



Report to General Assembly

LEDA Partenariat – Local Development Network Association (LDnet)

19 February 2024

1. Introduction

Since the previous General Assembly, held on 14.2.2023, LDnet continued to provide a forum for sharing information and knowledge among experts, researchers and all those active in local development.

Moreover, it expanded its activities in the implementation of European level projects in the field of local development in rural and urban contexts.

2. Main activities carried out

2.1 Fostering Resilience in Rural Communities

'REBOUND' is a two-year project funded under the Erasmus+ programme. It kicked off in February 2022 and is approaching completion. The project is led by the Technological University of the Shannon (Ireland), and initially included LDnet as a partner. However, due to the formal Erasmus+ rules, this role was transferred to AEIDL but LDnet experts have continued their research role.

Since February 2022, with the participation of LDnet experts, REBOUND has examined the **theoretical foundations** of rural resilience – [LINK](#), analysed 18 **case studies**, and developed and piloted a **training and capacity-building programme on Rural Community Resilience** – [LINK](#), [LINK](#). LDnet also organised and run on behalf of the REBOUND partners the concluding **international 'multiplier event'** of the project. It took place online on 23.1.2024 and was attended by 140 participants – [LINK](#).

2.2 Capacity building for urban CLLD

Urban CLLD was introduced into the regulations for ESF and ERDF in the 2014 - 20 programming period. More than 200 Local Action Groups were formed in seven EU Member States but lacked a dedicated support to improve the quality of CLLD, equivalent to those available to CLLD in rural and coastal/fisheries areas.

LDnet has been helping fill this gap. In a specific instance, LDnet was contracted by European Urban Initiative (EUI) for the preparation and delivery of an **EUI Capacity building event focused on CLLD**. This event took place in Timisoara (Romania) on 7-9 June 2023. It was organised by EUI with help from LDnet, which provided a team of moderators, expert in CLLD and EU urban initiatives – [LINK](#). As a follow up of this event LDnet developed an expert report on **'Delivering high quality CLLD in urban areas'**, which *inter alia* covers capacity building needs, methods of capacity building for CLLD stakeholders, and specific issues and sources of support – [LINK](#).

2.3 Website

The LDnet website – [LINK](#) – has continued to provide plenty of 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. We have also maintained a good flow of information to the thousand-strong group of people who follow LDnet.

2.4 Other activities

The LDnet initiative ‘**CLLD in Europe**’ presented in a systematic and succinct way how local development is implemented in different EU member states, and provided a baseline for local development approaches in the 2021-2027 period and beyond – [LINK](#), [LINK](#). 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 published as an article in a special issue of ‘World’, aimed at a wider audience – [LINK](#).

LDnet experts have also contributed as speakers in major events on local development, including the LEADER European Congress on ‘**Developing interactions between rural and urban areas and urban CLLD**’ – [LINK](#), the Good Practice Workshop on ‘**How to assess the LEADER added value**’ – [LINK](#), and the EUI capacity building event dedicated to ‘**Supporting integrated approaches to Sustainable Urban Development**’ – [LINK](#).

3. Board of Directors

The board of directors was elected in February 2022 for a two-year term – [LINK](#). A new board is due to be elected at the General Assembly on 19.2.2024.

Since the General Assembly of 14.2.2023, four full **board meetings** were held on Zoom on 3.4.2023, 20.10.2023, 27.12.2023 and 10.1.2024. The **Bureau** of the association, comprising the President, Vice President, Honorary President, Secretary General, and Treasurer has dealt with urgent, contractual and financial matters.

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 (31.12.2023)

- Income received: € 39,430
- Expenditure incurred: € 34,625
- Balance in the bank account of the Association: € 8,741

5. Status of the Association

The operation of the Association in connection with its actual and potential role in leading projects or participating as partner has encountered administrative, VAT/tax and financial administration constraints, largely attributable to its legal form. Therefore, the General Assembly is requested to consider and agree to:

- a) the option of members of the association registering a new non-profit legal entity in a member state of the European Union with the same objectives;
- b) winding up the association and transferring any remaining resources to the new legal entity;
- c) the board of the association facilitating the implementation of the above resolutions.