

Transferring the LEADER model to New Member States: Success or Failure?

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The LEADER axis of the European Rural Development Policy (2007-2013)

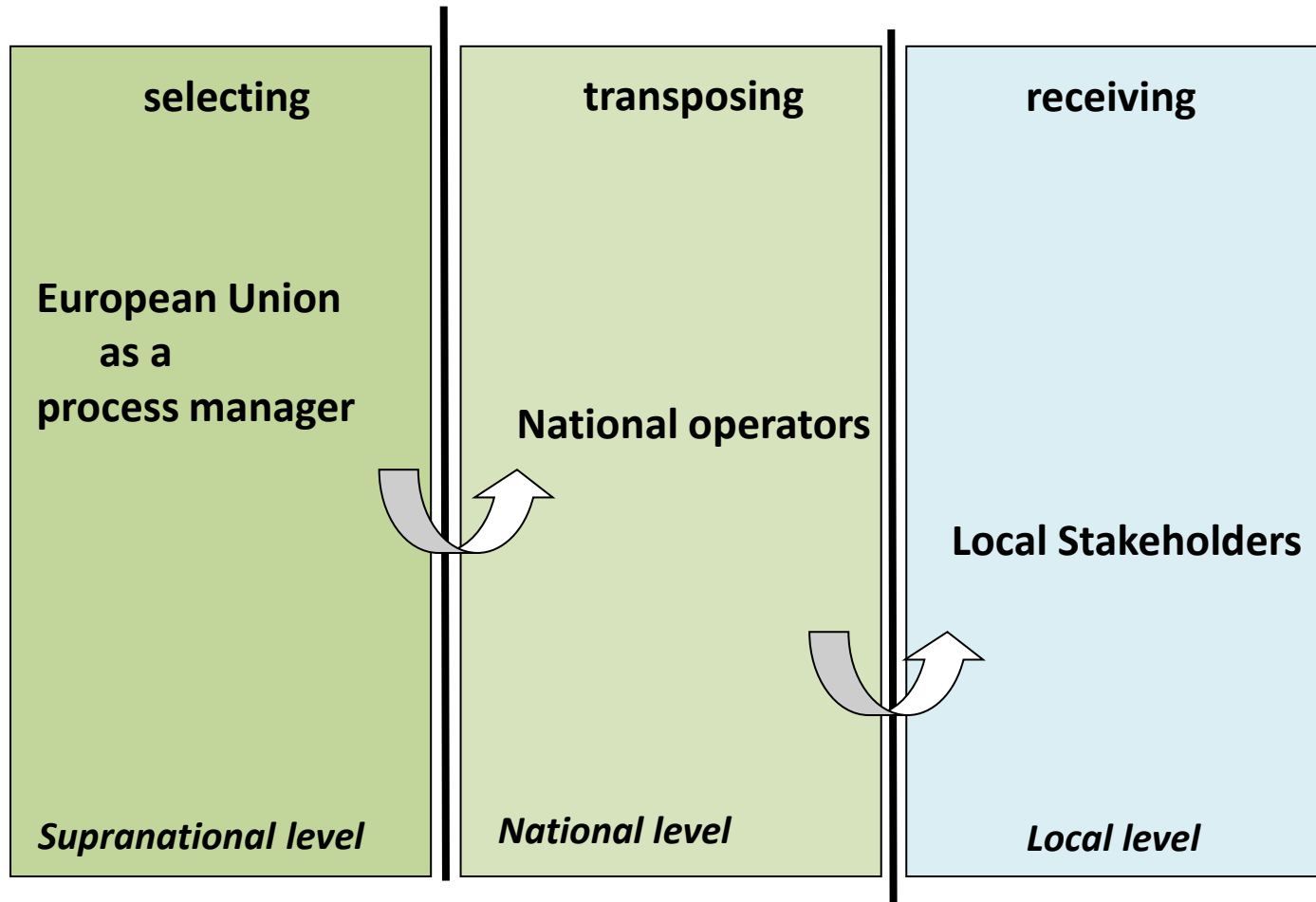
A Policy Model Transfer operated by EU:

- A new experiment for post socialist rural societies**
- How does such a policy model transfer take place?**
- Does the LEADER model fit with the interests and the policy preferences of the NEM?**

Policy Transfer of the LEADER model : in three sequences

- **Selecting the LEADER Model: from the OMS to the NMS**
- **Downloading the Policy Model**
- **Receiving the LEADER Model: a learning process**
- **How the original model is being adapted or distorted by domestic institutional factors?**

The theoretical framework: policy transfer studies

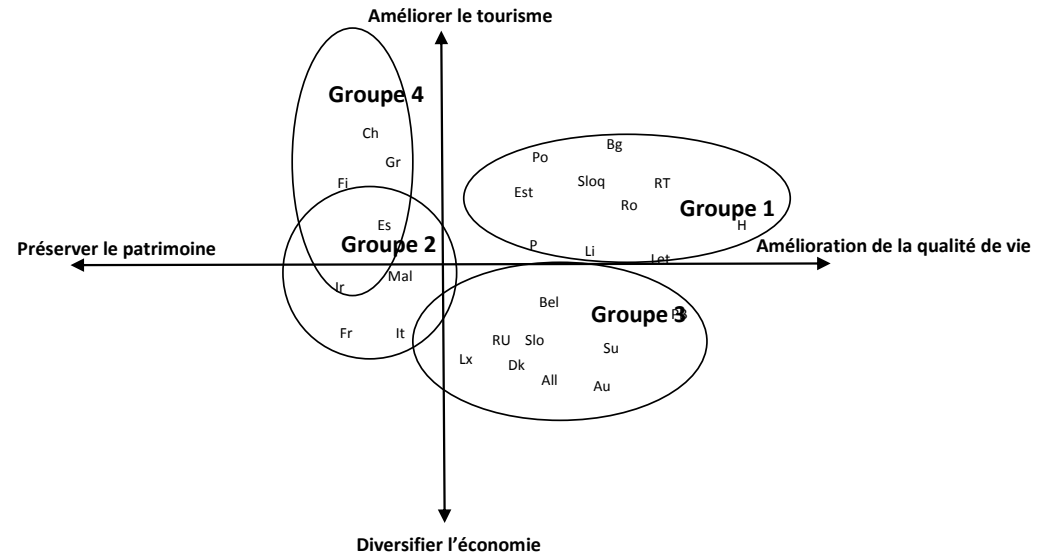


The transfer cycle

At National Level: downloading the policy model

- **Transposing Rural Development policy into National Strategy Plans**
- **Domesticating the implementation**
- **The transfer effects : similarity or distortion?**

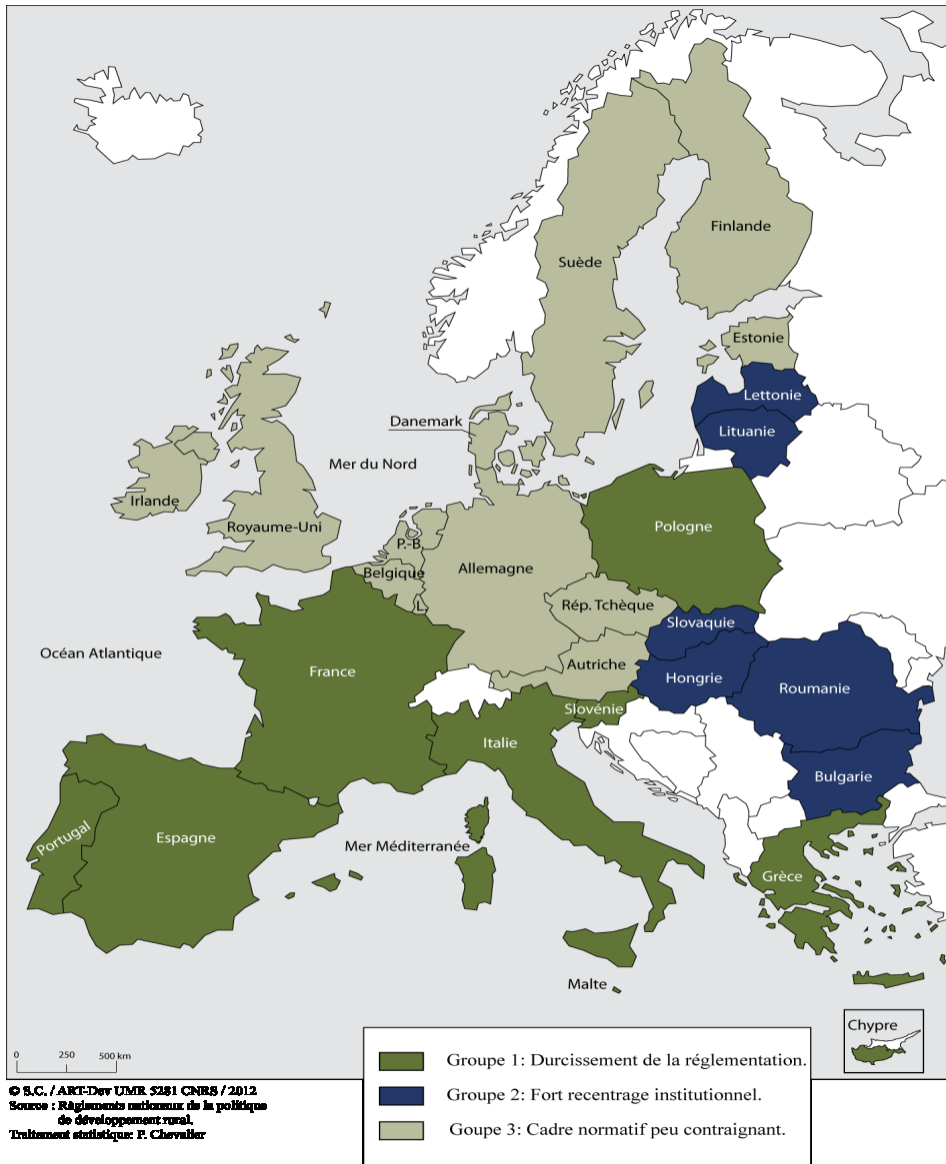
NATIONAL PRIORITIES



	Occurrence « Améliorer la qualité de vie »	Occurrence « Diversifier l'économie rurale »	Occurrence « Préserver et restaurer le patrimoine »	Occurrence « Améliorer le potentiel touristique »
Groupe 1	61	11	7	19
Groupe 2	9	48	29	14
Groupe 3	6	12	61	21
Groupe 4	15	12	25	48

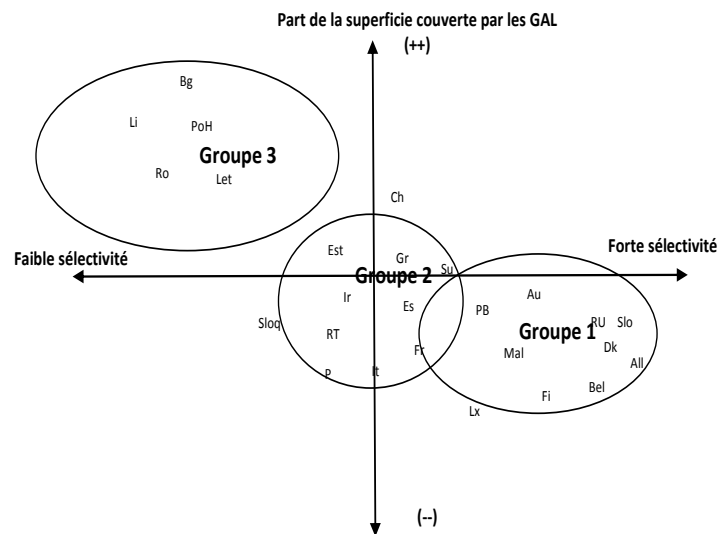
Regulating the LEADER Program

Normative framework

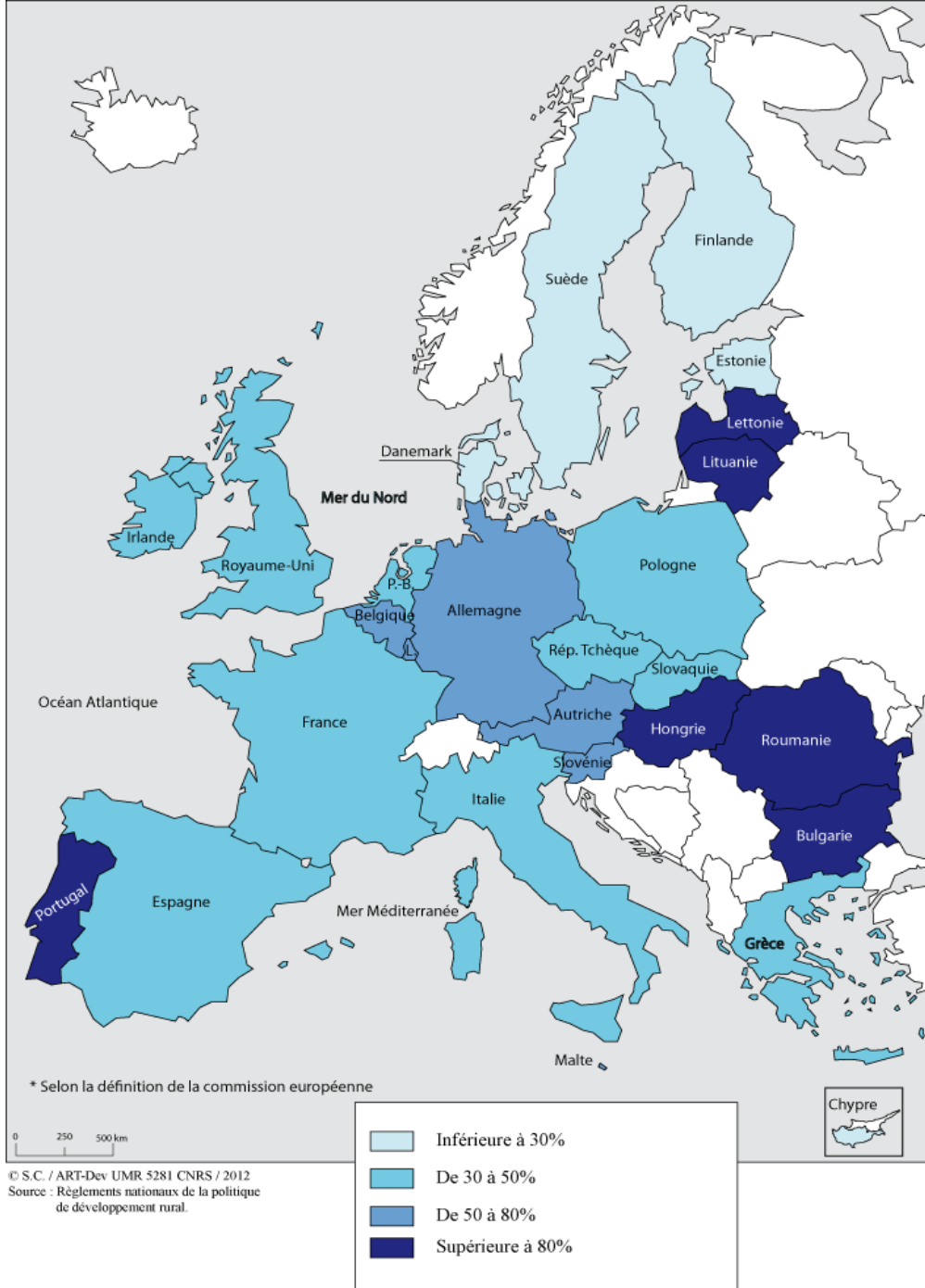


Managing the LEADER Program

Lag's Selection process



National Rural areas covered by the LEADER Program



Regulating the LEADER instrument

Regulating the LEADER action tools	Predominantly hard rules	Mainly soft rules
Guiding approach	Top down	Bottom up
Contract procedures	Injunctions	Incentives
Rules for shaping partnership	Binding (prescriptive criteria)	Stakeholders' free choice
Rules for defining LAG's boundaries	Overlap with electoral or administrative boundaries	The project defines the territory
LAG's Territorial Pattern	Uniform	Varied
Coverage of rural areas	Almost complete	Relatively extensive
LAG's selection process	slightly	highly
Allocation of funding to LAGs	Equal distribution	Differentiated funding

Different national regulating frameworks

LEADER action tools	Germany	Czech Republic	Poland	Hungary	Lithuania
Guiding approach	Bottom up	Bottom up	Bottom up (through voivodeship level)	Top down	Top down
Contract procedures	Incentives	Incentives and instructions	Incentives becoming hardened	Injunctions	Injunctions
Rules for shaping partnership	Stakeholders' free choice	stakeholders' free choice	Binding (depending on voivodeships)	Binding	Binding
Territorial pattern	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Uniform	Uniform
Coverage of rural areas	Relatively extensive	Moderate	Variable depending on voivodeships	Almost complete	Almost complete
Lags' selection process	Highly selective	Moderate	Moderate	Slightly selective	Slightly selective
Allocation of funding to LAGs	Differentiated funding	Differentiated funding	Differentiated funding	Equal distribution	Equal distribution
Dominant form of regulation	Mainly soft rules	Mainly soft rules	Mixed rules (depending on voivodeshins)	Predominantly hard rules	Predominantly hard rules

Receiving the LEADER model at the local level

**The transfer effects: absorption,
transformation or rejection ?**

A comparative research in cooperation

- **5 Member States: Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Czech republic, New Landers in Germany**
- **An European cooperation involving several research teams (one in Pécs)**
- **An investigation focused on Local Action Groups (LAG) at the local scale**
- **A common methodology (based on interviews, questionnaires)**



Research field: 10 LAGs in 5 countries

Germany: Henneberger

Poland: Kraina Rawki, Dolina Karpia

Hungary: Zengo-Duna, Mecsekvidek

Czech republic : Uhlava, Hornacko-Ostrozsko, Podlipansko

Lithuania: Joniskis, Ignalina

At the local level

- **Involvement of local stakeholders depending on the context**
- **Strong control by mayors over local development**
- **Traditional ruler-ruled relationship**

The transfer effects of the LEADER model

	Mainly soft rules	Predominantly hard rules
Extensive participation of local stakeholders	Model absorbed (Germany: Henneberger Land LAG)	Model adapted (Lithuania: Joniškis LAG)
Limited participation of a “project class” (a local elite)	Model adapted (Czech Republic: Podlipansko, Ostrožsko a Horňácko, Úhlava LAGs) (Poland: Kraïna Rawki, Dolina Karpia)	Model distorted (even rejected) (Hungary: Zengő-Duna, Mecsekvidék LAGs)

Conclusion

- **The adaptative pressure applied by the EU is variously perceived and integrated into the national priorities and regulation frameworks**
- **Although the process of implementing the LEADER model has strengthened local capacity-building, the rationale that builds local governance may vary a lot**