



TIERRA·VIVA

(LIVING EARTH)

Rural community project to materialise an example of conscious, healthy and sustainable land management in Molinos (Maestrazgo, Teruel, Aragon, Spain).

A project of **Fundación GEA Gestión Territorial**
in collaboration with like-minded communities and entities.

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BACKGROUND

Molinos

It is a municipality in the region of Maestrazgo, in the north-east of the province of Teruel, Aragón, Spain.

Area of the municipality: 79,608942 km².

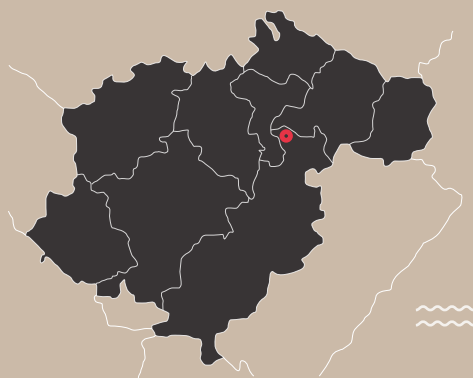
Location: 40° 49' 11" N 0° 27' 00" O

Altitude: 838 m.



Location of Molinos in Spain

Geologically, it is part of the Eastern Iberian Mountain Range, very close to the area of the link with the Coastal-Catalan Chain, right in the contact units between the Ebro depression and Gúdar-Maestrazgo mountain ranges. The **climate** is continental-Mediterranean, predominantly dry and sunny, and windy at certain times of the year.



Location of Molinos in the province of Teruel

Some demographic data:

2022 census population: 227 inhabitants

Permanent population: about 150 people

Population density: 3,08 inhab/km²

Ageing rate 2021: 372,73 %

Economic and Social Characteristics:

Molinos lives mainly from the livestock-agriculture, tourism, construction, hunting, services and care. The **sheep farming tradition** is a very important pillar in Molinos. Thanks to the discovery of the **Crystal Caves** (Grutas de Cristal), in the last 30 years tourism has been another fundamental axis.

The main challenge for Molinos and many other depopulated villages is **to fix and increase the population** by making attractive to come and live in the village, generating quality and decent work, facilitating access to housing and land for people, families and projects related to endogenous resources, and **reactivating the enthusiasm and pro-activity** of the people to revitalise a rich and diverse social, cultural and economic life.

With **renewed impulse**, Fundación Gea Gestión Territorial and local inhabitants, we want to embark on a new stage of strategic actions to halt depopulation, revitalise the social network, revitalise the economy and stop the negative impact projects that threaten us with the loss of environmental quality and rural identity.



**WE ARE FAR FROM THE MUNDANE NOISE AND FRENETIC URBAN MAELSTROM.
WE ARE CLOSE, VERY CLOSE, TO THE SILENCE AND CALM OF NATURE.**

Valdepuertas

It is a valley 4.5 km. from the village of Molinos, at an altitude of more than 1000m. Only 80 years ago it was known for its abundant springs, fruit trees and vegetables. With the emigration to the cities in the 70s and 80s, and the Community Agricultural Policies, the valley progressively lost its original richness. Today, only barley is grown for sheep on some of its terraces. Most of the springs have been lost, the ponds and irrigation ditches have been abandoned for decades.

In **2010** Neus Buira Ferré obtained 8 hectares of the valley to promote the **Q project** together with María Jesús San Llorente, initiating a human settlement in order to put ideas into practice and materialise **an example of effective sustainability**. Since then, Valdepuertas has been the only inhabited valley in the municipality. **Q center for experimentation** has been realising on a domestic scale a lifestyle that integrates **economy, ethics and spirituality**, three indispensable spheres for local and planetary sustainability. Since 2012 it has welcomed more than 650 people in volunteering, personal or group retreats, and visits of a few days, being a well-known reference and example of **ecology, degrowth and selfawareness**.

More than 12 years in Valdepuertas putting into practice and sustaining a way of living with a low environmental impact, is the baggage that Q centre brings to the Tierra Viva project.

www.qcentro.org



Fundación Gea Gestión Territorial

It was registered on 30 December 2022, even though it is a newborn entity, it benefits from the **wide and deep experience of its four founders**. Due to the problems faced by rural territories and the absence of coherent criteria and actions, arises the need to develop **a Territorial Management Model: Conscious** That acts for the common good, and therefore does not speculate nor becomes politicised.

Healthy That takes care of the natural balance, and therefore does not pollute or degrade.

Sustainable That adapts production to natural resources without depleting and regenerating them.

The Fundación GEA Gestión Territorial was created as a tool to empower, revalue, promote and defend the rural environment, providing holistic vision, methodology, analysis, criteria and strategies to address and solve the problems of the rural environment.

We offer a **holistic vision based on 6 essential TERRITORIAL AXES** to analyse, understand and deal with the problems of the rural world:

1) Population-Social network, 2) Endogenous resources, 3) Economy, 4) Services, 5) Culture and 6) Governance.

Fundación GEA Gestión Territorial has drafted, and currently directs and coordinates the project **"Vivo en Molinos, acciones ante la despoblación rural"** (I live in Molinos, actions against rural depopulation). Project presented by the Molinos Town Council to the subsidies of the General Directorate of Policies against Depopulation - **MITECO** (Ministerio de Transición Ecológica y Reto Demográfico), and which has been selected.

www.gea-gestionterritorial.org



RURAL COMMUNITY PROJECT

Idea

Rural community project to materialise an example of conscious, healthy and sustainable territorial management in Molinos (Maestrazgo, Teruel, Aragon, Spain).

What would happen if 20 people of different ages, nationalities, profiles and talents came to live in Molinos, one of the most depopulated villages in Spain and Europe (3'08 inhabitants/km²), with an ageing rate of over 360 %, and threatened by projects with a negative environmental impact? Responsible people, lovers of nature, the land and rural life, to consolidate a rural community and give new life to a valley, Valdepuertas, and to the village in general, gradually turning the municipality into a possible and tangible example of conscious, healthy and sustainable territorial management, cultural integration, social innovation and revaluation of everything that is authentic to the rural world.

What if due to the success of holistic management, **Molinos** inspired other villages and territories and became a **national and international reference in territorial management?**

Scepticism, apathy and pessimism would dissolve.

It would be **a renewal, a rebirth of the rural world.**

Tierra Viva is that attempt.

Through **international calls** we will look for 20 people with different ages, nationalities, profiles and talents, all of them related to the vision and mission of the Fundación GEA Gestión Territorial (Gea Territorial Management Foundation) and the purpose of Tierra Viva, **to create a rural community** capable of reversing depopulation and to promote, boost and develop a holistic management of the territory.

Criteria:

- Responsible and honest people, with a holistic vision or tendency.
- With a clear and firm decision to live in the countryside and create a community.
- Accepting the place, its geography and climate.
- With a desire to work the land and care for nature, regardless of the profession, talent and gift that each person offers to the community.
- With a spirit of cooperation, solidarity and entrepreneurship.
- With savings or economic solvency for the first 2 years and/or to promote and develop projects.
- With gifts and talents linked to the 7 areas of Tierra Viva.

The 7 areas of Tierra Viva are:



Conscious Economy

circular, regenerative, common good, good living, etc.

Food Sovereignty and Quality

agroecology, regenerative agriculture, permaculture, biodynamics, etc.

Bio-construction

bioclimatics, passivhaus, energy efficiency, certification of materials, etc.

Energy and Technological Sovereignty

creation and management of local energy communities, ethical and safe connectivity.

Holistic Education and Health

green pedagogy, forest classrooms, etc. and preventive, integrative medicine, etc.

Environmental Management, Law and Advocacy

environmental and landscape quality, preservation of biodiversity, legislation, etc.

Cultural Dynamisation

cultural events and productions, tangible and intangible heritage, etc.

The **Tierra Viva rural community** will start with a driving group, which will be joined by all the people and entities that, in line with the project, are committed to promoting a new stage in the village and in the territory.

Valdepuertas, a valley in the municipality, will initially be the **place for basic community learning about the management of natural resources** (maintenance of springs, ditches, ponds, water troughs, walls, paths and tracks; land and vegetable garden management, seed bank, preservation of biodiversity, etc.) **and area for experimentation** in food sovereignty and quality, bio-construction and environmental management. After the first 3 years and depending on the projects to be developed, other enclaves will be (re)activated. In parallel, **in the village of Molinos**, proposals for conscious economy, energy and technological sovereignty, holistic education and health, and cultural revitalisation will be promoted.

Purpose

Tierra Viva aims **to materialise an example of holistic territorial management, i.e. conscious, healthy and sustainable**, according to the 6 axes proposed by the Fundación Gea Gestión Territorial, **showing the authentic and vital sense of rural sovereignty** in this time of crisis, breakdown and change of paradigms.

Specific aims according to the 6 territorial axes:



1. Promote the **reactivation of the social network** and a balanced and harmonious **repopulation**.
2. To manage **endogenous resources**, natural and cultural, in a conscious, healthy and sustainable way.
3. To stimulate and develop **economic activities with a triple impact**: social, environmental and economic; with the consequent creation of **quality employment** and a **decent salary**.
4. Promote and achieve **quality services**: truthful information, education and integral health, social eco-housing, safe connectivity, social justice, energy and technological sovereignty, etc.
5. Promote a **transversal culture**, ancestral, traditional and contemporary, intergenerational and international.
6. Facilitate models of **cooperative participatory governance**, circular and non-pyramidal.



Who it benefits

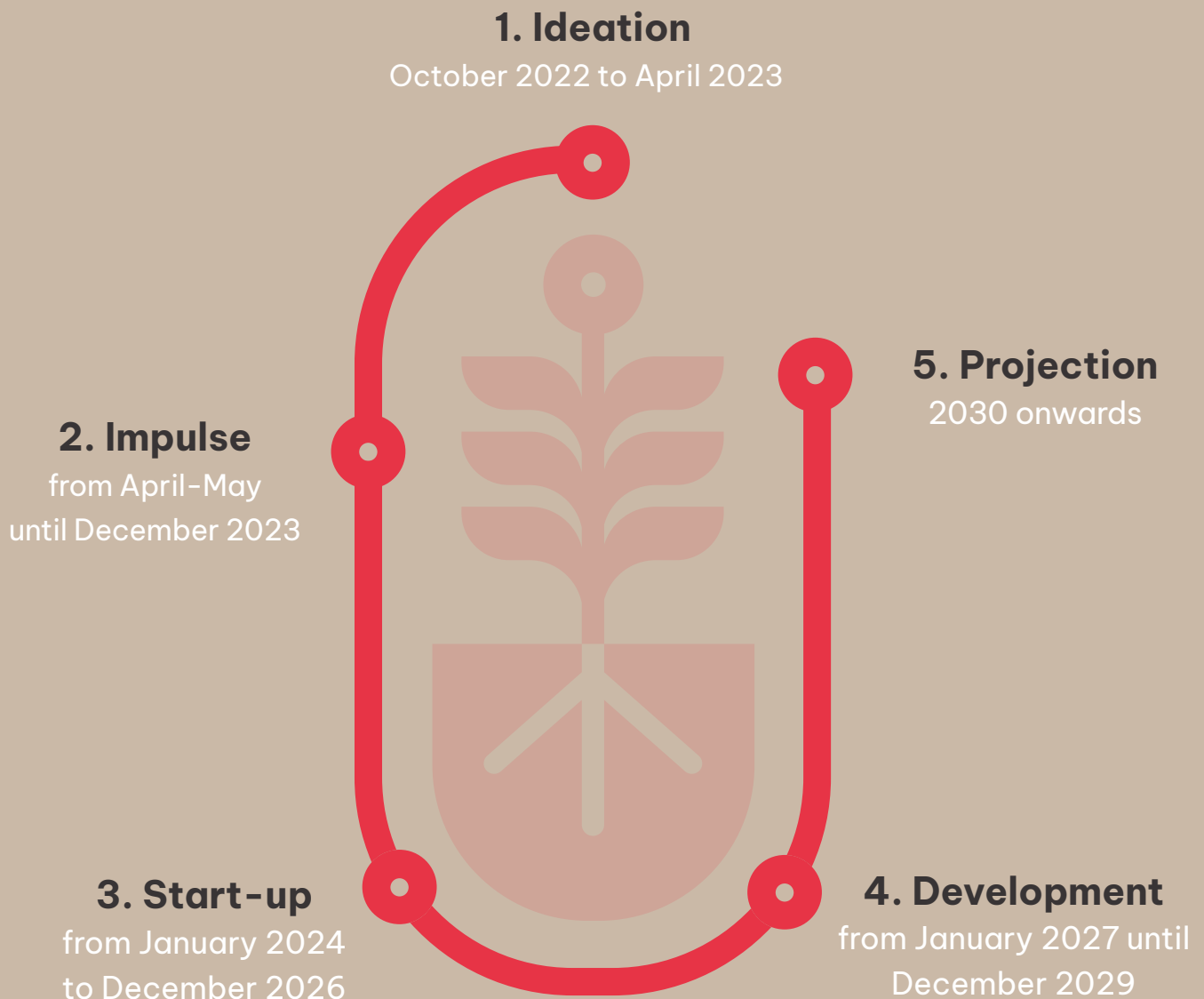
Tierra Viva benefits the inhabitants of Molinos, neighbouring municipalities and regions, and all people and entities that find in **Tierra Viva an opportunity to put into practice the values of a holistic social paradigm**. We aim to have a local impact with an international scope.

Collaborators

Tierra Viva relies on the **network of collaborators of Fundación Gea Gestión Territorial**, which is in the process of being expanded, **and** will establish **alliances** with related local, public and private entities, and also at provincial, regional, national, European and international levels.

Phases and Timetable

The project is planned in 5 phases, from October 2022 to 2030:



1. Ideation

- 22-23 October and 22-30 November 2022
Drafting of the **first draft**.
- November 2022
Approval of the idea by the trustees of the foundation.
- 13 February 2023

Approval of the idea by the Town Council* and the neighbourhood.

* On 28 May, in the municipal elections, there is a change of town council. On 1 August the new town council announced its rejection of the Tierra Viva project. We decided to continue given the encouragement of some neighbours, time will show if they come to their senses and are finally receptive.

- 14-28 February 2023
Drafting of the **second draft**.
- March-April 2023
Final drafting of the project and translation into English.

2. Impulse: 2023

- April
Graphic identity: logo, graphic design dossier and flyer.
- From 8 May to 8 August
Launch of the **First International Call**.
- June-20 August
Visits of interested people **and contact** with the participants of the 1st call.
- From 16 August to 29 September
Second Call and contact with new participants.
- August-October
Agreements for the cession of land in Valdepuertas.
- September-December
Creation of the driving group.
Co-creation of community foundations: individual and shared principles and values, governance, decisionmaking, crisis management, gifts and talents, working groups, charter of commitment, etc.; and planning of actions for the first year.
- October-December
Drafting of **projects** for **2024** and search for **funding**.

3. Start-up: 2024-2025-2026

During 3 years: schools-workshops, training courses, activities, events and projects to put into practice and experience the values linked to the purpose of Tierra Viva, facilitating a **holistic learning** and the **consolidation process of the community**.

- January-February 2024
Preliminary studies: analysis of the geographical, demographic, environmental, social, economic and cultural context and situation of Molinos and the territory in general.

- March 2024 to December 2026

Basic community learning on natural resource management:

- Care for water: springs, troughs, ditches and ponds.
- Recognition and preservation of biodiversity and its habitats.
- Learning to grow crops for self-consumption.
- Forest and firewood management.
- Maintenance of tracks, paths and trails.
- Reconstruction of dry-stone walls and huts.

Various seminars:

- Rural history.
- Learning from established rural communities: Sekem (Egypt), Findhorn (England), Siebenlinden (Germany), Terre et Humanisme (France), Lakabe (Spain), etc.
- Conscious leadership and co-leadership.
- Participatory and cooperative governance, systemic organisation. Education and integral health.
- Environmental, Pyrenean, customary law, etc.
- Food, energy, technological sovereignty, etc.
- Global visions: Permaculture, Degrowth, Social Triformation, Joining Visions, New Earth Manifesto, etc

Proyectos prácticos según áreas:

- Conscious Economy
- Food Sovereignty and Quality
- Bio-construction
- Energy and Technological Sovereignty
- Education and Holistic Health
- Environmental Management, Law and Advocacy
- Cultural Dynamisation

4. Development: 2027-2028-2029

Development of a holistic territorial management model that guarantees the **economic viability of the community and synergy, with local links** (municipal, county and inter-county) **fertile for the prosperity of the territory** in

general, through the diversification of services and products: agriculture, beekeeping, livestock, tourism, arts and crafts, bio-construction, care, facilitation, management, training, etc.

- **Development of projects** in Valdepuertas and in other areas of the municipality and in the village itself, supporting what already exists and what is to be activated and/or reactivated: crops for food sovereignty and quality, preserves, pickles, pâtés, bread, traditional organic livestock farming, cheese, wool felting, ecotourism (hiking, climbing, ornithological routes, etc.), wellbeing tourism, sky observatories, holistic health centre, pilot project for a rural school and university, etc.
- **Network** of producers, consumers, collaborators and intermediaries.
- Creation of a **quality brand**: Tierra Viva.

5. Projection: 2030 onwards

7 years later, the very state of Valdepuertas and of Molinos in general will be the obvious test **to assess the positive effects of the management carried out**. It is time to share the lessons learned and to inspire by example.

- **Ensuring** the economic viability and branding of Tierra Viva.
- **Transfer of experience, accompaniment and support** to other municipalities to promote holistic territorial management models according to their resources and custodians.
- **Network** of like-minded national and international projects.

Financing

Tierra Viva contemplates 4 ways of financing:

- Philanthropy
- Public entities
- Private entities
- Individuals and families linked to the rural community

TIERRA·VIVA

A rebirth of the rural environment.

A return to the land that recovers
the very meaning of our human existence.

For a conscious, healthy and sustainable rurality.

