

## ERP Mid-Term Event - Breakout Group 6 Report

<p><b>Breakout Group Name: Wellbeing economy   Circular economy</b></p>
<p><b>Names of Leader, Reporter, Speaker/s</b>  LEADER - Virginija Šetkienė, Lithuania  REPORTER - Anita Seļicka, Latvia</p>
<p><b>Main issues and lessons identified in presentations and discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local initiatives can serve as powerful tool in wellbeing and circular economies. People should be seen more than just “implementing nice activities”, but as powerful resource that can really boost local economy filling “the holes” of public services or external market.</li> <li>• Development of self-governance and skills of initiating and implementing also economic wellbeing actions are important aspects in the development. Communities need support in their will to act as there may not be enough the skills/workforce/resources for them to realise potential.</li> <li>• Circular economy is part of all other economies</li> <li>• Moving to rural areas for young people is not easy. Difficult access to housing, incl. building houses due to limited access to financial resources, often no support from local government.</li> <li>• Volunteer work has been limited in pandemic times, a lot of community members had stopped active involvement and hasn’t returned after cancellation of restrictions.</li> <li>• Development of inter-generational economy</li> <li>• <i>Other issues noted in the next sections – will not be repeated here.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Any ideas and case-study examples relating to the theme (including a name and email for the person proposing if possible)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existence of schools in the rural areas are ensured by community – overtaking public function by moving from public to private to ensure their own needs. Self-motivation, active and coordinated actions by community themselves (shared by Goran Šoster)</li> <li>• Keeping and supporting staying of small shops in rural areas as an example of how community that has awareness of wellbeing of community, can give its (shared by Goran Šoster)</li> <li>• Creation of "paradise" for remote communities Gramaničia – multifunctional community homes ensuring services, creating inclusive and beautiful environment, solar panels, children day centre, 15 working places and many more (shared by Virginia Setkiene)</li> <li>• Example of how SMEs in rural area are coordinated to use their waste, and how community and businesses can add value on the technic or any other possible resource to share it when needed by other community member. Sharing and circular economies. Act’it (shared by Jeremy Hoube)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Messages for the 5<sup>th</sup> ERP 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEADER/CLLD as a powerful tool for the wellbeing should be strengthened even more and used wider. It supports coordinated cooperation between partners. Provides support to rural communities, new entrants etc.</li> <li>• Community spirit and self-help is crucial for serving the development. Community companies /village groups can be main driver in solving local economies by rising capital &amp; fulfilling potential. There should be proper support available for the development of that kind of initiatives.</li> <li>• There is a strong need for systematic education. There is a lack of lifelong education for circular</li> </ul>

economy in everyday life & work that limits the possible actions.

**Besides the theme – suggestions for 5<sup>th</sup> ERP**

- ERP should be a time for **the good practices to shine** (the exhibition, market of ideas or other form);
- **Small schools are lifeblood of communities** – that should be highlighted. incl. that it may give possibility of attracting new entrants. Search for an alternative solutions and new possibilities – multifunctional centres, using digitalisation and connectivity etc.;
- Include theme about pandemic effect on communities - support for the people to get back to active community life after pandemic.