Revitalizing Local Communities through Enhancing Traditional Knowledge and Empowering Young Successors

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The German Association for Landcare (DVL) founded in 1993 is the umbrella organisation for all regional Landcare Associations (LCAs) or similar organisations in Germany.

155 LCAs at the moment

- we provide support and policy guidance to the network of LCAs
- we regularly inform and influence decision-makers at all levels
What are Landcare Associations?

- Societies, founded by **farmers, environmentalists** and **representatives of local municipalities**; usually not-for-profit organisations serving the public interest; independent units

- **first characteristic: parity**
  Boards: equal numbers of environmentalists, farmers and local politicians

- **second characteristic: voluntary participation**
  on request, they offer advice to municipal administrations, to farmers and other private landowners
Goals of Landcare Associations

Three main goals:

- to create an overall **network of natural habitats** (network of biotopes)

- to encourage **landscape management in conjunction with farmers** and offer them a reliable **second income from agri-environment schemes**

- to support **rural development** and **regional products**
Challenges

- Difficult to ensure a sufficient income for people who depend on the landscape (farmers, shepherds,..)
- Missing prospects (especially for young people)
- Decline of rural population
- Abandoned farmland
- Loss of biodiversity rich landscapes
Ideas and solutions

1) Agri-environmental schemes offered by EU and states pay farmers for specific measures; consultancy is given by Landcare Associations

Results:
- High acceptance of environmental protection
- Protection of landscapes/ species
- Generate additional income
Ideas and solutions

2) Enhance traditional knowledge and customs, which ensure the sustainable use of the landscape.

Results:
- Decent knowledge and customs
- Protection of landscapes/species
- Generate additional income
Ideas and solutions

3) Marketing of regional products, which ensure the sustainable use of the landscape.

Results:
- higher income
- higher regional identity
- added value in the region
- landscape protection
Network Landcare Europe

Together with our European partners we support SEPLs!
Thank you very much