



LEADER Thematic Lab 'Working with Smart villages'

Gemma Estany

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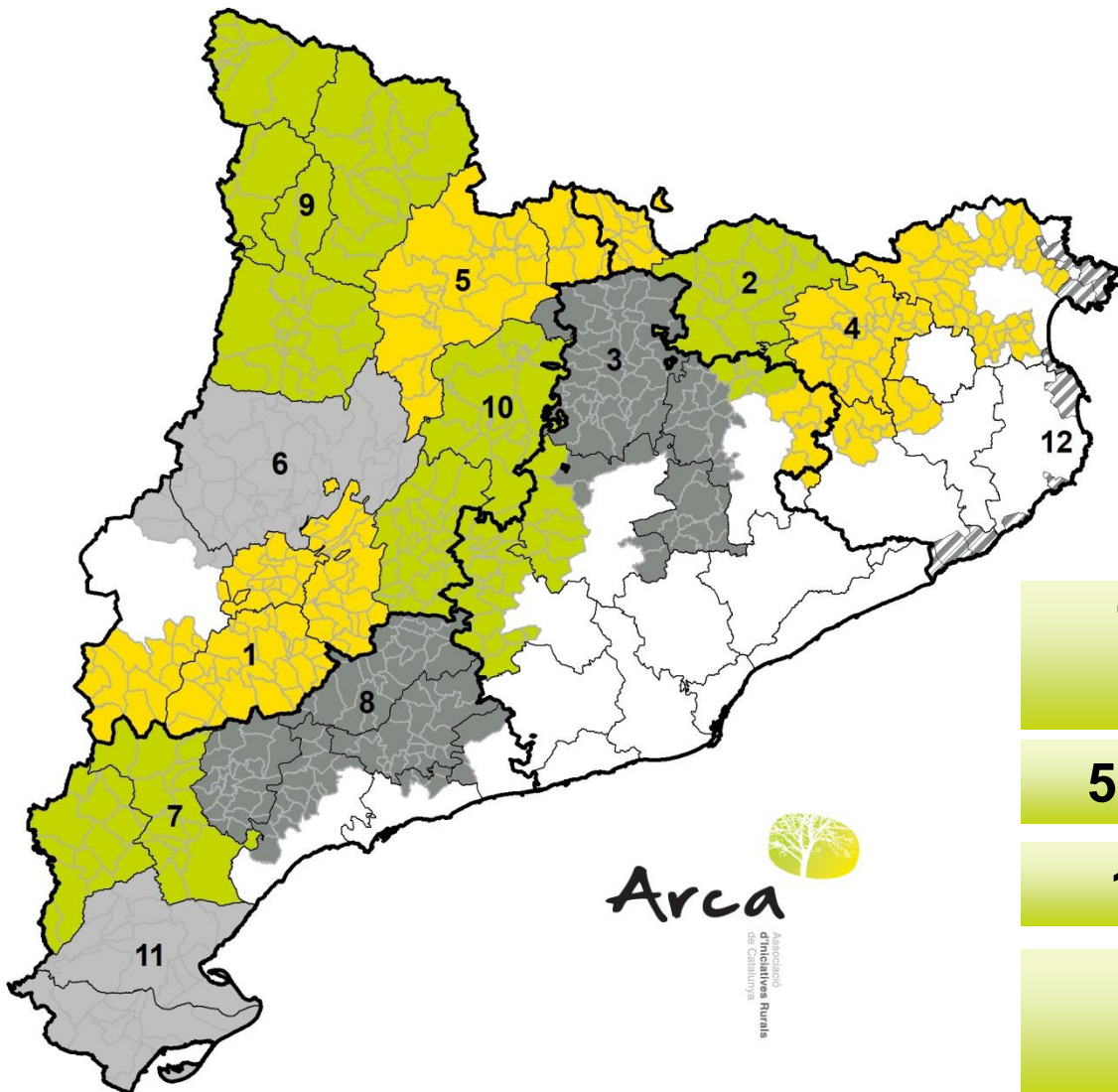
Generalitat de Catalunya
**Departament d'Agricultura,
Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació**



**Fons Europeu Agrícola de
Desenvolupament Rural:**
Europa inverteix en les zones rurals



LEADER programme



73% of the total surface of
Catalonia

556 out of 947 municipalities

10% of the total population

11 fish municipalities with
171.000 inhabitants



Smart villages – Leader Catalonia

LAG level

- ❑ Leader **cooperation & strategic projects** for smart villages:
 - Cowocat rural: coworking for social innovation and to stop depopulation
 - ENFOCC: ENEGEST tool (energy accountability for business)

- ❑ LAGs as **thematic innovation hubs**:
 - Agrofood business incubators in Conca de Barberà

Regional/national level

- ❑ **ARCA is a facilitator** that reinforces networking between LAGs from local to regional/national level
 - Ex. SmartCatalonia Challenge

- ❑ **Combination of funds** to impact in broader topics and investments
 - S3 'BCN Smart Rural' (ERDF) – 2,9M€: promote agrofood business in rural BCN
 - Provincial Government of Barcelona+ARCA+Forestry Research Center
 - Networking with FLAGs (EMFF)
 - Operational Groups (EIP-AGRI): farm business incubators



ARCA

National/
European
level

ENRD

ELARD

European
funds

ReDR

Innovation
(EIP-AGRI)

NRN

Regional
level

Research
centers

Managing
authority
(EAFRD)



Regional
stakeholders

Innovation
(ERDF)

Local
level

LAG

Public

Private

LAG

Public

Private

LAG

Public

Private

LAG

Public

Private

LAG

Public

Private

LAG

Public

Private



SUCCESS FACTORS

- ❑ **Trust** and **good communication** between LAGs and Managing Authority+Paying Authority: monthly meetings with the MA, ARCA and LAGs
- ❑ Availability of **cooperation funds** reinforces animation and all Catalan LAGs in almost same cooperation projects (3 strategic lines of action)
- ❑ Having a **facilitator at regional scale** allows connecting local with regional and national level, building alliances to overcome rural challenges and have greater impact
 - Connect Departments of the Catalan Government (ICT, Environment, Economy, etc.) and other formal associations (ACM)
 - Lobby groups: social economy, energy transition, food sovereignty
- ❑ Parliamentary action: work towards a **Rural Agenda**, to ensure multifunding for rural territories and a framework with an action plan.



BARRIERS & CHALLENGES

- ❑ **Bureaucracy**, lack of time for animation
- ❑ **Nationalisation** of RDPs is a threat to the regional model
- ❑ **Broaden the scope** of LAGs to work towards innovation beyond economy&employment - we have a pending subject working on ESF topics and social services in rural areas
- ❑ **Division of policies** impacting rural areas in different Departments but at the same time too many doing the same (ex. Depopulation) – Rural Agenda
- ❑ There is a need of **strong mediation skills** and energy to ‘stick together’ initiatives, it is the role of our network as well

Thank you very much!



ARCA

Associació
d'Iniciatives Rurals
de Catalunya

T. +34 73.48.16.44

c/ Pujada del Seminari s/n
25280 Solsona (Lleida) SPAIN

coordinacio@arca-dr.cat

www.desenvolupamentrural.cat



@desruralcat



ARCA.Desenvolupament.Rural

