Rural responses to the Covid19 crisis

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Community initiatives and policy responses to the Coronavirus Crisis for Rural Development

27 November 2020
Rural responses to the COVID-19 crisis

ENRD Database of rural responses to the COVID-19 crisis
https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/home-page_en

Improving LEADER delivery for resilient rural territories
https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/8th-rural-networks-leaderclld-sub-group-meeting_en
Examples of local rural responses

- **Coordination, platforms, networks & cooperation** (e.g. jobs, food, services)
- Support for **digitalisation** (e.g. tablets, skills, fablabs...)
- **Social solidarity** with vulnerable groups in the community (masks, care, food distribution..)
- **Adapting work-places and practices**
  - **New businesses models** – online and short chains (online sales), tourism, services,...
  - **Building capacity** for the new context/normality (collection of practices, databases, training)
- **Investments?**
Rural Response: A case in Spain (Jerte Valley, Extremadura)

A working Group representing:

- 11 villages and about 12,000 inhabitants;
- 16 agricultural cooperatives with more than 3,000 farmers;
- tourism operators with more than 2,000 beds.

- Rapid **mobilisation** of all stakeholders in the community
- **Coordination and planning of responses** (digital platform).
- **Coping actions** – face masks, home helps, job pool, protocols, small investments in workplaces, tablets, training...
- **Transition**: LEADER as an “innovation hub for Smart Villages” – digitalisation, pilot projects in tourism, farming + food, education, care, living and working

ENRD **Database** of rural responses to the COVID-19 crisis
Local **Blog** for informing local responses in Jerte Valley (ES)
Emergency responses in the EU

Emergency responses

- Agriculture & Rural Development

  - Guidelines to ensure an efficient food supply chain
  - Measures directly supporting farmers and rural areas
  - Exceptional market measures
  - CAP simplification and increased flexibility measures

Recovery Plan for Europe.

To lead the way out of the crisis and lay the foundations for a modern and more sustainable Europe.

**Factsheet**: Coronavirus: Emergency response to support the agriculture and food sectors
Long Term Vision for Rural Areas

Why now?

• Signalling that the Commission takes rural areas seriously

• Addressing pressing issues for rural areas from demographic change to connectivity, the risk of poverty and limited access to services.

• Highlighting new challenges and opportunities (including links to COVID 19 recovery)
Smart Villages - enabling a transition

**Flexible tools to enable rural communities to make the transition**

**Departure**
- Declining jobs
- Inadequate Services
- Digital divide
- Depopulation
- Environmental crises

**Arrival**
- Digital transformation
- Green low carbon, circular
- Social -service innovation
- New value chains
- Rural –urban cooperation

**Social Innovation**
LEADER
as the local engine

“LEADER/CLLD “has it all for being one the main vehicles for driving Smart Villages

1. as long as all the features (of the LEADER approach) are present.
2. Yet, to play to its full potential, LEADER/CLLD needs to be complemented by an enabling environment (larger scale investments, regulatory environment, coordination)”.

European Commission 6th Meeting of the ENRD Thematic Group

Bottom up cooperation (A71) + top down investments (A68) + Cohesion + Recovery
Vision for rural areas

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