

STUDY TRIP REPORT

Activity A.T1.1.

Date 16.10.2019

Name of Partner: Leibniz-Institute for Regional Geography (IfL)

Contact Person: Serhii Svyarets (S_Svyarets@ifl-leipzig.de)



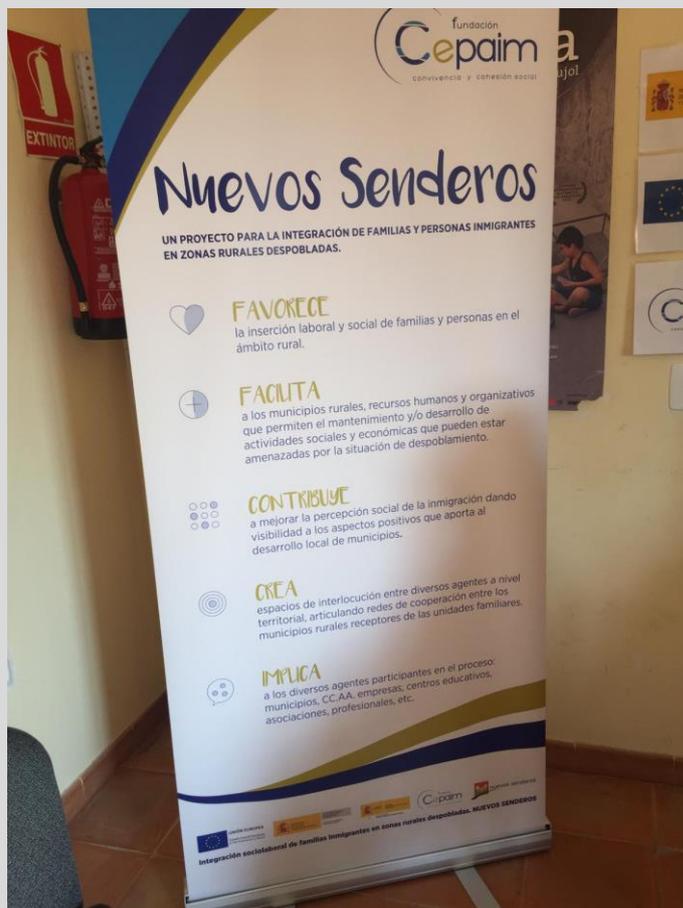
Study trip report

Study trip has been organised within a framework of the project titled “*Exploring social innovation approaches for the social and economic integration of non-EU nationals ARRIVAL REGIONS*”.

- **This form is designed to capture the social innovation approaches for the social and economic integration of non-EU nationals.**
- **The responses from this survey will be collected, analysed and used to prepare the pilot action concepts.**
- **In order to improve the readability of the questionnaire, please delete options that don't apply to the visited initiative.**

Practice summary	
1. Title of the good practice	NUEVOS SENDEROS (NEW PATHS) PROJECT
2. Geographical Coverage <i>(underline the right answer)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European • <u>national</u> • regional • local
3. Location of the practice (city, country)	La Cerollera, Aragon, Spain.
4. Main institution involved	CEPAIM Foundation.
5. Visit agenda <i>(people met, institution visited)</i>	<p>People met: Beatriz Benito (coordinator of CEPAIM foundation in Teruel), employees of CEPAIM foundation office in Teruel, the mayor of La Cerollera, 2 representatives of business in La Cerollera, Mohammed – participant of Nuevos Senderos project that moved to La Cerollera.</p> <p>Institutions visited: Local administration office in La Cerollera village.</p>
6. Dates of study trip	25.09.2019
7. Thematic area <i>(Intercultural dialogue, Social innovation, Migrants' Economy)</i>	Intercultural dialogue + Social innovation
8. Type of practice visited <i>(delete options that don't apply)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>better preparing the local community by providing information about immigrants and immigration</u> • <u>supporting the enrolment of immigrants' children in pre-school</u> • <u>providing measures for job finding (training, job matching, guidance, recognition of qualifications etc.)</u> • <u>promoting intermingling of nationality people and immigrants in schools and neighbourhoods</u>
9. Participants (PPs + stakeholders)	LP (2 participants), PP3 (3 participants), PP4 (2 participants), PP8 (3 participants), PP12 (1 participant) and Jobcenter Burgenlandkreis (1 participant).
10. Reporting Person	Serhii Svyharets (LP).
Practice description	
<p>11. Introduction (include any relevant pictures) <i>background information, aim/purpose of the study trip, objectives</i></p> <p>From the 1960s Spain has been characterized by extensive urbanization. Since the start of extensive urbanization the majority of youth from rural areas moves away to urban and</p>	

metropolitan areas in order to try their luck there. Only several decades later rural municipalities started to realize the first effects of demographical change: both public and private organization started to close or move to cities. In order to deal with the challenges caused by the depopulation of rural areas, in 2002 CEPAIM Foundation has launched “Nuevos Senderos” project – the project that promotes integration of foreign immigrant families into vulnerable rural areas of Spain. The main goal of this project is to provide rural municipalities with human resources and as a consequence maintain existing social and economic activities that might be threatened by the process of depopulation.



Pic. 1. Nuevos Senderos project's roll-up.

The majority of municipalities that take part in the project are located in provinces of Teruel, Soria and Guadalajara – the regions, which are characterized by an extreme degree of rurality and peripheralization. In order to learn more about the main principles and results of the project, the study trip group visited La Cerollera village in the province of Teruel. This is a tiny village with only around 100 of residents located in the mountains of Aragon at the distance of 2 hours car-drive from the provincial capital. For the last decades the village has been suffering from extreme depopulation and ageing. For instance, the local school was at the risk of closure due to the lack of children in the village. Consequently, local administration decided to take part in “Nuevos Senderos” project as they saw it as a chance to attract young families with children to La Cerollera. Since the start of participation, La Cerollera has already hosted several families from Latin America, the Middle East and Northern Africa, although not all of them were able to adapt to local

realities. In order to understand the main issues immigrant families face arriving to rural Spain, the project team needed to organize an interview with the migrant families, who managed to stay in La Cerollera.



Pic. 2 The entrance to La Cerollera.



Pic. 3. The main square of La Cerollera.

12. Implementation of the study trip

The following issues were discussed during the study trip:

The actions carried within Nuevos Senderos project can be divided into 3 steps:

1) Gathering information:

Once there is a vacant job position in a partner municipality, local authorities send the job offer and other requirements for potential immigrants (e.g. singles, family with children ect.) to the main office of CEPAIM foundation. As soon as the offer is received, CEPAIM starts a search for potential candidates. These candidates are usually searched among the participants of “Red de Centros ITHACA” program – an initiative which supports creation of various working related skills among migrants, which might help them to receive a job in Spain (see other study trip report from Spain). This program operates only in big urban centers (Almeria, Barcelona, Madrid, Murcia, Valencia and Seville). However, even though the majority of immigrants find it much easier to find a job in bigger cities, some people, especially those who were living in a rural environment in their countries of origin, have difficulties adapting to the urban lifestyle in Spain. In order to evaluate and monitor the needs and abilities of migrants in the most effective way, CEPAIM created a database for the participants of “Red de Centros ITHACA” program. This database includes information about person’s place of origin, previous occupations, desired positions and places of residence (urban or rural).

2) Matching:

Combining the information from these databases, CEPAIM foundation tries to find the profiles that can match to existing job offers in rural areas. At this point, it is important to mention two fundamental principles of Nuvos Senderos project. First, for these job offers in rural areas CEPAIM considers only those immigrants, who resided in a rural settlement in their countries of origin. Lifestyle in rural areas drastically differs from the one which can be found in the cities - a potential job-taker should know how to deal with reality that awaits him or her in the countryside. Second, all actions of CEPAIM foundation are driven by an idea of equal opportunities. Consequentially, neither rural municipalities nor potential employees are allowed to set any preferences towards one candidates over another basing on their ethnicity, gender or religion.

In order to move to an offered village, the interviewee needs to visit this settlement at least twice. First, the potential immigrant needs to come to the region for a job interview. During this interview the person is getting to know his potential employer as well as the mayor of the municipality where he or she might reside in the future. In addition to this, the interviewee can already create the first impression of the settlement he or she can move in. If the candidate fits the requirements of the employer and the municipality, he or she is asked to visit the village one more time. During the second visit the immigrant can have a detailed look on local infrastructure and evaluate his or her opportunity to live in this municipality for the next couple of years. If the immigrant is confident that he or she wants to move into this rural municipality, CEPAIM starts the

search for an accommodation and supports the migrant in organization of the moving process.

3) Arrival and Follow Up

While the migrant organizes the relocation, the municipality should inform local community about arrival of the new community member. As most of the rural communities tend to be rather conservative and closed, some members of the community can see the new inhabitants as a threat to their peace and normal day routine. Therefore, the mayor or other key persons should use their influence to communicate positive changes that the new immigrant family might bring to the village. After the arrival, the municipality must introduce migrants to all of the important members of local community: teachers, doctors, persons managing communal space etc. Moreover, the municipality is responsible to support migrants in various issues that can arise during the first months in the new community.



Pic. 4. Meeting in La Cerollera.

During the meeting in La Cerollera, we were able to talk with Mohammed, an Algerian migrant and the father of three, who moved to this village with the help of the Nuevos Senderos Project. He comes from a rural area in Algeria and is a trained technician specialized in machines for agriculture. Mohammed arrived to Spain a bit more than 5 years ago. His first place of residence was Seville where he, unfortunately, was not able to find a job that required his already existing skills. In order to increase his chances on the labor market, Mohammed approached the office of CEPAIM foundation in Seville. However, knowing his previous living experiences, the organization offered him to try his chances in a rural region as they found the job offer for the position of communal worker in La Cerollera. This offer also included a description of the village as well as photos of the house, where the new family were offered to live. As Mohammed liked this idea, he decided to apply for this job. As it was written before, Mohammed visited the village twice in order to make his final decision. His family has supported Mohammed and easily agreed to move to the village at the other end of the country. Mohammed's family didn't have any financial struggles while moving into La Cerollera, as the municipality provided them free accommodation where they live until now (however, in the majority of other villages, migrants need to search and pay on their own for an accommodation). The mayor was very supportive and during the first week introduced Mohammed to almost every citizen of the village. His wife and children also didn't have any issues with making acquaintances and friends among locals. Moreover, due to the

presence of Mohammed's children, La Cerollera managed to maintain local primary school. For the 5 years in this village, Mohammed never had a feeling that he is unwelcomed there. He really enjoys his job and current environment and does not plan to move somewhere else in the future.

13. Evidence of success (results achieved)

As for today, Nuevos Senderos is a nation-wide project which supports integration of non-EU nationals in Spanish society and confronts the issues brought by demographic change in rural areas. Unfortunately, CEPAIM foundation did not produce project-related statistics for a long time. However, it is fair to say, that with the help of the Nuevos Senderos Project CEPAIM managed to create a network of rural municipalities that are willing to support migrants and fight with ongoing demographic change. From 2002 until 2011 the project managed to reach 1366 households, although not all of these families did finally move (CEPAIM foundation, 2015). Additionally, for the same period of time CEPAIM foundation managed to spread the invitation to 1538 rural municipalities and signed partnership agreements with 155 of them (ibid). It is hard to estimate the exact number of families that successfully integrated to rural Spain with the help of this project. However, the fact that the project continuously runs for more than 17 years illustrates its success and effectiveness.

14. Difficulties encountered

Even though the project manages to find migrants, who fit the jobs and are willing to move to rural areas, a big number of migrant families decides not to stay in the village for more than couple of years. However, it is important to state that majority of drop-outs are not connected to intercultural conflicts that might arise in between locals and immigrants. According to the main coordinator of the project Emilia Rojo, a lot of families, especially those coming from warmer countries, decide to leave after their first winter in the rural areas (link at the end of the document). The winters in the continental part of Spain are rather cold, usually people in rural areas minimize their social interactions and spend majority of their time at home. Such lifestyle may be challenging for people who are not used to it and might cause depressive feelings. The percent of people who decide to move elsewhere was extremely high among singles and young couples without children.

Another issue which municipalities and migrants need to deal with is the absence of free or affordable (rented) accommodation in rural areas. Unfortunately, not all of the municipalities can provide a free accommodation or subsidize the rent, which, at the end of the day, reduces the chances of a municipality to attract new inhabitants.

15. Which structural funds support this good practice?

The project Nuevos Senderos is financially supported by Spanish Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs and ESF. In addition to that, several provincial governments (e.g. Teruel, Soria and Guadalajara) actively support the actions of the project.

16. Is there any cost to participate in engaging with this good practice?

If yeas, what are additional costs incurred by project participants?

Neither immigrants nor municipalities carry any costs for participation in Nuevos Senderos project. However, the project estimates that migrants pay their own bills connected to the life in a new settlement on their own from the very beginning, as this may increase their level of responsibility. Additionally, municipalities need to support migrants in all legal issues connected to their stay and employment and as a result might have some financial expenditures as well.

17. What is new and/or innovative about this good practice?

Nuevos Sendoros Projects created a network of municipalities that are interested in attracting foreign migrants and combines it with CEPAIM's already existing actions in sphere of employment. This project provides international migrants an opportunity to unlock their potential in rural areas and use the skills they brought from their countries of origin. Moreover, it indicates the important role of local authorities in creation of welcoming feeling in rural municipalities.

18. How has this good practice boosted immigrants' integration?

Although the project has an extensive network of partners among rural municipalities and the number of migrants who are ready to move into rural areas are rather high, it is hard to talk about the boost of immigration into rural areas. This is connected to the fact that it is rather complicated to find the matches in between skills and needs of migrants on the one hand and requirements set by an employers and rural municipalities on the other. However, since the start of the projects CEPAIM gained a lot of positive experiences of migrant integration into rural areas all over the country and as a result more and more rural municipalities are joining the project.

19. What lessons did you learn? What are your overall conclusion?

The results of the project show that regardless higher degree of conservatism and xenophobia that is usually associated with rural areas, international migration to peripheral areas is possible. Although this migration cannot have massive character due to lifestyle specifics and the limited number and variety of jobs in rural areas, some migrants are able to unlock their full potential only out of urban settlements. In practice, rural communities are aware of the demographical changes they are facing and as a consequence are ready to welcome any migrant family that can reactivate the life in their settlement. Finally, local stakeholders have a key role in awareness raising and improvement of welcoming practices in rural communities. We believe that the approach of actively introducing migrants to the inhabitants of their potential new home and the involvement of local key-persons in this endeavor are the key success factors of the Nuevos Senderos project. However, the disadvantages of living in rural areas that encourage natives to leave are also experienced by the newcomers (in addition to the migrant-specific challenges mentioned above). Against this backdrop, the pool of migrants that will permanently stay in the small and infrastructurally poorly equipped villages appears to be rather limited.

20. Outreach and dissemination

Newsletter, useful websites, mailing group, local government

- List of the attached document(s):
List of attendance

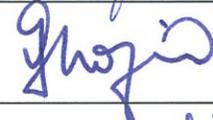
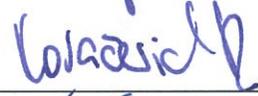
- Link to website:
<http://nuevosenderos.es/> (Spanish)
<https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/goodpractice/spain-project-new-trails/nuevos-senderos-by-the-cepaim-foundation> (Interview with Emilia Rojo - the main coordinator of Nuevos Senderos project, 17.03.2015, English)

- Contact information of the good practice:
Beatriz Benito – the main ccordinator of CEPAIM foundation in Teruel
teruel@cepaim.org

D.T1.1.4 – STUDY TRIP REPORT: CEPAIM TERUEL

TERUEL (SPAIN), 26.09.2019

List of Study Trip Participants

Organization	Last Name	First Name	Signature
LP - Leibnitz Institute for Regional Georaphy	Leibert	Tim	
LP - Leibnitz Institute for Regional Georaphy	Svynarets	Serhii	
PP3 - City of Osijek	Stojanović	Gordana	
PP3 - City of Osijek	Kovačević	Romana	
PP3 - City of Osijek	Kristič	Romano	
PP4 - Information Legal Center	Kovačević	Nataša	

PP4 - Information Legal Center	Radman	Anica	
PP8 - Center Rotunda	Mevlja	Bojan	
PP8 - Center Rotunda	Goja	Denis	
PP8 - Center Rotunda	Derin	Tanja	
PP12 - Burgenland District	Moreno	Sonia	
Jobcenter Burgenlandkreis	Berngruber	Maria	