



**Report to General Assembly**  
**LEDA Partenariat – Local Development Network Association (LDnet)**  
**14 February 2023**

## **1. Introduction**

Since 2011, LDnet provides a forum for sharing information and knowledge among experts, researchers and all those active in local development.

With CLLD/LEADER entering the new 2021-2027 period, we debated how, after 10 years of operation, LDnet can best contribute in the evolving story of local development. The General Assembly on 02.02.2022 adopted a [‘mission statement’](#) which has guided our activities in 2022.

## **2. Main activities carried out**

### **2.1 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 May 2022, 23 **CLLD country profiles** had been published, practically completing the full series. We have also published a series of **overviews and horizontal analyses** of CLLD in the EU.

To wrap up the work carried out so far, a synthesis has been developed entitled **“CLLD in the 2014-2020 EU programming period: an innovative framework for local development”** and has been accepted for publication as an article in a special issue of ‘World’, aimed at a wider audience.

### **2.2 ‘REBOUND’ Project**

**‘Fostering Resilience in Rural Communities’** is a two-year project funded under the Erasmus+ programme that kicked off on 1 February 2022. The project is led by the Technological University of the Shannon working with LDnet and four other partner organisations.

Due to the formal Erasmus+ rules, AEIDL has taken over the partner role from LDnet but LDnet experts have continued their research role. During the past year, their contributions focused on compiling state-of-the-art knowledge in the field of rural community resilience and well-being through a questionnaire distributed to a broad range of stakeholders and a series of focus groups – [LINK](#).

### **2.3 Urban CLLD initiative**

CLLD was introduced into the regulations for ESF and ERDF in the 2014 - 20 programming period. Since then, 220 Local Action Groups have formed in seven Member States. Other programmes in rural and coastal/fisheries areas have had dedicated support to improve the quality of CLLD. There is a need for similar support to be made available to urban local action groups and their managing authorities and to this end we are collaborating with the new European Urban Initiative to explore the potential for building some support for urban CLLD into their capacity building activities.

## 2.4 Website

The LDnet website has continued to provide information on events and publications, as well as original articles, reviews and critical feedback and analyses on projects and initiatives in the wider world of local development. Examples of the latter include: A review of the ECA report on LEADER and CLLD; the final conference of the European pilot project on Smart Villages, Smart Rural 21; the European Rural Parliament 2022; and, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OECD's ILE/LEED programme.

We have also maintained a good flow of information to the thousand-strong group of people who follow LDnet.

## 2.5 Cooperation with other networks and projects

Cooperation with other networks and projects has continued focusing on building bridges between research, policy and practice. This has included the RSA, AEIDL (including the 'REBOUND' project and AEIDL's ELIF initiative), EUI, and various LAGs, universities and research centres involved in our urban CLLD initiative, Erasmus+ projects, etc.

For example, LDnet was introduced by Meridaunia LAG in the E-COOP project on enabling communities to respond to energy, social and environmental needs, which has been selected under Erasmus+ and we are currently examining the feasibility of participating in its implementation.

## 3. Board of Directors

The board of directors was elected in February 2022 for a two-year term - [LINK](#). Since the previous annual report, five full **board meetings** were held on Zoom on 28.01, 11.03, 08.06, 09.11 and 16.12.2022.

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.

## 4. Financial information (period 1.1-31.12.2022)

- Balance in the bank account of the Association (01.01.2022): € 4,172.64
- Expenditure incurred in this period amounts to € 718.30, as follows:
  - Event participation expenses: € 270.00
  - Website hosting and maintenance: € 334.80
  - General bank charges: € 113.50
- Income received in this period from voluntary contributions: € 50.00 (there was no fund-raising campaign in 2022)
- The balance in the bank account of the Association (31.12.2022): € 3,504.34