

KEEPING THE VILLAGES COMMUNITIES ALIVE









LOCAL ACTION GROUPS- ARAGON REGION- SPAIN















TERRITORIES

- Alto Gállego Campo de Belchite Campo de Daroca Cinco Villas
- Gúdar Javalambre
- **Jacetania**
- Jiloca
- Maestrazgo Sierra de Albarracín
- Somontano de Barbastro





WHY DEPOPULATION WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE LAG/TERRITORY/STRATEGY?

- Depopulation is a threat to our sustainable development.
 - Local services and facilities disappear
 - Companies don't find workers in the area
 - Decrease in agriculture and farming (have an) affects the maintenance of natural spaces
 - Loss of cultural habits and identity...
- Villages can offer a good quality of life.
 - Natural spaces and resources:
 - Sustainabilityclimate change/global warming
 - Health: allergies and breathing difficulties pollution deaths, stress and depression, quality of food, quality of water....
- There are people, in the city, interested in moving to rural areas.

WHY DEPOPULATION WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE LAG/TERRITORY/STRATEGY?

- It is necessary to act locally and customize the solutions. Certain actions can only be implemented locally.
- Local people and stakeholders aren't aware that they can help to fight against depopulation. Their participation is necessary.
- The problem of depopulation is very complex and is conditioned by several factors.
 - An integrated action is needed.
 - Networking with other territories which face the same problem is important.

WHY DEPOPULATION WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE LAG/TERRITORY/STRATEGY?

- Keeping the population in the rural areas is fundamental. These areas are important for:
 - Food production (Agriculture and livestock farming)
 - Maintenance of natural spaces: to prevent fires or erosion
 - Forest Protection as CO₂ carbon natural sinks
 - A healthy life
 - Conservation of cultural diversity
 - Territorial balance- planning development
 - Leisure time
 - Other factors

APPROACH TAKEN

• The **involvement** of the population and local actors.

Town Councils and a network of volunteer collaborators have an important role. Human quality.

• A micro-approach and a practical trait.

Not only studies or planning, but concrete actions for our region. We adapt the actions to the needs and characteristics of each specific case.

An integrated action strategy.

We carry out actions to improve several aspects which influence rural depopulation like: employment, housing, Internet and mobile phone network, proximity services, transportation, etc.

Territorial cooperation:

We work in a network built with other territories, to carry out pilot actions with a demonstration effect, that may be transferable to other territories.

APPROACH TAKEN

MAIN LINES OF ACTION

1) Preparing local "offer" (population, housing, facilities, services, etc.)

- Involving local people: Increasing their sensitivity about depopulation, and engaging them to welcome new inhabitants.
- Collecting and filing information of interest for new settlers, and publishing on a website.
- Improving the quality of life and enhancing the attractiveness of the territory/area.

2) Contact potential new settlers and assisting them in coming.

- A method to assist people interested in moving to rural areas
- Using Social Networks, Pieces of news in the media, Advertising campaigns, etc.

HOW THIS APPROACH WORKS: ACTIONS AND RESULTS PREPARING LOCAL "OFFER"

- 1) Involving local people: Increasing their sensitivity about depopulation, and engaging them to welcome new inhabitants.
 - Meetings for debate, visits to other areas, training
 - "Network of volunteer collaborators"- but very demanding, not independent, low initiative.
 - A catalogue of relevant good practices
 - Presentation of studies' conclusions

DEBATE MEETINGS AND TRAINING









Te invitamos a la reunión informativa para participar en el Proyecto



Para más información CEDER Somontano 974316005 cooperacion@cedersomontano.com

SALAS BAJAS

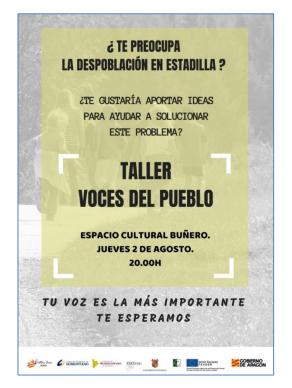






DEBATE MEETINGS AND TRAINING









VISITING INITIATIVES







PRESENTATION OF STUDIES' CONCLUSIONS

MEETING WITH EXPERTS





NEW INHABITANTS MEETING



PREPARING LOCAL "OFFER"

- 2) Collecting and filing information of interest for new settlers, and publishing on a website.
 - Data base (about villages and territory)
 - Web site http://pueblosvivosaragon.com/
 - Weekly Newsletter with employment ads
 - Companies file or list
 - BUT : Many people are not able to use computers, Difficult to bring up to date,





PREPARING LOCAL "OFFER"

3) Facilitating local population to remain in their territory.

- Training and motivation for associations
 - ➢ BUT
 - Very few people,
 - Associations are isolated, they don't network with others
 - Limited culture of participation

TRAINING FOR ASSOCIATIONS







GOBIERNO PEADER SOMONTANO

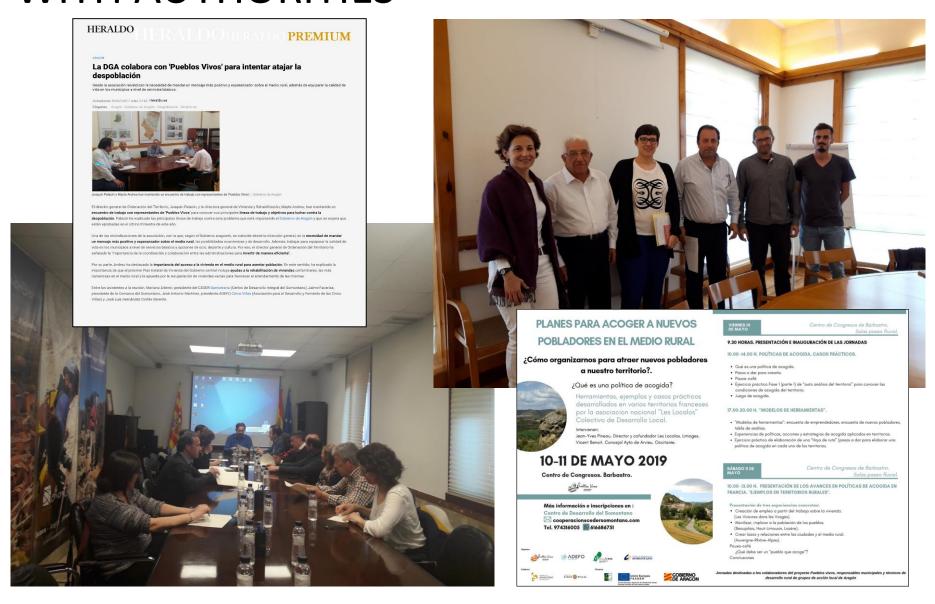




PREPARING LOCAL "OFFER"

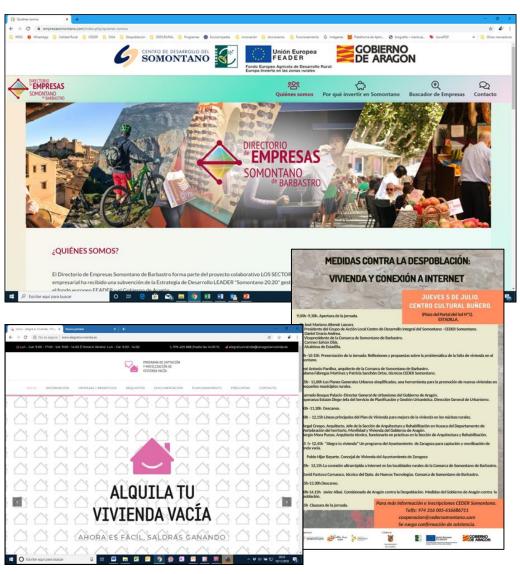
- 4) Improving the quality of life and **enhancing the attractiveness of the area**.
- Housing: A study about empty houses, a list of empty houses to be rented, a
 public procedure to rent these houses, regional grants for owners who want to
 rent their houses, proposals for applying those grants,
- Internet networks: interviews with communications authorities and companies
- Employment: a study about workers which companies need
- Local services/ facilities: Study about medical care centers
- Mobility
- Elderly people: Study about necessities and elaborate proposals to solve them.
- Etc.

MEETINGS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS WITH AUTHORITIES



CAMPAIGNS, TOOLS, INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE AREA





CONTACTING POTENTIAL NEW SETTLERS AND ASSISTING THEM

- Social Networks and media produce calls and emails
- A method to assist people interested in moving to rural areas
 - ➤ BUT:
 - We couldn't address to a particular group of people
 - Small technical staff
 - Lack of housing

CONTACTING POTENTIAL NEW SETTLERS AND

ASSISTING THEM







WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD

- Involving strongly local people and involving more stakeholders: local companies, ...
- Looking for more partners, new ways of funding
- Specific actions for youth
- Communication: good results for motivating and involving
- Actions for demonstration
- Create methods, procedures,
- "Marketing" for contacting specific groups of people

ADVICE FOR OTHER LAGS

- Long term action---- long term results
- Innovation involving locals. Attractive ways to meet and discuss: music, eating local food, visiting initiatives in the territory, promoting networking, participative methods to discuss...
- Don't be afraid to make a mistake.
- Looking for reasons for living in rural areas. Looking for problems if rural areas disappear.
- Integrated action. A lot of things influence depopulation.
 So not only LEADER funds but also others.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN THE NEXT PERIOD?

- More technical staff More Budget for human resources
- Support for housing (to be rent mainly), mobility-transport,
 collective equipment for companies and entrepreneurs
- Promoting participation "culture", support local associations, ...
- Flexibility in type of actions and expenses
- Relationship and communication: cities villages

THANK YOU VERY MUCH