



European Network for
Rural Development

Building a food ecosystem

LAG Pays de Condruses



Our motivation for working with this topic

We wanted to improve food safety and access to healthy, local food in our communities. We wanted to do this by providing better opportunities for both our local farmers and local residents. We also aimed to promote market gardening in our local action group territory. Overall, improving the health of the population, of our local economy, of our soils, and of our territory was what mainly motivated us.

This is what we did and do

We planned this to be part of a sustained, consistent approach, one which we have been following in the past seven years (starting from 2011). The first step was organising and setting up a cooperation of local producers.

This was followed by establishing an incubator for market gardeners, the setting up of local canteens offering organic, local food. As a special initiative, we also created a cooperative for mushroom production. We opened our 'food hub' in 2018 and a network of incubators is now being set up in Wallonia. The local community, families, potential market gardeners and mushroom growers are our principal target groups.

Those actors/ groups/ individuals were important

This was a social economy project with 35 farmers associated as suppliers offering their products for approximately 600 families weekly at more than 50 delivery points. We employ 8 people (4 full time). At the incubator we have so far hosted 16 project holders – 7 of them have become full-time producers.

Our learnings/ this is what we can recommend

Having started with the main motivation to provide better access to local food, over the period of the last seven years, we learnt a lot from working together with local farmers and residents to develop the "3H" model / vision which addresses economic health, human health, and soil health in a territorial framework. Our ambition is to extend our scheme to link rural and urban and we are actively preparing for URBACT support to accomplish that.



Find out more

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