



AGALSA
Sierra de la
DeManda

LOCAL ACTION GROUP SIERRA DE LA DEMANDA

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NON PROFIT

LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:

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Who we are

The Association Local Action Group Sierra de la Demanda (AGALSA) is a non-profit organization declared of Public Utility, representing the entire social and economic ecosystem of the territory and contributing to the rural development of the region.

Covering 55 municipalities and 114 villages across 1,952.33 km² (almost 14% of the province of Burgos) around the Sierra de la Demanda, AGALSA operates in a sparsely populated area with only 9,500 inhabitants (4.8 inhabitants/km²).

AGALSA's 111 members include all the municipalities within its scope, cultural associations, social entities, and businesses in the Sierra de la Demanda. Governed by a Board of Directors comprising a president, vice president, treasurer, and 12 members, AGALSA operates with a multidisciplinary technical team of six individuals.

What we do

Following the LEADER bottom-up methodology, AGALSA designs a Participatory Local Development Strategy, focusing on sustainable socioeconomic development involving public and private stakeholders.

Its main goal includes preserving and enhancing the natural, cultural, and ethnographic heritage, improving residents' quality of life, strengthening the business sector, and fostering sustainability, gender equality, innovation, and territorial cohesion.

Strategic objectives revolve around socio-economic development, repopulation, heritage enhancement, ecological transition, governance, green and digital transitions, gender equality, territorial cohesion, and innovation.

Projects undertaken by AGALSA have a significant impact, leveraging relationships with local social and business networks, collaborating with other regions and entities, and utilizing well-established communication channels for dissemination.

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Our experience

AGALSA has been working for 30 years on the socio-economic development of the Sierra de la Demanda.

It manages LEADER funds to subsidize productive and non-productive projects, while also developing its own initiatives and regional, national, and international cooperation projects in various areas like entrepreneurship, tourism, and the environment.

Notable projects include:

- +Empresas+Empleo+Rural: promoting employment and entrepreneurship in rural areas,
- Cowocyl: Offering rural entrepreneurship spaces to attract talent and settle populations.
- Leadertour: Showcasing the work of Rural Development Associations managing LEADER funds.
- Sacral tourism: Exchanging employment experiences in sacred tourism between Latvia and Spain.
- Living Museums: Reopening 80 museums in rural areas through innovative systems in Europe.
- Mycology, tourism and sustainability: Valorizing mycological areas sustainably.

Beyond LEADER funds, AGALSA initiates and funds projects like:

- Housing and repopulation: Identifying and valorizing vacant housing to create a comprehensive network.
- Associationism and volunteering: coordinating associations and encouraging youth involvement.
- Tourism sustainability Plan: Coordinating and professionalizing tourism in rural area.
- Coworking network: Establishing collaborative workspaces across the Sierra. Km
- El Valle Digital: Generating business ideas to foster entrepreneurship and population retention.

Additionally, AGALSA hosted 18 European entrepreneurs through "The Break" project, organized professional mentorships, leisure activities, and local challenges.

Currently managing two Next Generation Projects:

- Recuperación de la Dehesa tradicional: Restoring and valorizing traditional pasturelands.
- El Valle Digital: Implementing entrepreneurship projects generated collaboratively in the Sierra.

Our Team

Each member of the technical team takes charge of at least one of the areas in which they specialize, and the manager, Fernando Castaño, whose background is in economics and rural development, is responsible for coordination and cross-cutting focus.

Javier Ruiz, a graduate in labor relations, is in charge of the employment and entrepreneurship area, carrying out career paths, providing employment and entrepreneurship advice, and conducting community building actions within the network of Collaborative Workspaces managed by the Association, as well as managing events and workshops.

Eva Juarros, with a degree in business and tourism activities, coordinator of leisure and free time, and an expert in gender, is responsible for drafting and managing regional projects, fundraising and management, and also coordinates regional, national, and European LEADER cooperation projects. She also carries out communication actions and organizes events and workshops.

Our Expectations

AGALSA aims to implement projects to combat depopulation, engaging with local youth and expanding its scope within Europe

Implementation of results

We will use the insights gained from the learning outcomes to foster stronger collaborations and partnerships with local youth organizations, community leaders, and stakeholders. This will enable us to leverage collective resources and expertise for more impactful initiatives.