

We're staying in rural areas: Practices, policies and tools for thriving regions

Theme: Retaining talent for regional growth

Format: Workshop (60 minutes- at least 15 minutes contribution from the audience)

Date and time: Wednesday 11/10/2023, 14:30 - 15:30 CET

Code: 11WS23539

Venue: SQUARE Brussels Meeting Centre, Room 20

Description: Approximately 30% of Europe's regions suffer from a rapidly shrinking labour force, a low share of higher education, and a steady exodus of young people. As acknowledged by the European Commission Demographic Report on the Impacts of Demographic Change (2023), these trends are more severe in rural areas and contribute to widening Europe's urban-rural divide and territorial disparities.

Yet, many diverse initiatives are emerging to address demographic challenges in rural and semi-rural areas. This workshop will present current local good practices, policies and tools to retain and attract talent in rural areas. It will also explore how these can be used to formulate recommendations to improve living conditions and public services, making staying or returning to these areas not only possible but appealing, avoiding one-size-fits-all solutions, and considering the diversity of assets found in European territories.

This workshop is a cooperation between [Partenalia](#) and the European Association for Innovation in Local Development ([AEIDL](#)). It aims presenting the perspective of both networks with regards to the fight against rural depopulation in order to discuss the interaction between the political strategical priorities and plans of Local Intermediate Authorities and several ongoing and past projects implemented by AEIDL, notably [GRANULAR](#).

Speakers:

- **Luca Menesini**, President of the Province of Lucca – CoR member (Partenalia)
- **Maria Ángeles Pallarés**, Vice-president, Diputación de Castellón (Partenalia)
- **Aurélie Kirsch**, CIHEAM IAM Montpellier, Project Manager of the GRANULAR Coordination Team

Moderator:

- **Márta Márczis**, President of AEIDL- European Association for Innovation in Local Development

