



Report to General Assembly

LEDA Partenariat – Local Development Network Association (LDnet)

2 February 2022

1. General

Since 2011, LDnet provides a forum for sharing information and knowledge among experts, researchers and all those active in local development. In the last 12 months we have carried out a range of activities, including online events, original analyses and publications on the LDnet website, which was further developed with a partner/expert search and other facilities. Cooperation with other networks continued focusing 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.

2. Main activities carried out

2.1 LDnet webinars

A new series of four LDnet webinars was organised in April 2021 on the theme of **'Recovery through community-led approaches'**. They were well attended and involved active interaction and contributions from the participants:

- **'New opportunities and challenges for local development in a post-Covid world'**, 8 April 2021. [LINK](#)
- **'Communities in circles: new forms of development'**, 15 April 2021. [LINK](#)
- **'New exclusions: How communities are combating digital, food and health exclusions'**, 22 April 2021. [LINK](#)
- **'Recovery through community-led approaches: cross-cutting themes and lessons'**, 29 April 2021. [LINK](#)

2.2 'Regions in Recovery' e-Festival 2021

LDnet was a partner at RSA's 'Regions in Recovery' e-Festival 2021. We curated three sessions, between 3 and 17 June 2021, reflecting the theme of the LDnet webinars on 'Recovery through Community-led Approaches'. The first session addressed **new local development opportunities and challenges**, the second explored **local development's potential to address new exclusions**, and the final session explored how in the Covid-19 recovery **local development can find new solutions in the circular economy**. [LINK](#)

2.3 CLLD in Europe

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 2021-2027 period and beyond. By mid-January 2022, 20 **CLLD country profiles** had been published, with the remaining in the pipeline, practically completing the full series. We have also published a series of **overviews and horizontal analyses** of CLLD in the EU. [LINK](#)

2.4 'REBOUND' Project

LDnet is a partner in this new project on 'Fostering Resilience in Rural Communities'. It is a two-year project funded under the Erasmus+ programme that will kick off on 1 February 2022. The project is led by the Technological University of the Shannon working with LDnet and four other partner organisations. [LINK](#)

2.5 Partner and expert search

In the last 12 months we have responded to ad hoc requests from members and friends looking for partners or individual experts to cooperate in new and existing projects. We have now included a 'PARTNER & EXPERT SEARCH' button and search forms in the revised LDnet website. [LINK](#)

2.6 Review and draft 'mission statement'

With CLLD/LEADER entering the new 2021-2027 period, the board started considering how, after 10 years of operation, LDnet can best contribute in the evolving story of local development. A draft 'mission statement' has been developed (see Annex) and will be offered for debate at the General Assembly on 02.02.2022.

2.7 Fund raising

LDnet is the only non-institutionally funded network that links rural, coastal and urban areas and attempts to spread innovations and learning about local development. It is unique in bringing together practitioners, researchers and policy thinkers across Europe and beyond. The network uses modest resources and depends on voluntary contributions. In June 2021 we launched a fund-raising appeal using the non-profit HelloAsso platform, see [LINK](#). This resulted in a total amount of € 1315 added to our resources (see point 4, below). A 'SUPPORT LDNET' button and link to HelloAsso are now included in the revised LDnet website. [LINK](#)

3. Board of Directors

- Since the last General Assembly, held on 27.01.2021, seven full **board meetings** were held on Zoom on 01.04, 18.05, 17.09, 29.10, 29.11 and 17.12.2021, and 20.01.2022. Additionally, there were online meetings with smaller groups of members for the preparation, development and implementation of specific activities. Non-board members have participated in board discussions and the work of smaller working groups, according to topic.
- The **term of office** of the board, elected in October 2019, comes to an end. The General Assembly is due to deal with the reappointment/election of board members on 02.02.2022.

4. Financial information (period 1.1-31.12.2021)

- An amount of € 1,177.72 was spent, as follows:
 - Event participation expenses: € 374.12
 - Website hosting and maintenance: € 615.00 (2020 and 2021)
 - General bank charges: € 187.50
- Income received in this period from voluntary contributions: € 1,315.00
- The balance in the bank account of the Association (31.12.2021): € 4,172.64

Annex: Draft Mission Statement

The unique feature of LDnet is our interest in Local Development across all types of territory (rural, coastal, urban, mountains and islands) and across a wide range of themes from its origins in social inclusion, job creation and local economic development to more recent concerns about climate change, the circular economy and digital transitions.

LDnet acts as a bridge between experts, researchers, activists and policy makers in a wide range of public, private and third sector organisations. Geographically our main focus is the EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland, the EU candidate countries (Western Balkans and Turkey), the neighbourhood countries (e.g. Eastern Partnership, Maghreb, Middle East, UK) and beyond.

Our aim is to position participative, integrated and sustainable local development approaches at the core of designing, implementing and evaluating economic, social and environmental development policies at all levels of governance.

To achieve this aim we need to work to engage with new partners and to bring on board the next generation of activists and policy entrepreneurs.