

TS-36

COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND RURAL AREAS

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Many activities are increasingly concentrated in rural and coastal areas and in their immediate hinterland: agriculture, tourism, fishing, transport, aquaculture, industries, discharges of various kinds, urbanization. These activities are often competing with each other for the physical space or appropriation of some resources or interfering with each other because of externalities that impact on some other segment of activity (e.g. processing waste).

They end up with the generation of social and environmental pressures that are difficult to reconcile for the complexity of the decision-making processes and the high number of actors involved. The results of this high concentration of activities in rural and coastal areas are particularly felt and several prosperous rural and fishing activities, as different ecosystems, are already heavily compromised. In this context, the central role played by rural and fisheries communities is strongly recognized by the European Union that is supporting Community-Led Local Development and bottom-up activities in rural and coastal areas in order to foster proper networks between the actors involved in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and other economic, cultural and environmental sectors.

Step by step these communities are becoming ever more effective in developing sustainable rural and fishing activities and, especially, in the valorization and diversification of cultural and creative activities that may interest rural and coastal areas.

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