



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN
Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

RuralEs
Programa de Desarrollo Rural Sostenible

Public participation regarding Spain's Sustainable Rural Development Programme (PDRS)

**JOINT MEETING ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING:**

Public participation in plans, programmes and policies

Ms. Ana Vicente Rangel
Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain

Geneve, 30 October 2012



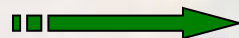
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1. Sustainable Rural Development Programme (PDRS)

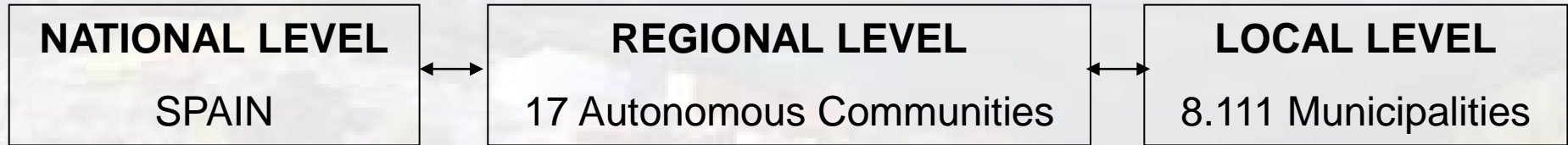
- *Instrument of planning rural areas in Spain.*
- *Mandatory by Law 45/2007, on rural sustainable development*
- *First Programme (2010-2014) approved by Royal Decree 752/2010, of 4 June*
- *Preparation: January 2008 – June 2010 (2,5 years)*
- *Process include: elaboration and agreement on contents, participation process, strategic environmental assessment, approval*



Some basics to better understand the complexity of the process



1. PDRS: some basics



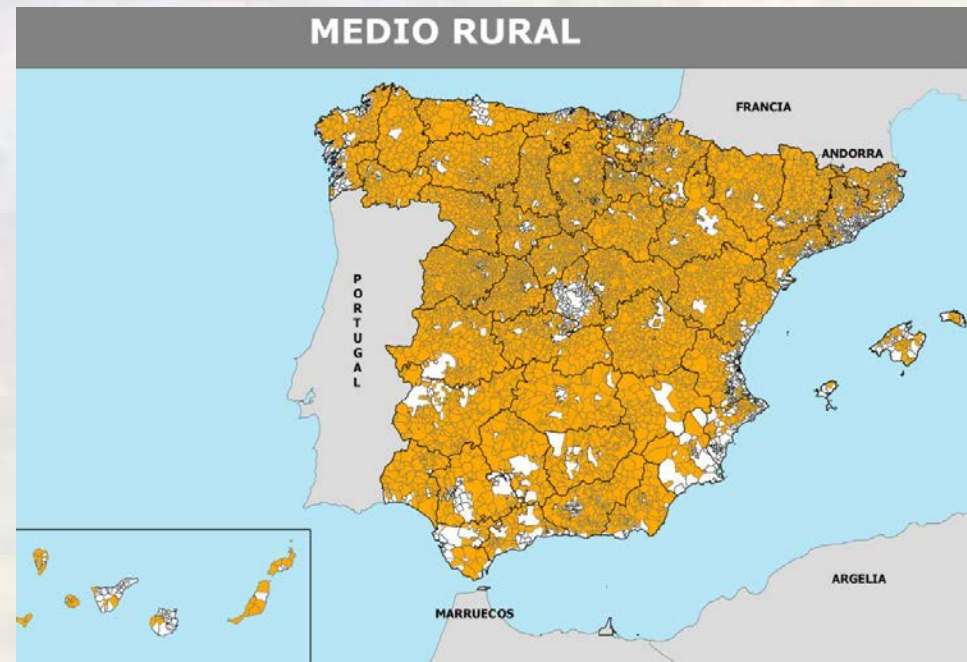
With different responsibilities in planning and management

Rural Areas (L45/2007)

“Geographical area formed by the aggregation of municipalities or minor local entities having a population of less than 30.000 inhabitants and a density of less than 100 inhabitants per km²”



85% of the territory
18% of the population.

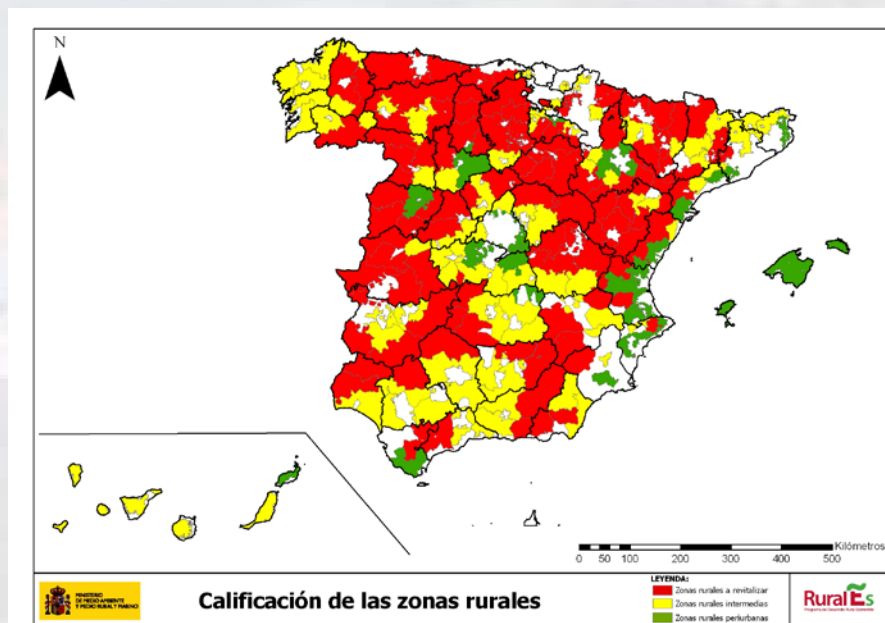




1. PDRS: some basics

TYPES OF RURAL AREAS

- **To revitalize:** low population density, high significance of the agricultural activity, low levels of income and an important geographical isolation or territorial articulation difficulties.
- **Intermediate:** Low to medium density of population, employment diversified between primary, secondary and tertiary levels, low and middle income levels and distant from the direct area of influence of major urban centres.
- **Periurban:** Growing population, prevalence of employment in the tertiary sector, medium or high levels of income and environment located in urban or densely populated areas.



Rural Area	Number of Areas	Population (inhabitants)	Area (km ²)
To revitalize	105	3.001.840	253.828
Intermediate	84	5.411.589	136.883
Periurban	30	2.165.852	35.360
TOTAL	219	10.579.281	426.071



1. PDRS: some basics

Objectives:

- *To expand economical base. Multifunctionality. Diversification.*
- *To improve infrastructures and equipments.*
- *To improve life and services level. Special attention to vulnerable social segments.*
- *To preserve natural and cultural heritage.*

Priorities:

- *Territorial: Rural Areas to Revitalize, small municipalities (< 5000 habitants) in intermediate and periurban Areas, and preserved areas included in Natura 2000*
- *Other: Equality between men and women, old people and disabled*

Content:

- *Situation and diagnosis of rural areas in Spain*
- *The PDRS action strategy*
- *Actions of the Sustainable Rural Development Programme*
- *Rural Areas of implementation of the Programme*
- *Area Plans: Content and characteristics*
- *Agreements between the General State Government and the Autonomous Communities for the development and implementation of Area Plans*
- *Budgetary and financial framework*
- *Monitoring and evaluation*



1. PDRS: some basics

Challenges:

- **Multisectoriality**
- **Multi-level action**
- *Territorial intervention on prioritized rural areas*
- *Actions to fit each zone*
- *Common objectives to achieve a lowest common denominator in all rural areas on basics aspects of development*
- *Sustainability approach*
- *Complementary approach*
- *Strategic interventions of structural character*
- **Society participation in decision making**
- **Towards a commitment to regional partners**



Key aspects of the PDRS Action Strategy



2. Public participation

a. Challenges

- **Coordination**
 - *Multi-level action*
 - *Multisectoriality*
- **Society participation in decision making**
 - *Implication*
 - *Motivation*
- **Towards a commitment to regional partners**
 - *Strengthen roles*
 - *Commitment to implement decisions*



b. Public participation: organisation

Three coordinating and participation bodies were created to provide feedback, discuss criteria, prepare documents and report the results favorably for approval.

- 1. Interministerial Commission for Rural Areas**
- 2. Council for Rural Areas**
- 3. Bureau of Rural Development Associations**

Multilevel coordinated action, involving both the National and Regional Governments but also local governments in the decision-making, with a special focus on social participation, through economical, social and environmental stakeholders.



c. Public participation: organisation

Interministerial Commission for Rural Areas:

- Responsible for directing and coordinating the work of ministries
 - Vocal on behalf 16 ministries (*) (all but Ministry of Defense)
 - Meetings:
 - september 24th 2008
 - december 17th 2008 (Task Force)
 - may 28th 2009 (Task force) + july 27th 2009
1. *Ministry of foreign affairs and cooperation*
 2. *Ministry of economy and finance*
 3. *Ministry of civil development*
 4. *Ministry of labour and immigration*
 5. *Ministry of environment, rural and marine affairs*
 6. *Ministry of territorial policy*
 7. *Ministry of health and social policy*
 8. *Ministry of science and innovation*
 9. *Ministry of justice*
 10. *Ministry of internal affairs*
 11. *Ministry of education*
 12. *Ministry of industry, tourism and trade*
 13. *Ministry of presidency*
 14. *Ministry of culture*
 15. *Ministry of housing*
 16. *Ministry of equality*

(*) 2010



c. Public participation: organisation

Council for Rural Areas:

- Responsible for coordinating and collaboration between public administrations
- 35 vocals on behalf national, regional and local levels
 - 16 Ministries
 - 17 Autonomous Communities
 - 2 National Federation of Municipalities and Provinces
- Meetings:
 - December 18th 2008 (Task force DG) + december 22nd 2008
 - march 5th 2009 (Task force DG) + march 10th 2009
 - June 17th, june 19th, june 29th, july 1st 2009 (thematic working groups)
 - september 22nd 2009



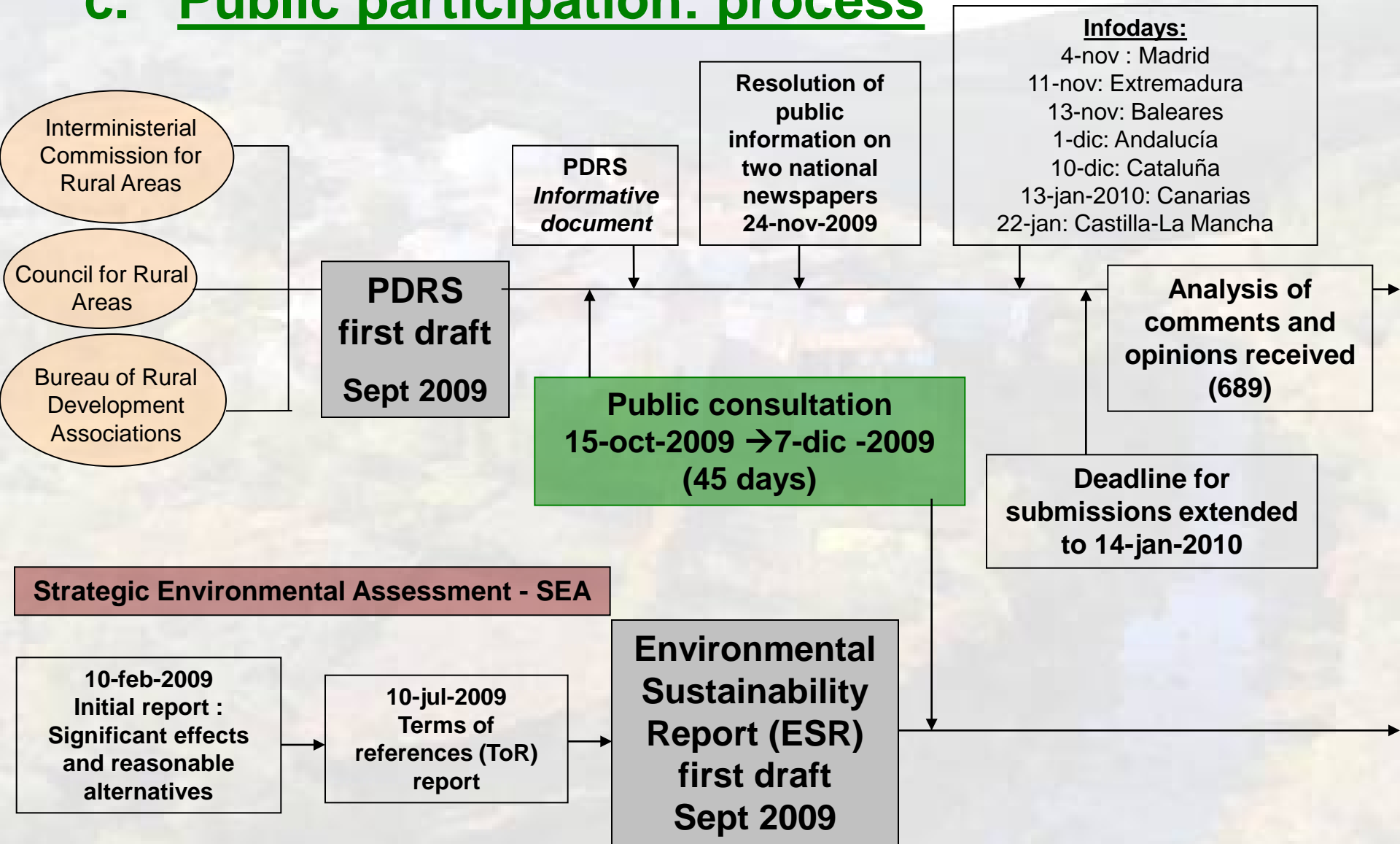
c. Public participation: organisation

Bureau of Rural Development Associations

- Responsible for participation, information and consultation of **civil society**
- 22 Vocals on behalf the main economical, social and environmental stakeholders:
 - Rural networks (2)
 - Unions (5)
 - Women associations (2)
 - Agricultural Cooperatives (2)
 - Environmental Associations and NGOs (5)
 - Disabled (1)
 - Universities and research (4)
- Meetings:
 - december 10th 2008
 - february 23th 2009
 - june 24th 2009 (workday)
 - september 18th 2009

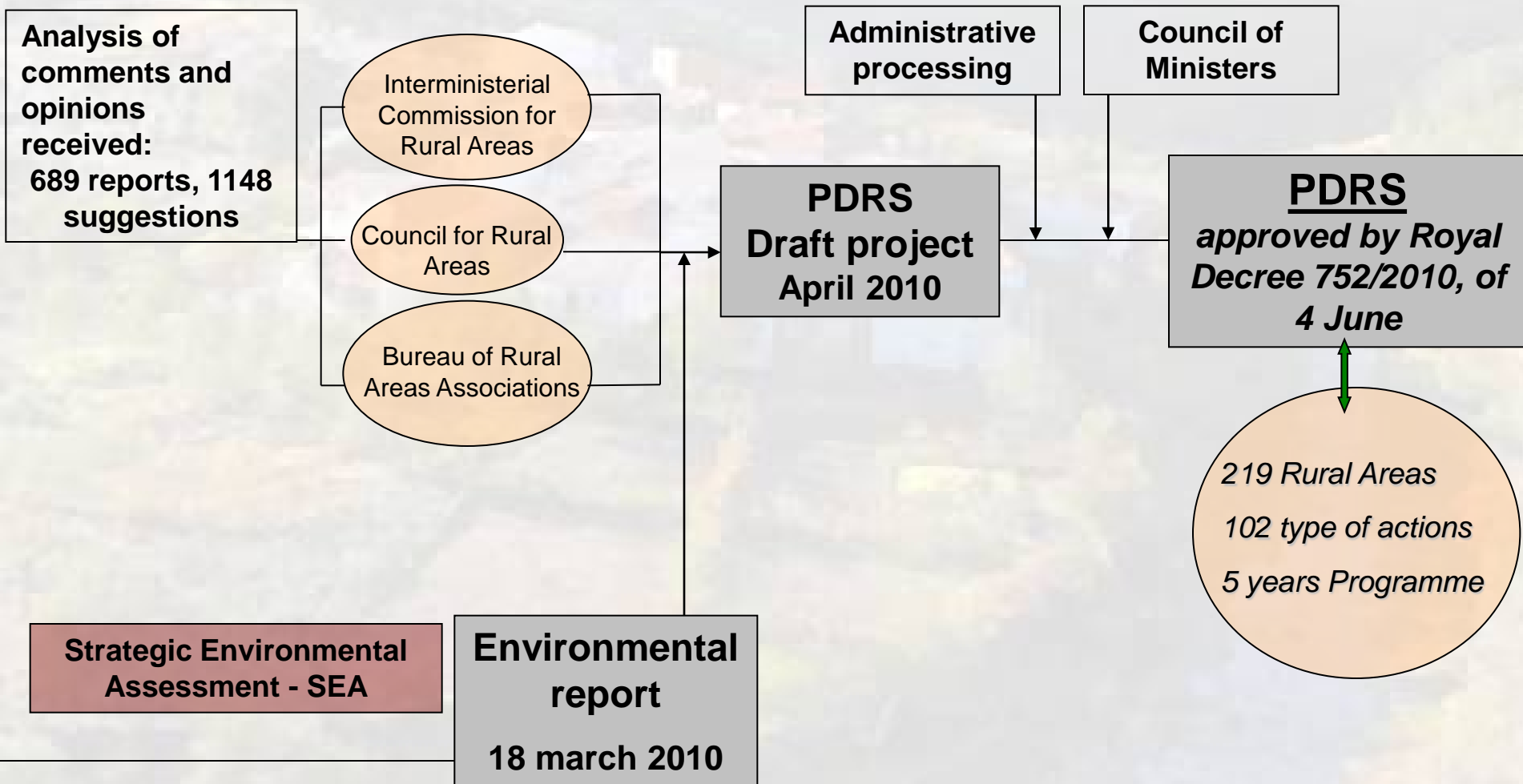


c. Public participation: process





c. Public participation: process





d. Public participation: summary

689 reports, 1189 allegations + suggestions

Participants:

Administration: 526 (9 national adm., 17 regional adm., 500 local adm.)

Political associations: 2

Academical associations: 3

Unions: 2

NGO: 10

Civil persons: 3

Agricultural Cooperatives: 10

Others: 133

54% about definitions of rural areas (85% from local administration): 99% accepted

46% about actions, SEA and rural strategy: 85% accepted



d. Public participation: summary

Main changes due to the process of public participation:

- *Enforcement to guarantee the public participation at local and regional levels in the decision-making*
- *New actions to guarantee the treatment of waters to all natural protected areas (Natura 2000). Actions from the DMA*
- *Enforcement of the environmental issues and aspects.*
- *Better coordination and cooperation between the three administration levels.*
- *Changes in the delimitations of rural areas: from 189 rural areas to 219: more towns in more rural areas*



e. Public participation: obstacles

- *Complexity of the process*
- *Lack of motivation and involvement in the process*
- *Conflict of interest*
- *Long-term objectives - strategic planning versus immediate needs*
- *Limitations: programme budget, distribution and prioritization, partial and sectorial vision of problems*
- *Flexibility and adaptation to other's ideas and opinions*
- *Huge workload*
- *Search for matching and synergies to optimize to resources available*



3. Some final thoughts

- *Complexity of the process: great effort and work that have lengthened the process but worth it - social networks have been created and established for participation, information and cooperation in rural development matters.*
- *Given the success, same structure is repeated at the regional level: the Autonomous Communities have created similar participatory bodies that focus their scope on each rural area.*
- *Participants themselves have realized the importance and usefulness of their own participation*
- *This ensures long-term continuity of the participation bodies*
- *We all have learned from the process and can adapt the mechanisms for a continuous effective participation in a dynamic model*



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Thanks for your attention

Ms. Ana Vicente Rangel
avicenter@magrama.es

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