

Why Red2Red can be a key partner for Horizon 2020 consortium?

Red2Red can contribute to the partnership as it follows:

- **Business perspective, a complementary vision to other partners:**

We believe the inclusion of a consulting company (SME) to the partnership could be a complementary and rewarding experience for the consortium, by adding new approaches and procedures of the business world to the research and academic perspective.

- **Ability to design and implement a monitoring and continuous evaluation system of the project:**

Progressively, in all projects and calls promoted by the European authorities, the development of monitoring and evaluation systems which evaluate in a continuous way how the project is reaching the expected results and how the objectives are met, **gained relevance**. For this reason, we believe the introduction of the development of self-evaluation activities can be a key element for the consortium.

Red2Red is a company with a great expertise in evaluating public policies and, therefore, can be a key potential partner for the consortium. It could be in charge of the following:

- The definition, together with the project proposal, of a monitoring and continuous evaluation system of the project. This will include:
 - A system of indicators (implementation, result, impact) and the objectives foreseen in the project proposal.
 - Evaluation questions, elements to value and other aspects which will be detailed.
 - A description of actors involved and coordination mechanisms.
- The implementation throughout the project development of this monitoring and evaluation system: quantifying the proposed indicators, carrying out the proposed activities and elaborating evaluation reports.

- **Wide experience in those key fields for the development of the project:**

Related to the call (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2301-isib-03-2015.html>), we believe that Red2Red could be a possible partner for the following reasons:

Proposals should undertake a thorough analysis of **social innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural development**, encompassing its complexity and various dimensions as well as its **impact on unfolding the territorial capital** in different regional contexts.

Red2Red counts on a wide experience in the analysis of the European rural development policy, in which framework it carried out activities related to agrarian, food and forestall sector.

Therefore, Red2Red team counts on the expertise, tools and knowledge to carry out a deep analysis related to the above-mentioned sectors.

Moreover, among the several evaluations Red2Red carried out, methodologies and tools for evaluating impact in the territory have been developed.

Red2Red's experience in planning and evaluating policies related to the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund brought it to have a wide vision of the existing tools of social innovation from different perspectives and in several fields, adaptable to the rural sector.

Proposals should establish appropriate methods for the evaluation of social innovation. Attention needs to be given to different learning arrangements (e.g. multi-actor networks, producer-consumer association, hybrid innovative networks, and territorial alliances) as well as to innovative governance mechanisms at various levels, and their potential implications for social innovation.

Apart from its wide experience in rural development, Red2Red counts on a big experience in social studies and researches and evaluating public policies (<http://www.red2red.net/en/experiencias/nuestros-proyectos>), and in establishing the suitable methods for evaluating social innovation (more in depth, Red2Red elaborated a practical guide for the application of social innovation to the management of Structural Funds for the ONCE Foundation).

Red2Red counts on experience related to the evaluation, management, fostering and participation in networks of several agents:

- Evaluation activities of Spanish National Rural Network (RNN).
- Design of a self-evaluation tool of National Rural Networks.
- Collaboration in the elaboration of guides and documents with the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development.
- Continuous technical advisory services to the network of politics on equal opportunities between men and women for a real and effective application of the gender mainstreaming (IGOP Network).

Red2Red's team carried out several activities related to the LEADER approach, a governance model developed consisting of a combined and synergic application of a zone approach, bottom-up approach, building of local consortia, innovation, multisectoral integration, transnational cooperation, creation of networks and decentralized management and financing. So, it has experience in dinamizing actions with local consortia o Local Action Groups, as well as in analysing the implementation of local development proposals.

Red2Red counts on a wide experience related to the cooperative world (for instance, the Elaboration of the Strategic Plan of the Spanish Confederation of Cooperatives of Associated Work for the period 2009-2012).

Proposals should also address **the role of different policy instruments**, other relevant incentives and diverse entities (public/private, local/non local, active citizens, etc.) as catalysts/constraints to social innovation.

The several projects in which **Red2Red** participated in allow having an integral vision and knowledge of procedures, channels and actors involved in all steps of the rural development politics:

- Regional administration in the rural development field: actually working with the Regional Government of Andalusia, Murcia, Madrid, Extremadura, Galicia, Navarra and Islas Baleares.
- General Administration (Ministry of Agriculture, Food Quality and Nature - MAGRAMA) through the technical assistance service in monitoring and evaluation.
- European Commission and actors involved in rural development in the EU Member States, through:
 - Active participation, accompanying MAGRAMA in the Expert groups for the Evaluation and Monitoring of the Common Agricultural Policy.
 - Playing the "Contact point" role for Spain of the European Network for Rural Development.
- Local entities, Local Action Groups and other organisms of rural field: agricultural associations, beneficiaries of programmes, etc.

Red2Red's involvement in the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of operational programmes in the framework of other European policies (regional development, social policy) means it has the essential background of dialogue with agents, the thematic expertise in key areas (such as gender equality, social innovation or disabilities) being as referent for approaching the strategic lines of the entities and social authorities.

Proposals should explain why regions with similar initial conditions display diverging paths. **Activities should cover diverse types of rural areas across the EU and Associated Countries and non-European Mediterranean countries.** In line with the objectives of the EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation, proposals are encouraged to include third country participants, especially those established in Mediterranean countries [1].

Red2Red's counts on a staff team of several nationalities and working experience both in field or cabinet experience, with a capacity for dialogue in several languages of the European Union (English, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish), which would allow the development of case studies in various countries of the Union and other non-European Mediterranean countries.

In addition, Red2Red has been consolidating a network of collaborators highly qualified and specialized in very specific areas or subjects that allow counting on a high and very remarkable technical level.

Moreover, Red2Red's Advisory Board is composed by prestigious specialists of rural and territorial development, transparency of public sector, European policies, evaluation of public policies and innovation fields. Most of members come from Universities, networks and institutions of the European field. It is important to highline the participation of José María Sumpsi Viñas who has experience in these fields derived from his participation in the Unit for Rural Development of the Sustainable Development Department of the Inter-American Bank of Development (IDB) in Washington, and its role of coordinator of EXPIDER (pilot experiences of Rural development in Latin America, <http://www.red2red.net/en/descubrenos/consejo-asesor>).