

## Stakeholder involvement practice / example

### ASAS – Sustainable and Active Villages (NRN project) – Portugal

This project aimed to promote a better and more visible village intervention in isolated villages or territories that are at risk of depopulation, to improve quality of life implementing an integrated strategy, based in the diversification of local economy and jobs and in the valorisation of endogenous resources, built with and by the local community cooperating with other territories (inter-territorial cooperation).

The project followed a strong participatory methodology that included: local meetings and national seminars, a national forum that has produced the Minimum Programme for Village Revitalization; a virtual community of practice, organized in thematic groups that have emerged from regional meetings; exchange meetings between villages; one pilot-action (Villages in network to combat desertification) and a Guide on Village Revitalization.

#### Stakeholders concerned

- ANIMAR – Portuguese Association for Local Development (*national*)
- ADC Moura – Association for the Development of the Municipality of Moura (*local*)
- Institute for the Educational Communities (*academic*)
- Local experts and facilitators
- Local actors
- Target territories inhabitants
- Civil society

#### Main lessons for others

- The priority given to face-to-face contacts with rural and local development actors to identify experiences of ‘Sustainable and Active Villages’ enabled to make proposals, in a bottom up approach, that have integrated the Minimum Programme for Village Revitalization, a document that supports policy design to encourage the promotion of sustainable villages
- Building a Community of Practice at national level where all stakeholders actively participate enabled the systematization of the problem and of the reality observed in the light of a strong link to territories and local contexts
- The pilot-action ‘Villages in network to combat desertification’ and the ‘exchange meetings between villages’, both based on sharing good practices, inter-territorial interaction and collaborative networks helped to an easier and micro level identification of the mechanisms responsible for change.

#### Achievements & results

- The project has contributed to develop and disseminate local development methodologies in territories (village revitalization, valorisation of endogenous resources, know-how and qualification of local actors).
- Rural and local development agents have now technical documents to support village revitalization processes
- A common knowledge platform managed in cooperation articulates the different Village Programmes that are functioning at national level
- The concept of ‘Village Integrated Programme’ was expanded to another one, ‘Valuing Village’s Capital’, which is based on qualified participation of population and in specific ways of self-organization
- Strategies, methodologies, techniques and tools were provided, supporting rural and local actors in their work on integrated interventions in small rural villages
- The project designed new modalities of economic and social intervention that were adequate and consistent to combat depopulation in areas with population loss

#### Contact details

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