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.

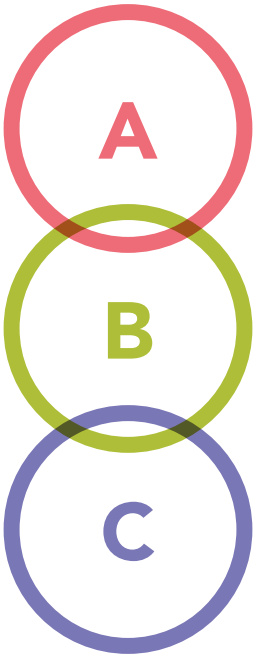
Social balance:
Reducing social inequality in areas such as gender, education and age.

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

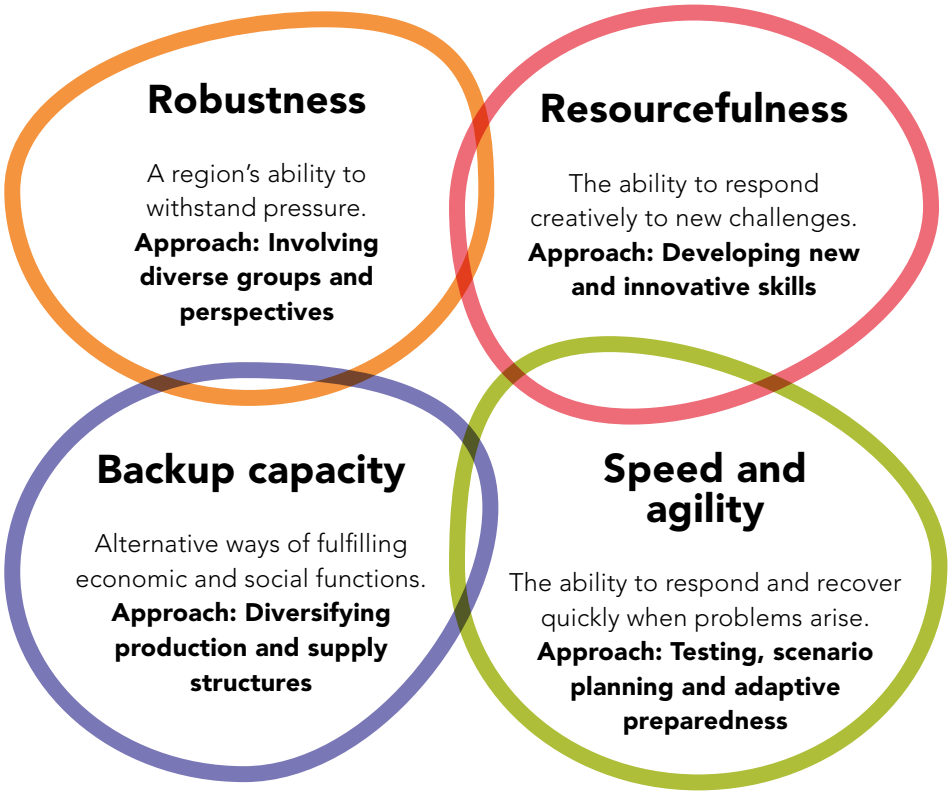
CIVIL RESILIENCE:

• 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:**



Additional influencing factors at the individual level include:

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

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

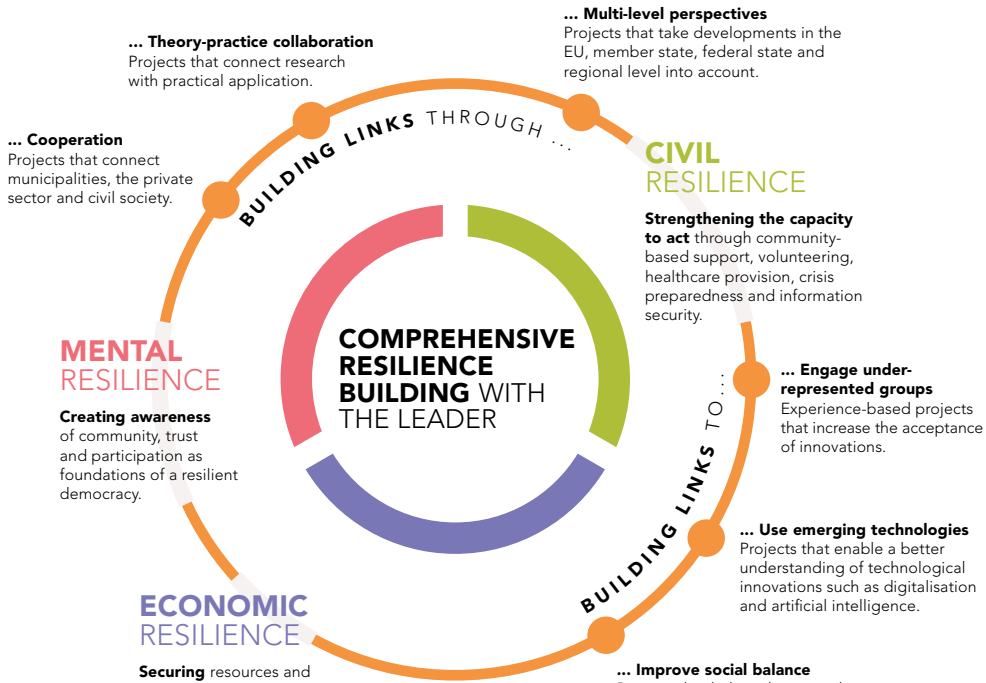
In the LEADER context, **"SECURITY"** refers to everyday resilience, for example:

- **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



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