

LUXEMBURG

Implementing local development strategies

Location
Moselle

Programming period
2007 – 2013

Axis / Priority
Axis 4 – LEADER

Funding (EUR)
Total budget 145 256
RDP 73 712

Project duration
2012 – 2013

Project promoter
LAG Miselerland

Contact
cathy.schmartz@miselerland.lu

Website
www.mosellediversity.eu/fr/activites/4_miselerland-integration-couch-2012-2013

Supporting integration initiatives for residents of the Miselerland area

Summary

On 1 January 2010 the Miselerland region had a total population of some 37 000 inhabitants, among whom a third were non-luxembourgish citizens (33.5%). As part of an overall objective to encourage integration and successful living together in the region, a competition engaged the interest and active participation of native and non-native inhabitants.

The competition was designed to reflect integration in the region, symbolised by designing benches and seats. In different communities, groups of a diverse mix of inhabitants came together, regardless of age or origin, to create using old created seats, stools and benches as symbols of integration.



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Results

Twelve communities participated in the competition.

15 groups diverse groups were formed including designers aged from 3 to 88 years old.

These 15 pieces were seen to represent integration, working together and equality, and brought communities together in participatory activity.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The competition showed the willingness of the local communities in the region to work together, and also the understanding of the need for integration of those originating from the region, and newcomers to it. The 'artwork' created by the competition now sits proudly in schoolyards, beside football pitches and footpaths as a visible symbol of social integration.

Context

On 1 January 2010 the Miselerland region had a total population of some 37 000 inhabitants, among whom a third were non-luxembourgish citizens (33.5%). There was some variation within communities within the region ranging from 44% of non-luxembourgish citizens in Mondorf-les-Bains (44%) to 21% in Burmerange. The most predominant population from foreign origin was from Portugal, followed by Germany and France.

While in Miselerland the percentage of inhabitants born outside of Luxembourg remained well below the national average (43%), there was a recognised need for the harmonious and successful living together in this region. This is essential for social cohesion and for the sustainable development of rural areas.

A coordination service has been created in the region to foster social cohesion. This service helped to create a strong network of regional actors, associations and organisations engaged in the areas of integration and diversity. The coordination service was created to act as regional relay between national authorities and municipal bodies (municipal councils, advisory committees, local associations, etc.). The service provides education to municipalities and other local stakeholders in these issues and engages with their strategic thinking about better integration of non-luxembourgish citizens in the Miselerland region. Depending on the detected needs it advises and considers possible actions with them. In addition, it ensures regular consultation between all stakeholders at local and regional level. The regional approach allows the delivery of specific activities which promote the development of a strategic approach.

Objectives

The overall objective was to promote a proactive integration policy by supporting municipalities, associations and local institutions to strengthen their own initiatives.

Activities

One specific activity within this regional approach has been the creation of a competition to design a 'Miselerland Integration Couch'. This competition piloted by LEADER Miselerland poses a challenge to the Luxembourg society and its foreign nationals. LEADER Miselerland wanted to give a strong signal against resistance to change, to promote a spirit of openness and to promote the diversity of the population of the region. The initiators of the project wanted to create a framework for meetings and exchanges between residents of different origins, generations and different social settings.

Main results

In twelve communities, 15 groups containing designers from 3 to 88 years old created seats, stools and benches.

These 15 pieces were seen to represent integration, working together and equality, and brought communities together in participatory activity.

Key lessons

The competition in particular showed the willingness of the local communities in the region to work together, and also the understanding of the need for integration of those originating from the region, and newcomers to it. The 'artwork' created by the competition now sits proudly in schoolyards, beside football pitches and footpaths as a visible symbol of social integration.

Additional sources of information

www.mosellediversity.eu/fr/activites/4_miselerland-integration-couch-2012-2013