



inspire
SMART VILLAGE LABS

D6.7 Practice Abstracts – Batch 1

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Executive Summary

This deliverable (D6.7) presents the first batch of Practice Abstracts (PAs) developed within the INSPIRE project. The objective of the Practice Abstracts is to translate key research results of the project into concise, practice-oriented, and actionable knowledge tailored to rural stakeholders, including policymakers, practitioners, and social economy actors.

Batch 1 includes two Practice Abstracts based on core INSPIRE outputs:

1. The territorial typology of European rural areas, developed under WP1, which provides a structured understanding of rural diversity and social inclusion dynamics,
2. The Services and Social Economy Atlas on Rural Empowerment, developed under WP2, which maps and analyses social services, initiatives, and social economy models across Europe.

The Practice Abstracts have been developed following the EIP-AGRI / EU CAP Network format to ensure accessibility, usability, and dissemination through European knowledge-sharing platforms. The process included the preparation of a common template and guidelines, drafting by responsible partners (UB and ESN), and editorial review and refinement coordinated by ERDN to ensure clarity, simplicity, and practical relevance. The two outputs presented in D6.7 are expected to be uploaded as standalone practice abstracts to the [relevant section of EU CAP Network website](#) for dissemination and policy uptake.

The deliverable contributes to the broader objective of INSPIRE to enhance the uptake of project results by translating complex research findings into user-friendly outputs that can support decision-making, policy design, and implementation of social inclusion strategies in rural areas.

This document consolidates the final versions of the Practice Abstracts under Batch 1 and supports their dissemination at European level through established networks and platforms.

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List of Terms and Definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
EC	European Commission
EIP-AGRI	European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability
ERDN	European Rural Development Network
ESN	European Social Network
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
PA	Practice Abstract
WP	Work Package
UB	University of Barcelona

1. Introduction

The INSPIRE project aims to promote social inclusion, wellbeing, and resilience in European rural areas through a combination of research, pilot activities, and policy-oriented outputs. Within this framework, Work Package 6 focuses on communication, dissemination, and exploitation of project results, ensuring their effective uptake by relevant stakeholders.

In this context, Task 6.1 is dedicated to the development of Practice Abstracts (PAs), which serve as concise and practice-oriented outputs, translating key project findings into actionable knowledge. The main objective of the Practice Abstracts is to support rural stakeholders, including policymakers, practitioners, and social economy actors, in understanding and applying INSPIRE results in real-life contexts.

Deliverable D6.7 presents the first batch of Practice Abstracts (Batch 1), which are based on core outputs of the project developed under Work Packages 1 and 2. These include the territorial typology of European rural areas and the Services and Social Economy Atlas on Rural Empowerment. The selected topics reflect key analytical and mapping results of the project, with strong relevance for addressing social inclusion challenges in rural areas.

The Practice Abstracts are developed following the EIP-AGRI / EU CAP Network format, ensuring consistency with European dissemination standards and facilitating their integration into EU-wide knowledge-sharing platforms.

This deliverable is structured as follows:

- Section 1 provides an introduction to the purpose and scope of the document.
- Section 2 presents the Practice Abstract on the territorial typology of EU rural areas.
- Section 3 presents the Practice Abstract on the Services and Social Economy Atlas on Rural Empowerment.

The Practice Abstracts are included in their original format to ensure consistency with the EIP-AGRI requirements and to preserve their usability for dissemination and uptake by end-users.

2. Practice Abstract – Territorial typology of EU rural areas

2.1 Title of the Practice Abstract

“Territorial typology of EU rural areas to identify local needs and support tailored actions for social inclusion”

2.2 Problem / Challenge addressed

Rural areas across Europe face very different challenges related to social inclusion, access to essential services, demographic change and local capacities. Despite this diversity, policies and support measures are often designed using uniform approaches that do not reflect territorial specificities. As a result, local authorities, service providers and community organisations lack practical tools to understand the real situation of their territories and to design targeted, evidence-based actions. This reduces the effectiveness of interventions aimed at improving wellbeing and reducing social exclusion in rural areas.

2.3 Solution / Approach developed

INSPIRE developed a territorial typology of rural areas that identifies different profiles of social inclusion, vulnerability and resilience across Europe. The typology brings together information on access to essential services, demographic trends, social participation and governance conditions to create clear and comparable territorial profiles. It works as a practical decision-support tool that helps local and regional actors understand their territory, compare it with similar areas and design actions adapted to local needs. The typology is integrated into policy support tools, such as the Rural Social Inclusion Policy Dashboard, and supports the planning of Smart Village Lab activities for inclusive social services and social economy ecosystems in rural areas.

2.4 Main results and practical lessons

1. Rural policies are more effective when adapted to territorial profiles rather than administrative borders. Different types of rural areas require different responses.
2. Social exclusion in rural areas is multidimensional and needs integrated solutions. Access to services, mobility, digital connectivity and social participation should be addressed together.
3. Local resilience and social cohesion are important assets. Communities with strong social networks can build on these strengths to improve inclusion and wellbeing.
4. Territorial data helps prioritise actions and investments. Using typologies supports better targeting of resources where impact can be greatest.
5. Civic engagement indicators can help identify emerging vulnerabilities. Low participation or disengagement may signal the need for additional inclusion efforts.

2.5 Expected impact / Benefits for end users

The territorial typology supports more inclusive and place-based rural development by enabling better informed decision-making. Local authorities and service providers can design more targeted policies and services, Smart Village Labs can adapt interventions to local conditions, and community organisations can better identify priorities for action. In the long term, this contributes to improved access to services, stronger social inclusion and more resilient rural communities. The approach can be applied in different rural contexts and reused by policymakers and practitioners beyond the INSPIRE project.

2.6 Keywords (5–10)

Rural development; Social inclusion; Territorial typology; Access to services; Smart Villages; Rural resilience; Territorial analysis; Service provision; Social economy.

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2.9 Link to INSPIRE outputs

[Regional typology of EU rural areas on social exclusion](#)

3. Practice Abstract – Services and Social Economy Atlas

3.1 Title of the Practice Abstract

“Services and Social Economy Atlas on Rural Empowerment to help rural actors identify, transfer and adapt inclusive solutions for social services”

3.2 Problem / Challenge addressed

Rural communities and local service providers often struggle to identify proven, transferable solutions for social inclusion and social economy in rural settings, in particular for people in vulnerable situations. Good practices on social services exist across Europe, but information is scattered, difficult to compare and rarely presented in a structured way that supports replication. This makes it harder for local authorities, NGOs and practitioners to design place-sensitive services, choose workable models and learn from peers.

3.3 Solution / Approach developed

The Services and Social Economy Atlas on Rural Empowerment is a searchable EU-wide collection of social inclusion services and social economy initiatives in rural areas. It helps policymakers and practitioners to quickly identify solutions that match their territorial context and target groups. Each case includes key information (e.g., location, rural area type, target group, sector and delivery model) and can be explored via map, list and downloadable summaries. The Atlas is designed to support comparison and transferability checks, making it easier to adapt good practices to similar rural settings.

3.4 Main results and practical lessons

1. The Atlas helps local actors identify relevant and transferable solutions.

By structuring information by rural area types, target groups and service domains, and in connection with the INSPIRE typology hosted on the same platform, the Atlas supports practitioners and decision-makers in identifying initiatives that address similar challenges in comparable rural contexts.

2. Successful social inclusion and social economy initiatives rely on strong local coordination.

Cases included in the Atlas show that effective social service delivery often depend on cooperation between local authorities, service providers, social economy actors and community organisations, rather than on single actors working in isolation.

3. Transferability requires adaptation, not direct replication.

The Atlas highlights key contextual factors such as governance, funding and partnerships, helping users assess which elements of a solution can be adapted to their own local setting.

3.5 Expected impact / Benefits for end users

The Atlas is primarily addressed to local and regional authorities, service providers, NGOs and social economy actors working in rural areas, as well as practitioners supporting vulnerable groups.

The Atlas supports place-based decision-making by enabling these actors to identify and adapt proven models from across rural Europe. It increases visibility of social inclusion and social economy initiatives, supports peer learning and replication, and helps actors build partnerships. Over time, this can contribute to better targeted and more accessible services for vulnerable groups and a stronger territorial perspective in rural and social policies.

3.6 Keywords (5–10)

Rural development; Social inclusion; Social services; Social economy; Service provision; Community empowerment; Governance; Smart Villages.

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3.9 Link to INSPIRE outputs

[Social Services and Social Economy Atlas](#)

[Deliverables – Inspire Project](#)

4. Conclusions

This deliverable presented the first batch of Practice Abstracts developed within the INSPIRE project, focusing on translating key research outputs into concise and actionable knowledge for rural stakeholders.

The two Practice Abstracts included in this document address core project results, namely the territorial typology of European rural areas and the Services and Social Economy Atlas on Rural Empowerment. These outputs provide practical insights that can support policy design, service provision, and social economy development in rural contexts.

By adopting the EIP-AGRI / EU CAP Network format, the Practice Abstracts ensure accessibility, usability, and wide dissemination across European platforms. This contributes to enhancing the uptake and impact of INSPIRE results beyond the consortium.

Further Practice Abstracts will be developed in the next phase of the project (Batch 2), building on additional results and pilot activities, with the aim of further strengthening the practical relevance and policy contribution of INSPIRE.



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