Pyrénées, the regional Guarantee Fund has benefited from an ERDF contribution which has enlarged its guarantee capacity to EUR 2.7 million (23 companies have obtained loans due to the guarantee); moreover, a Guarantee Fund for Craftsmanship and Trade was created with a capacity of EUR 2.4 million (63 beneficiary enterprises). Region Rhône-Alpes had carried out in 2010 a study on the creation of a financial instrument targeted at less than 5 years old innovative enterprises; this instrument, named INNOVIZI, has been operational from January 2011, and it grants to new entrepreneurs personal loans (*prêts d'honneur innovation*) without interest (average: EUR 30 thousands; maximum: EUR 56 thousands); these loans come as a complement to classical *prêts d'honneur*.

The French authorities (Ministry of Home Affairs and DATAR³³) are now paying a particular attention to financial engineering instruments co-funded by ERDF. A study carried out in 2011-12 shows that a total of 173 operations of financial engineering are co-funded by ERDF in 24 out of the 26 French regions³⁴. The average number of operations per OP is 6; six OPs have more than 20 operations (Aquitaine, Bourgogne, Centre, Limousin, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Martinique), while 16 OPs have less than 5 operations³⁵.

³³ DATAR, Analyse des réponses à l'enquête menée par la DATAR auprès des Autorités de Gestion sur les instruments d'ingénierie financière mis en place dans le cadre des PO 2007-2013 – Synthèse et pistes d'action, 2011.

³⁴ The two regions without any ERDF co-funded financial engineering operation are Bretagne and Pays-de-la-Loire. See: Financial engineering Instruments Implemented by Member States with ERDF Contributions (Programming Period 2007-2013), European Commission, DG Regional Policy, Unit D3 Financial Engineering, Major Projects, Synthesis Report, Situation as at 31 December 2010; Overview of financial instruments used in the EU multiannual financial framework period 2007-2013 and the Commission's proposals for 2014-2020, European Parliament, DG for Internal Policies, Policy Department D, Budgetary Affairs, 2012.

1.3. ICT

As in 2010, access to broadband infrastructure has made significant progress in 2011 in Midi-Pyrénées, Centre, Rhône-Alpes, and Languedoc-Roussillon. In Centre, access to mobile phone services has also been improved. The AIR Languedoc-Roussillon indicates that 350,000 additional people have gained access to broadband infrastructure in 2011 due to the effective setting up of a WifiMax system and to the regional broadband network ('NRA-ZO solution'). In Rhône-Alpes, the large project *Ardèche-Drôme Numérique* has been completed in 2011 and is now operational to the benefit of 708 municipalities and 745,000 people.

Concerning uses of ICT and e-services, some projects of e-administration have been implemented such as the digitalisation of urban maps for urban planning (Centre) or land registers (Midi-Pyrénées), web sites for urban areas authorities and 'e-windows' (Midi-Pyrénées), etc.; others outputs concern e-services for secondary schools, patients' files in hospitals, and innovative instruments for digital creation (Nord-Pas-de-Calais). The AIR Midi-Pyrénées adds that there has been a strong demand for access to broadband and growing needs for ICT uses and applications which have resulted in the necessity of selecting carefully the projects-in-waiting; at the same time, it appears that small municipalities encounter difficulties in setting up proposals.

Conclusion: Main results

- The SRIs have effectively started to be implemented with actions supported by ERDF.
- The AIRs give in general very poor information on outputs and results achieved, as already stressed. However, the evaluation of the competitiveness poles carried out in 2011-12 shows that the first significant outputs of the collaborative (public research / enterprises) R&D projects of the poles are now visible; it must be remembered that many projects have been co-funded by ERDF.
- Similarly, the mid-term evaluations available show in general that there were outputs and results coming out of collective actions and support to regional *filières* and clusters³⁶; it is notwithstanding extremely difficult to have a clear vision of what has been actually achieved.
- 2011 is the first year with outputs in the field of financial engineering. During the two past years, ERDF contributions had been granted to various funds (loan, guarantee, equity); now, the funds – and therefore the ERDF contributions – have started to be used to the benefit of enterprises.
- In 2011 again, the number of people benefiting from broadband communications has already significantly increased due to ERDF intervention.
- ERDF has also allowed for the development of e-services, e-administration in particular.

³⁶ E.g.: Haute-Normandie: collective actions in the field of energy efficiency / new technologies related to sustainable development (meetings, subsidised audits, training sessions), in favour of the *filière* "Electricity / Electronics" (thematic workshops, follow up of companies in the field of human resources, training). Franche-Comté: collective actions in favour of the competitiveness of very small enterprises (a very wide range: consultancy, assistance to transfer, quality, training, etc.).

2. Environment and Energy

Outputs and results are visible in the areas of Eco-management, Biodiversity / protection of environment, and Energy.

Eco-management must be understood in its broadest meaning, including recycling and rehabilitation of natural and industrial sites. The AIR Bretagne indicates that three eco-management projects (e.g.: creation of a recycling unit for polystyrene packaging) have been completed in 2011. In Nord-Pas-de-Calais, a project of 'ecological restoration' of a river and its banks has been implemented together with actions aimed at improving air quality (and air monitoring). In Rhône-Alpes, a project of rehabilitation of an industrial derelict and polluted area has been achieved successfully.

Concerning Biodiversity and the protection of environment, outputs are essentially composed of studies, sensitisation and information actions on a large range of topics, as illustrated by the AIRs Centre³⁷ and Midi-Pyrénées.

It is in the field of energy (renewable energies and energy efficiency) that the AIRs signal the most important results, and in particular to the benefit of social housing. In 2009 and 2010, commitment had increased in this field and programmes had started to be implemented. The first outputs and results are now visible. The AIR Midi-Pyrénées indicates that 26 projects have been implemented concerning 891 social housing units, and the AIR PACA indicates 23 projects by end 2011; however, the AIR Midi-Pyrénées signals administrative difficulties in the treatment of proposals. Apart from social housing, Nord-Pas-de-Calais has supported an upgrading of the quality of construction of some public buildings – energy-saving, environmental quality (sport facilities, campus, etc.). Due to the reduction of the national tax breaks supporting PV solar energy, the projects in this field have been dramatically reduced, as illustrated in the AIR Midi-Pyrénées. However, the AIR La Réunion indicates that the measure supporting the use of solar energy for water heating in social housing has continued to be implemented successfully (more than 1,400 units in 2011).

Conclusion: Main results

- 2011 is the first year with clear results in the field of eco-management, even if the AIRs provide few examples.
- Results in the field of energy efficiency and use of renewable in social housing are undoubtedly important; even if some administrative difficulties are pointed at, the related programmes seem to be implemented successfully. As expected due both to previous over-consumption of ERDF funding and changes in national regulations, PV solar projects have been dramatically reduced.
- The results achieved in the field of biodiversity and the protection of environment are limited because of the small size of the projects which are generally carried out by 'small actors' (local non-profit organisations, small municipalities, in particular): small studies, sensitisation actions, etc. There is no project with a broader vision.

³⁷ E.g.: Mapping of key areas in terms of the importance of biodiversity stakes; Study for the preservation of chiropters (bats).

2. Transport

In the field of transport, some large railway operations had started in the previous years, such as *Bretagne Grande Vitesse* and the electrification of the railroad Bourges-Saincaize (Centre). The first operation has gone ahead in 2011 (28% paid), while the second has been completed. Midi-Pyrénées has achieved 3 new projects of modernisation of regional railway lines and railway stations (within the *Plan Rail 2008-2013* of the Regional Council)³⁸. In PACA, the modernisation of the rail infrastructure of the *Chemins de fer de Provence* has been achieved in 2011. Regarding urban transportation, a cost-benefit study was carried out in Bretagne for the Brest tramway project, and Guadeloupe has improved the bus transportation system (quality of bus stops, reorganisation of the network). Moreover, in Midi-Pyrénées, there was in 2011 some catching up regarding the delay in carrying out an operation of 'valorisation' of the *Canal du Midi*, which is very complex to set up since it implies national (*Voies Navigables de France*, a national agency) as well as local and regional partners.

Conclusion: Main results

- Large railway projects have produced outputs.

3. Territorial development

The outputs and results mentioned in the 2011 AIRs concern urban projects and tourism and heritage.

Regarding first the urban projects implemented, they privilege both social cohesion and economic development and are, as in 2010, often part of the so-called PUI. Centre has realised a '*Maison des Associations*' in Dreux (a city well known for its 'difficult' urban districts) for hosting local non-profit and civic organisations. Midi-Pyrénées has implemented 3 new projects within PUI in the socially fragile urban districts of Toulouse and Montauban, and the implementation rate of such projects is expected to improve significantly in the next months. Nord-Pas-de-Calais has realised a 'bee-hive' (small incubator for auto-entrepreneurs) in a fragile urban area and set up a one-stop-shop for accompanying new entrepreneurs. In Rhône-Alpes, the mid-term revision of the OP has led to additional clauses to regional PUI aimed at accelerating their implementation; some projects have been realised in the field of creation of new enterprises, e.g. a service for supporting 'seed' projects in Aix-les-Bains (57 people supported).

Tourism and heritage projects have been implemented in Centre with actions of sensitisation and valorisation of the cultural and natural heritage; the works of restoration of an old church have started in 2011 (end expected for 2014). In Midi-Pyrénées, 14 projects within the regional programme '*Grands Sites*' have been supported in 2011.

Conclusion: Main results

- ERDF contributes significantly to the implementation of PUI to the benefit of districts facing social problems with highly diversified operations (social inclusion, economic development) often complex to set up for administrative and technical reasons.

³⁸ The AIR Midi-Pyrénées mentions that there has been in 2011 an additional number passengers/km of 10 million.

An overview of Achievements in CBC Programmes

The presentation of projects implemented, results and outputs, greatly differs from one AIR to another. While AIRs France(Manche)-Angleterre and Amazonie give rather clear information and sometimes detailed examples, it may be difficult to distinguish commitment from implementation in AIRs France-Suisse and Grande Région.

The major outputs and results are found so far in the RTDI, education and training sector, followed by culture, heritage and tourism, and sustainable development. There is in general a clear progress in results and outputs.

In the RTDI, education and training support, the number of partners involved (academics as well as business) has globally increased. The AIR Grande Région indicates that 155 R&D or HEI have been supported as well as 36 cooperation projects between centres of competences, and that 30 joint actions have been carried out; in parallel, 46 training sessions, and 12 actions in the field of higher education have been implemented and 15 health networks have been set up. In the Rhin Supérieur area, networks of research organisations, SMEs and innovation support organisations are now operational in the fields of energy and design, as well as a federation of ICT clusters; a joint higher education programme in chemistry has been set up as a part of 'Regio Chemica', as well as a network in the field of epileptology (SEEK) which has treated 132 new patients in 2011. The AIR France(Manche)-Angleterre indicates that 3 RTDI projects have been fully implemented. The AIR 2-Seas gives the example of the project ECOMIND³⁹, completed by 2011, which has produced 401 action plans for companies and provided guidance to 293 small businesses; the 2-Seas Programme has also been effective in the field of employment with the editing of a guide "10 Steps to Employment" within the SUCCES⁴⁰ project (to be completed by June 2013).

The France(Manche)-Angleterre Programme appears as particularly effective in the field of culture with 8 projects completed by end 2011. Grande Région has carried out 150 actions of cross-border 'cultural promotion' and about 30 actions of 'joint cultural supply'. With respect to tourism, Rhin Supérieur has edited a bilingual edition of the famous *Guide Rouge Michelin*, set up cruise packages on the Rhine, and provided training to professionals of the tourism sector. Grande Région has also carried out actions of promotion of tourism.

In the field of sustainable development, the AIR 2-Seas indicates that the number of projects encouraging and improving the joint protection and management of the environment has significantly improved, as well as the number of organisations involved as partners; actions have been carried out in particular in the fields of water management, waste management and sustainable use of resources. Grande Région has carried out successfully 265 actions in the field of energy efficiency, 27 in the field of renewable energies, 16 in waste management and processing, and 320 for the management of natural resources. The AIR Rhin Supérieur signals the achievement of a study dedicated to explore the opportunities for reducing the use of phytosanitary products in the artificially humid zones of the area (within the project PhytoRET).

We have so far let apart the outputs and results mentioned in the AIR Amazonie in so far as they significantly differ. They mainly focus on: transportation (studies concerning the crossing of the

³⁹ Environmental Market and Innovation Development.

⁴⁰ Sustainable Uplifted Centred Employment Support.

Maroni river and 'air integration'⁴¹), ICT (market study for a backbone link between Guyane, the Brazilian State of Amapa and Suriname), and sustainable development (access to drinkable waters through drilling of wells; sustainable management of the Maroni estuary; first outputs of two programmes concerning sea tortoises regarding both their preservation and touristic facilities for watching them). These achievements reflect the specificities of the Amazonie programme and the needs of the area.

3. EFFECTS OF INTERVENTION

What has been said in the 2011 report remains in general valid.

The analysis of the effects of ERDF intervention remains however hampered by the lack in the AIRs of elements relating the data on outputs and achievements to the national – and to a large extent also to the regional – policy framework, as already emphasised. The vision given by the AIRs (and by a majority of mid-term evaluations as well) is thus both fragmentary and 'disembodied': no larger vision is given and 'flesh on the bones' is skinny.

The effects of ERDF intervention are necessarily limited in the French C&E regions because of the amount of financial allocations. However, ERDF interventions may have long-term effects when there is a clear convergence between EU strategic orientations and national ones, as happens in the field of RTDI and competitiveness.

The SRIs carried out in 2009 with ERDF support have started to be effectively implemented, in particular through the creation or reshuffling of regional innovation networks aimed at making more efficient the public support to innovative projects and innovative enterprises. The interest in and commitment to innovation support policies of most politicians and officials at regional level (State and regional administrations) have been reinforced as illustrated in the introduction of 'I' for innovation in a new generation of regional strategic documents. A good example is provided by Region Rhône-Alpes where the SRDE becomes the Regional Scheme for Economic Development and Innovation (*Stratégie régionale de développement économique et d'innovation*), and the Regional Scheme for Higher Education and Research (*Schémas Régionaux d'Enseignement Supérieur et de Recherche*) turns into the Regional Scheme for Higher Education, Research and Innovation (*Schéma Régional de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation*).

The SRIs have contributed significantly across all French regions to the 'homogenisation' of interest in innovation and spreading a 'culture of innovation' in State and regional administrations. The SRIs had a clear impact on raising awareness of the importance of a more demand-oriented (in particular with respect to SMEs) and project-based (as against a 'window-based') approach, giving more weight to non-technological innovation and innovation in services, as well as to financial engineering. It must be added that, although there have been difficulties (administrative and technical) in using ERDF in the field of financial engineering, the first results obtained in Languedoc-Roussillon with JEREMIE have raised interest among regional authorities, which have become less distrustful than previously toward financial engineering instruments⁴².

⁴¹ Opportunities of Cayenne airport for becoming a regional hub or platform.

⁴² Interview with representatives from the *Association des Régions Françaises* (ARF).

In parallel, ERDF supports collaborative (public research-enterprises) R&D projects of innovation-driven clusters, i.e. 'poles of competitiveness' and regional clusters supported by national and regional policies. It thus reinforces the efforts of these policies for bridging the gap between industry and the academic community. Moreover, the recent evaluation of the 'poles of competitiveness' policy (evaluation of the national policy and individual evaluations of the 71 poles) shows that this initiative has been effective and had a positive impact in terms of competitiveness of the enterprises involved, attractiveness of the regions concerned, and structuring of RTDI networks. Since 2005, the collaborative R&D projects carried out within the poles have generated more than 2,500 innovations (mainly product and process innovation) and about 100 start-ups.

In the field of sustainable development, there has been in 2011 a rather clear concentration of ERDF funding on energy efficiency and renewable energies investment in social housing. It can thus be considered that ERDF intervention is playing a non-negligible role in supporting both the French energy efficiency and social housing policy.

The effects of ERDF intervention on the urban districts facing social problems (*'quartiers sensibles'*) seem to be more questionable: within the PUI, the OPs generally support small operations: the lack of concentration results in 'sprinkling' practices which limit the impact of ERDF funding. However, some revisions of ERDF co-funding of PUI may change the situation.

In the Convergence regions, where the weight of ERDF funding is much larger, according to the interviews carried out, the effects of ERDF intervention significant in education and training (although the ERDF allocation to Human Resources is limited by comparison to ESF), and protection of the environment.

Finally, concerning the role of ERDF support in combating the effects of the crisis, the 2010 *Plan de relance* had helped to accelerate the absorption of the ERDF support for the knowledge economy (R&D infrastructure), energy efficiency and renewable energies, and transport (and to some extent ICT) infrastructure. In 2011 and first half of 2012, there has been in fact a significant acceleration of the commitment rate as previously stressed. The level of national and regional public investment has been maintained so far; as a consequence, it can be claimed that, at least in some regions, ERDF played a modest role in combating recession in 2009 and contributed to the 2010 and 2011 fragile recovery, in particular to the benefit of fragile sectors and innovative businesses⁴³.

4. EVALUATIONS AND GOOD PRACTICE IN EVALUATION

As indicated in the 2011 Report, DATAR, with its department "Regional Development and EU Policies", has an overall responsibility for evaluations concerning ERDF OPs and CPERs.

Due to the problems concerning the monitoring of the implementation through indicators, it is important to underline that DATAR itself and the national evaluation body have ordered a study "Diagnostic of the regional monitoring system"⁴⁴ which has led to an action plan⁴⁵. The objective

⁴³ Evaluation à mi-parcours du PO FEDER 2007-2013 Midi-Pyrénées, November 2010.

⁴⁴ Analyse des systèmes de suivi régionaux des PO et des CPER, Ernst & Young, June 2010.

⁴⁵ [http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Extranet/Espace-Evaluation/Ressources-documentaires/Courrier-DATAR-Suites-du-diagnostic-du-systeme-de-suivi-des-PO-et-CPER/\(language\)/fre-FR](http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Extranet/Espace-Evaluation/Ressources-documentaires/Courrier-DATAR-Suites-du-diagnostic-du-systeme-de-suivi-des-PO-et-CPER/(language)/fre-FR)

was to make available complete and homogeneous information necessary for carrying out monitoring, evaluation and communication actions at national and regional level.

The national evaluation orientations and the regional evaluation plans are globally implemented as illustrated hereafter and the 2011 AIRs of the regions in which mid-term evaluations and thematic evaluations (CPER and OP) had already been carried out indicate that these evaluations have been feeding the OP mid-term revisions.

Main points from previous country report:

- A large majority of regions had decided to carry out a mid-term evaluation.
- Mid-term evaluations had not led to 'revolutionary' conclusions, confirming in general the relevance of the strategic orientations, and they had led accordingly to relatively minor changes in the mid-term revisions.
- A large majority of thematic evaluations had been carried out in the policy area Enterprise environment and RTDI.
- Only few regional evaluations had been made public.
- Evaluation methods had remained 'classical' without any significant methodological innovation, such as counterfactual analysis or use of econometric models.

The evaluations listed in the 2011 report are to be found in Annex Table C. The new evaluations are the following ones:

Table 5 – Evaluations and studies carried out to assess the Cohesion Policy performance since the 2011 Report

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
France: Knowing EU programmes – What are funding ERDF OPs 2007-2013 15 June 2012	9	Review of the mid-term evaluations carried out in the French regions by 2010 - Mid-term review with a focus on thematic and beneficiaries 2	Acceleration of the commitment rate to be kept – strong priority given to research & innovation in the C&E regions and to protection of the environment in the Convergence regions – ERDF has a real leverage effect – Public sector is the main beneficiary on the average (but not for RTDI, energy, adaptation to change, social inclusion) – Within the business sector, SMEs are the main beneficiaries	http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Centre-de-ressources/Etudes-rapports-et-documentation/Connaitre-les-programmes-europeens-Que-financent-les-PO-FEDER-2007-2013-Bilan-a-mi-parcours-sur-les-themes-et-les-beneficiaires
France: Knowing EU programmes – Synthesis of the mid-term regional evaluations of ERDF OPs 2007-2013 22 December 2011	9	Synthesis of the mid-term regional evaluations: giving focused insights without pretending to a global vision, it reflects the position of the evaluators, but not necessarily the position of DATAR and managing authorities 2	The crisis does not question the relevance of the programme – Coherence ERDF-ESF to be improved – Good linkage with the <i>Grenelle de l'Environnement</i> – A restricted approach of sustainable development – Good dynamics of energy efficiency and renewable energies projects – A recognized added value of OPs, but implementation and guidance should be improved – Recommendations more focused on modalities of implementation than on strategy	http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Centre-de-ressources/Etudes-rapports-et-documentation/Connaitre-les-programmes-europeens-Synthese-des-evaluations-regionales-a-mi-parcours-des-PO-FEDER-2007-2013
France: Report TIPTAP on the analysis of territorial impacts of EU agricultural and transport policies 1 September 2011	7	Provide an instrument of territorial impact analysis which can be used to assess the EU agricultural and transport policies 3		http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Centre-de-ressources/Etudes-rapports-et-documentation/Rapport-TIPTAP-sur-l-analyse-des-impacts-territoriaux-des-politiques-europeennes-agricole-et-des-transport
France: Knowing EU programmes – Mid-term analysis of the carbon neutrality of the projects 1 June 2011	5+6	Provide a state of the art of the carbon neutrality of OPs and CPER as of 12 May 2011 using the NECATER tool 2	Production of a joint Note (ADEME/DATAR/Ministry of Ecology on the instruments allowing to measure greenhouse gases	http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Centre-de-ressources/Etudes-rapports-et-documentation/Connaitre-les-programmes-europeens-Analyse-a-mi-parcours-de-la-neutralite-carbone-des-projets-par-NECATER
France: Guide for filling in national indicators 2007-2013 (6 April 2011)	8	Revised version of the Guide for filling in national indicators 2007-2013 1	This Guide integrates various changes regarding criteria for ICT and innovation, poles of competitiveness in the eco-tech sector, and some elements concerning the PRESAGE database	http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Extranet/Espace-Evaluation/Ressources-documentaires/Derniere-version-du-guide-de-renseignement-des-indicateurs-

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
				nationaux-2007-2013-06-04-2011
Guyane: Mid-term evaluation of the ESF OP	9	Provide a complement to the mid-term evaluation of the CPER and ERDF OP 2	Slowing down of the initial dynamics of the SRI and hesitations regarding its strategic steering – too few enterprises among the beneficiaries of RTDI support measures	http://www.datar.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/guyane_rapp_final_eval_mi-parcours_po_feder_cper.pdf
Guadeloupe: Foresight analysis for the use of 'clean' vehicles in the Southern small islands of the archipelago (La Désirade, Les Saintes, Marie-Galante)	4	Thematic evaluation 2	-	N/A
Guadeloupe: Study on job opportunities in the waste treatment sector	5+10	Thematic evaluation 2	-	N/A
Martinique: Mid-term evaluation of the CPERD	9	Mid-term evaluation of the Contrat de Projet État-Région-Département. 2	-	N/A
Martinique: Review and perspectives of 'eco-conditionalities' in the ERDF OP	5+10	Provide the tools for complying with changes in regulations – Simplify the 'eco-conditionalities' 2	-	N/A
Martinique: Internal evaluation of the measure 'support to freight' of the ERDF OP	4	Thematic evaluation 2	-	N/A
La Réunion: Setting up of a monitoring instrument for the follow up of the interactions ERDF/ESF in the urban districts facing social problems	7	Thematic evaluation 2	-	Work in progress
La Réunion: Evaluation of the specific allocation aimed at compensating the extra charges resulting from the handicaps of the Outermost regions (ERDF)	9	Thematic evaluation 2	-	Work in progress
La Réunion: Mid-term evaluation of communication on EU programmes	9	1	-	N/A

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
Aquitaine: Regional evaluation of calls for proposals concerning PV solar installations integrated to buildings 2007-2008 (PRAE/CPER/ERDF)	5+6	Thematic evaluation 2	-	www.europe-en-aquitaine.eu
Centre: Evaluation of the urban strand of the ERDF OP	7	Thematic evaluation 2	Some lack of coherence between the policy of integrated urban development and the cohesion policy – some lack of coherence at operational level between ERDF and ESF interventions	http://www.datar.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/centrefeder_voleturbain_rapportfinal.pdf
Alsace: Assessment of the experience concerning the transfer of the management of the ERDF OP to the regional authorities	8	Alsace has been so far the only region in which the management of the ERDF OP was transferred to the regional authorities. In consequence, the assessment of this experience may be of interest for future similar transfers 1		N/A
Basse-Normandie: Evaluation of how the transversal priority 'gender equal opportunities' has been taken into account in CPER and ERDF OP	10	Thematic evaluation 2	The transversal priority is not still considered as an 'axis of progress'	http://www.datar.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/egalite-hf-bn.pdf
Basse-Normandie: Evaluation of the 'valorisation' of the results of public and/or private research to the benefit of businesses and in particular of SMEs and micro-enterprises ⁴⁶	1+2	Thematic evaluation 2+3	-	N/A
Bourgogne: Study on the access to infrastructure and equipment in communities	7	Thematic evaluation 2	-	N/A
Champagne-Ardenne: Study on governance regarding the preparation and	8	Prepare for the next programming period 1	-	N/A

⁴⁶ Carried out by Technopolis ITD.

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
implementation of Structural Funds programmes and <i>contractualisation</i> after 2013 ⁴⁷				
Franche-Comté: Evaluation concerning the competitiveness of regional <i>filières</i>	1+2	Thematic evaluation 2+3	-	N/A
Haute-Normandie: Evaluation of the actions of the regional innovation agency	1+2	Thematic evaluation 2	-	N/A
Languedoc-Roussillon: Evaluation of the impact of ERDF OP and CPER on regional employment	3+10	Impact assessment 3	-	N/A
Lorraine: Evaluation of the Scientific & Technological Research Poles (PRST) ⁴⁸	1+2	Thematic evaluation of PRST funded by CPER 2	PRST have allowed for some groupings of research labs and teams. However, they have not been sufficiently focused and their relation with the regional economic fabric and the regional economic major stakes should be improved taking account of the new academic context (single University of Lorraine)	N/A
Lorraine: Assessment of the ERDF OP and CPER concerning the fight against climate change	5+10	Thematic evaluation 2	Targeted priorities and organisations insufficiently defined – limited external coherence with other actions – insufficient ‘readability’ of procedures	http://www.datar.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/lorraine_changement_climatique_rapport_final_mai2011.pdf
Pays de la Loire: Evaluation of the impact of collective actions in terms of innovation on the regional <i>filières</i>	1+2	Thematic evaluation 3	-	N/A
Pays de la Loire: Study on the identification of barriers to and opportunities for innovation, concerning the relations between enterprises and research labs	1+2	Thematic evaluation 2	-	N/A
Nord Pas de Calais: Foresight and strategic study concerning higher education and research	1+2+3	Thematic evaluation 2	-	N/A

⁴⁷ Study carried out by taking into account the modalities of implementation of Structural Funds 2007-2013 and considering the perspective open by the reform of local and regional authorities decided in 2011.

⁴⁸ Carried out by Technopolis-ITD.

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope (*)	Main objectives and focus (*)	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
Picardie: The contribution of ERDF OP and CPER to the implementation of the regional research & innovation system	1+2	Thematic evaluation 3	-	N/A
Picardie: State of the art concerning the Picardie territories	7	Perspectives taking account of the 2007-13 experience for the aftermath 2014-20 2	-	N/A
Poitou-Charentes: Evaluation of the leverage effect of the ERDF OP ⁴⁹	9	3	-	N/A
PACA: Evaluation of the communication plan	9	1	-	N/A
Rhône-Alpes: Evaluation study of the added value brought by the CPER	9	3	-	N/A
Rhône-Alpes: Evaluation of how the transversal priority 'gender equal opportunities' has been taken into account in the and ERDF, ESF and EARDF	10	Thematic evaluation 2	-	N/A

Sources: DATAR and AIRs 2011

Note: (*) Legend:

Policy area and scope: 1. RTDI; 2. Enterprise support and ICT; 3. Human Resources (ERDF only); 4. Transport; 5. Environment; 6. Energy; 7. Territorial development (urban areas, tourism, rural development, cultural heritage, health, public security, local development); 8. Capacity and institution building; 9. Multi-area (e.g. evaluations of programmes, mid-term evaluations); 10. Transversal aspects (e.g. gender or equal opportunities, sustainable development, employment)

Main objective and focus: 1. assess the arrangements and procedures for managing or administering programmes; 2. support monitoring, or check the progress made in implementing programmes, such as many mid-term evaluations; 3. assess the outcome or effects of programmes in terms of the results achieved and their contribution to attaining socio-economic policy objectives

⁴⁹ Carried out by Technopolis ITD.

As announced in the 2011 Report, DATAR department has realised a synthesis of mid-term evaluations by December 2011. This synthesis has been complemented in June 2012 by a review of the mid-term evaluation with a focus on thematic and beneficiaries. The main findings of these two documents are summarised in the Table 5 above.

In comparison with the points emphasised in the 2011 Report, it can be said that:

- The revisions of the OPs appear to have been to some extent more important as illustrated by the shifts observed in the allocations to the various policy areas, due to the crisis.
- There has been, as expected, a diversification in the thematic evaluations with more evaluation on issues of territorial development, energy, and equal opportunities; however, a number of evaluation have still been carried out in the policy area 'Enterprise Development and RTDI'.
- Evaluation methods have remained 'classical' (desk research, interviews, case studies, sometimes surveys, but no counterfactual evaluation)
- As underlined in the synthesis of mid-term evaluations of December 2011: the recommendations coming out of these evaluations are rarely of a strategic nature; the best practices identified in other regions/countries are not put in evidence for providing recommendations; the assessment of the relevance of the programmes and their priorities is rather limited; there is a lack of analysis focused on the largest projects; the relationship between the funds appears very difficult to assess; the diffusion of the evaluation reports should be improved and enlarged.
- Globally, the mid-term evaluations reflect some effort to improve the quality of evaluations; however, as the AIRs, they are still lacking in general of a broader vision and of a reference to the national and regional policy context, thus making them a sort of 'mechanical' or instrumental exercise, not allowing really for understanding what ERDF brings (or does not bring) to specific national/regional policies and to the implementation of regional strategies.

It must be emphasised that, apart from the evaluations related to CPER and OPs, other evaluation studies of some importance in relation to the cohesion policy have been carried out in 2011-12 such as for instance:

- the evaluation of the 'Plan *PME Outre-mer* – strands Competitiveness, Innovation and Access to Finance;
- the evaluation of the policy of 'Poles of Competitiveness'⁵⁰.

The latter includes the evaluation of the national policy of *pôles de compétitivité* and of the 71 individual poles. It was all the more important since there are now significant outputs and results (there were only few at the moment of the first evaluation which took place in 2008). It had been prepared on the basis of a preliminary work done within the *Observatoire des pôles de*

⁵⁰ Carried out by the consortium BeraingPoint/Erdyn/Technopolis-ITD. See: <http://competitivite.gouv.fr/l-evaluation-de-la-2e-phase-de-la-politique-des-poles/le-rapport-complet-de-l-evaluation-888.html>

*compétitivité*⁵¹, focusing on methodology and comparisons with similar evaluations in Austria (Lower Austria), Belgium (the Walloon Region) and Germany (the BioRegio programme).

The evaluation of the poles has relied in particular on: an e-survey of managers of poles in order to complement the data collected by DATAR and the Directorate-General for Competitiveness, Industry and Services (*Direction Générale Compétitivité Innovation Services*, Ministry of Economy and Finance); an in-depth analysis of the R&D collaborative projects carried out by the poles, of their funding modalities, results and impact; an e-survey of beneficiaries (enterprises, research organisations, universities, higher education institutions) of the R&D collaborative projects; an analysis of the networking resulting from the poles and of their governance system. It is one of the major evaluation studies carried out in Europe on innovation-driven clusters. Among its main conclusions: the poles have been effective in achieving collaborative R&D projects which have delivered innovations (mainly product and process innovations), improving the relationship between public research and industry, and structuring the 'innovation ecosystem'; however, information is rather poor on how many innovations have gone to the market with, accordingly, doubts on the market orientations of the R&D projects; in addition, the financing of the ultimate stages of commercialisation appears as rather unsatisfactory.

5. FURTHER REMARKS - NEW CHALLENGES FOR POLICY

Main points from previous country report:

- In 2010 there had been a clear catching up of commitment and implementation in the policy area 'Energy and Environment', while the policy area 'Enterprise Development' had remained ahead.
- However, the implementation rate was still globally disappointing in all policy areas because of a strong predominance of small-scale projects (e.g.: access to employment, human capital, biodiversity), which hampered the visibility of and strategic effects of ERDF interventions.
- Projects with well-identified operators and/or which were related to robust national (and sometimes) regional policies were the most effective and easier to implement. This observation remains in general valid.

In 2011 and first half of 2012, there has been a new and decisive leap forward in commitment across all policy areas, except 'Transport'. In parallel, there was a duplication of the implementation rate, but DATAR data (as of 21 June 2012) show that the implementation rates of the various policy areas significantly differ. Moreover, the average amount of the projects supported is under or very close to EUR 0.5 million (total cost) in tourism, information society, environment and prevention of risks, energy and human resources. The smallest projects on the average are found in environment and prevention of risks, human capital and access to employment. The average size of energy projects and urban/rural rehabilitation projects has increased which is coherent with the importance taken by projects in social housing for energy, and with changes in PUI for urban rehabilitation projects.

⁵¹ Evaluer la politique des pôles de compétitivité: quels principes, quels usages ?, Emilie-Pauline Gallié and Frédérique Pallez, February 2011.

In conclusion, it is essential to emphasise that the remainder of the programming period and the completion of the implementation will surely be affected by a new context.

On the economic side, the crisis has dramatically deepened from the end of 2011⁵², and budget constraints (which had been so far more of a threat than a reality) may have a serious impact on national as well as regional investment. It must be added that a local and regional tax on business (*taxe professionnelle*) has been removed in 2011 and replaced by a compensatory State subsidy, the amount of which probably risks suffering from the budgetary constraints.

At the same time, the government is currently pressing the managing authorities for “mobilising ERDF in favour of growth and jobs”⁵³. It contemplates the opportunities for increasing the rate of EU co-funding, the reduction in some cases (“à la marge”) of the ear-marking rate, and an acceleration of the processing of proposals for large-scale projects (“*grand projets*”). Finally, it gives two major orientations: accelerate commitment in favour of projects able to bring growth and jobs; accelerate payments through a better management. It is interesting to note the examples that the government gives of projects bringing growth and jobs: innovation, research, ICT, energy efficiency and renewable energies in housing, support to SMEs in particular through new financial instruments. Not surprisingly, we find here both the projects which are globally running rather well, and the increased use of financial engineering instruments which are expected to be of an enlarged importance in the next programming period.

On the political side, the context is brand new with a socialist President and a centre-left government. Three issues may have an impact on the end of the current programming period: the regional development policy; the institutional competences of regional and local authorities; and the new ‘Pact for Competitiveness’.

The regional development policy had been so far, under conservative governments, mainly oriented toward a ‘pick the winners’ approach, especially with the ‘poles of competitiveness’ programme. This approach had remained ‘soft’ for a long time with a total of 71 poles (the selection process was not severe...) to which could be added about 130 small clusters (*grappes d’entreprises*) also supported by a national programme. In 2010-11, the new programme ‘Investments for the Future’ (*Investissements d’Avenir*) has resulted in a more characterised concentration of resources on some hotspots of RTDI. The new government intends to turn DATAR into a ‘*Commissariat général à l’égalité des territoires*’: this appellation seems in contradiction with a ‘pick the winners’ approach.

The previous government had decided a ‘territorial reform’ aimed at simplifying to some extent the different layers of local and regional authorities, in particular by privileging the regional and metropolitan area (*agglomération*) level. The new government intends to come back on this reform, but also to enlarge the ‘decentralisation’ process to the benefit of regions: regional authorities would have larger powers in the field of economy development, and R&I, and would become Structural Funds managing authorities which could change significantly the context for the use and management of ERDF.

⁵² The unemployment rate has reached 10% in the course of 2012 and the number of unemployed is expected to reach 3 million people by the beginning of 2013.

⁵³ Circulaire du Premier Ministre aux Préfets de Région et au Président du Conseil régional d’Alsace, 27 août 2012 (n°5603/SG).

Finally, the 'Pact for Competitiveness' adopted in November 2012 includes a package of measures aimed at improving the overall competitiveness of the French productive system either through lowering labour costs or through strengthening support to innovation; the latter type of measures is of course in line with ERDF priorities.

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a) Nation-wide evaluations across operational programmes:

- Connaître les programmes européens – que financent les PO FEDER 2007-2013 ? Bilan à mi-parcours sur les thèmes et les bénéficiaires, DATAR, 15 juin 2012
- Connaître les programmes européens – Synthèse des évaluations régionales à mi-parcours des PO FEDER 2007-2013, DATAR, 22 décembre 2011
- Rapport TIPTAP sur l'analyse des impacts territoriaux des politiques européennes agricole et des transports, DATAR, 1^{er} septembre 2011
- Guide de renseignement des indicateurs nationaux 2007-2013, DATAR, 6 avril 2011

b) Evaluations of specific operational programmes (see Table 5)

c) Evaluations of specific aspects of operational programmes:

- Evaluation à mi-parcours des Contrats de Projets Etat-Région – Volet Enseignement supérieur et Recherche, DATAR, Avril 2011
- Evaluation nationale du volet ferroviaire et TCSP des CPER 2007-2013, Ernst & Young, Février 2011

2. Other relevant research studies and impact assessments carried out in the Member State:

- Study on the Growth Factors in the Outermost Regions, Ismeri Europa and ITD-Eu, 2011

3. Other references

- Annual Implementation Reports 2011 (2012)
- Etude d'évaluation des pôles de compétitivité (DATAR / Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances), BearingPoint / Erdyn / Technopolis-ITD, juin 2012
- Overview of financial instruments used in the EU multiannual financial framework period 2007-2013 and the Commission's proposals for 2014-2020, European Parliament, DG for Internal Policies, Policy Department D, Budgetary Affairs, 2012.
- Evaluation du Plan PME Outre-mer, volets Compétitivité, Innovation, Accès aux financements (Ministère en charge de l'Outre-mer), Technopolis-ITD, avril 2012
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- Financial engineering Instruments Implemented by Member States with ERDF Contributions (Programming Period 2007-2013), European Commission, DG Regional Policy, Unit D3 Financial Engineering, Major Projects, Synthesis Report, Situation as at 31 December 2010

INTERVIEWS

- DATAR, Équipe Europe :
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 - Martinique : Marie-Claude Derné, SGAR, Cellule Europe
 - Languedoc-Roussillon : Gisèle Crousier, Directrice adjointe, Développement des Entreprises
 - Rhône-Alpes : Frédéric Gaffiot, Directeur, Enseignement supérieur et Recherche ; Philippe Cuntigh, Chargé de mission

ANNEX 1 - EVALUATION GRID FOR EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE IN EVALUATION

Evaluation Grid A: Study on the evaluation of the 'pôles de compétitivité'

BASIC INFORMATION	
Country: France	
Policy area: Enterprise support, RTDI	
Title of evaluation and full reference: Study on the evaluation of the 'pôles de compétitivité'	
Intervention period covered: 2008-2011	
Timing of the evaluation: 2011-12	
Budget: EUR 600,000	
Evaluator: External evaluator	
Method: a mix of methods (desk research, data processing and quantitative analysis, interviews at national level and in each pole, e-surveys, process analysis, analysis of outcomes and impact, a little bit of counterfactual analysis)	
Main objectives and main findings: Objectives: evaluate the national policy and programme 'pôles de compétitivité' and evaluate the 71 poles individually Main findings: the programme had on the whole positive effects (bringing closer research and business, networking between regional actors, collaborative R&D projects, 2500 innovations, 100 start-ups, patents and licenses, etc.), but R&D projects are rather often not sufficiently market-oriented, and the follow-up of the innovations should be improved; 15 poles have excellent results while 16 have insufficient results	
Appraisal: 1) the evaluation was based on large e-surveys which allowed for having a reliable feedback from beneficiaries (enterprises, research labs, universities and HEIs); 2) it contains clearly formulated recommendations (strategic and operational); 3) the individual evaluation 'fiches' of the poles are very detailed, they contain clear recommendations, and there is a follow-up with a meeting with the 16 'less performing' poles	
CHECK LIST	
Score each item listed below from 0 to 2 as follows: 0: No; 1: Yes, but not fully; 2: Yes	
Report	
Are the objectives, methods and findings of the evaluation clearly set out?	2
Are the findings and recommendations clearly supported by the analysis?	2
Are the methods used suitable given the objectives of the evaluation and have they been well applied?	2
Are the quantitative and qualitative data used reliable and suitable for the purpose of the evaluation?	1
Are the potential effects of other factors (e.g. the economic situation) on the outcome fully taken into account?	2
Is a serious attempt made to distinguish the effects of the intervention from these other factors?	2

Evaluation Grid B - Evaluation of the “Plan PME Outre-mer”, strands Competitiveness, Innovation, Access to Finance

BASIC INFORMATION	
Country: France	
Policy area: Enterprise support, RTDI	
Title of evaluation and full reference: Evaluation of the “Plan PME Outre-mer”, strands Competitiveness, Innovation, Access to Finance	
Intervention period covered: 2009-11	
Timing of the evaluation: 2011-12	
Budget: EUR 99,000	
Evaluator: External evaluator	
Method: a mix of methods (desk research, 200 interviews of which 90 business people, 4 field missions, quantitative and qualitative analysis)	
Main objectives and findings: Objectives: Assess the implementation and effects of the Plan with respect to the specific needs of the French outermost regions; formulate precise and operational recommendations concerning the changes to introduce; make concrete proposals for new possible instruments Main findings: lack of a clearly established governance system; lack of visibility because of an insufficient initial definition of the perimeter; all instruments are now effective and operational (some have taken a long time); lack of strategy and critical mass for equity and mezzanine financial instruments, but effects and impact of micro-finance and liquidity tools positive	
Appraisal: 1) field missions very effective; 2) 90 interviews of business people; 3) clearly formulated recommendations	
CHECK LIST	
Score each item listed below from 0 to 2 as follows: 0: No; 1: Yes, but not fully; 2: Yes	
Report	
Are the objectives, methods and findings of the evaluation clearly set out?	2
Are the findings and recommendations clearly supported by the analysis?	2
Are the methods used suitable given the objectives of the valuation and have they been well applied?	2
Are the quantitative and qualitative data used reliable and suitable for the purpose of the evaluation?	2
Are the potential effects of other factors (e.g. the economic situation) on the outcome fully taken into account?	2
Is a serious attempt made to distinguish the effects of the intervention from these other factors?	2

ANNEX 2 – TABLES

See Excel Tables 1 -4:

Excel Table 1 – Regional disparities and trends

Excel Table 2 – Macro-economic developments

Excel Table 3 - Financial allocation by main policy area

Excel Table 3cbc - Financial allocation by main policy area – cross-border cooperation

Excel Table 4 - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2011)

Excel Table 4cbc - Commitments by main policy area (by end-2011) – cross-border cooperation

Annex Table A - Broad policy areas and correspondence with fields of intervention (FOI)

Policy area		Code	Priority themes
1. Enterprise environment	RTDI and linked activities	01	R&TD activities in research centres
		02	R&TD infrastructure and centres of competence in a specific technology
		05	Advanced support services for firms and groups of firms
		07	Investment in firms directly linked to research and innovation (...)
		74	Developing human potential in the field of research and innovation, in particular through post-graduate studies ...
	Innovation support for SMEs	03	Technology transfer and improvement of cooperation networks ...
		04	Assistance to R&TD, particularly in SMEs (including access to R&TD services in research centres)
		06	Assistance to SMEs for the promotion of environmentally-friendly products and production processes (...)
		09	Other measures to stimulate research and innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs
		14	Services and applications for SMEs (e-commerce, education and training, networking, etc.)
		15	Other measures for improving access to and efficient use of ICT by SMEs
	ICT and related services	11	Information and communication technologies (...)
		12	Information and communication technologies (TEN-ICT)
		13	Services and applications for citizens (e-health, e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, etc.)
	Other investment in firms	08	Other investment in firms
2. Human resources	Education and training	62	Development of life-long learning systems and strategies in firms; training and services for employees ...
		63	Design and dissemination of innovative and more productive ways of organising work
		64	Development of special services for employment, training and support in connection with restructuring of sectors ...
		72	Design, introduction and implementing of reforms in education and training systems ...

Policy area		Code	Priority themes
	Labour market policies	73	Measures to increase participation in education and training throughout the life-cycle ...
		65	Modernisation and strengthening labour market institutions
		66	Implementing active and preventive measures on the labour market
		67	Measures encouraging active ageing and prolonging working lives
		68	Support for self-employment and business start-up
		69	Measures to improve access to employment and increase sustainable participation and progress of women ...
		70	Specific action to increase migrants' participation in employment ...
		71	Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people ...
		80	Promoting the partnerships, pacts and initiatives through the networking of relevant stakeholders
3. Transport	Rail	16	Railways
		17	Railways (TEN-T)
		18	Mobile rail assets
		19	Mobile rail assets (TEN-T)
	Road	20	Motorways
		21	Motorways (TEN-T)
		22	National roads
		23	Regional/local roads
	Other transport	24	Cycle tracks
		25	Urban transport
		26	Multimodal transport
		27	Multimodal transport (TEN-T)
		28	Intelligent transport systems
		29	Airports
		30	Ports
31		Inland waterways (regional and local)	
32		Inland waterways (TEN-T)	
4. Environment and energy	Energy infrastructure	33	Electricity
		34	Electricity (TEN-E)
		35	Natural gas
		36	Natural gas (TEN-E)
		37	Petroleum products
		38	Petroleum products (TEN-E)
		39	Renewable energy: wind
		40	Renewable energy: solar
		41	Renewable energy: biomass
		42	Renewable energy: hydroelectric, geothermal and other
	43	Energy efficiency, co-generation, energy management	
	Environment and risk prevention	44	Management of household and industrial waste
		45	Management and distribution of water (drink water)
		46	Water treatment (waste water)
		47	Air quality
		48	Integrated prevention and pollution control
		49	Mitigation and adaption to climate change

Policy area		Code	Priority themes
		50	Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land
		51	Promotion of biodiversity and nature protection (including Natura 2000)
		52	Promotion of clean urban transport
		53	Risk prevention (...)
		54	Other measures to preserve the environment and prevent risks
5. Territorial development	Social Infrastructure	10	Telephone infrastructure (including broadband networks)
		75	Education infrastructure
		76	Health infrastructure
		77	Childcare infrastructure
		78	Housing infrastructure
	Tourism and culture	79	Other social infrastructure
		55	Promotion of natural assets
		56	Protection and development of natural heritage
		57	Other assistance to improve tourist services
		58	Protection and preservation of the cultural heritage
		59	Development of cultural infrastructure
	Planning and rehabilitation	60	Other assistance to improve cultural services
		61	Integrated projects for urban and rural regeneration
	Other	82	Compensation of any additional costs due to accessibility deficit and territorial fragmentation
		83	Specific action addressed to compensate additional costs due to size market factors
6. Technical assistance		84	Support to compensate additional costs due to climate conditions and relief difficulties
		81	Mechanisms for improving good policy and programme design, monitoring and evaluation ...
		85	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection
		86	Evaluation and studies; information and communication

Annex Table B – Commitment (ERDF) and Implementation (Total paid) rates (%)

Regional and Pluri-regional OPs	ERDF Committed	Paid Total
<i><u>Competitiveness & Employment Regions</u></i>		
<i>C&E Regions</i>		
Alsace	69.9	45.9
Aquitaine	75.1	44.8
Auvergne	76.8	59.4
Basse-Normandie	64.7	46.9
Bourgogne	75.0	40.5
Bretagne	66.6	31.7
Centre	76.4	40.4
Champagne-Ardenne	59.6	34.2
Corse	75.4	31.0
Franche-Comté	74.0	53.4
Haute-Normandie	69.7	35.3
Ile de France	74.9	35.4
Languedoc-Roussillon	71.2	51.4
Limousin	73.7	54.3
Lorraine	62.1	52.8
Midi-Pyrénées	82.8	52.5
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	70.1	33.7
PACA	71.7	37.2
Pays de la Loire	63.5	38.2
Picardie	72.9	31.1
Poitou-Charentes	78.3	62.1
Rhône-Alpes	81.1	53.2
<i>Pluri-regional OPs</i>		
PO plurirégional Alpes	51.3	37.0
PO plurirégional Massif Central	72.9	30.5
PO plurirégional Loire	72.2	37.1
PO plurirégional Rhône	59.7	31.5
<i>Total C&E</i>		
TOTAL	72.0	42.9
<i><u>Convergence Regions</u></i>		
Guadeloupe	66.6	28.7
Guyane	71.2	35.4
Martinique	69.8	31.3
Réunion	58.3	39.4
<i>Total Convergence</i>		
TOTAL	64.1	34.8

Annex Table C – Evaluations CPER and ERDF OPs listed in the 2011 Report

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope	Main objectives	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
France: Mid-term evaluation of CPER/Higher Education and Research (2010-11)	Enterprise environment and RTDI Human Resources	Identify major obstacles to the implementation of projects and operations – Assess the coherence of initial and actual objectives with other public policies and current reforms	The impact of national policies and reforms have been so far limited in the sample of regions reviewed – the so-called <i>Pôles de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur</i> and universities have become real actors	http://territoires.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/110415_datar_evaluation_volet_esr_cper_synthese.pdf
France: Evaluation of CPER / Railways and urban transportation (2010-11)	Transport and telecom	Assess the added value of CPER for the contractualisation of investments – analyse the modes of governance and the level of achievement of initial objectives	CPER is a relevant tool bringing a political and strategic added value	http://www.territoires.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/110316_datar_evaluation_volet_ferroviaire_cper_synthese.pdf
Aquitaine: ongoing evaluation	General	Establishment of scoreboards		
Aquitaine: Innovation and sustainable development in the CPER and EU programmes (November 2009)	Enterprise support and RTDI		Necessary to strengthen 'animation' and training and to set up a transversal monitoring of these fields with corresponding indicators	
Aquitaine: Study on the actions favouring ICT (1st semester 2010)	Transport and telecom	Envisage scenarios for the second programming period based on recent data and analysis of first results	Insufficient implementation, though progress of access to broadband	
Centre: Evaluation of the external coherence of CPER and OP (1st semester 2010)	General	Checking if strategic objectives are still valid	Good coherence with respect to the evolution of the economic context (only minor adaptations are needed)	
Centre: Innovation and economic change in the CPER, ERDF and ESF OPs (1er semester 2010)	Enterprise support and RTDI	Analysis of the state of advancement of the programmes in the field concerned	Strong coherence between SRI and ERDF OP – Innovation through services insufficiently taken into account – Implementation rate not satisfactory	
Centre: Evaluation of the efficiency of measure "Favouring a sustainable development of fragile urban areas" (to be started soon)	Territorial development			
Alsace: Evaluation of a measure supporting industrial real estate (1st semester 2010)	Enterprise support and RTDI	Assess the impact of incubators and hôtels d'entreprises on regional development and the economic dynamics of territories	Combine proximity with potential creators of new businesses, revitalisation of old industrial sites, and support services to new businesses	
Alsace: Evaluation concerning the implementation and governance of the OP (started 2nd	General	Improve programming and management		

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope	Main objectives	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
semester 2010)				
Auvergne: ongoing evaluation	General			
Bourgogne: Diagnostic on the uses of ICT (2010)	Transport and telecom			
Bourgogne: Analysis of the implementation of transversal priorities (2010)	General			
Bretagne: Mid-term evaluation focused on innovation, environment and economic change (2010)	Enterprise support and RTDI Environment and energy		Deficit of 'project engineering' – Necessity for strengthening capacities for setting up European projects – Lack of flexibility in research – energy efficiency in social housing insufficiently taken into account	
Champagne-Ardenne: Mid-term evaluation (2010)	General		Not necessary to modify the initial strategy, but take into account the impact of the crisis and SRI recommendations	
Corse: Mid-term pluri-fund evaluation (2010)	General (CPER, ERDF OP, PDRC)			
Franche-Comté: Study on gender equality (2009-10)	Transversal			
Franche-Comté: Innovation, research and technology transfer	Enterprise support and RTDI			
Franche-Comté: Environment in CPER and OP (2010-11)	Environment and energy			
Haute-Normandie: Evaluation of the impact of collaborative projects (public research – business) (2010)	Enterprise support and RTDI	Assess the existing collaborations and the involvement of the different actors and their role in the development of research in the region – Identify strengths and weaknesses		
Ile-de-France: Mid-term evaluation (to be started)	General			
Languedoc-Roussillon: Evaluation of a measure of the OP "Encourage energy efficiency and the development of renewable energies, and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases	Environment and energy	Evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the measure – Measuring achievements and concrete outputs – Identifying changes that could be necessary with respect to EU, national and regional objectives	Very high level of commitment – Too many demands concerning PV solar equipment – Diversify support to other sources of renewable energies (energy mix)	

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope	Main objectives	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
emissions (2010)				
Languedoc-Roussillon: Evaluation of funding needs of collaborative R&D projects (2010)	Enterprise support and RTDI	Identifying hindrances and leverage effects – Assess the relevance with respect to the changes identified in the SRI	The measure favoured partnerships between SMEs and large companies, contributed to increase patents, opened new markets to SMEs, increased scientific publications in the labs involved, stimulated the relationship between SMEs and research and the development of new collaborative projects outside pôles de compétitivité	
Limousin: ongoing evaluation of the regional innovation reference framework (started 2010) (linked to the SRI)	Enterprise support and RTDI	Strengthen the value chain from research to commercialisation for the pôles de compétitivité ELOPSYS and Ceramics – Involve users/clients in the process of conception, experimentation and going on the market for innovative products and services		
Limousin: Mid-term evaluation (2010)	General		Relevance of the strategic orientations – Effectiveness of programmes – However: few actions in the field of environment; limited implementation of EU orientations regarding rural areas	
Lorraine: Evaluation of the Scientific and Technological Research Poles (PRST) (started early 2011)	Enterprise environment and RTDI			
Lorraine: Combating climate change (started September 2010)	Environment and energy	Review and assess CPER and OP actions – Check coherence with other measures in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energies – Assess the impact of new public policies and emerging needs		
Pays de la Loire: Mid-term evaluation (2010)	General	Improve commitment and implementation taking account of the change in the socio-economic context		
Nord-Pas-de-Calais: Mid-term evaluation (2010)	General	Prepare the mid-term revision	The OP is still relevant with respect to change in the economic context	
Nord-Pas-de-Calais : Evaluation of the project « Trame	Environment and energy	Identify project dynamics, assess leverage effect of	Relevance of the project and positive results – However, necessity for reconfirming	

Title and date of completion	Policy area and scope	Main objectives	Main findings	Full reference or link to publication
verte-trame bleue » (2010)		ERDF funding, assess good practices	operational objectives and adjust tools for the coming years	
Picardie: Mid-term evaluation (2010)	General			
Poitou-Charentes: Mid-term evaluation (starting September 2011)	General			
PACA: Mid-term evaluation (2010)	General	Prepare the mid-term revision	Implement the SRI – Take into account societal and territorial innovation more – identify better SME projects	
Midi-Pyrénées: Mid-term evaluation (2010)	General			
Rhône-Alpes: Mid-term evaluation with a focus on “Integrated Urban Projects” and sustainable development (2010)	General + Territorial development + Environment and energy	Prepare the mid-term revision	Good level of commitment due to efforts of ‘animation’ – The overall strategy remains relevant – Implementation tools have been renovated – Delays in commitment and implementation for urban projects – re-evaluate ambitions in relation to some sustainable development actions	
Rhône-Alpes: Study on the effects of CPER and OP on employment (started October 2010)	Human Resources	Establish a scoreboard of the impact on employment of economic development policies		
Guyane: Mid-term evaluation (started July 2010)	General	Assess the internal and external coherence CPER-OP – Assess the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance		Website DG REGIO
Guadeloupe: Mid-term evaluation (2009-10)	General			Annex to the AIR
Martinique: ongoing evaluation	General			
La Réunion: Mid-term evaluation of the integrated multi-fund strategy of the EU programmes (2010)	General			http://www.reunion-europe.org/UE_DOC-rapport_2007-2013.asp