

LA NOGUERA MEDINACELI



Lucía Fernández de Soto -29 years old- comes from Medinaceli, a town with 250 inhabitants in central Spain. She founded the association for young people in this rural area in 2006 and committed to her Local Action Group since 2008. She aims to explore solutions for rural areas with fewer opportunities. She joined the Romanian National Rural Network in 2012, expanding her knowledge of other European rural communities, and in 2013, back in Spain, she started a cooperative with 5 of her colleagues, dealing both with sustainable farming and rural development consultancy.

From a Global Perspective: Changes, Challenges and Opportunities in Rural Areas.

Our world is constantly changing. The way we communicate is different today than 50 years ago, and this has caused great changes in our ways of life and work, and especially in the way we interact with one another and with the space around us. In rural areas this can generate conflicts between the forces pushing to maintain the status quo and the forces of change, coming up with new approaches and creating new trends.

Therefore, one of the challenges for rural areas today is to understand these processes of change from an holistic perspective, and to channel energies in order to plan a living future through development policies while preserving local resources.

In this context, the European Union is our best chance to value the singularity of regions and places while keeping in mind the broader processes affecting them, and thus generating the necessary rural development policies to keep rural areas alive.

Nevertheless, it is a local responsibility to identify the new ruralities and to support them as internal driving forces. Young people, integrated by a heterogeneous generation of well-trained people searching for alternatives in rural areas and has an important role to play in this process.