



LAUNCH EVENT | Online

# Revitalising community-led innovation in Europe

24 November 2022

AEIDL – the European Association for Innovation in Local Development – is launching the **European Local Innovation Forum (ELIF)** to revitalise **community-led innovation** across Europe.

Innovation driven and implemented by local communities is essential to boost the transformative changes Europe needs. Community-led innovation means any new and creative process, service or product that emerges in a local territory as a result of a participatory process involving local communities and actors in order to seize new opportunities or address local challenges. Hence, it offers opportunities to encourage positive change and generate local socio-economic and environmental welfare.

ELIF is a space for experts and organisations operating and connected at local level – in both urban and rural settings – to exchange ideas, learn from experiences and draw lessons to boost innovation in local communities across Europe. Its ambition is to maximise the power of gathering like-minded people and community-oriented organisations to help improve local lives and ultimately generate greater cohesion in Europe. Participation is free and is not based on any membership fee.

The ELIF launch event aims to:

- ▶ Boost exchanges about the importance of community-led innovation to respond to modern societal challenges and opportunities in Europe;
- ▶ Debate how community-led innovation is being supported in Europe;
- ▶ Raise awareness and build a common understanding of the European Local Innovation Forum and its added value for local actors;
- ▶ Share common interests and co-design the focus of the ELIF Thematic Communities.

Indicative time	Agenda items
10.00 – 10.30	<p><b>Welcoming of participants and introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Márta Márczis</b>, President of AEIDL</li> <li>▶ <b>Isabel Carvalhais</b>, Member of the European Parliament</li> <li>▶ <b>Enrique Nieto</b>, Head of Policy of AEIDL</li> </ul>
10.30 – 11.00	<p><b>Local voice: Experiences from innovative community-led initiatives</b></p> <p><i>The added value of community-led innovative initiatives implemented across Europe and the challenges faced</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Integrating migrants into local communities in Utrecht (the Netherlands)</b>  <b>Jan Braat</b>, Senior policy-advisor migration and inclusion, Municipality of Utrecht</li> <li>▶ <b>Citizen laboratories for cooperation and innovation in urban and rural areas (Spain)</b>  <b>Marcos García</b>, Citizen Laboratories</li> <li>▶ <b>Innovative communities in rural areas (Ireland)</b>  <b>Gabriel O’Connell</b>, CEO of Monaghan Integrated Development</li> </ul>
11.00 – 11.40	<p><b>High-level policy panel discussion: policy support to community-led innovation</b></p> <p><i>Exchanges on how community-led innovation is supported in Europe by various policy instruments and on challenges faced by policy makers and communities, to draw lessons for the future</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Wallis Goelen-Vanderbrock (European Commission, DG REGIO)</b>, Senior Expert attached to the Deputy Director-General for Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development</li> <li>▶ <b>Radim Sršeň</b>, Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Czech Republic</li> <li>▶ <b>Antonella Noya (OECD)</b>, Head of the Social Economy and Innovation Unit</li> </ul>
<b>Break (10 min)</b>	

<b>11.50 – 12.45</b>	<b>Building the ELIF Thematic Communities (TC)</b> <i>Group exchanges to identify common interests and co-design the focus of the future activities of the ELIF Thematic Communities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ <b>Group 1 (TC <a href="#">Community-led social innovation</a>):</b> Building a common understanding of community-led social innovation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Armelle Ledan</b>, AEIDL policy experts and coordinators of the ELIF TC on community-led social innovation</li><li>▪ <b>Patricia Martinez</b>, AEIDL policy expert, <b>Initiative for innovative integrated interventions in Miskolc (Hungary)</b></li><li>▪ <b>Paolo Montemurro</b>, Director of Materahub, <b>drOp project</b></li><li>▪ <b>Selma Kadi</b>, researcher at European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, <b>InCARE Project</b></li></ul></li><li>▶ <b>Group 2 (TC <a href="#">Territorial development</a>):</b> Territorial development policies and instruments supporting community-led innovation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Serafin Pazos</b>, AEIDL policy expert and coordinator of the ELIF TC on Territorial Development</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>12.45 – 13.00</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b>