

A map of Europe is shown in the background, with numerous small, colorful dots (orange, green, pink, blue) scattered across it, representing the locations of LEADER groups. At the top of the page, there is a horizontal bar with four colored segments: orange, pink, purple, and green.

COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCE BUILDING IN EUROPE WITH LEADER AND LOCAL ACTION GROUPS

Improving regional adaptability
and renewal capacity together
with the population as a response
to today's wide-ranging challenges

LEADER

Development led by local communities



LEADER forum
Österreich



MAJOR CHALLENGES:

A complex world: On the one hand, new technologies and digitalisation are opening up unexpected opportunities. On the other hand, the world is increasingly perceived as complex. Energy and resource markets are globally interconnected – we all depend on one another. This becomes particularly visible in times of crisis.

Different visions of the future: For many people, urgent questions are emerging about what the future may look like. How can we maintain our accustomed standard of living? Not without adaptation: a willingness to change is required.

The need to act: We need to rely once again on our own resources – and increasingly on renewable resources – while improving our ability to act. Democracy, prosperity and peace are not fixed social achievements. We need to act.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

THE REGIONS:

Europe's diverse rural areas are in a strong position when it comes to resources – whether in relation to energy, food, or people's willingness to take action. We need to build on this.

GETTING INVOLVED:

Every form of contributing ideas and taking part counts – with the aim of helping to shape our environment, our living world and our future.

THE LEADER NETWORK:

LEADER is place-based, quick to act and especially close to the people. With their local offices, LEADER regions support projects that promote resilience and innovation.



HOW WE BUILD RESILIENCE:

Prevention:



Resilience to potential adverse impacts is proactively strengthened.

Adaptation:



A short-term return to the original situation may be possible, but the primary focus is on long-term adaptation.

Innovation:



Changing framework conditions are leveraged in new ways, existing elements are recombined, and new paths are explored. Transformative approaches are underpinned by shifts in attitudes and behaviour.

Culture of change:



A team and project culture that is optimistic, learning-oriented, tolerant of mistakes and receptive to criticism provides the foundation for effective action.

WHAT LEADER REGIONS ENABLE:

LEADER means „development led by local communities“.

LEADER regions are **local hubs for diverse connections** in business and society.

The LEADER local offices support innovative initiatives from municipalities, the private sector and civil society in order to respond to new challenges.

They therefore represent an already **well-established and agile network** for building resilience throughout Europe.

LEADER AS A HUB FOR BUILDING CONNECTIONS:

(A selection):

Cooperation:

Between municipalities, the private sector and civil society. (public/private partnership)

Theory-practice-collaboration:

Translating research findings into innovation.

Multi-level perspectives:

Taking developments at EU, member state, federal state and regional levels into account.

Social balance:

Reducing social inequality in areas such as gender, education and age.

Understanding emerging technologies:

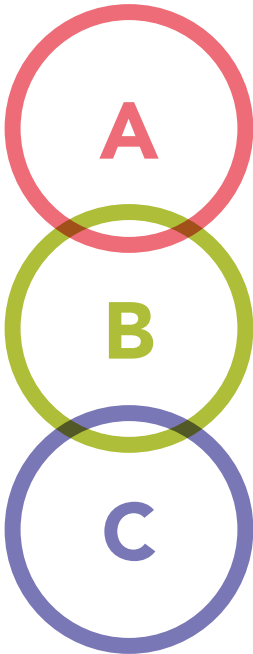
Developing a deeper understanding of innovations such as digitalisation and AI.

Engaging underrepresented groups:

Increasing the acceptance of innovation.

COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCE BUILDING:

We define “comprehensive resilience building” as encompassing the following dimensions:



MENTAL RESILIENCE:

- Community • Trust • Participation
- Resilient democracy

CIVIL RESILIENCE:

- Local self-help • Volunteering
- Healthcare provision • Fact-based information • Crisis preparedness

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE:

- Resource and energy security • regional economic cycles • food sovereignty
- climate change adaptation

WHAT RESILIENCE MEANS FOR REGIONS:

Robustness

A region's ability to withstand pressure.

Approach: Involving diverse groups and perspectives

Resourcefulness

The ability to respond creatively to new challenges.

Approach: Developing new and innovative skills

Backup capacity

Alternative ways of fulfilling economic and social functions.

Approach: Diversifying production and supply structures

Speed and agility

The ability to respond and recover quickly when problems arise.

Approach: Testing, scenario planning and adaptive preparedness

Additional influencing factors at the individual level include:

• **Engagement** • **Education** • **Empowerment** • **Encouragement**

"SECURITY" AND "DEFENCE" **AT LEADER PROJECT LEVEL:**

In the LEADER context,
"SECURITY" refers to everyday
resilience, for example:

- **Security of supply:**

Projects that strengthen regional
food supply, energy autonomy
and water availability.

- **Crisis preparedness:**

Projects that reinforce local networks,
including civil protection structures
and neighbourhood support.

- **Social balance:**

Projects with an inclusive
and preventive effect against
polarisation, recognising social
stability as a key security factor.

"DEFENCE" can be understood as
strengthening social cohesion and can
also be translated to the local level as a
safeguard for democracy and civil society.

- **Democratic resilience:**

Strengthening participation, citizen
involvement and, with it, trust in
institutions.

- **Civil society organisation:**

Projects that counteract polarisation
and foster a positive sense of local
identity.

- **Digital defence and competence:**

Building competence against dis-
information and promoting media
literacy.

COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCE BUILDING STRENGTHENS EUROPE'S REGIONS AND INTERNAL STABILITY

