

READ IT - Rural European Association Development Innovation Team

Active citizens in rural areas

The working group successfully applied for an ERASMUS+ strategic partnership K2
The project will run over a two years period from September 2017 to August 2019.



INTRODUCTION

How to make villages worth living and (sometimes) working in

The project aims to help people in rural areas in the participating countries to work for the development of rural areas as they are badly affected by urbanisation. As many people are leaving those areas the ones who stay get less and less included in the overall growth in society. Young people leave those areas and most of the inhabitants are middle aged and older people. This development leads to a “bad circle” as the social inclusion between young and old declines all the time.

There is also a lack of social inclusion in terms of less public service, closing of schools and shops etc. With the project we like to enhance people in rural areas to help themselves to get a better local development, to take initiative to entrepreneurship, local cultural activities and so on to get people to stay in the area instead of moving to big cities.

The inhabitants of rural areas need even more creativity and civic engagement to keep them socially included and the project will aim to give them new tools for that.

The project partners are:

- Europahaus Marienberg, Germany
- Europahuset Gävleborg, Sweden
- Learn for Life, the Netherlands
- Maison de l'Europe des Yvelines, France
- The House of Europe in Rhodes, Greece
- Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana, Poland

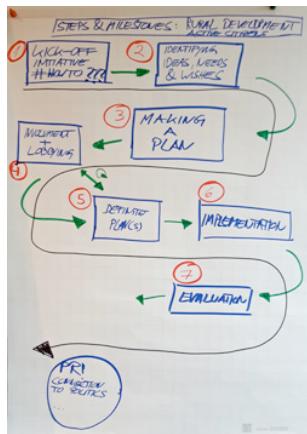
THE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

During the first meeting in Salzburg, October 2015, the working group discussed the different aspects of this subject. It was agreed that during the next meeting all partners should try to choose among the many aspects of this subject as it will not be possible to cover all of them.

FEBRUARY 2016 : Working Group Meeting at EUNET HQ in Hennef, Germany

Subjects that could be important to be discussed:

- The role of active citizens and volunteers in rural areas
- Different profiles and age groups in rural areas
- Competences on how to stimulate active citizenship
- Successful strategies , based on best practices in different countries



There were several possibilities to deal with these points. Therefore, it was important to discuss what our ambition is, what we want to reach.

Options:

- Share experiences
- Development of a brochure and website about best practices
- Preparing a Erasmus+ K1 project
- Preparing a Erasmus + K2 project
- Preparing a citizens project
- Development of new training and teaching models for active citizens in rural areas
- Other.....



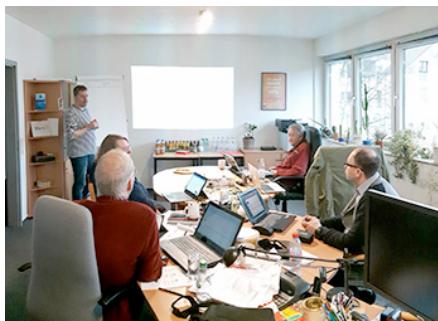
Working Group active citizens in rural areas February 2016

FEBRUARY 2017 : Working Group Meeting at EUNET HQ in Hennef, Germany

Common writing of the Erasmus+ K2 Application during a working group meeting at EUNET HQ in Hennef, Germany in February 2017.

The aims of the project will be :

- To increase the social viability and livability of small villages in rural areas.
- Develop innovative ways to promote active citizenship in rural areas.
- Share accumulated expertise amongst the volunteers and local/regional councillors participating in the project and the project partners.
- Develop a manual with examples from the various countries, that will be available and useful in a wider European context.



Working Group active citizens in rural areas February 2017

The group is chaired by Henk Hijink and Jantsje van der Spoel from Learn for Life

OCTOBER 2017 : Working Group Meeting in Budapest



Working Group active citizens in rural areas october 2017

The working group has applied successfully. So Budapest is the first official working group meeting of READ IT held during the annual assembly of EUNET (European Network for Education and Training), our european network. The working group members decided on the agenda of the multilateral meetings, the different inputs and the common writing of the best practices guide.

The first multilateral meeting will be held on 22 to 24 March 2018 in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, the second on 20 to 22 September in Sweden, and the third on 11 to 13 April 2019 in Rhodos.