

Project Scope

PROGRAMME:	EUROPE FOR CITIZENS 2014-2020
CALL TITLE:	Civil society projects 2017
STRAND:	Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation
DEADLINE:	02/03/2017
RESULTS COMMUNICATION:	4 months from the submission deadline

PROPOSAL TITLE **CITIZENS FOR EUROPEAN RURAL AREAS WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The project aims to create a **space (community) of cooperation for the social sustainability of the European rural territories**, in order to improve the conditions for citizens' participation in rural areas, promoting social commitment actions that encourage the socio-economic development in the small municipalities of the European Union and combat aging and depopulation, through solutions and opportunities offered by associationism and cooperativism, as assets of the EU sustainable rural development.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the new ruralities, approaches and experiences that challenge the demographic contraction of the European rural territories, and that can provide innovative solutions for a sustainable rural development.
- To identify and promote the opportunities offered by associationism and cooperativism, for the labour occupation of groups of vulnerable people in rural Europe, encouraging social commitment, volunteering and solidarity among European rural citizens.
- To boost the equal opportunities and the creation of new jobs and new opportunities for the rural population (especially for women, young people, people over 55 years old, etc.), appealing to the cooperative principles.
- To raise awareness among European citizens in general and youth in particular, about the importance of the rural areas and its current challenges in terms of depopulation and aging.
- To promote the European citizenship and to improve the conditions for the EU rural population participation, by encouraging citizens' debate on the future of the European rural territories and active participation in the search for solutions that ensure the rural development sustainability.

ACTIVITIES

WP 1. Project coordination and management

- Organisation of the Kickoff meeting and transnational project meetings (together with the international events)
- Project monitoring reports elaboration (intermediate and final reports)
- Project evaluation: final evaluation report

WP2. Raising awareness and citizens' debate on the future of the European rural territories. New approaches for the European rural development policies

2.1 Development of raising - awareness activities regarding the challenges of the European rural and EU policies for its development:

- Organisation of the 1st International Event (IE1): "Debating the future of the European rural territories " (Place: Castilla La Mancha, Spain)
 - Project Kickoff meeting; Project official opening event; Info Day, Seminars and informal activities.
- Organisation of local events on the following topic: "Debating the future of the European rural territories" (Place: project partner countries with similar demographic problematic)
 - Project presentation events; Raising - awareness activities (workshops or brief volunteering actions); Information sessions.
- Organisation of the 5th International Event (IE5, final): "International Forum for the Social Sustainability of the European Rural" (Place: Castilla La Mancha, Spain)
 - Project final transnational meeting; Project official closure event; Info Day, Roundtables and citizens' debate forums; informal cultural activities.

2.2 Implementation of a transnational virtual forum for the opinion collection, which will foresee:

- Webinars and/ or online surveys on the current challenges of the European rural areas, needs and new action lines for the EU policies in terms of rural development.

WP3. Analysis of the new European ruralities: approaches, experiences and good practices for the sustainability of rural development and youth

3.1 Local and transnational observatory groups for the analysis of new approaches, experiences and good practices for the sustainability of the rural development:

- Local observatory groups: fieldwork with the main local stakeholders for the preparation of the 2nd International Event.
- Organisation of the 2nd International Event (IE2) on the following topic: "The new European ruralities: innovative models for rural sustainability I" (Place: one of the project partner countries with good practices on sustainable rural development):
 - Transnational project coordination meeting; Project presentation event; Info Days and Panel of experiences; Transnational workshops and / or roundtables; Study visits; Informal activities.

3.2 Local and transnational observatory groups for the exchange of good practices and experiences:

- Local observatory group: fieldwork with the main local stakeholders for the preparation of the international event 3;
- Organisation of the 3rd International Event (IE3): "The new European ruralities: innovative models for rural sustainability II" (Place: one of the project partner countries with good practices on sustainable rural development):
 - Transnational project coordination meeting; Project presentation event; Info Days and Panel of experiences; Transnational workshops and / or roundtables; Study visits; Informal activities.

WP4. Identification of opportunities and strategies for the professional development of the vulnerable groups in the European rural areas through the cooperativism

4.1 Local observatory groups for the identification of professional development opportunities for the vulnerable groups through associationism and cooperativism in rural areas:

- Organisation of local events on the following topic: "Cooperativism and the emerging opportunities for the professional development of vulnerable groups in rural areas" (Place: in partner countries of the project with similar demographic problematic):
 - Roundtables and workshops; Info sessions; Forums of debate; Meetings and visits to cooperatives; Pilot experiences of youth and women participation in governing bodies of cooperatives and making – decision processes.

4.2 Transnational observatory group for the promotion of cooperativism and the emerging opportunities offered by it to the vulnerable groups of people in rural areas; and definition of strategies:

- Organisation of the 4th International Event (IE4): "Cooperativism and emerging opportunities for the professional development of

vulnerable groups in rural areas" (Place: partner country of the project with similar demographic problematic):

— Transnational project coordination meeting; Project presentation event; Information sessions, discussion forums, workshops, networking activities, panels of experiences and meetings; Transnational Roundtable and discussion forums; Study visits; Informal activities.

WP 5. Project communication and dissemination

- Design of Communication plan and project visual identity
- Project webpage and ICT tools for the project online activities
- Dissemination materials: project presentation leaflet and results brochures
- Project launch event (together with the Kickoff meeting), Territorial communication events and Project closure event (together with the final meeting)
- Media campaign (press releases, articles in digital media, etc.)
- Project dissemination through social networks

PARTNERSHIP:

Coordinator: Cooperativas Agro-alimentarias de Castilla-La Mancha, Unión de cooperativas, CACLM (Spain)

7/8 entities from 6 different Programme countries, preferably:

- **Partner Profile:** local/ regional public authorities with competence in rural development, associations/ federations/ unions of co-operatives, non-profit organizations promoting rural development among youth, and educational and/ or research institutions.
- **Participating countries:**
 - 3 entities from 3 different countries, with good practices in sustainable rural development and youth (Finland, Sweden, UK, Germany, Austria ...).
 - 4/5 entities from 3 different countries, which face similar challenges in terms of depopulation and aging of the rural population as Castilla- La Mancha (Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria ...).

TARGET GROUPS:

The **target groups** of this project proposal belong to the European rural areas and consist of:

- Local/ regional actors playing an important role in the European rural development policies;
- Federations and associations whose activities are related to the local development and youth;
- Co-operative members and entrepreneurs belonging to the social economy;

- Vulnerable groups: young people, women, people older than 55 years, etc.;
- Young people who opted for relatively depopulated territories to undertake a model of life different from that offered by the urban world;
- People who returned to their native rural areas after having emigrated to different cities;
- Rural population in general.

BUDGET

The **total budget requested** (estimation): 145 000 EUR

Types of eligible costs:

- Staff costs directly related with the project
- Travelling and accommodation costs of participants during the foreseen actions
- Rooms rental, interpretation and translation services for the foreseen events
- Communication and dissemination costs of the events and
- Coordination costs generated by the participation of several entities
- Research costs and IT tools for preparatory activities

The grant is calculated on the basis of Lump sum financing system fixed per "tranches" (number of participants and number of partner countries) and the same parameters are valid for all participating countries.

Pre-financing: max. **50%** of the total budget requested

DURATION

18 months

- Project initial date: 1st of September 2017
- Project final date: 1st of September 2019

CONTACT DETAILS

ROXANA TOPCIOV – EU Projects Manager

Tel.: +34 600 516 237

Email: roxana.topciov@indainiciativas.com
www.indainiciativas.com