

Comparison Guide for the development of Local Development Strategies of Local Action Groups in the framework of the European programming period 2023 2027 (Catalonia 2022) with the Leader Local Development Strategies Guide (LDS – ENRD 2016)

The two guides are very similar in content but structured differently. Both of them tell us the same, more detailed and extended in Catalan (72 pages) more briefly in European (31 pages).

First of all, the structure of the guides are structured as follows:

Table 1 from Guide Index

<u>Catalan</u>	<u>European</u>
1- Presentation	1- Introduction
2- Normative frame	2- A participatory Local Development Strategy
3- Conceptual frame	3- The essential content of the LDS
4- Strategic frame	
5- Methodological frame	
6- References	
7- Annexes	

Next, we will see point by point the differences of each guide to the elaboration of the strategy.

Point 1. Introduction is very similar in both cases, it tells us which European bodies are responsible for rural development, under which rules they act and how they are organised. It puts us in the context of Leader, how it works to whom it is directed, what its objective is, how it is funded etc. It also tells us who should manage the Leader, the Local Action Groups, as the nearest agents and knowers of the territory and basic characteristics.

From this is when the two guides start to differ in structure mode the content, but the message of how to make the EDL is similar in both guides, since the target and methodology are similar, as we will see below.

The European guide in paragraph 2. “In participatory Local Development Strategy”, tells us how the process should be involve the local population in setting the strategy goals. The technical staff must be able to gather the necessary information from key informants of the territory, avoiding saturating them, and working with the appropriate groups of

people in each situation. They must make the participatory process sufficiently attractive for the local population to become involved.

The objectives and priorities to be addressed in the strategy must be set out. Analyze the territory by means of a DAFO, as a tool to know what the strengths are, and what the gaps are.

The Catalan guide, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 are paragraphs that tell us what the state of the issue is about the strategy. In other words, it makes sense, because the European government is promoting this strategy, and it is the people who must manage it and so on. What legal regulations are behind the strategy, the Leaders and the GALs. Furthermore, it also sets out in context what action is being taken in terms of local development at European, state, provincial and regional level in the area of study.

Paragraph 5. Methodological framework and paragraph 3. The happy of the LDS, they are once again quite like each other. The two tell us that territorial contextualisation must be exercised geographically, socially, economically, demographically, and so on. Following a study (like a DAFO) of what are the strengths and what are the weak points in the study area. The objectives and lines of action to follow to meet them. To whom the strategy is directed, what parts of the population are intended to reach. Let all parts of the strategy be SMART (we find it in both strategies):

Specific – clearly stating what the LDS will address and by what means;

Measurable – containing a basis for measurement and quantified targets;

Achievable – technically feasible given the scope and scale of LDS proposals;

Realistic – attainable given the resources provided, time allowed, scale of intervention etc.;

Timebound – incorporating the date by which the targets should be achieved.

Strategies must create synergies with the territory, and they must be able to adapt and change, they must not be static. They must involve the community (reporting, consulting, collaborating, and making decisions jointly), the actor map and the GAL's relations with them, along with the territory, must be borne in mind, if necessary, rethink the GAL model to improve the relationship with actors and the territory. They must focus on the lines of action to be able to meet the targets. Objectives achieved (or not) must be measurable, indicators must be set (following SMART logic). Strategies must be sustainable and "green".

The last paragraphs 6 and 7 are the bibliographic references, and the annexes with structure models for how to organize the guide and strategy and templates to facilitate the writing of the document.

Some examples, concerning the regulatory framework of the Catalan guide, are all European rules, which regulate the process of creating the strategy. The European guide also refers to certain articles and rules, but in a more limited way.

The Catalan guide also refers to the state policy framework and sets an example of how work is being done at European level with examples: Policies of transformative



innovation, Rural Living labs, Smart Villages, Shared Agendas. It also shows us examples of the work being carried out at different levels:

- European level: European Green Deal, European rural strategy, European recovery plan. Next Generation EU.
- State level: Recovery Plan, Transformation and Resilience, recovery plan. 130 medidas frente al reto demográfico, Estrategia de relevo generacional(draft), Estrategia para la igualdad de las mujeres rurales. (draft).
- Catalan: Rural Agenda of Catalonia (in preparation), Strategy of the Bioeconomics of Catalonia 2030, Strategic Food Plan of Catalonia 2021-2026, National Plan for the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Catalonia, National Pact for Energy Transition of Catalonia, Economic Reactivation and Social Protection Plan, Catalonia 2022. RESET. Call to reactivate the country.
- Provincial level: Strategic project for the economic transformation of the Lands of Lleida, Pirineu and Aran (2020-2027), Deputation Plan of Tarragona 2020-2023, Deputation Plan of Barcelona 2020-2023, Diputation Plan of Girona 2020-2023.

On the European guide is concerned, the whole guide shows us some examples of work done in other countries, for example Greece and he's methodology for attracting people to participatory processes, France or Finland with the importance of the GALs.

Maria Bernaus Viles
Arnau Casas López
Ares Delamoga Morancho
Maria Piñol Barceló
Arabela Vivar Morón
&
Francisco Víudez Jordan (CAUC LDS technician)
Eva Múrcia Soler (CAUC)
Teresa Castellà Gardenyes (CAUC)