



RURBANIVE
RURAL · URBAN · IMMERSIVENESS

RURal-uRBAN synergies emerged in an immersIVE innovation ecosystem

D2.2 RUCL Stakeholder Identification and Engagement Plan

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Executive Summary

This report outlines the stakeholder mapping, analysis and engagement strategy developed under Task 2.2 (Stakeholder recruitment and engagement, SSH involvement) of the RURBANIVE project, which serves as a critical foundation for achieving the project's overarching goal and stakeholder engagement activities. The deliverable presents the methodology for identifying, recruiting, and engaging stakeholders across seven Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs (RUCLs), so as to address unique regional challenges and opportunities. Task 2.2 focuses on creating an inclusive and adaptive stakeholder engagement framework that aligns with the broader objectives of Task 2.3 (Experimentation and Innovation in the RUCLs) and Task 2.4 (Capacity Building for Stakeholder Empowerment). Through a combination of stakeholder mapping, tailored engagement pathways, and iterative feedback mechanisms, the report demonstrates how the project shall ensure continuous collaboration and alignment with regional and thematic priorities. The report provides an analysis of the pilot-specific engagement strategies for each RUCL:

- **Burgos Province (Spain):** Focuses on enhancing sustainable cultural heritage preservation through multi-level stakeholder collaboration.
- **Prague Suchdol (Czech Republic):** Develops innovative approaches to agri-food value chains using strong feedback-driven methodologies.
- **Lower Austria (Austria):** Advances circular bioeconomy solutions by engaging stakeholders in biomass management and eco-innovation.
- **Kedainiai (Lithuania):** Aligns policy frameworks with regional development goals to foster sustainable business development in the agri-food sector.
- **South Aegean Region (Greece):** Promotes sustainable agricultural practices and tourism while addressing biodiversity conservation and cultural landscape integration.
- **Trikala (Greece):** Tackles mobility challenges through co-creation of innovative transport solutions that bridge urban and rural areas.
- **Lemgo (Germany):** Fosters innovation in urban-rural connectivity through smart city solutions and community-driven approaches.

The engagement strategy relies on the quadruple helix model, incorporating perspectives from academia, industry, government, and civil society. Stakeholder participation shall be facilitated through workshops, policy dialogues, co-design sessions, and digital tools such as XR applications (Task 4.2) and the Community of Practice Suite (Task 6.2). These activities ensure that stakeholder input will be continuously integrated into the co-creation process, fostering ownership and scalability of project outcomes. The report also highlights the challenges and opportunities encountered during the stakeholder engagement process, such as balancing diverse interests, ensuring policy alignment, and leveraging local knowledge

for scalable solutions. Lessons learned emphasize the importance of dynamic stakeholder re-mapping, iterative feedback loops, and tailored engagement methods to address the specific needs of each RUCL. Looking forward, the report outlines the next steps in stakeholder engagement, including advanced experimentation (Task 2.3) and capacity-building activities (Task 2.4). These efforts aim to equip stakeholders with the tools and skills necessary to sustain and scale RURBANIVE's innovative solutions beyond the project's lifecycle.

Table of Contents

1 Introduction	10
1.1 Stakeholder engagement and its role in WP2 “Rural/Urban Co-creation labs, experimentation and capacity building”	10
2 Effective Stakeholder Engagement	12
2.1 Co-Creation and Pathways of Engagement	12
2.2 Lessons to Be Considered	13
2.3 Cross-Sectoral Collaboration	14
3 Methodology: Stakeholder Engagement, Co-Creation, and Integration with Policy Tools	16
3.1 Stakeholder Mapping and Typology	16
3.2 Pathways of Engagement	16
3.3 Iterative Feedback Mechanisms	17
3.4 Workshop Documentation Framework	17
3.5 Integration with Policy Tools: Task 6.2 - Develop policy tools that will leverage potential synergies of the key actors to promote innovative urban-rural practices	18
3.6 Stakeholder Engagement Levels and Project Obligations	18
4 Pilot-Specific Engagement Strategies	20
4.1 ES-RUCL – Burgos Province	20
4.2 CZ-RUCL – Prague Suchdol	23
4.3 AT-RUCL – Lower Austria	28
4.4 LT-RUCL – Kedainiai	41
4.5 ELM-RUCL – Milos Island	51
4.6 ELT-RUCL – City of Trikala	55
4.8 GE-RUCL – City of Lemgo	60
4.9 Pilot-Specific Engagement Strategies and project alignment	65
4.9.1 ES-RUCL – Burgos Province – CARTIF	65
4.9.2 CZ-RUCL – Prague Suchdol – CZU	65
4.9.3 AT-RUCL – Lower Austria – ALCHEMIA and BIOBASE	66
4.9.4 LT-RUCL – Kedainiai – AFL and KDM	66
4.9.5 ELM-RUCL – South Aegean Region – IMERYYS, SAR and AUA	66
4.9.6 ELT-RUCL – City of Trikala – TRIKALA and ICCS	67
4.9.7 GE-RUCL – City of Lemgo – ICL and ICCS	67
5 Implementation Plan	68
5.1 Phase 1: Stakeholder Mapping	68
5.2 Phase 2: Recruitment Campaigns	68
5.3 Phase 3: Co-Creation and Initial Capacity Building	68
5.4 Phase 4: Dynamic Re-Mapping and Advanced Experimentation	69
5.5 Phase 5: Final Demonstrations and Capacity Consolidation	69
6 Conclusions and future actions	70
6.1 Future Work	70
6.1.1 Promoting Knowledge Sharing and Replicability	70
6.1.2 Monitoring and Evaluating Impact	71
6.1.3 Fostering a Legacy of Collaboration	71
7 References	72

List of Tables

Table 1 - Stakeholder Engagement and Project obligations	19
Table 2 - CZ-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table	25
Table 3 - AT-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table	31
Table 4 - LT-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table.....	43
Table 5 - ELM-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table.....	53
Table 6 - ELT-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table	58
Table 7 - GE-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table.....	63

List of Terms and Abbreviations

Term/Abbreviation	Meaning
COC	Cognitive Computing
CoP	Communities of Practice
CoPS	Community of Practice Suite
MRP	Municipal-Regional Partnerships
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RUCL	Rural-Urban Co-creation Lab
RUE	Rural-Urban Enablers
SSH	Social Sciences and Humanities
T2.3	The third task of the second work package
WP	Work Package
XR	Extended Reality

1 Introduction

The RURBANIVE project envisions a transformative approach to redefining rural-urban interactions through the establishment of Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs (RUCLs). These labs are designed as dynamic hubs of collaboration, bringing together diverse stakeholders from academia, government, industry, and civil society. The current report serves as a guide to identifying, recruiting, and engaging stakeholders, ensuring their meaningful participation in the project's objectives. By prioritizing inclusivity and active engagement, the project aims to empower participants to co-create innovative solutions tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities of each pilot region.

Stakeholder engagement is central to achieving RURBANIVE's vision. RURBANIVE's approach integrates adaptive and tailored engagement methodologies that emphasize responsiveness to regional contexts. These methodologies include structured processes like dynamic stakeholder mapping, iterative engagement strategies, and region-specific pathways for collaboration. Through these mechanisms, the RUCLs act as innovation hubs that bring together diverse voices to shape transformative outcomes.

The overarching goal of RURBANIVE is to create lasting synergies between rural and urban areas, fostering socio-economic cohesion and promoting sustainable development across Europe. This deliverable outlines the roadmap for achieving these objectives, detailing the critical role of stakeholder engagement in driving collaboration, experimentation, and empowerment. By aligning the needs and contributions of stakeholders with the project's mission, RURBANIVE ensures that its approach is both inclusive and impactful.

1.1 Stakeholder engagement and its role in WP2 “Rural/Urban Co-creation labs, experimentation and capacity building”

The progress of the RURBANIVE project is built on the effective coordination of its key tasks, with Task 2.2 – “*Stakeholder Recruitment and Engagement, SSH Involvement*” providing an important step. This task focuses on bringing together a diverse and inclusive network of stakeholders from governance, academia, industry, and civil society, often referred to as the quadruple helix. By identifying and involving these groups, Task 2.2 lays the groundwork for collaboration to address rural-urban challenges.

Task 2.3 – “*Experimentation and Innovation in the Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs (RUCLs)*” builds on the outcomes of Task 2.2. It emphasizes experimentation and

innovation in RUCLs by drawing on stakeholder insights, perspectives, and priorities. Through co-creation workshops, scenario-building activities, and iterative feedback, stakeholders collaboratively design and refine solutions tailored to local and regional needs. This task translates the engagement approach facilitated by Task 2.2 into practical outcomes, supporting the development of rural-urban ecosystems.

Task 2.4 – “Capacity Building for Stakeholder Empowerment” relies on the outputs of Task 2.2 to inform its design. Stakeholder mapping, needs assessments, and engagement results are used to create tailored capacity-building programs, including workshops and training sessions. These initiatives aim to address specific knowledge and skill gaps, empowering stakeholders to actively contribute to and sustain the co-creation processes initiated in Task 2.3.

Together, these tasks form a cohesive framework for stakeholder engagement, innovation, and empowerment. Task 2.2 initiates the process by building the stakeholder network, Task 2.3 leverages this network for co-creation and experimentation, and Task 2.4 equips stakeholders with the capacity to sustain and expand the project’s activities. This integrated approach positions the RUCLs as collaborative hubs for addressing rural-urban challenges, contributing to inclusive and sustainable development. This deliverable underscores the interdependence of these tasks in advancing RURBANIVE’s objectives.

2 Effective Stakeholder Engagement

In the context of the RURBANIVE project, stakeholder engagement is both a methodology and a goal, aimed at fostering inclusive decision-making and co-creation processes that deliver actionable and sustainable solutions. By integrating established theoretical frameworks and tailored engagement practices, RURBANIVE ensures that its approach is both rigorous and adaptable to the specific needs of its pilot regions.

RURBANIVE's approach is underpinned by two key frameworks: Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation and the Quadruple Helix Model. Arnstein's (1969) ladder categorizes stakeholder engagement into eight levels, ranging from non-participatory approaches, such as information dissemination, to full empowerment, where stakeholders exercise control over decision-making. By advancing stakeholder engagement beyond consultation to co-creation and shared ownership, RURBANIVE aligns with contemporary best practices in participatory innovation (Fung, 2006). This progression ensures that stakeholders transition from passive recipients of information to active contributors, driving the co-creation of Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs).

The Quadruple Helix Model complements this by emphasizing collaboration across four key sectors: academia, government, industry, and civil society (Carayannis & Campbell, 2009). Each sector brings unique insights and resources that enrich the co-creation process. Academia offers research-based solutions and methodological rigor, government institutions provide policy alignment and regulatory frameworks, industry stakeholders contribute technological and practical expertise, and civil society ensures that solutions address grassroots concerns and community needs. By leveraging these diverse perspectives, RURBANIVE creates a holistic framework for innovation that is both comprehensive and inclusive.

Together, these models form a robust foundation for RURBANIVE's stakeholder engagement strategy, fostering transformative rural-urban synergies through participatory innovation.

2.1 Co-Creation and Pathways of Engagement

Co-creation lies at the heart of RURBANIVE's stakeholder engagement approach, emphasizing collaboration, inclusivity, and shared ownership of outcomes. To operationalize this, the project employs tailored engagement pathways that address the diverse needs and capacities of its stakeholders while fostering mutual learning and dialogue.

Communities of Practice (CoPs) are central to RURBANIVE's engagement strategy. These networks provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge, build capacity, and collaborate on shared objectives (Wenger, 1998). CoPs ensure sustained interaction and foster a sense of collective responsibility among participants, particularly in areas requiring continuous innovation and adaptation.

Municipal-Regional Partnerships (MRPs), part or segment of the RURBANIVE CopS which will be established, serve as a bridge between local and regional stakeholders, facilitating the alignment of local initiatives with broader territorial objectives (Eversole, 2010). By connecting municipal leaders, regional planners, and other actors, MRPs promote scalability and coherence, ensuring that the solutions developed within RUCLs are both context-sensitive and regionally integrated.

Participatory tools and digital platforms further enhance stakeholder engagement by enabling immersive and interactive experiences. For instance, XR campaigns and digital tools provide innovative means of participation, allowing stakeholders to visualize complex scenarios and contribute to solution design. These tools are particularly effective in engaging stakeholders who may otherwise face barriers to participation, such as geographic distance or time constraints (Bonsu et al., 2021).

Through these pathways, RURBANIVE ensures that stakeholder engagement is not only effective but also adaptive to the unique needs of its pilot regions. This adaptability is critical for addressing the diverse challenges and opportunities inherent in rural-urban interactions.

2.2 Lessons to Be Considered

The RURBANIVE project integrates several lessons to ensure that its stakeholder engagement strategy is flexible, inclusive, and impactful. These lessons draw on existing literature and practical experiences from similar initiatives, emphasizing the importance of iterative and stakeholder-centric approaches.

Dynamic re-mapping throughout the project period and even after the completion of Task 2.2, is a key lesson and a guarantee on behalf of Task 2.2, ensuring that stakeholder profiles are regularly updated to reflect changes in interests, roles, and levels of influence (Reed et al., 2009). This process allows the project to remain responsive to evolving stakeholder needs and priorities, ensuring that engagement strategies remain relevant and effective.

Tailored engagement methods are another critical component. Different stakeholder typologies require distinct approaches to maximize their participation and contributions. For example, industry stakeholders benefit from workshops and demonstrations that explore tangible innovations, while citizens engage more

effectively through participatory events and focus groups that prioritize community perspectives. Policymakers require structured discussions and policy briefs to align project outcomes with governance frameworks, while academia thrives in collaborative research workshops that integrate theoretical rigor with practical applications (Bryson et al., 2013).

Iterative feedback mechanisms are integral to ensuring that engagement is both stakeholder-driven and outcome-oriented. Continuous feedback loops enable stakeholders to influence the co-creation process at every stage, fostering trust and enhancing the relevance of project outputs (Chambers, 1994). This approach ensures that stakeholder contributions are not only valued but also directly shape the outcomes of the project.

Cross-sectoral collaboration across the quadruple helix groups further enriches the engagement process. Partnerships between academia and industry drive technological innovations, while collaborations with civil society and policymakers ensure social and governance alignment. This integration of perspectives is essential for developing comprehensive and sustainable solutions to rural-urban challenges.

2.3 Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

Collaboration across academia, government, industry, and civil society is at the core of RURBANIVE's approach to stakeholder engagement. This cross-sectoral model ensures that diverse perspectives are and should be integrated into the co-creation process, leading to innovative and holistic solutions. By fostering partnerships between these groups, RURBANIVE shall build a resilient ecosystem for innovation that addresses the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of rural-urban interactions.

For instance, collaborations between academic researchers and industry professionals facilitate the development of advanced technological solutions, such as XR-based tools for mobility and sustainability. Simultaneously, partnerships with civil society organizations ensure that these solutions are grounded in community needs and values, enhancing their social relevance and acceptance. Policymakers play a crucial role in aligning these innovations with regulatory frameworks, ensuring their scalability and long-term impact.

The integration of these lessons and frameworks into RURBANIVE's stakeholder engagement strategy ensures that the project promotes inclusivity and diversity across all RUCLs. By addressing the specific challenges and opportunities of rural-urban synergies, the project fosters sustainable and scalable solutions that are co-created with stakeholders. This participatory approach not only enhances the relevance and

impact of project outcomes but also establishes RURBANIVE as a model for innovation and collaboration in rural-urban development.

RURBANIVE's engagement strategy is driven by three primary objectives. First, the project seeks to develop an inclusive stakeholder ecosystem that represents the quadruple helix groups. This diversity is essential for fostering collaboration and addressing the unique challenges of rural-urban interactions. Second, RURBANIVE aims to promote iterative engagement by employing dynamic tools and feedback mechanisms. This ensures continuous stakeholder involvement and enables the project to adapt its strategies based on real-time input, maximizing impact and relevance. Finally, the project leverages best practices such as MRPs and CoPs to build on established success stories, tailoring these methodologies to the specific needs of its pilot regions.

By achieving these objectives, RURBANIVE ensures that its stakeholder engagement strategy is both effective and sustainable, creating lasting impacts across its pilot regions and contributing to transformative rural-urban synergies.

3 Methodology: Stakeholder Engagement, Co-Creation, and Integration with Policy Tools

The methodology for stakeholder engagement and co-creation in RURBANIVE is designed to address the complexities of rural-urban synergies by employing iterative, evidence-based frameworks that prioritize inclusivity, adaptability, and sustainability. By integrating the objectives of Tasks 2.2, 2.3, and 6.2, the methodology ensures that stakeholder engagement is not just a participatory process but a driver of innovation, collaboration, and policy development. Reflecting the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental diversity of pilot regions, it shall support the creation and development of tools and strategies that are scalable and replicable beyond the project's lifespan.

3.1 Stakeholder Mapping and Typology

Stakeholder mapping is an important step in RURBANIVE's engagement strategy, enabling the identification and categorization of key actors across the quadruple helix (academia, government, industry, and civil society). The process employs tools like the Interest-Influence Matrix to assess stakeholders' levels of interest and influence, ensuring that engagement activities align with their capacities, expertise, and potential contributions.

This process is dynamic and iterative, allowing for regular updates as stakeholder roles evolve and will be continued throughout the project duration as an ongoing activity and shall not restrict only in the content of the current deliverable report. Stakeholders initially in peripheral roles may take on central responsibilities as the project progresses, particularly in co-creation and policy development. This dynamic re-mapping ensures that the engagement strategy remains relevant and responsive to changing regional contexts and priorities.

Regional contextualization further enhances the relevance of stakeholder mapping by tailoring the process to reflect the specific socio-economic realities and cultural nuances of each RUCL. This ensures that the mapping informs strategies that are inclusive and impactful, identifying stakeholders who will meaningfully contribute to workshops, focus groups, and the co-creation of tools and policies.

3.2 Pathways of Engagement

To ensure meaningful collaboration and participation, RURBANIVE employs diverse engagement pathways, designed to meet the varying needs and capacities of its stakeholders. These pathways include:

- Initial Interviews: These one-on-one discussions establish trust and gather baseline information about stakeholders' expectations, priorities, and potential

contributions. They create a foundation for deeper collaboration in subsequent phases.

- **Co-Creation Workshops:** Tailored to address region-specific challenges, these workshops bring stakeholders together to collaboratively brainstorm, design, and refine solutions. For instance, workshops in Milos may focus on sustainable tourism, while those in Trikala emphasize mobility solutions.
- **Digital Collaboration Platforms:** These tools expand engagement by enabling remote participation. Features like XR-based applications provide immersive experiences, making complex scenarios accessible and understandable. Digital platforms also serve as virtual spaces for continuous dialogue, especially for stakeholders facing logistical barriers.
- **Focus Groups for Specific Typologies:** These targeted discussions cater to unique stakeholder groups, such as small-scale producers, policymakers, or community leaders. Focus groups address specific concerns and ensure that all perspectives are integrated into the project's outcomes.

These pathways enable RURBANIVE to foster comprehensive, inclusive, and context-sensitive engagement across its pilot regions.

3.3 Iterative Feedback Mechanisms

The iterative nature of stakeholder engagement is a defining feature of RURBANIVE's methodology. Continuous feedback mechanisms ensure that the strategy evolves alongside stakeholder needs and project developments.

- **Dynamic Stakeholder Re-Mapping:** Regular reassessments of stakeholder roles, interests, and influence ensure that the engagement strategy remains aligned with the project's goals. This adaptability is crucial as project phases and stakeholder priorities shift over time.
- **Regular Checkpoints:** Feedback collected through surveys, focus groups, and workshop evaluations informs the refinement of engagement activities. These evaluations ensure that the methodology remains stakeholder-driven and outcome-oriented.

These mechanisms foster trust, collaboration, and continuous improvement, ensuring that the co-creation process remains responsive and effective.

3.4 Workshop Documentation Framework

Workshops are a central element of RURBANIVE's co-creation activities, serving as platforms for learning, collaboration, and innovation. To maximize their impact, the

project employs a structured documentation framework that captures all aspects of workshop planning, execution, and evaluation.

Before the workshop, organizers document logistical details such as dates, locations, participant lists, and objectives. They also outline the methodologies and tools to be used. During the workshop, discussions are systematically recorded to capture key topics, stakeholder feedback, and decisions. This documentation ensures that insights are not lost and can inform subsequent project phases.

After the workshop, comprehensive reports summarize outcomes, including pre- and post-workshop survey data, co-creation topics, and actionable next steps. These reports foster transparency, accountability, and a foundation for evaluating the impact of engagement activities.

3.5 Integration with Policy Tools: Task 6.2 - Develop policy tools that will leverage potential synergies of the key actors to promote innovative urban-rural practices

Task 6.2 focuses on the development of the RURBANIVE Community of Practice Suite (CoPS), a web-based platform that facilitates ongoing collaboration, dialogue, and co-creation among stakeholders. This task aligns closely with the stakeholder engagement and co-creation activities outlined in Tasks 2.2 and 2.3.

The stakeholder mapping conducted in Task 2.2 directly informs the design of the CoPS, ensuring that its features reflect stakeholder needs and priorities. For instance, policymakers can use the CoPS to co-create and validate policy tools, while grassroots stakeholders contribute practical insights to shape functionalities.

Feedback mechanisms from Tasks 2.2 and 2.3 guide the development of CoPS features, including debate functionalities, voting systems, and co-creation modules. By integrating tools used in RUCL workshops, the CoPS becomes a repository for scenario-building, policy roadmap development, and actionable recommendations.

The CoPS not only supports continued collaboration but also serves as a legacy tool for fostering rural-urban synergies beyond the project's lifecycle.

The integration of the RURBANIVE Community of Practice Suite shall enhance the project's impact and shall provide a digital solution for ongoing collaboration and policy development.

3.6 Stakeholder Engagement Levels and Project Obligations

The table below outlines the levels of stakeholder engagement in the RURBANIVE project and the corresponding commitments of the project team. It highlights how stakeholders move from being informed about the project to becoming active

collaborators and, ultimately, empowered to sustain and expand its outcomes. Each level specifies the project's role in supporting participation, feedback, and capacity building.

Table 1 - Stakeholder Engagement and Project obligations

Level	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholders are informed about the project goals, methodologies, and planned activities. They understand how their insights and actions contribute to the project objectives	Stakeholders share their initial feedback, concerns, and expectations about the project's design and activities so that their motivations and interests are considered.	Stakeholders participate in discussions, workshops, and focus groups to ensure their contributions shape co-creation activities and project design.	Stakeholders co-develop solutions through collaboration in co-creation workshops, digital platforms, and policy discussions. They actively contribute ideas, insights, and resources.	Stakeholders are equipped with tools, training, and resources to independently utilize and extend RURBANIVE outputs for their own or community purposes.
Project obligation	Provide accessible and clear communication about the project's purpose, goals, and outcomes. Tailor messaging to different stakeholder groups based on their interests.	Engage in meaningful dialogue, ensuring stakeholder concerns and ideas are acknowledged and incorporated into planning processes.	Facilitate participatory activities that integrate stakeholder needs into project methodologies. Provide transparent feedback loops for continuous involvement.	Foster collaboration by providing stakeholders with participatory tools, such as digital platforms, co-creation methodologies, and real-time feedback opportunities.	Support stakeholders to implement and sustain RURBANIVE methodologies, tools, and innovations independently. Offer long-term capacity building and resources.

4 Pilot-Specific Engagement Strategies

4.1 ES-RUCL – Burgos Province

The Regional Government of Castilla y León is driving an initiative to use the area's natural and cultural wealth to counter rural depopulation through sustainable cultural tourism. By applying Cognitive Computing (COC) techniques, the project aims to capture tourists' and potential residents' emotional responses to rural landscapes, creating an "affective value" metric. This will enable the government to craft impactful messages that resonate emotionally, encouraging greater engagement with rural areas.

Partnering with CARTIF, the project follows a co-creation approach, involving the necessary stakeholders at every stage to ensure the COC tools meet the project's goals. Real-world testing will engage rural residents and urban participants to provide authentic emotional responses to scenic locations, with final validations conducted on-site in the Valles Pasiegos and urban centres.

In addition, four digital campaigns will use extended reality (XR) to showcase rural-urban synergies, positioning Castilla y León's rural areas as vibrant destinations for sustainable tourism and cultural exploration. This initiative aspires to foster stronger connections and new opportunities between urban and rural communities.

As of the stakeholder network in Valles Pasiegos, Spain, is a cornerstone of the RUCL's efforts to foster rural-urban synergies through the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, landscapes, and local identity. The RUCL in this region focuses on co-creating digital and cognitive computing-based tools to enhance access to cultural heritage. The engagement strategy integrates diverse participants, ensuring alignment with the objectives of Task 2.2 by emphasizing inclusivity, balanced representation, and iterative co-creation processes.

The stakeholders span across local, regional, and national levels, ensuring that insights are gathered from a wide array of actors. At the local level, the engagement of rural inhabitants and community organizations ensures that the unique cultural characteristics of Valles Pasiegos are effectively incorporated into project activities. Local stakeholders, such as cultural groups and small community organizations, offer essential grassroots perspectives, enabling the project to align its outputs with the lived experiences of the region's residents. Regional stakeholders, including government representatives and tourism boards, bring a broader policy and economic perspective

to the table, helping to shape strategies that integrate cultural preservation with regional development goals. On a national scale, the involvement of policymakers and experts provides regulatory guidance and technical insights, ensuring that the RUCL's outputs align with cultural heritage policies and can be scaled to other regions.

Each stakeholder group plays a distinct role in the co-creation process. Local community members provide critical feedback on how cultural heritage tools resonate with their lived experiences. Their contributions ensure that the tools are user-friendly and culturally authentic, reflecting the essence of Valles Pasiegos. Regional policymakers offer strategic guidance, bridging local initiatives with broader territorial goals. Meanwhile, technology experts and cultural preservation institutions contribute technical expertise and content development, ensuring that the digital tools are both innovative and sensitive to the cultural context.

The RUCL's engagement activities in Valles Pasiegos are structured around key milestones designed to foster collaboration and iterative feedback.

1. Initial Workshops (Alpha Version) Workshops with regional government representatives focus on gathering foundational data to guide the design of cognitive computing-based digital tools. These workshops aim to ensure that the tools align with regional cultural policies while also being technically feasible. Discussions include challenges and solutions in integrating technology with cultural heritage and defining practical deployment strategies.

2. Local Testing (Beta Version): Subsequent activities involve extensive testing with both rural and urban participants, allowing for the evaluation of usability and emotional resonance. These tests are critical in refining the tools to meet stakeholder needs. Sessions will collect feedback on the functionality, user experience, and emotional impact of the tools, ensuring technical and cultural alignment.

3. Final Demonstration (Post-Beta Version): The final demonstration workshops serve as a culmination of these efforts, showcasing the co-created tools to the public and encouraging their adoption and replication. These workshops emphasize dissemination and provide opportunities to gather last-stage feedback before finalizing outputs.

Challenges and Opportunities: The engagement process is not without challenges. Balancing technological innovation with the preservation of cultural heritage requires careful navigation to avoid compromising authenticity. Additionally, engaging

stakeholders with varying levels of technical expertise presents logistical and educational hurdles, particularly in ensuring that all participants can meaningfully contribute to the co-creation process. Despite these challenges, the opportunities for meaningful impact are significant. By leveraging the insights of local communities and cultural institutions, the RUCL can create tools that authentically represent the region's cultural values. Furthermore, the project has the potential to build long-term partnerships with regional and national policymakers, enhancing the scalability of its outputs.

Stakeholder Influence and Engagement Pathways: Stakeholders in Valles Pasiegos exhibit varying degrees of interest and influence, which guides their engagement pathways. Regional policymakers and cultural institutions are highly interested and influential, playing a pivotal role in guiding project outcomes. Local community groups, while highly interested, may have less influence, yet their participation ensures that the tools resonate with the region's cultural identity. National policymakers and technology experts, though moderately involved in day-to-day activities, contribute essential regulatory and technical expertise.

Alignment with Task 2.2 Objectives: The stakeholder engagement strategy in Valles Pasiegos aligns closely with Task 2.2's objectives. The inclusion of diverse typologies across multiple geographic levels demonstrates a commitment to balanced representation. The iterative nature of the engagement activities, from initial workshops to final demonstrations, ensures that stakeholder input is continuously integrated into the project's outputs. Moreover, the RUCL's approach to adaptability and responsiveness reflects a dynamic understanding of stakeholder needs, enabling the project to remain relevant and impactful.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the stakeholder engagement efforts in Valles Pasiegos underscore the importance of inclusivity, adaptability, and collaboration in achieving the goals of Task 2.2. By integrating local knowledge with regional and national priorities, the RUCL not only creates tools/solutions/approaches that are culturally and technically robust but also fosters a deeper connection between rural and urban communities. This approach ensures that the project's outcomes are both sustainable and scalable, contributing to the broader objectives of RURBANIVE in advancing rural-urban synergies.

4.2 CZ-RUCL – Prague Suchdol

The CZ-RUCL, located in Prague Suchdol and led by CZU, is focused on advancing agri-food value chains through innovative approaches and strong stakeholder collaboration. At the core of this initiative are training workshops designed to foster innovation while addressing the specific needs identified by stakeholders. These workshops are developed through feedback-driven course designs, ensuring relevance and adaptability to local and national challenges.

Stakeholders engaged in the CZ-RUCL represent both national and local levels, creating a comprehensive framework for addressing rural-urban challenges. National-level participants, such as the Agricultural Association of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture, contribute critical policy insights and sectoral expertise. Local stakeholders, including grassroots organizations like the PRO-BIO Union of Organic Farmers and the Association of Sheep and Goat Breeders, provide practical knowledge and a deep understanding of sustainable agricultural practices. This dual-level engagement underscores the project's commitment to both systemic and localized solutions, bridging legislative frameworks with community-level needs.

Stakeholders fulfil distinct roles within the CZ-RUCL, collectively enriching the co-creation process. National-level entities, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, serve as policy advisors, offering guidance on regulatory frameworks, food safety, and sustainability alignment. Sectoral organizations, including the Czech Beef Breeders Association and the Association of Bakers and Confectioners, represent specific agricultural and food industry sectors, ensuring that their challenges and opportunities are integrated into co-creation activities. Grassroots contributors, such as the PRO-BIO union of organic farmers, bring a focus on environmental protection and organic farming, directly aligning with RURBANIVE's sustainability objectives. This combination of national oversight and grassroots involvement fosters a balanced and effective stakeholder ecosystem, ensuring the integration of diverse perspectives.

The stakeholder engagement process in the CZ-RUCL is structured around targeted and iterative activities. Workshops and demonstrations serve as an introduction to innovative tools, such as XR applications, for enhancing agri-food value chains. These sessions provide opportunities for stakeholders to articulate their needs and priorities, creating a foundation for co-creation. Embedded feedback mechanisms ensure that stakeholder experiences and insights guide iterative refinements, enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of project outputs. For national stakeholders, policy dialogues are integral to aligning project outcomes with governance frameworks and

legislative priorities. Together, these activities create a dynamic and responsive engagement framework that fosters collaboration and innovation.

The roles of stakeholders are further shaped by their levels of interest and influence within the project. Policymakers and national associations, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Association, hold high interest and influence, positioning them as critical drivers of project outcomes. Grassroots organizations like PRO-BIO exhibit high interest but lower influence on national policies, ensuring that community perspectives are integrated into the project. Professional associations, including the Association of Bakers and Confectioners, maintain moderate levels of interest and influence, contributing to specific sectoral challenges. Mapping these stakeholders on an interest-influence matrix enables targeted engagement strategies that maximize their contributions while addressing their specific needs.

The stakeholder engagement process in the CZ-RUCL also highlights key challenges and opportunities. One major challenge is the integration of diverse perspectives from national policymakers and local grassroots organizations, which requires careful coordination to ensure alignment. Additionally, tailoring co-creation activities to the specific needs of different agricultural sectors demands flexibility and responsiveness. However, these challenges are balanced by significant opportunities. National organizations provide the expertise needed to align project outputs with existing policy frameworks, while grassroots contributions enrich the project with sustainability-focused and community-oriented perspectives. Leveraging these opportunities enhances the project's capacity to deliver impactful and scalable results.

The CZ-RUCL engagement strategy aligns seamlessly with the objectives of Task 2.2. The inclusivity of the recruitment process ensures diversity, engaging stakeholders across various sectors and geographic levels. The iterative engagement approach, characterized by workshops, feedback loops, and policy dialogues, ensures continuous integration of stakeholder input. By combining national-level expertise with grassroots knowledge, the strategy addresses the specific challenges and opportunities in the Czech Republic. This alignment underscores a robust commitment to fostering rural-urban synergies and co-creating effective solutions.

In conclusion, by integrating diverse stakeholder typologies and leveraging both national and grassroots expertise, the project ensures that co-creation activities are inclusive, adaptive, and impactful. These efforts not only contribute to the development of Rural-Urban Enablers but also enhance sustainable, innovative solutions for rural-urban interactions in the Czech Republic. The strategic alignment of policy, sectoral insights, and community engagement sets a strong foundation for achieving RURBANIVE's transformative goals.

Table 2 - CZ-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table

Stakeholder Identification and Description	Quadruple Helix Groups	Institution	Roles	Interests	Current Action
National Level					
Agricultural Association of the Czech Republic (Zemědělský svaz ČR)	Public sector	Represents agricultural producers	Policy advocacy, support for farmers	Supporting farmers' interests, agricultural sustainability, and rural development	Participating in policy discussions, providing training, and advocating for subsidies and regulations
Association of Bakers and Confectioners in the Czech Republic (Svaz pekařů a cukrářů v ČR)	Entrepreneurs	Represents bakeries and confectioneries	Promotes standards and quality in baking	Ensuring food safety, product quality, and fair competition	Organizing training, certification programs, and lobbying for industry-specific policies
The Czech Beef Breeders Association (Český svaz chovatelů masného skotu)	Entrepreneurs	Supports beef breeders and meat production	Livestock breeding, meat quality standards	Genetic improvement of cattle, sustainable livestock farming, and increasing competitiveness	Providing advisory services, workshops, and technical assistance to farmers
PRO-BIO Union of Organic Farmers (PRO-BIO Svaz ekologických zemědělců)	Entrepreneurs	Represents organic farmers and promotes organic agriculture	Advocacy for organic farming	Sustainability, biodiversity, and organic production standards	Organizing campaigns, training programs, and supporting organic certification
Ministry of Agriculture - Food Chain Sector (Ministerstvo zemědělství)	Public sector	Government authority responsible for agriculture and food chain regulation	Policy-making and enforcement	Food security, agricultural policy, and sustainable development	Regulating food safety, implementing policies, and providing financial support for agricultural projects

Association of Sheep and Goat Breeders (Svaz chovatelů ovcí a koz)	Entrepreneurs	Supports breeders of sheep and goats	Promoting breeding programs and sustainability	Livestock breeding, sustainability, and product quality	Offering advisory services, providing training, and advocating policies to improve breeding standards
Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (Státní zemědělská a potravinářská inspekce)	Public sector	Government body overseeing food safety and quality	Inspection, monitoring compliance	Food safety, quality assurance, and consumer protection	Conducting inspections, enforcing regulations, and providing public reports on food safety standards
Association of Private Agriculture in the Czech Republic (Asociace soukromého zemědělství ČR)	Entrepreneurs	Represents private farmers	Advocacy, technical support	Supporting small-scale farmers, innovation, and rural entrepreneurship	Organizing training programs, legal support, and facilitating market access for private farmers
Czech-Moravian Dairy Association (Českomoravský svaz mlékárenský, z.s. ČMSM)	Entrepreneurs	Represents dairy producers and processors	Industry representation and standard setting	Ensuring dairy product quality, market stability, and competitiveness	Promoting innovation, organizing events, and developing quality assurance systems
Regional Level					
Regional Farmers Associations	Entrepreneurs	Supports regional farmers and agricultural businesses	Advocacy and support for regional initiatives	Regional development, economic sustainability, and community resilience	Organizing local events, training, and promoting local products
Regional Chambers of Commerce	Entrepreneurs	Supports businesses in agriculture and food processing sectors	Business development and networking	Promoting local enterprises, innovation, and economic growth	Providing training, networking opportunities, and support programs for businesses

Regional Environmental Agencies	Public sector	Focuses on sustainability and environmental protection	Monitoring and enforcing environmental standards	Environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and resource management	Conducting environmental assessments, enforcing regulations, and supporting eco-friendly initiatives
Local Level					
Local Farmers Cooperatives	Entrepreneurs	Supports local farmers in marketing and distribution	Cooperation, marketing, and resource sharing	Improving competitiveness, market access, and sustainability	Organizing fairs, promoting local products, and providing shared resources for farmers
Local Municipalities	Public sector	Manages local policies and development programs	Local governance and development planning	Rural development, public services, and infrastructure growth	Supporting local projects, providing grants, and facilitating rural development initiatives
Community Associations	Citizens	Represents local interests and promotes community engagement	Advocacy and community-building	Social inclusion, rural development, and cultural heritage preservation	Organizing events, providing education, and supporting social inclusion initiatives

4.3 AT-RUCL – Lower Austria

The Lower Austria - Vienna Metropolitan Region has been identified as a dynamic area for advancing Circular Bioeconomy initiatives. Its unique combination of urban density and rural agricultural surroundings creates an excellent foundation for integrating urban biomass streams, such as food and organic waste, with rural biomass supplies. This synergy fosters circular processes that leverage residual resources and develop sustainable solutions.

Stakeholder Engagement Strategy: The Lower Austria RUCL is dedicated to advancing innovative circular bioeconomy solutions that bridge rural and urban dynamics. Its activities focus on biomass stream analysis workshops and the creation of pathways to finance innovation. These initiatives are supported by a diverse range of stakeholders from national, regional, and local dimensions, representing various sectors such as policymaking, academia, industry, and social innovation.

National stakeholders, including the Austrian Ministry of Climate Protection and Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS), play a pivotal role in shaping policies and financial pathways to promote innovation. **Regional actors**, such as Stadt-Umland-Management (SUM) and GreenTec Campus, contribute insights into spatial planning and sustainability. **Local initiatives** like Blün and Hut und Stiel bring practical expertise and community-oriented approaches to sustainable practices.

The stakeholders involved represent a range of typologies, each offering critical contributions to the RUCL's objectives. Policymakers provide essential oversight to align project outputs with national and regional regulatory frameworks. Academic institutions such as FH Technikum Wien enhance co-creation efforts by contributing research-based insights into eco-toxicology and bioeconomy. Industry stakeholders, including Acticell and Blue Planet Ecosystems, inject technological and market-driven innovations, while grassroots organizations like Wiener Gusto and Wunderkern emphasize community-driven, localized solutions for sustainability.

Engagement Activities: The engagement activities are designed to involve stakeholders at each phase of development, ensuring their input shapes strategies and outputs dynamically. These activities include:

1. Stakeholder Mapping and Platform Creation:

- Initial outreach to identify key stakeholders and form collaborative platforms.
- Focused discussions to align goals and identify shared priorities for biomass management and resource reuse.

2. Biomass Stream Analysis Workshops:

- Focus groups to analyse residual biomass streams and assess conversion opportunities.
- Collaborative sessions to define critical challenges and narrow down solutions, supported by tools like Sankey diagrams.

3. Tool Demonstrations and Co-Creation Sessions:

- Demonstration of tools such as the BioBASE Compass to evaluate biomass utilization pathways.
- Stakeholder feedback collected to refine processes and explore financing strategies.

4. Innovation Pathway Refinement Workshops:

- Presentation of innovation pathways and multi-criteria evaluation frameworks.
- Identification of potential funding sources and partnerships for scaling solutions.

5. Final Demonstration and Evaluation:

- Showcase of developed solutions, tools, and results to stakeholders.
- Feedback collection for replicability and scalability assessments, ensuring long-term impacts.

Stakeholder Mapping and Roles: Stakeholder mapping ensures balanced representation across sectors and scales. Policymakers align project goals with regulatory frameworks, academic institutions provide research insights, industry partners offer technological innovations, and grassroots organizations contribute community-driven approaches.

This diverse group of stakeholders reflects the quadruple helix model, which is integral to RURBANIVE's engagement framework. The model facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration, ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach to co-creation that addresses both systemic and localized challenges.

Examples of Key Stakeholders:

- Policymakers: Austrian Ministry of Climate Protection, AWS for funding and regulatory oversight.
- Academia: FH Technikum Wien for eco-toxicology research and sustainable solutions.
- Industry: Acticell and Blue Planet Ecosystems for recycling and circular technologies.
- Grassroots Organizations: Wiener Gusto and Wunderkern for sustainable local practices.

- Local Authorities: Stadt-Umland-Management (SUM) for spatial development coordination.

First Workshop Highlights: The first workshop to be organised in the upcoming period focuses on setting goals for Circular Bioeconomy development, mapping stakeholder roles, and identifying biomass stream priorities. Participatory sessions guide the selection of conversion pathways, supported by visual tools like Sankey diagrams and the BioBASE Compass. Key topics include:

- Aligning urban and rural biomass resources.
- Evaluating resource flows and potential gaps.
- Establishing financing strategies and innovation roadmaps.

Conclusion: Through dynamic stakeholder engagement and participatory activities, the Lower Austria RUCL will create scalable, replicable models for Circular Bioeconomy. By fostering collaborations between policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, and grassroots innovators, the initiative ensures impactful outcomes aligned with sustainability and resource efficiency goals. Iterative feedback and co-creation processes will drive the success of this transformative project.

Table 3 - AT-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table

#	Geographic Dimension	Typology	Institution	Position	Notes and further information	Role	Interests	Needs
1	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Manager SUM North	Stadt-Umland-Management Wien/NÖ is an initiative of the two provinces of Vienna and Lower Austria. The SUM supports the city of Vienna and its surrounding Lower Austrian municipalities in their cooperation on spatial development issues.	Regional Coordination	Urban-rural cooperation, sustainable spatial development	Tools for collaborative planning and effective integration of regional policies
2	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Ecoplus (Business Agency Lower Austria)	Responsible for Bioeconomy & Green Transformation	Facilitator of Bioeconomy	Green transformation, fostering sustainable business practices	Support for business innovation in bioeconomy and green sectors
3	Local	Local Authorities	SUM	Municipality City of Mank	Mayor of the City of Mank	Local leadership in spatial management	Regional development, sustainable growth, urban-rural connections	Assistance with sustainable urban development projects
4	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Federal State of Lower Austria	Economy, Tourism & Technology	Policy Maker	Economic development, tourism promotion,	Collaboration opportunities for cross-regional projects



							technology innovation	
5	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Energy and Environmental Agency Lower Austria ENU	Responsible for Circular Economy	Circular Economy Advocate	Energy efficiency, environmental protection, circular economy practices	Policy support, funding for circular economy projects
6	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Business Agency Vienna	Economic Policy	Economic Development	Economic innovation, fostering new business opportunities	Funding and strategic partnerships for green businesses
7	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	City of Vienna	Leader for Climate Topics	Climate leadership	Mitigating climate change, promoting green energy, sustainable cities	Climate action frameworks, support for urban green projects
8	Local	Local Authorities	SUM	MA48 (Waste Management City of Vienna)	International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)	Waste Management Specialist	Sustainable waste solutions, international collaboration	Technological support for waste management and recycling systems
9	Local	Local Authorities	SUM	Unit Vienna 2030	Project Manager Vienna 2030 – Economy & Innovation (MA 23)	Project Leadership	Future-proofing cities, urban innovation, economic sustainability	Tools and knowledge for innovation management in cities
10	Local	Local Authorities	SUM	City of Vienna, Department Economy, Labor and Statistics (MA23)	Coordination of Innovation Management	Innovation Manager	Promoting innovative business and technologies	Strategies for fostering innovation in the local economy

11	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Environmental associations Lower Austria	Managing Director	Environmental Advocacy	Protecting nature, improving environmental practices	Support for implementing environmental projects at regional level
12	Regional	Waste Management Companies	SUM	Waste Association Schwechat	Managing Director	Waste Management	Efficient waste management, recycling practices	Funding for waste management infrastructure and innovation
13	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Municipal Association for Tax Collection and Environmental Protection Mödling	Managing Director	Public Administration	Environmental protection, tax collection	Better systems for environmental taxation and protection
14	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Municipal association for environmental protection tasks in the district of Gänserndorf	Managing Director	Environmental Management	Local environmental policy, climate change adaptation	Support for regional environmental protection initiatives
15	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Leader Region Römerland Carnuntum	Sustainability, Nature, Mobility	Regional Development	Sustainable mobility, nature preservation	Knowledge sharing and partnerships for regional sustainability
16	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Planning Community East (PGO)	Member	Planning Authority	Regional planning and development	Assistance with large-scale regional planning projects
17	National	Food Industry	SUM	REWE Group (retail)	Press Spokesman for Billa	Retail Advocacy	Promoting sustainable food systems, eco-friendly retail	Collaboration on sustainable food sourcing and consumer engagement



18	National	Food Industry	SUM	Trade Association of the Austrian Food Industry	Managing Director Food Industry	Industry Advocacy	Supporting sustainable practices in food production	Policy and legislative support for sustainable food industry
19	National	Entrepreneurs	SUM	Circular Cocreation	Co-Founder Circular Cocreation	Circular Economy Advocate	Promoting circular economy, collaboration among entrepreneurs	Networking opportunities and support for circular economy ventures
20	National	Local Authorities	SUM	Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology	Leader Circular Economy	Government Leadership	National circular economy strategies, policy implementation	Support for national-level circular economy initiatives
21	National	Local Authorities	SUM	Industry Platform 4.0 Austria	Senior Project Manager Industry 4.0 and Digitization	Industry Innovator	Promoting digital transformation in industry	Strategies for implementing Industry 4.0 technologies
22	National	Local Authorities	SUM	Food Testing Institute (Lebensmittelversuchsanstalt, LVA)	Expert for Food Security and Consumer Protection	Food Safety Expert	Food security, consumer protection	Support for food safety standards and regulations
23	Regional	Entrepreneurs	SUM	Vienna Business Incubator INiTS	Startup Program Manager	Startup Ecosystem Facilitator	Supporting innovation in startups, especially in tech	Resources for scaling tech startups with sustainable business models
24	National	Entrepreneurs	SUM	Blue Planet Ecosystems	Data Scientist	Sustainability Expert	Sustainable aquaculture, data-driven solutions	Technical support for sustainable aquaculture innovations



25	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	AWS (Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH)	IP Management	Financial and IP Services	Supporting innovation through funding and IP management	Funding for green innovations, IP support for startups
26	Regional	Entrepreneurs	SUM	Wastics Digital Ecosystem for Waste and Resources	Customer Success Management	Digital Waste Management	Circular economy in waste and resources	Technological tools and support for digital waste management systems
27	Regional	Entrepreneurs	SUM	Plattform oecolution	Managing Director Oecolution	Sustainability Advocate	Innovative solutions for climate protection	Partnerships and support for implementing climate solutions
28	Regional	Industry	SUM	ACTICELL	Managing Director von Acticell GmbH	Sustainable Textile Recycling	Recycling innovation, textile industry sustainability	R&D support for textile recycling technologies
29	Regional	Universities/Think Tanks	SUM	GreenTec Campus Korneuburg	General Secretary	Green Tech Innovation	Sustainable technologies, green energy solutions	Collaboration opportunities for green tech projects
30	Regional	Universities/Think Tanks	SUM	Applied University FH Technikum Ecotoxicology & Environmental Management	Head of study program	Ecotoxicology & Environmental Research	Environmental management, sustainability education	Resources for research and development in sustainability fields
31	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Innovation Management City of Vienna MA 43	Coordinator Innovation Management City of Vienna	Innovation Facilitator	Promoting innovation in urban management	Support for city-led innovation projects
32	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Austrian Post - Innovation Management	Research & Innovation Manager	Postal Innovation	Sustainable logistics, digital innovation in postal services	Technological innovation in logistics and communication



33	Regional	Local Authorities	SUM	Public Transport Wiener Linien - Innovation Management	Research & Innovation Manager	Transport Innovator	Sustainable public transport, green mobility solutions	Funding for green transportation technologies
34	Regional	Entrepreneurs	SUM	ClimateLab	Research & Innovation Manager	Innovation Hub	Climate innovation, collaborative workshops	Space for collaborations on climate-related innovations
35	Regional	Entrepreneurs	SUM	Vienna Design Week	Planner & Coordinator Vienna Design Week	Design Advocate	Promoting sustainable design, urban sustainability	Resources for innovative design projects with a sustainability focus
36	National	Local Authorities	SUM	Circular Economy Forum Austria	Editor in Chief, Board Member Circular Economy Forum Austria	Circular Economy Forum	Knowledge sharing on circular economy practices	Collaboration on publishing best practices in circular economy
37	Regional	Entrepreneurs	SUM	gugler* DruckSinn	Managing Director	Sustainable Printing	Eco-friendly printing solutions	Support for sustainable production processes
38	Local	Food Industry	Workshop invite	Blün	Co-Founder, Responsible for Aquaponics Technology	Aquaponics Expert	Sustainable aquaponics, circular food systems	Resources for scaling aquaponics technologies in urban areas
39	Local	Entrepreneurs	Workshop invite	Hut und Stiel	Co-Founder, Managing Director	Urban Agriculture Advocate	Sustainable urban food production	Support for urban farming initiatives and community building
40	Local	Food Industry	Workshop invite	Wiener Gusto (Smart City Vienna)	Co-Founder, City Councillor for Climate Protection	Sustainable Food Advocate	Promoting organic farming and sustainable food systems	Collaboration on sustainable food policy implementation



41	Local	Food Industry	Workshop invite	Wiener Zucker	Co-Founder, City Councillor for Climate Protection	Sustainable Sugar Advocate	Sustainable food production, organic farming	Support for sustainable sugar farming and processing methods
42	Local	Food Industry	Workshop invite	Bad Ischler Salz	Co-Founder, City Councillor for Climate Protection	Sustainable Salt Production	Promoting sustainable salt production practices	Financial support for sustainable food processing industries
43	Local	Entrepreneurs	Workshop invite	Ehrenwort Gewürze	Co-Founder, City Councillor for Climate Protection	Organic Spice Production	Organic farming and spice	
44	Local	Food Industry	Workshop invite	Aimax Biohof Aichinger	Founder	Small-Scale Farming Advocate	Regional, seasonal, low-packaging farming	Support for small-scale, local farming initiatives
45	Local	Food Industry	Workshop invite	Biogärtnerei Fleischhacker	Founder	Organic Farming Advocate	Organic, regional vegetables	Marketing support for organic produce, farming advice
46	Local	Food Industry	Workshop invite	Gärtnerei Holz hacker	Founder	Sustainable Agriculture Advocate	Sustainable production, organic and regional products	Funding for sustainable farming infrastructure
47	Local	Food Industry	Workshop invite	Biohof Figl	Founder	Organic Farming Advocate	Organic farming	Guidance on organic farming standards and certification
48	Local	Food Industry	Workshop invite	Simiaen	Founder	Innovative Food Production	Lichen for food and beverages, stone for design	Market entry support for innovative food products



49	Local	Entrepreneurs	Workshop invite	Wunderkern	Founder	Food Innovation Advocate	Food from fruit pits	Support for innovative food processing technologies
50	Regional	Startups & Tech	Food Startup	Unverschwendet	Co-Founder	Food Waste Reduction Innovator	Reducing food waste through innovative approaches	Funding for scaling food waste reduction models
51	Regional	Startups & Tech	Food Startup	Hut & Stiel	Co-Founder	Urban Agriculture Innovator	Circular agriculture, promoting local food	Funding for developing urban agriculture infrastructure
52	Regional	Startups & Tech	Food Startup	Rebel Meat	Co-Founder	Alternative Protein Innovator	Developing sustainable, plant-based meat alternatives	Support for scaling plant-based protein production
53	Regional	Startups & Tech	Food Startup	Markta	Founder	Local Food Market Advocate	Connecting local producers with consumers	Technology support for food distribution platforms
54	Regional	Startups & Tech	Food Startup	Kurt	Co-Founder	Dairy-Free Food Innovator	Sustainable, plant-based dairy alternatives	R&D support for dairy-free food innovation
55	Regional	Local Authorities	Food Startup	Smart City Vienna - Innovation Management	Project Manager	Smart City Advocate	Urban sustainability, smart food systems	Support for integrating sustainable food solutions in urban contexts
56	National	Local Authorities	Food Startup	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Project Manager	Agricultural Innovation Leader	Sustainable food systems, national food security	Policy guidance and funding for sustainable food projects



57	Regional	Local Authorities	Food Startup	City of Vienna Climate Team (Stadt Wien Klimastab)	Project Manager	Climate Action Leader	Urban climate protection initiatives	Support for implementing climate action plans in food systems
58	National	Local Authorities	Food Startup	Vienna Business Agency (Wirtschaftsagentur)	Circular Food Project Management	Business Development	Promoting circular economy in food systems	Resources and funding for circular food business models
59	Regional	Food Sales	Food Startup	Markets of Vienna (Wiener Märkte)	Circular Food Project Management	Market Coordination	Connecting circular food businesses with local markets	Logistical support for circular food initiatives
60	Local	Farm / Foodbox	Food Startup	Biohof Adamah	Managing Director	Organic Farm Advocate	Organic farming, direct-to-consumer sales	Funding and support for expanding organic farm operations
62	Regional	Social Markets	Food Startup	FoodPoint	Managing Director	Social Supermarket Advocate	Providing affordable food for socio-economically disadvantaged groups	Infrastructure and funding for social supermarkets
63	Local	Clubs	Food Startup	Verein Wiener Tafel	Managing Director	Food Rescue Advocate	Food rescue and redistribution for social good	Partnerships with local businesses for food rescue
64	National	Universities/Think Tanks	Food Startup	University BOKU	Managing Director	Agricultural Research	Sustainable agriculture, food security research	Collaboration opportunities with industry for applied research
65	Regional	Food Waste Savers	Food Startup	Verein Foodsharing	Managing Director	Food Waste Reduction Advocate	Reducing food waste through sharing platforms	More volunteers and organizational support for food waste initiatives



66	Regional	Startups & Tech	Food Startup	TooGoodToGo	Country Director Austria	Food Waste App Developer	Reducing food waste through app-based solutions	Technical and marketing support for expanding app reach
69	Regional	Catering Companies	Food Startup	Gourmet Catering Company	Managing Director	Sustainable Catering Provider	Eco-friendly catering services	Sustainable sourcing of food ingredients
70	Regional	Local Authorities	Food Startup	Wiener Stadtgärten (Vienna City Parks)	Project Manager	Urban Agriculture Leader	Promoting urban gardens and local food production	Support for scaling urban agriculture projects
71	National	Local Authorities	Food Startup	National Coordination Center for Sustainable Food Systems (Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit (AGES))	Expert	Food Systems Coordinator	Promoting sustainable food systems in Austria	Policy development support for sustainable food systems
72	Regional	Clubs	Food Startup	Zukunftshof	Managing Director	Sustainable Farm Advocate	Promoting sustainable agriculture and local food systems	Assistance with expanding operations and outreach for sustainability

The table provides an extensive look at various stakeholders involved in the urban-rural dynamics across several sectors, such as local authorities, entrepreneurs, food industries, environmental agencies, universities, startups, and more. These stakeholders are actively engaged in projects related to **sustainable development**, **climate change mitigation**, **urban-rural cooperation**, and **circular economy**—with a primary focus on **food systems**, **waste management**, **eco-innovation**, and **sustainability**.

4.4 LT-RUCL – Kedainiai

The RUCL in Kedainiai, Lithuania, is central to RURBANIVE's vision of fostering rural-urban synergies and aligning policy frameworks with regional development goals. It focuses on promoting innovation in the agrifood sector through a collaborative approach that involves policy workshops, consultations, and a strong emphasis on inclusivity, territorial awareness, and stakeholder empowerment. These activities ensure that project outputs address both localized needs and broader development priorities.

The Kedainiai RUCL draws its strength from the diverse mix of stakeholders engaged at local, regional, and national levels. **Locally**, community associations, farmers, and producers provide practical insights and hands-on experience. Groups such as the Asociacija „Akademijos bendruomenė“ and Dotnuvos bendruomenės centras actively contribute to identifying operational challenges and co-creating solutions that resonate with grassroots realities. Local producers, including UAB "Versala" and Vaitelių ūkis, bring critical perspectives from the agri-food sector, ensuring the project's practical and market-driven relevance. Municipal authorities and elderships, such as Kedainiai City Municipality and Dotnuva Eldership, offer regulatory insights and bridge local initiatives with broader governance structures.

Regionally, institutions like the Kedainiai District Municipality provide strategic oversight, helping to align the RUCL's activities with wider development frameworks. **At the national level**, organizations like the Lithuania Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry bring research expertise and ensure regulatory compliance, lending credibility and long-term viability to the RUCL's outputs. Together, these stakeholders reflect the quadruple helix model, which combines the strengths of academia, government, industry, and civil society to foster comprehensive and innovative solutions.

The **engagement strategy** for the Kedainiai RUCL is methodically structured to cater to the needs and contributions of its stakeholders. Ecosystem mapping activities, running from M6 to M33, provide a detailed understanding of the agri-food sector through data collection, surveys, and interviews. Workshops and demonstrations serve as pivotal points of interaction. During the alpha phase, stakeholders offer critical feedback on initial designs, while the beta phase emphasizes refining and assessing the scalability of the proposed Rural-Urban Enabler (RUE) solutions. Co-design sessions focusing on initiatives towards the establishment of a Start-up Village, ensure that solutions remain aligned with stakeholder priorities and regional challenges.

Networking and outreach events, including demo days, enhance stakeholder collaboration and encourage cross-sectoral innovation.

Stakeholder engagement in Kedainiai faces challenges, such as balancing diverse priorities across sectors, ensuring scalability while maintaining local relevance, and addressing knowledge gaps among smaller businesses and community groups. However, these challenges are met with significant opportunities. Leveraging the innovative potential of SMEs and startups in the agri-food sector creates pathways for impactful progress. Building long-term partnerships with policymakers helps institutionalize the RUCL's outputs, while inclusive co-creation processes empower communities to actively shape and adopt project solutions.

This engagement strategy aligns seamlessly with the objectives of Task 2.2, which focuses on stakeholder recruitment and engagement with social sciences and humanities (SSH) involvement. By dynamically adapting to stakeholder needs and integrating local knowledge with broader priorities, the Kedainiai RUCL ensures its outputs are impactful, sustainable, and representative of diverse voices.

Kedainiai RUCL stakeholders will collaboratively design a digital Startup Village Hub platform through co-creation activities. The Digital Startup Village Hub in Kedainiai District shall be a unique platform that bridges the gap between urban and rural populations. It will integrate rural-urban expertise with rural opportunities, promoting innovation, sustainability, and economic growth. With a focus on agri-tech bioeconomy innovation and field trials, the hub provides a fertile ground for innovators to expand their solutions, enhance community resilience, and contribute to the economy's well-being.

The RUCL in Kedainiai exemplifies how inclusive and adaptive engagement can address the complexities of rural-urban integration, leveraging XR (Extended Reality) technologies to communicate their concept in an immersive and visually compelling way. By uniting grassroots insights with strategic oversight, the RUCL not only advances sustainable development within Lithuania but also serves as a model for fostering transformative rural-urban synergies across Europe. Its success lies in its ability to balance local authenticity with regional and national objectives, ensuring that its solutions are both practical and scalable.

Table 4 - LT-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table

Geographic dimension	Rurbanive Stakeholders Group	Typology	Institution	Role	Level of interest (0-10)	Level of influence (0-10)
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija „Akademijos bendruomenė“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija „Beržų bendruomenė“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija „Mantviliškio bendruomenė“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija „Šlapaberžės bendruomenės centras“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija „Vainotiškių bendruomenė“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Ažuolaičių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Dotnuvos bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Naujųjų Lažų bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Pilionių bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Valučių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Alksnėnų bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Devynuonių kaimo bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Gudžiūnų bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7

Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Miegėnų bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Vikaičių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija Angirių bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Josvainių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Juodkaimių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Kampų bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Kunionių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Kėdainių rajono Skaistgirių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Vainikų bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija „Babėnų bendruomenė“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija Kėdainių senamiesčio bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija „Kėdainių bendruomenė“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Bartkūniškių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Maumedžių gyvenvietės bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Ažytėnų bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Krakių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7

Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Pajieslio bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Plinkaigalio bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Kėdainių rajono Medekšių kaimo asociacija	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Kėdainių rajono Saviečių kaimo bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Labūnavos bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Nociūnų bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Pašilių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Pelėdnagių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Visuomeninė organizacija „Beinaičių bendruomenės centras“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija Langakių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Paaluonio bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Pelutavos bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Pernaravos bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija Surviliškio bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Sirutiškio bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Užupės kaimo bendruomenė „Liaudė“	Local Community	8	7

Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Visuomeninė organizacija Kalnaberžės bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija „Kaplių bendruomenė“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Asociacija „Pašumerio bendruomenė“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Pagirių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Sangailų kaimo bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Šėtos bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Okainių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Visuomeninė organizacija „Petkūnų bendruomenės centras“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Visuomeninė organizacija „Truskavos bendruomenės centras“	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Aristavos bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Bublių – Valkaičių kaimų bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Gineitų kaimo bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Stasinės bendruomenė	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Lančiūnavos bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Šventybrasčio bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Tiskūnų bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7

Local	Citizens, farmers, producers	Community	Vilainių bendruomenės centras	Local Community	8	7
Local	Public authority	Local Action group	Kėdainių miesto vietos veiklos grupė/Local Urban Action Group	Regulatory authorities	8	10
Local	Public authority	Regional Action group	Kėdainių rajono vietos veiklos grupė/Local rural action group	Regulatory authorities	8	10
Local	Producers	Local producers	UAB "Versala" (Gurkė)	End users, Clients	8	8
Local	Producers	Local producers	MB "Miltuotos rankos"	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	UAB "Senamiesčio kepyklėlė"	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Vaitelių ūkis (ekologinis limuzinų veislės galvijų ūkis)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Public services, producer	Local producers	Kavinė viešbutis Raganė (virtinukai, 18 rūšių, degustacijos)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Producers	Local producers	Urbanfood gamykla (milteliai iš daržovių)	End users, Clients	8	8
Local	Representatives	Local producers	"Ragauk" krautuvėlė	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkė Turskienė Erlenda, "Iaimingų karvių ūkis" - pieno ūkis	End users, Clients	8	8
Local	Representatives	Local producers	Desertinė "Mon petit" (uogas ima ir gamina kepa + vyras ūkininkas)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkė Eglė Valuckaitė-Stašauskienė (gaminys pomidorų trapučiai „Paduok pomidorų“, „Paduok aštrumo“)	End users, Clients	8	8
Local	Producer	Local producers	MB"Lilės sūriai"	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Producer	Local producers	UAB "Maisto arsenalas"	End users, Clients	8	7

Local	Producer	Local producers	UAB „Duona gurmanams“, Aivaras Stankevičius	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Producer	Local producers	Vitalijus Margelis, tautinio paveldo produktas - šakočiai	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Producer	Local producers	UAB „Šlapaberžės konditerija“	End users, Clients	8	8
Local	Producer	Local producers	MB "Šušvės midus" (Midus, medus, medaus saldainiai) Erikas Augustinavičius	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Sandra Kuprevičiūtė Rimdžiūvienė	End users, Clients	8	8
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Kvedaras Arnas (Kopūstai, bulvės, svogūnai, skustos, pjaustytos ir vakuumuotos daržovės)	End users, Clients	8	8
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Dambrauskas Saulius (bulvės)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Žebarauskas Rimantas (bulvės)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Šimėnas Tautvydas (Sausmedžio uogos ir lauko agurkai)	End users, Clients	8	8
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Petrovičius Albertas (bulvės, burokėliai)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Saldys Ernestas (bulvės, svogūnai, agurkai)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkė Rosita Liubomirskienė (Bazilikai, ropės, krapai ir t.t.)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkė Vansevičienė Olga (Svogūnai, česnakai, bulvės, česnako užtepėlės)	End users, Clients	8	7

Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Andrius Rolandas (Bulvės, agurkai, įvairios raugintos daržovės)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Producers	Local producers	Agrošiltnamiai, UAB Paulius Andriejovas (trumpavaisiai agurkai)	End users, Clients	8	8
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Dambrauskas Povilas (svogūnai bulvės)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkė Juodenienė Irmina (bulvės, trumpavaisiai agurkai)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Juodenis Mantas (bulvės, trumpavaisiai agurkai)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Kuprevičius Virgilijus (morkos, kopūstai)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkė Kurelaitienė Simona (bulvės, kopūstai)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Kvedaras Paulius (kopūstai, svogūnai)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Kvedaras Vidmantas (Rauginti kopūstai ir agurkai, kopūstai, svogūnai, burokėliai, morkos)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkė Lydekienė Rasa (Bulvės)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Ūkininkas Petrovičius Dainius (bulvės)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Petrovičius Gytis (Bulvės, burokėliai)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Švaranavičienė Aistė (Smidrai, svogūnai, burokėliai)	End users, Clients	8	7
Local	Farmers, producers	Local producers	Zauka Gintaras (moliūgai)	End users, Clients	8	7

National	Academic, research, policy makers	Academic	Lithuania Research centre For Ugriculture And forestry	partners, suppliers	8	9
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Kedainiai city municipality	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Dotnuva Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Gudziunai Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Josvainiai Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Krakiai Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Pelednagai Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Pernava Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Setas Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Surviliskiai Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Truskava Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Local	Local authority, policy makers	Government	Vilainiai Eldership	Regulatory authorities	8	8
Regional	Regional authority, policy maker	Government	Kedainiai district municipality	partners, suppliers	8	9

4.5 ELM-RUCL – Milos Island

The Rural-Urban Co-Creation Lab (RUCL) in the Greek island of Milos is dedicated to promoting sustainable tourism and agriculture while addressing ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, and the integration of cultural and economic landscapes in the Southern Aegean region. The engagement of diverse stakeholders ensures the co-design and implementation of a Rural-Urban Enabler that reflects local realities and align with Task 2.2 objectives. Stakeholders span multiple geographic levels—local, regional, and national—ensuring a comprehensive approach to co-creation and innovation.

The stakeholders in Milos represent a diverse array of **typologies**, including public authorities, agricultural producers, educational institutions, and NGOs. Local actors such as farmers, beekeepers, food service professionals, and schools provide critical community-level insights into agricultural practices, sustainability, and cultural heritage. Regional stakeholders, including representatives from the South Aegean Region decentralised administration (SAR) and farming associations, contribute a broader perspective on policy alignment and resource management. Additionally, cross-level stakeholders, such as the Friends of Mountain and Sea Association, bridge the gap between local priorities and regional biodiversity conservation efforts. This typological and geographic diversity fosters a multi-scalar approach to stakeholder engagement, essential for addressing the complex challenges of sustainable tourism and environmental conservation.

The **roles of these stakeholders** are crucial in shaping the RUCL's activities. Policymakers and public authorities, particularly from SAR, offer regulatory and governance insights to align project outputs with regional development goals. They help identify policy bottlenecks and opportunities for integrating project outcomes into regional planning. Agricultural producers, including farmers and beekeepers, provide firsthand knowledge of sustainable practices, biodiversity management, and resource utilization, which are pivotal for designing RUEs tailored to local challenges. Educational institutions, such as the Primary & Preliminary School of Pollonia, serve as platforms for raising community awareness and integrating sustainable practices into education, ensuring long-term cultural and environmental benefits. NGOs and civil society organizations, such as the Friends of Mountain and Sea Association, emphasize the socio-cultural dimensions of sustainability and advocate for biodiversity conservation and community engagement.

Engagement activities in Milos are designed to leverage the expertise and perspectives of stakeholders while fostering co-creation and iterative refinement of solutions. Demonstrations and feedback sessions throughout the development phases will ensure that solutions are continuously adapted to meet real-world needs, enhancing stakeholder ownership and alignment with local contexts.

Stakeholders in Milos exhibit varying levels of interest and influence, requiring tailored engagement strategies to maximize their contributions. High-interest, high-influence actors, such as SAR and regional agricultural associations, play a central role in shaping policies and advocating for the adoption of project outcomes. High-interest, moderate-influence stakeholders, including farmers and food service professionals, bring valuable local knowledge but may need additional resources and support to implement changes. Educational institutions and NGOs, with moderate interest but high influence, contribute to public awareness and community behaviour, indirectly supporting the RUCL's success.

The stakeholder engagement process in Milos addresses key challenges while leveraging significant opportunities. Challenges include balancing diverse stakeholder interests, integrating biodiversity restoration with cultural heritage, and overcoming logistical barriers to engaging rural stakeholders. However, the RUCL also benefits from opportunities such as leveraging local knowledge to design context-sensitive solutions, promoting sustainable practices through educational initiatives and NGO advocacy, and building long-term partnerships with regional authorities to scale successful interventions.

The engagement strategy aligns seamlessly with Task 2.2 objectives. By ensuring inclusivity through the diverse representation of stakeholders, facilitating co-creation through workshops and iterative feedback mechanisms, and promoting the adaptive refinement of strategies, the RUCL in Milos exemplifies a comprehensive and effective approach to stakeholder engagement. These efforts ensure that the RUCL's outcomes are impactful, sustainable, and aligned with the broader objectives of RURBANIVE. The integration of local expertise with regional and national priorities further enhances the project's potential to foster transformative rural-urban synergies in the Southern Aegean region.

Table 5 - ELM-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table

#	Groups	Typology	Institution	Roles	Interests	Current Action
National Level						
1	SAR members	Public Sector	South Aegean Region	Policy makers, regional governance authorities	Aligning sustainable tourism policies with regional development goals, environmental conservation	Policy formulation and integration into regional planning, focusing on tourism and biodiversity.
2	CPF NGO members	Civil Society	CPF (Cultural, Preservation, and Environment)	Advocacy, cultural heritage and environmental sustainability	Protecting biodiversity and cultural heritage in the region, supporting sustainable tourism practices	Advocacy campaigns, awareness-raising, policy discussions on biodiversity conservation.
3	Farmers	Agriculture	Local Farming Associations	Agricultural production, land use, biodiversity	Sustainable agricultural practices, ecosystem restoration, economic viability	Participating in workshops for sustainable practices, advising on agricultural impact.
4	Beekeepers	Agriculture	Local Beekeepers Association	Beekeeping, biodiversity conservation, sustainable farming	Supporting pollination, promoting sustainable beekeeping practices, ecosystem services	Engaging in environmental education, enhancing beekeeping practices for biodiversity.
5	Friends of Mountain and Sea Association	NGO/Civil Society	Friends of Mountain and Sea	Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration	Promoting sustainable tourism, integrating conservation efforts with local development	Organizing local events, awareness campaigns, and workshops on conservation practices.
Regional Level						
1	SAR members	Public Sector	South Aegean Region	Governance, public policy, coordination of regional stakeholders	Coordinating sustainable tourism efforts, promoting local economic growth, biodiversity restoration	Engaging in local policy-making meetings, supporting project alignment with regional strategies.
2	CPF NGO members	Civil Society	CPF (Cultural, Preservation,	Environmental advocacy,	Sustainable land use, ensuring ecological balance and heritage protection	Facilitating regional workshops and consultations on sustainable development goals.

			and Environment)	community engagement		
Local Level						
1	Primary & Preliminary school of Pollonia-Milos	Education	Pollonia-Milos School	Community education, raising environmental awareness	Educating youth about sustainability, integrating local environmental practices into curricula	Organizing eco-education programs, integrating sustainability practices into the school curriculum.
2	Farmers	Agriculture	Local Farming Community	Local food production, land conservation, sustainable farming	Growing market for organic products, local economy, soil health, climate change resilience	Participating in local agricultural sustainability practices, supporting community education initiatives.
3	Beekeepers	Agriculture	Milos Beekeepers	Pollination, honey production, biodiversity conservation	Environmental education, promoting healthy ecosystems through sustainable beekeeping practices	Providing workshops on sustainable beekeeping and pollination.
4	Milos Mining Museum	Education & Tourism	Milos Mining Museum	Cultural heritage, history, tourism development	Showcasing mining heritage, promoting sustainable tourism, historical and environmental preservation	Conducting community outreach events, educational programs about the mining history, and conservation.

4.6 ELT-RUCL – City of Trikala

The Rural-Urban Co-Creation Lab (RUCL) in Trikala is focused on addressing mobility challenges within the context of urban-rural integration. Stakeholders representing a wide range of typologies, from policymakers to citizen groups, are engaged in the co-creation and validation of enhanced mobility solutions. This comprehensive engagement strategy aligns closely with Task 2.2's objectives, ensuring inclusivity, iterative collaboration, and the creation of an impactful Rural-Urban Enabler.

Stakeholders in Trikala span local, regional, and national levels, ensuring a holistic approach to addressing mobility issues. Local stakeholders, including municipal representatives and citizen groups, contribute critical insights into commuting behaviours, infrastructure gaps, and the everyday mobility challenges faced by residents. Regional stakeholders, such as transport authorities, provide a broader perspective, integrating mobility strategies with regional development goals and offering insights into policy alignment and funding mechanisms. At the national level, agencies and organizations ensure that the RUCL's activities are in harmony with regulatory frameworks and strategic priorities for sustainable urban and rural planning.

The **roles of stakeholders in** Trikala are pivotal, reflecting a diverse range of expertise, governance input, and community perspectives. Policy and governance experts, such as regional policymakers and municipal authorities, provide essential guidance on regulatory requirements and opportunities for integrating the RUCL's outputs into existing mobility frameworks. Municipal authorities act as facilitators, bridging local concerns with broader policy objectives. Academic and research institutions bring technical expertise, contributing to data analysis, scenario modelling and simulation, and the development of tools like XR applications to visualise mobility solutions. Citizen groups and NGOs play a crucial role in highlighting mobility challenges faced by vulnerable populations, such as students, elderly commuters, and low-income residents. NGOs focusing on environmental sustainability provide valuable insights into the social and ecological dimensions of mobility.

The **engagement plan for Trikala** comprises a series of structured activities aimed at fostering collaboration and maximizing stakeholder input. During the alpha phase, interviews and surveys are conducted to gather feedback from stakeholders on current challenges and mobility needs. This data informs the initial design of the RUE and helps identify key bottlenecks. Traffic data collection provides a quantitative basis for developing scenario-building exercises and simulation models, engaging stakeholders

in a data-driven co-creation process. Co-creation workshops, held at various stages of the project, play a central role in validating and refining RUE prototypes. These include alpha version workshops focusing on developing mobility enablers, beta version workshops aimed at refining tools based on stakeholder feedback, and final demonstration workshops to evaluate the impact of RUEs on mobility challenges. Scenario-based simulations further enhance this iterative process, ensuring that solutions remain aligned with stakeholder needs and project goals.

The **engagement strategy** also addresses several challenges while leveraging significant opportunities. Among the challenges are balancing diverse stakeholder interests, integrating technical innovations with existing infrastructure and policy frameworks, and ensuring that mobility solutions meet the specific needs of vulnerable populations. On the other hand, the project benefits from opportunities such as leveraging local insights to design scalable mobility solutions, building partnerships with regional and national authorities to support policy adoption and funding, and fostering community ownership of project outcomes through participatory workshops and feedback loops.

Stakeholders in Trikala exhibit varying levels of interest and influence, requiring tailored engagement strategies. High-interest, high-influence stakeholders, such as regional policymakers and municipal authorities, shape the regulatory and operational environment for mobility solutions. High-interest, moderate-influence stakeholders, including academic researchers and NGOs, provide technical and social insights but may need additional support for implementation. Moderate-interest, moderate-influence stakeholders, such as citizen groups and local organizations, ensure community alignment but have limited strategic impact. These levels of interest and influence guide the development of engagement pathways, ensuring meaningful contributions from all stakeholders.

The stakeholder engagement framework in Trikala aligns seamlessly with Task 2.2 objectives. It reflects a commitment to balanced representation by involving diverse typologies and geographic dimensions. Dynamic feedback loops, facilitated through workshops, surveys, and simulations, ensure that stakeholder input is continuously integrated into the co-creation process. The involvement of regional and national stakeholders supports the scalability of solutions, enabling broader adoption beyond the RUCL. Stakeholders from various sectors but also several citizens groups will be involved in RURBANIVE's activities, which will be an important step for the Trikala's

City Contract within the **112 Mission Cities**¹, leveraging smart and green solutions to transform the transportation landscape.

In conclusion, the Trikala RUCL embodies a robust approach to stakeholder engagement, combining local insights with regional and national expertise to co-create innovative and sustainable mobility solutions. By addressing the unique challenges of urban-rural integration through an inclusive and adaptive methodology, the RUCL contributes to the development of RUEs and advances RURBANIVE's broader objectives of fostering impactful rural-urban synergies.

¹ <https://netzerocities.eu/mission-cities/>

Table 6 - ELT-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table

Stakeholder Identification and description					Stakeholder analysis		
Quadruple helix groups	Typology			Institution	Roles	Interests	Current action
National Level							
Public sector, citizens, entrepreneurs, academia	public			Ministry of Transport	Policy maker	Transportation policy	To be included in the dissemination strategies
	private			VODAFONE	Network supplier	digitalisation	To be invited in the workshops
	research			ICCS	interdisciplinary cutting edge research	interdisciplinary cutting edge research	Scientific leader of the pilot
Regional Level							
Public sector, citizens, entrepreneurs, academia	Public sector			Region of Thessaly	Public policy	Transport planning, inclusivity, accessibility	To be invited in the workshops
	private	Iperastiko Ktel S.A.	Public transportation operator	Transport	To be invited in the workshops		
	Association/Network			Digital Cities of Central Greece - (DCCG –Cities Net)	10 Greek Cities network in Thessaly	Smart city services	To be invited in the workshops, to scale up the pilot demonstration

Local level					
Public sector, citizens, entrepreneurs, academia	Public sector	Municipality of Trikala	Public policy	Transport planning, inclusivity, accessibility	Providing data to the mobility simulations
	private	Astiko Ktel S.A.	Public transportation operator	Transport	Providing data to the mobility simulations
	Local schools	School within the Municipality of Trikala	Educational center	Education, safety	To be invited in the workshops
	Public sector	e-Trikala	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based applications, oriented to the improvement of all citizens' everyday life	Transport, ICT	Leading the pilot in the local level
	Public sector	Youth Municipal Council	youth group that represent the views of young people at a local level	Inclusivity, accessibility	To be invited in the workshops and to be part of the interviews
	Private	RadioTaxi Trikalon 18300	transport	Private transport	To be invited in the workshops
		Association of Cyclists	Cycling agenda	Inclusivity, accessibility	To be invited in the workshops and to be part of the interviews

4.8 GE-RUCL – City of Lemgo

The stakeholder data collected from the Innovation Campus Lemgo and surrounding regions offers valuable insights for the recruitment and engagement of diverse stakeholder groups to establish a balanced and inclusive framework for this RUCL. The analysis of the provided stakeholder map highlights the geographic scope, typological representation, and specific contributions of stakeholders, all of which play a crucial role in achieving the goals of Task 2.2.

The **identified stakeholders** span both local and regional levels. The emphasis on local stakeholders, comprising six entries, reflects the project's commitment to addressing hyper-localized challenges such as accessibility, mobility, and commuter behaviour within specific urban and rural interfaces. These local actors include representatives from academic institutions like Technische Hochschule OWL (Ostwestfalen-Lippe), research institutions like Fraunhofer IOSB-INA, Vocational colleges, municipal offices such as Alte Hansestadt Lemgo, and various professional roles, including traffic commissioners and project managers. Their proximity to and familiarity with the local context provide a nuanced understanding of the unique issues affecting the pilot region. In addition to local representation, the inclusion of regional stakeholders, such as representatives from Kreis Lippe, introduces a broader perspective on mobility policy and behavioural shifts required to promote sustainable transport.

This **geographic diversity** aligns seamlessly with Task 2.2's aim to ensure balanced representation of stakeholder groups. The multi-level inclusion not only captures localized insights but also ensures that regional considerations are integrated into co-creation processes, thereby enhancing the scalability and impact of the project. Such an approach reflects the project's commitment to bridging urban and rural divides through inclusive stakeholder engagement.

Typologically, the **stakeholders** represent a wide spectrum of roles, encompassing academia, public sector officials, and civil society actors. This diversity ensures comprehensive engagement across the quadruple helix model, a central principle of RURBANIVE's stakeholder engagement framework. For instance, academic stakeholders, such as professors and researchers from Technische Hochschule OWL or Fraunhofer IOSB-INA contribute their expertise in innovation psychology and sustainable mobility. Public sector officials, including traffic commissioners and heads of education departments, bring a governance perspective that is essential for aligning the project's outcomes with policy frameworks. Moreover, the involvement of civil

society representatives, such as project managers working on mobility solutions, ensures that community-level concerns and needs are adequately addressed.

The activities undertaken by these stakeholders underscore the iterative and participatory nature of engagement in Task 2.2. Expert interviews are a key component of the engagement strategy, serving as a platform to identify challenges related to accessibility and commuter behaviour. For example, one activity sought to evaluate the feasibility of innovative solutions such as the MonoCab² system for vulnerable groups, including students with disabilities. These interviews also captured insights into broader mobility challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as changes in commuting patterns. Beyond interviews, stakeholders contributed to policy feedback mechanisms, focusing on behavioural changes required to shift commuter preferences away from individual car usage toward public transport or cycling. This dual focus on immediate challenges and systemic change demonstrates a holistic approach to stakeholder engagement.

Another notable feature of the **stakeholder engagement activities** is the iterative feedback process. Stakeholders provided evaluations of prototypes, such as the alpha version of simulation tools designed to assess mobility solutions. This feedback not only informed the development of subsequent versions but also ensured that the tools remained aligned with user needs and policy objectives. Such an approach highlights the dynamic nature of stakeholder engagement under Task 2.2, where continuous adaptation and refinement are integral to the process.

The **challenges identified** through these engagement activities further reinforce the importance of Task 2.2. Issues such as accessibility for vulnerable groups, the need for behavioural change in transport habits, and gaps in policy coverage highlight the critical areas where stakeholder input is essential. For example, the challenges faced by students with disabilities in accessing the Innovation Campus Lemgo underscore the need for tailored mobility solutions that address equity and inclusivity.

In terms of its relevance to the deliverable report, the analysis of the stakeholder map provides concrete evidence of progress in implementing Task 2.2. The geographic and typological diversity of stakeholders demonstrates the project's commitment to inclusivity, while the documented activities illustrate the participatory approach central to RURBANIVE's objectives. Furthermore, the outcomes of these activities, such as policy insights and iterative feedback on mobility solutions, serve as tangible deliverables that can be incorporated into the report.

² <https://www.ife-owl.de/forschung/projekte/monocab-campusbahn-am-innovation-campus-lemgo>

Looking ahead, the stakeholder engagement efforts under Task 2.2 lay the groundwork for subsequent tasks, such as the co-creation activities in Task 2.3 and capacity-building initiatives in Task 2.4. The lessons learned from engaging local and regional stakeholders will inform the design of future activities, ensuring that they are both context-sensitive and outcome-oriented. Additionally, the iterative nature of the engagement process will enable the project to continuously refine its strategies, maintaining alignment with stakeholder needs and project goals.

The **stakeholder data** underscores the central role of Task 2.2 in creating a robust and inclusive framework for the RUCLs. By engaging a diverse and geographically dispersed group of stakeholders, the project ensures that its co-creation and capacity-building activities are grounded in the realities of the pilot regions. This approach not only enhances the relevance and impact of the project but also sets a strong foundation for achieving its overarching goal of fostering sustainable rural-urban synergies.

Table 7 - GE-RUCL - Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis Table

#	Geographic Dimension	Stakeholders Group	Typology	Institution	Position	Roles	Interests	Needs
1	Regional	Government	District Administration	Kreis Lippe	Head of Education/district Lippe	Policy advisor	Behavioural change strategies, environmental goals	Models for reducing car dependency, behaviour change approaches
2	Local	Government	Municipality	Alte Hansestadt Lemgo	Traffic commissioner	Decision-maker	Sustainable mobility solutions, traffic patterns	Data insights on commuter behaviour and accessibility challenges
3	Local	Academic	University	Technische Hochschule OWL	Professor for Innovation Psychology	Academic expert	Psychological factors influencing mobility	Data on mobility behaviour, effects of COVID-19
4	Local	Academic	Research Project	Technische Hochschule OWL/Monocab Project	Vice President for Research and Transfer	Institutional leader	Accessibility and technological solutions	Accessibility data, transport innovation support
5	Local	Academic	University	ICL (ICL-Mobil)	Professor TH OWL	Academic researcher	Urban planning and policy-making	Feedback integration and policy framework suggestions
6	Local	Research	Research Institute	ICL (ICL-Mobil)	Project Manager Future	Project manager	Simulation tools and	Feedback on tools and feature enhancements

					City Solutions		stakeholder engagement	
7	Local	Student Organization	University	AStA		Student representative	Student mobility and accessibility	Student-focused solutions, affordability
8	Local	Education	Schools	Lippe Bildung eG		Educator	Education, innovation, sustainability	Mobility solutions for pupils and employees
9	Local	Education	Schools	Lütfeld Berufskolleg		Educator	Education and mobility solutions	Transport solutions for pupils and employees
10	Local	Education	Schools	Hanse Berufskolleg		Educator	Education and mobility solutions	Transport solutions for pupils and employees
11	Local	Education	Schools	Berufsförderungszentrum Kreis Lippe		Educator	Education and mobility solutions	Transport solutions for pupils and employees
12	Local	Research	Community/Science to Business	Centrum Industrial IT (CIIT)		Researcher and industry link	Linking science and industry/business mobility	Business-focused mobility solution

4.9 Pilot-Specific Engagement Strategies and project alignment

4.9.1 ES-RUCL – Burgos Province – CARTIF

The RUCL in Valles Pasiegos, led by the Regional Government of Castilla y León, focuses on addressing rural depopulation by leveraging cultural and natural heritage to foster sustainable tourism. This initiative emphasizes the development of Cognitive Computing (COC) tools designed to measure and analyze emotional connections to cultural landscapes, converting subjective experiences into actionable insights.

Stakeholders include mostly the Regional Government of Castilla y León, which provides policy direction, CARTIF as the technological development partner, and local communities and businesses that contribute cultural knowledge and feedback on tool usability. Urban representatives from Castilla y León also play a role, ensuring urban-rural collaboration. This multi-level engagement promotes innovation while addressing both local and regional needs. Activities begin with a workshop involving the regional government to align the development of COC tools with the region's cultural and technical context. Later, local and urban testing sessions will assess the tools' usability and emotional impact, ensuring they meet the needs of diverse user groups. Finally, a demonstration workshop will be held to showcase the tools, highlight their capabilities, and explore opportunities for replication. Key challenges involve balancing technical innovation with cultural sensitivity and fostering rural-urban collaboration. Opportunities include using emotional metrics to develop compelling narratives that enhance territorial pride and attract tourists and potential new residents. The Valles Pasiegos RUCL represents a forward-thinking approach to rural revitalization, focusing on sustainable tourism and cultural preservation.

4.9.2 CZ-RUCL – Prague Suchdol – CZU

The CZ-RUCL, based in Prague Suchdol and coordinated by CZU, emphasizes enhancing agri-food value chains through innovative approaches and stakeholder collaboration. The primary activity involves training workshops, designed to foster innovation and adaptability based on stakeholder feedback.

Stakeholders encompass national actors such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Association of the Czech Republic, alongside local groups like the PRO-BIO Union of Organic Farmers. National-level entities provide regulatory expertise, while local organizations contribute on-the-ground insights into sustainable practices. This dual-level engagement ensures systemic and localized solutions.

Activities include introductory workshops, policy dialogues, and co-creation sessions leveraging digital tools. These engagements enable iterative refinement of solutions to

align with stakeholder priorities. Key challenges include bridging the gap between policy-level goals and community-level needs, while opportunities lie in using grassroots knowledge to inform scalable practices. The CZ-RUCL exemplifies inclusivity and innovation in its approach to rural-urban interactions.

4.9.3 AT-RUCL – Lower Austria – ALCHEMIA and BIOBASE

The RUCL in Lower Austria focuses on developing circular bioeconomy solutions, with stakeholders contributing expertise in biomass management and eco-innovation. This pilot emphasizes aligning resource efficiency with economic growth, fostering synergies across urban and rural areas.

Stakeholders include national agencies such as the Ministry of Climate Protection, regional entities like Stadt-Umland-Management, and local initiatives such as Blün and Hut und Stiel. These actors represent policymakers, academia, industry, and civil society, ensuring diverse contributions to co-creation efforts.

Activities involve workshops on biomass stream analysis, co-design sessions for bioeconomy strategies, and training on financing models. These engagements build stakeholder capacity while iteratively refining solutions based on feedback. Challenges include balancing policy integration with localized implementation, while opportunities lie in leveraging Austria's bioeconomy expertise to drive innovation and sustainability.

4.9.4 LT-RUCL – Kedainiai – AFL and KDM

The Kedainiai RUCL addresses rural-urban gaps through stakeholder collaboration and policy alignment. This pilot focuses on agri-food systems and sustainable business development, engaging a diverse range of stakeholders to co-create impactful solutions.

Stakeholders include local SMEs and startups in the agri-food sector, regional municipal authorities, and national agricultural agencies. Local actors provide practical insights, while regional and national entities ensure policy coherence and strategic alignment. This multi-scalar approach reflects the inclusivity goals of Task 2.2.

Engagement activities include workshops, co-design sessions, and policy dialogues, focusing on themes such as ecosystem mapping, value chain enhancements and digital Startup Village. Challenges include bridging stakeholder priorities across scales, while opportunities lie in using local innovation to inform broader regional strategies. The Kedainiai RUCL exemplifies a holistic approach to stakeholder engagement.

4.9.5 ELM-RUCL – South Aegean Region – IMERYYS, SAR and AUA

The RUCL in Milos prioritizes sustainable tourism, integrating economic development with environmental conservation and cultural heritage preservation. This pilot

leverages local knowledge to balance growth with sustainability, engaging stakeholders across typologies and scales.

Stakeholders include local farmers, beekeepers, food service professionals, and educational institutions, as well as regional entities such as SAR Municipality. National actors provide policy alignment, while local organizations contribute practical insights into agriculture, biodiversity, and cultural landscapes.

Activities include workshops on sustainable tourism practices, policy dialogues, and community feedback sessions. Challenges include addressing the dual focus on conservation and growth, while opportunities lie in leveraging cultural heritage as a cornerstone of sustainable tourism. The Milos RUCL aligns closely with Task 2.2 objectives by integrating diverse perspectives into co-creation processes.

4.9.6 ELT-RUCL – City of Trikala – TRIKALA and ICCS

The Trikala RUCL focuses on addressing mobility challenges, using stakeholder collaboration to develop solutions that enhance urban-rural integration. This pilot highlights the importance of inclusivity in tackling transport accessibility and infrastructure gaps. Stakeholders range from local citizen groups to regional transport authorities and national policymakers. Academic institutions contribute technical expertise, while NGOs and community organizations ensure that mobility solutions address societal needs.

Engagement activities include surveys, co-creation workshops, and simulations to validate mobility strategies. Challenges include integrating technical innovations with existing infrastructure, while opportunities lie in using community input to design practical, scalable solutions. The Trikala RUCL demonstrates a dynamic and adaptive approach to stakeholder engagement.

4.9.7 GE-RUCL – City of Lemgo – ICL and ICCS

The RUCL in Lemgo focuses on fostering innovation in urban-rural linkages through smart city solutions and community engagement. This pilot leverages technology to address challenges such as digital connectivity and resource management.

Stakeholders include local government authorities, technology providers, academic researchers, and citizen groups. Regional and national actors provide policy oversight and funding opportunities, ensuring alignment with broader strategic goals.

Activities involve co-design sessions, technology demonstrations, and feedback mechanisms to refine solutions. Challenges include balancing technical and social dimensions of innovation, while opportunities lie in using Lemgo as a testbed for replicable smart city practices. The Lemgo RUCL embodies the project's vision of transformative rural-urban synergies.

5 Implementation Plan

The implementation plan for Task 2.2 is enhanced by its interconnectedness with Tasks 2.3 and 2.4. While Task 2.2 focuses on stakeholder mapping, recruitment, and initial engagement, Task 2.3 introduces experimentation and innovation processes, and Task 2.4 emphasizes capacity building to empower stakeholders. Together, these tasks form a cohesive framework that ensures the dynamic involvement of stakeholders in co-creation while building their skills and knowledge for sustained engagement.

5.1 Phase 1: Stakeholder Mapping

The first phase lays the groundwork for all stakeholder engagement and capacity-building efforts by identifying and categorizing key participants across RUCLs. This involves the use of dynamic mapping tools and matrices to document stakeholders' roles, levels of influence, and areas of interest.

Stakeholder mapping ensures inclusivity by capturing diverse typologies, including policymakers, industry representatives, academics, and citizens. This comprehensive understanding of the stakeholder ecosystem directly informs the tailored approaches for co-creation (Task 2.3) and capacity building (Task 2.4). For instance, identifying stakeholders with high influence and low capacity will enable Task 2.4 to prioritize their empowerment through targeted workshops.

Outcome: A robust stakeholder database that supports tailored capacity building and experimentation activities.

5.2 Phase 2: Recruitment Campaigns

This phase transitions from identification to active recruitment, focusing on building a diverse and engaged stakeholder base. Outreach activities include invitations to co-creation workshops and introductory capacity-building sessions. Campaigns emphasize the dual benefits of participation: contributing to innovation (Task 2.3) and gaining tailored skills (Task 2.4).

Stakeholders are introduced to the objectives and methodologies of RUCLs through onboarding activities. These introductory sessions also assess stakeholders' initial needs, which inform the development of capacity-building materials and workshops.

Outcome: A committed group of stakeholders, representing diverse expertise and perspectives, ready to participate in co-creation and capacity-building activities.

5.3 Phase 3: Co-Creation and Initial Capacity Building

This phase combines the early stages of co-creation activities (Task 2.3) with foundational capacity-building efforts (Task 2.4). Co-creation workshops engage

stakeholders in identifying challenges and brainstorming solutions tailored to each RUCL. Simultaneously, introductory capacity-building sessions provide stakeholders with the skills necessary to actively participate in the experimentation process.

The capacity-building materials developed in this phase are informed by insights gathered during stakeholder mapping and recruitment. For example, XR-based tools introduced during workshops are complemented by training modules that familiarize stakeholders with these technologies, ensuring their effective use in experimentation activities.

Outcome: Initial RUE prototypes co-designed by empowered stakeholders who possess the foundational skills to engage in advanced experimentation.

5.4 Phase 4: Dynamic Re-Mapping and Advanced Experimentation

As stakeholders deepen their engagement, their roles, needs, and levels of influence may evolve. This phase focuses on dynamic re-mapping to capture these changes and adapt engagement strategies accordingly. Advanced capacity-building workshops further empower stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to beta-phase experimentation in Task 2.3.

Capacity-building activities during this phase target specific skill gaps identified through re-mapping efforts. For example, regional farmers participating in RUCLs focused on circular bioeconomy may receive advanced training in sustainable practices, enabling them to integrate project outputs into their operations.

Outcome: A dynamic and empowered stakeholder network actively engaged in refining RUE prototypes and scaling innovative solutions.

5.5 Phase 5: Final Demonstrations and Capacity Consolidation

The final phase showcases the outcomes of co-creation and experimentation through public demonstrations and dissemination events. Stakeholders play a central role in presenting the co-created RUEs, highlighting their usability and impact.

Concurrently, this phase consolidates capacity-building efforts, ensuring that stakeholders are equipped to sustain and scale the project's outcomes beyond its lifecycle. Final workshops focus on long-term skills such as project management, policy advocacy, and the integration of RUEs into local and regional ecosystems.

Outcome: Co-created RUE prototypes validated through stakeholder-led demonstrations and a network of empowered stakeholders capable of sustaining the project's impact.

Responsible Partners: Regional teams organize demonstrations, while Task 2.4 participants finalize capacity-building activities.

6 Conclusions and future actions

The current deliverable report for Task 2.2 – “*Stakeholder recruitment and engagement, SSH involvement*”, highlights the critical role of inclusive and iterative stakeholder engagement in achieving RURBANIVE’s objectives. By bringing together diverse stakeholders from academia, government, industry, and civil society, the engagement activities demonstrate how collaborative processes can address complex rural-urban challenges.

The project’s reliance on the quadruple helix model ensures that a wide array of voices is represented, from grassroots organizations advocating for community-level needs to national policymakers shaping legislative frameworks. This balanced approach allows RURBANIVE to develop practical and innovative responses to pressing challenges such as mobility, sustainable tourism, circular bioeconomy, and agri-food systems. Advanced tools, including XR technologies and the Community of Practice Suite (CoPS), further enhance engagement by expanding opportunities for immersive participation and fostering ongoing collaboration. These tools not only enhance accessibility but also ensure that solutions are scalable and adaptable across diverse contexts.

The pilot-specific engagement strategies outlined in this deliverable reflect the flexibility and effectiveness of this approach. For instance, the CZ-RUCL in Prague demonstrates how enhancing agri-food value chains can address both systemic and localized challenges. Similarly, the ELM-RUCL in Milos showcases how co-creation can balance economic growth with environmental conservation through sustainable tourism practices. Each RUCL exemplifies how collaborative, stakeholder-driven methods can lead to impactful outcomes that benefit both rural and urban communities, ensuring long-term relevance and scalability.

6.1 Future Work

As the project progresses, several priorities will guide its next steps to maximize the impact of RURBANIVE’s engagement activities and results:

6.1.1 Promoting Knowledge Sharing and Replicability

The methodologies and tools developed in RURBANIVE, including best practices in stakeholder engagement and co-creation, will be documented and shared widely. Accessible publications, toolkits, and the Community of Practice Suite (CoPS) will facilitate knowledge dissemination and enable other regions to replicate the project’s successes. This will extend the project’s impact beyond its immediate scope, supporting rural-urban integration efforts across Europe.

6.1.2 Monitoring and Evaluating Impact

To ensure that the solutions co-created within RURBANIVE remain relevant and impactful, robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation will be implemented. approaches and measure the adoption and long-term benefits of its innovations.

6.1.3 Fostering a Legacy of Collaboration

The networks and partnerships established through the RUCLs are invaluable assets. Sustaining and expanding these collaborations will be a key focus, ensuring that the connections between rural and urban stakeholders continue to foster innovation and cooperation. By building on these relationships, RURBANIVE will leave behind a legacy of cross-sectoral collaboration and a shared commitment to sustainable development.

By following this roadmap, RURBANIVE aims not only to meet its immediate objectives but also to lay the groundwork for sustained progress in rural-urban integration.

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