


# INTER-TERRITORIAL AND TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT

<b>TITLE OF THE COOPERATION PROJECT</b>
<b>Development in harmony with the events: for an integrated management of rural areas.</b>
<b>SHORT TITLE</b>
<b>RuralScapes</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT</b>
<b><i>Choice of the theme</i></b>
<p>The choice of the integrated management of rural areas as theme for RuralScapes cooperation project, is carried out from the widespread awareness, both at European and global level, of the needs of rural areas to have a knowledge system. The aim of this knowledge system is to safeguard, of the one part, the uniqueness of these territories together with the wealth of the landscapes, cultural and natural heritage; of the other part, highlighting their potential in terms of tourism and food production use.</p> <p>European Union policy for rural development is the second pillar of the CAP with the «Agenda 2000» reform. Rural Development Policy is financed by the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The aim of the Fund is to contribute to the realisation of the «Europe 2020» strategy (European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy) promoting sustainable development of rural areas. Among the 6 priorities of the new rural development policy for the period 2014-2020, it's important to highlight those which led to the choice of the cooperation project's theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• promoting knowledge and innovation transfer in the agriculture and forestry sectors ( the development of the knowledge base in rural areas; strengthening links among agriculture, forestry and research);</li><li>• strengthening the sustainability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture and promote innovation of agricultural technology;</li><li>• restoring, preserving, enhancing agricultural and forest ecosystems (biodiversity,water, soil);</li><li>• promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas (facilitate job creation, enhance local development, improve the accessibility of the information and communication technologies).</li></ul>
<b><i>Methodological assumptions</i></b>
<p>The project “Development in harmony with the events: for an integrated management of rural areas” is based on methodological assumptions which can be expressed in three keywords: Management-Integration-Planning. It is also necessary to consider further methodological assumptions in the integrated management of the rural areas where landscape is considered as crucial element of the existing systemic complexity. (holistic view, relationship between man and nature, interactive processes).</p>

<b><i>Reasons of the cooperation activity</i></b>
<p>GALBATIR considers useful and effective to undertake a path of cooperation with other LAGs with similar or complementary issues, in order to strengthen local sustainable development processes promoting an exchange of know-how and create the necessary synergies for implementation of joint processes useful to all territories involved.</p>

### **General objectives**

The overall objective is to compare the state of current management policies as well as the integrated development strategies of project partners regarding rural areas, the involvement of local actors as well as all the activities implemented in order to reach objectives. This does not only take into account economic aspects, but also environmental and social factors on a long-term basis, as expressed in a largely accepted definition of sustainable development.

The exchange of good practises and know-how will aim to spread ideas and suggestions among local actors, both public and private, in order to introduce inter-sector and intra-sector integrated actions in the management of rural areas including: sustainable tourism, management of cultural and natural heritage, widespread hospitality, social inclusion, supply chains, rehabilitation of the environment and of the cultural heritage connected with the rural tradition and hidentity

The cooperation project RuralScape is aiming specifically to reach the following general objectives:

- Improving capacity building, seen as “ability to manage one's own resources”: cooperation with experienced partners can allow a significant amount of knowledge transfer. This knowledge, adapted to the needs of each territory, can be a driving force for local development.
- Reaching the critical mass needed to face important intervention to help the development of the area, joining economic and human resources.
- Acquiring skills and professionalism at different levels, improving the amount of knowledge present locally.
- Transferring and acquiring good practises and know-how on the subject of sustainable and integrated development.
- Creating a network of connections between actors, which will increase the territory’s social capital.

The specific objectives of the project have been identified as follows:

- Describing the state of current implementation and dissemination of integrated rural management strategies in the partner territories;
- Acquiring and transferring experiences and innovative ideas for integrated rural management ;
- Building and implementation of an integrated management system of rural areas;
- Exchanging and spreading good practises in order to update local productive sector as well as improving their performance, protecting the environment and satisfying the expectations of economic and socialactors;
- Raising awareness locally on the protection of rural ecosystem as well as sustainable consumption and consumer awareness;

### **Operational objectives**

The operational objectives of the RuralScapes project are:

- carrying out study visits on the territories of partner LAGs, in order to improve mutual knowledge, to exchange experiences and good practises regarding the rural areas;
- the creation of a book of guidelines for the diffusion of good practices and the enhancement of integrated rural management;
- organising information and communication events focusing on the aims and results of the project.

### **References**

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