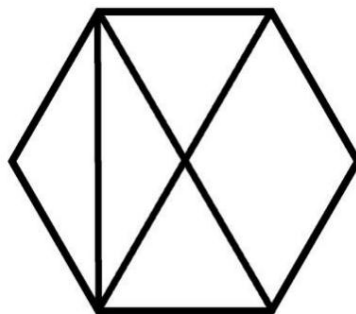


Stakeholder engagement Action Plan Ansó, January - June 2022



Developed in the framework of the Smart Rural 21 project in support of Ansó



Ixambre Coop.

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Background

The people of Ansó have spent several years developing different strategies that allow face your future. In 2019, the ETAPI was prepared: "Transversal Settlement Strategy Population and Innovation", with which they sought to define actions with which to face the population loss and finding different economic opportunities for the people and their population.

As a result of this strategy, he presented his candidacy during 2020 for the project European "Smart Rural 21", being the only one selected among the 224 proposals that were presented in Spain. Within the "Smart Rural 21" *project, Ixambre, S. Coop.* coordinate a participatory work for the implementation of a development plan local. For this implementation it is essential to develop a good strategy that is capable of to involve the different social agents and institutions that exist in the town.

Thanks to the previous work that has been carried out within the framework of the Smart Rural, participation dynamics had already been generated in Ansó that have facilitated the entire back work. From *Ixambre, S. Coop.* we propose a participation strategy that involve the different social agents of the town from the beginning. This strategy was defined as follows:

1. Definition of objectives
2. Analysis of key actors
3. Actions to develop
4. Definition of communication channels
5. Creation of a team of local leaders (Colla Motor)
6. Action planning
7. Coordination of Colla Motor meetings

Definition of objectives

Since the technical team of *Ixambre, S. Coop.* is external to the municipality and has no previous relationship with all the key actors, the first action was to summon the Ansó City Council to a participatory session to analyze the local social context, in which they participated



the mayor, a councilor and the local development agent. In this first session Three members of the *Ixambre, S. Coop. team also participated.* started the session defining the objectives of the process, so that they were validated from the City hall. The agreed objectives for the process are as follows:

1. Carry out a socio-economic diagnosis of the town
 - a. Identify the needs of the groups affected by the depopulation
 - b. Analyze the factors that determine the place of residence
 - c. Identify the resources and actors that can operate as a driving force for change
2. Generate social cohesion and roots in the local population
 - a. Collectively agree on a desired horizon for the people
 - b. Increase motivation for life in the village
 - c. Promote dynamics of participation in public life
3. Achieve an increase in the resident population
 - a. Make the town the habitual residence of the linked population
 - b. Attract and integrate new settlers in the municipality
 - c. Raise awareness of the importance of maintaining and increasing population to maintain services in the village
4. Promote an adaptation of the place to the current socioeconomic context
 - a. Generate new socioeconomic dynamics that favor their adaptation and survival



b. Create stable local development self-management tools

These objectives were the result of the initial approach of *Ixambre, S. Coop.* and the reformulation and approval by consensus with the City Council.

Key actor analysis

After agreeing on the objectives, and in the same session, the creation of a sociogram was proposed. This technique intends to make an initial photograph of the map of Ansó actors, but at the same time, to see how they relate to each other and what their position is in relation to the action plan to involve Ansó's social actors that is intended to be implemented.



The sociogram begins with a map of Ansó's actors. It was made in a way participatory by identifying all social groups, both formal and informal, that They have a presence in the municipality. This map of actors was made entirely by the three Town Hall people. They were instructed to group the actors into three categories:

- Non-formal social groups
- Local associative fabric
- Public institutions

The results of this technique were very satisfactory, a large number of actors were identified: 19 social groups, 14 entities of the associative fabric and 11 public institutions. Identifying them made it possible to draw a social map of the municipality, but in any case it was highlighted that it is a living and changing map, which can be modified and completed throughout the process.

The next step to continue completing the sociogram was to place each actor in a matrix with two axes: power (ability to influence the local participatory process) and affinity with the objectives of the participatory diagnosis. This is a very important step, since it allowed to define the actions directed to the social actors according to their position.

To finish completing the sociogram, the last step was to establish in a way graphically the different relationships between the identified actors, although, due to lack of time, this analysis was carried out orally, in the form of an open debate with the people participants.

Actions to develop

The City Council was presented with a proposal for activities on which bases the participation strategy to elaborate the Action Plan to involve the Social Actors of Ansó. The proposed methodology was presented and explained for the entire process (IAP, Participatory Action Research) and the doubts that arose were resolved.

The different activities proposed were explained below. These proposals they are the basis of the "Action Plan to involve the social actors of Ansó" and therefore From Ixambre, S. Coop., we see it necessary that these activities are agreed upon and

validated by the City Council.

Definition of communication channels

Based on this analysis, and together with the experience of the City Council group, a broad proposal of possible participants is defined for the Colla Motor (team of local leaders), which will have a coordinating role in the Diagnosis and Plan development process. of action for a local development strategy of the municipality. At the same time, those communication channels that will be more operative for the operation of the group were defined.

leader.

These communication channels were defined to, initially, contact with the possible participants of the group of local leaders and, in a second moment, coordinate this group.

The channels that were defined (and that will be agreed upon later with the *Colla Motor*) are the following:

- Phone calls
- Chat (Whatsapp)
- Email list
- Google Drive folder with access to all members of the Colla Motor

where work documents and results reports are shared for the population.

Creation and training of the local leading team (Colla Motor)

Once the list of possible people who make up the local leadership team has been defined and communication channels, individualized contact was initiated with each of these people to invite them to be part of the team. This stage of the process is fundamental, since obtaining the participation of these people to lead the process will be key to increasing their commitment and guaranteeing that this team works as an amplifier of participation in future diagnostic workshops and proposals.

A list of 22 people was made, where an attempt was made to represent the different sectors of the population. It included tourism workers, livestock, different unions (carpentry, masonry, etc.), but also young and old people,

representatives of the CLIA (Local Council for Children and Adolescents) and new settlers without previous link with the people.

The final list was as follows:

- Youth: 4 representatives
- Seniors: 5 representatives
- Breeders: 3 representatives
- Tourism workers: 3 representatives
- New settlers: 3 representatives
- Families with children: 2 representatives
- Union workers: 2 representatives



The contacts were made through telephone calls where the Smart rural project was explained to them (if they did not know it), it was indicated why their participation was being proposed to them and its importance within the process. In turn, they were invited to a face-to-face session where they would be trained about the process that was being carried out and their role within it.

Action Plan to involve stakeholders

Ansó

Applied methodology

This methodological proposal is based on the principles of Research Participatory Action, adapting them to the Aragonese rural context affected by the problem of depopulation. This methodology has been successfully tested in recent years in several towns and municipalities of the Comarcas of Jacetania and the Alto Gállego, which share characteristics and context with the municipality of Ansó.

When we speak of Participatory Action Research we refer to a methodology that allows a community, through a set of diverse tools, techniques and workshops, develop a process of self-reflection that makes available to all set of neighbors and neighbors individual experiences and knowledge. This approach It allows addressing the problems by promoting the self-management of the peoples in terms of improvement of the initial starting situation.

Among the reasons why participatory methodologies are suitable for increase the commitment and involve the different social actors in rural areas include the following:

- They make it easier for people to share the knowledge they have about their town, in order to put it in common and be able to enrich it.
- They facilitate the participation of many people in decision-making without this affect the quality of the final result.
- Share responsibility for decision making.
- They promote the creation of spaces for collective dialogue.
- They favor the transparency of processes and decision-making.
- The postulates emanate from the territory itself and its inhabitants.

Organization of the process



Because it is a participatory methodology, the actions will require the participation of many people linked to the town in various ways. Bliss participation will transcend the political and technical staff that is part of the city council, also counting on the local associative fabric (associations) and on leading people communities that have a significant role in the town.

This is why the ideal is to start by establishing the different groups with which that the work will be organized. Being part of one or several of these groups must be a personal decision for the participants since each one of them entails a different level of commitment and associated work.

- *Work team:* it will be made up of the technical team of the Ixambre cooperative, S. Coop., with extensive experience in streamlining and implementing processes participatory in the framework of the Action Plan to involve the social actors of Anso. Three people from the Ansó Town Hall are also part of it: the mayor, a councilor and the local development agent.
- *Colla Motor:* it will be the group that directs the process and makes the strategic decisions at key moments. It will be made up of the members of the council, staff technician and by representative people of the town (associative fabric and local leaders). It will meet on a short, fortnightly or monthly basis depending on the moment process implementation.
- *The population:* it is the key agent in the process. The population will have a role protagonist since it will not be the object of study but the research subject himself. In this case it will consist of the population of Ansó, prioritizing the resident population but also opening the possibility of participating to those linked to the municipality that do not resides in it permanently.

Process phases



Below we describe the actions that are part of the proposal methodological approach to increase commitment and involve the different social actors in the municipality of Ansó.

FASES DEL PROCESO



1. Population survey

One of the objectives of the survey is to generate in the people a state of opinion regarding equitable, fair and sustainable development, as a previous step to mobilization towards the process. Two different formats will be used to ensure that the sample is as large and diverse as possible: paper copies, mailed in every house in the town, and a digital survey, which can be distributed through social networks and applications that work on communication and dissemination at the local level.

2. Workshop to present the participatory process in the framework of the Action Plan to involve the social actors of Ansó

It is important that the local population understands what is starting and the potential it has to directly affect their lives, as well as to motivate the participation in the different activities.

In this workshop there will be an introduction to the methodology that explains what the

Action Plan to involve the social actors of Ansó, where it comes from, who is organizing the process in Ansó, at what point is the implementation and what will be the Next steps.

A diagnostic advance will be presented that collects some of the results of the poll. Along with a simple layout of the layout showing the workshops planned and that serves to explain what role they have in the process and what people are invited to participate. This is the time to emphasize the importance of diagnosis although the final objective is the elaboration of the Action Plan.

3. Participatory diagnosis workshops with population groups specific

These workshops will make it possible to start working more concretely on the problems or needs that affect the different population groups that coexist in Ansó.

For this, we will work specifically with each of them in workshops diagnosis in which these groups will be the research subjects that analyze their own problems. Our proposal is to work with the following sectors of the population:

- Youth
- Older
- People linked to the livestock sector
- People linked to the tourism sector
- Young families with children
- Ansó Childhood and Adolescence Council

Throughout the entire process, the mainstreaming of the gender approach will be guaranteed. Regarding the workshops for specific population groups, we will seek to ensure parity regarding the participation of women and men. In case of detecting specific barriers that prevent this parity from taking place, a specific workshop will be convened for women who ensure that their voices and visions are incorporated into the diagnosis.

4. Preparation of the diagnostic document



A document will be drawn up containing a summary of all the work carried out during the diagnosis phase to be able to present it both to the City Council and to all the inhabitants of the municipality.

This document must collect the entire process of prior diagnosis, corresponding to Ixambre, S. Coop., to systematize the information and order it, collecting the different points of view of the people who have participated in the workshops.

5. Feedback and participatory elaboration of conclusions

Once the information gathering phase is over, through the survey and different workshops and group activities, it is essential to return the information collection, systematized and ordered, to the neighbors of the town. The methodology is based on the vision that the information belongs to them, and the people in charge of the process are only facilitators to collect the most complete information possible and organize it in a way that allows effective action to be taken in the following phases of the process.

On the other hand, it is also important to validate the conclusions of the diagnosis, generating broad consensus on the identified problems faced by the people, from a collective perspective. In other words, we will seek to transcend the individual views that describe how a problem personally affects each participant, to generate definitions about the problems and the way in which they affect the whole town residents.

6. Preparation of prioritization criteria

The criteria for prioritizing proposals will be defined, combining indicators provided by the methodology of the Action Plan to involve the social actors of Ansó with those needs detected by the local population.

7. Proposal preparation workshops

The objective is to make it easier for the population to think, define and guide actions in the most strategic way possible to solve those problems identified as important or priority.

Again, the methodological proposal includes work in participatory workshops organized by sectors of the population, since each group has needs differentiated and also know first-hand the reality of the town in its different aspects, so we will seek that the Action Plan be nourished by the diversity of these you guys.

- Youth
- Older
- People linked to the livestock sector
- People linked to the tourism sector
- Young families with children
- Ansó Childhood and Adolescence Council

8. Public collection of proposals

To ensure that the proposals are tangible and facilitate their planning and implementation, the participants will be asked to follow a certain scheme to define them. This will allow proposals to be compared with each other, and will guarantee that they are viable projects that will allow planning the schedule and evaluating the progress of their execution, within the framework of the Action Plan.

To facilitate a broad participation of the residents of the town in the preparation of proposals, several possible channels will be opened to collect them. Several physical mailboxes will be placed, in strategic places that are frequented by the population, where proposals can be delivered, as well as telematic participation channels.

9. Drafting of the Action Plan

The work team is in charge of compiling and systematizing the proposals for action collected in the process and include them in a document that collects them.

10. Public presentation of the Action Plan

Once the document has been drafted, physical copies will be distributed in the town, in digital format to the neighbors and neighbors and a public presentation will be made to give it to know

11. Monitoring, follow-up and evaluation

Participatory diagnoses are living and changing processes. The town of Ansó will be encouraged to generate the tools and spaces to give continuity to the process undertaken, promoting dynamics of neighborhood participation also in the phases of execution and evaluation of each project.

In addition, work will be done to consolidate a new local organizational structure and they will open stable channels of participation between the city council and the population.



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