



## Welcome to the fourth RELOCAL Newsletter

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RELOCAL aims to identify factors that condition local accessibility of European policies, local abilities to articulate needs and equality claims and local capacities for exploiting European opportunity structures. In the past, especially since the economic and financial crisis, the European Social Model has proven to be challenged by the emergence of spatially unjust results. In that sense, the RELOCAL hypothesis is that processes of localisation and place-based public policy can make a positive contribution to spatial justice and democratic empowerment.

The research is based on 33 case studies in 11 different European countries that exemplify development challenges in terms of spatial justice. The cases were chosen to allow for a balanced representation of different institutional contexts. Based on case study findings, project partners have drawn out the factors that influence the impact of place-based approaches or actions from a comparative perspective. The results are intended to facilitate a greater orientation of cohesion, territorial development and other EU policies towards the local level.

Below are briefly presented the 33 cases studies. For more information on each RELOCAL case study, click here: <https://relocal.eu/all-cases/>

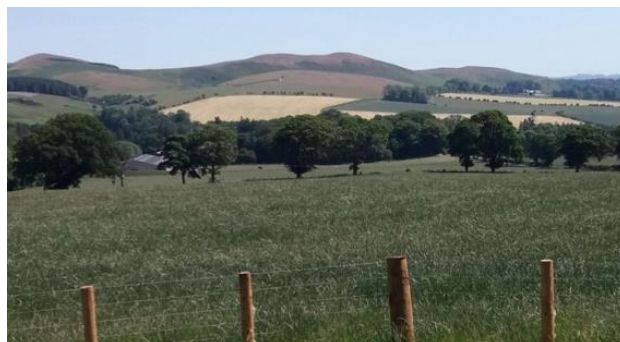
## Spatial Justice & Stronger Urban-Rural Partnership

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### Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group

*Northumberland – United Kingdom*

A volunteer-led and run rural sustainability (LEADER) action focused on distributing development funding across a sparsely inhabited uplands area that has been structurally constrained in its most recent phase.



## Smart Countryside

*Ostwestfalen-Lippe – Germany*

This action aims to contrast demographic challenges by fostering digital transformation in a rural region. It provides multimedia infrastructure to villages, trains the local population in digital technologies and involves new formats of civic engagement.



## Micro-Regional Association Mara-Natur

*Maramures County – Romania*

As a local action group, it manages LEADER funds covering a wide range of economic initiatives and public interest actions in 18 localities from a former mining area. It is appreciated by its stakeholders however they signal the need for larger scale administrative reform in the country.



## Rural Public Spaces

*Domachowo, Potarzyce and Stara Krobi – Poland*

A case study of three Polish villages that recognizes their achievements in creation of social ties, the emergence of new initiatives, and local connectivity of previously uncommunicated areas and sectors.



## The Goth Village Thematic

*Masłomęcz – Poland*

A unique example of a community that has redefined the relationship between its identity and strong place attachment in order to provide a well needed economic, social, and cultural boost.

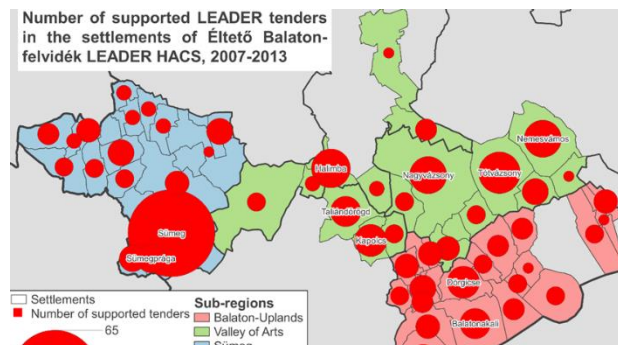




## The Balaton Uplands Local Action Group

*Balaton Uplands – Hungary*

The implementation of the LEADER Programme in Balaton Uplands is explored for its achievements in development measures, effective use of human resources, and the results in tackling spatial inequality.

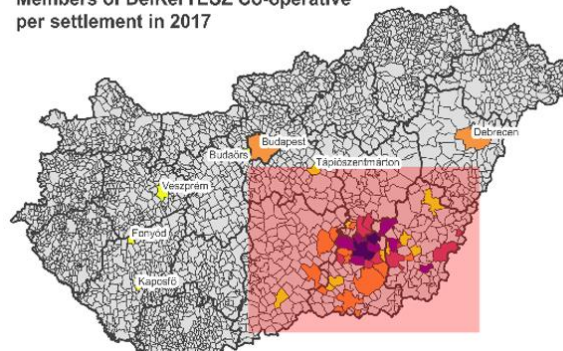


## The Producer Organisation

*Szentes – Hungary*

This case study explores if this variant of a co-operative organization, which is supported by the EU Common Agricultural Policy, can or cannot prevent rural pauperisation by defending smallholders' interests.

Members of DélKerTESZ Co-operative per settlement in 2017



## Strengthening Communities

*Isle of Lewis, Western Isles – United Kingdom*

Analysis on how place-based interventions, carried out under the remit of the core priority areas of a Scottish Government development agency, HIE, have tackled spatial inequalities on Lewis, which is part of the Western Isles, located off the west coast of Scotland.



## Spatial Justice & Regional Economic Development Strategies



### Monistrol 2020 Strategic Plan

*Monistrol de Monserrat – Spain*

Monistrol de Monserrat is reviewed as an example of success in redefining existing social and natural resources in order to combat many of the same problems affecting small European towns, all the while fostering a positive local perspective.



## Euralens - Local initiative to redevelop Pas-de-Calais mining basin

*Pas-de-Calais – France*

In a combined effort from various sectors of society, this former French mining region looks to catalyse bottom-up local development and create an innovative approach to local governance.



## Lieksa 2030 Development Strategy

*Lieksa – Finland*

The remote and rural Finnish town of Lieksa is facing problems related to continuing demographic decline, peripheral location (poor accessibility) in both regional as well as national contexts and dwindling financial resources. This case study traces the ways the municipal leadership in Lieksa is thoroughly changing its approach to local government processes/practices, embodied by the Lieksa Development Strategy 2030, in order to safeguard the town's socio-economic viability.



## The Special Development Programme

*Western Macedonia – Greece*

Analyses an attempt of a coal intensive in transition area under environmental and economic pressure, to develop an alternative development path.



## The Alexander Innovation Zone

*Thessaloniki – Greece*

The Alexander Innovation Zone attempts to promote spatial justice by empowering the interaction between research and entrepreneurship communities by fostering research, innovation, and technology and applying “top-down” and “bottom-up” practices.





## Ecosystem of Collaboration

*Karditsa – Greece*

Trying to mitigate the spatial, economic and social injustices of the area, the Local Development Agency together with some of the local stakeholders created a mechanism that supports the creation of a network of collective actions in the Social & Solidarity Economy in order to promote bottom-up and inclusive development.



## Confronting the Impact of Induced Earthquakes

*Northeast Groningen – Netherlands*

This case study report analyses spatial justice in the wake of frequent earthquakes that occur in the region of Northeast Groningen, the Netherlands. These earthquakes are man-made, induced by the extraction of natural gas in the region.



## The Pata Cluj project

*Cluj-Napoca – Romania*

The project targeted the disadvantaged area of Pata Rât nearby the landfill of Cluj-Napoca, with the aim “to prepare the social inclusion of these communities”. Its immediate positive effect was that 10% of the families were relocated, but it did not generate change in the city policies regarding Pata Rât, evictions, housing or urban development.

## Spatial Justice & Upgrading European Neighbourhoods

### Second Attempt: Centre for Youth and Socioculture

*Görlitz – Germany*

This report explores the potential of a non-profit youth association in a remote middle-sized town. By creating a Centre for Youth and Socioculture, they aim to actively engage young people into urban development and political decision-making.



## The Commission for a Socially Sustainable Stockholm

*Stockholm – Sweden*

A review of the implementation of the Stockholm Commission, in a city that, although an internationally competitive city and successful on a number of economic dimensions, suffers from severe and deepening segregation.



## Rotterdam South: Nationaal Programma Rotterdam Zuid

*Rotterdam – Netherlands*

In order to combat the particular form of injustice resulting from spatially segregated households, stakeholders from government educational institutes and local businesses came up with the Nationaal Programma Rotterdam Zuid to coordinate the actions of its members.



## A Homelessness Project: The PLACE/Ladywell 'pop-up village'

*Lewisham – United Kingdom*

Responding to London's housing crisis, the PLACE/Ladywell 'pop-up' village provides a modular, fully demountable structure of flats for homeless families and affordable office space. It is designed to be used on vacant sites awaiting development and can be moved four or five times over a 60-year lifespan, with complex spatial justice implications.



## Civil-action-based local initiative in the City of Kotka

*Kotka – Finland*

Utilising EU funding, the organization managing the LEADER activities in the surrounding rural municipalities aims to extend its community-led local development approach to the urban parts of the city of Kotka, a medium-sized city in southern Finland by carrying out two consecutive projects focusing on the unemployed, youth, immigrants and other vulnerable groups with special needs.





## The Mălin-Codlea project

*Codlea, Braşov County – Romania*

As a result of the project titled “Accountability of citizens in the field of housing,” 10% of the targeted households of Mălin district partially benefitted from the process of legalization, i.e. they could buy the land under their houses. Several legal and socio-economic problems of the informal settlement remained unsolved.



## Integrated Plan for Urban Development for the Plumbuita Area

*Bucharest – Romania*

Defined as a ‘long term strategy for area development aiming at job market and economic growth,’ at the end of the day only two of its components have been implemented. One was a video surveillance system that re-enforced the stigmatization of the poorest of the area, the other contributed to the improvement of the road infrastructure.



## Action Plan for the Promotion of Quality of Life in a Segregated Neighbourhood

*Premià de Dalt – Spain*

This initiative from the Catalan government sought to increase the opportunities for residents of Santa Maria/Santa Anna-Tió through the development of social programmes and improvements to public space through a comprehensive urban intervention.



## La Mina Neighbourhood Transformation Plan

*Sant Adrià de Besòs – Spain*

A case study of one of the most deprived communities in Barcelona that retraces a plan to revitalise the urban and social fabric while including its residents in the decision-making process.



## Give Kids a Chance programme

*Encs – Hungary*

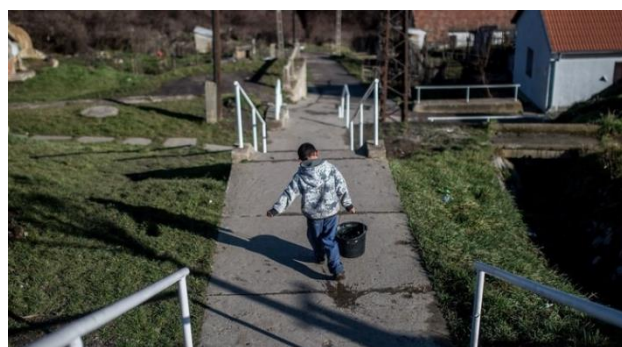
In an area characterized by small villages in economic decline, selective outmigration, very high unemployment, and low levels of educational attainment, the Give Kids a Chance programme was designed to improve the living conditions of the children and families.



## Ten Years of Urban Regeneration in a Poor Neighbourhood

*György-telep – Hungary*

An analysis of a project that seeks a long term solution to spatial and social injustice in an disadvantaged former mining colony with extremely high ratio of substandard flats, very low level of education, and high levels of unemployment.



## Spatial Justice & Smarter Territorial Governance

### Digital Västerbotten

*Västerbotten County – Sweden*



Like many other rural areas in Europe today following a similar trend of depopulation and a weakening economy, this case study gives insights into how digital solutions can facilitate cooperation between municipalities and thereby reduce costs and share competence.

### Constructing an Eco-Cité: The EPA Alzette-Belval

*Northern Lorraine – France*



In the context of deindustrialization and a workforce that has been driven to orientate to nearby Luxembourg, the EPA is a unique French state-led agency with the capacity to “take back” responsibility for planning from other administrative levels to plan specific areas.





## Kallikratis: Overcoming Fragmentation in Territorial Governance

*Volos – Greece*

This case study analyzes the effects on spatial justice of the 'Kallikratis' - a reform that expanded significantly the limits and the jurisdictions of the new Municipality of Volos and whether the reform has helped the city to deal better with the challenges it faces and to provide better services to its citizens.



## Association of Municipalities for a Coordinated Local Development

*Eix de la Riera de Caldes – Spain*

As this region transitioned beyond a period of high concentration of economic and industrial activities, it established the *Association of Municipalities of Eix de la Riera de Caldes* in order to provide better, more coherent services to local residents. This also unintentionally created a tool to improve negotiation capacity with higher administrative levels.



## Participatory Budget

*Łódź – Poland*

In this case study, Łódź offers an example of participatory budgeting, through using it as one of the tools for implementing the Development Strategy of Łódź 2020+ within locally driven projects focused on building human capital, local awareness and spatial change.



## "Communal Services" Social Cooperative

*Brzeziny – Poland*

An example of a broadly defined process of revitalisation of local resources, combining technical activities (renovation, modernization and revalorisation) with social and economic activities.

## Your opinion is valuable! Expert online survey coming next

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We invite you to answer our expert survey on Tools for Building-up Spatial Justice based on our case study analyses. It will take you no more than 5 minutes of your time, and you will receive a feed-back report with results and participant opinions. Individual responses to this survey will be obviously kept anonymous.

## Activities carried out in 2019

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**October 2019, Imagine & RELOCAL workshop (COMING NEXT)** on “Spatial disparities in Europe: from regions to localities to individuals”.

**October 2019, RELOCAL Half Day Session at DG Regio’s Open Days (COMING NEXT)** under the title of “Shrinking Rural Areas and Spatial Justice” in collaboration with INTERREG ESPON ESCAPE project.

**July 2019, RELOCAL Special Sessions at Venice AESOP Congress** on “The role of the local in improving cohesion and spatial justice”.

**March 2019, RELOCAL Conference in Lodz**, involving researchers from H2020 projects COHESIFY, IMAJINE and PERCEIVE on regional justice and EU cohesion policy. Discussion of concerns on the reform of the Cohesion Policy to address spatially divergent trends of social-economic development across Europe.

## News briefs

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- *“Le Parlement Intempestif du Label Euralens”*: Cyril Blondel and the POLAU elaborate on April 4th 2019 the staging of a fictive assembly, uniting local actors, labelled initiative holders and institutional actors from Pas-de-Calais.
- *“Using the Potentials of Youth Participation in Urban Development!”*: ILS researcher Viktoria Kamuf presented and discussed results from one RELOCAL case study during a workshop in March 2019.
- *“Smart Country Side Ostwestfalen-Lippe” Case Study in the national debate*. ILS Researcher Sabine Weck discussed results of one of RELOCAL case study at German national-level events.
- *“Beyond the Economic Dimension” – The Social and Environmental Impact of a Producer Organisation*: Poster-pitching session with RELOCAL case study on Szentes in charge with CERS HAS.
- *“Geographies of (in)justice”*: Guest lecture series in geography and spatial planning, organised by the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning of the UniLux in partnership with the JSSJ Spatial Justice Journal.
- *“RELOCAL project and spatial justice”*: Interview to Estelle Evrard, from University of Luxembourg, on the Luxembourg socio-cultural Radio100.7.
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## Who is in RELOCAL?



<b>Project Full Title</b>	RELOCAL - Resituating the Local in Cohesion and Territorial Development
<b>Grant Agreement</b>	GA. 727097
<b>Project Budget</b>	€ 4,885,750
<b>Project Duration</b>	October 2016 - Sep 2020 (48 months)
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	University of Eastern Finland
<b>Contact</b>	Dr. Petri Kahila ( <a href="mailto:petri.kahila@uef.fi">petri.kahila@uef.fi</a> )
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.relocal.eu">www.relocal.eu</a>

