

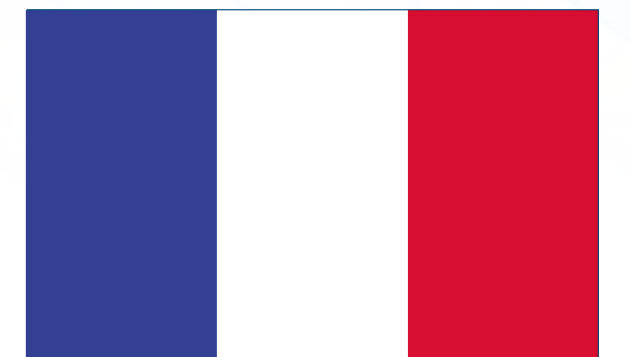
# th CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy

16-17 September 2021 Porto, Portugal

## Shaping Transitions with Evidence



### Impact evaluation of ERDF and EAFRD programmes for environmental protection and preservation in région Pays de la Loire



Région des Pays de la Loire

#### FUNDS COVERED

- ▶ ERDF, EAFRD

#### PROGRAMMING PERIOD

- ▶ 2014-2020

#### PROGRAMMES COVERED

- ▶ Regional ERDF programme 2014-2020 and regional rural development programme 2014-2020

#### THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

- ▶ T06. Environment and resource efficiency
- ▶ T09. Social inclusion

#### TYPE OF EVALUATION

- ▶ Impact



#### YEAR OF COMPLETION

- ▶ 2020

#### MAIN OBJECTIVES

The objective is to assess the impact of the 2014-2020 European funds on the environment in the region in terms of :

1. Relevance of the projects with local needs
2. Effectiveness of supported actions, leverage effects and added value
3. Coherence between the different interventions, synergies and complementarities
4. Efficiency of the interventions
5. Quality of implementation

Recommendations were formulated to improve the performance of interventions considering the evolution of the regulatory context.

#### METHODOLOGY USED

- ▶ Literature review
- ▶ Update of environmental situation
- ▶ Datamining of monitoring data and context indicators
- ▶ Interviews
- ▶ 7 thematic indepth analysis
- ▶ 25 projects indepth analysis
- ▶ Online survey towards beneficiaries
- ▶ Benchmark on 4 environmental priorities
- ▶ Recommendations workshop.

#### DATA SOURCES

- ▶ Literature
- ▶ Monitoring data
- ▶ Interviews
- ▶ Online survey
- ▶ Observed results in other regions.

#### MAIN FINDINGS

- ▶ Evaluators concluded on :
- ▶ **A strong relevance of interventions on specific environmental priorities:** territories exposed to flood risk, preservation of biodiversity, brownfield redevelopment and resilient agriculture
- ▶ **Complementarity and efficiency of ERDF / EAFRD** with sustainable impacts
- ▶ Important **leverage effect to maintain ongoing initiatives on protected areas** and ecological corridors
- ▶ **Important financial role for most expensive projects** whereas limited added value for smallest projects considering the administrative burden

#### ▶ Satisfaction of beneficiaries despite implementation difficulties

Recommendations for 2021-2027 programming period:

- ▶ Increase the activity on brownfield redevelopment through alternative funding sources
- ▶ Strengthen the regional dynamics towards biodiversity, actions towards coastline management et ERDF mobilisation for soft management
- ▶ Simplification rules.

#### CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Overall, the evaluation globally confirmed the complementarity of existing supports on environment and relevance with regards to the regional environmental situation. Several recommendations were made that will be taken into account to define the contents of the 2021-2027 programming period (starting in 2023 for EAFRD), in particular for targeting beneficiaries, intervention rates, complementarities of public financing, clarification of split lines in the sources of funding and simplification
- ▶ Evaluation conclusions will be presented in the next regional monitoring committee (mid 2021).