



FRANCE ACTIVE
Les entrepreneurs engagés
NOUVELLE AQUITAINE

**Interreg
Europe**



Co-funded by
the European Union

CASPER



GOOD PRACTICES FROM NOUVELLE- AQUITAINE

AND THEIR CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS

[INTERREGEUROPE.COM/CASPER](https://interregeurope.com/casper)

Solidary Transport

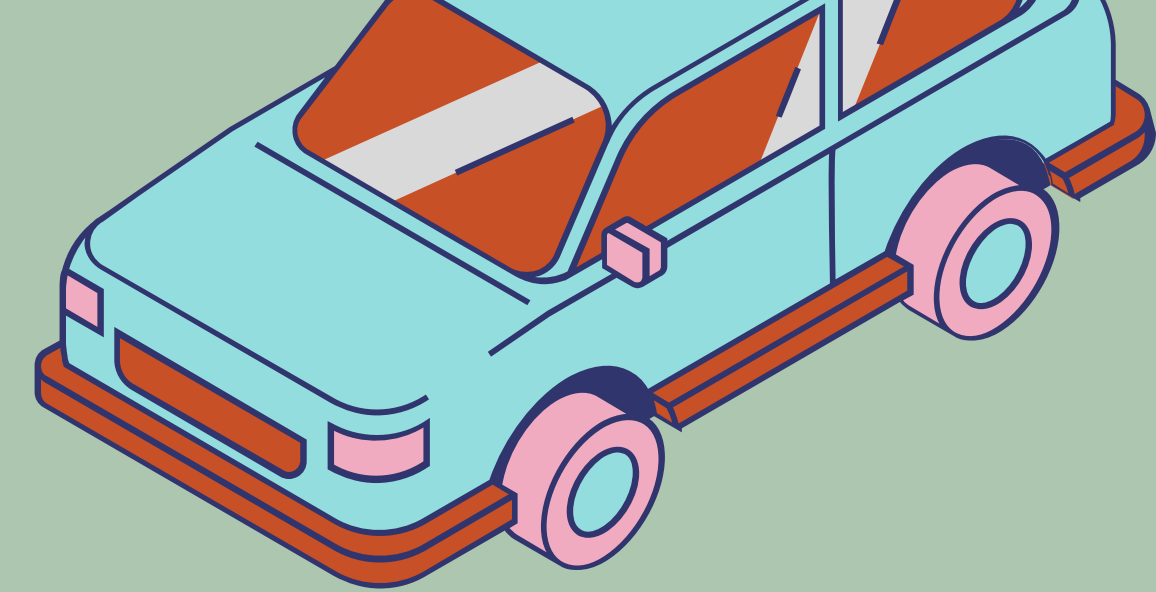
The Solidarity Transport Project by La Palette, initiated by a group of senior citizens in Dun le Palestel, aims to address local transport challenges within an 80km radius. This community-driven initiative offers transportation for various needs such as errands, medical appointments, and leisure activities.

La Palette coordinates these efforts, covering travel costs without additional expenses, though issues related to insurance and volunteer limitations remain.



Solidarity Transport

CONDITIONS AND OBSTACLES FOR SUCCESS



Purpose

- Combat social isolation.
- Enhance rural mobility.
- Promote independence and mobility among young people.
- Create intergenerational links.
- Encourage community engagement.
- Support local economic structures.

Forces

- Communication with all the players involved.
- Citizen's driving license.
- Accompanied driving with senior citizens.
- A springboard that structures and supports a civic initiative.
- Number and commitment of volunteers.

Limits

- Sustainability of volunteer efforts.
- Potential exclusion of young people due to focus on elderly autonomy.
- Financial sustainability.
- Absence of a system for managing volunteer-beneficiary conflicts, suggesting a need for mediator training.

Obstacles

- **Balance expansion with a community-centric approach, considering decentralization and transition plans for long-term viability.**
- Engage young people, possibly through school collaborations and ambassador programs.
- The restrictive nature of public funding that may stifle grassroots efforts.

Veyrac “Third Place” Village

In Veyrac, a village of 2,400 inhabitants near Limoges, a unique project was launched to rethink local politics with the help of two doctoral students. Supported by the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region and Limoges Métropole, this initiative explored the potential of third places at a village scale, focusing on gathering, developing, and implementing community ideas.

Through collaboration with academics and residents, over 40 participatory events were held, leading to the identification of 50 actionable ideas. The project emphasized extended engagement and training for residents in leading discussions and workshops, addressing the challenge of maintaining momentum and ensuring its longevity beyond the current political term.



Veyrac “Third Place” Village

CONDITIONS AND OBSTACLES FOR SUCCESS



Purpose

- Foster a constructive democracy by consulting and involving, rather than merely gathering opinions.
- Enhance communication and collaboration among local entities.
- Anticipate future community needs.
- Empower youth (age 15-25) by addressing their needs and providing platforms like a youth café for expression.

Forces

- A strategy tailored for gathering and nurturing ideas.
- Collaboration with researchers.
- Train residents in eco-design.
- A cycle of learning and teaching among residents.
- An inclusive participatory council blending citizens and elected officials.
- Experiment and accept failures.

Limits

- A siloed project culture among associations.
- Prejudices against the project as exploitative or dismissive of participants.
- Youth's distrust of institutions.
- Personal vs. collective expectations.
- Understand and embrace the method.

Obstacles

- **Train volunteers for citizen-led groups to manage tensions and ensure neutrality, esp. in meetings with elected officials where power dynamics are evident.**
- Bridge the engagement gap for 15-25 year-olds.
- Ensure effective bilateral communication.
- Highlight planning and contemplation as action.
- Overcome hesitation in empowering youth.

Integration through Sport

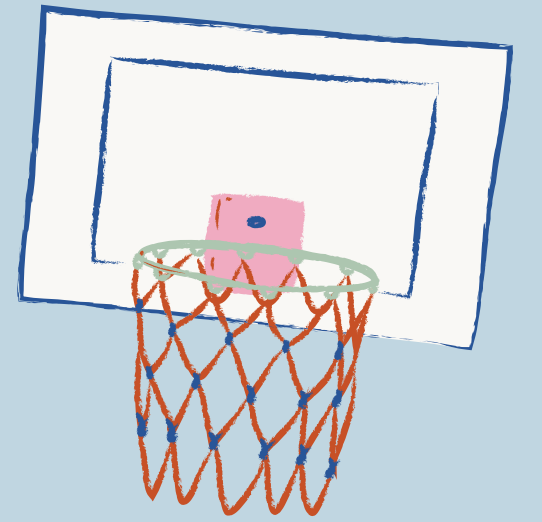
The Unis Vers Tchouk association launched a project aimed at leveraging sport for educational purposes, focusing on promoting sport across both urban and rural settings in the Limoges area and the "Rural Revitalization Area" of western Limousin.

Addressing the challenge of rural depopulation, the initiative seeks to reinvigorate rural communities by importing urban skills and fostering a sense of belonging and community engagement through sport. This effort is complemented by environmental and cultural projects, aligning with the Social and Solidarity Economy to enhance local associative life and encourage youth participation in governance from the age of 16.



Integration through Sport

CONDITIONS AND OBSTACLES FOR SUCCESS



Purpose

- **Cultivate future leaders by involving youths in organizational roles, fostering governance skills and a collective spirit.**
- **Bridge the urban-rural divide, encouraging openness to countryside living.**
- Engage youths through sports for socialization and volunteer leadership.
- Enhance outreach with youth-focused social media.

Forces

- A dedicated project manager.
- Utilization of youth-friendly media and project ambassadors.
- Early involvement of youth in governance roles.
- Broaden activities to sports mediation in correctional facilities and environmental projects.
- Emphasis on social and intergenerational interactions.

Limits

- Challenges in youth mobility in rural areas.
- A general lack of awareness about available structures.
- Difficulty in recruiting volunteer leaders and sports instructors.
- Resistance to efforts promoting social diversity.
- The broader challenge of enhancing the region's appeal.

Obstacles

- Fundings for project administration.
- Waning public sector support.
- Political will.
- Integrate school dropouts.
- Raise awareness of the Social and Solidarity Economy among elected officials.
- Strengthen the economic model through diversifying income sources.



Regional Youth Council

The Regional Youth Council provides a platform for young people to share their views on regional policies, focusing on specific issues. Members are elected every two years and currently address environmental concerns, especially mobility. Candidates are chosen randomly from submitted applications, ensuring equal representation of genders.

Efforts to engage youth occurred in high schools through youth representatives and in universities, aiming to use these platforms to support regional and potentially more localized initiatives. The current discussion revolves around the council's potential role.



Regional Youth Council

Youth Referents

In the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, youth referents assist in developing projects involving young people. They facilitate communication about regional support and initiatives, aiding in both planning and execution, and also support student organizations. Their presence is expanding across the region.



Regional Youth Council

CONDITIONS AND OBSTACLES FOR SUCCESS



Purpose

- Determine how to incorporate council outputs into regional policies.
- Define roles for all participants.
- Ensure representation and equality.
- Foster a culture of commitment.
- Assess the impact on public policy.
- Develop pathways for engagement beyond initial involvement.

Forces

- Local coordinators enhance outreach.
- A broad network of partners offers diverse support for youth.
- Effective communication and marketing strategies.
- Adaptive formats based on feedback encourage participation.

Limits

- Participation requires initial interest.
- The selection process may exclude interested volunteers.
- Balance gender representation.
- Maintain consistent motivation and participation.
- Address mobility issues.
- Cater to a wide age range within the youth category.

Obstacles

- **Bridge the gap between the Council and local political decisions to enhance its involvement in policy-making, beyond merely an advisory role.**
- Overcome social barriers to participation.
- Move beyond traditional structures to address more localized issues.
- Manage project scopes effectively.

CASPER in a nutshell



- **WHAT?** An EU-funded project on citizen engagement in sustainable approach to rural shrinking
- **WHY?** To preserve vitality, cultural heritage, and special know-how of the regions, and enhance their quality of life.
- **WHO?** Regional councils, NPOs, and university
- **WHEN?** Mar 2023 – Mar 2027
- **HOW?** Interregional exchange of effective practices
- **WHERE?** South Savo (Finland), Somogy County (Hungary), Basilicata (Italy), Nouvelle-Aquitaine (France), and Podlaskie (Poland)

Interested in More Good Practices?

Connect with us!

[INTERREGEUROPE.COM/CASPER](https://interregeurope.com/casper)

  CASPER Interreg Europe

