

**Using evidence to connect with
the themes of the Cohesion
Structural Funds 2014 - 20 and
develop project ideas**

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Common Strategic Framework

* Common Strategic Framework 2014-20 for

European Regional Development Fund

European Social Fund,

Cohesion Fund,

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

CSF links to

- * EU 2020 targets
- * Stronger urban focus
- * National Reform Programmes
- * Partnership Contracts

Partnership Contracts

- * The Partnership Contract should detail the main challenges that Member States intend to tackle,
- * Set out the main objectives and priorities,
- * Indicate the types of territories where the Community-Led Development approach should be implemented, and
- * Say what specific role will be attributed to the local action groups in its delivery.

Community-Led Local Development

- * Delegate decision-making and implementation for territorial development to a local partnership of public, private and civil society actors.
- * ‘Bottom-up’ definition of local needs must take account of priorities set at a higher level.
- * Member States have to define the approach to community-led local development across the CSF Funds and should include references to community-led local development in the Partnership Contracts.

Territorial Cohesion

- * Promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth with attention to the role of cities, rural areas, fisheries and coastal areas, areas facing specific geographical or demographic problems.
- * Specific challenges of the outermost regions, the northernmost regions with a very low population density and of island, cross-border or mountain regions.
- * Territorial cohesion also means addressing urban-rural linkages, in terms of access to affordable, quality infrastructures and services, and problems in regions with a high concentration of socially marginalised communities.

11 Thematic Objectives

1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
2. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of information and communication;
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture.
4. Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors;

Thematic Objectives

5. Promoting climate change adaptation and risk prevention and management;
6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency;
7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures;
8. Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility;

Thematic Objectives

9. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;
10. Investing in education, skills and life-long learning;
11. Enhancing institutional capacity and ensuring an efficient public administration.

Using evidence from ESPON: SMEs and agriculture

- * EDORA, PURR and GEOSPECS
- * New Rural Development Paradigm – bottom-up capitalising on local assets: PURR – People, Place and Power.
- * EDORA Scientific Working Paper 3 on Rural Business Development – business clusters, local networks with non-local links.
- * GEOSPECS – assets of these regions.

Project ideas

- * Innovative methods of service provision in rural areas – sustaining communities through essential services (e.g. shops, health care, schools, entertainment, transport).
- * Rural business network forum – looking at supply chains locally and marketing and new ideas transnationally.

Evidence on employment and labour mobility

- * ATTREG - almost all regions of Europe have some kind of “relative specialisation” with one or more factors that makes them attractive to specific audiences, or have the potential to do that provided the right policy and governance conditions are activated.
- * SEMIGRA – gender-aware policies can help retain and attract back potential migrants from rural regions

Project ideas

- * Targeting Silver Migrants – what can attract older people to a place? Quality of life indicators. Marketing. Use of family networks.
- * Targeting women migrants – work in schools; services and lifestyle offers; jobs profile.
- * Partnerships with higher education providers, link to further education and schools and employers.

Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

- * GREECO looks at “decoupling development from land take”.
- * EU-LUPA - “Land take by the expansion of residential areas and construction sites is the main cause of the increase in the coverage of urban land at the European level. Agricultural zones and, to a lesser extent, forests and semi-natural and natural areas, are disappearing in favour of the development of artificial surfaces.”

Project ideas

- * Local strategies to reduce land take for development – e.g. reuse of empty buildings, review of stock of publicly-owned land and buildings, higher density development and infill, sustainable drainage systems, soil de-sealing.
- * Sustainable waste management and recycling initiatives.

Sustainable transport ideas

- * Traffic management and road safety measures – safe routes to school, traffic calming, car sharing schemes.
- * Cycling – cycle routes, cycle hire schemes.

Climate change and risk management

- * GREECO - The existence of specific measures and legislation on risk prevention and management at regional level will be included in the analysis as one of the indicators conditioning the enabling conditions for green growth.
- * Project idea – local risk management and resilience plans.

Summary

- * Contract Agreements currently being worked on – they should influence the nature and scope of Community-Led Local Development.
- * Be aware of the 11 themes – though they may yet change. Which of them allows you to play to your strengths and needs?
- * Look to ESPON (www.espon.eu) for an evidence and research base to support proposals.