

In a nutshell

INSPIRE promotes wellbeing and inclusion for people living in European rural areas, through research, policy solutions and pilot interventions. It analyses social inclusion and access to social services in rural areas and provides capacity-building on social entrepreneurship to rural citizens, with an extra focus on vulnerable groups. Smart Village Labs in seven pilot areas empower the local community and promote social entrepreneurship.

Project objectives

- 1 To provide an understanding of what social inclusion is and its trends and challenges in rural areas through research that includes hard-to-reach populations.
- 2 To map and benchmark (social) service policies, initiatives, and social economy models to assess their potential and limitations, informing policies through a "Services and Social Economy Atlas on Rural Empowerment".
- 3 To enhance existing governance frameworks for social inclusion and social economy in rural areas, through Smart Village Labs.
- 4 To co-develop, pilot and evaluate social economy solutions for social inclusion and better service access in rural areas.
- 5 To provide policymakers with research tools and policy recommendations in a Guidebook on social inclusion, service access of vulnerable groups and rural social economy.

PROJECT PARTNERS

	White Research SRL white-research.eu (Coordinator) Belgium
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	University of Barcelona web.ub.edu Spain
	South East European Research Centre www.seerc.org Greece
	Czech University of Life Sciences Prague WWW.CZU.CZ Czechia
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	Social Economy Europe ASBL www.socialeconomy.eu.org Belgium
	The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities easped.eu Belgium
	European Social Network www.esn-eu.org Belgium
	European Network of Migrant Women www.migrantwomennetwork.org Belgium
	PEDAL Consulting s.r.o. www.pedal-consulting.eu Slovakia
	European Rural Development Network erdn.eu Poland
	MedINA – Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos med-ina.org Greece
	L'ADAPT www.ladapt.net France
	The Wheel www.wheel.ie Ireland
	ROMONTANA www.romontana.org Romania
	Q-PLAN International Advisors PC www.qplan-intl.gr Greece
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inspire
SMART VILLAGE LABS

**Supporting the inclusion,
well-being, and growth
of rural areas
through multi-actor
Smart Village labs*
for enhanced governance
frameworks**



* **Smart Village labs** are physical and virtual places that promote social inclusion through user innovation and social entrepreneurship, based on a participatory approach and the use of digital technologies.

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Stakeholders

OR WHO COULD BENEFIT
FROM THE PROJECT

The key stakeholders for sharing the project's results are categorised as follows:



Groups in a vulnerable situation, including migrants, minorities, elderly people, women, people with disabilities, employees in the informal sector



Public sector, regional and local authorities and public services



Academia



Private sector, social enterprises, local SMEs, private service providers and designers



EU-wide stakeholders, EU policymakers and EU-funded projects



Civil society

PROJECT IDENTITY

Project Title: Supporting the inclusion, well-being, and growth of rural areas through multi-actor Smart Village labs for enhanced governance frameworks

Grant Agreement No: 101136592

Start: 1 October 2024

Duration: 36 months

Budget: € 4,999,991.25

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Project Methodology

INSPIRE envisions to support the sustainable development of rural areas in Europe through a three core interrelated phases methodology:

1. MAPPING PHASE

Researching (i) social inclusion and marginalisation in European rural areas on a micro, meso and macro level and (ii) social economy and delivery of services in European rural areas.

2. PILOT INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES PHASE

Developing the Smart Village labs to support bottom-up community engagement, governance frameworks and social entrepreneurship, and to offer capacity building to rural citizens and mentoring to breakthrough social economy ideas.

3. SUSTAINABILITY PHASE

Initiating a discussion with policy public authorities on inclusive rural governance through a policy Network of Interest and equipping policy makers with tools: a Replication guidebook and a Rural Social Inclusion Policy Dashboard.

INSPIRE Pilot Cases

INSPIRE sets up Smart Village labs in seven pilot areas to:

Support social inclusion and participatory governance through E-Democracy tools, boosting participatory democracy, connecting all key stakeholders and empowering rural dwellers and vulnerable groups towards decision-making.

Offer EU-wide and localised capacity building for upskilling and empowerment of rural populations, supporting entrepreneurial initiatives developed in the framework of the project and assisting the labs' transition into "Smart Villages" and the participatory and digital upgrade of the pilot areas governance frameworks.

1. KOSICE REGION, SLOVAKIA

PTVG: disabled persons, young disabled people, elderly people, and Roma people

2. LUBELSKIE PROVINCE, POLAND

PTVG: people working in agriculture, women and Ukrainian refugees

3. KYTHERA ISLAND, GREECE

PTVG: unemployed youth

4. KONITSA MUNICIPALITY, GREECE

PTVG: ethnic minorities-refugees, unemployed youths elderly people

5. BOURGOGNE FRANCHE-COMTÉ, FRANCE

PTVG: people with disabilities

6. EASTERN & MIDLANDS REGION, IRELAND

PTVG: elderly, young unemployed persons, and migrants

7. SUCEAVA AND MARAMURES, ROMANIA

PTVG: elders, youths and ethnic minorities of Ukrainians, Ruthenians, and Hutsuls

***PTVG:** Potentially targeted vulnerable groups

- Traditional rural territory
- Island/coastal territory
- Mountainous territory
- Peri-urban territory

