



## LDnet: Annual Report to General Assembly

Brussels, 8 October 2019

1. **General.** The activities of LDnet have continued with high priority accorded to developing cooperation with other networks, focused on building bridges between research, policy and practice. We have also maintained a good flow of information to the thousand-strong group of people who follow LDnet, especially from a 'critical friend' perspective on local development.
2. **Main activities carried out:**
  - a. We organised and delivered in collaboration with ELARD, CIM Alto Minho and AEIDL a workshop on 11.10.18 as part of **EWCR 2018** on the theme of '**Local development strategies: retaining and attracting talents in the regions**'. The event was well attended, with presentations from experts and practitioners from various countries. Open interaction with the audience followed, using SLI.DO, with live comments and questions from the floor, and responses from the speakers.
  - b. We prepared and coordinated a special session on 6.6.19 during the **RSA Annual Conference in Santiago de Compostela** on '**Strengthening the impact of research on EU local development policies**'. The session presented the opportunities and challenges of involving the research community in designing and analysing EU local development policies, in particular CLLD and Smart Villages, from the perspective of practitioners, researchers and the European Commission. It demonstrated, inter alia, a strong support from the participants and the Commission for a community of experts on local development.
  - c. The main thrust of our activities can be summarised as follows:
    - Building bridges between research, policy and practice and encouraging and supporting the emergence of a community of experts. This built on the groundwork of our inventory of universities, research centres and qualifications relating to local development.
    - Strengthening the links established in previous years with other networks, especially ELARD, RSA, AEIDL and ERP.
    - Attracting new members, especially experts active in research on local development.

- Generating and offering to our network a growing number of original contributions on local development (see point 3).
- d. Unlike previous years we did not sponsor any internships during the past 12 months, mainly due to the limited response to our announcements, and did not participate in any project proposals.

### 3. LDnet website, newsletter and social media:

- The LDnet website continued with minor improvements during the year with an emphasis on **original articles** as mentioned above, including:
    - Overcoming EU Discontent in ‘Places That Don’t Matter’ through Community-Led Local Development
    - Resilient Villages: “Vibrant rural communities are not afraid to take risks”
    - Implementing cohesion policy funds through multi-Fund CLLD
    - Debating CLLD as experimental governance and task-specific space for policy action
    - Urban CLLD – The case of FatorC in Cascais, Portugal
  - The **monthly newsletter** became well established and was emailed regularly and without any gaps on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of every month via MailChimp to our mailing list of almost 1000 email addresses.
  - The LDnet **Twitter account** operated by Alistair Adam-Hernandez has remained active.
4. Over the last 12 months, four **Executive Committee meetings** were held on skype on 26.11.18, 28.2.19, 2.7.19 and 27/30.9.19. Additionally, there were several skype meetings with smaller groups of members to prepare the involvement of LDnet in specific activities.
5. Pietro Verga was co-opted to the board of the association in the place left vacant by Fernando Barreiro’s death.
6. **Financial information:** At the time of the previous General Assembly (10.10.18) the balance in the bank account of the association was € 6,005. An amount of € 1258 was spent in the last year, as follows:
- Trainee costs paid to AEIDL: € 1000
  - Website hosting and maintenance: € 248
  - General bank charges: € 10

The current balance is € 4747. No income was received in this period.

Known commitments to be payed after the GA are: € 360 (participation of LDnet representative at European Rural Parliament in November 2019 and travel expenses of one of the speakers at the LDnet workshop in EWRC2019).