



European Rural Parliament 2015 National report from Spain

Prepared by
Red Española de Desarrollo Rural (REDR)
(Spanish network for rural development)

Activities in Spain

- Questionnaire survey among 36 Local Action Groups, to gather an “upward cascade of ideas”
- Use of Broadcast Media to gather further ideas - Twitter, ENRD newsletter, www.redr.es
- Presentation and discussion of results at the ERP National Campaign event on June 25 in Madrid.



Results from the ERP National Campaign.

Results and conclusions to be taken into account in order to solve the problems of rural areas in Spain.

The role of youth in rural areas

Remarks some proposals, suggestions and / or measures to be taken into account in order to solve this problem:

- Increase training adapted to rural areas
- Promote participation in the design of progress in rural areas. Facilitate identification with the territory through a new role of natural and cultural heritage. Design exploitation of endogenous resources in favour of employment creation.
- Generate employment with public funds to fight against climate change, rehabilitation, popular rural architecture and heritage, and housing for young generation.
- Specific programmes for rural youth to return to rural areas, their return must be encouraged, especially undergraduates and generally those who come from rural areas in search of employment.
- Include specific measures to bring young people back.
- Develop and highlight the importance of participation through social networks.
- Facilitate the development of policies of entrepreneurship in rural areas.
- Encourage participation, involving the educational society in rural development. To channel employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people to stay in rural areas.
- Provide training appropriate to the medium where they live and help them with measures and resources to fix them to the territory.
- Discriminate positively and help young people to settle in rural areas. Provide rural areas of essential services such as broadband.
- Support farming and an actual incorporation.

2 Ageing Population

Remarks some proposals, suggestions and / or measures to be taken into account in order to solve this problem:

- Offer tax incentives to rural population. Public promotions of employment for rural areas.
- Subsidise social housing for young people.
- Create jobs for young people in providing home care to elderly or assisted or similar formulas
- Attract new population to rural areas, with campaigns to incorporate new populations and restore lost population
- Provide resources to support start-up entrepreneurs.
- Attract new residents who come from urban areas by improving housing policies
- Be more ambitious for the incorporation of young people into farming lines.
- Improve service delivery in rural areas: education, health and social services.
- Generate new employment opportunities through projects of green economy and innovation.
- Provide the area of health services, training of mobility between regions.
- Incorporate training activities for the elderly people.
- Encourage young people to stay in rural areas, preparing them properly.
- Support programmes for newcomers.

3 Depopulation in rural areas

Remarks some proposals, suggestions and / or measures to be taken into account in order to solve this problem:

- Increase accessibility to basic services.
- Promote entrepreneurship.
- Provide tax incentives, positive discrimination to rural dwellers.

- The rural environment is a great opportunity to generate economic activity and output the arrest of cities walking towards ecological economy population and combating climate change.
- Introduce new programmes to attract new populations due to the dynamics of aging itself, the current population is not enough, we must open the door in order to attract whom are gone and also stimulate new settlers.
- Support entrepreneurship in disadvantaged areas.
- Improve housing and transport services to attract new settlers.
- Promote wealth and employment generation and presentation of good public services.
- Improve service delivery.
- Work in coordination with the strategies of urban and peri-urban areas, so the most disadvantaged rural areas can be attractive.
- Attract new economic activities complementary to existing ones, generating a circular economy.
- Across the territories, provide job opportunities and cultural and leisure facilities, innovation in agriculture.
- Increase the application the LEADER Methodology.
- Provide rural services: health centres, schools, internet.
- Unlock the use of natural resources, such as pasture lands.
- Provide real support to micro-enterprise.

4 Increased visibility of rural and urban society

Remarks some proposals, suggestions and / or measures to be taken into account in order to solve this problem:

- Increase the promotion of rural associations for greater visibility
- Publicise the role of the rural world as a provider of sustainable food, entertainment and improvement of natural and cultural heritage.
- Generate rural-urban partnerships that help to understand the interdependence of both, especially the need for natural urban population
- Assess the quality of life in rural areas
- Put on the table the number of services are provided from rural to urban society and properly assess them.
- Promote and disseminate opportunities for a good life in rural areas.
- Introduce environmental quality media, cultural elements, gastronomy, natural areas and the quality of widow of rural areas.
- Provide further information to the general public.
- Fight against the lack of communication.
- Empower communication projects with specific funds.

5 Multilevel Governance

Remarks some proposals, suggestions and / or measures to be taken into account in order to solve this problem:

- Encourage participation of the public in the design of rural policies.
- Integrate territorial county structures in regional, national and European structures
- The shift towards a world without fossil fuels makes essential the decentralization and participation of civil society in the governance.
- Promote the tools and mechanisms of interaction and cooperation and participation : run more campaigns to involve people in their destiny.
- Encourage participation and decentralization.
- Give more resources and more autonomy for rural municipalities : the allocation of resources to take into account the land area of each municipality.
- Strengthen participation and coordination of regional and national administrations, local authorities and Local Action Groups : establish mechanisms for real participation.

- Ensure accurate information, top-down and bottom-up, so that all are aware of the management and programmes.
- Increase the involvement of most agents
- Promote of county associative structures. Implementation of equal opportunities plans.

6 Strengthening the role of Local Action Groups (LAGs) in rural areas.

Remarks some proposals, suggestions and / or measures to be taken into account in order to solve this problem:

- Increase public participation in the design of regional, national and European policies.
- Improve the image of LAGs with governments.
- Increase the possibility of managing multi-fund operational programs.
- Rethink and expand the role of LAGs due to their extensive experience of social participation in the management of public funds.
- LAGs are very valid instruments into a single entity : their role must be strengthened vis-à-vis other arms of government : they should be seen as allies, not competitors.
- Promote and encourage innovation in rural areas.
- Perform entertainment activities that have nothing to do with the management of grants.
- Study the possibility to boost and manage various funds that make it possible to develop comprehensive policies.
- Promote, and reduce the cost of, eGovernment : provide more resources to improve the disclosure, personnel and time : involve regional and national networks of outreach and joint communication.
- Increase regional, national and transnational cooperation.
- Increase the independence of LAGs. It does not make sense for LAGs to make bottom-up decisions when there are officials who do not accept these decisions.
- Provide a sufficient LAG budget to have significant impact on the territory

7 Lack of social policies to improve the quality of life.

Remarks some proposals, suggestions and / or measures to be taken into account in order to solve this problem:

- Improve housing in municipalities
- Social policies should be applied in proximity and with professionals from own territory and must be managed by the municipal government.
- Supplement the funds to social policies.
- Ensure equal opportunities in education, health, social services, technology.
- Combat the loss of educational, health and social services in rural areas : Involving these services to county strategies
- Attention to youth entrepreneurship programmes to the territory of the leisure and cultural elements that whatever is in difficulty.
- Support those associations which have a manifest social aim.
- Policies "non-efficient" management of social services.

8 Increased presence of rural areas in regional, national and European policies.

Remarks some proposals, suggestions and / or measures to be taken into account in order to solve this problem:

- Increased participation of civil society in the design of rural policies.
- Apply positive discriminatory measures in policies outside the specific rural development.
- Europe needs be rural again if we want to conserve resources, natural and guarantee food sovereignty with agriculture not dependent on oil, so much more weight should have policies that help to shift.

- It is needed to enter rural areas in all political debates, in speeches and in institutions : the number of campaigns and dissemination in this regard should be increased. This should be reinforced through the responsible Committees.
- Use laws to enforce sustainable development of rural areas. Apply a multi-fund approach, with complementary actions between funds, generating synergies and joint projects between rural, urban and suburban areas.
- Participate in rural, national and European projects and ensure sufficient financial means to implement them.
- Include in the programmes of measures to strengthen the rural political parties.

9 What other deficiencies, problems and / or weaknesses should be taken into account when drawing up the European rural policies?

- Promote environmental sustainability and social cohesion in rural areas.
- Recognise the financial needs of project developers in rural areas : facilitate innovation and implementation of pilot actions.
- Make sure that administrative regulations are well adapted to rural areas.
- Encourage diversity of approach : ensure that financial mechanisms are flexible and capable of adapting to new needs.
- Study the needs of territories and develop a diagnostic to tell us that actions must be taken into account in each of them.
- Provide more facilities to entrepreneurs when applying for loans.
- Give greater autonomy and independence of the territories.
- “Downsize and simplify regulations to suit the needs of rural areas.

9 Transnational cooperation within and outside the EU. What countries, what topics?

- Countries in southern Europe - Sustainability and food competitiveness;
- Latin America - Transfer of knowledge, new approaches to sustainable economic development
- France, Germany, Italy, Greece - Consumer education on organic farming, landscape value of the territory, carbon footprint.
- France - agri-food, agroforestry
- Portugal -• Energy efficiency biomass.
- Germany - renewable energies.
- Italy - Heritage cultural and Equal Opportunities.
- France - cultural and heritage trails.
- Romania - Nature tourism and trekking.