



How the Community-Led Local Development approach can help harness the potential of the Blue Economy for the sustainable development of rural areas via a more coordinated youth cooperation: a practical guide.

Draft

Mostar (Bosnia Herzegovina) 16-17 July 2019

Background

European policies support Western Balkan countries on their path to EU membership. By translating the enlargement political priorities in key sectors, they provide particularly useful financial assistance to facilitate compliance with accession criteria, including institutional reforms necessary to the adoption of the *acquis communautaire* and the continuation of negotiations. These priorities are embedded in Indicative strategy papers within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPAA), and are assimilated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As part of their accession process, WB countries also participate in two EU macro-regional strategies, notably the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the European Union's strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR). These strategies aim to unite EU Member States and non-EU countries in harnessing their sustainable development potential and in facing common challenges, namely the improvement of transport and energy connections, environmental protection, sustainable tourism and promotion of the blue economy. But are territories prepared to harness such opportunities?

In recent years, local communities have increasingly engaged into cooperation aimed at intra-generational justice, a tendency which is demonstrated by the continuous expansion of associations and volunteering in specific sectors such as: rural economy, civil protection, eco-sustainable tourism, human rights advocacy and democracy.

Local actors need to prepare and be supported in carrying out participatory project-design and management activities aimed at local development, possibly based on a sectoral approach and coherently framed into a sustainable and long-term perspective. In particular, they need support in developing ownership, in achieving synergies with various actors, in avoiding the overlapping of financial instruments and in ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in delivering development policies.

One of the available tools, already applied in contexts such as rural areas of non-EU countries (e.g. southern Albania) with interesting results under Interreg Italy – Austria CBC Programme, is the **Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)** approach. The CLLD methodology is particularly recommended in the official documents of the negotiation process for the 2021-2027 financial programming period as a pathway to participatory local development.

With this two-day seminar the AIE intends to provide target groups with information about financial opportunities and the CLLD approach, together with useful coordination and operation tools. The seminar is very much practice-oriented and uses a mix of short presentations, case studies, group work, simulations, and discussions.

The seminar is organised in the framework of the **AI-NURECC** a joint initiative of the key networks of the Adriatic Ionian regions (CRPM, AIE, Forum AIC, FAIC, UniAdrion) who have decided to pool forces with the aim of supporting the implementation of the Strategy and its action plan and of ensuring deep and spread territorial coverage, at regional and local level.

Target Groups

The seminar is best suited to young people, students and young professionals, local actors responsible for implementing development strategies including local institutions, educational institutions, intermediate bodies, freelancers, small economic operators, associations and NGOs.

Training objectives

By the end of the Training Action, participants will be able to:

- Identify EU, national and regional programmes/funds/calls and unlock connected opportunities
- Create synergies to harness and capitalise existing projects
- Exchange best practices and network to achieve critical mass
- Examine the Blue Growth as a key to sustainable development of rural communities of the Adriatic Ionian basin.

AGENDA

16-17 July 2010

Meeting city: Mostar (BH)

Working languages: English

Day 1, 16 JULY 2019

9:30 – 10:00 *Registration of participants*

10:00 – 11:00 **Opening and Welcome**

Presentation of the AI-NURECC Initiative and introduction to the programme, objectives and methodology of the seminar

Representative of AI-NURECC Lead Partner Conference of Maritime and Peripheral Regions (CMPR) – TBC

Francesco Cocco, Secretary General of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

Representative of the Office of the Prime Minister of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton Government – TBC

Milena Rosa, Expert in Local Development Strategies

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 13:00 **Panel**

Presentation of good practices, synergies and cooperation opportunities with particular reference to Cooperation & Development and Youth Cooperation Projects

Representative of Bosnian Ministry of Agriculture, Water-Management and Forestry – TBC

Enea Hoti, Secretary General of the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – TBC

Representative of the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS) – Tirana – TBC

Representative of the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS) – Sarajevo – TBC

Đuro Blanuša, Secretary General of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) – TBC

Angelo Belligiano, University of Molise, Faculty of Agriculture – TBC

13:00-14:00 **Light Lunch and networking**

14:00-17:00 **Beginning of Training Action led by Milena Rosa, Expert**

Tour de table: presentation of participants to endorse networking and interaction

Introduction to Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) approach and case study

Background: Presentation of Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)

Case Study. From theory to practice. Presentation of Bukë, Kripë e Zemër (Bread Salt and Heart) - Food Tradition and Culture. Co-development processes in disadvantaged rural areas of Northern and Southern Albania through the valorisation of traditional bio- Mediterranean knowledge and products

Conclusions:

- Definition of the organisational typologies of cooperation
- Summary of available financial instruments

17:00 **Wrapping up and end of Training Action**

Day 2, 17 JULY 2019

9:30 – 10:00 **Registration of participants**

10:00 – 11:00 **Beginning of Training Action led by Milena Rosa, Expert**

Background:

- Implementation phases of the CLLD model, the role of youth and youth organisations
- How to elaborate a participatory strategy

Introduction of methodology and division of participants into working groups.

- WG1 Strengthening socio-economic conditions of population and youth in rural areas with a focus on sustainable development, sustainable tourism and promotion of typical products
- WG2 Developing forms of participatory cooperation actions with a focus on the leading role of civil society and, in particular, of young people and youth organisations

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 13:00 **Resuming of Training Action**

Conclusions:

- Presentation of project ideas/proposals per WG by an appointed spokesperson
- Definition of objectives, time schedule, partnership, networking of local actors

13:00 **End of Training Action and Light Lunch**