

BALENTES

Villages as Agents of Change
&
Sustainable Communities
of Europe

Powered by



Why **Balentes**?



Balentes brings together villages and communities engaged in a common project aimed at ensuring the well being and happiness of their inhabitants, through the coherence and sustainability of all policies and actions defined, shared and implemented in their territories.

Balentes is a European "Club" of local authorities that set out their own rules and commit themselves to define, share and implement agreed policies, projects and programs that, together, they will promote and defend in all appropriate contexts, from regional to European and international.

Looking ahead and establishing a new political and programmatic approach, **Balentes** - starting from the most fragile territorial realities - builds the tools necessary to face the difficult challenges that today our villages and communities face, also by directing the proper use of European funds towards concrete results in improving welfare and living and working conditions in our territories.

Balentes addresses the issues of depopulation, unemployment, speculation and pollution also through solidarity, good governance, efficiency and transparency of the administration and by a commitment to fight corruption.

But **Balentes** goes further!



Balentes aims at building new relationships between the Center and the Periphery, at Inter-culturality, at Equal Opportunities, Social Infrastructures and at the involvement of schools, universities and the world of culture.

Balentes works in coherence with the objectives of the European Cohesion Policy 2021-2027, strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion by the concrete empowerment of local, urban & territorial authorities, in the management of European funds through territorial and local strategies.

Where does **Balentes** come from?



It is unthinkable to try to solve global problems by closing ourselves in our small garden. And it is pure illusion to try to tackle local problems without effectively intervening on ourselves and on our Planet. Also for this reason, Balentes looks and interprets what happens in Europe and in the World.

Balentes means internationalizing our territories to get out of isolation and to face globalization concretely.

Balentes is inspired by [Circular Economy](#), by the [Resilience](#), and by Regions and Villages seen as "Agents of Change".

Balentes works on the experiences of the italian [Virtuous Municipalities Association](#), of the [Transition Towns](#) of [Slow Cities](#).... New approaches and systems now strategic for our future and on which the European Union itself begins to build the future of the fundamental financial support for our territories: the [Cohesion Policy](#) from 2021 onwards.

Who is **Balentes** addressed to?



Balentes is addressed to municipalities (including their associations and consortia) of any size and belonging to different regions of Europe.

Balentes privileges smaller and isolated local authorities who face particularly troubling problems such as: unemployment, depopulation, youth deviation and school dropout, imposition of servitude and environmental degradation, increase in social inequality, loss of local identity, reduction of sovereignty (including the energetic one) and the autonomy of local economies.....

How?



Balentes is accompanied by a policy and programming "**Council**" and by a multidisciplinary **Team** of selected and strongly motivated European technicians.

Translating **Balentes**'s choices into concrete ideas that can be achieved in their territories, the **Team** provides the necessary technical assistance and, after checking their feasibility, draws up project proposals and follows their candidacy in the framework of the European, national and regional programs, supporting them with appropriate "**lobby**" actions at regional, national and European level.

Once financed, the **Balentes'** **Team** ensures the best implementation of the projects and assesses the impact actually achieved on the territories.

Balentes will ensure the active involvement in the **Team** of universities, sources of local knowledge, as well as young talents and professionals with a suitable Curriculum or with experience of study or work in strategic areas, including that gained abroad. In this way, **Balentes** intends to contribute in the fight against the "**brain drain**".

Balentes will be fairly co-financed by all beneficiaries, through various forms of contributions, including non-cash.

An **European** approach



The various **Balentes**'s Teams operating in the different involved European regions will make up an European Network.

In particular, **Balentes** will mobilize all those who share or apply its approach at local, regional and European level, including by promoting or adhering to agreements and / or alliances able to concretely contribute to the objectives of **Balentes**, such as the Association of Virtuous Municipalities, the Alliance between citizens and institutions, the Covenant of Mayors or the Cohesion Alliance, etc..).

Balentes, in addition to the networking, aims to foster both the cooperation, the exchange, the adoption of common policies and the presentation of joint projects between the European partners, also benefiting from the European Territorial Cooperation.

Balentes....The book of Dreams:

- will apply European strategies and priorities, reporting the results achieved. This also through the involvement of institutions, the civil society, companies, universities and research centers, schools and the world of information and culture.
- will apply and use assessment and monitoring tools on results, also using indicators such as, for example, the GNH (Gross National Happiness).
- will implement education, animation, information, training and awareness-raising activities aimed at institutions, citizens (especially young people), businesses and associations of the territories involved.
- will launch initiatives aimed at creating and coordinating an effective lobby and representation of "shared interests" at all levels.
- will carry out all the activities deemed appropriate to foster international solidarity and cooperation.
- will ensure open and transparent use of data (open data), in particular the statistics relating to the public administration and the financial support systems both at regional, national and European level.
- will spread the use of digital, information and communication technologies.
- will guarantee in all ways gender equality and will actively engage against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Our ability to bring together and enhance local skills and knowledge will do the rest

“The One who can resist and live in a poor, harsh, hard and violent environment is a BALENTE”

([Bachisio Bandinu](#))



Balente comes from “*Balentia*”, which in the Sardinian language means “Bravery”.

In the Island of Sardinia, in a time almost forgotten, the role of Balente, the protector of the Village, was reserved for man.

Times have changed.

Today Balente is for all who have the courage to face a challenging future and to tackle its issues with love and passion, without distinction of sex, race, religion.....



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