



# Cohesion Policy in Rural Areas and the role of CLLD



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European Leader Association  
for Rural Development  
Brussels, [www.elard.eu](http://www.elard.eu)

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# Structure of the Presentation

## Part 1: Cohesion Policy in rural areas

- 2020 study EP REGI Committee: “EU Cohesion Policy in non-urban areas”
- [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOP\\_STU\(2020\)652210](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOP_STU(2020)652210)

## Part 2: Use of multi-Fund CLLD

- Ongoing research in the context of LDnet
- <https://ldnet.eu/category/resources/clld-in-europe/>

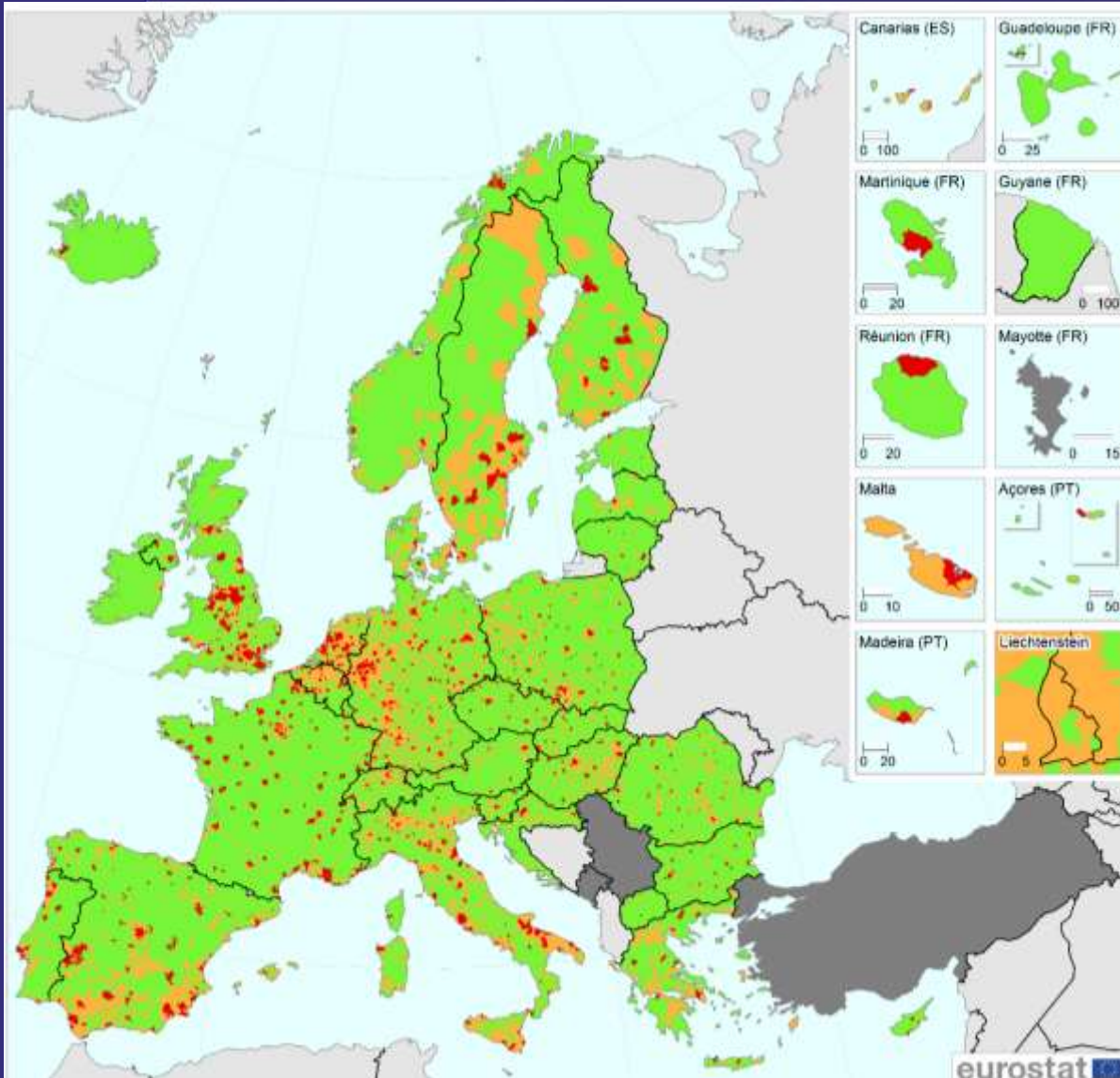


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LUS  
LOKAL UTVECKLING  
SVERIGE

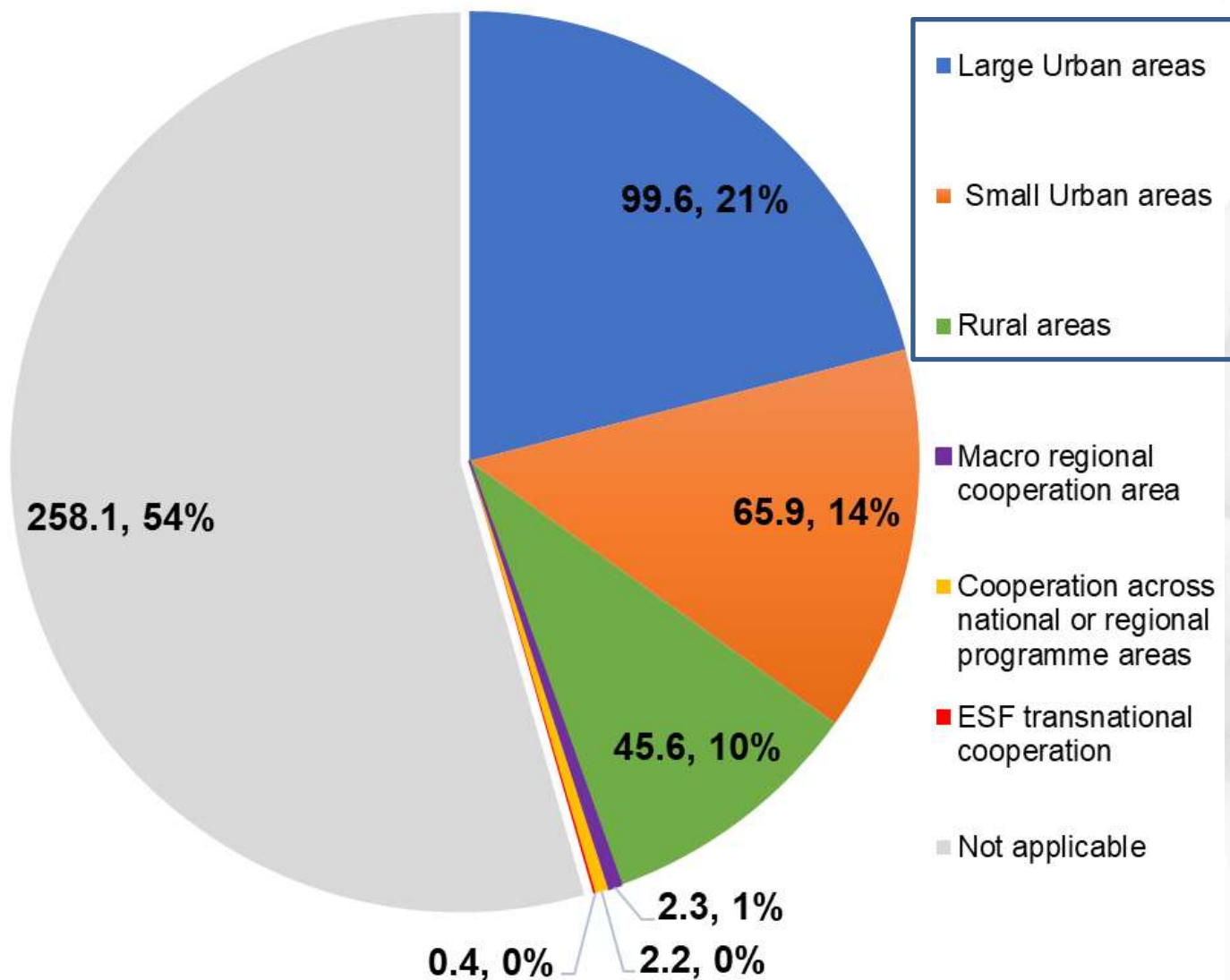
# Degree of urbanisation for local administrative units level 2 (LAU2)



**Over 90% of the EU's territory is rural & home to nearly 30% of the population**

-  Cities
-  Towns and suburbs
-  Rural areas

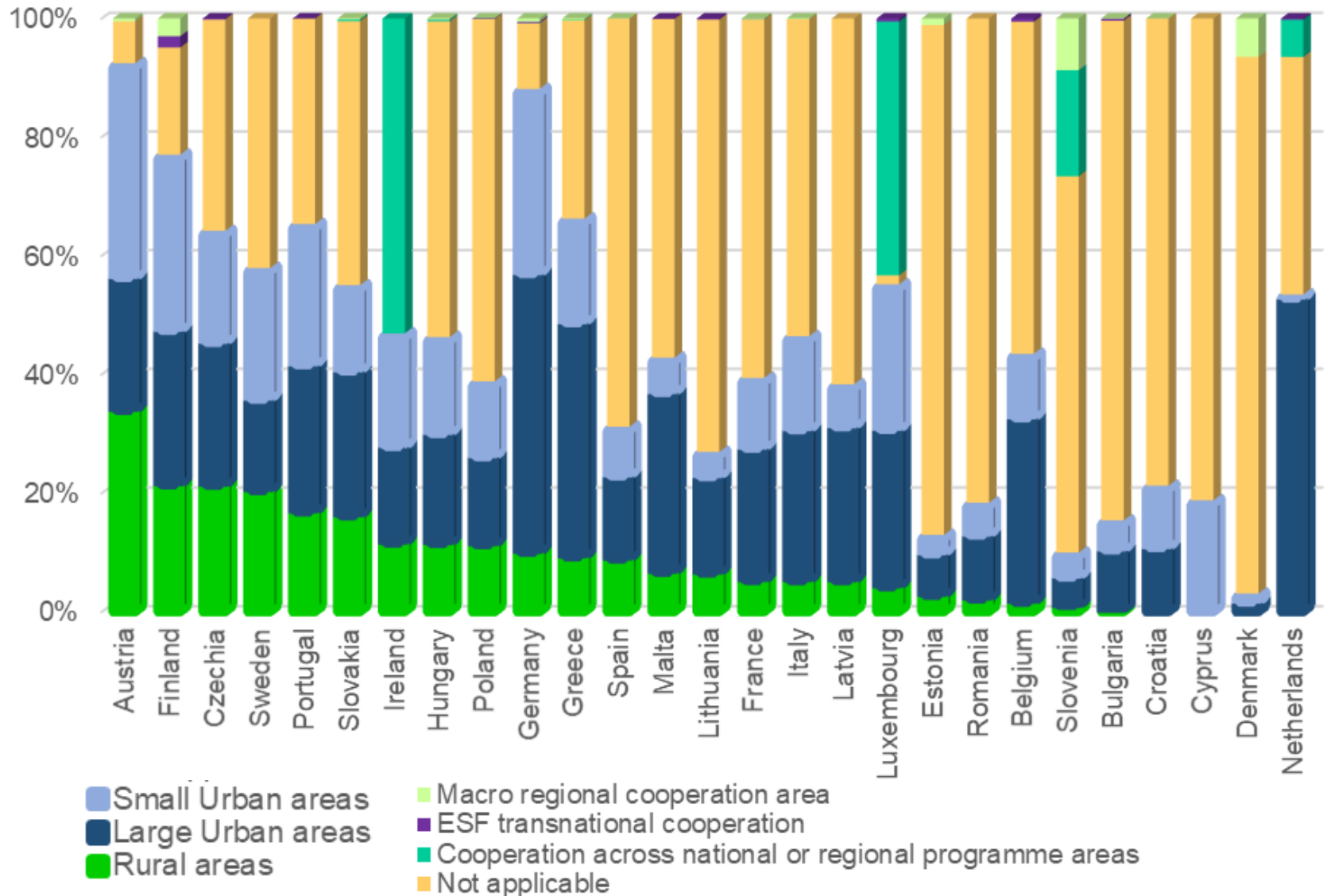
# CP funding 2014-20, by type of territory (€bn)



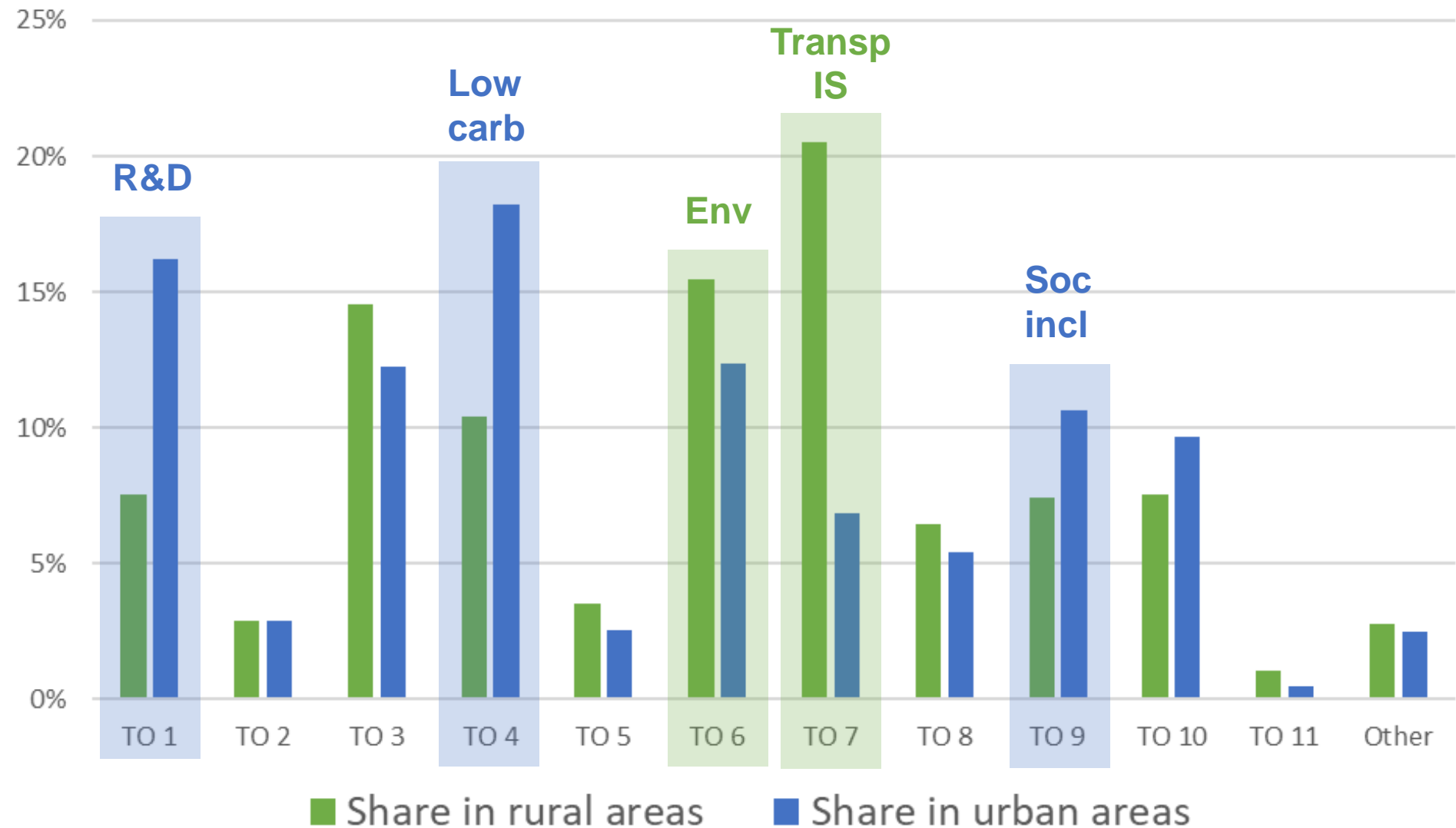
**Rural allocation €45.6 billion vs. Urban allocation €165.5 billion**

**BUT: Over half (54%) is not assigned to any territory type**

# CP funding for rural areas 2014-20, by country



# Allocation of CP funding to Thematic Objectives



| Intervention field  | Commitments in rural areas (in € million) | Share of committed rural investments as % of the aggregate commitments in urban and rural areas |
|---|---|---|
| 001 Generic productive investment in SMEs   | 4,349                                     | 33  |
| 034 Other reconstructed or improved road  | 2,788                                     | 57  |
| 022 Waste water treatment   | 2,458                                     | 30  |
| 013 Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures | 1,612                                     | 20  |
| 024 Railways (TEN-T Core)   | 1,600                                     | 76  |
| 087 Adapt to climate change & prevent & manage climate risks  | 1,577                                     | 31  |
| 029 TEN-T motorways & roads - comprehensive network   | 1,566                                     | 89  |
| 115 Support to early-childhood, primary & secondary education   | 1,356                                     | 28  |
| 067 SME business development, entrepreneurship & incubation   | 1,210                                     | 24  |
| 026 Other Railways  | 1,081                                     | 53  |
| 109 Active inclusion  | 1,022                                     | 18  |
| 085 Biodiversity, nature protection & green infrastructure  | 989                                       | 45  |
| 118 Strengthening vocational education & training   | 957                                       | 23  |
| 094 Protect, develop & promote public cultural assets   | 951                                       | 23  |

Source: Based on European Commission [data](#), July 2020

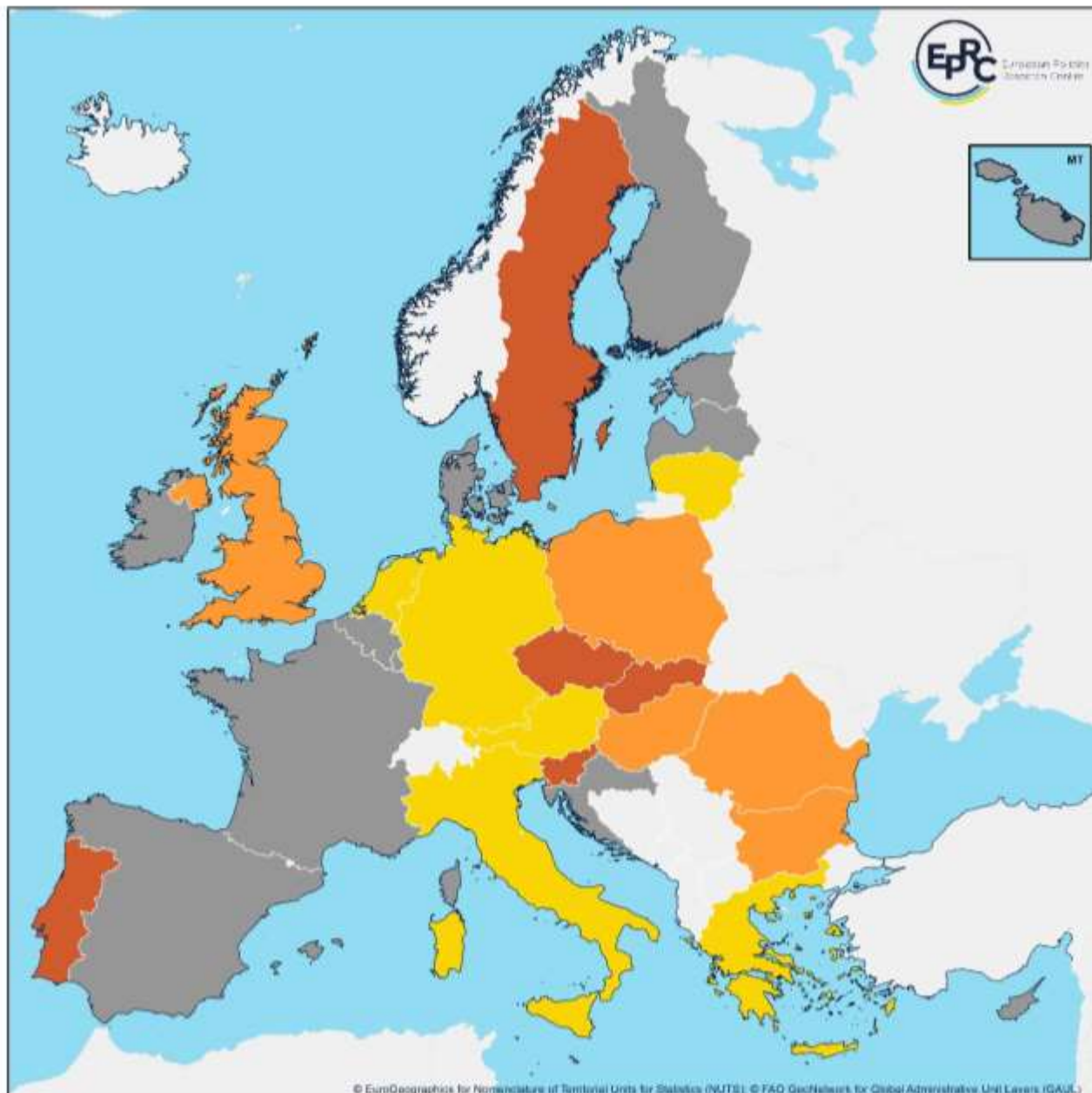
Note 1: **Significantly more**, **more**, equal, **less**, **significantly less** in comparison to corresponding share in urban areas.

# CP funding for rural areas – main messages

1. Allocation **to urban areas is higher** than for rural areas
2. Difference in thematic orientation: main **rural themes are transport infrastructure, environmental measures, (SMEs)**
3. Tendency to address **accessibility and connectivity**, less support for R&D and building on unique assets
4. Financial implementation is **more advanced in rural** than in urban areas (at EU level and many MS)
5. Lack of **evidence of effectiveness** of Cohesion Policy in rural areas – effects most visible in infrastructure and wider ‘good governance’



# Use of multi-Fund CLLD



4 types of countries in terms of use of CP Funds (ERDF, ESF):

Very regionalised in some cases: AT, DE, IT, NL, PL, UK

# Use of ESI Funds by CLLD LAGs 2014-2020

| Country      | Mono EAFRD  | Mono EMFF  | EAFRD-EMFF | Mono ERDF | Mono ESF  | Mono ETC | EAFRD-ERDF | EAFRD-ESF | EMFF-ERDF | EMFF-ESF | ERDF-ESF   | EAFRD-EMFF-ERDF | EAFRD-EMFF-ESF | EAFRD-ERDF-ESF | EMFF-ERDF-ESF | All 4    |             |
|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| Austria      | 69          |            |            |           |           |          | 8          |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 77          |
| Belgium      | 32          |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 32          |
| Bulgaria     | 25          | 9          |            |           |           |          | 4          | 6         |           |          |            |                 |                | 29             |               |          | 73          |
| Croatia      | 54          | 14         |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 68          |
| Cyprus       | 4           |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 4           |
| Czechia      |             |            |            |           |           |          | 27         |           |           |          |            |                 |                | 151            |               |          | 178         |
| Denmark      | 19          | 3          | 7          |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 29          |
| Estonia      | 26          | 8          |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 34          |
| Finland      | 55          | 10         |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 65          |
| France       | 330         | 23         |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 353         |
| Germany      | 298         | 29         |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                | 23             |               |          | 350         |
| Greece       | 14          | 1          | 22         |           | 1         |          |            | 4         |           |          | 1          |                 | 10             |                |               |          | 53          |
| Hungary      | 103         |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          | 99         |                 |                |                |               |          | 202         |
| Ireland      | 29          | 7          |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 36          |
| Italy        | 168         | 46         | 9          |           |           |          | 23         |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 246         |
| Latvia       | 29          |            | 6          |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 35          |
| Lithuania    | 46          | 10         | 3          |           | 23        |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 82          |
| Luxembourg   | 5           |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 5           |
| Malta        | 3           |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 3           |
| Netherlands  | 20          |            |            | 1         |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 21          |
| Poland       | 251         | 24         | 11         |           | 7         |          |            |           |           |          | 1          |                 |                | 29             |               | 1        | 324         |
| Portugal     |             | 7          |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          | 57         |                 |                | 24             | 5             |          | 93          |
| Romania      | 239         | 16         |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          | 37         |                 |                |                |               |          | 292         |
| Slovakia     |             |            |            |           |           |          | 110        |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 110         |
| Slovenia     |             |            |            |           |           |          | 33         |           |           |          |            | 4               |                |                |               |          | 37          |
| Spain        | 251         | 41         |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 292         |
| Sweden       | 2           | 4          |            |           |           |          | 3          | 2         |           |          |            |                 | 1              | 28             |               | 8        | 48          |
| UK           | 129         | 11         | 8          |           |           |          |            |           |           |          | 24         |                 |                |                |               |          | 172         |
| CBC AT-IT    |             |            |            |           |           | 4        |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 4           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>2201</b> | <b>263</b> | <b>66</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>31</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>208</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>219</b> | <b>4</b>        | <b>11</b>      | <b>284</b>     | <b>5</b>      | <b>9</b> | <b>3318</b> |

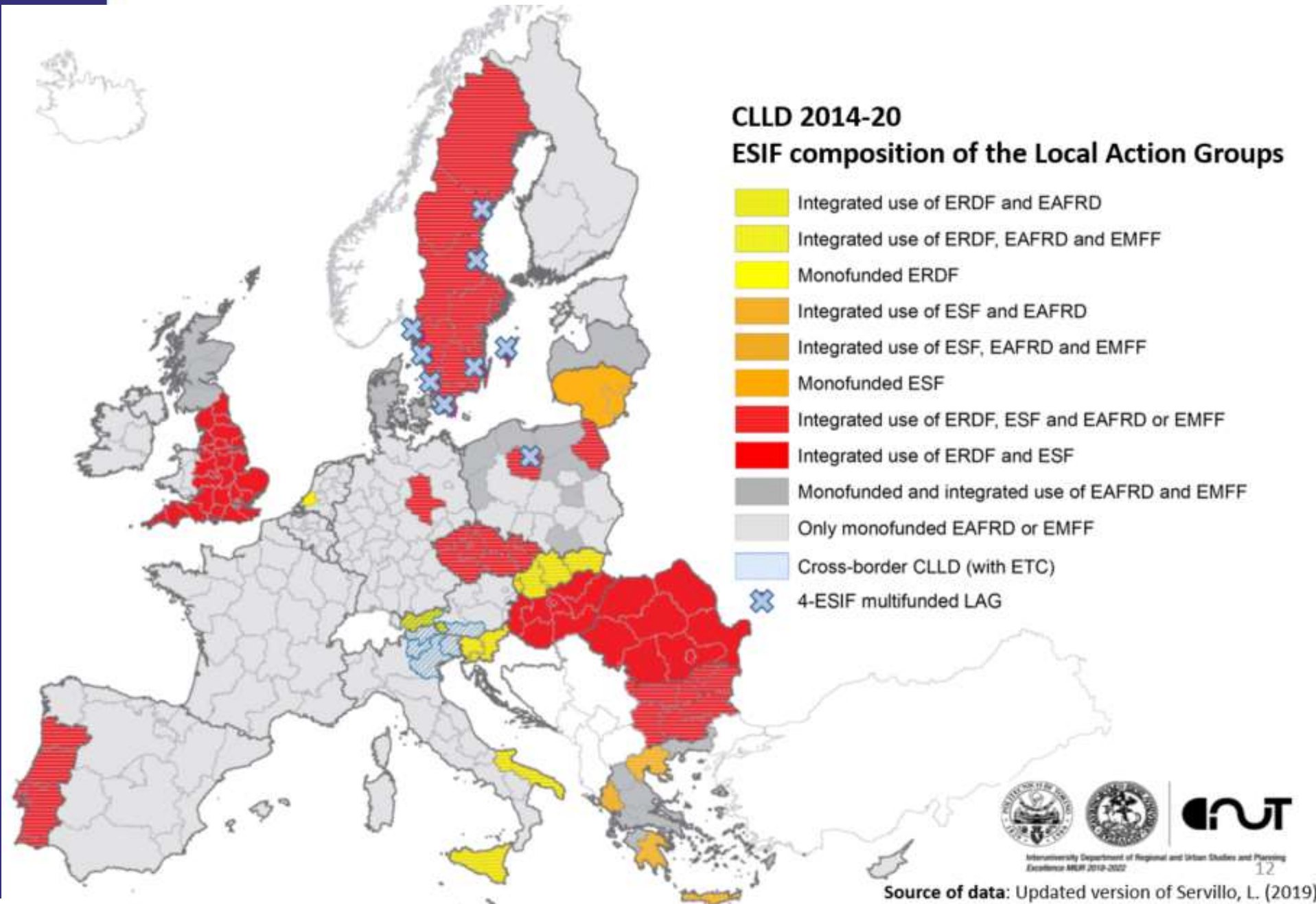
# Use of ESI Funds by CLLD LAGs 2014-20

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|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
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| De           |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 29          |
| Es           |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 34          |
| Fin          |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 65          |
| Fr           |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 353         |
| Ge           |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 350         |
| Gr           |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 53          |
| Hu           |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 202         |
| Ire          |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 36          |
| Ita          |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 246         |
| La           |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 35          |
| Lit          |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 82          |
| Lu           |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 5           |
| M            |             |            |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          |            |                 |                |                |               |          | 3           |
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| Romania      | 239         | 16         |            |           |           |          |            |           |           |          | 37         |                 |                |                |               |          | 292         |
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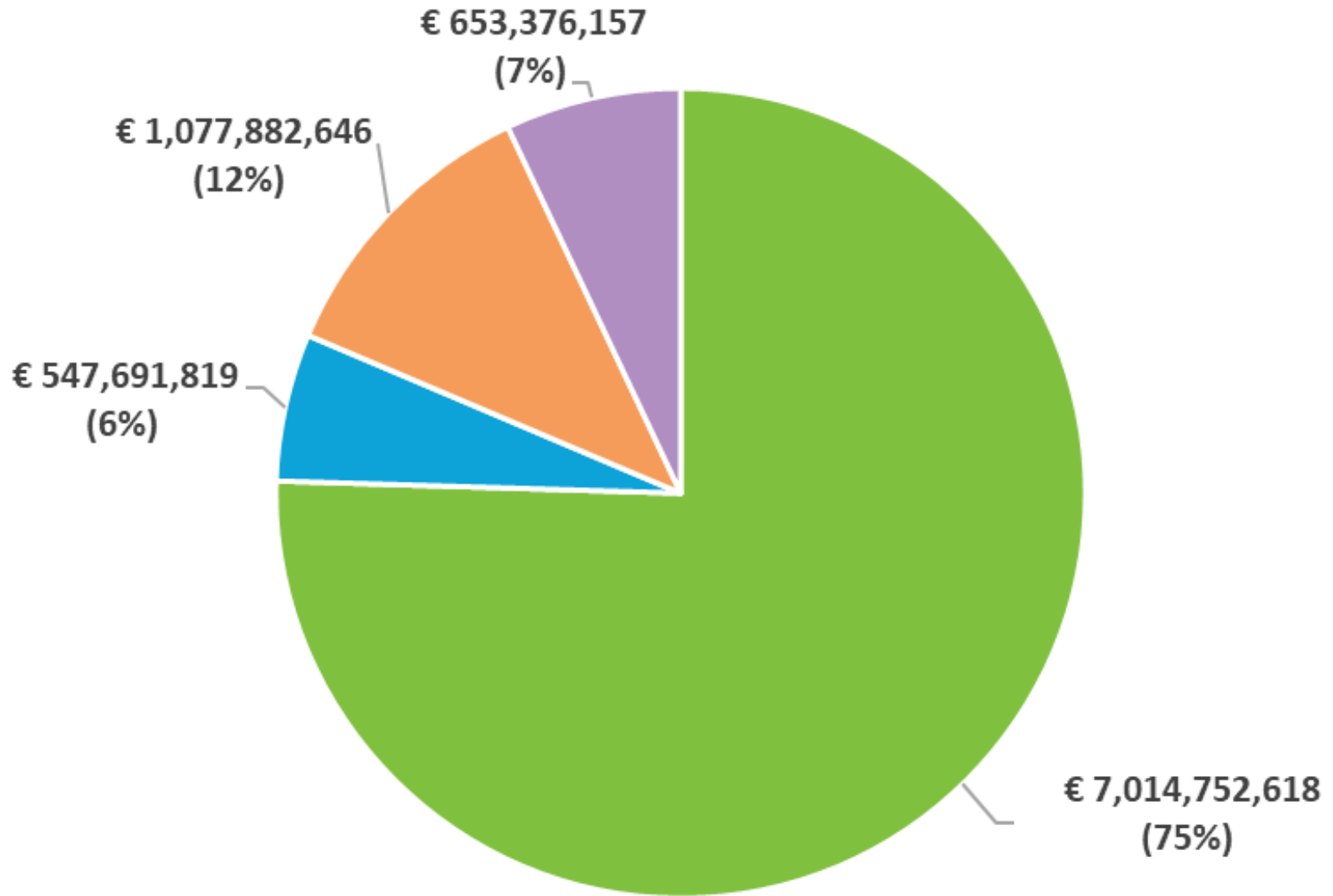
## Out of 3318 LAGs:

- 2201 (66%) are traditional LEADER LAGs (EAFRD only)
- 2530 only use rural and/or fisheries funding (EAFRD and/or EMFF)
- **788 (24%) use Cohesion Policy funding (ERDF and/or ESF).** Of these:
  - a majority (528 or 67%) combines CP funding with EAFRD
  - only 36 LAGs (<5%) just use 1 Fund
  - 9 LAGs (8 in Sweden, 1 in Poland) use all 4 eligible Funds

# What type of CLLD and where?

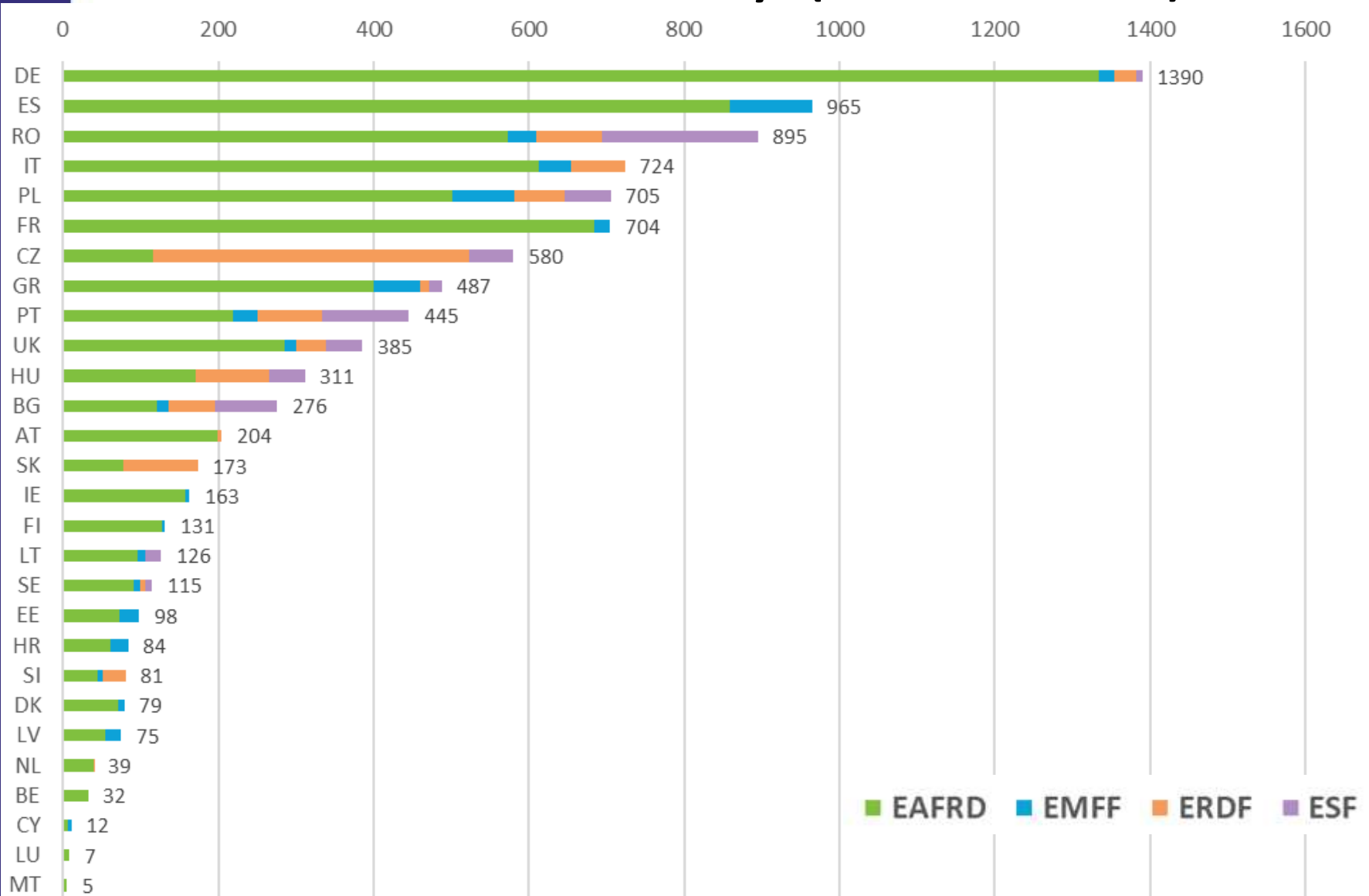


# EU sources of CLLD (LAG budgets)

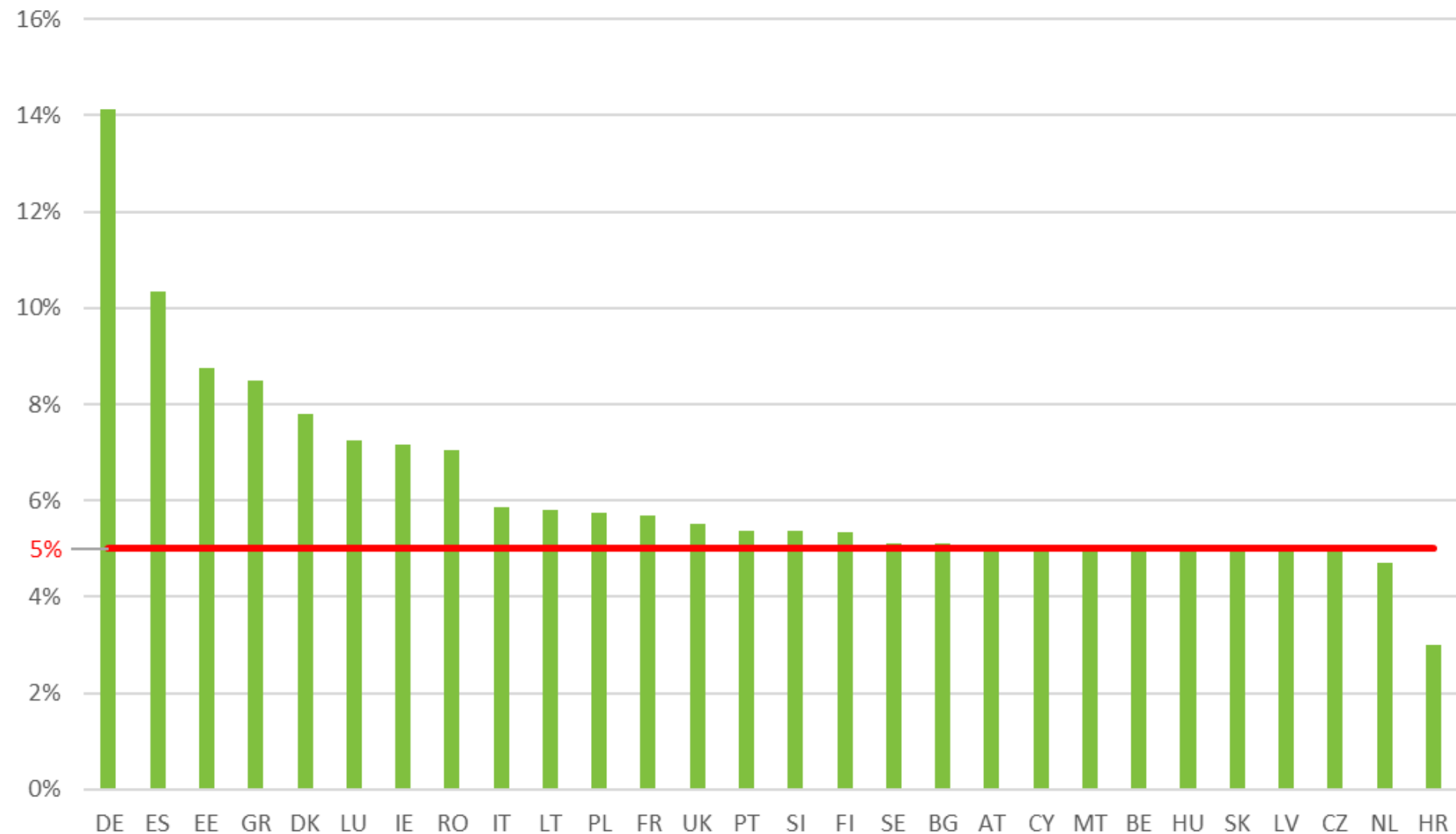


■ EAFRD ■ EMFF ■ ERDF ■ ESF

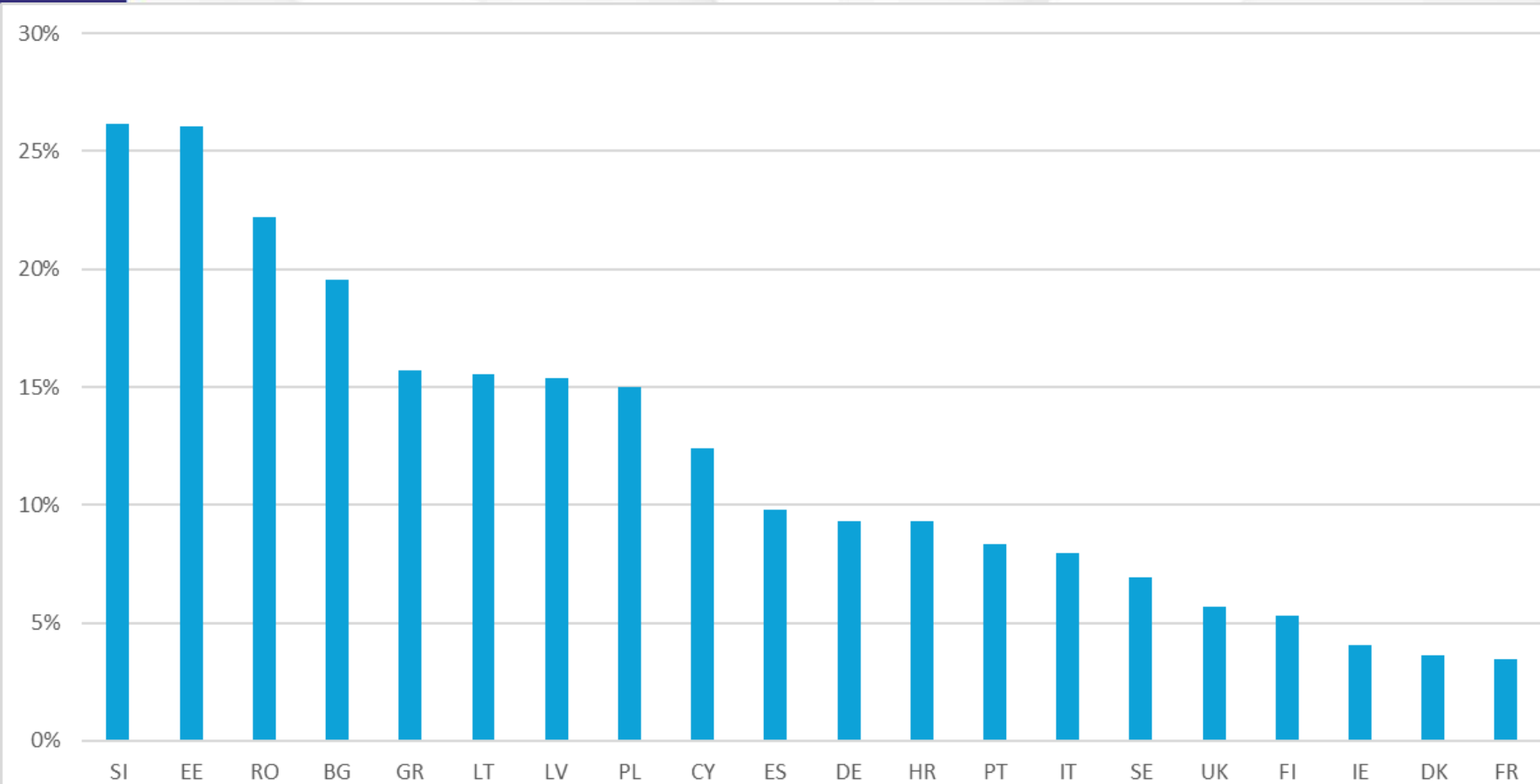
# CLLD allocation by ESI Fund in each country (€ millions)



# Share of CLLD (LEADER) allocation in EAFRD by country, 2014-20

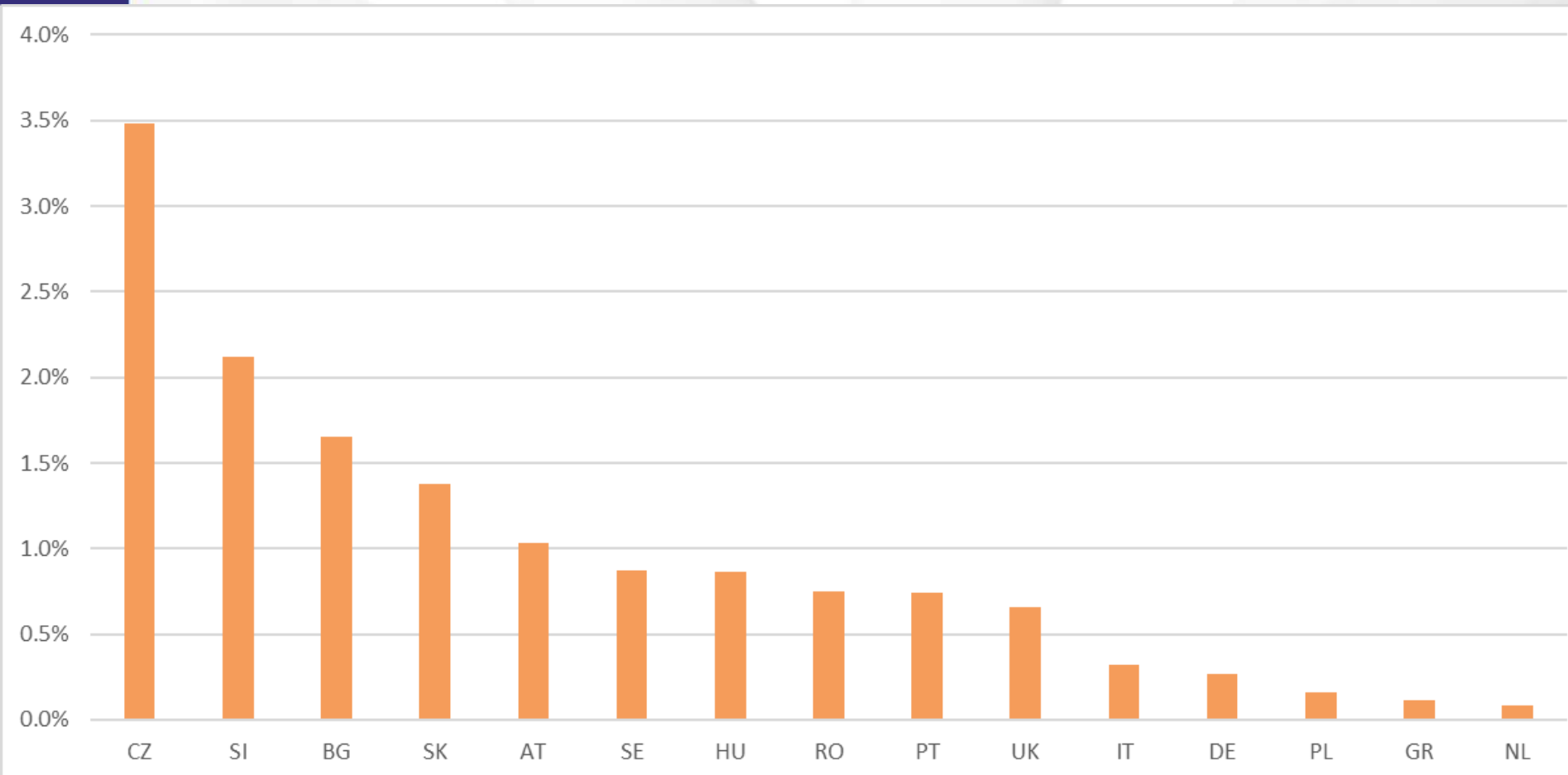


# Share of CLLD allocation in EMFF by country, 2014-20

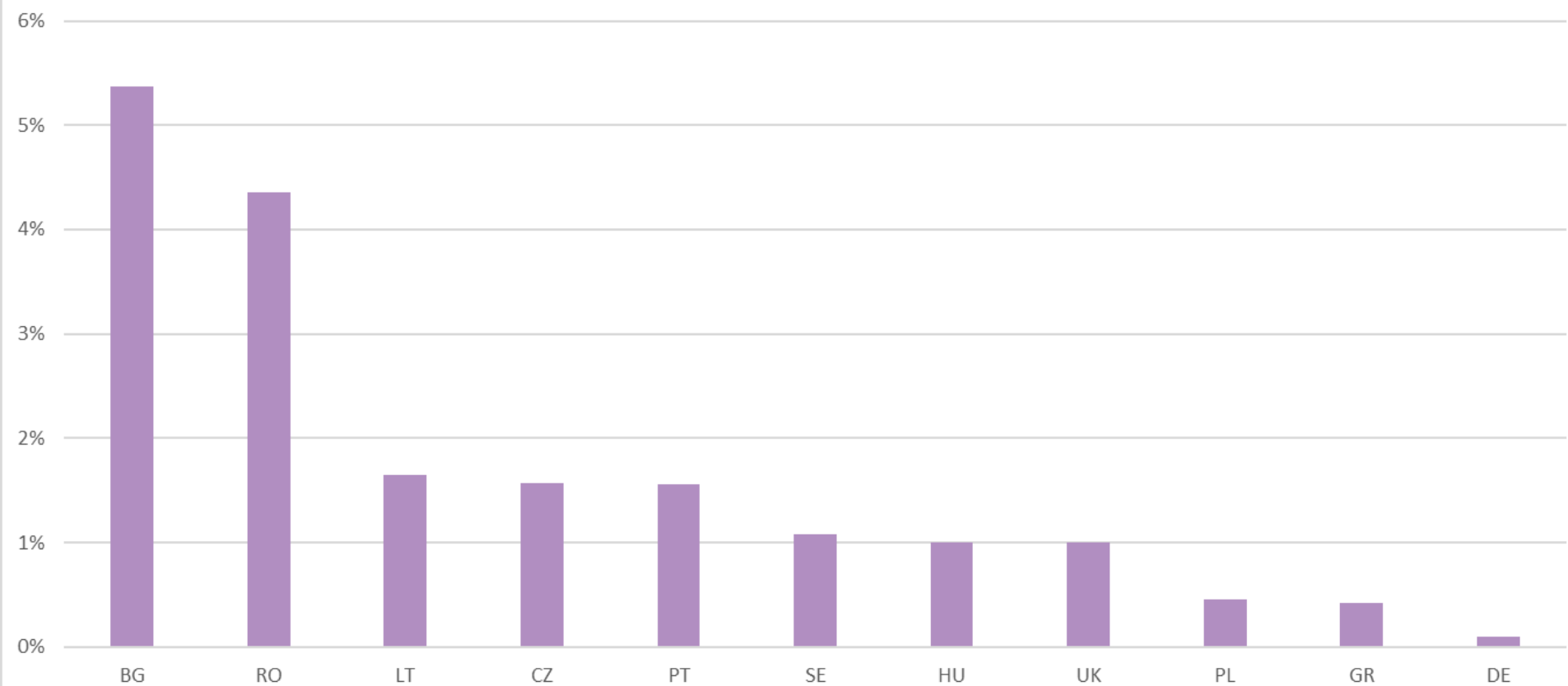




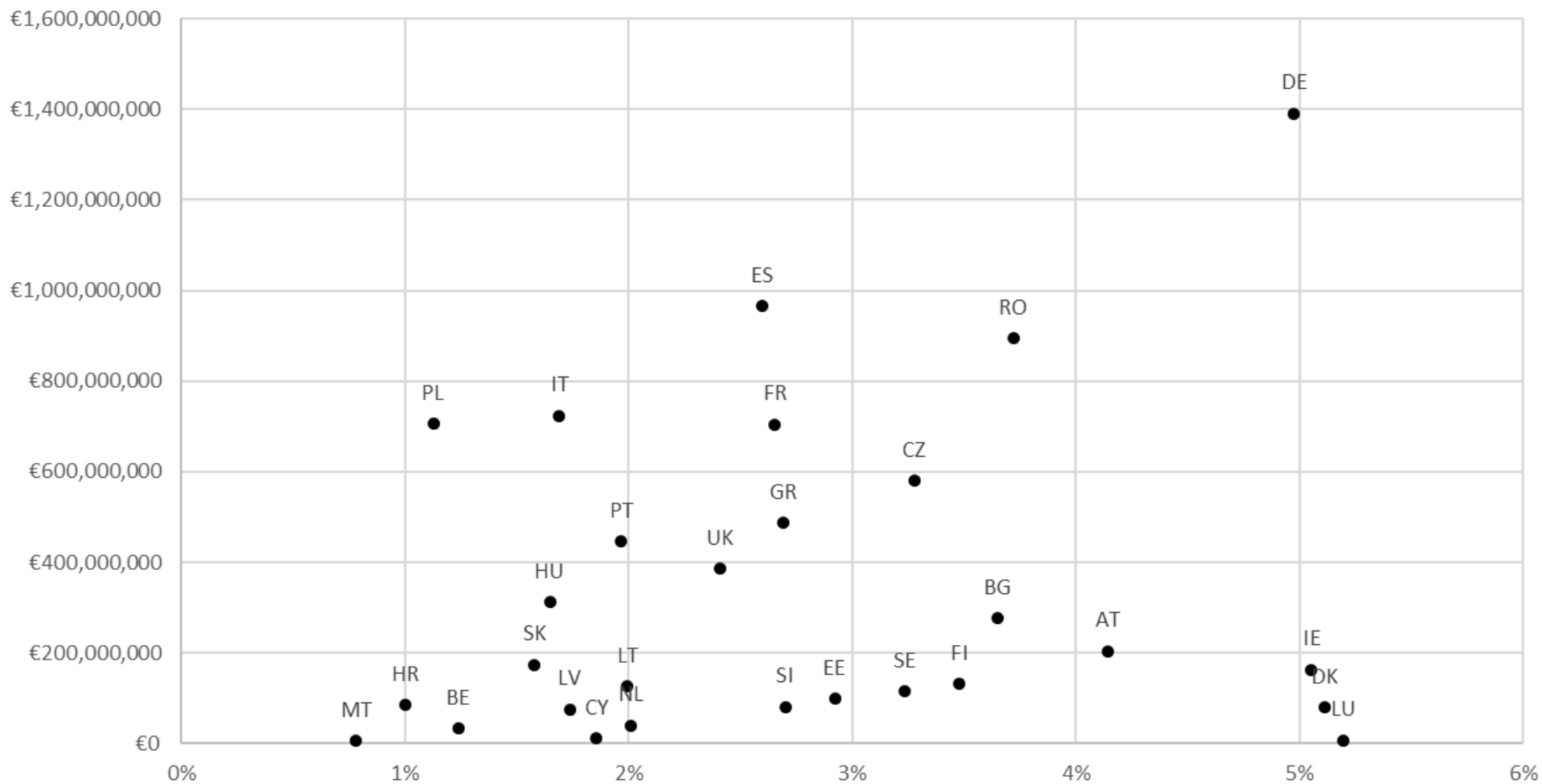
# Share of CLLD allocation in ERDF by country, 2014-20



# Share of CLLD allocation in ESF by country, 2014-20



# Total CLLD funding vs. its share of eligible ESIF by country, 2014-20



# Multi-Fund CLLD: some conclusions

- **Mixed experiences:** teething problems and delays – but now implementation in full flow
- Compared to LEADER, multi-Fund CLLD...
  - ...enables a **genuine bottom-up approach** (broader range of eligible themes)
  - ...allows targeting of **urban** territories
  - ...increases **synergies** between different policy areas
  - ...brings **simplification** (for beneficiaries!) by providing a one-stop-shop for project applicants
  - ...allows **capitalising on existing LEADER experience** and use expertise coming in from other ESI Funds
  - ...increases the **funding allocation** for LAGs (!)

# Outlook into 2021-27: main challenges

- **Loss of integration** (CPR, Partnership Agreement)
- **Ensuring funding** – 5% allocation of EAFRD to CLLD/LEADER), but no equivalent for other ESI Funds
- **Avoid 2014-20 delays** – stricter timetable for strategy approval
- **Managing administrative effort** – for MAs and LAGs
- **Overcome policy silos** (rural/fisheries & Cohesion Policy)
  - CLLD is more than LEADER + €x
  - Avoid mentality of maintaining control over “own” funding/ESI Fund
- Move focus from the complexity of governance to the actual **content and opportunities**
- **Ensure continuity** between programme periods (limit change)
- Allow **exchange of experiences** – EAFRD (ENRD), EMFF (FARNET), but ERDF/ESF...?

# LDnet CLLD country overviews

- Published: AT, CZ, EE, PL, PT, SE, SI
- Under development: DE, FI, FR, GR, IT, LU, LV, NL, RO
- Volunteers welcome: BE, BG, CY, DK, ES, HU, IE, LT, MT, SK, UK

## CLLD country profile: Estonia



An overview of CLLD in Estonia in the 2014-2020 period: local development approach, use of EU funds, number of LAGs, achievements so far, barriers encountered, national specificities | Main author: Trin Kallas | December 2020

## CLLD country profile: Slovenia



An overview of CLLD in Slovenia in the 2014-2020 period: local development approach, use of EU funds, number of LAGs, achievements so far, barriers encountered, national specificities | Main authors: Alina Čunk Perkič and Aleš Zidar, with contribution from Stefan Kah | November 2020

## CLLD country profile: Sweden



An overview of CLLD in Sweden in the 2014-2020 period: local development approach, use of EU funds, number of LAGs, achievements so far, barriers encountered, national specificities | Main author: Urszula Budzich-Tabor | June 2020

## CLLD country profile: Poland



An overview of CLLD in Poland in the 2014-2020 period: local development approach, use of EU funds, number of LAGs, achievements so far, barriers encountered, national specificities | Main author: Urszula Budzich-Tabor | Reviewer: Joanna Gierulska | November 2020



## CLLD country profile: Czechia

### 1. Key messages about local development and CLLD in this country

The CLLD has made full use of the potential that has been built in Czechia since 2004 through the implementation of the LEADER method and the expanded geographic coverage of LAGs. The CLLD support area consists of municipalities with less than 25,000 inhabitants and currently only 5% of the population that could potentially be part of a LAG is outside a designated LAG area, i.e. it is not covered by CLLD.

For the period 2014-2020, the management of the CLLD implementation is split between two ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture was responsible for setting LAG standards according to the Partnership Agreement. However, the Ministry of Regional Development was already responsible for the process of approving the CLLD strategies. Both ministries are also the managing authorities of the operational programmes implemented under the CLLD. The Ministry of Agriculture implements the Rural Development Programme and the Ministry of Regional Development is the managing authority of the Integrated Regional OP. The interests of the LAGs are defended by the bottom-up association National network of LAGs of Czechia (169 out of 179 LAGs are members of the network). The main mission of the network is to bring together LAGs to develop cooperation with other actors working for the countryside and its inhabitants, create conditions for expanding the influence and the role of the LAG in the administration of subsidies from funds, to promote and popularize the role of LAGs in community-led local development, and to organize lectures, training and trainings for more efficient working for rural areas. Regional networks and regional associations of LAGs have also been established.

### 2. CLLD used in the following Funds

| Fund       | CLLD budget from the Fund (€) |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| EAFRD/ERDF | 185,523,890                   |
| ERDF       | 0                             |
| ERDF       | 49,438,890                    |
| ERDF       | 432,877,890                   |

### 3. Possibility of multi-funding (linking several Funds in one strategy)

All LAGs combine the use of EAFRD and ERDF in one strategy. 80% of LAGs combine the application of three funds (ERDF, EAFRD and ERDF). Most of the LAGs that do not use the ERDF would have liked to do so but were not allowed based on selected criteria established at the national level. The EMFF could not be used in Czechia.

### 4. Number of LAGs

| Fund                 | Multi-funded | Mono-funded |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| EAFRD                | 178          | -           |
| ERDF                 | 158          | -           |
| ERDF                 | 178          | -           |
| Total number of LAGs | 178          | -           |



## CLLD country profile: Poland

Local development and CLLD in this country throughout the country under EAFRD and EMFF, and in two regions ESF, with multi-funded strategies combining several EU Funds. In and fisheries CLLD from the previous funding period was used delivery features such as Simplified Cost Options (SCO) for LAG projects, umbrella projects, widely accessible advance payments. The success of CLLD implementation in Poland is positively assessed by the national authorities, but there are significant differences between Funds and regions. Some complexities are occasionally observed, as well as diverging national authorities.

### 2. Funding Funds

#### CLLD budget from the Fund (€)

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| EAFRD | 500,755,500 |
| ERDF  | 70,699,995  |
| ERDF  | 65,710,976  |
| ERDF  | 58,902,782  |

#### 3. Funding (linking several Funds in one strategy)

Several Funds in one strategy, with the Lead Fund of multi-funded covers LAG running and animation costs for the whole strategy. EAFRD, but in some cases EMFF and, for urban LAGs, also ESF. Linking EAFRD and EMFF are found in seven Polish regions (out of 16) in two regions (Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Podlaskie) LAGs can use ESF in their strategies, although in practice there is only one LAG (powiat Łaska District). In several other regions, LAGs and ERDF and ESF funding by submitting applications to specific calls for projects are not part of an integrated strategy.

|       | Number of LAGs using this Fund |             |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------|
|       | Multi-funded                   | Mono-funded |
| EAFRD | 41                             | 251         |
| ERDF  | 12                             | 24          |
| ERDF  | 31                             | -           |
| ERDF  | 57                             | -           |
| Total | 42                             | 282         |

### 4. Areas in which CLLD is used

CLLD is located in rural areas, and they work mainly on improving the many projects focusing on public investments in infrastructure, growth and diversification of local economies (with a strong focus both agriculture and fisheries, and on tourism). The LAGs using rural and urban, are very active in the field of social inclusion.



# Thank you for your attention!



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