

CULTRURAL+ stands for Entrepreneurship, Education and Cultural Heritage Creative Management for Rural Development. It is a Strategic Partnership co-financed by the Erasmus+ programme (ref. 2019-1-ES01-KA204-065372) aiming to introduce rural and neo-rural entrepreneurs to: 1. strategic training; 2. networking; 3. community of practice 4. Internationalization.

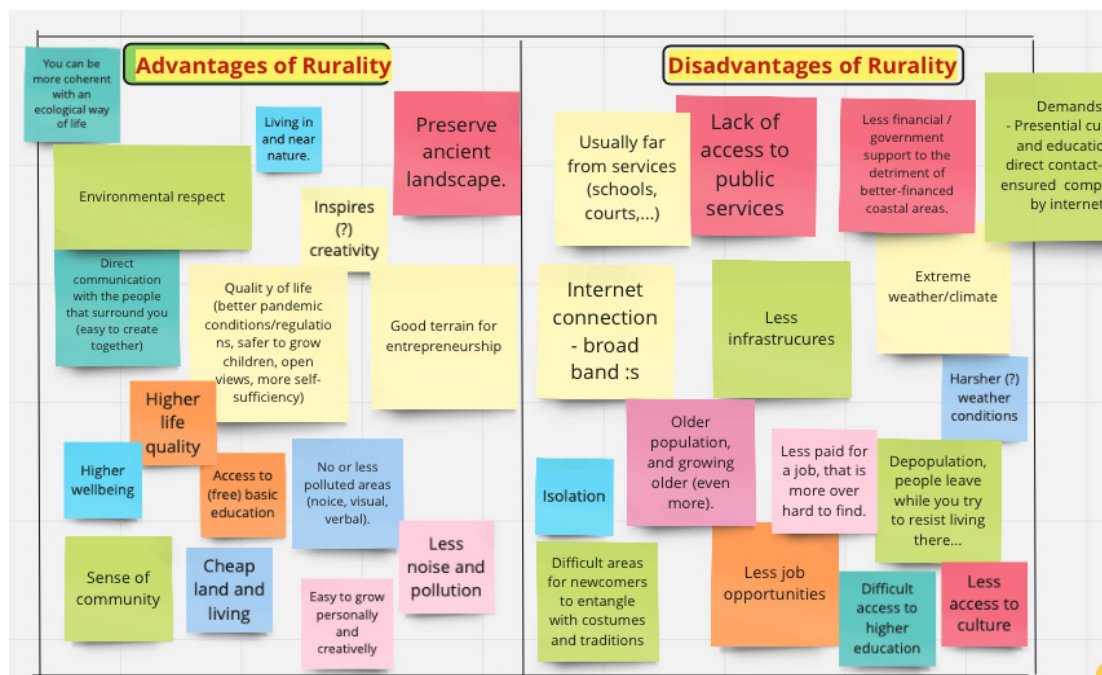
### INTERNATIONAL ONLINE PARTNER MEETINGS

At least every two weeks one or more representatives of each partner organization join to guarantee the follow up of the strategic planning they have been working on since the creation of the project. The main change that had to be introduced so far was a 12-month extension. The project that started on 01-09-2019 will now last until 31-08-2022, and all partners agreed to collaborate for 3 years.

COVID-19 guidelines are checked to know whether face-to-face events can be executed as originally planned. So far, mainly the international weeks had to be postponed. Gaining ever more digital skills, the team is now fully focussing on the online trainings.

### RECENT ACTIONS

With regard to the Cultrural+ coaching and training program, one of the intellectual outputs, in December 2020 the first webinar of a monthly series was launched. It can be attended freely by all interested stakeholders.



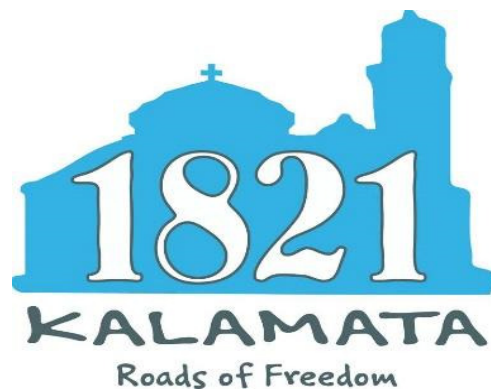
Post-it collection listing advantages and disadvantages of rural life and work.

The first edition was organized by the Portuguese partner Ruralidade Verde.

Ana Sofia Santos, apart from her theoretical contribution about the responsibility of traditional production systems as guardians of domestic biodiversity, invited the participants to try out a “new” digital application, “miro” (<https://miro.com/app>), to get to know one another and to share views about their common reality. The result of this session was a list of advantages and disadvantages of living in the countryside. It can be consulted above.

The second session was of the responsibility of Time Heritage and focused mostly on Greek examples. The group was especially impressed with the story of the organization of the festivities to commemorate the Greek independence war that started in the city of Kalamata in 1821. Of course, COVID-19 is ruining most of the original plans, but it was so encouraging to hear how different partners, like the city, the local university, local entrepreneurs and citizens joined forces already more than 3 years ago to start preparing this event that wants to include “everyone”. Apparently, the bonds between local partners are meanwhile so strong that they all think creatively in order to execute their ideas one way or another, even in COVID times.

You can follow their activities here <https://www.facebook.com/kalamata1821/> and here <https://www.kalamata1821.com/>.



## CULTRURAL+ AGENDA

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March the training session will be bi-lingual French (and English) as our French partner IADT leads this initiative. Please feel free to join us at 14:00 CET via ZOOM. The link will be shared later on to those who enrol. You can find the program on our website via this link: <https://www.cultrural.eu/tourism-development-rural-area>.

Given the lockdown due to COVID-19, the International Week and Conference “Cultural valorization of rural economies: heritage, gastronomy, entrepreneurship” in Farkadona had to be postponed to May. Stay tuned for the exact dates. The call for papers can already be accessed through link <https://www.cultrural.eu/call-for-abstracts-international-scientific-conference>.

## SOME LINKS TO OTHER INSPIRING EVENTS, ORGANIZATIONS, ...

You should certainly have a look at the website ([https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/rural2040-vision-week\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/rural2040-vision-week_en)) of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) as it «serves as a hub for exchange of information on how Rural Development policy, programmes, projects and other initiatives are working in practice and how they can be improved to achieve more». Their agenda, for example, is very varied: [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/upcoming\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/upcoming_en).

LDnet will organize a series of four webinars in April 2021 on “The Contribution of Community-based Initiatives to the Covid Recovery” with a focus on community-based initiatives for sustainable development. More info here: <https://ldnet.eu/ldnet-launches-a-new-series-of-webinars-recovery-through-community-led-approaches-april-2021/>.

“Rural Resilience” is an engaged community of research and practice dedicated to advancing the resilience and sustainability of rural communities and regions in Canada. Perhaps you want to have a look at their toolkits which can be downloaded for free and without registration: <http://ruralresilience.ca/resources/toolkits/>.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including inequality, climate change, environmental degradation and fair trade. We all need to learn more about the SDG and actually do something within our own community/organization or with our own company. For ideas, use this link: <https://www.un.org/en/actnow>.



### Open: CALL FOR RURAL ENTREPRENEURS AND MEDIATORS TO JOIN THE PROJECT

We maintain the call for rural entrepreneurs and mediators opened on a continuous basis.

The Erasmus+ project Cult-rural+ is issuing this call for Entrepreneurs and Mediators to offer rural entrepreneurs and mediators (staff from local governments, local action groups, NGO), personalized coaching, grants for international meetings and prizes. Selected entrepreneurs and mediators will join the Cult-rural+ Learning and Sharing Knowledge Community to know about resources, funding opportunities and contacts of relevant stakeholders to improve their projects.

#### GRANTS

Cult-rural+ project will offer partial and full grants (Travel and lodgement costs) to assist to 5 days International Meetings in Greece (May-2021), Portugal (Set-2021), France (date to set) and Italy (Jun-2022).

#### PERSONALIZED COACHING

Selected entrepreneurs and mediators will receive personalized coaching to improve their project and expertise.

#### LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING COMMUNITY

Selected entrepreneurs and mediators will join the Cult-rural+ learning and knowledge community to receive updated info about educational resources, funding opportunities, meetings, ...

#### PRIZES

There will be 3 final prizes for rural entrepreneurs and mediators to award the best trajectory, programme performance and project plan (rewarding innovation, creativity and impact). Awards will be granted in a final Cultrural+ Prizes Ceremony.

#### HOW TO APPLY

Link to the application form: <https://forms.gle/jUivH2cyhUhFhswng>.

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cJ8H6w92Dvj28xtLIanS7\\_WYB5at8qath6NymBEtTU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cJ8H6w92Dvj28xtLIanS7_WYB5at8qath6NymBEtTU/edit?usp=sharing).

CONTACT: [cultruralplus@gmail.com](mailto:cultruralplus@gmail.com)