



LDnet: Annual Report to General Assembly

Brussels, 10 October 2018

1. **General.** The activities of LDnet have continued with high priority accorded to developing cooperation with other networks and, especially, with the research world. We have also intensified efforts to maintain a good flow of information to the thousand-strong group of people (mostly practitioners) who follow LDnet, especially from a 'critical friend' perspective on local development.

2. **Main activities carried out:**
 - a. We organised and delivered in collaboration with ELARD, a workshop on 10.10.17 as part of **EWCR 2017** on the theme of '**Communities as change agents: local development in the EU beyond 2020**'. It was followed by a networking session with RSA. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity to showcase different aspects of local development and debate how CLLD can address current and new challenges facing the EU up to 2020 and beyond.
 - b. We proposed and, following acceptance, prepared a workshop for **EWRC 2018** in cooperation with ELARD, CIM Alto Minho and AEIDL. The theme is '**Local development strategies: retaining and attracting talents in the regions**' and more than 200 participants have registered for this event, which takes place on 11.10.18.
 - c. With a view to building links with the research community we prepared and coordinated a special session during the **RSA Annual Conference in Lugano** on '**What the Cohesion Policy needs (but doesn't get) from Research: The Case of Local Development**'. It formed part of 'Policy Tuesday' (5.6.18) and was attended by some 60 researchers from a very wide range of countries and universities. There was a particularly lively discussion on LD evaluation and related topics.
 - d. We have gathered information for an **inventory of universities, research centres and qualifications relating to local development**. This has resulted in a compilation of a substantial amount of information which needs further development in the future.
 - e. Jointly with AEIDL, LDnet sponsored the **internship** of Noemie Bassette, Sciences-Po Rennes, over a four-month period from March to July 2018. Noemie's work covered a range of topics including a major contribution to the above inventory and research into project examples of relevance to LDnet's participation in the RSA conference in Lugano.
 - f. We have supported AEIDL by expressing LDnet's interest in the project proposal '**Digitisation: Economic and Social Impacts in Rural Areas**' for **H2020**, coordinated by the University of Pisa.

3. Other proposals that did not proceed:

- a. We submitted a proposal on '**social economy and CLLD**' for the Global Social Economy Forum (**GSEF2018**, Bilbao, 1-3.10.18) but this was not successful.
- b. LDnet participated in a **H2020** proposal known as **PREDICT** ('Preservation of small and medium sized islands culture heritage') led by Ionian University. The proposal was selected in Stage 1 but was not successful in the final stage.
- c. We explored the possibility of organising with ELARD an event in May/June 2018 to coincide with the **new MFF proposals** but this did not proceed as it did not fit ELARD's work programme. Consequently, we assigned priority to the RSA conference (Lugano) taking place in the same period.
- d. We explored the possibility of preparing a report and/or organising an event on **financial instruments for local development** but deferred its implementation due to lack of the necessary resources.

4. LDnet website, newsletter and social media. The LDnet website continued with minor improvements during the year. Further **original articles** were posted in this period including: "Towards an inclusive and sustainable CLLD: lessons from neighbourhood management in Berlin" and "Social innovation and territorial development". A major development has been the **monthly newsletter** which was emailed regularly on the 10th day of every month via MailChimp to our mailing list, (it currently has 835 active email addresses). Moreover, we have activated an LDnet **Twitter account** operated by Alistair Adam-Hernandez.

5. Over the last 12 months, five **Executive Committee meeting** were held on skype on 28.11.17, 18.1.18, 2.3.18, 29.6.18 and 2.10.18. Additionally, there were several skype meetings with smaller groups of members to prepare the involvement of LDnet in specific activities.

6. Financial information: At the time of the previous General Assembly (9.10.17) the balance in the bank account of the association was € 6,882. An amount of € 877 was spent in the last year, as follows:

- Finnish speaker's travel expenses (EWRC 2017): € 344
- Refreshments (GA 2017): € 56
- Subscription fees (RSA conference, incl. bank charges): € 257
- Website hosting and maintenance: € 200
- General bank charges: € 20

The current balance is € 6,005. No income was received in this period.