



Report to General Assembly

LEDA Partenariat – Local Development Network Association (LDnet)

27 January 2021

1. General. Since the last general Assembly (October 2019) the activities of LDnet have continued with high priority accorded to learning from bottom-up responses to the impact of the Covid pandemic and from the implementation of CLLD to date, and exploring new local development approaches beyond the Covid crisis. Cooperation with other networks intensified 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:

2.1 LDnet lab on social innovation and local development: linking urban and rural approaches

- This lab explored how local initiatives or local action groups working in the context of CLLD can act as a motor and platform for social innovation at grass roots level. The emphasis was on the similarities and differences between social innovation initiatives in cities as compared to rural areas, as well as on urban/rural links.
- It took place on 20.2.2020 in Brussels, the last physical event of LDnet before the pandemic.

2.2 Rebuilding local economies after lockdown

- We organised a series of webinars on ‘Rebuilding local economies after lockdown’. They were held online in the period June-July 2020 and the topics of the sessions were:

Reinventing local shopping and hospitality

New solidarity services

Stay at home vacations – Staycations

Worsening inequalities / social inclusion

- A survey of participants showed an overwhelmingly positive response with high percentage ratings (‘very good’/‘good’) for the various aspects of the webinars:

The topics: 100%

The case examples: 80%

The opportunities for discussions/chat: 70%

The moderation of the sessions: 90%

The timing of the sessions (18:00 CEST): 80%

The duration of the sessions (1 hour): 80%

The frequency of the sessions (weekly): 100%

2.3 Community solutions - When social innovation meets local development

- In the Spring of 2020, LDnet initiated, together with the RSA, a new networking activity 'Community solutions – When social Innovation meets local development'.
- This led to a COST Action proposal in the Autumn of 2020, with 85 co-proposers from 30 countries.

2.4 CLLD in Europe

- Launched in the summer of 2020, the LDnet initiative 'CLLD in Europe' aims to present in a systematic and succinct way how local development is implemented in different EU member states, and provide a baseline for local development approaches in the post-2020 period.
- CLLD country profiles have been published for AT, CZ, EE, PL, PT, SI and SE, and more are in the pipeline.
- We have also published a number of overviews and horizontal analyses of CLLD in the EU.

2.5 Cooperation with other networks

- Cooperation with the RSA, ELARD, AEIDL, PREPARE and other networks has intensified since the last GA on all fronts, ranging from the exchange of information to organising joint activities.

3. LDnet website, newsletter and social media:

- The LDnet **website** continued with small improvements (e.g. new categories, CLLD in Europe and CLLD country profiles), covering relevant news and presenting original material and signposting to relevant publications on local development, such as:

Examples of local initiatives in response to Covid-19

Post Covid-19 Futures; Changing Work and Re-thinking Skills

LDnet: a community of experts building bridges between research and practice

- The **monthly newsletter** is now well established and is emailed regularly via MailChimp to our mailing list of around 1000 addresses.
- The presence of LDnet in the **social media** is limited, relying mainly on its Twitter account which has remained active.

4. The term of office of the **board** elected by the last GA in October 2019 is two years.

- Since the last GA **10 board meetings** were held on skype or Zoom on 9.12.2019; 14.2, 13.3, 14.4, 13.5, 3.6, 10.7, 11.9 and 4.12.2020; and 7.1.2021. Non-board members have participated in these discussions according to topic. Additionally, there were online meetings with smaller groups of members to prepare the involvement of LDnet in specific activities.
- **Board members:** In March 2020 Katalin Kolosy stepped down from the board following her retirement. Marta Marczis and Stefan Kah were co-opted to the board in April 2020.

5. Financial information:

- An amount of € 760.50 was spent since the last GA, as follows;

GA 2019 Expenses: € 76

Speakers' travel expenses, LDnet workshop in EWRC 2019: € 319

Website hosting and maintenance: € 341

General bank charges: € 24.50

- The current balance in the bank account of the association is € 3,668.76.
- No income was received in this period.