Supporting small towns / urban areas in transition

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CoR Stakeholder consultation. "Small urban areas as key actors to manage a just transition"
Villages and towns are key partners for transition

“Our rural areas are the fabric of our society and the heartbeat of our economy”

President von der Leyen – July 2019
(Policy guidelines for 2019-2024)
Local innovation for transition

**Diagnosis**
- Declining jobs
- Inadequate services
- Digital divide
- Depopulation
- Climate change
- Many more ...

**Shared Vision**
- 01 Digital transformation
- 02 Green, Low carbon Econ.
- 03 Basic services (care, education, mobility, ...)
- 04 New value chains
- Many more ...

**Flexible tools to enable communities**

**Action - local innovation**
EU Long-Term Vision For Rural Areas

Integrated approach
Rural development should go beyond Traditional support to agriculture

EU leading by example
Putting in place a shared vision based on consultations with tools

All policies working together
The EU vision cover areas that are supported by various policies (CAP, Cohesion, ESF)

STRONGER
CONNECTED
RESILIENT
PROPEROUS
From the EU rural vision to action

### Rural Vision

- **Rural Revitalisation Platform**: A one-stop-shop for rural communities, project holders and authorities to collaborate.

### Proofing

- **Rural Proofing**: Review major EU policies and consider potential impacts and implications on rural areas.

### Observatory

- **Rural Observatory**: Deepen data collection and analysis on rural areas to support policymaking.

### Pact

- **Rural Pact**: Provide a common framework for the engagement and cooperation of a wide range of actors at the EU, national, regional and local level.
Enabling Factors for rural revitalisation

01. Multi-level governance
02. Integrated strategy
03. Local innovation
04. Territorial cooperation
05. Local capacities

Enabling factors

Building Blocks

Source: ENRD Thematic Group on Rural Revitalisation
Instruments in small urban areas

There are policy instruments to enable the transition in small urban areas (or towns) - (CLLD, ITIs, etc).

BUT

DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND
Relatively new instruments outside the core traditional interventions

COORDINATION WITH OTHER MAs
... to design support small urban areas (CAP, ERDF, ESF, etc)

TRUST IN LOCAL ACTORS
Relatively new instruments outside the core traditional interventions

MANAGING AUTHORITY
Instruments in small urban areas

There are policy instruments to enable the transition in small urban areas (or towns) - (CLLD, ITIs, etc).

BUT

COMPLEX FUNDING SCHEMES
There are many funds offering support, and each with their particularities.

LACK OF TECHNICAL CAPACITY
... to develop innovative projects to respond to modern challenges and opportunities.

LOCAL ACTORS
Good practice

- Rural areas, farmers, Ministries of agriculture, etc.
- Permanent support unit implementing networking activities & communication

EAFRD

- 5% of funding

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/contact/enrd-contact-point_en

LEADER I
1991 - 1993

217 LAGs

LEADER II
1994 - 1999

906 LAGs

LEADER +
2000 - 2006

1,153 LAGs

LEADER Axis
2007 - 2013

2,400 LAGs

CLLD
2014 - 2020

+3,000 LAGs
Fisherman, coastal areas, Fisheries ministry...

Permanent support unit implementing networking activities & communication

348 FLAGs

Around 10%
Work ahead with CLLD

01. Capacity Building
02. Best Practice
03. Peer learning
04. Raise Awareness
05. Communication
06. Analysis & guide
Thank you!