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## The drafting of the new strategy for GAL ELIMOS

In recent months, GAL ELIMOS, which stands for Local Action Group, has been working intensively on drafting the new strategy for the year 2024-2027. GALs, or Local Action Groups, are intermediary bodies that represent the collective interests of specific territorial areas. Their primary role is to implement integrated programs as development agencies, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, by decentralizing the management of Structural Funds.

GALs are tasked with implementing the "Quality of Life in Rural Areas and Diversification of Rural Economy" and the "Leader Approach Implementation" of the Rural Development Program in the Sicilian region. They follow an integrated, bottom-up, and multisectoral approach to achieve this. Their activities include providing support for the establishment and growth of micro-enterprises and promoting tourism initiatives.

As we focused on crafting the new strategy, we incorporated our pilot project and, more importantly, the entire concept of INCULTUM. We aim to secure funding through European funds not only to complete the INCULTUM project but also to sustain the idea in the future. We have developed measures related to the quality of life in rural areas, essential services for the rural economy and population, village development and revitalization, and the protection and enhancement of rural, cultural, and archaeological heritage.

We have integrated the idea and connection with the INCULTUM project into three distinct actions, which we will now present to you.

### **ACTION 6 – COMMUNITY PROJECT No. 2 FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**

- Thematic Area: "Services, Assets, Collective and Inclusive Spaces"
- Action Code as per the PSP PAC 2023-2027 SRD07 - Investments in Infrastructure for Agriculture and Socio-economic Development of Rural Areas.

#### ***General Description of the Action:***

Action No. 6 of the community project aims to be a functional and sustainable continuation of a project implemented under the framework of innovative cultural tourism using funds from the Horizon 2020 Program, called INCULTUM. This project has the objective of promoting sustainable social, cultural, and economic development by enhancing and rediscovering marginal and peripheral areas through innovative and participatory approaches. It transforms the local residents into key actors capable of reducing negative impacts and improving best practices to be replicated and translated into strategies and policies. This form of cultural tourism is much more widespread and immersive in various aspects of the territory. It's a kind of slow tour that allows for a deeper and more immersive experience. In these types of routes, the program is tailored to the specificity and vocation of the place, resulting in diversified offerings: wine and food tours, historical tours, architectural and artistic tours, religious tours, musical tours, nature-based tours, ethno-anthropological tours, literary tours, and more. These initiatives are often aimed at both local residents

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The word "INCULTUM" in a white, uppercase, sans-serif font, set against a dark red, textured brushstroke background.



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who may not always fully appreciate the beauty and richness of their surroundings and passionate tourists who prefer to discover the unique culture of the region. Cultural itineraries allow for an exploration of the past of these places and bring to light their traces, based on both material and immaterial artifacts, such as stories, inspirations, atmospheres, unearthing the long history of their identity from these elements. The intention of GAL through this action is to make places and existing cultural heritage accessible through infrastructure investments.

- Ordinary Action or Specific Action\* Specific Action Not foreseen by CSR Sicily 23/27. It is consistent with PS-PAC 23/27 as it is provided for in it and contributes to the rural tourism development strategy of GAL Elimos.
- Amount: €250,000.00
- Implementation Mode: MIXED MODE (CALL)
- Reference Outcome Indicator(s): Consistent with PSP PAC 2023-2027.
- Output Indicator (O): 22
- Number of operations or units related to subsidized infrastructure investments: 4

Outcome Indicator (R): R41 - Proportion of the rural population benefiting from improved access to services and infrastructure through support from the PAC (20% of the population involved).

## **ACTION 7 – COMMUNITY PROJECT No. 2 FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF ETHNOANTHROPOLOGICAL CULTURAL HERITAGE**

- Thematic Area: "Services, Assets, Collective and Inclusive Spaces"
- Action Code as per PSP PAC 2023-2027 SRD07 - Investments in Infrastructure for Agriculture and Socio-economic Development of Rural Areas.

### ***General Description of the Action:***

In our territory, there are ethnoanthropological assets: material and immaterial assets that testify to knowledge, know-how, and traditions. Numerous ethnographic museums preserve them, requiring specific expertise for their protection and enhancement. An interesting and emblematic example is the Tuna fishery of Scopello and Favignana, framed in a lush and uniquely beautiful natural setting. GAL ELIMOS aims to enhance the ETHNOANTHROPOLOGICAL heritage preserved in the mentioned local territory and practices. It will address the needs identified in the SWOT Analysis, such as increasing profitability and added value, networking valuable elements of the territory to develop initiatives that can attract visitor interest and promote tourism development policies to meet specific demand segments related to the vocations and attractions of the area.



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- Ordinary Action or Specific Action\* Specific Action Not foreseen by CSR Sicily 23/27. It is consistent with PS-PAC 23/27 as it is provided for in it and contributes to the rural tourism development strategy of GAL Elimos.
- Amount: € 114.500,00
- Implementation Mode: MIXED MODE (PUBLIC CALL)
- Reference Outcome Indicator(s): Consistent with PSP PAC 2023-2027.
- Output Indicator (O): 22
- Number of operations or units related to subsidized infrastructure investments: 1
- Result Indicator (R): R37 - Growth and jobs in rural areas (1 job); R41 - Share of the rural population benefiting from better access to services and infrastructure thanks to PAC support (7% of the population involved)

#### **ACTION 8 – COMMUNITY PROJECT NO. 2 FOR THE VALUATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE INNOVATIVE CULTURAL PLATFORM**

- Thematic area "services, goods, collective and inclusive spaces"
- Action code as per PSP PAC 2023-2027 GAL 01 - Information for the usability of rural territories

##### ***General Description of the Action:***

Action 8, as a community project for the enhancement of cultural heritage, aims to improve the information services and support the conservation, safeguarding, and protection of the local historical heritage through the creation of an integrated platform and a mobile app. This platform will foster a connection between Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality (Video Mapping, Virtual Assistants, and HERA system) to highlight the existing cultural and ethnoanthropological heritage in the local area. The mobile app will be enriched with diverse content and various path options suitable for different types of audiences. Using geolocation, the map will detect and activate text, audio, and video materials related to the monuments in front of the user or those they intend to visit. Additionally, it will include the digital and shared HERA system, which allows the examination and management of documents and images related to specific local heritage. It also efficiently and scalably cross-references databases. The platform is designed for professionals and enthusiasts alike, accessible and updated in real-time from any internet-connected device. Each element is georeferenced and associated with an in-depth profile containing all the necessary information categorized according to ICCD standards.

- Ordinary Action or Specific Action\* Specific Action Not foreseen by CSR Sicily 23/27. It is consistent with PS-PAC 23/27 as it is provided for in it and contributes to the rural tourism development strategy of GAL Elimos
- Amount: € 30.000,00
- Implementation Mode: MIXED MODE (DIRECT MANAGEMENT)



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- Reference Outcome Indicator(s): Consistent with PSP PAC 2023-2027.
- Output Indicator (O): 33
- Number of operations or units related to subsidized infrastructure investments: 1
- Outcome Indicator (R): R1 - Number of people benefiting from support for counseling, training, knowledge exchange, or participation in operational groups of the PEI to improve economic, social, environmental, climatic, and resource efficiency performances (10,000 people).

***With which work package this activity is linked to?***

The development of the new GAL strategy fully embodies the concept underlying *WP4: Policies and Participatory Model* because the GAL is implementing the so-called "*Bottom-Up Approach*," closely collaborating with the local territory. In this context, a participatory model has been established through a series of meetings held in each municipality within the territory, involving private stakeholders, public stakeholders, and all mayors. These meetings have helped in understanding what they wish to include in the new strategy. In other words, the will of the local community is being funded.

LINK TO OUR POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS:

<https://www.facebook.com/GalElimos/posts/pfbid02NKDL2c69AXeLKpUNYhTXJWoNxSXHKNqhvddXTDwTuc4s3ZcPya2R2eXQ1TmzP69l>