



European
Union



2nd Rural Pact Conference

Combining CLLD and ITI to enhance rural resilience

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Local Development Association created in 1988, in the Algarve, Portugal.

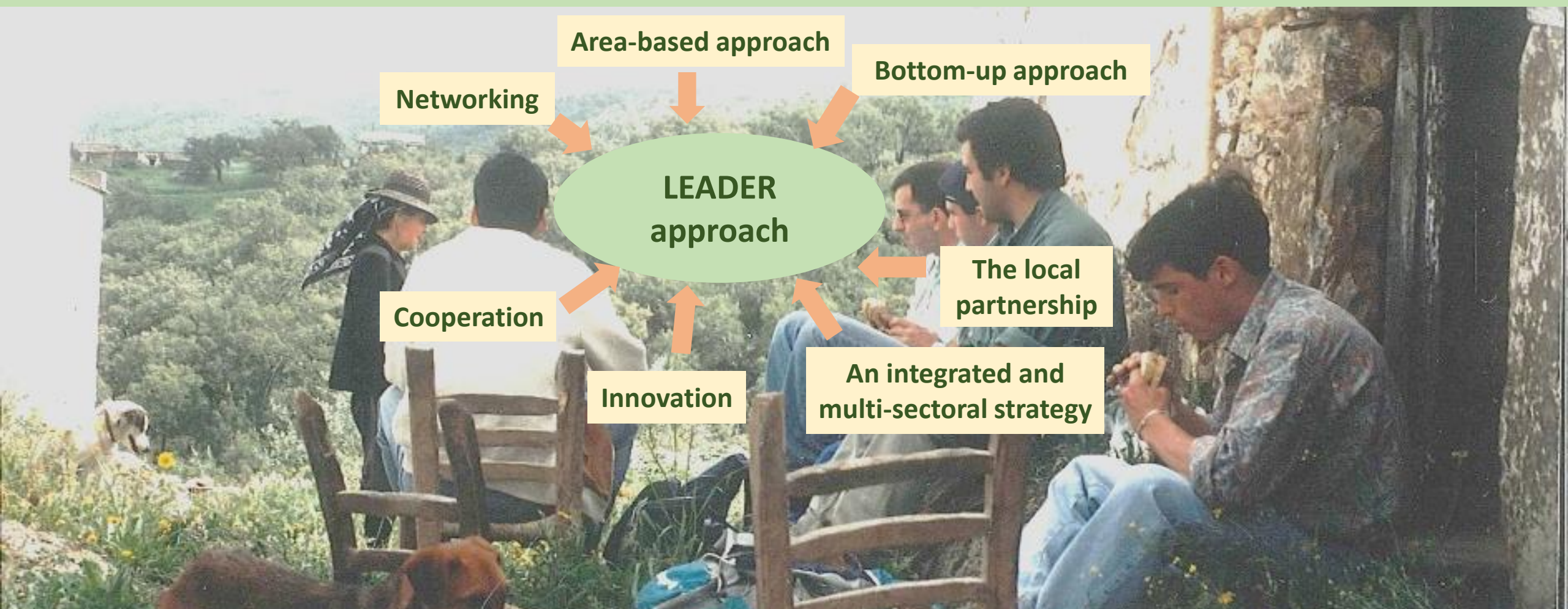
-  **Objective** To combat unemployment and social exclusion in rural areas through innovative local development strategies.
-  **Mission** To empower rural communities in the Algarve to be resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.
-  **Strategy** To launch and support initiatives that foster participation, capacity-building, and organization of people and entities, developed in partnership, within an integrated approach and framed by action-research processes.

What we do

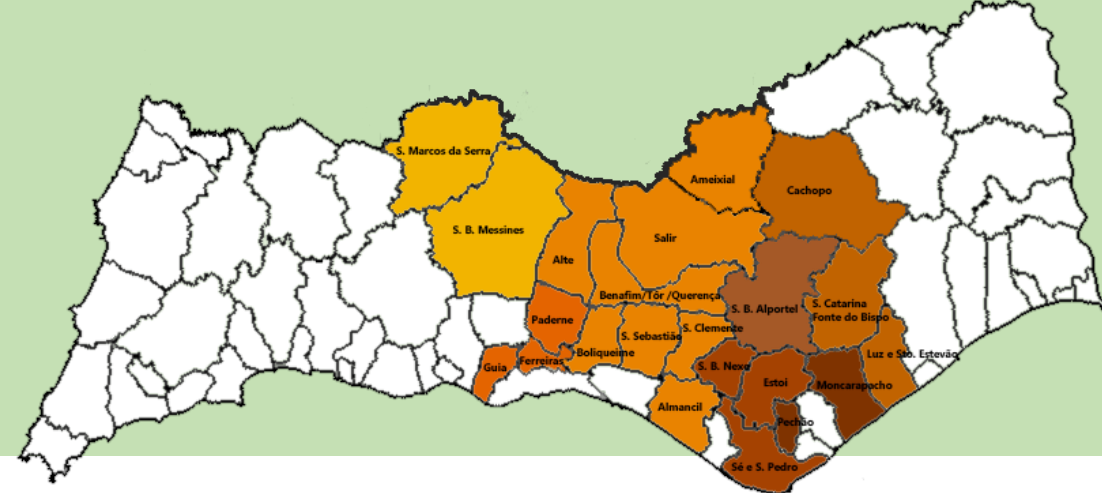
-  Implement Local Development programs
-  Support entrepreneurship, employment, and social inclusion
-  Promote the sustainable management of resources (water, landscape, biodiversity)
-  Encourage citizen participation and community empowerment



7 LEADER principles



CLLD - Community-Led Local Development



Algarve
Central  20
30

- **Community-led, Bottom-up Approach**
- Integrated EU funding
- Focus on:
 - › Local development, cooperation & social innovation
 - › Farm income & resilience
 - › Competitiveness through innovation & digitalization
 - › Employment, inclusion & gender equality
 - › Circular bioeconomy & rural heritage valorization
- **Local Action Group Algarve Central (LAG)**

40+ partners: municipalities, education, forestry, livestock farming, handicrafts, business organizations, companies, heritage & environment, geopark, banking sector

Context and Challenges of the Territory

Environmental

Water scarcity and pressure on water resources
Biodiversity loss and wildfire risk
Impacts of climate change (drought, floods)

Economic

Strong dependence on tourism
Fragility of the rural economic fabric
Need for diversification and local valorization

Social

Depopulation and ageing
Coastal–inland inequality
Few opportunities for young people

Governance

Institutional fragmentation
Low civic participation
Lack of inter-municipal cooperation



ITI Water and Landscape Ecosystems - Integrated Territorial Instrument

Participatory process → public actors, private actors, and LAGs

Central themes: Water and Landscape Ecosystems

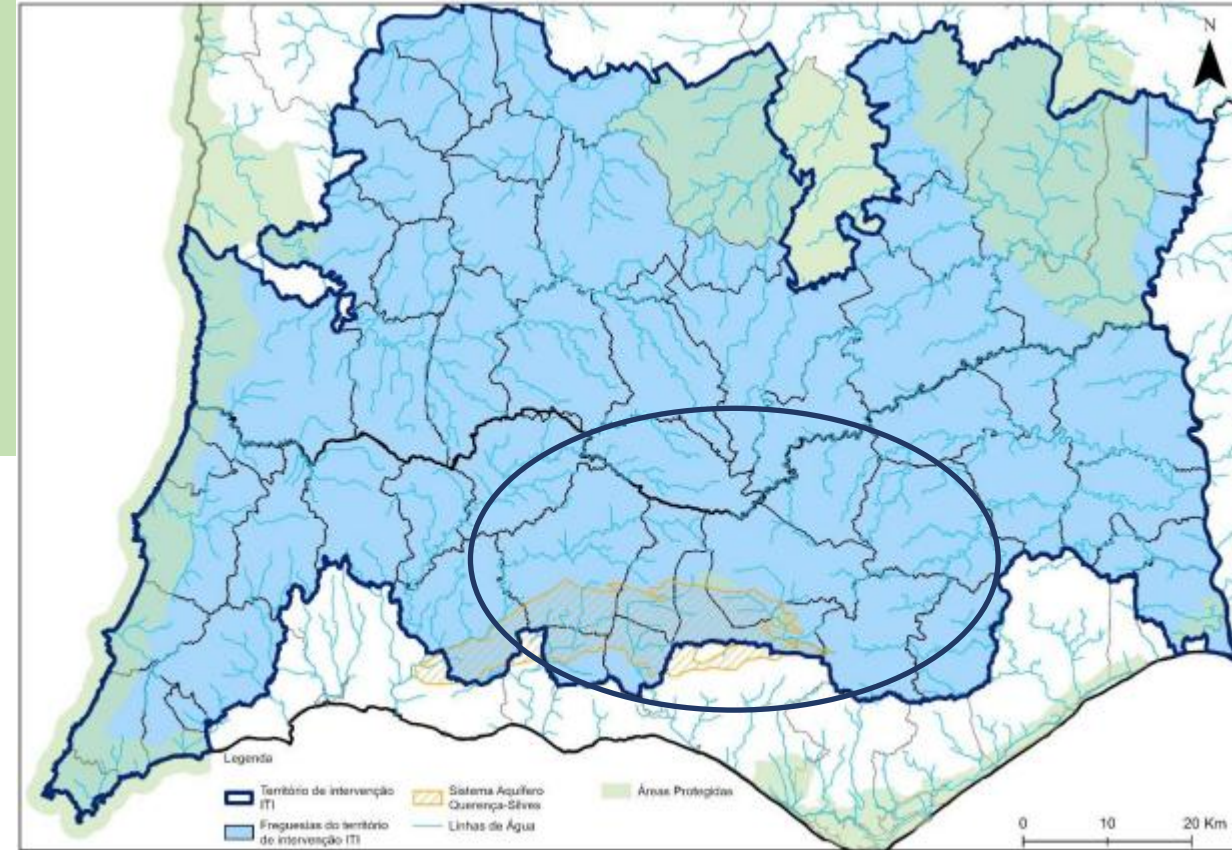
Objective: to address the impacts of these themes on the territory and communities.

Ambition: to generate innovative solutions, knowledge, and wealth.

Vision: to transform the region into an attractive, sustainable, and cohesive territory, through the coordination of different funds in the same area.

Focus: water management, ecosystem preservation, climate adaptation.

An **integrated approach** that addresses identified development needs and the territory's potential.



Synergies: CLLD + ITI

Strategic combination:

CLLD → proximity, community mobilization

ITI → large-scale investment and ecological infrastructure

Benefits:

- › Greater water and ecological resilience
- › Water and landscape as strategic assets for the future
- › Active community involvement in resource management
- › Local communities as central actors in the ecological transition
- › Alignment between local and regional policies

CLLD + ITI = mutual reinforcement for rural resilience

Empowered communities build resilient landscapes



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Thank you for your attention!

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