

LEADER as an object of scientific inquiry: overview on the research on LEADER and CLLD

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Introduction 1/1



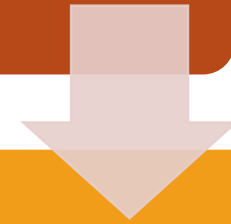
“Local” is a concept that has achieved political legitimacy in new national and international programme



Based on the principle of local partnerships between businesspeople, elected officials and voluntary-sector workers to design and implement development strategies, the LEADER approach is intended to exemplify cooperation and subsidiarity among stakeholders and thus contribute to strengthening local democracy.

Introduction 1/2

Most researchers agree that it is innovative (Osti, 2000) has the potential to be transferred to each Member State, since it offers them relative freedom of application and stimulates the INNOVATIVENESS of local stakeholders.



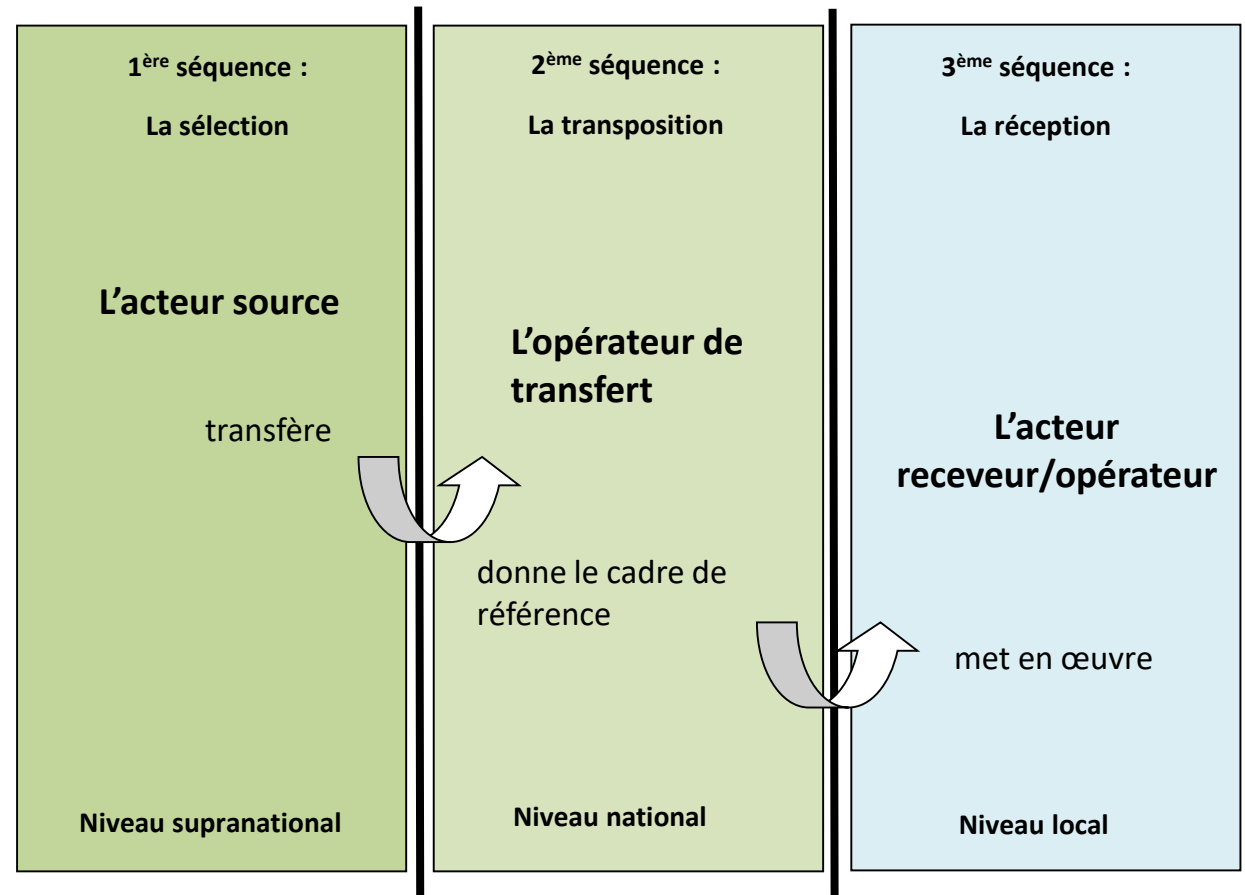
However, any attempt to interpret it – and the whole European rural development policy behind it – in a uniform manner involves a CONCEPTUAL ERROR , given the diversity of local forms and national contexts in which it operates.

Introduction 1/3

The analytical framework of "policy transfer studies"

The analytical framework of POLICY TRANSFER STUDIES that we have chosen to mobilize, allows us to

describe this transfer process by breaking it down into three sequences which constitute the thread of our research approach



The unfolding of LEADER as a policy

A

Transfer
mechanism
and
institutional
trajectories of
the public
action model

B

The LEADER
programme as
model of
institutional
transfer:
learning from its
local
implementation
in France, Spain
and Hungary

C

LEADER-
learning by
doing





A

*Transfer mechanism and institutionalization trajectories
of the public action model*

Management modalities revealing institutional trajectories?

1/1

- The implementation of the 2014-2021 rural development program has occurred at various speeds in the various countries.
- Although a common timetable was proposed by the European Commission, in practice each Member State has considerable latitude in the stages and timing of the design and selection of local development strategies.



Management modalities revealing institutional trajectories?

1/2



Centralized management

Partially decentralized management

Decentralized management

Disseminate information

- Central State Services
- Regions
- Local communities

Manages the budget of the program

- State
- Regions
- Local authorities

For each country, we have identified which actor:

Develops strategic framework documents

- State
- Regions
- Local authorities

select the LAGs

- State
- Regions
- Local authorities

Delimitation of the LEADER regions and institutional repositioning 2



More than 1800 LEADER regions cover

- almost 40% of the total area of European rural areas
- more than 60% of the rural population.



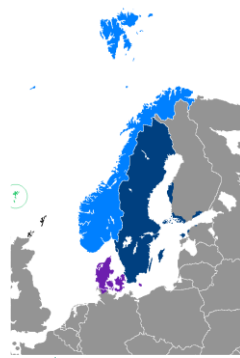
Germany and France have the largest number of LAGs; but

- relatively small in size
- they affect only about 60% of the total rural population.



New Member States have larger LAGs

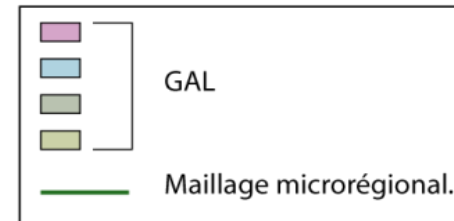
- Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania have on average 200% larger LAGs than other EU States



Scandinavian countries and the United Kingdom do not cover their overall territory with LAGs

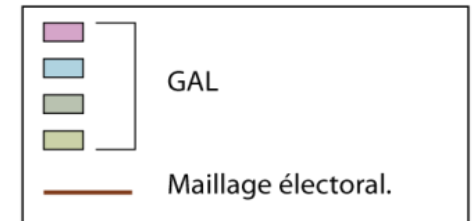
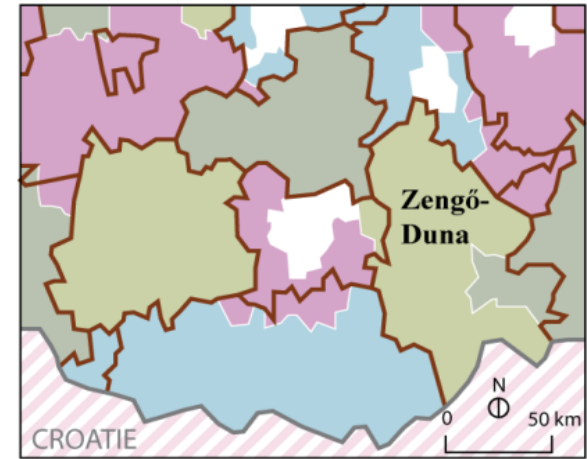
Example of Hungary

- With the exception of Germany, Sweden or Finland, the grid of LEADER regions seems to be subject to the tropism effect exerted by the institutional structures and / or the delimitation of pre-existing intervention.



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Source: Office National des Statistiques hongrois



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Adding complexity to the norm: the process of institutionalization 3

Group 1

- Institutional strengthening

Group 2

- Institutional repositioning with regional centralization

Group 3/4

- Deinstitutionalization in the context of centralized/decentralized management forms





B

*The LEADER programme as model of institutional transfer:
learning from its local implementation in France, Spain and
Hungary*

Actor representation

- The organization of stakeholders within the LAGs originates from a set of provisions aimed at providing this structure with a capacity for action.

Official and unofficial representation of the three sectors on the Board of the Gévaudan-Lozère LAG (number of members)

	<i>Public Sector</i>	<i>Association Sector</i>	<i>Private Sector</i>
<i>Official Representation</i>	8	8	8
<i>Unofficial Representation</i>	13	4	7

Source: Field surveys PHC Gilibert DTAL 2013

Official and unofficial representation of the three sectors on the Board Zengo Duna Lag (number of members)

	<i>Public Sector</i>	<i>Association Sector</i>	<i>Private Sector</i>
<i>Official Representation</i>	60	76	77
<i>Unofficial Representation</i>	91	65	59

Source: Field surveys PHC Gilibert DTAL 2014

Table 3: Official and unofficial representation of the three sectors on the Board of Pays Cœur d'Hérault LAG (number of members)

	<i>Public Sector</i>	<i>Association Sector</i>	<i>Private Sector</i>
<i>Official Representation</i>	12	5	3
<i>Unofficial Representation</i>	12	6	2

Source: Field surveys PHC Gilibert DTAL 2013

Actor representation



In the cases we present LEADER programme is manifested through:

“municipalization” of the LEADER programme or
Appropriation by local civil society



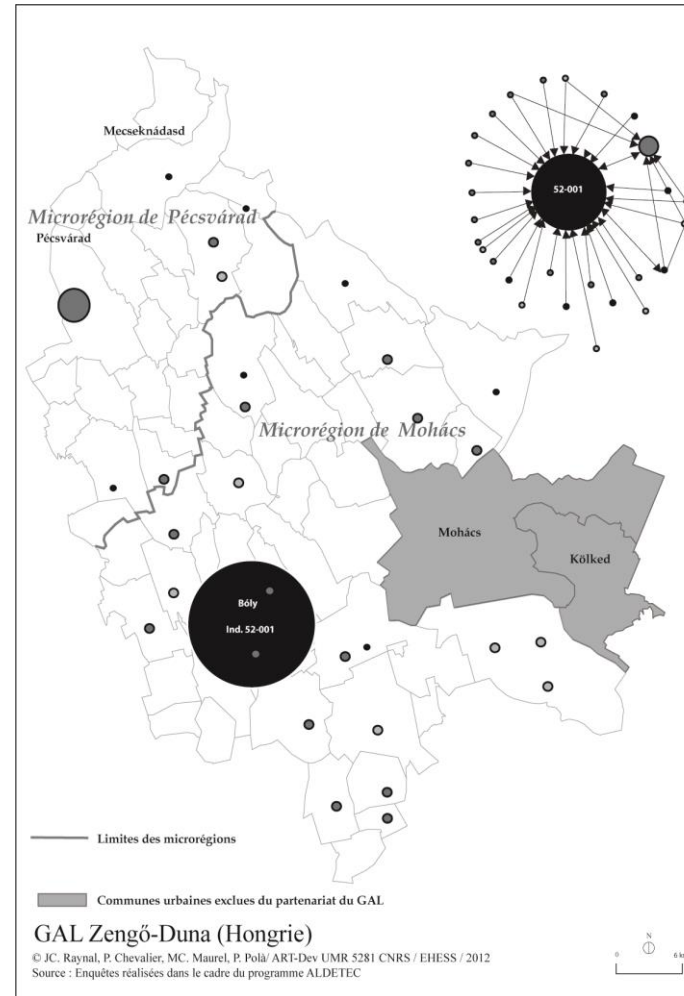
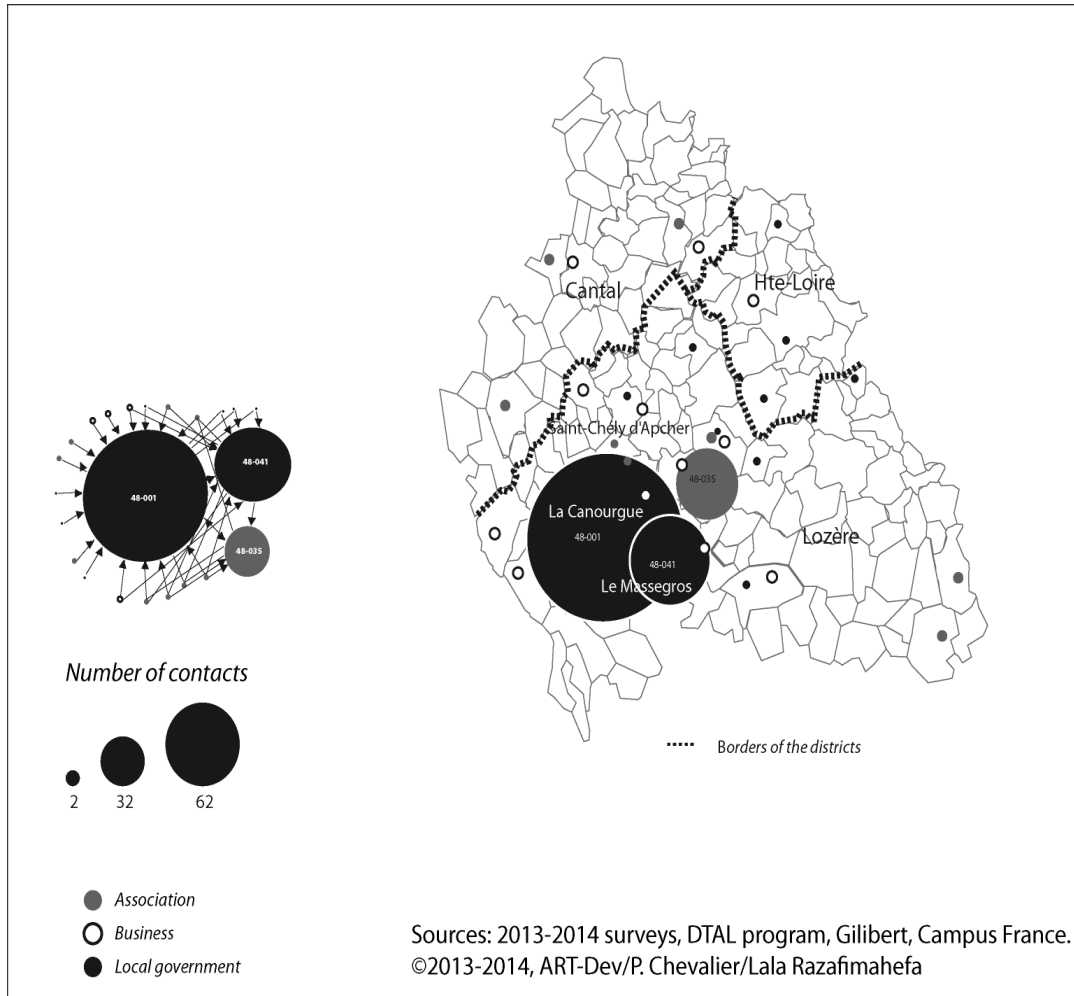
But doesn't this compromise the prospect of a genuinely participative democracy?

There perhaps lies one of the limits to the transfer of the local development model to rural populations.



Structures built according to rules that are ready to use remain to some extent virtual, and the presence of certain stakeholders or certain municipalities in these structures is over-represented.

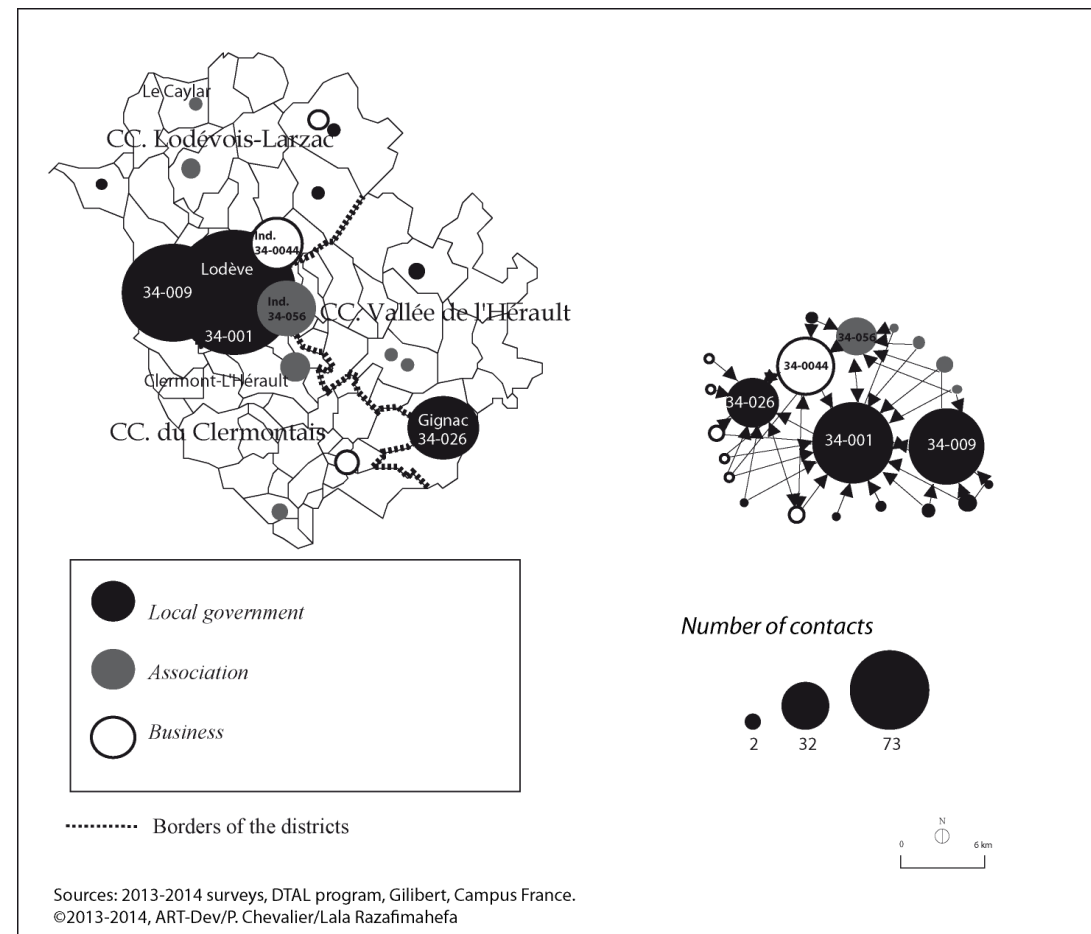
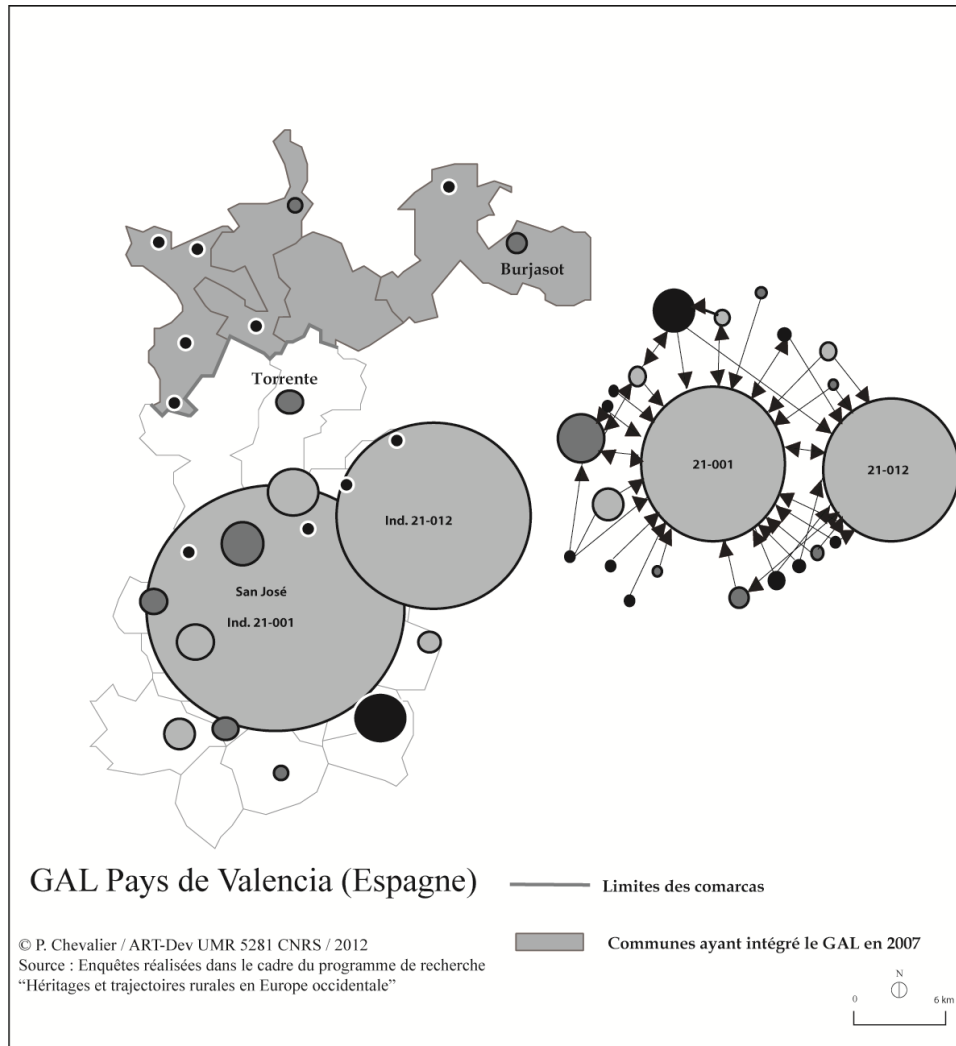
Actor network 1/2



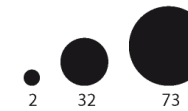
A network dominated by the local political elites

Spatial projection of the centrality regarding the Gévaudan-Lozère and Zengo-Duna LAG

Actor network 2/2



Number of contacts



An integrated network

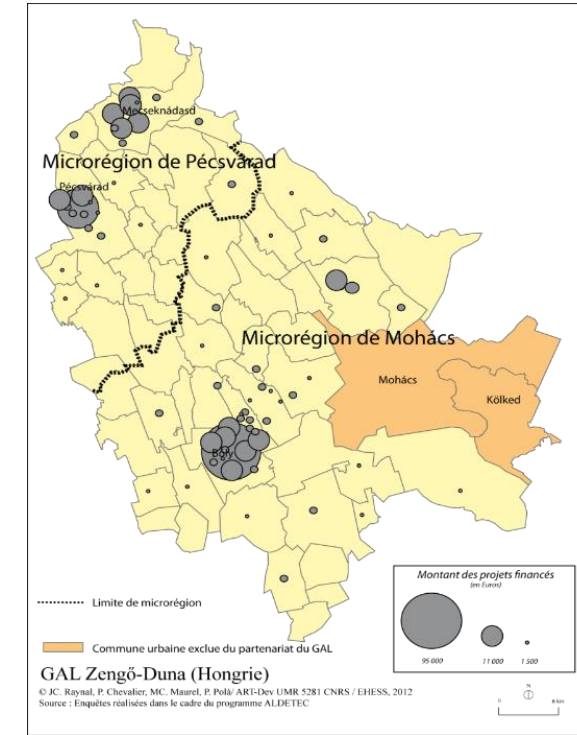
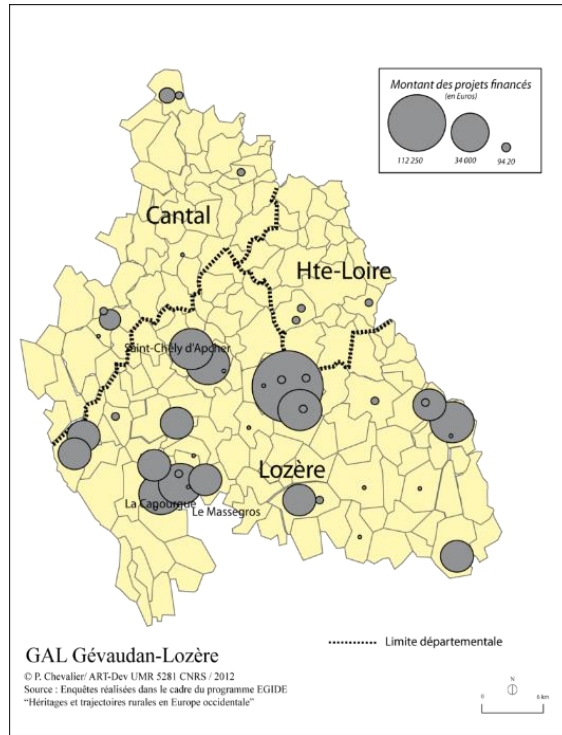
A network dominated by the economic sector

Spatial projection of the centrality regarding the Pays Cœur d'Hérault and "Pays de Valencia" LAG



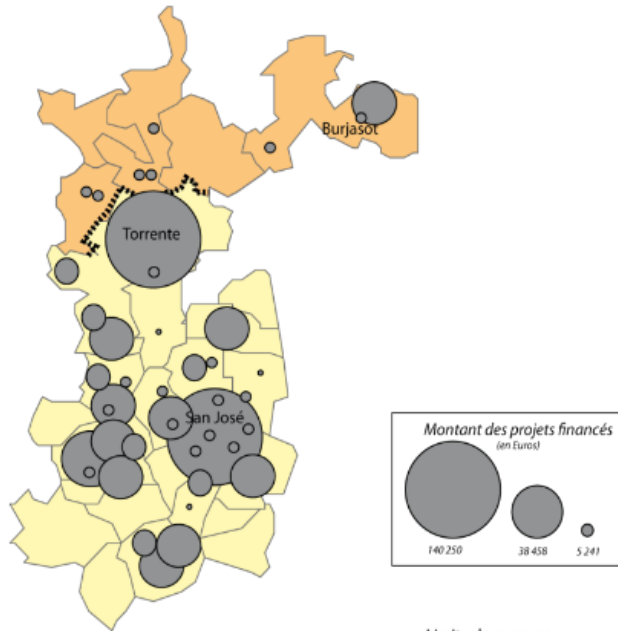
C

LEADER- learning by doing



Local development projects
as indicators of the mode
of local public action mode

- *Gévaudan-Lozère and Zengo-Duna LAGS: resource mobilization by a “political leadership”*



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Source : Enquêtes réalisées dans le cadre du programme EGIDE
"Héritages et trajectoires rurales en Europe occidentale"

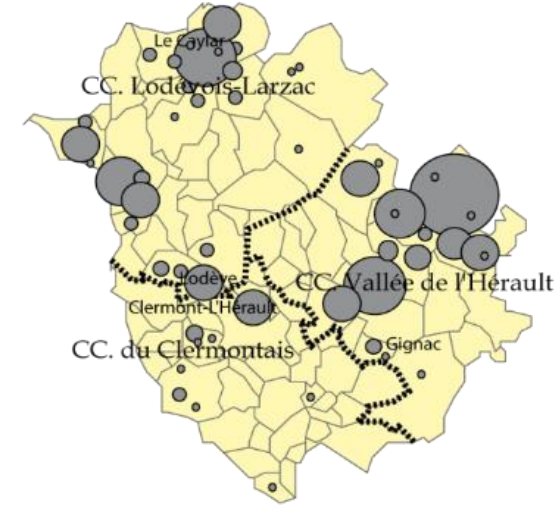
..... Limite de comarca

Commune ayant intégré le GAL en 2007



*Agricultural
entrepreneurs, LEADER
programme's big
winners*

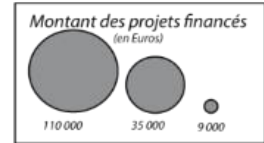
*Tourism associations,
LEADER programme's
big "winners"*



..... Limite de Communauté de Communes

GAL Pays Coeur d'Hérault

© P. Chevalier, / ART-Dev UMR 5281 CNRS / 2012
Source : Enquêtes réalisées dans le cadre du programme
"Héritages et trajectoires rurales en Europe occidentale"

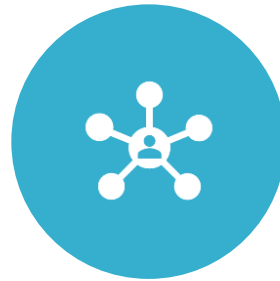


Local development projects as indicators of the mode of local public action mode

Learnings from LEADER implementation



The importance of national level



The local context: the LEADER instrument “resonates” with an area, a local society with its specific social ties, elites and resources.

Conclusion



The importance of participation and expertise in the approach to local development



The success of LEADER partnership depends on the geographical organisation and redistribution of the

Resources of the LAG territory

Social capital (people, history, culture, heritage...)

Experience in decentralized and participative governance



The capacity to learn and inspire people to work together and capacity of the LAG actors



Thank you for your attention