

Local development strategies: what should they include?

Abstract

This paper aims to describe the most important features that a local development strategy for rural communities should include. This is justified by the importance and the role that these documents have not only for the development of the commune, but also for improving the quality of life of the inhabitants, leading the community authorities and other members of the community through a guided process of commune development. As there is no a predetermined methodology to guide the elaboration of such a document, the need to review the literature in order to identify the most relevant elements that should be included is evident. The current research started from the idea that a local development strategy plays an important role in the development process of community.

For public authorities, strategic planning is considered to be new process, as it is mainly used by private organizations. As such, the public sector is still reluctant to it. Since no model of developing local development strategy was adopted, we suggest that it is necessary to elaborate a guideline regarding the basic elements that such a document should include.

This study aims to develop a guiding grid, developed based on the existing literature regarding the local development strategies undertaken by the public organizations, which in the future can be used for developing an integrated local development strategy whose role consists in developing the commune from different points of view.