



Programme: “Europe for Citizens 2014-2020”
Strand: 2 - Democratic Engagement and Civic Participation
Call for Proposal: Civil Society Projects 2020 / EACEA - 52/2019

Project Title: “Citizens for European Rural Areas with New Opportunities”
Deadline: 01 September 2020 / H: 12:00 Midday (CET/CEST, Brussels Time)
Results Communication: 4 Months from the Submission Deadline

General Objective:

The Project aims to create a Space (Community) of Cooperation for the Social Sustainability of the European Rural Territories, in order to improve the conditions for Citizens' Participation in Rural Areas, promoting Social Commitment Actions that encourage the socio-economic development in the small municipalities of the European Union and combat aging and depopulation, through solutions and opportunities offered by associationism and cooperativism, as assets of the EU sustainable rural development.

Specific Objectives:

- 1) To analyze the new ruralities, approaches and experiences that challenge the demographic contraction of the European Rural Territories and that can provide innovative solutions for a Sustainable Rural Development;
- 2) To identify and promote the opportunities offered by associationism and cooperativism for the labour occupation of the groups of vulnerable people in Rural Europe, encouraging social commitment, volunteering and solidarity among European Rural Citizens;
- 3) To boost the equal opportunities and the creation of new jobs and new opportunities for the rural population (especially for women, young people, people over 55 years old, etc.), appealing to the cooperative principles;
- 4) To raise awareness among European Citizens in general and youth in particular about the importance of the rural areas and its current challenges in terms of depopulation and aging
- 5) To promote the European Citizenship and to improve the conditions for the EU Rural Population by encouraging Citizens' Debate on the Future of the European Rural Territories and Active Participation in the search for Solutions that ensure the Rural Development Sustainability.

Activities:

A) Work Package N. 1: Project Coordination and Management

- 1.1. Organisation of the Kick-Off Meeting and Transnational Project Meetings (together with International Events)
- 1.2. Project Monitoring Reports elaboration (Intermediate and Final Reports)
- 1.3. Project Evaluation: Final Evaluation Report

B) Work Package N. 2: Raising Awareness and Citizens' Debate on the Future of the European Rural Territories: New Approaches for the European Rural Development Policies

2.1. Development of Raising – Awareness Activities regarding the Challenges of the European Rural and EU Policies for its Development:

- ✓ Organisation of the I International Event (IE 1): “Debating the Future of the European Rural Territories” (Place: To be confirmed / Country: To be confirmed): - Project Kick-Off Meeting; - Project Official Opening Event; - Info Day; - Seminar and Informal Activities

✓ Organisation of the Local Events on the following Topic: “Debating the Future of the European Rural Territories” (Place: Project Partner Countries with similar Demographic Problematic)

- Project Presentation Events
- Raising – Awareness Activities (Workshops or Brief Volunteering Actions)
- Information Sessions

✓ Organisation of the V International Event (IE 5 / Final): “International Forum for the Social Sustainability of the European Rural” (Place: To be confirmed / Country: To be confirmed)

- Project Final Transnational Meeting;
- Project Official Closure Event
- Info Day

- Roundtables and Citizens’ Debate Forums
- Informal Cultural Activities

2.2. Implementation of a Transnational Virtual Forum for the Opinion Collection, which will foresee:

- Webinars and/or On-Line Surveys on the Current Challenges of the European Rural Areas, Needs and New Action Lines for the EU Policies in terms of Rural Development

C) Work Package (N. 3: Analysis of the “new” European Ruralities: Approaches and Good Practices for the Sustainability of Rural Development and Youth

3.1. Local and Transnational Observatory Groups for the Analysis of “new” Approaches Experiences and Good Practices for the Sustainability of the Rural Development:

✓ Local Observatory Groups: Fieldwork with the main Local Stakeholders for the Preparation of the II International Event

✓ Organisation of the II International Event (IE 2) on the following Topic: “The “new” European Ruralities: Innovative Models for Rural Sustainability - I” (Place: one the Project Partner Countries with Good Practices on Sustainable Rural Development):

- Transnational Project Coordination Meeting;
- Project Presentation Event
- Info Days and Panel of Experiences
- Transnational Workshops and/or Roundtables
- Study Visits
- Informal Activities

3.2. Local and Transnational Observatory Groups for the Analysis of “new” Approaches Experiences and Good Practices for the Sustainability of the Rural Development:

✓ Local Observatory Groups: Fieldwork with the main Local Stakeholders for the Preparation of the III International Event

✓ Organisation of the III International Event (IE 3) on the following Topic: “The “new” European Ruralities: Innovative Models for Rural Sustainability - II” (Place: one the Project Partner Countries with Good Practices on Sustainable Rural Development): - Transnational Project Coordination Meeting; - Project Presentation Event; - Info Days and Panel of Experiences; - Transnational Workshops and/or Roundtables; - Study Visits; - Informal Activities

D) Work Package N. 4: Identification and Opportunities and Strategies for the Professional Development of the Vulnerable Groups in the European Rural Areas through the Cooperativism

4.1. Local Observatory Groups for the Identification of Professional Development Opportunities for the Vulnerable Groups through Associationism and Cooperativism in Rural Areas:

✓ Organisation of Local Events on the following Topic: “Cooperativism and the Emerging Opportunities for the Professional Development of Vulnerable Groups in Rural Areas” (Place: Project Partner Countries with similar Demographic Problematic):

- Roundtables and Workshops
- Information Sessions
- Forums of Debate
- Meeting and Visits to Cooperatives
- Project Presentation Event
- Pilot Experiences of Youth and Woman Participation in Governing Bodies of Cooperatives and Decision-Making Processes

4.2. Transnational Observatory Groups for the Promotion of Cooperativism and the Emerging Opportunities offered by it to the Vulnerable Groups of People in Rural Areas and Definition of Strategies:

✓ Organisation of the IV International Event (IE 4) on the following Topic: “Cooperativism and the Emerging Opportunities for the Professional Development of Vulnerable Groups in Rural Areas” (Place: Project Partner Countries with similar Demographic Problematic):

- Transnational Project Coordination Meeting;
- Project Presentation Event
- Information Sessions
- Discussion Forums
- Workshops
- Networking Activities
- Panel of Experiences and Meetings
- Transnational Roundtables and Discussion Forums
- Study Visits
- Informal Activities

E) Work Package N. 5: Project Communication and Dissemination

5.1 Design of Communication Plan and Project Visual Identity

5.2 Project Web Page and ICT Tools for the Project On-Line Activities

5.3 Dissemination Materials: Project Presentation Leaflet and Results Brochures

5.4 Project Launch Event (together with the Kick - Off Meeting) / Territorial Communication Events and Project Closure Event (together with the Final Meeting)

5.5 Media Campaign: Press Releases, Articles in Digital Media, etc.

5.6 Project Dissemination through Social Networks

Partnership:

Coordinator: European Laboratory on Training, Education and Citizenship / Eu.Lab.TEC (Italy)

Partners: N. 7/8 Entities from 6 different Programme Country, preferably:

a) Partner Profile: Local and Regional Public Authorities with Competence in Rural Development, Associations/Federations/Union of Cooperatives, Non Profit Organizations promoting Rural Development among Youth and Education and/or Research Institutions



b) Participating Countries: 1) N. 3 Entities from different Country with Good Practices in Sustainable Rural Development and Youth; 2) N. 3/4 Entities from different Country with face similar Challenges in terms of Depopulation and ageing of the Rural Population

Target Groups:

The Target Groups of this Project Proposal belong to the European Rural Areas and consist of: a) Local and Regional Actors Playing an important Role in the European Rural Development Policies; b) Federation and Associations whose Activities are related to the Local Development and Youth; c) Cooperative Members and Entrepreneurs belonging to the Social Economy; d) Vulnerable Groups: Young People, Women, People Older than 55 Years; d) Young People who opted for relatively Depopulated Territories to undertake a Model of Life different from that offered by the Urban World; e) People who returned to their Native Rural Areas after having Emigrated to different Cities; f) Rural Population in general.

Budget:

The Total Budget requested (Estimation): Euro 150.000

✓ ***Types of Eligible Costs:***

- Staff Costs directly related with the Project
- Travelling and Accommodation Costs of Participants during the foreseen Actions
- Rooms Rental, Interpretation and Translation Services for the foreseen Events
- Communication and Dissemination Costs of the Events
- Coordination Costs generated by the Participation of several Entities
- Research Costs and IT Tools for Preparatory Activities

The Grant is calculated on the basis of Lump Sum Financing System Fixed for “Trances” (Number of Participants and Number of Partner Countries) and the same parameters are valid for all Participating Countries

✓ ***Pre-Financing:***

- Between 40% and 60% of the Total Budget requested

Duration:

✓ **N. 18 Months**

- **Project Initial Date: 1 March 2021**
- **Project Final Date: 31 September 2022**

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