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RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT

Erasmus+ Program, K Action 2: Strategic Partnerships for adult education

[2019-1-BE01-KA204-050550](http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/projects/2019-1-BE01-KA204-050550)

RDE is a consortium of 6 partners from 6 different EU countries (Belgium, Italy, Romania, Greece, Spain and Portugal) which each one represents an educational institution in adults' sector.

One of the RDE objectives is to promote economic and social development in depopulated rural or isolated areas sharing good practices developed in the consortium European countries. To achieve this objective, we are working on the creation of a toolkit for different organizations in EU countries that are working with depopulated rural communities (or with high risk of depopulation), operators and companies, local and regional institutions, trainers and mentors. It's possible to find the best practices on this link: <http://www.aepenafiel.pt/rde/index.php/activities/activities-2>

In **Belgium**, the project "*Tiges Chavés – Sustainable management of private forests*" aims to support the sustainable management of the private forests of the territory, by offering training, tailored advice and awareness raising for forest owners and by promoting the collective management of small private forests. On the other hand, we have "*Nos Oignons – Supporting social farm in Wallonia*" which is aimed to adapt and offer relevant administrative and support tools to stakeholders in the field of farmers, beneficiaries, other social institutions from the territory. It promotes social farming by: building a network of institutions to reach a significant number of beneficiaries; creating communication and facilitation tools; contributing to project coordination and documentation; creating synergies with other projects and supporting the creation of an operational framework for Wallonia.

In **Greece**, the project "*Agrosweet - Women's Cooperative of Zagora, Pelion*" objectives is to enhance the woman's position in the local society; to encourage the costumers to buy products from local business and support local market; to develop the cooperative sector in countryside so as more people will be occupied; to present good practices of using raw materials and to promote healthy and nature products to customers. On the other hand, we have "*Archo Oil*" project. The main objectives are to produce olive oil and offer a good quality of products to all consumers; enhance the local markets and promote the Greek products all over the world; promote entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship; maintain the local job posts and support economy (employment); promote export of Greek products.



In **Italy**, the project “*Mulinum - Promoting the sustainable management of small farms*” was about the promotion of the sustainable management of small farms in Calabria. The most important aspects are: the involvement of the local population; the enhancement of local traditions through the enhancement of ancient wheat processing methods; the involvement of private supporters who support the project with passion and dedication; the creation of 20 new agricultural star ups using a complete and controlled wheat chain in every step and the creation of a model of agricultural development “from below”, replicable in other regions, based on the philosophy of respect for local products from raw materials to finished products. On the other hand, “*I Semi della Lealtà*” is a project of Calabria Region as good practice of Calabrian agriculture for ethical and sustainable development. The idea was realized to enhance the role of social agriculture, as a driving force for development in the rural area, as a factor in improving the quality of life of the Calabrian population.

In **Portugal**, we have the project “*Quintandona – the historic village of Penafiel*”. The main object is the preservation of vernacular architecture, as well as requalification of public spaces. On the other hand, we have “*Cabroelo*” Project. The main objectives are: the preservation of nature and the requalification of public spaces; the tourist and cultural value of the village; the restoration of the buildings, reinforcing Cabroelo identity.

In **Romania**, the project initiative of “*Made in Roşia Montană*” is to create awareness about the gold mining project that proposed to destroy Roşia Montana as a village. This project helps the community by bringing additional income to 35 local families of women who carry on with the tradition of knitting and additional incomes allow locals to obtain a higher standard of living. On the other hand, the project “*Nod Verde (Green Knot)*” is a food hub coordinated by Civitas Foundation and the Romanian-American Foundation. The aims are: to present a good practice and a solution that connect the local farmers and help them reach the final consumers; to encourage local/rural entrepreneurship and small farmers; to persuade the consumers, building a healthy relationship with clean food product and to develop the cooperative sector in Romania.

Last but not least, in **Spain** the first project is “*Endèmica Natura*”. This is an initiative that helps to create awareness about the environmental and cultural heritage. It helps the community by bringing new tourists and additional incomes that allow locals to obtain higher standard of living. At the same time, local traditions are carried on and the cultural al natural heritage is preserved. The other case study is “*Descubre l'horta*”. The main purposes are to provide a healthy alternative to consumers; to contribute to the well-being of rural communities; to make known the culture and gastronomy of the “Valencian horta”; to contribute to the economic development of rural Spain and to support small farmers to promote their products.

Thanks to the positive evolution of Covid-19, during August the consortium will organize an international training activity in Calabria (Italy) to test the toolkit, to evaluate its potential and to know if it reaches the needs of the project target groups. This training activity will give the participants the opportunity to work in a practical way and to share good practices. Moreover, the participants will have the opportunity to visit a local village which, through tangible, intangible and natural heritage valuation, improves its community rural development.

The RDE activities will be developed in 24 months from 01/09/2019 until 31/08/2021 and all the results of the project will be available for those who are interested in this URL: <http://www.aepenafiel.pt/rde>, the Project news will be in the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/erasmusrde> and you can find the Project brochure on the following link: <http://www.aepenafiel.pt/rde/index.php/dissemination/brochure-1>

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