

PADIMA

Policies Against Depopulation in Mountain Areas



HABITATE – key services to install and work in Teruel

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Some words about the area

Teruel is a province of Aragon, in the northeast of Spain.

Area: 14,809 km²

Population: 145,277

Population density: 9,8 h/km² (2010)

236 municipalities in total

>50% are villages < 200 people.



Visual information



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What was the problem?



- Depopulation and aging population in the rural area
- Economy depending on the primary sector
- Emigration of the young people and women to the city
- Low competitiveness of the economic sector

What did we do ?



HABITATE

Private sector

Public sector

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What did we do in practice ?



- Training courses for electricians, plumbers, painters and bricklayers
- 47 beneficiaries of granted work training:
 - 9 beneficiaries assigned to work placement
 - 22 beneficiaries in social activities (aimed to adapt, improve housing)

What did we do in practice ?



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How long?

- HABITATE started in 2006 with 31 partners.



- During this period the association has managed to settle 17 families most of which manage now small businesses.

Who got involved?

The list of partners is very long:

- Presided by the Provincial Government of Teruel
- The 10 Regions of Teruel,
- Trades unions associations,
- Chambers of Commerce,
- associations for rural developments
- associations of enterprise,
- NGO...

How did we do?



- Database of around 500 families from all over Spain interested in settling in rural towns in the region of Teruel.
- Multi tasking staff:
 - 1 technician,
 - 1 placement technician,
 - 7 teachers,
 - 1 educational and technical director
 - 9 workers

How did we do?



1. Contact with the stakeholders from the region
2. Compiling information (about the region, work and housing, town hall of the villages, etc)
3. Communication (web page www.viveteruel.org.es)

How did we do?



- We are intermediary between the town halls and the applicants
 - First of all we need a job offer and a house in renting provided by the town hall
- Analysis of the job offer as a whole.
- Look for a family inside the database that is the best for this.
- Introduce to each other and meet the new village for the family.



How did we do?



- HABITATE follows the process of adaptation to the new environment for the family in the village, the work, the school (in children case)...

How much did it cost?



- 2 main funding channels:
 1. membership fees
 2. third administrative subventions (Government of Aragon, that provide money from European Union).

How much did it cost?



- The Provincial Government host one person working in the Government offices, provide a computer and a line of telephone which receive the calls from the applicants.
- For 2010 the budget = 138,000 €, (9,000 € membership contributions/rest subsidies)

Problems?



- Crisis:

1. no job offers from the villages
2. a lot of applications from people who do not want to live in the rural area,
3. the budget of the town halls in small villages is limited and don't let to get into more debt while financing housing, create job offers...

Does it work?



- 5 years of activity = settlement of 17 families of new inhabitants (most of them manage small businesses)
- 19 jobs created
- 47 beneficiaries participated in professional trainings through a grant
- 22 beneficiaries involved in social activities that allow to make their house more suitable

Single initiative/Strategy?

There are other strategies at regional level like:

- Abraza la tierra, “embrace the land” for entrepreneurs,
- Asociación de Municipios, Asociación Española de Municipios contra la despoblación with headquarter in Aguaviva (Teruel) and
- CEPAIM

Transferability to other areas

I would say that YES!



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