



Promoting mutual support in rural areas and helping to meet community needs and foster level development: these were the objectives that RTE set itself in 2008 when it created the first foundation of its type in France. It has been a consistent way of bringing the company's values to life.

## Viewpoint

# A foundation that promotes a caring rural society

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### How do you look on the first years of the Foundation?

In a very positive way. The Foundation has succeeded in defining its objective, which is one to which I completely subscribe: "Contributing to the caring and balanced development of the regions". As someone who has represented the Limousin region in politics for many years, I am very concerned by the growth in competition between regions, which weakens the most fragile ones and increases inequalities. I appreciate the fact that a network-based company like RTE, where the values of public service are very much alive, is mindful of the need to preserve social and territorial cohesion in our country. In this spirit, I am also impressed by the commitment of many RTE employees to support projects backed by the Foundation as "sponsors". It's yet another advantage for the projects, and a way for the company to appreciate concretely the reality of its actions on the ground.

### How do you see the development of the Foundation?

Remaining faithful to a few principles that these first few years have allowed to emerge. In the first place, an integrated and sustainable concept of development. Different regions are different and call for very diverse projects, but it's always desirable to incorporate economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions. Then, a desire to promote innovation. The Foundation doesn't exist to support the same initiatives in different places, but to promote the invention of projects adapted to each region. I also think it should favour support for intangible investments. And it seems to me that, in the medium term, it will have to evaluate the results of its earliest actions so that, if necessary, it can adapt its aims and its methods.

47  
new projects.

€746,730  
attributed in 2012.

€4.7 m  
attributed since 2008.

380  
jobs created, of which 291  
on back-to-work programmes.

100%  
with a positive impact  
on the environment.