

## Research themes for PSDR4



The proposals presented here are drawn from recommendations made by the Scientific Council at the end of the PSDR 3 programme's evaluation process. These are suggestions for topics to be discussed with the Regional Authorities first, and then with research partners.

### 1. Land uses and pressure in rural and peri-urban areas

- Land management and control mechanisms, Preservation of agriculture and of natural open spaces
- Conflicts over use of land in farming and peri-urban areas, disappearance and conversion
- Change in land use and pollution management
- Dynamics of change in land prices and markets, impacts of transport and amenity infrastructure projects
- Mobility, infrastructure networks, new forms of urban-urban relations

### 2. Greening agriculture and global change

- Ecosystem Services (including natural hazard management), natural and territorial resources and reduction of inputs
- Impact of environmental changes on farming practices and health, at territorial level
- Organic farming, agro-forestry, on-farm value added
- Agro-ecological transition, methodology for testing environmental policy scenarios
- Impact Mitigation and adaptation of agriculture to climate change
- Environmental impacts of agricultural, suburban and urban activities and their relations with one another.
- Adaptation of Agriculture to various challenges (climate, water, energy, biodiversity)

### 3. Territorial autonomy and agricultural development

- Protein independence of regions and territories
- Waste and residue methanation, utilization of agricultural and forest biomass, circular economy
- Food supply to city and urban populations (governance of food supply in cities, short producer-to-consumer food chains, logistics in the food supply chains, local farming ...)

### 4. Innovation at the service of man, the food supply sectors and the territories

#### 4.1 Forest, Agriculture and Food

- The agriculture, agri-food and forestry industries in the « Horizon 2020 » European policy
- Increasing competitiveness and sustainability in the agri-food sector
- Location of agro-food industries and co-location of the production and the transformation sectors
- The role of cooperatives in the regional development process
- North-South relations in the agricultural and agro-industrial innovation strategies of regions

#### 4.2 Energy, transport and renewable carbon

- Energy transition and territorial dynamics

- Transport policies as means of improving accessibility and territorial cohesion, infrastructure, public transport, mobility services
- Measurement and analysis of mobility in rural areas
- Logistics and transportation of agricultural and food products, comprehensive review of short food supply chains
- The renewable carbon industry and challenges of bio-economy
- Utilization and transformation of plant by-products, biomass utilization

## **5. Territorial development, urban-rural relations and strategies for increasing the attractiveness of the territories**

- Analysis of the development path of high growth territories
- Adaptive management of territories with natural environment-related issues (protected natural areas, coastline, and mountain)
- Attractiveness of and social and environmental inequalities in and between territories, comparison of development models
- Vulnerabilities of rural areas with regard to rising mobility costs
- Social capital, natural heritage and tourism development
- Tourism development and territorial strategies, residential and “presence” economy
- Social Economy, cooperation and innovation at regional level
- Integrated utilization of regional resources and the ties of activities to their local environment
- The complementarity of city and countryside in natural hazards or waste management

## **6. New challenges and forms of public intervention and territorial development**

### ***6.1 New forms of public intervention and territorial development***

- Public Action, decision making levels, regional organization and development: decentralization, regionalization of public policy, rural areas and local project areas (Regional Natural Parks, urban hubs...)
- Infrastructure and public goods as components of territorial development
- Effects on rural and peri-urban areas of infrastructure, transport and Territorial Development policies
- Evolution of territorial governance processes and involvement of the various stakeholders in the decision-making process
- New knowledge and skills in support of public policy intervention: territorial engineering, expertise and research in public local intervention, foresight studies and scenarios.

### ***6.2 Agriculture, transport and regional development policies***

- Forms of integration of agriculture and transport policies in regional land development planning and territorial development projects
- Development of sustainable food systems and models integrated into territorial development processes
- Regional effects of the CAP reform: territorial impacts, and articulation of local development policies with European policy
- New survey methodology for analysing regional mobility
- Sustainable mobility challenges (energy, pollution, transport safety, economy) for territories in the future.

