

**“DinamizART” \_ Youth, Arts and Culture for rural regeneration**  
*> Project idea developed by CANOPIA COOP*

**>> WHO ARE WE?**

[Canopia Coop](#) is a work related and non profit cooperative. It is a collective and self-managed project located in Almedíjar, a small town located in the “Sierra de Espadán” Natural Park (Province of Castellón, Valencian Community, Spain). Its objective is to contribute to the construction of new social, economic and environmental paradigms, demonstrating that life in the countryside does not belong to the past but can be a response to many of the problems of our time.

We consider that participation, collective intelligence, the construction of a shared territorial vision as well as the mutualization and articulation of resources between actors are essential elements to move towards a resilient, sustainable and inclusive development. We are committed to the promotion of synergies with local organizations and initiatives through dynamic networking.

In this sense, we are part of the [Europimpulse Network](#), a collaborative space for experiences sharing and the incubation of ideas and initiative. This Network aims to connect all those who want to continue moving Europe, promoting social change from a bottom up perspective. Within the network, we have participated in several events and european projects (“[Keeping Democracy Alive](#)”, November 2016 and “[Time to \(re\) connect](#)”, December 2017), organized at [La Surera Hostel](#), place of accommodation and meeting point that we manage in Almedíjar.



**>> WHY THIS PROJECT?**

Our territory is suffering a continuous depopulation, an aging population and a loss of basic services. This situation is mainly (but not only) explained by the lack of job opportunities for young people who have to go to the cities. Thus, between 1960 and 2017, the population of Almedíjar fell from 458 to 270 inhabitants and the school closed its doors in 2013.

As we have been able to verify through the activities developed by our cooperative (residences of artistic companies, theater and circus workshops, participation in the Trade Fair organized in Almedíjar every year, cork route ...), we are convinced that art and cultural heritage represent great vectors to reflect on our society and imagine other possible futures. Its promotion in rural areas can help to energize our villages, offer job opportunities to settle and finally make those territories more attractive for young people.

## >> WHAT DO WE WANT TO DO?

In order to explore and analyze the favorable conditions in Europe for the installation of young people in rural areas through the promotion of art and culture, we propose the organization of the "DinamizART" partner building activity (ERASMUS+ / Mobility of Youth Workers).

For this seminar we want to gather people and organizations facing same issues all over Europe to share experiences around Almedíjar case. We would like each group to be composed by 3 main profiles:

- 1 youth leader with good skill on local (and why not european) project design and management;
- 1 youth leader with good experiences on Art Education;
- 1 young people also interested in Art and Culture (less than 28 years);

We will use a participatory Action Research methodology, based on a territorial diagnosis that we will carry out in Almedíjar. Through the life experience in the village, exchanges of experiences and know-how, the visit of successful local initiatives ([Unfinished Museum of Urban Art](#) of the municipality of Fanzara, Project of territorial safekeeping and rehabilitation of [Mas Blanco](#) and [Pueblos en Arte](#), project of artistic residences and cultural platform that connects the art of the city with the rural area). To support this process, the project will be impuled by a team of facilitators and local artists with experience in rural development, non formal education and local management of cultural activities.

By the end of the seminar first project outcomes will be presented as public presentation in which local, public and private actors involved in these issues. This presentation will be made on a creative way as a small performance within the framework of a performing arts festival planned in Almedíjar in the month of October.

## >> DO YOU WANT TO JOIN ???

Your organization is facing similar issues and you want to share with us your experiences, [please fulfill this form](#) before april, 11<sup>th</sup>.

We'll then check out your application and send you the mandate to be our partner in this adventure !

For any further information, please contact with :

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See you soon !!!

