



inspire
SMART VILLAGE LABS

Project overview

PRESENTER: Thomas Bakratsas

14/01/2025 | Virtual validation workshop



PARTNERS





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Project information



INSPIRE | Project information



Title: Supporting the wellbeing, inclusion and growth of rural areas through multi-actor smart villages labs for enhanced governance frameworks



Call: HORIZON-CL6-2023-COMMUNITIES-01-1 – Enhancing social inclusion in rural areas: focus on people in a vulnerable situation and social economy



Funding scheme: RIA – Research and Innovation Action



Duration: 1 October 2024 (M1) – 30 September 2027 (M36)



Total budget: 4,999,991.25€



Project Coordinator: White Research (WR)



Project partnership



INSPIRE | Partnership

18 partners | 11 countries



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA



KOÇ
UNIVERSITY



rijksuniversiteit
 groningen





INSPIRE | Partnership

Experts on social inclusion



Project Coordinator



Experts on social economy



Dissemination manager



Experts on social services



Digital research and tools experts



rijksuniversiteit
 groningen



Networks for engagement



Environmental experts



Pilot partners





Concept and approach



INSPIRE | Concept

A dire need for policy makers to address long-standing issues of social exclusion, vulnerability, and marginalisation that people in vulnerable situation face in EU rural areas

→ **Significant potential for social enterprises to act as vehicles of social services for social integration**

- **INSPIRE's central rationale is that by boosting the opportunities and development of social economy in a range of European rural areas, we will deliver user-centred and inclusive social services for marginalised groups, thus contributing to countering social exclusion.**
- **Main elements of concept:**
 - ❖ European rural areas experience population decline, economic shrinkage and poor-quality infrastructures and delivery of services.
 - ❖ Rural areas are home of a multitude of vulnerable groups.
 - ❖ Measuring social exclusion in rural areas to provide evidence-based policy interventions, remains challenging.
 - ❖ Social economy (SE) and entrepreneurship are a promising vehicle for sustainable socioeconomic development in rural Europe.

INSPIRE | Concept

- Three main ingredients:



By addressing holistically these three pillars, the project contributes to the integration of people in vulnerable situation and counters social exclusion. Unlocking the potential of local social enterprises is both a means and an end, since a strong social economy ecosystem can address gaps in social services delivery and therefore facilitate the inclusion of marginalised groups.



Specific objectives



INSPIRE | Specific objectives



Provide a **thorough understanding of social inclusion concept, trends and challenges** in rural areas by merging advanced and traditional **complementary research methodologies** to integrate hard-to- reach populations and tackle current research limitations.



Mapping, analysing, and benchmarking (social) service programmes, policies and initiatives, as well as SE and social entrepreneurial models to understand advantages, potential and limitation and to deliver a **Services and Social Economy Atlas on Rural Empowerment for policy support**.



Enhance existing governance frameworks for social inclusion and social economy in rural areas by **establishing Smart Village Labs for multi-actor engagement** and user innovation.



Identify, co-develop, pilot and evaluate novel social economy solutions for enhancing social inclusion and economic prosperity in rural areas through better access to quality services.



Equip policy makers with research and implementation tools (e.g., user-innovation methods, modules, E-Democracy tools) and policy recommendations towards the support of social inclusion, access of vulnerable groups in services and uptake of rural SE through a **dedicated Guidebook**.



Pilot cases



INSPIRE | Pilot cases

7 complementary pilot cases across Europe

Our pilot areas consider different forms of “rurality”

- Traditional rural: Kosice, Eastern and Midland Regions, Lubelskie
- Island/coastal: Kythera
- Peri-urban: Bourgogne
- Mountainous: Konitsa, Maramures and Suceava





Questions & Answers

White Research SRL

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CONTACT: coming soon

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