

The regeneration of our communities through community foundations and the SDGs

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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Summary

Community Foundations and regeneration are closely linked in their shared purpose of fostering sustainable development and raising the standard of living in local communities, enhancing talent to live, work and enjoy leisure in the community better. In the creation of the Raimat Lleida Community Foundation, its axes of transformation were set through the **Sustainable Development Goals**, defining 4 in particular: Social Action, Culture, Innovation and Biodiversity and Climate Change.

The Innovation axis works on the regenerative economy in the community through the Raimat LAB and the creation of community leaders promoting youth philanthropy, with the Youth Lab.

What we are seeing, after a little more than a year of life, is that regeneration is transversal to the four axes of transformation, and we are especially interested in expanding this interesting connection between community foundations and regeneration, since regeneration works regenerative cultures in plural, from each local community, from where community foundations work in depth. We believe that much will be said about this relationship between Regeneration and Community Foundations.

Community Foundations are a key agent for the future of the planet and the regeneration of communities, through the networks of people, entities, companies and administrations from which community foundations are woven, it is possible to create collaborative systems that transform their communities and society for the common good.

Beginning

After the serious crises that we are experiencing all over the planet, the world is experiencing a return to the authentic, to our roots, to our community. In response to these chained crises, initiatives are emerging in society that include reinventing the economy, systemic social change, women's empowerment, activism at all levels, and the need for local economic control.

"A regenerative culture will emerge from finding and living new ways of relating to oneself and community." Daniel Christian Wahl

The program of creation of Community Foundations of the Spanish Association of Foundations

One of these powerful initiatives emerged several years ago in the United States. In 1914, the first community foundation in the United States was created. But it is not until 2020 that the Spanish Association of Foundations promotes in Spain the program of support for community foundations, with the support of CS Mott Foundation, Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation, Porticus and the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 of the Government of Spain. This is how the first two foundations born from this program would arise: the Raimat Lleida Community Foundation and the Vall de Camprodón Foundation, both in Catalonia.

These two new community foundations came to join the 7 civic or community foundations that already existed in Spain. The Spanish Association of Foundations is today leading the network of synergies between the new group of community foundations that is making its

way in Spain, with the organization of meetings in Europe, specialized training, introduction and application of European initiatives, invitation to experts from ECFI and other European community foundations ... And we are more and more, creating synergies among all enhancing the territory.

The map to redesign our society and regenerate our community goes through the Community Foundations

Community Foundations must continually regenerate the basic resources on which we depend. Change begins in us and in the community leaders we want to promote: participating in conversations with our neighbors, with the entities and companies that make up our community, asking deep questions to think proactively and in collaboration with strategic partners, the will to enhance the assets and talents of each community.

- True innovation happens when things that had been separated are first brought together. Arthur Koestler and John Smythies (1969)

Living the questions together creates community

As Daniel Christian Wahl says, in his book "Designing Regenerative Cultures", it is important to "spend more time making sure we are asking the right questions, before we are in a hurry to offer solutions that will only prolong the same old thing", and by doing them together we are creating community.

Community Foundation boards have a great responsibility to their community, acting as active listeners of what is happening in it and raising key issues that can define the future of our community. Digging deeper into the questions invites deeper conversations in boards and valuing multiple perspectives, which can create social and behavioral changes.

The format of composition of the boards of trustees in community foundations helps this dynamic in the diversity and depth of the questions, being formed by a representation of the community: diverse, representative and independent; A great feature of community foundations.

Caring for the Earth is caring for our community

Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, "Laudato Si" on the care of our Common Home, speaks about the urgent challenge of protecting our home in the pursuit of sustainable and integral development. "Humanity still possesses the capacity to collaborate to build our common home. Young people are demanding a change from us. They wonder how it is possible to try to build a better future without thinking about the crisis of the environment and the sufferings of the excluded. I make an urgent invitation to a new dialogue on how we are building the future of the planet. We need a conversation that unites us all, because the environmental challenge we are experiencing, and its human roots, interest us and impact us all. The global ecological movement has already come a long and rich way, and has generated numerous citizen groups that helped raise awareness. Unfortunately, many efforts to find concrete solutions to the environmental crisis are often frustrated not only by the rejection of the powerful, but also by the lack

of interest of others. Each one from his culture, his experience, his initiatives and his capacities”.

Community Foundations can play an important role in building the future planet, because it all starts in the community itself.

The Raimat Lleida Community Foundation and the 2030 Agenda

The Raimat Lleida Community Foundation was created in March 2022 to promote the territory of Raimat and Lleida, one of the four provinces of Catalonia (Barcelona, Tarragona, Lleida and Girona) in Spain. It was born with the purpose of strengthening the environment of Raimat and the province of Lleida, together with companies, entities and people, through innovative initiatives and projects that dynamize the territory in a sustainable and resilient way. Based on the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the FCRL (Raimat Lleida Community Foundation) defines and works with the following transformative axes:

1. “Social Action” and the training of tractor drivers

Following the need of the territory of the lack of tractor drivers; In collaboration with United Way Spain and the tractor company John Deere Iberia, the training of tractor drivers has been promoted for young people at risk of exclusion and adults who will obtain a specialized certification from the Generalitat de Catalunya and the Escola Agrària de les Borges Blanques, in collaboration with the Vicens Dealers of Lleida. The entities adhering to the initiative are the Barcelona Football Club Foundation and its youth program; and the Obra Tutelar Agraria. In 2023, the first edition of the Tractor Training Program has begun.



2. “Culture” and Raimat Arts Festival

Through the international classical music festival, Raimat Arts Festival, created in 2021 by Castell de Raymat, promoter of this initiative and official headquarters of the FCRL, and in collaboration with the Napa Valley Festival in California and La Rioja Festival in Spain, 100% of its profits are dedicated to FCRL projects. The RAF (Raimat Arts Festival) is an impact festival with a regenerative vision that honors community culture to promote economic activity in the territory. In October 2023, the 2nd edition of the festival will be held, which will be aimed at FCRL projects related to the water footprint. To ensure the real impact on the community, an impact measurement is carried out that analyzes both the direct effect of the festival on people and the environment, and a long-term measurement to know the true transformation generated in the community. Details of the RAF's involvement in the SDGs can be found here: www.raimatartsfestival.org



3. “Biodiversity and Climate Change”

In collaboration with the Association of Properties for the Conservation of Nature, and in its interest in working on regenerative agriculture and forest management, the creation of a Regenerative Agriculture program is being developed so that the FCRL trains farmers of the orchards of Raimat and the agricultural farms of Lleida studying the possible plantations of the most appropriate regenerative crops to this environment. water saving, renewable energies and the introduction of native fauna, which creates a circular economy balanced with the environment.

4. “Innovation” with Raimat LAB and LAB Joven

Through the "Raimat LAB" and the "LAB Joven", we empower our community leaders to be transformers of the community, aimed at businessmen and entrepreneurs of the territory to work on their triple economic, social and environmental impact on the community.

The "Youth LAB" promotes the creation of future community leaders, in the style of the European "Youth Banks". In 2023 the 1st Edition of the Transformative Talent Awards is created, in collaboration with the ADSL (Association of Institutes Directors of Lleida) with 7 winning projects that transform the community; and a weekend of "LAB Jove Community Leaders" workshops for young people between 14 and 25 years old, training them to be future community leaders and social impact investors. More information at www.raimatlab.com



May 2023 - 1st edition of the Awards for Transformative Talent in the community, based on the SDGs. Young Lab

The small scale of the communities to contrast the effectiveness of the initiatives. The training of tractor drivers for people at risk of social exclusion

Community Foundations are a great tool for the regeneration of communities and to quickly contrast the success of their projects. In the case of the Raimat Lleida Community Foundation and the training of tractor drivers is a clear example.

The data we are analyzing in this training program for agricultural machinery operators will give us a quick answer of what works and what does not, to be able to learn from mistakes, before side effects. In this project, we already have Community Foundations from other regions of Spain that ask us for information and data to replicate it in their territories, so from the FCRL we cultivate regional and interregional collaboration in global affairs. The programmes we propose at local level will be able to interconnect in such a way that they reinforce and support each other between Spanish and international community foundations with similar territories. For example, the FCRL has already contacted community foundations in Valencia that have interests in youth and education; with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and the Napa Valley Community Foundation with whom we maintain similar themes: agriculture, migration, education for young people...

Fostering Community Philanthropy

Sustainable regenerative communities arise from the active participation of all their members. The Community Foundations themselves must create the channels to give voice to community leaders and listen to them by promoting community philanthropy, but they must be trained in these processes that stimulate citizen involvement and community participation.

What we propose affects our community | Thriving communities and the solidarity economy | Discover the Common Interests of the Community | The development of rural communities

Bibliography

Daniel Wahl, "Designing Regenerative Cultures"

Pope Francis, "The Encyclical Letter Laudato Si", on the Care of Our Common Home