

**LEDA PARTENARIAT (LDnet) ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Held via Zoom on 27 January 2021 at 17:30**

**Present:** Alistair Adam-Hernandez, Danielle Borrelli, Pedro Brosei, Urszula Budzich-Tabor, Anita Busljeta Tonkovic, Andy Churchill, Cristina Duarte, Mariola García-Uceda, Beata Gawryszewska, Eileen Humphreys, Stefan Kah, Rosalba La Grotteria, Robert Lukesch, Marta Marczis, Haris Martinos, Giuseppe Pace, Jean-Pierre Pellegrin, Peter Ramsden, Maria Joao Rauch, Loris Servillo, Joanna Storie, Filippo Strati, Hans Van Nieuwkerk, Pietro Verga (members)

Kirsten Birke Lund, Alex Brad, Daniela Carl, Marion Eckardt, Nawel Guellal, Karen Keaveney, Thanos Kouletsos, Angela Loporchio, Brendan O Caoimh, Laura Sobral, Catalin Tiuch (friends)

**Gave proxy:** Anastasia Chatzinikolaou

**Sent apologies:** Yves Champetier, Toby Johnson, Katalin Kolosy, Sally McKim

**MINUTES**

**1      Agenda, Proxies, Apologies**

Urszula Budzich-Tabor chaired the meeting and welcomed the members and friends attending the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted. Members' proxies and apologies received were recorded by the secretary of the association, Haris Martinos.

**2      Report for the period Oct. 2019 – Jan. 2021**

The attached report for the period since the last general assembly (October 2019) was presented by the president the association, Urszula Budzich-Tabor.

The financial information contained in the report was presented by the treasurer of the association, Jean-Pierre Pellegrin.

The report was discussed and it was noted that during this period the association extended considerably its activities despite the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Several of these activities can be taken further in 2021.

**3      Priorities and activities for 2021**

The priorities and activities for 2021 were discussed and it was agreed to include the following:

**3.1 The “CLLD in Europe” initiative** which commenced in 2020 will be continuing with more CLLD country profiles and cross-country analyses. Several of the participants offered to contribute to new country profiles. In 2021 priority will be given to disseminating and debating the findings of this work with practitioners, researchers and policy administrators, including the possibility of a joint event with the European Commission and/or other networks.

**3.2** Peter Ramsden, vice president of the association outlined the proposal for a new webinar series on “**The Contribution of Community-based Initiatives to the Covid Recovery**” planned for April 2021. The focus will be community-based initiatives for sustainable development and topics that have provisionally been identified are:

- “New local development opportunities and challenges in a post-COVID world”
- “Communities in circles: new forms of development”
- “New exclusions: How communities are combating digital, food, heat/electric/water, health exclusions”

Members and friends were invited to ‘co-curate’ sessions and several expressed their willingness to do so. Ways of utilising more widely and taking further the material generated in the 2020 and 2021 series of webinars, including a video library and podcasts.

**3.3** LDnet will be a partner at the RSA’s “**Global e-Festival: Regions in Recovery – Building Sustainable Futures**” that will be held ‘virtually’ in June 2021. We will organise a series of sessions on the contribution of community-based initiatives to the Covid recovery with a **focus on policy and integrated approaches**, based on the LDnet’s series of webinars.

Several of the participants expressed their willingness to contribute. It was also suggested that we could organise informal events, e.g. networking, in addition to the formal sessions.

**3.4** Alistair Adam-Hernandez, member of the board of the association, reported on the state of play of the COST proposal that emerged from the initiative on **social innovation and local development**. A decision is expected in March or April 2021 and it is hoped that the proposal will be implemented as a COST Action.

It was generally felt that irrespective of the COST decision, networking in this field should continue going into greater depth on particular aspects and creating interactions with other networks, researchers and practitioners.

**3.5** The possibility of participating in the **European Week of Regions and Cities** (EWRC 2021) was discussed and it was agreed to pursue it. A decision will be taken after the kick-off meeting (28.01.2021) which will be attended by Maria Joao Rauch, member of the board of the association.

**3.6 Cooperation with other networks and organisations** has proved a strong feature of LDnet’s work so far. The participants strongly supported its continuation and expansion in 2021. This was underlined and supported by the representatives of other networks who participated in the general assembly: Marion Eckardt, President of ELARD, Daniela Carl, Deputy Chief Executive of RSA, and Marta Marczis, President of AEIDL.

Additional proposals included potential cooperation with the **PREPARE** network, networking in Switzerland via the **regiosuisse** conference on ‘Visions, development approaches, tools and policies for sustainable and resilient rural and urban development’ (Andermatt, 14-15.09.2021), and cooperation with universities (**traineeships**) as successfully done in the past under Erasmus+.

#### **4 Resources required and financial models for the operation of the network**

The association has neither sought nor received any income in recent years, but has relied on initial voluntary members’ contributions and an endowment from LEDA-Partenariat from a

different stage of its existence. It is therefore essential to establish a more sustainable financial footing.

Peter Ramsden presented four options: membership fee; supporter contribution; third party funding; and, administrative fees on contracts. These were discussed by the general assembly and other suggestions were made including methods of collecting funds. A general preference emerged for supporter contribution requests, including possibly suggested amounts and/or a system of very small donations. It was agreed that the board should consider practicalities and launch a scheme of voluntary contributions, preferably, by mid-2021.

## **5 The state of CLLD and local development and prospects in the Covid recovery period**

The meeting closed with a discussion on the state of CLLD and local development and prospects in the Covid recovery period. Several suggestions were made by participants regarding aspects that merit priority in the debates on CLLD in the new programming period and on the role that local development can play in the post-Covid recovery, and which can inform future LDnet priorities and activities.

Regarding the former (CLLD in 2021-27), these include: urban-rural interaction in CLLD and building a more participative approach in urban areas. Regarding the latter (local development and recovery), they include the recognition of the citizen initiatives beyond the limits of government action, and the place of local development in the European Green Deal.