

## ERP Conversation Café - Harvest

### Conversation Round 1: What good practice contributes to addressing the planetary crisis at the local level?

#### Table 1

- Making buildings more energy efficient
- Free trees, wetland
- Ground heat
- Local food from farmers is encouraged -> marketing
- Local farmers groups
  - Short supply chain
  - Shop online
    - Parket
    - On decide
- Education
  - Recycling
  - Kids teach parents
- Flowers for the bees

#### Table 2

- Narrow intergenerational gap
  - Younger people teaching the older generations & at the same time valuing indigenous knowledge (which many young have but mostly older)
- Traditional knowledge sometimes holds the key
- Need to focus on energy and food self sufficiency = shorter supply chain systems + just transition

#### Table 3

- UNDP small grants programme + microgrants (1000 - 3000 Euros) -> no bureaucracy, allow people to test ideas, non penalty if it does not work, small communities, small businesses etc.
- Funding with more support
- Training & education for people to embrace different ways of living
- Awareness raising campaigns e.g. vampire devices (small things make big difference)
- Younger generation leading change -> need a bit of resources but should hand power over. E.g. young farmers, young rural + city dwellers

#### Table 4

1. Community-owned assets
2. Better taxation on locally-addressed activities
3. Participatory approach on investments. Give the community voice and power
4. Bring awareness on impact
5. Prioritising local food supply chains
6. Give ecosystems services a monitoring value

#### Table 5

- Volunteers to stop overusing resources (f.e. fishing)
- Improved knowledge about soil quality (organic method)
- Sustainable forest management
- Renewal energy communities

#### Table 6

- Consider CO2 emissions as a cost in decision in travel
- Social dimensions must go hand-in-hand with environment
- Smart villages > building an renewable energy community that encompasses currency -> develop blockchain
- Build systems to support local flows
- Water management - localising systems for irrigation, etc- for local needs
- Broadband + digitization to support ??? to with ?? incentives to reinforce + support businesses
- Digitization can also support decentralisation of health services
- Projects that bridge inter-generational gaps -> shared space
- Economic of exchange -> change patterns of consumption -> internet supports these networks

#### Table 7

- Solar panel and wind power, heat pumps
- Education about climate change issues
- Circular economies in ??
- Short supply chains - to use local products as possible

#### Table 8

- BE: Local energy cooperative; locally owned electricity production (windmill)
- Awareness raising & education about gree nadal
- Listen to the local businesses & farmers
- Understand and acknowledge the reality (now the energy crisis, deflation)

## Conversation Round 2: What are the barriers to localising the European Green Deal in rural areas?

### Table 1

- Crisis due to electricity cost
- Understanding of the Green Deal
  - What are the benefits?
  - What are the costs?
  - Talk together with different stakeholders
- Companies struggle
- + Decreases of consumption

### Table 2

- Rural areas lack the institutions and access for funds
- ??? will find it harder to engage. Not all LAGs have capacity to apply or support activity
- Top down, non flexible approach to implementation
- LAGs have own network they can share best practice but not consistent + some LAGs lack connection to other LAGs
- Ecological way of life is very expensive + there is not much support for transition
- How land is used + controlled a barrier? (maybe)

### Table 3

- Citizen engagement - top down does not engage
- Is there a participation to shape the EGD
- Communication - in rural areas, not the institutions to communicate and engage people in policy development. Need information to be relevant, easy to process and debate
- Consumers (vs!) are a small wheel + the real power is with economic forces = disengagement + helplessness. Politics do not represent people's interests

### Table 4

1. Economic vision of ongoing growth - investments have been focused mainly in the urban areas
2. Lack of education and advisory systems, especially for the youth
3. Lack of a long-term mentality
4. Lack of youth involvement and communication
5. Lack of generation cooperation
6. Bureaucracy limits

#### Table 5

- Short term problems prevent from climate issue prevention
- POLitical tension / who is paying the cost?
- Uncertainty
- Path independency
- Limited access to resources / financial, political
- Disbalance of power
- Protest and disengagement

#### Table 6

- Financial problems to access to affordable infrastructure
- Conservation in rural community thinking
- Education: the ?? community -> children leaving
- Poor public transport
- Cost of electric vehicles
- Structures that high-productivity agricultural ?? ideas around good vs. bad farmer
- High expectations + standards for food -> lack of seasonality
- Old domestic infrastructure - e.g. oil boilers / gas
- Speed of new renewables infrastructure
- Regulatory + planning systems slowing down change
  - Global food systems
  - Green Deal is about big science & large firms

#### Table 7

- Growing prices of resources
- Perception of Green Deal implementation
- Flexibility of EU restrictions
- Investment -> uncertainty, high crisis
- Prevalence of short time decision
- ??
- Bureaucracy, heavy regulations
- The conversation is 50 years to late
- Not only harm - do with idea that ??

#### Table 8

- Climate change / Green deal is to big problem to be left to local communities
  - There's not enough knowledge and know how at the local level and technical capacity
- Green deal is about green growth → This is not the right approach
- People do not know what the Green Deal is

## Conversation Round 3: What policies are needed to enable community-led transformative local development?

### Table 1

- Windmills
- Resources stay in community -> community benefits
- Participatory policy making
- Decentralisation of resources

### Table 2

- Decentralisation of policy implementation including budget decisions
- Rural areas generate a lot of economic contribution yet pay more than urban areas = harder to engage with climate change
- Depopulation / Repopulation debate needs balance in policy
- More flexible policies / regulation for farmers wants to diversity (but need to keep balance)
- Support for incomers moving to rural areas
- Land Reform (in some countries!)
- Energy security

### Table 3 -

#### Table 4

1. Structured architecture for funding (base)
2. Prioritising a local/regional governance

### Table 5

- Measure the footprint of local community
- Youth LAGs
- New Green Deal LEADER
- Green Smart LEADER
- Benefits in local level
- Pilot fund for smart villages

### Table 6

- Education -> Children + Young -> Everywhere!! (?)
- people > not just young people!  
→ around processes for CLLD as well as understanding why certain practices are bad for the environment
- Policies that are designed by the people
  - → this will in turn take account of local needs + make possible to implement
- Support local economies: local production for local consumption
- Taxation to support local retail
  - High tax on big businesses
  - Targeted tax measures to support local production



#### **Table 7**

- Education system - including
- Support policies - to communicate about the issues (promotion)
- Implement an ecological year (to get an idea about environmental change)
- Policies to support consumer innovations
  - Access to knowledge, cooperation, communicate, networking

#### **Table 8**

- Taxation policy; incentives to do business in remote areas
- In the EU level more money for local development: ringfencing fo CLLD & other
- Penalties ?
- Stronger (local) democracy

## Summary

### 1. What good practice contributes to addressing the planetary crisis at the local level?

#### Areas of action

- Buildings
- Food
- Forests
- Renewable Energy
- Travel
- Water
- Education
- Consumption
- Funding

#### principles & values

- sustainability
- localization
- self-sufficiency
- circularity
- cooperation
- energy efficiency
- traditional knowledge
- justice
- voluntary self-regulation
- digitalization

### 2. What are the barriers to localising the European Green Deal in rural areas?

- Power structures & dynamics in politics
  - power with economic forces, example: land-use
  - politics doesn't represent interests of people
  - Lack of long-term thinking
  - Bureacracy & heavy regulations



- Citizens:
  - Consumer expectations
  - High costs of ecological lifestyle & transition -> not enough support available
  - LAGs:
    - good: best practices
    - lack of connection to other LAGs for sharing of best practices
  
- Green Deal
  - Lack of understanding of Green Deal
  - lack of flexibility in implementation of EGD
  - Green Deal = Green Growth

### 3. What policies are needed to enable community-led transformative local development?

- Governance:
  - prioritizing local/regional governance
  - participatory policy making
  - New Green Deal LEADER
  
- Funding & taxation
  - Pilot funds
    - e.g. for smart villages
  - taxation
    - to support local economies
  
- Education & awareness raising
  - around processes of CLLD
  - impact on the environment
  
- Land reform