



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



Cooperation in Leader

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Structure of the presentation

- **Cooperation as part of the Leader approach**
- **The framework for cooperation in Leader 2007-2013**
- **Programming approach by the Member States 2007-13**
- **Facts and figures on cooperation in the Leader+ initiative 2000-2006**



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COOPERATION AS PART OF THE LEADER APPROACH



Cohesion Policy and Rural Development Policy as drivers for territorial cooperation

- ***From 2007-13 rural areas in Europe can benefit from European funding for cooperation projects from different sources:***
 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) via the „European Territorial Cooperation objective → between different Member States
 - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) via the Rural Development Programmes → within a Member State and between different Member States: **Cooperation between local action groups through Leader (Measure 421)**
 - European Fisheries Fund (EFF) via the action groups of Axis 4



The 7 key aspects of the Leader approach

- 1) Area-based local development strategies**
- 2) Bottom-up approach**
- 3) Public-private partnerships: The “local action groups” (LAGs)**
- 4) Facilitating innovation***
- 5) Integrated and multi-sectoral actions**
- 6) Networking**
- 7) Cooperation***

(* not mandatory at the level of the local strategy)



Networking

- is a means of transferring good practice, disseminating innovation and of building on the lessons learned from local rural development;
- is done between LAGs, rural areas, administrations and organisations involved in rural development (not only Leader beneficiaries!)
- stimulates cooperation projects between LAGs;
- Institutional networks (European Network for Rural Development, National Rural Networks) and informal networks



Cooperation

- goes further than networking;
- involves a LAG undertaking a joint project with another LAG, or with a group taking a similar approach (in another region, Member State or even third country);
- can help LAGs to boost their local activities (reaching necessary critical mass for a project)



Evolution of the Leader approach

The Community Initiatives:

- Leader I (1991-93) – experiment: result of criticism to the individual project approach in the Structural Policy → **cooperation wasn't a specific part**
- Leader II (1994-99) - laboratory: limited to disadvantaged rural areas, innovation, pilot actions, **introduction of transnational cooperation**
- Leader+ (2000-06) - maturity phase: eligibility of the whole rural territory; **reinforced role of networks and transnational cooperation; introduction of interterritorial cooperation**
- (Leader+ type measure for new Member States 2004-2006: **no major role for cooperation**)

„Mainstreamed Leader“ 2007-13:

- Leader axis – not any longer specific programmes; methodological approach to mainstream RD programming: **continuation of what was created in Leader+**



From Leader I to the „Leader-axis“

Stage	Duration	Funds	Budget (EUR)	LAGs
Leader I	1991– 1993	EAGGF-Guidance, ESF, ERDF	450 million	217
Leader II	1994- 1999	EAGGF-Guidance, ESF, ERDF	1.7 billion	821
Leader+	2000- 2006	EAGGF- Guidance	2.1 billion	893 in EU-15 (+ 250 in the Leader+type measure 2004- 2006) in 6 MS
„Leader axis“	2007- 2013	EAFRD	5.5 billion → 6% of the EAFRD funding	expected approx. 2.100 in EU-27 (selection in the MS still ongoing)



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The framework for cooperation in Leader 2007-2013



Delivery system measures for the Leader axis (Art. 63 Regulation 1698/2005)

- a) Implementing local development strategies to achieve the objective of one or more of the 3 axis
(Measures 411, 412, 413)**
- b) Cooperation (Measure 421)**
- c) Running the local action group, acquisition of skills and animating the territory (Measure 431)**



Cooperation in Leader (Art. 65 Regulation 1698/2005)

Inter-territorial cooperation means cooperation within a Member State.

Transnational cooperation means cooperation between territories in several Member States and with territories in third countries.

→ Only expenditure relating to the territories within the Community shall be eligible for support.



Framework for implementing cooperation in Leader (Art. 39 Regulation 1974/2006)

- **At least one partner has to be a local action group (LAG) selected under the Leader axis.**
- **Principle of « coordinating LAG »**
- **Cooperation is open to other public-private partnerships (Art. 59 e Reg. 1698) as well as other rural areas organised with the following features: Local group active in rural development working under a development strategy and based on a partnership of local actors**
- **Cooperation has to include a joint action**
- **Eligible expenditure: joint action, running common structures, preparatory technical support: spent on the territory; animation costs: in all areas concerned by the cooperation**



Procedures for cooperation projects (Art. 39 Reg. 1974/2006)

- **Cooperation projects can be already integrated in the local development strategy**
 - Advantages : coherent with the bottom-up approach and with the local strategy; Implementation might be faster
- **If not integrated in the local strategy, then decision mechanism as for other projects or Managing Authority creates a special procedure**
 - Advantages : better control on the respect of requirements (e.g. presence of a joint action etc.)
- **Communication of the approved transnational projects by the Member State to the Commission: facilitation of communication between national authorities**



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PROGRAMMING APPROACH MADE BY THE MEMBER STATES FOR 2007-13

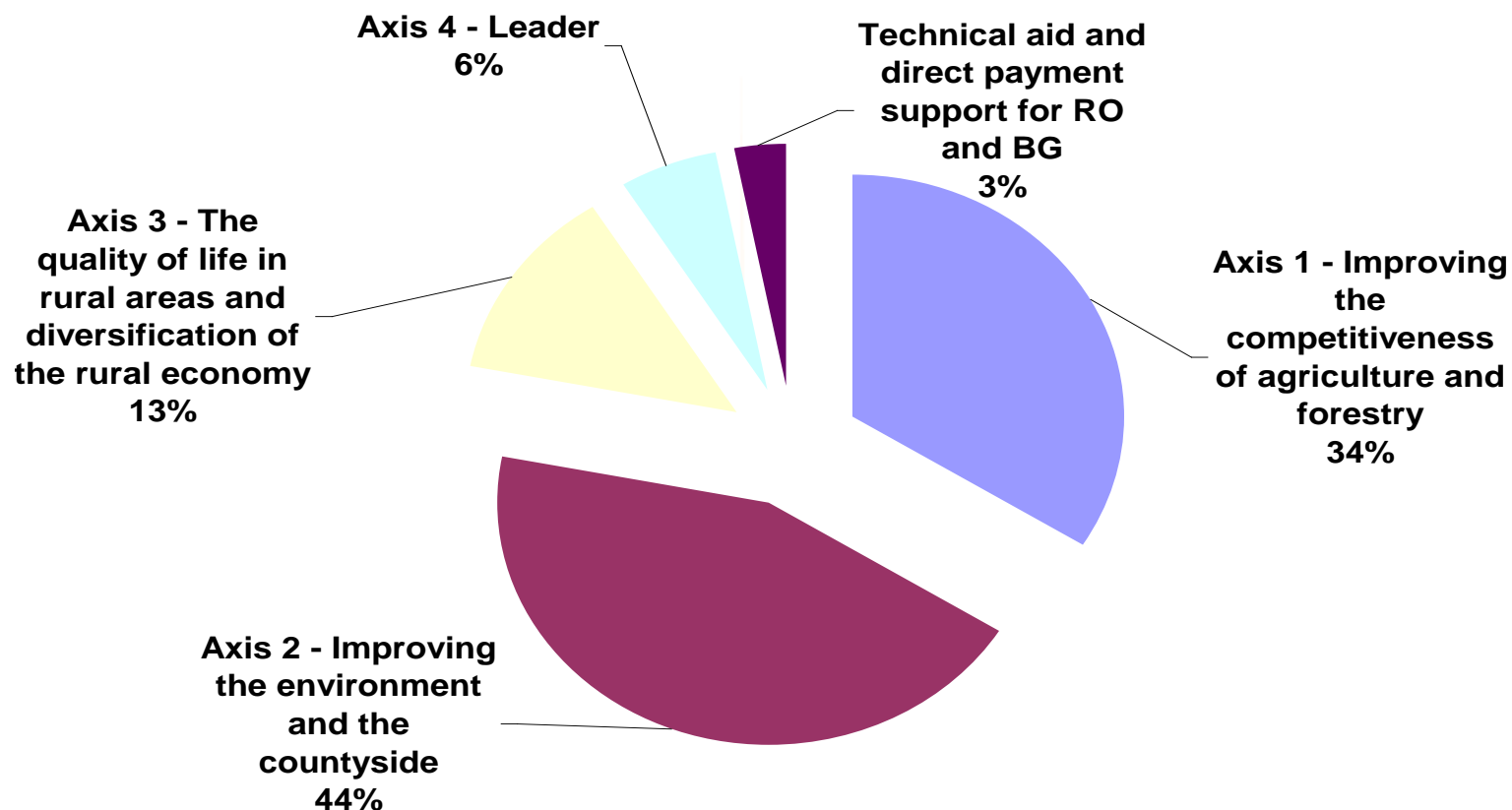


The global EU Rural development expenditure and the EAFRD expenditure for Leader

- **EAFRD overall: € 90.8 billion** (61.8% of public expenditure)
 - National public expenditure: € 57.7 billion
 - Private expenditure: € 64.8 billion
 - National top-ups: € 12.4 billion
 - TOTAL: € 225.7 billion
-) **EAFRD funding for the Leader axis: € 5.5 billion**

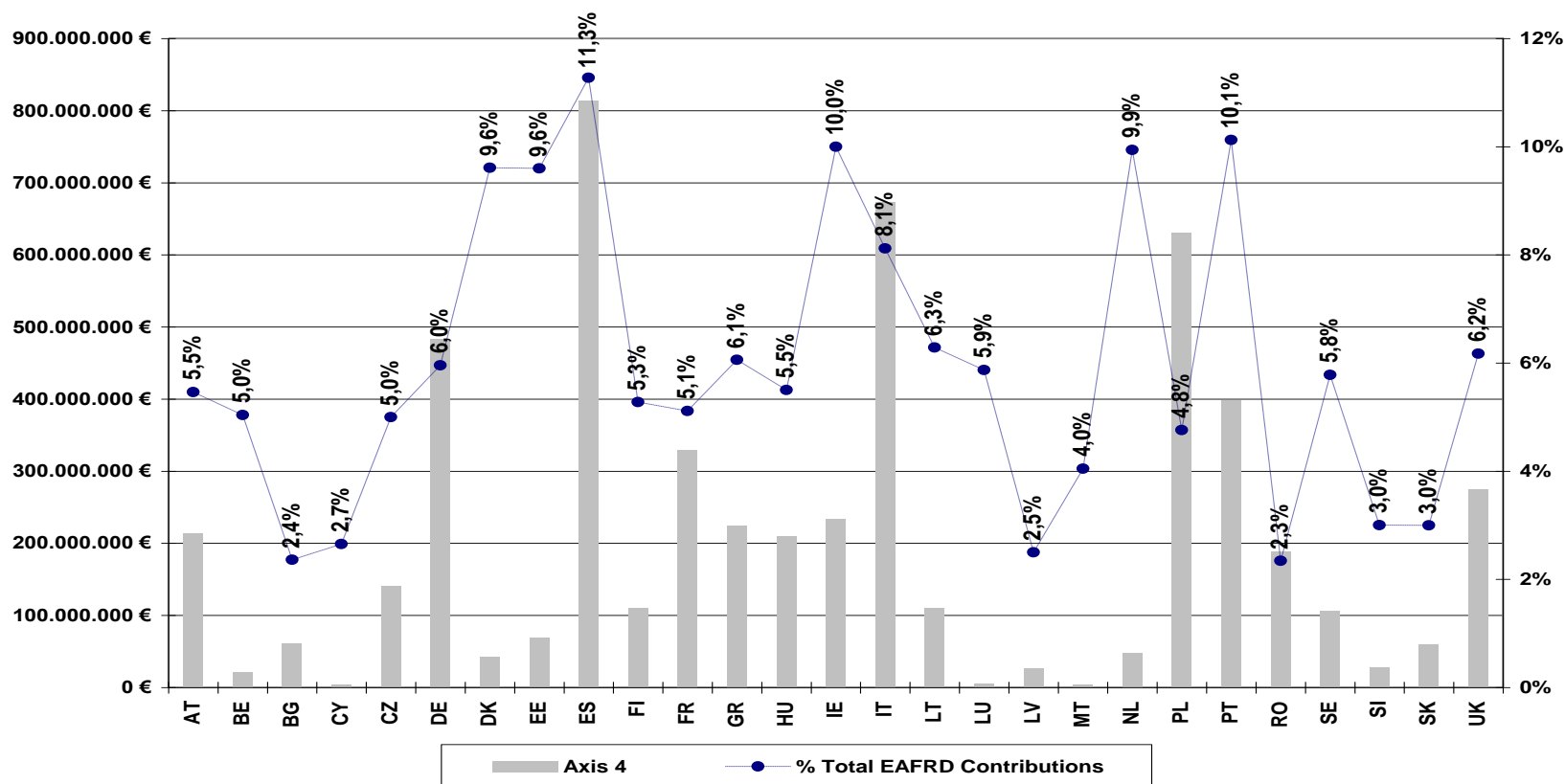


Expenditure per axis



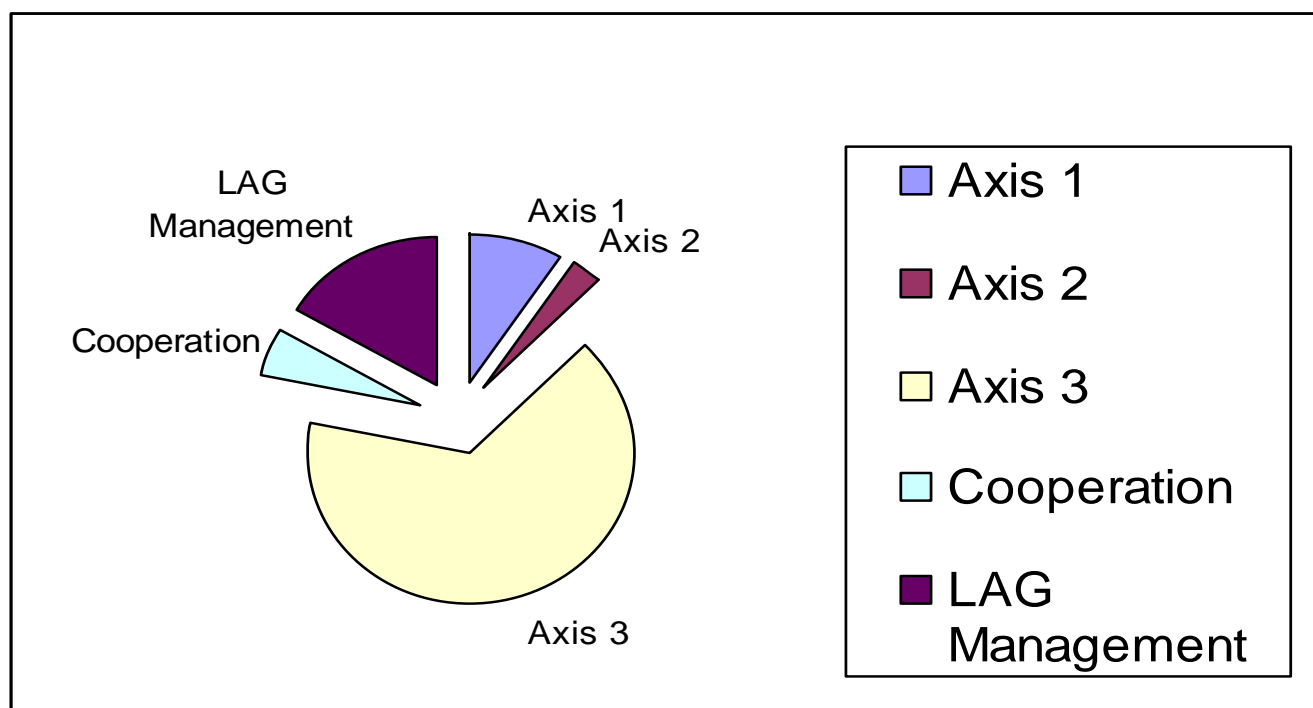


Total EAFRD contributions allocated to Leader (Axis 4) by country (absolute value and share of total expenditure)



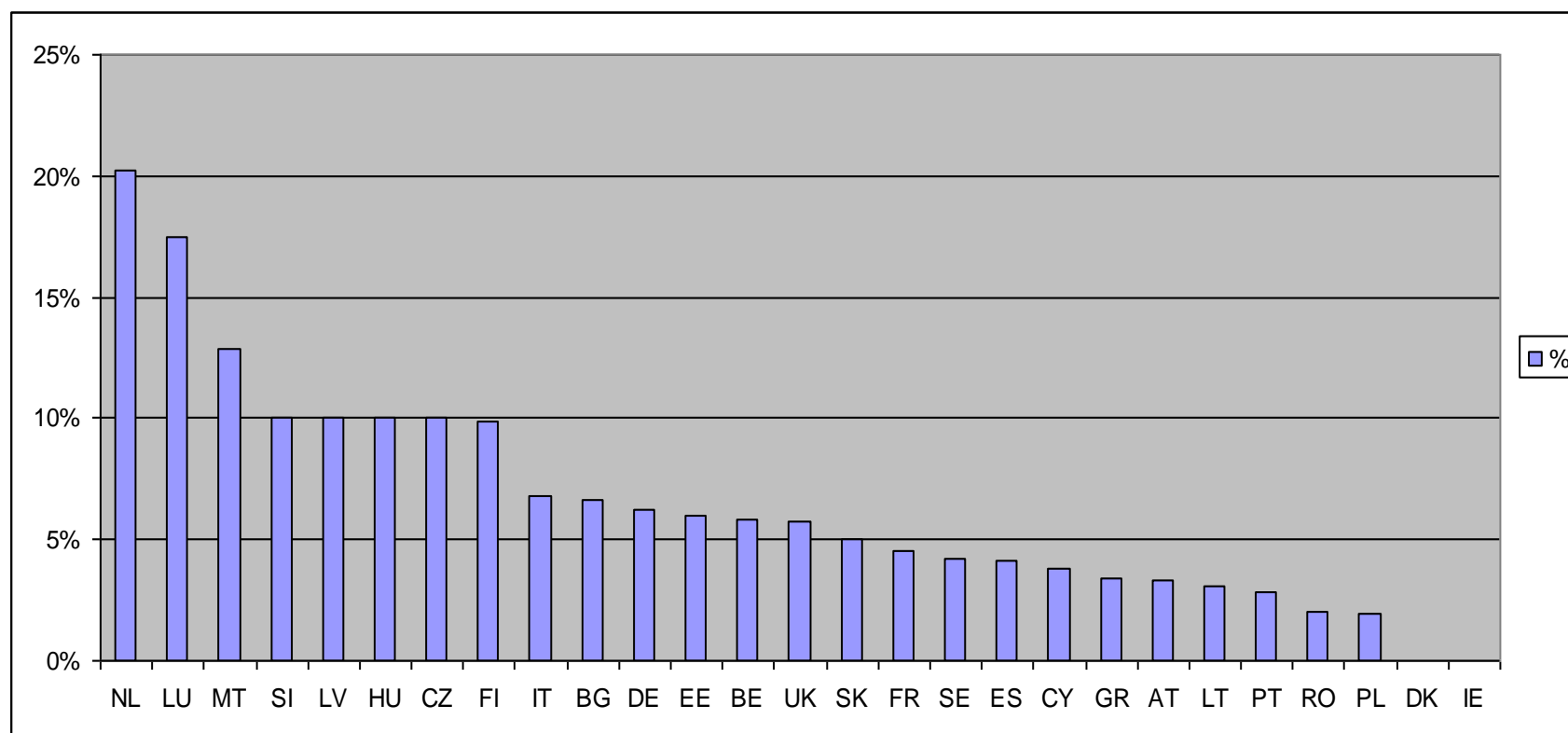


Indicative use of Funds under the Leader axis: → Average 4,8% for cooperation



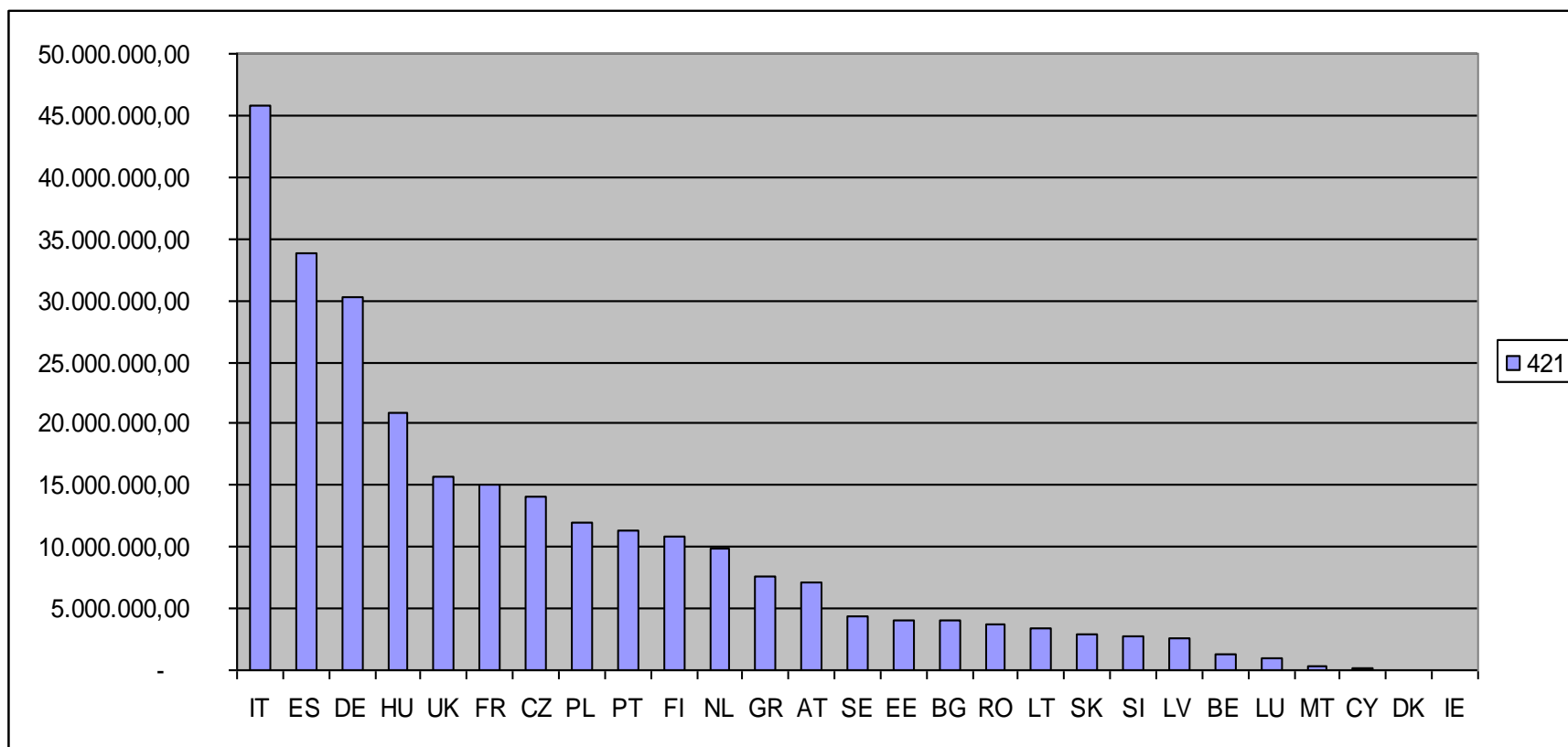


*Percentage of programmed EAFRD budget for cooperation
(Measure 421) within Axis 4 in the Member States
(without DK & IE)*





Programmed budget for cooperation in Leader (Measure 421) in the Member States (without DK & IE)



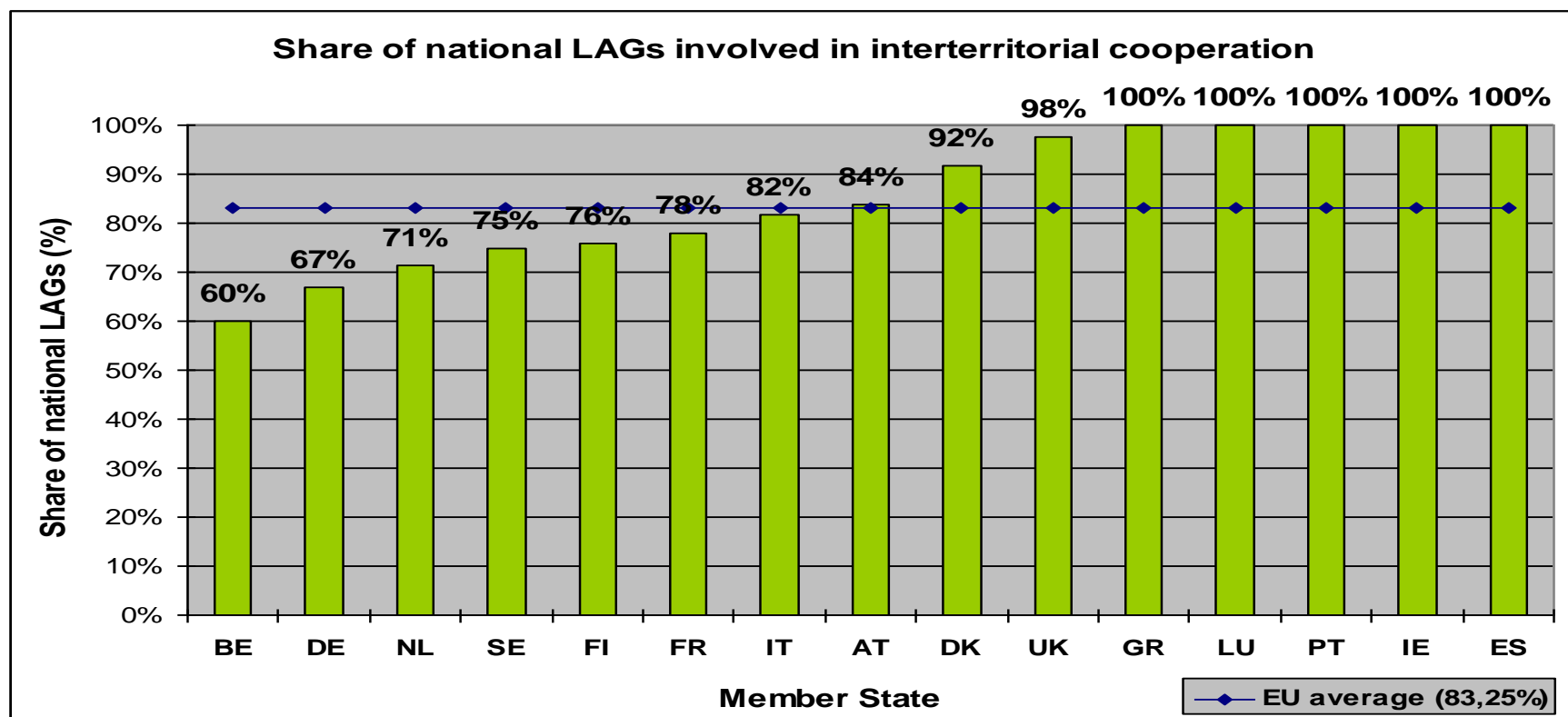


Facts and figures on cooperation in the Leader+ initiative 2000-2006

- 1. Share of LAGs involved in approved cooperation projects during the Leader+ initiative*
- 2. Number of approved projects during the Leader+ initiative (preliminary support not included) from the start until end of 2007*
- 3. Main themes selected for cooperation projects (Action 2)*
- 4. Budget spent on projects*
- 5. Origin of project partners*
- 6. The main local operators of cooperation projects*
- 7. The most common issues covered by cooperation projects:
transnational and interterritorial*

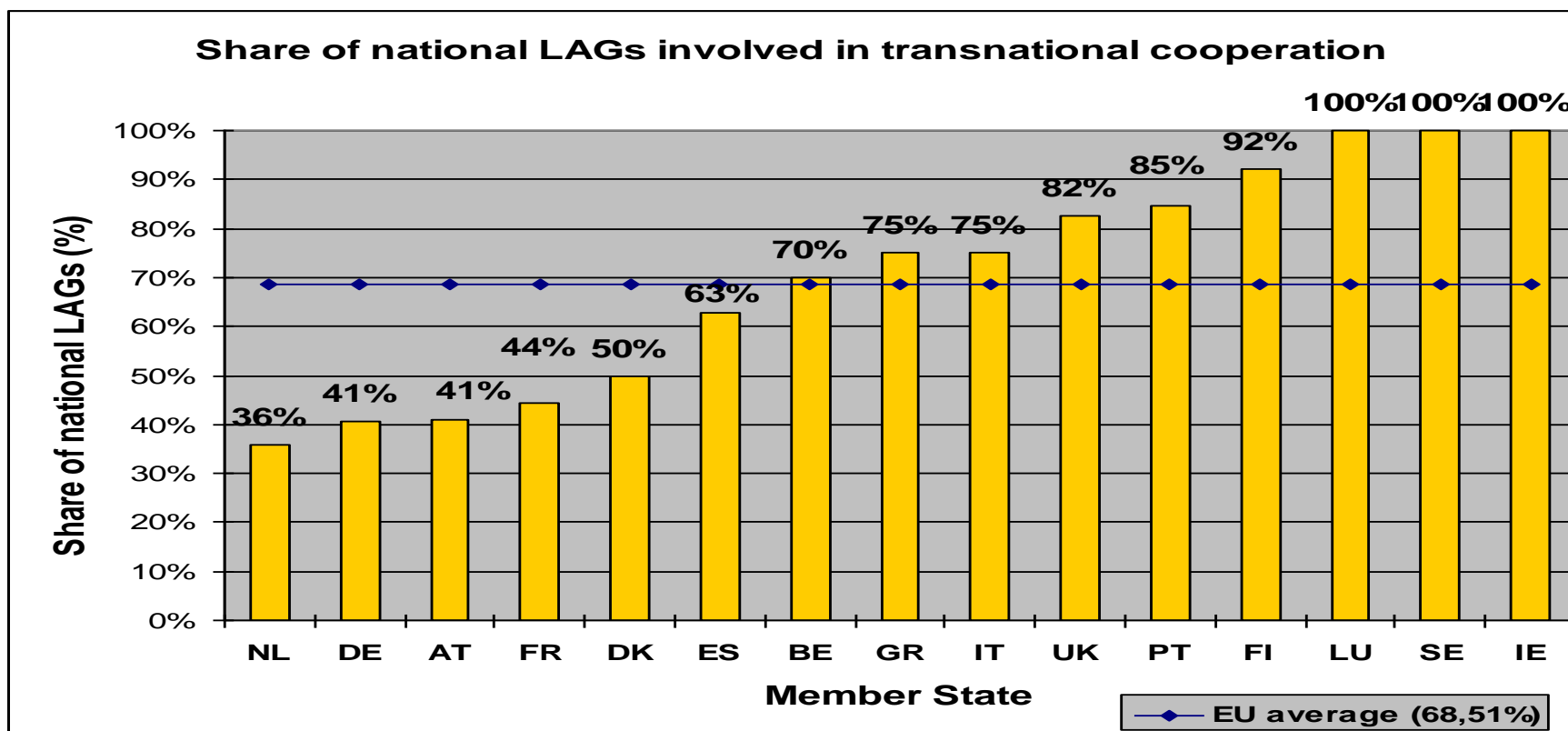


1. Share of LAGs involved in approved cooperation projects during Leader+





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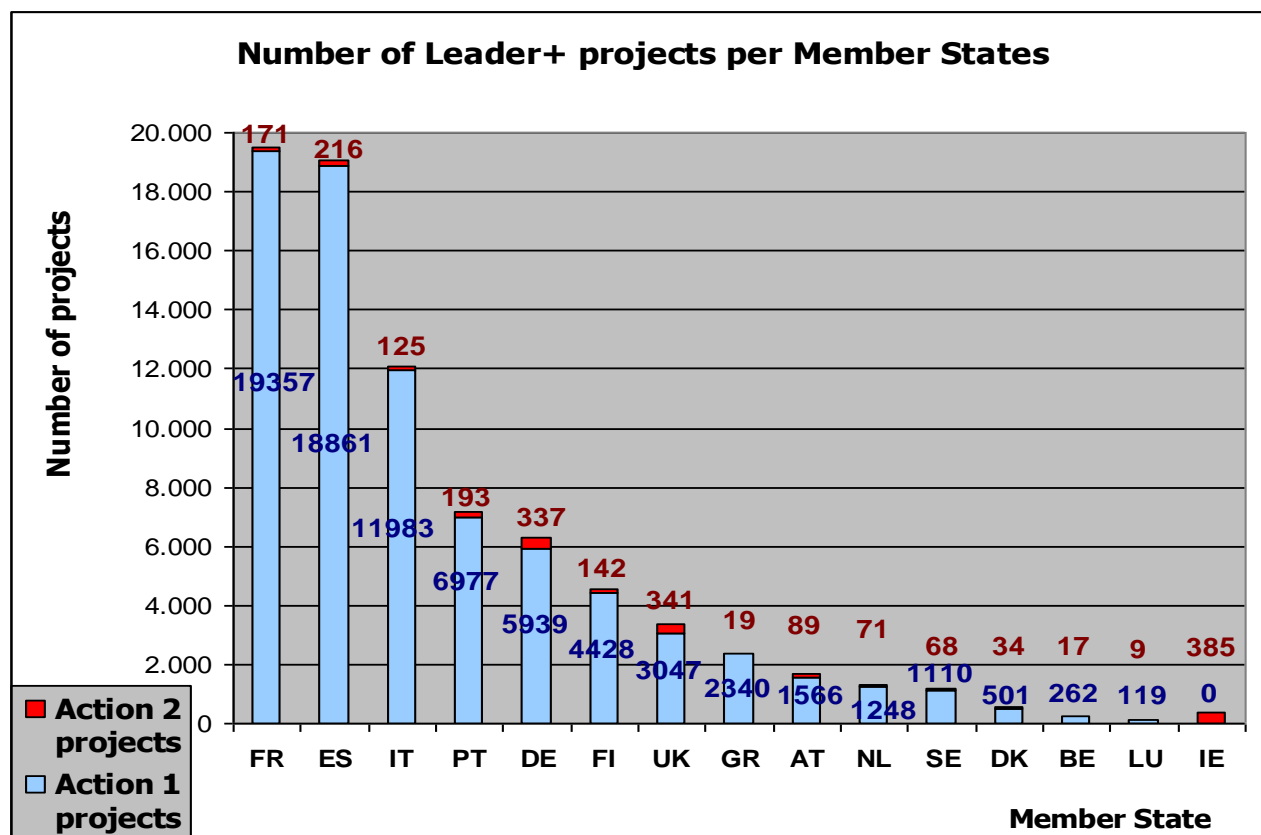
2. Number of projects approved during the Leader+ Initiative (without information on local projects from IE)

Total number of **Leader+**
projects: 79 953

- Total number of **local**
(**Action 1**) projects:
77 738
- Total number of
cooperation (**Action 2**)
projects: **2 188**

Number of interterritorial
cooperation projects:
1 330

Number of transnational
cooperation projects: **858**

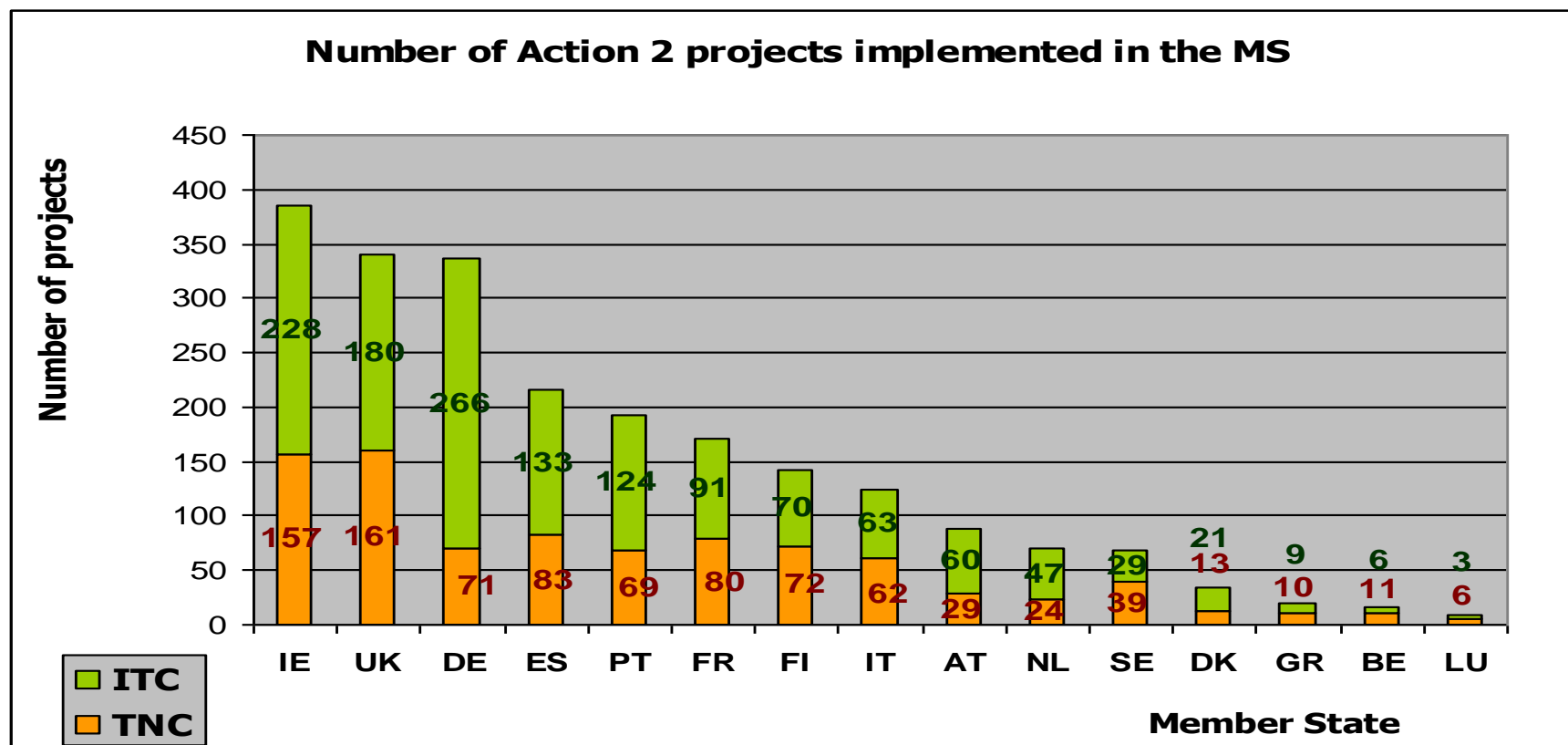




2. Number of projects approved during the Leader+ Initiative

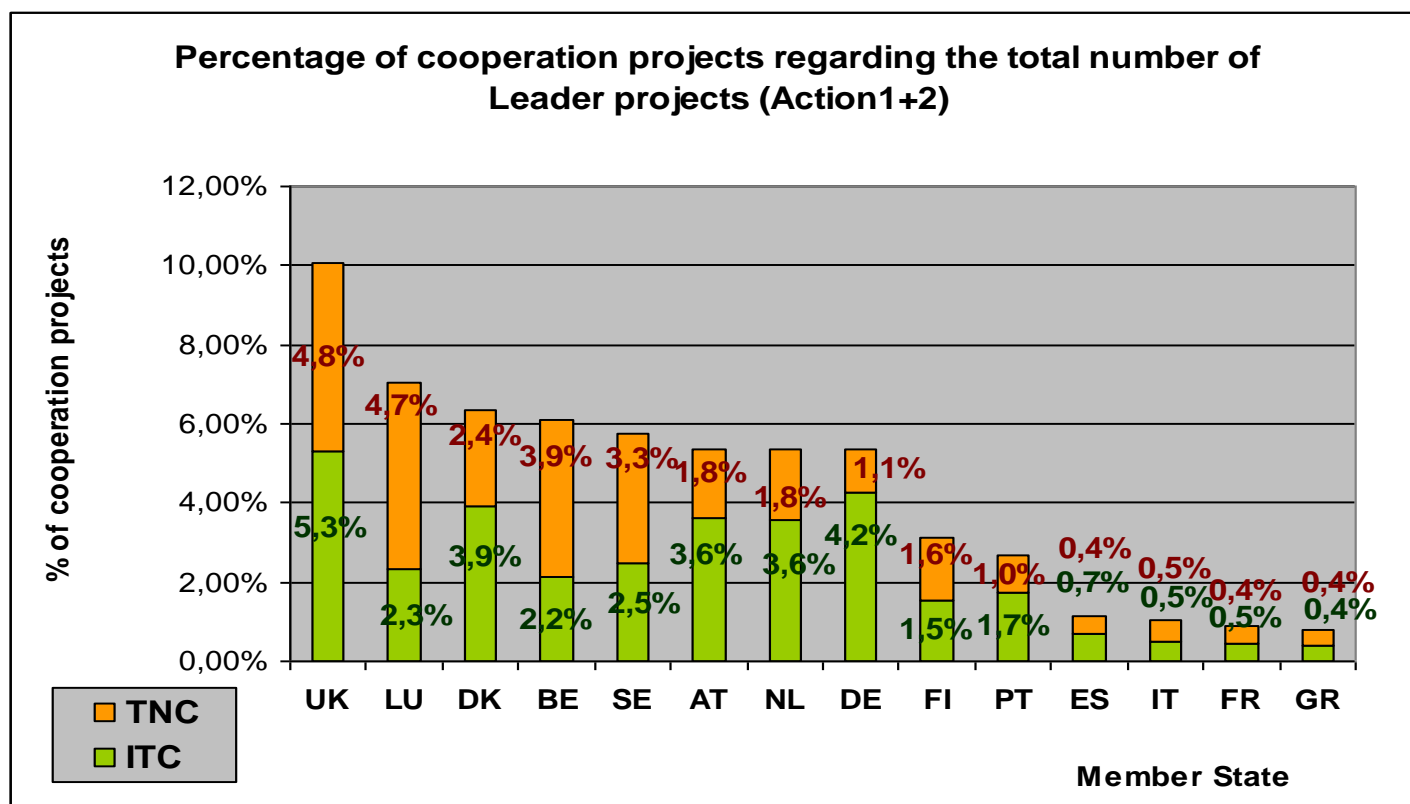
Number of cooperation (Action 2) projects

(ITC = interrterritorial; TNC = transnational)





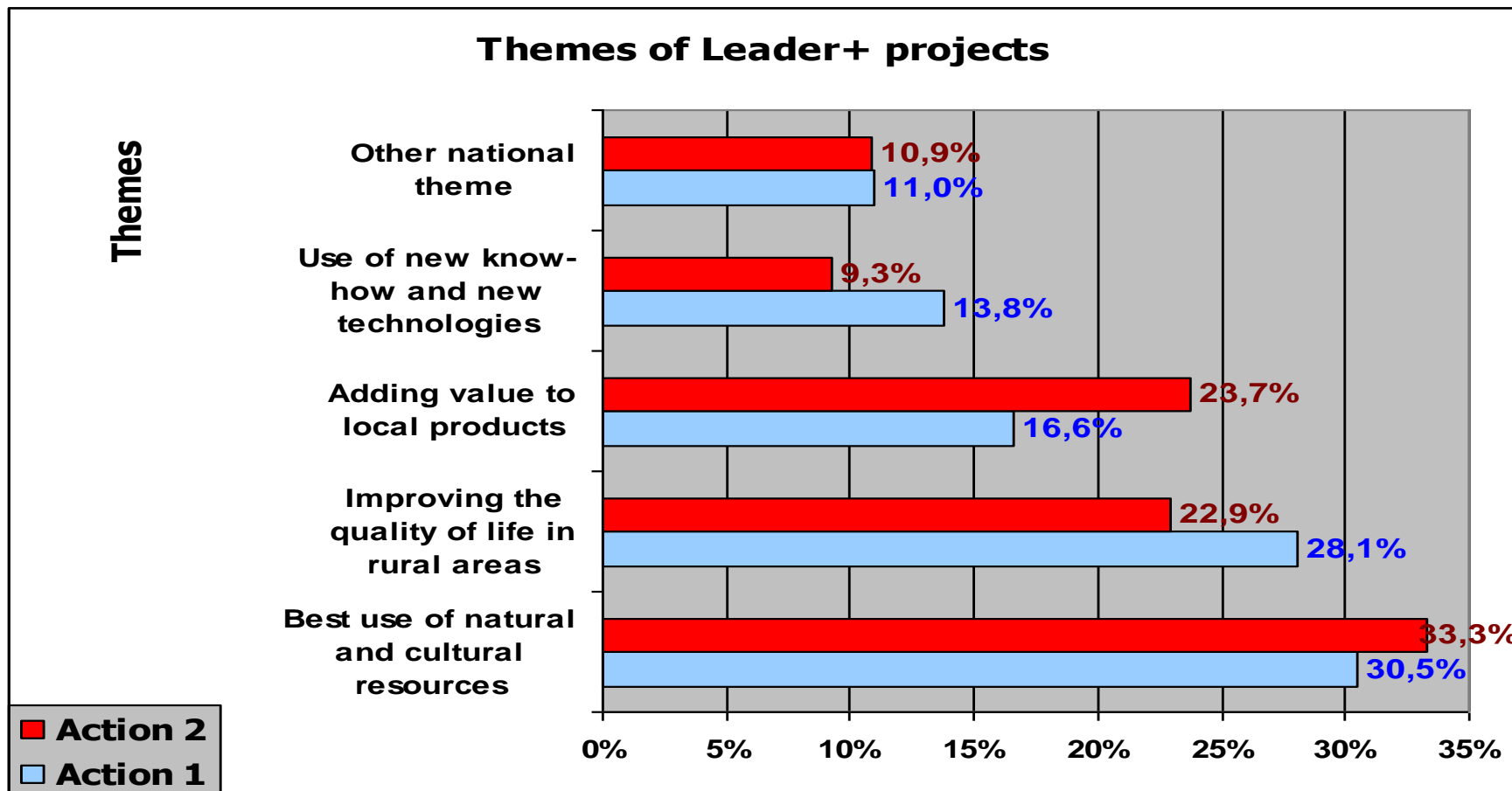
2. Number of projects approved during the Leader+ Initiative: Percentage of cooperation projects (without IE)



EU average: 2,3 %



3. Themes of cooperation projects (without Sweden, Ireland and England)





4. Budget spent on Leader+ projects

- Total budget spent on **Leader+** projects: **EUR 4,4 billion**
(without Action 1 budget of IE)
 - ❖ % EAGGF on the total (EU-15 average) **40 %**
- Total budget spent on **local (Action 1)** projects: **EUR 4,2 billion**
(without IE)
 - ❖ % EAGGF on the total (EU-14 average without IE) **37%**
- Total budget spent on **cooperation (Action 2)** projects: **EUR 0,2 billion**
 - ❖ % EAGGF on the total (EU-15 average): **49%**
 - Total budget on **interterritorial cooperation** projects (without LU) **EUR 0,126 billion**
 - % EAGGF on the total (without LU) **49%**
 - <= 30% NL
 - 31-40% SE, DK
 - 41-60% IT, UK, FI, AT, BE, FR, ES, PT, DE
 - >= 61% GR, IE
 - Total budget on **transnational cooperation** projects (without LU) **EUR 0,065 billion**
 - % EAGGF on the total (without LU) **48 %**
 - » <= 30% NL
 - » 31-40% SE
 - » 41-60% IT, FI, AT, BE, UK, FR, DK, ES, PT, GR
 - » >= 61% DE, IE



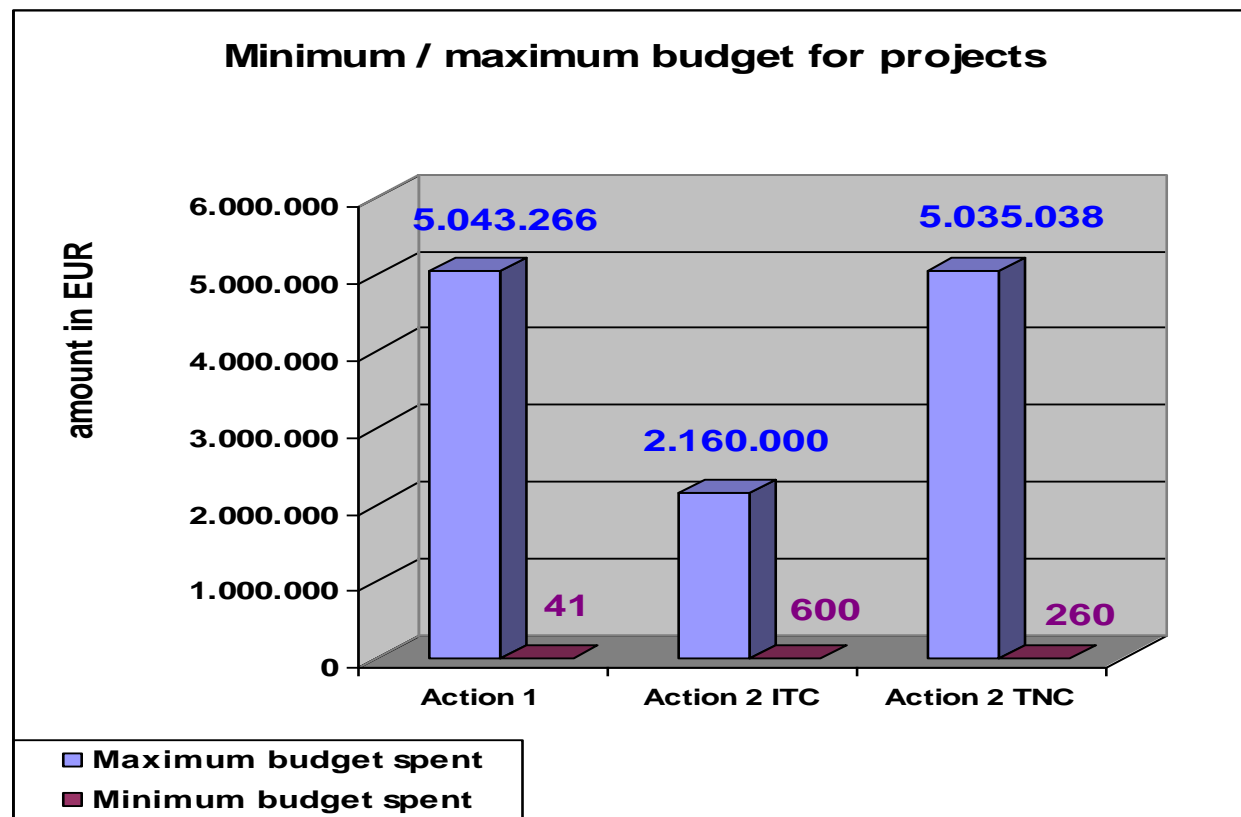
4. Budget spent on Leader+ projects

4.2. Average and minimum/maximum budget spent on projects

❖ Average budget for **Action 1** projects **EUR 54.000**
(without IE)

❖ Average budget for **Action 2** projects **EUR 90.000**

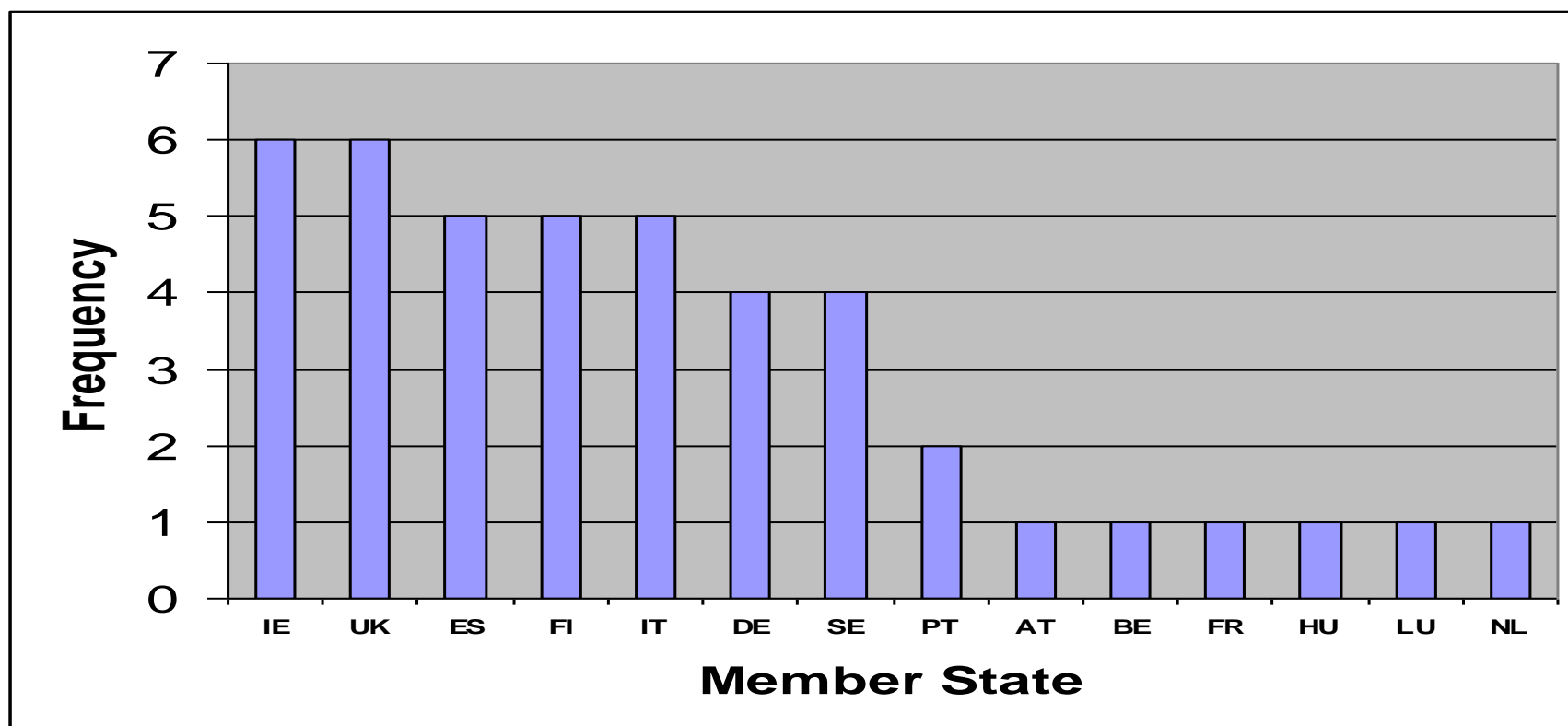
- Interterritorial cooperation (without LU) **EUR 95.000**
- Transnational cooperation (without LU) **EUR 74.000**





5. Origin of project partners

Frequency (by rank of importance) of partner country selected





5. Origin of project partners

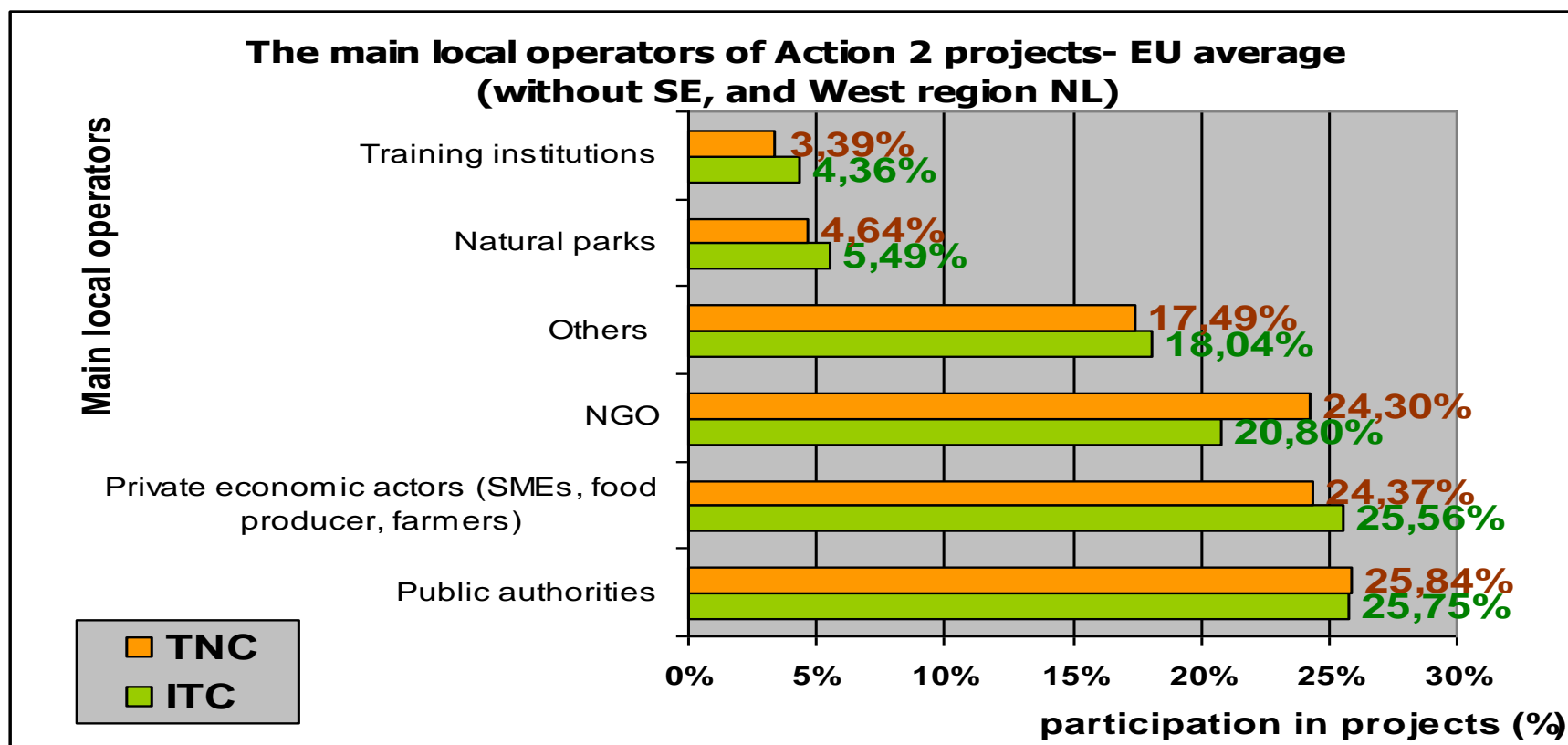
■ Inside the EU

- UK, ES and DE : first partner MS for 3 countries each followed by AT, PT, SE, IT and IE (favourite for 1 MS each)
- Many cross-border favourites: AT-DE, IE-UK and ES-PT
- Geographic clustering :
 - Northern countries
 - Mediterranean countries
- Some other strong links which may seem less natural: FI-IT, BE-ES

- ### **■ Outside the EU:**
- Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Guatemala, Japan, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco, Mozambique, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uganda, Uruguay, USA



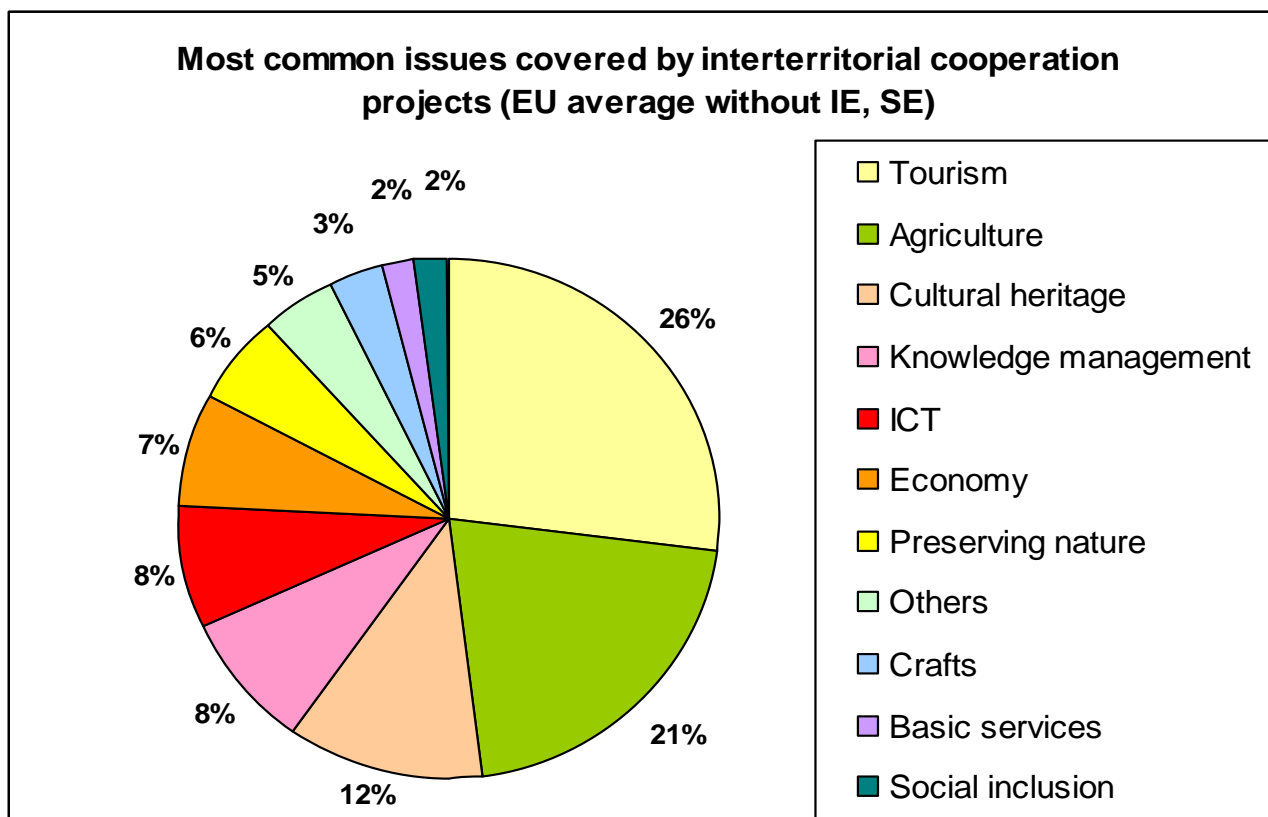
6. The main local operators of cooperation projects (Action 2)





7. The most common issues covered by cooperation projects

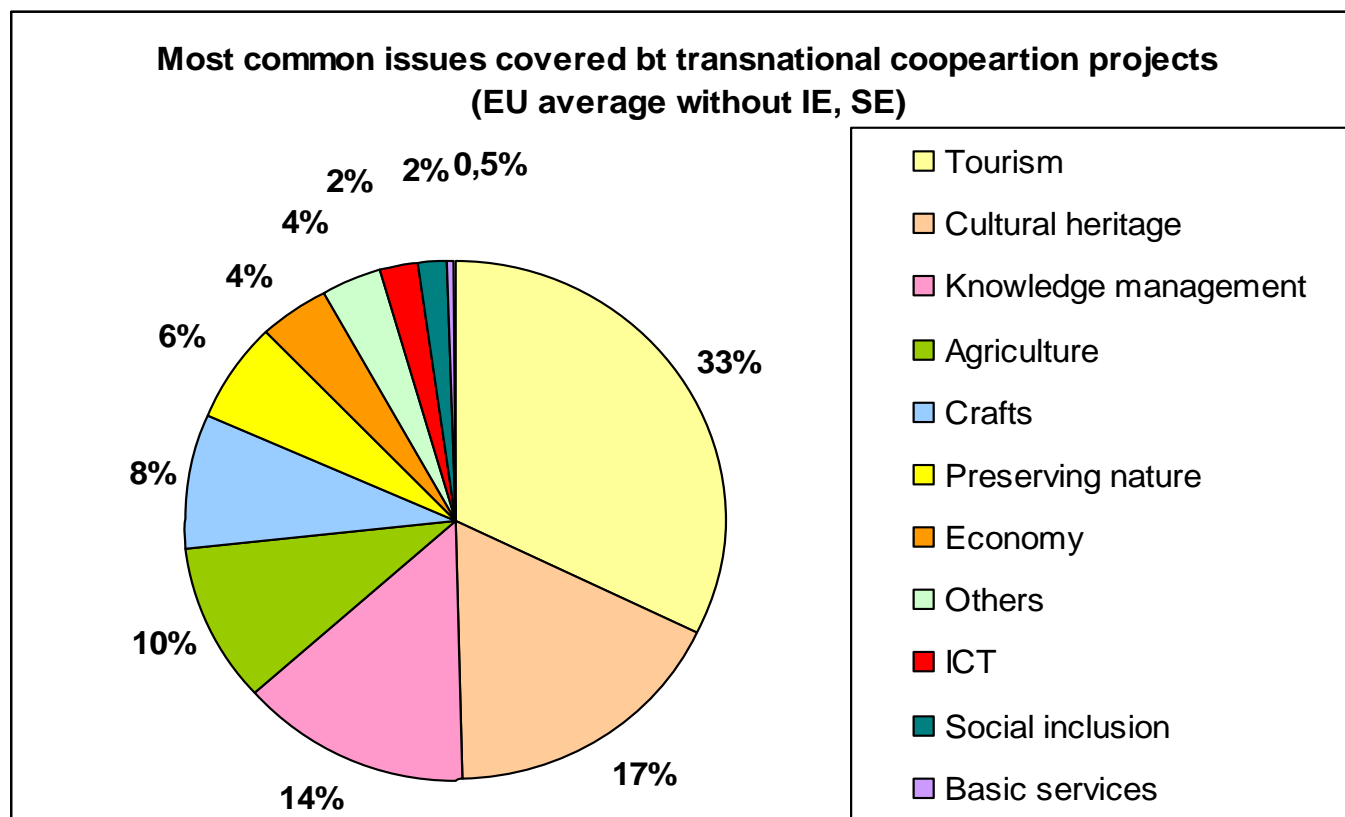
Interterritorial cooperation projects





7. The most common issues covered by cooperation projects

Transnational cooperation projects





7. The most common issues covered by interterritorial / transnational cooperation projects

❖ *Predominant theme: Tourism*

❖ *Next most popular themes chosen:*

ITC:

- *Agriculture, processing and marketing of agricultural products*

- *Cultural heritage*

- *Knowledge management, education, training*

- *ICT*

TNCP:

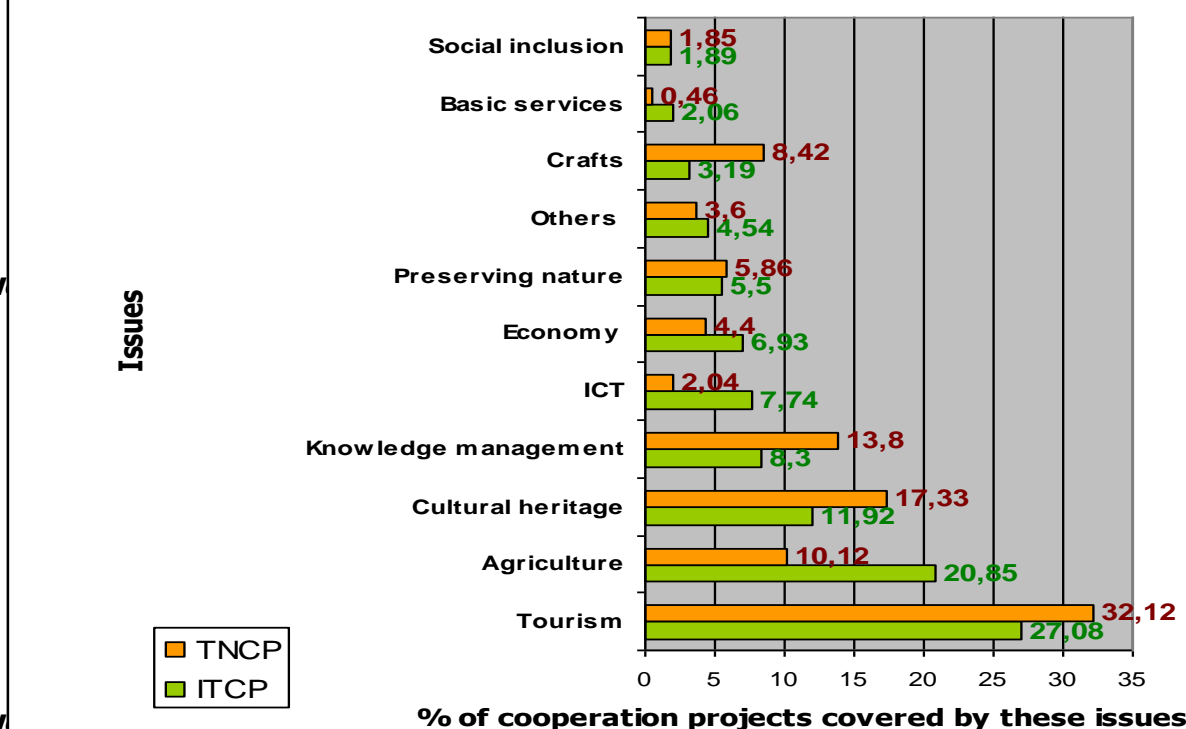
- *Cultural heritage,*

- *Knowledge management, education, training*

- *Agriculture, processing and marketing of agricultural products*

- *Crafts*

Most common issues covered by TN / IT cooperation projects





Links between the most common themes in Leader+ cooperation and the RDR axes 2007-13

Breakdown of Leader+ cooperation projects themes by RD 2007-2013 axis

ITC	Axis 1	23,93%
	Axis 2	5,32%
	Axis 3	70,75%
TNC	Axis 1	7,41%
	Axis 2	5,48%
	Axis 3	87,11%



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Thank you for your attention !
Dziękuję bardzo!