



RURBANIVE

RURAL · URBAN · IMMERSIVENESS

RURal-uRBAN synergies emerged in an immersIVE innovation ecosystem

D5.8 Open Call Plan and Monitoring Report

Author: George Papapostolou (RFF)



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| Author | George Papapostolou (RFF) |
| Contributors | Grigorios Chatzikostas (RFF) Dimitrios Fotakidis (RFF) Fani Moschou (RFF) Despoina Kampouridou (RFF) |
| Reviewer(s) | Kostas Naskou (ICCS) Michael Koutsiaras (AUA) Inaki Fernandez Perez (CARTIF) |

The Consortium

| | Legal Name | Short Name | Country |
|----|--|------------|-----------|
| 1 | EREVNITIKO PANEPISTIMIAKO INSTITOUTO SYSTIMATON EPIKOINONION KAI YPOLOGISTON | ICCS | GREECE |
| 2 | GEOPONIKO PANEPISTIMION ATHINON | AUA | GREECE |
| 3 | FUNDACION CARTIF | CARTIF | SPAIN |
| 4 | RISE RESEARCH INSTITUTES OF SWEDEN AB | RISE | SWEDEN |
| 5 | REFRAME FOOD ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA | RFF | GREECE |
| 6 | ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE POUR L'INNOVATION DANS LE DEVELOPPEMENT LOCAL | AEIDL | BELGIUM |
| 7 | CESKA ZEMEDELSKA UNIVERZITA V PRAZE | CZU | CZECHIA |
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| 16 | PARTENARIAT POUR L'EUROPE RURALE | PREPARE | BELGIUM |
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Executive Summary

The aim of deliverable **D5.8: Open Call Plan and Monitoring Report** is to provide an overview of the Open Call and to present the necessary documents involved for successfully managing each process and for carrying out the planned actions.

The contents of each individual Annex are exemplified in this report.

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List of Terms and Abbreviations

| Term/Abbreviation | Meaning |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| RUCL | Rural-Urban Co-creation Lab |
| RUE | Rural-Urban Enabler |
| RUI | Rural-Urban Immersiveness |
| IF | Rural-Urban Innovation Framework |
| CoPS | Community of Practice Suite |
| OC | Open Call |
| FSTP | Financial Support to Third Parties |

1. Introduction

1.1 About RURBANIVE

RURBANIVE aspires to establish a novel **rural-urban innovation framework (IF)**, supported by **technical and social innovations** to **enhance territorial governance** and existing **policy tools**. A **CoPS of Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs)** coupled with a **Community of Practice Suite (CoPS)** of policies, realised through an **immersive layer**, will promote experimentation and innovation.

The **RUEs** will focus on boosting the well-being and economy of rural-urban areas and disrupting the traditional ways by which rural and urban actors interact through **enhanced social connectivity, cooperation, and instant realisation**. In the context of co-creation, **7 Rural-Urban co-creation Labs (RUCLs)** will be equipped with **social and technological innovations** supporting further visualisation. Experimentation between members of the quadruple helix (i.e. from academia, civil society, local & regional administration and industry) will be brought forth, effectuating the social connectivity and innovation aspect of RURBANIVE. The **7 RUCLs** will experiment utilising **6 Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs) - innovations in six domains** known to favour bi-directional urban-rural synergies and a well-being economy:

- i) **improving logistics, and shortening value chains**
- ii) **ecosystem and biodiversity restoration**
- iii) **regional circular bioeconomy development**
- iv) **user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness**
- v) **culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion and**
- vi) **enhanced mobility.**

RURBANIVE will design and develop **6 RUEs in 6 domains** responding to well-being and economy-related rural-urban challenges offering both digital and social innovations. The development will follow an iterative approach rolled out within the context of the participatory processes in the **7 RUCLs**. Demonstration activities will ensure that feedback is collected to feed the development iterations with valuable insights.

RURBANIVE's experimentation and participatory processes, social and technical innovations, along with the establishment of the **rural-urban IF, policies, business models and schemes**, will be implemented in rural areas (in proximity to urban centres) covering a wide variety of landscapes and geographies across Europe:

- **plateau/basin** being challenged by low consumer awareness and access to know-how about the benefits of short value chains;
- **island/volcanic/coastal** being challenged by low diversification of ecosystem restoration and integration with agriculture;
- **mountains/rivers** being challenged by underserved by public transport and unsustainable cultural tourism; lowland/agricultural/artificial lake (LT- KDM) being challenged by low innovation, institutional thickness and city-centric regional outlook;
- **plateau/reservoirs/lakes** being challenged by rural depopulation and sustaining cultural tourism;
- **valley/rivers** being challenged in commuting to work and engagement towards business opportunities; and
- **hilly/flatland/river** being challenged in transporting resources from rural areas, economic stagnation.

A multi-actor approach will be implemented in the **7 RUCLs** where testing and validation activities in real-life settings will not only demonstrate the urban-rural synergies through various domains but also realise them through physical and immersive realisations.

Rural-Urban Co-creation Labs

Addressing rural-urban challenges

Lemgo, Germany

Improve transport connections between the city and its Innovation Campus and expand its entrepreneurial and innovation outlook

Prague Suchdol, Czech Republic

Increase awareness about the benefits of consuming local agri-food products and provide access to the latest know-how on innovation and business opportunities in agri-food production

Lower Austria, Austria

Reduce the environmental footprint of the exchange of secondary resources by developing the regional circular bioeconomy



Burgos, Spain

Stop rural depopulation and promote sustainable cultural tourism

Kėdainiai, Lithuania

Improve rural economic and social growth by promoting innovative business ecosystems and shifting from city-centric regional policies

Trikala, Greece

Improve transport connections between rural and urban areas and promote sustainable cultural tourism

Milos, Greece

Increase the diversification of ecosystem restoration and improve its integration with agriculture

Figure 1.1 Seven (7) Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs of RURBANIVE

Seven (7) RUCLs will be established across Europe to engage rural stakeholders in participatory activities for a bottom-up co-creation of innovations. Based on the 6 RURBANIVE domains, social, technological, and business innovations will be prototyped, tested, piloted, and demonstrated in the seven (7) RURCLs in rural areas in the EU representing various contexts in terms of location, population, and challenges.

1.2 *RURBANIVE Objectives*

The overall objective of RURBANIVE will be achieved by realising the Key Objectives (KOs) as follows:

- Enhance rural-urban synergies through participatory approaches and the development of the rural-urban innovation framework?
- Rural-urban enablers development, delivery and demonstration through extended reality tools.
- Rural-urban actors and stakeholders are equipped with rural-urban immersiveness and a community store of RURBANIVE results (inventory, campaigns, RUEs, practices) supporting visualisation, realisation, experimentation, and assessment of RUEs and scenarios to improve social connectivity in an inclusive setup.
- To support on-line interaction, dialogue, collaboration, and participation of rural-urban actors and stakeholders in the making of policy recommendations and bi-directional rural-urban synergies
- To maximise the project's contribution in achieving sustainable and resilient rural-urban communities through innovative services and develop business models to mainstream solutions

and through the following scientific and technological outputs:

- 6 RUEs developed through 7 RUCLs by RURBANIVE partners
- 6 RUEs developed through the Open Call
- 3 XR applications developed
- 1 Community of Practice Suite developed
- 30 Practice abstracts
- Policy recommendations
- Knowledge and capacity development.

2. RURBANIVE's Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to end-users

The Open Call Toolkit is comprised of the following Annexes:

- ANNEX 1: Call for Evaluators;
- ANNEX 2: Open Call text (Fiche);
- ANNEX 3: Hand out Summary;
- ANNEX 4: Applicants' Guide;
- ANNEX 5: Consortium Declaration;
- ANNEX 6: Declaration of Honour (DoH);
- ANNEX 7: Declaration of Conducting Business;
- ANNEX 8: Open Call Proposal Template;
- ANNEX 9: Bank account information;
- ANNEX 10: Model sub-grant agreement;
- ANNEX 11: Frequently Asked Questions.

The contents of each individual Annex are described in the following chapters.

It is noted that the above documents are available for download on RURBANIVE's Open Call page on RURBANIVE's website: <https://rurbanive-project.eu/>.

Please note that the actual publishing date of the Open Call may differ. RURBANIVE respects the importance of following the European Commission's process for advertising the Open Call on the Funding and Tenders portal. Therefore, we are currently awaiting the review and validation of the Open Call kit before proceeding with the publishing process. For the actual starting date, please refer to the Open Call Kit that will be published on RURBANIVE's webpage, in compliance with the requests from the European Commission.

2.1 ANNEX 1: Call for Evaluators

This document presents information about the selection of independent evaluators, who will be able to assess the quality of applications received within the RURBANIVE Open Call. The following information is being provided:

- Evaluators profile
- Financial benefits
- Evaluation procedure
- Evaluators selection process
- Expression of interest
- Timeline of activities
- Liability and Admissibility

2.2 ANNEX 2: Open Call text (Fiche)

This document presents the information of the RURBANIVE Open Call for establishing a rural-urban innovation framework and provides necessary information for applying for the development of new RUEs in the framework of the RURBANIVE project. This document contains information such as:

- Short description of RURBANIVE;
- General Information about the Open Call for the development of new digital RUEs;
- Timeline and important dates;
- Topics;
- Eligibility criteria;
- Submission procedure;
- Origin of the funds,
- Points of contact.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 2 of this deliverable.

2.3 ANNEX 3: Hand out Summary

This document summarizes the basic information of the RURBANIVE Open Call for developing new digital RUEs and provides necessary information for applying in the framework of project.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 3 of this deliverable.

2.4 ANNEX 4: Applicant's Guide

This document is essential administrative support to the applicants during the process of application. It introduces Open Call, explaining in detail all the points of the application. This document contains:

- Introduction (background information about RURBANIVE, its approach, purpose, objectives and expected outcomes);
- Overview of the Open Call for developing new digital RUEs (general information, main objectives of the RUEs, geographical distribution of the RUEs, the domains, submission procedure, documentation format and origin of funds);
- Information about proposal submission and selection (specific information regarding the publication of the Open Call, eligibility criteria, application and evaluation process);
- Information about for the implementation of the sub-projects of the selected RUEs (timeline, activities, deliverables and funding);
- Responsibilities of selected RUEs (conflict of interest, ethics and confidentiality, promotion of visibility and EU funding and data protection, etc.);
- Checklist of necessary application steps;
- Points of contact.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 4 of this deliverable.

2.5 ANNEX 5: Consortium Declaration

This document presents a form where the applying RUEs must declare the composition of the consortium providing information such as the name, address, type and expertise of the partners.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 5 of this deliverable.

2.6 ANNEX 6: Declaration of Honour (DoH)

This document presents a form where applicants must declare exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest. Additionally, applicants by signing declare that they enter the application process respecting the given guidelines.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 6 of this deliverable.

2.7 ANNEX 7: Declaration of Conducting Business

This document is a form that follows guidelines set by the European Commission which evaluates the status of the entity applying for the Open Call. By submitting this document applicants declare they fulfill the eligibility criteria of being officially registered and having the status of “legal entity”.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 7 of this deliverable.

2.8 ANNEX 8: Open Call Proposal template

This document is a comprehensive application form that applicants need to fill in and submit in a pdf format. As part of the template, applicants will describe the RUE, the application’s objectives, the proposed work plan and activities, the results and deliverables according to RURBANIVE’s expectations, environmental/ ecosystem/ financial impact, sustainability and budget requested.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 8 of this deliverable.

2.9 ANNEX 9: Bank Account information

This document follows the guidelines set by the European Commission for acquiring bank account information that will be used to release payments to selected applicants and based on the payment scheme.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 9 of this deliverable.

2.10 ANNEX 10: Model Sub-grant Agreement

This document presents the model of the sub-grant agreement that is planned to be used during the contracting phase with the selected RUEs of the Open Call. It is important to note that this document is for informative purposes only, subject to possible changes suggested by EC or the legal team of RFF, thus cannot be treated as legally binding.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 10 of this deliverable.

2.11 ANNEX 11: Frequently Asked Questions

This document provides frequently asked questions about the Open Call specifics.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 11 of this deliverable.

3. Conclusions

This deliverable gives an overview of the work done and documentation prepared for the RURBANIVE Open Call, for developing new RUEs.

This material is expected to guide all potential applicants in the preparation of their proposal. It provides the most important information such as eligibility criteria, financial support and services, payment modalities, evaluation process etc.

Please note that the actual publishing date of the Open Call might differ, due to the requests of the European Commission. For the actual starting date, please refer to the Open Call Kit published on RURBANIVE's webpage.

In addition, it is important to note that the RURBANIVE Open Call Kit might be updated before the launch of the Call on January 2nd, 2025.

All the original documents can be found in the Annexes.



RURBANIVE

RURAL · URBAN · IMMERSIVENESS

RUral-u**R**BAN synergies emerged in an immers**I**VE
innovation ecosystem

**Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a
mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban
Enablers available to end-users**

ANNEX 1 Call for Evaluators



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1. The RURBANIVE Project

1.1 About the RURBANIVE project

RURBANIVE aspires to establish a novel **rural-urban innovation framework (IF)**, supported by **technical and social innovations to enhance territorial governance** and existing **policy tools**. A **Community Store of Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs)** coupled with a **Community of Practice Suite (CPS)** of policies, realised through an **immersive layer**, will promote experimentation and innovation.

The **Community Store** will focus on boosting the well-being and economy of rural/urban areas and disrupting the traditional ways by which rural and urban actors interact through **enhanced social connectivity, cooperation, and instant realisation**. In the context of co-creation, **7 Rural-Urban co-creation Labs (RUCLs)** will be equipped with **social and technological innovations** supporting further visualisation. Experimentation between members of the quadruple helix (i.e. from academia, civil society, local & regional administration and industry) will be brought forth, effectuating the social connectivity and innovation aspect of RURBANIVE. The **7 RUCLs** will experiment utilising **6 Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs) - innovations in six domains** known to favour bi-directional urban-rural synergies and a well-being economy:

- i) **circular economy**
- ii) **ecosystem and biodiversity restoration**
- iii) **improving logistics, and shortening value chains**
- iv) **user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness**
- v) **culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion and**
- vi) **enhanced mobility.**

RURBANIVE will design and develop **6 RUEs** in **6 domains** responding to well-being and economy-related rural/urban challenges offering both digital and social innovations. The development will follow an iterative approach rolled out within the context of the participatory processes in the **7 RUCLs**. Demonstration activities will ensure that feedback is collected to feed the development iterations with valuable insights.

RURBANIVE's **experimentation and participatory processes, social and technical innovations**, along with the establishment of the **rural/urban IF, policies, business models and schemes**, will be implemented in rural areas (in proximity to urban centres) covering a wide variety of landscapes and geographies across Europe:

- **plateau/basin** being challenged by low consumer awareness and access to know-how about the benefits of short value chains;
- **island/volcanic/coastal** being challenged by low diversification of ecosystem restoration and integration with agriculture;
- **mountains/rivers** being challenged by underserved by public transport and unsustainable cultural tourism; lowland/agricultural/artificial lake being challenged by low innovation, institutional thickness and city-centric regional outlook;
- **plateau/reservoirs/lakes** being challenged by rural depopulation and sustaining cultural tourism;
- **valley/rivers** being challenged in commuting to work and engagement towards business opportunities; and
- **hilly/flatland/river** being challenged in transporting resources from rural areas, economic stagnation.

A multi-actor approach will be implemented in the **7 RUCLs** where testing and validation activities in real-life settings will not only demonstrate the urban-rural synergies through various domains but also realise them through physical and immersive realisations.

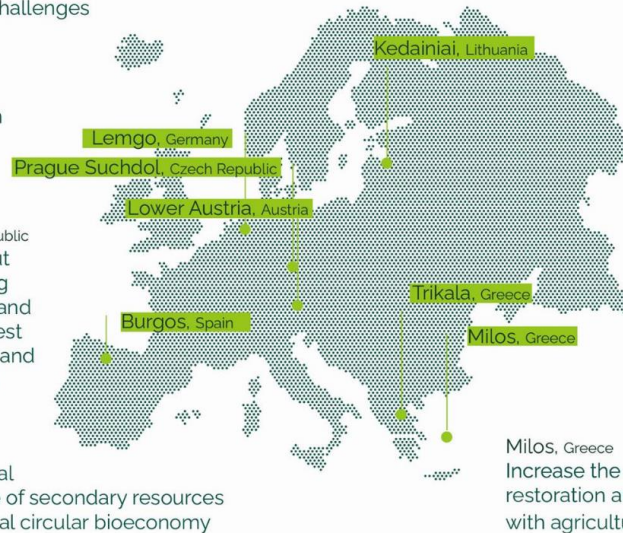
Rural-Urban Co-creation Labs

Addressing rural-urban challenges

Lemgo, Germany
 Improve transport connections between the city and its Innovation Campus and expand its entrepreneurial and innovation outlook

Prague Suchdol, Czech Republic
 Increase awareness about the benefits of consuming local agri-food products and provide access to the latest know-how on innovation and business opportunities in agri-food production

Lower Austria, Austria
 Reduce the environmental footprint of the exchange of secondary resources by developing the regional circular bioeconomy



Burgos, Spain
 Stop rural depopulation and promote sustainable cultural tourism

Kedainiai, Lithuania
 Improve rural economic and social growth by promoting innovative business ecosystems and shifting from city-centric regional policies

Trikala, Greece
 Improve transport connections between rural and urban areas and promote sustainable cultural tourism

Milos, Greece
 Increase the diversification of ecosystem restoration and improve its integration with agriculture

Figure 1 Seven (7) Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs of RURBANIVE

Seven (7) RUCLs will be established across Europe to engage rural stakeholders in participatory activities for a bottom-up co-creation of innovations. Based on the 6 RURBANIVE domains, social, technological, and business innovations will be prototyped, tested, piloted, and demonstrated in the seven (7) RUCLs in rural areas in the EU representing various contexts in terms of location, population, and challenges.

A brief description of the RUEs developed within RURBANIVE, and their locality is presented in the table below, while the RUEs are defined further in the following chapter.

Table 1 RURBANIVE's six (6) RUEs in the six (6) domains, co-developed in the seven (7) RUCLs

| Domain | Brief Description of the Rural-Urban Enabler | Rural-Urban Co-creation Lab |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Circular Bioeconomy | The enabler for the circular bioeconomy is built to optimize regional biomass streams by standardizing data collection and visualizing resource flows. | Lower Austria, Austria |
| Ecosystem and biodiversity restoration | Quarry Restoration with Mediterranean biome adapted plants & crops, and a Botanical Path tour | Milos, Greece |
| Improving logistics, and shortening value chains | A socially driven digital platform to educate and popularise the food industry for the general public | Prague, Czech Republic |
| User engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness | Leverage local resources to drive equitable economic development & balanced exchange of value between rural and urban areas | Kedainiai, Lithuania |

| Domain | Brief Description of the Rural-Urban Enabler | Rural-Urban Co-creation Lab |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Culture, landscape and heritage, access and promotion | Employ different cognitive computing tools to foster sustainable tourism by attracting urban populations to rural areas through personalised experiences | Burgos, Spain |
| Enhanced mobility | A simulation software that will explore alternatives to enhance connectivity between urban centres and their suburban and rural counterparts | Lemgo, Germany |
| | | Trikala, Greece |

2. RURBANIVE Open Call

2.1 Open Call Specifics

RURBANIVE through this **Open Call (OC)** will provide **Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)** as a mechanism to **increase the number of RUEs** available to **end-users** (e.g. actors from the rural-urban environments such as Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.) and accelerate network expansion through the **technology & service providers** (e.g. entities such as SMEs and other private pro-profit or non-profit organisations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc.)

These new digital enablers should be applied to geographical areas **other than the existing 7 RUCLs**; testing them in other regional typologies and cultural, social and local economic conditions than those of the **RUCLs** implemented by the **RURBANIVE consortium** will allow for greater and more widespread impact.

The OC aims to:

- Address a wider range of societal and environmental challenges related to the 6 RURBANIVE domains.
- Harness the potential of using data from multiple sources and make users themselves part of the solution.
- Enable the transferability and accelerate the uptake and upscale of the RUEs at a pan-European level towards sustainable and resilient rural areas.
- Enhance RURBANIVE's Community Store by adding at least 6 more RUEs based on the synergies between rural and urban environments across Europe.

The sub-projects performed by the selected Consortia will have an implementation timeframe of 12 months (estimated for August 2026). The 12-month implementation period will be divided into 3 phases:

Table 1 RURBANIVE Open Call: project implementation phases

| Phase | Duration | Payment schedule | Deliverable |
|------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Phase 1 - Design | M1-M4 | Payment of 20% of the total grant | Activity plan |

| Phase | Duration | Payment schedule | Deliverable |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Phase 2 - Development | M5-M9 | Payment of 50% of the total grant | RUE solution demonstration |
| Phase 3 - Validation | M10-M12 | Payment of 30% of the total grant | Report on market or community associated activities |

Important note: Payments take place after the submission and evaluation of each deliverable and within one (1) month after final acceptance has occurred.

Targeted applicants:

The consortia will be composed min 2 - max 4 parties including at least 1 technology & service provider and at least 1 end-user.

Examples of technology service providers: entities such as SMEs and other private for-profit or non-profit organizations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc.

Examples of end-users: e.g. actors from the rural-urban environments, such as Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.

The table below contains key numbers of the Open Call:

Table 2 RURBANIVE Open Call | Key Numbers

| RURBANIVE Open Call | Total amount | Project size | no. of projects | Partners per project | Budget per partner |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | 600k Euros | 100k Euros | 6 | min2-max4 | 20k≤partner≤60k |

The submission timeline of the Open Call for the proposals is the **2nd of January 2025 to the 31st of March 2025.**

2.2 Opencalls.fund platform

The opencalls.fund platform is a digital platform for the management of the applications for financial support to third parties and accelerator programs, developed and maintained by reframe.food. The RURBANIVE open call for financial support to third parties (FSTP) will be published through the opencalls.fund platform.

We are looking for evaluators!

● Evaluators profile

We are looking for independent evaluators, who will be able to assess the quality of applications received within the **RURBANIVE Open Call**, shortly after its closure.

Evaluators must be:

- European -EU nationals Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions, as well as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to an EU Member, as well as nationals of Horizon Europe associated countries, full list here).
- Experienced in Information & Communication Technologies (ITC) and experienced in business expertise related to the topics of the call and knowledge surrounding the six (6) RURBANIVE domains, i.e. **circular economy, ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, improving logistics, and shortening value chains, user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness, culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion & enhanced mobility.**
- Experienced in evaluating EC proposals or similar experience.

An evaluator should not work for an organisation that aims to apply for the **RURBANIVE Open Call**, nor in an organisation participating in the **RURBANIVE consortium**.

All evaluators must declare beforehand any known conflicts of interest and must immediately inform the RURBANIVE Consortium staff if they detect a conflict of interest during the evaluation. The evaluator's contract also requires evaluators to maintain strict confidentiality with respect to the whole evaluation process.

They must follow any instruction given by the RURBANIVE Consortium to ensure this. Under no circumstance may an evaluator attempt to contact an applicant on his/her own account, during the evaluation process. Confidentiality rules must be adhered to at all times before, during and after the evaluation. All external evaluators will sign a confidentiality declaration.

All evaluators must adhere to the guiding principles for independent experts set out by the EC including independence, impartiality, objectivity, accuracy and consistency.

The evaluators will be in charge of providing a neutral yet technical/scientific review of the received applications on the following aspects:

- Concept and feasibility
- Technology readiness and innovation development
- Impact & Exploitation
- Organisational capacity and sufficiency in the team's background.

The full evaluation criteria of the open call are specified in the respective open call kit documents. In addition, the kit will be part of the evaluators' manual. The evaluation process per application as well as specific reimbursement of evaluators' efforts will be listed. It is important to note that the number of applications per evaluator depends on several factors: the time availability of the evaluators, the number of submitted applications, and the number of evaluators to be selected throughout the open call.

● Financial Benefits

In the case of the RURBANIVE project, external evaluators will participate in consortia selection. The evaluators daily rate amounts to 450€ and is based upon the EC rules. Two evaluators will be assigned to each proposal, with a projected capacity of **3-4 proposal evaluations per day, depending on the total number of proposals received.**

Payment will be done in Euros by bank transfer on the personal account of the evaluators, up to 60 days after submission of the evaluations and reception of an invoice from the evaluator.

The minimum and maximum number of days per evaluator will depend on the number of applications received, and other factors such as availability of the evaluator throughout the process etc.

- **Evaluation procedure**

All the activities will be performed individually on the opencalls.fund platform; no physical meetings are planned. The evaluation process will start with a short briefing telco about the evaluation procedure with a special focus on the evaluation criteria. Then, each proposal will be assigned to 2 evaluators and therefore for each proposal 2 individual evaluation reports will be written.

In evaluating proposals, it's crucial for the evaluators to provide detailed comments for each criterion, explaining the rationale behind the given score. The comments should align with and justify the scores given, ensuring consistency and clarity in the evaluation process.

After completing their evaluation, each pair of evaluators will have to consolidate their evaluations in one report ensuring that they reach a mutual agreement on the proposal's merits.

The process will be monitored and facilitated by the OC manager. This collaborative process ensures consistency in judgement and guards against bias, ultimately leading to the selection of the most deserving proposals. The effort of consolidation is included in the overall fee per proposal (€225) and is not reimbursed separately.

In case the difference in scores between evaluators is significant (>5) a consensus meeting between the two evaluators will be held to seek adjustments. In case the consensus meeting is unsuccessful, an online interview of the applicant by the external evaluators (a third external evaluator) will be conducted. The following criteria will be evaluated:

- (i) confirmation of proposed solution (40%);
- (ii) acceptance of the solution from the rural communities (30%);
- (iii) reliability to successfully complete the project (30%).

- **Evaluators selection process**

Evaluators will be selected by the RURBANIVE Advisory Board based on their competences and needs of the open call.

- **Expression of interest**

If you are interested in being an evaluator, create an evaluator profile on the opencalls.fund, fill in all necessary fields and upload your CV (as .pdf) - the application shouldn't take you more than 5 minutes!

Apply [here](#):

Please **register as an evaluator** by checking the relative option.

If you know someone else who might be qualified for this task and might be interested, please forward this to him or her. By applying to RURBANIVE Call for Evaluators, applicants automatically accept all the rules and conditions described below.

- **Tentative timeline of activities for Open Call***

RURBANIVE Open Call duration for evaluators: January 2025 - February 2025.

Eligibility check of the received evaluators' applications: April 2025.

Contracting with selected evaluators: April 2025.

Evaluation of Open Call proposals by the external evaluators: May 2025- June 2025

**Dates may be revised/ amended, subject to approval by EC services.*

- **Evaluators' liability**

All evaluators will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreement with the RURBANIVE consortium prior to the evaluation start.

By applying to the RURBANIVE Call for evaluators and registration to the opencalls.fund, the expert:

- understands that submitting an application (registration) does not guarantee his/her selection as an evaluator for any of the open calls.
- understands that he/she will have to provide a signed Code of Conduct and Declaration of Honor (DoH) along with any other requested documents, if he/she is selected to serve as an evaluator for a specific open call published on the OCH platform.
- confirms that the team in charge for each Open Call will ask him/her on an open call basis about time availability to accomplish the evaluation within the specified time frame for the given open call, to attend a briefing session (if required) and a debriefing session after the selection (if required). Timing will be provided for every open call.
- confirms the interest to be informed about the future opportunities to act as an evaluator on ongoing and upcoming open calls that will be conducted on OCH.
- assures that he/she will only evaluate the applications of applicants for whom she/he does not have a Conflict of Interest (Col).

- **Admissibility**

- The applicant must be a European (EU nationals (Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions, as well as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to EU Member) as well as nationals of Horizon Europe associated countries, full list [HERE](#)) (Note: if you are not a citizen of these countries, but a resident/taxpayer in one of these countries, you are still eligible to become an evaluator).

- **Applications can be submitted at any time starting from April 2025.** With 3-4 evaluations per day per evaluator, depending on the total number of proposals received, this ensures that evaluation will be completed in due time.
- Applications must be submitted electronically via the [opencalls.fund](#) platform, electronic submission system as indicated in this call, using the form provided inside [opencalls.fund](#) Platform, and a CV, as .pdf, must be attached as part of the application. Paper or email submissions are NOT possible.
- Applications must be complete for all parts, and CV should be readable, accessible and printable.

If the admissibility criteria are respected, then the evaluation of the expert will be performed by the Advisory Board or expert team of each project whose Open Call is conducted via [opencalls.fund](#) platform. To formalise the collaboration, a service contract will be signed between **reframe.food** and the evaluators.

All selected evaluators will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreement prior to the evaluation start.

By applying for evaluators, interested applicants automatically accept the Guidelines in this Call for Evaluators and all the guidelines and requirements emerging from documentation included in the Open Call kit.

- **Conflict of interest**

Evaluators must not have a conflict of interest at the time of their appointment and must sign a contract with a declaration that no such conflict exists. They also must inform the consortium should such a conflict arise in any of the applications they have been assigned. When a potential conflict of interest is reported by the evaluator or brought to the attention of the consortium by any means, the project consortium will analyse the circumstances and any objective elements of information available. If the consortium concludes that there is conflict of interest, the evaluator will be excluded from the evaluation of that application. All potential conflicts of interest will be assessed carefully. Please see more info *here*.

- **Confidentiality**

Evaluators are bound by confidentiality, as all information relating to the assessment process is strictly confidential. They are not allowed to disclose any information about the applications submitted and results of the assessment and selection to anyone. They are also not allowed to use the ideas of the application for their own purposes.

Good luck and thank you for your interest.

We are looking forward to collaborating with you!

The RURBANIVE Team



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**Annex 2
Open Call text (Fiche)**



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Introduction

This document provides guidance information regarding the RURBANIVE Open Call, describing the eligibility and evaluation criteria. The document in its entirety and all associated documents of the Open Call kit must be read carefully before the submission of an application.

About RURBANIVE

RURBANIVE aspires to establish a novel rural-urban innovation framework, supported by technical and social innovations to enhance territorial governance and existing policy tools. The project will design and develop **6 Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs)** in **6 domains**¹ responding to well-being and economy-related rural-urban. The development will follow an iterative approach rolled out within the context of the participatory processes in **7 Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs (RUCLs)**. Demonstration activities will ensure that feedback is collected to feed the development iterations with valuable insights. In addition, the Community Store of RUEs coupled with the Community of Practice Suite (CPS) of policies, realised through an immersive layer, will promote experimentation and innovation.

Participatory processes in a multi-actor scheme will allow experimentation across the EU, in locations varying in topographies and facing unique rural-urban challenges. Extended Reality will be used to realise immersiveness and through the Community Store that stores the main project results, the rural-urban stakeholders will be equipped with the appropriate tools to develop their cultural literacy and sensitivity in an inclusive setup supporting experimentation and innovation. Rural-urban immersiveness (RUI) consisting of immersive applications will access the community store of RURBANIVE's results (including, RUEs, knowledge and practices) available as campaigns, and will further enable experimentation through virtual access to RUEs, support on-line interaction, dialogue, collaboration, as well as enable assessment and evaluation through the Community of Practice Suite.

The purpose of the OC is to provide more solutions for the rural-urban areas, accelerate the expansion of the RURBANIVE innovation ecosystem and ensure an adequate motivation of the stakeholder from the rural-urban communities. The participants will contribute to the enrichment of the RURBANIVE's Community Store, which will serve as a one-stop-shop that offers enhanced capabilities for searching and accessing digitised solutions and services.

RURBANIVE Open Call

RURBANIVE's Open Call is intended to fuel the growth trajectory of digital solutions for rural-urban synergies and boost the overall project impact, by increasing the number of RUEs available to actors of Rural-Urban communities (e.g. such as Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.) and accelerate network expansion through the participation of technology & service providers (e.g. entities such as SMEs and other private pro-profit or non-profit organisations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc.)

Through RURBANIVE's Open Call the new digital RUEs will be applied to geographical areas other than the existing 7 RUCLs, testing them in other regional typologies and cultural, social and local economic conditions than those of the RUCLs. These sub-projects will also be

¹ The six (6) RURBANIVE domains are: i) circular bioeconomy, ii) ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, iii) improving logistics, and shortening value chains, iv) user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness, v) culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion, and vi) enhanced mobility.

enhanced by new Business Models through participatory processes with rural and urban communities and relevant good practices.

RURBANIVE's Open Call aims to:

- Address a wider range of societal and environmental challenges related to the 6 RURBANIVE domains.
- Harness the potential of using data from multiple sources and make users themselves part of the solution.
- Enable the transferability and accelerate the uptake and upscale of the RUEs at a pan-European level towards sustainable and resilient rural areas.
- Enhance RURBANIVE's Community Store by adding at least 6 more RUEs based on the synergies between rural and urban environments across Europe.

Open Call as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to rural-urban communities

General Information

RURBANIVE's Open Call will encourage technology & service providers to develop and apply their own RUE within the 6 RURBANIVE domains, increasing the number of RUEs available to stakeholders.

RURBANIVE will accept applications, involving consortia of 2-4 parties (≥ 1 technology & service provider and ≥ 1 end-user) and proposed solutions must fall within one of the following domains

- i. circular economy,
- ii. ecosystem and biodiversity restoration,
- iii. improving logistics, and shortening value chains,
- iv. user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness
- v. culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion &
- vi. enhanced mobility

RURBANIVE's Open Call will be launched in January 2025. The proposal eligibility check, evaluation and sub-grant agreement preparation will take place between April 2025 and August 2025. Selected projects will be launched in September 2025 having an implementation timeframe of 12 months (until August 2026). The 12-month implementation period will be divided into 3 phases:

- Phase 1 – Design (Duration: 4 months / September 2025 – December 2025) [Deliverable: Activity plan]
- Phase 2 - Development (Duration: 5 months / January 2026 – May 2026) [Deliverable: RUE solution demonstration]
- Phase 3 - Validation (Duration 3 months / June 2026 – August 2026) [Deliverable: Report on market or community associated activities].

The Open Call will result in at least 6 projects (max 100k euro per project – with the funds dispersed amongst the consortia members, with at least one technology & service provider

and at least one end-user). In total, a 600k euro budget will be allocated to financial support to third parties.

Table 1 RURBANIVE Open Call – application and selection timeline

| | Activity | Date |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Application and selection | Launch of the Open Call | January 2025 |
| | Deadline for submitting the proposals | March 2025 |
| | Eligibility check and selection of external experts | April 2025 |
| | Evaluation and selection | May 2025 – June 2025 |
| | Contracting and announcement of results | July 2025 – August 2025 |

Topics

Selected consortia will receive funding for developing and applying their own Rural-Urban Enabler, i.e. different from the six (6) Rural-Urban Enablers that will be developed by the RURBANIVE partners, representing regions beyond the existing RUCs, within the six (6) domains as described previously. More details can be found in the RURBANIVE Open Call Applicants' Guide.

It is important to note that the applicants are encouraged to submit proposals based on their own ideas related to the topic of RURBANIVE Open Call. To be eligible, the new RUEs will need to address challenges of rural-urban communities/ areas.

Eligibility criteria

Eligible stakeholders to participate in the call for third party funding include actors of Rural-Urban communities such as Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.) and technology & service providers (e.g. entities such as SMEs and other private pro-profit or non-profit organisations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc.). Detailed eligibility criteria are described in the RURBANIVE Open Call Applicants' Guide, Section 2.2 Eligibility criteria.

An automatic filtering to discard non-eligible proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- Legal entity in eligible country (as defined in section 3.2.2 of the Applicant's Guide);
- Uniqueness of the proposal (one proposal per consortium);
- Each party can participate in only one proposal; If any applicant is found to participate in multiple applications, all such project applications will be rejected.
- Proposal includes at least one technical party (e.g. entities such as SMEs and other private for-profit or non-profit organisations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc) and at least one rural community (e.g. actors from the rural-urban environments, such as Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.);

- Proposed RUEs fall within one of the six (6) domains: circular economy, ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, improving logistics, and shortening value chains, user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness, culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion, & enhanced mobility.
- Proposed solutions must be different from the six (6) RUEs being developed within the RURBANIVE project as described in section 1, chapter 1.3 of the Applicants Guide.
- Proposed solutions must be applied in rural areas, different from those covered by the existing RUCAs areas as described in section 1 of the Applicants Guide.

On top of that, the following eligibility criteria apply:

- Existing consortium members of the RURBANIVE project and their affiliated entities are not eligible for the OC.
- The proposal must be delivered before the defined deadline (March 31st, 2025 @ 17:00 CET), applying the requested submission procedure.
- Proposals shall only ask for funding for that part of the work that is not yet accomplished and will be carried out once having been selected for funding. Of course, this does not exclude the usage of e.g., results, IP, infrastructures or approaches already held by the applicants.
- All Applicants must have a valid VAT number and must be active and operational. However, in case having VAT number is not mandatory according to the national legislation of the applicant's country, a registration number from the respective national authority (National business registry, Commercial court or similar) must be provided.

Submission procedure

RURBANIVE's Open Call for proposals will be submitted digitally through the opencalls.fund platform. Interested Applicants should visit RURBANIVE's website (<https://rurbanive-project.eu/rurbanive-open-call/>) for any updates, and the FAQ section available in the opencalls.fund platform.

Submissions received through any other channel will be automatically discarded.

Documents required in subsequent phases will be submitted via dedicated channels, which will be indicated by the RURBANIVE OC Team in the contracting phase.

In case multiple versions of the same application are submitted, only the last version will be evaluated.

Origin of funds

The funds provided through the Open Call originate directly from the funds of the Horizon Europe Project RURBANIVE, which is funded by the European Commission under Grant Agreement Number 101136597.

To receive funding, any selected proposal will sign a dedicated Sub-Grant Agreement with RURBANIVE's Treasurer (RFF).

More details on obligations of beneficiaries can be found in Chapter 4 of the Open Call Applicants' Guide.

Points of contact

For all the information related to the RURBANIVE Open Call please state your question on the FAQ section on the opencalls.fund platform or contact us at rurbanive@opencalls.fund.



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Annex 3 Hand out Summary



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Introduction

RURBANIVE aspires to establish a novel rural-urban innovation framework, supported by technical and social innovations to enhance territorial governance and existing policy tools. The project will design and develop **6 Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs)** in **6 domains**¹ responding to well-being and economy-related rural/urban challenges offering both digital and social innovations. The development will follow an iterative approach rolled out within the context of the participatory processes in **7 Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs (RUCLs)**. Demonstration activities will ensure that feedback is collected to feed the development iterations with valuable insights. In addition, the Community Store of RUEs coupled with the Community of Practice Suite (CPS) of policies, realised through an immersive layer, will promote experimentation and innovation.

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RURBANIVE's Open Call aims to:

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- Address a wider range of societal and environmental challenges related to the 6 RURBANIVE domains.
- Harness the potential of using data from multiple sources and make users themselves part of the solution.
- Enable the transferability and accelerate the uptake and upscale of the RUEs at a pan-European level towards sustainable and resilient rural areas.
- Enhance RURBANIVE's Community Store by adding at least 6 more RUEs based on the synergies between rural and urban environments across Europe.

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The Open Call will result in at least 6 projects (max 100k euro per project – with the funds dispersed amongst the consortia members, with at least one technology & service provider and at least one end-user). In total, a 600k euro budget will be allocated to financial support to third parties.

For all the information related to the RURBANIVE Open Call please state your question on the FAQ section on the opencalls.fund platform or contact us at rurbanive@opencalls.fund.



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Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to end-users

Annex 4 Applicants' Guide



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Glossary

| | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| RUCL | Rural-Urban Co-creation Lab |
| RUE | Rural-Urban Enabler |
| RUI | Rural-Urban Immersiveness |
| IF | Innovation Framework |
| CoPS | Community of Practice Suite |
| OC | Open Call |
| FSTP | Financial Support to Third Parties |

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1. Introduction

This document provides guidance information regarding the **RURBANIVE Open Call**, describing the eligibility and evaluation criteria. The document in its entirety and all associated documents of the Open Call kit must be read carefully before the submission of an application.

1.1. About RURBANIVE

RURBANIVE aspires to establish a novel **rural-urban innovation framework (IF)**, supported by **technical and social innovations to enhance territorial governance** and existing **policy tools**. A **Community Store of Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs)** coupled with a **Community of Practice Suite (CoPS)** of policies, realised through an **immersive layer**, will promote experimentation and innovation.

The **Community Store** will focus on boosting the well-being and economy of rural-urban areas and disrupting the traditional ways by which rural and urban actors interact through **enhanced social connectivity, cooperation, and instant realisation**. In the context of co-creation, **7 Rural-Urban co-creation Labs (RUCLs)** will be equipped with **social and technological innovations** supporting further visualisation. Experimentation between members of the quadruple helix (i.e. from academia, civil society, local & regional administration and industry) will be brought forth, effectuating the social connectivity and innovation aspect of RURBANIVE. The **7 RUCLs** will experiment utilising **6 Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs) - innovations in six domains** known to favour bi-directional urban-rural synergies and a well-being economy:

- i) **improving logistics, and shortening value chains**
- ii) **ecosystem and biodiversity restoration**
- iii) **regional circular bioeconomy development**
- iv) **user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness**
- v) **culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion and**
- vi) **enhanced mobility**

RURBANIVE will design and develop **6 RUEs** in **6 domains** responding to well-being and economy-related rural-urban challenges offering both digital and social innovations. The development will follow an iterative approach rolled out within the context of the participatory processes in the **7 RUCLs**. Demonstration activities will ensure that feedback is collected to feed the development iterations with valuable insights.

RURBANIVE's experimentation and participatory processes, social and technical innovations, along with the establishment of the **rural-urban IF, policies, business models and schemes**, will be implemented in rural areas (in proximity to urban centres) covering a wide variety of landscapes and geographies across Europe:

- **plateau/basin** being challenged by low consumer awareness and access to know-how about the benefits of short value chains;
- **island/volcanic/coastal** being challenged by low diversification of ecosystem restoration and integration with agriculture;
- **mountains/rivers** being challenged by underserved by public transport and unsustainable cultural tourism; lowland/agricultural/artificial lake being challenged by low innovation, institutional thickness and city-centric regional outlook;
- **plateau/reservoirs/lakes** being challenged by rural depopulation and sustaining cultural tourism;
- **valley/rivers** being challenged in commuting to work and engagement towards business opportunities; and
- **hilly/flatland/river** being challenged in transporting resources from rural areas, economic stagnation.

A multi-actor approach will be implemented in the **7 RUCLs** where testing and validation activities in real-life settings will not only demonstrate the urban-rural synergies through various domains but also realise them through physical and immersive realisations.

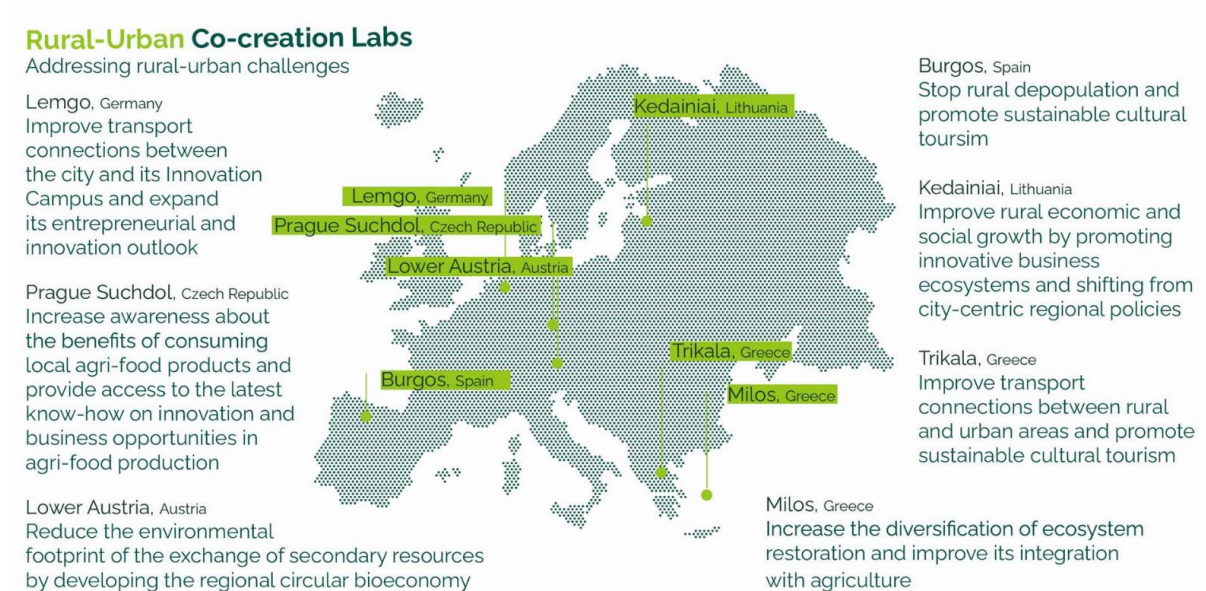


Figure 1 Seven (7) Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs of RURBANIVE

Seven (7) RUCLs will be established across Europe to engage rural stakeholders in participatory activities for a bottom-up co-creation of innovations. Based on the 6 RURBANIVE domains, social, technological, and business innovations will be prototyped, tested, piloted, and demonstrated in the seven (7) RURCLs in rural areas in the EU representing various contexts in terms of location, population, and challenges.

1.2. RURBANIVE Objectives

RURBANIVE will develop Rural-urban Enablers (RUEs) -innovations in six (6) domains known to favour bi-directional urban-rural synergies and building up well-being economies (as described in Section 1.1):

- i) improving logistics, and shortening value chains**
- ii) ecosystem and biodiversity restoration**
- iii) regional circular bioeconomy development**
- iv) user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness**
- v) culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion and**
- vi) enhanced mobility**

Participatory processes in a multi-actor scheme will allow experimentation across the EU, in locations varying in topographies and facing unique rural-urban challenges. Extended Reality will be used to realise immersiveness and through an integrated platform (namely community store) that stores the main project results, the rural-urban stakeholders will be equipped with the appropriate tools to develop their cultural literacy and sensitivity in an inclusive setup supporting experimentation and innovation. Rural-urban immersiveness (RUI) consisting of immersive applications will access the community store of RURBANIVE's results (including, RUEs, knowledge and practices) available as campaigns, and will further enable

experimentation through virtual access to RUEs, support on-line interaction, dialogue, collaboration, as well as enable assessment and evaluation through the Community of Practice Suite, and finally integrate concepts and ideas from the NEB to promote NEB principles for beautiful, sustainable and inclusive communities.

Seven (7) Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs (RUCLs), in diverse geographic and socio-cultural contexts, will be equipped with social and technological innovations supporting further visualization, realization, and experimentation, to highlight the social connectivity and innovation aspect of RURBANIVE bringing together various Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) fields in an inclusive and accessible setup.

The overall objective of RURBANIVE will be achieved by realising the Key Objectives (KOs) as follows:

- Enhance rural-urban synergies through participatory approaches and the development of the rural-urban innovation framework?
- Rural-urban enablers development, delivery and demonstration through physical and virtual realisation contributing to integrated territorial development that improve well-being and economy
- Rural-urban actors and stakeholders are equipped with rural-urban immersiveness and a community store of RURBANIVE results (inventory, campaigns, RUEs, practices) supporting visualisation, realisation, experimentation, and assessment of RUEs and scenarios to improve social connectivity in an inclusive setup.
- To support on-line interaction, dialogue, collaboration, and participation of rural-urban actors and stakeholders in the making of policy recommendations and bi-directional rural-urban synergies
- To maximise the project's contribution in achieving sustainable and resilient rural-urban communities through innovative services and develop business models to mainstream solutions

and through the following scientific and technological outputs:

- 6 RUEs developed through 7 RUCLs by RURBANIVE partners
- 6 RUEs developed through the Open Call
- 3 XR applications developed
- 1 Community of Practice Suite developed
- 30 Practice abstracts
- Policy recommendations
- Knowledge and capacity development

1.3. Rural-Urban Enablers of the RURBANIVE Project

RURBANIVE's RUEs have been selected to match the challenges of each RUCL as identified by the project as well as their diverse geographical attributes. The following tables describe the RUEs that will be developed by project partners for each of the six domains of the seven RUCLs:

| Lower Austria, Vienna, Austria | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Domain | <p>The circular bioeconomy domain focuses on creating a sustainable economic system that efficiently utilizes biological resources while minimizing waste and environmental impact. It prioritizes resource recovery by transforming waste into valuable materials, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and fostering innovation. By designing closed-loop systems where waste from one process becomes input for another, the circular bioeconomy aims to enhance resource efficiency and create economic opportunities in city-region areas.</p> |
| RUE | <p>Key Enablers for the Circular Bioeconomy:</p> <p>Standardized Data Sets: The first critical aspect is the collection and standardization of data on regional biomass streams. This includes quantitative data (e.g., production capacities, waste streams) and qualitative insights from reports and stakeholder interviews, forming the foundation for further analysis.</p> <p>Sankey Diagrams: With the standardized data, Sankey diagrams visualize the flow of residual biomass streams. These diagrams illustrate how resources move through the system, highlighting inefficiencies and opportunities for optimization.</p> <p>Multi-Criteria Resource Analysis (MCRA): MCRA provides a structured approach for evaluating various biomass utilization pathways, considering different environmental, social and economical factors. By integrating stakeholder input and co-creation processes, MCRA helps identify the most promising innovation pathways for resource optimization.</p> <p>Innovation Pathways: Based on data analysis and MCRA results, specific innovation pathways are developed to enhance the utilization of residual biomass. These pathways focus on circular solutions and resource management methods that can be scaled and transferred across regions.</p> <p>By integrating AI functionalities, this domain could become a regional data and resource exchange hub, applicable to other regions as well.</p> |
| Milos, Greece | |
| Domain | <p>Ecosystem and biodiversity restoration of degraded, arid soil ecosystems, like quarrying operations, targets in local plant community re-installation (drought tolerant plant species) and integration of natural and agricultural ecosystems in a uniform landscape by introducing novel, microbiome-based, restoration technologies and processes.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">RUE</p> | <p>Quarry Restoration with Mediterranean biome adapted plants & crops, and a Botanical Path tour</p> <p>Quarrying operations cause irreversible damage to the local environment, creating vast degradation problems, including fertile soil depletion, vegetation removal, and alterations in the original topography. Restoration practitioners aim to restore ecosystem functions by re-installing plants, focusing on recreating specific plant communities based on historical, reference, or desirable output. This RUE will develop three Actions Action 1: Quarry Restoration with Mediterranean biome adapted plants. Action 2: Quarry Restoration with Mediterranean biome adapted crops T activities. Action 3: Botanical Path tour</p> |
| <p>Prague, Czech Republic</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Domain</p> | <p>Improving logistics, and shortening value chains</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">RUE</p> | <p>A socially driven digital platform to educate and popularise the food industry for the general public.</p> <p>A unique technology centre has been established in Prague to educate and popularise the food industry for the general public - Agricultural processing training centre. The learning centre offers a hands-on experience of the whole chain of operations in the production of a wide range of foodstuffs. From the principles of agriculture itself, animal and plant production, through variant ways of technological processing of primary raw materials to launching the final product on the market. Practical training enables learning various techniques for processing meat, milk, cereals, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants. The comprehensive concept of food production technologies is rounded off with an introduction to analytical evaluation in the sensory laboratory or nutritional and dietary advice.</p> |
| <p>Kedainiai, Lithuania</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Domain</p> | <p>User engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness</p> <p>The User Engagement, Empowerment, Society, and Territorial Awareness is centered on empowering individuals and communities, particularly in rural and underserved areas, by fostering a deep connection to their environment and society.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">RUE</p> | <p>Leverage local resources to drive equitable economic development & balanced exchange of value between rural and urban areas.</p> <p>The User Engagement, Empowerment, Society, and Territorial Awareness Enabler will emphasize the importance of territorial awareness in shaping the future of rural communities. It will encourage a collective understanding of how local resources, culture, and environment can be leveraged to drive economic development. This enhanced awareness will also foster a sense of ownership and pride among community members, leading to stronger societal bonds and a shared vision for the future. The Enabler will help rural communities not only survive but thrive, transforming them into dynamic hubs of innovation and</p> |

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| | <p>sustainable growth that contribute positively to the broader regional and national economies. By attracting urban investment and creating a balanced exchange of value between rural and urban areas, the Enabler will ensure that the benefits of growth are equitably distributed, fostering resilience and long-term prosperity in rural territories.</p> |
| | <p>Burgos, Spain</p> |
| <p>Domain</p> | <p>Culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion</p> <p>The domain focuses on enhancing the appeal and accessibility of rural cultural and natural heritage for urban visitors, and potentially prospective future inhabitants for the rural areas. RURBANIVE proposes the use of cognitive computing to analyze visitor preferences and create personalized, engaging tourism (even living) experiences. The so-called 'affective value' will be calculated as a tangible indicator to properly configure the most appropriate messages to generate the necessary emotion that invites someone to visit, or even live in a particular area.</p> <p>Additionally, this domain emphasizes sustainable tourism practices that balance economic benefits with the preservation of cultural and natural resources.</p> |
| <p>RUE</p> | <p>Employ different cognitive computing tools to foster sustainable tourism by attracting urban populations to rural areas through personalised experiences.</p> <p>It is designed to foster sustainable tourism by attracting urban populations to rural areas through personalised experiences that put forward the value of the rural area. By means of cognitive computing this enabler gathers and analyses data related to the preferences, behaviours, and emotional responses of potential visitors to situational content from the rural areas that is presented to them. This data-driven approach allows for the creation of highly targeted tourism campaigns that resonate with urban dwellers, encouraging them to explore and appreciate the cultural and natural heritage of rural areas.</p> <p>Through the integration of different cognitive computing tools, urban audiences can virtually experience rural landscapes and heritage sites before visiting them, which fosters interest and awareness about the targeted rural area. This enables tourism operators to design promotional campaigns closely aligned with the preferences of the targeted audience, making the experiences more attractive and relevant. By promoting a deeper connection between urban visitors and rural destinations, this enabler not only boosts sustainable tourism but also supports the economic and cultural vitality of rural communities, making them take advantage of endogenous resources and helping to stop rural depopulation.</p> |
| | <p>Lemgo, Germany Trikala, Greece</p> |
| <p>Domain</p> | <p>Enhanced mobility</p> |

| | |
|------------|--|
| | <p>Enhanced mobility is a term used to comprise all kinds of mobility, such as walking, driving, cycling, commuting, ride-sharing or carpooling, as well as all people living in an urban, suburban or rural space, irrespective of their ability to drive, walk, ride a bike. Enhanced mobility paves the way for a holistic approach towards mobility, where all people, and especially Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs), can optimally utilize the urban space and reach their destinations on time.</p> |
| <p>RUE</p> | <p>A simulation software that will explore alternatives to enhance connectivity between urban centres and their suburban and rural counterparts</p> <p>Within the scope of this RUE, the mobility and accessibility issues of two different cities (Trikala, Greece and Lemgo, Germany) will be investigated in order to propose, at a simulation level in the first place, some alternatives that could enhance connectivity for everyone residing near those urban centers, in sub-urban or rural regions.</p> <p>Interviews with several stakeholders (bus or taxi drivers, students and professors at the universities located near the cities, vulnerable road users such as elderly people, disabled people, persons with visual impairments, people residing in towns or villages not properly connected with the city centers, etc.), will help understand the mobility patterns of citizens and road users, as well as the existing infrastructure and other accessibility constraints.</p> <p>Afterwards, several scenarios will be simulated through a simulation software; in those scenarios, on-demand and fixed-schedule commuting solutions, such as shuttle buses, will be proposed. Comparisons between the “before” and “after” the introduction of such services scenarios will be performed, travel-timewise and accessibility-wise, in an alpha (initial) and beta (final) version, and the results will be mapped, statically and dynamically, whilst a constant communication and feedback discussion with the stakeholders will be held throughout the enabler time process.</p> |

1.4. RURBANIVE Open Call

1.4.1. Purpose and Objectives of the Open Call

RURBANIVE Open Call encourages technology & service providers to develop and apply their own RUE within the 6 RURBANIVE domains, increasing the number of RUEs available to end-users. To ensure that the RUEs will be tailor-made to meet each rural-urban area's needs, the Open Call poses requirements for the submission of proposals from consortia of **min 2-max 4 parties** including **at least 1 technology & service provider** (e.g. entities such as SMEs and other private for-profit or non-profit organizations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc.) **and at least 1 end-user** (e.g. actors from the rural-urban environments, such as Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.). The newly developed **RUEs** will become available in English and in the local language. In addition, during sub-project implementation matchmaking activities between the developed RUE and the RUEs developed by the RURBANIVE consortium will be pursued and the opportunity will be given to develop the RUE in all relevant languages. Lastly, every developed RUE will have to produce a SUMMARY, which will also be available through **RURBANIVE's Community Store**, in all languages of RURBANIVE's consortium.

The purpose of the Open Call is to provide more solutions for the rural-urban areas, accelerate the expansion of the RURBANIVE innovation ecosystem and ensure an adequate motivation of the end-users. The participants will contribute to the enrichment of the RURBANIVE's Community Store, which will serve as a one-stop-shop offering enhanced capabilities for searching and accessing digitised solutions and services.

The selected RUEs will be enhanced by new Business Models through participatory processes with rural and urban communities and relevant good practices. The OC will also enable the transfer of good practices and the creation of RUEs in other European rural-urban territories, facilitating the transferability and the replicability of these innovations to EU areas facing similar conditions.

Under the framework described above, the OC aims to:

- Address a wider range of societal and environmental challenges related to the 6 RURBANIVE domains.
- Harness the potential of using data from multiple sources and make users themselves part of the solution.
- Enable the transferability and accelerate the uptake and upscale of the RUEs at a pan-European level towards sustainable and resilient rural areas.
- Enhance RURBANIVE's Community Store by adding at least 6 more RUEs based on the synergies between rural and urban environments across Europe.

1.5. Open Call Expected Outcome

Applicants are expected to propose RUEs, meaning digital solutions or other types of advanced technologies, based on the six identified domains of RURBANIVE as presented in Table 1 and **other than the RUEs already developed within the project**, exemplified in **Chapter 1.3**. Each consortium must propose a RUE selecting only **one of the pre-defined domains**.

Table 1 RURBANIVE targeted domains

| Domain | Brief Description |
|--|--|
| Circular bioeconomy - Waste Valorization | The circular bioeconomy domain includes optimizing regional residual biomass streams by data collection, visualizing resource flows, and developing innovation pathways based on environmental, social, and economic factors in sustainable and resilient city-region areas. |
| Ecosystem and biodiversity restoration | The domain includes degraded, arid soil ecosystems, like quarrying operations, targets in local plant community re-installation (drought tolerant plant species) and integration of natural and agricultural ecosystems in a uniform landscape by introducing novel, microbiome-based, restoration technologies and processes. |

| Domain | Brief Description |
|---|--|
| Improving logistics, and shortening value chains | The domain refers to the flow of resources between rural communities and urban hubs, investigating new ways by which reciprocal growth can be achieved. |
| User engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness | The domain is centred on empowering individuals and communities, particularly in rural and underserved areas, by fostering a deep connection to their environment and society. |
| Culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion | The domain focuses on enhancing the appeal and accessibility of rural cultural and natural heritage for urban visitors, and potentially prospective future inhabitants for the rural areas. |
| Enhanced mobility | The domain refers to mobility patterns of citizens, existing infrastructure and other accessibility constraints to investigate how commuting between rural and urban communities takes place. Enhanced mobility paves the way for a holistic approach towards mobility, where all people, and especially Vulnerable Road Users (VRUs), can optimally utilize the urban space and reach their destinations on time. |

Important note: The above descriptions of the Domains are indicative or RUE-specific. Other proposed RUEs that will fall within one of the six (6) domains will also be considered.

The proposed RUEs will have to be applied to geographical areas **other than the existing 7 RUCLs at the local/ municipal level and on the regional level**, according to table 2, below:

Table 2 RUCL NUTS Regions

| Domain | Location | NUTS Code & Classification | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Circular bioeconomy - Waste Valorization | Lower Austria, Austria | AT12 | 2 |
| Ecosystem and biodiversity restoration | Milos, Greece | EL422 | 3 |
| Improving logistics, and shortening value chains | Prague, Czech Republic | CZ01 | 3 |
| User engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness | Kedainiai, Lithuania | LT022 | 3 |
| Culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion | Burgos, Spain | ES412 | 3 |
| Enhanced mobility | Lemgo, Germany | DEA45 | 3 |

| Domain | Location | NUTS Code & Classification | |
|--------|-----------------|----------------------------|---|
| | Trikala, Greece | EL611 | 3 |

Proposed solutions must demonstrate their innovative character at a high level of scientific and technological excellence. RUEs are expected to start at minimum **TRL5** and reach a maximum **TRL8**¹ (for all domains) by the end of the project.

Applicants are advised to take into consideration Annex A: Recommendations regarding data accessibility for the RURBANIVE Open Call.

1.6. Approach & Planned Open Call Realisation

RURBANIVE through this **Open Call (OC)** will provide **Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)** as a mechanism to **increase the number of RUEs** available to end-users (e.g. actors from the rural-urban environments such as Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.) and accelerate network expansion through the technology & service providers (e.g. entities such as SMEs and other private pro-profit or non-profit organisations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc.).

The Open Call will result in at least **6 sub-projects** (max 100k euro per sub-project – with the funds dispersed amongst the consortia members, with at least one technology & service provider and at least one end-user, as mentioned above). In total, a **600k euro budget** will be allocated to **financial support to third parties**. The following table provides the key number of the OC:

Table 3 Open Call key numbers

| RURBANIVE Open Call | Total amount | Project Funding size | minimum no. of projects | Partners per project | Budget per partner |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | 600k Euros | 100k Euros | 6 | min2-max4 | 20k≤partner≤60k |

The funding rate of the eligible costs is 100% and applies to all consortium partners.

To minimise administration and financial errors, each selected consortium will receive the funding on a lump sum basis, in compliance with EC's Guidelines about lump sum grants in Horizon Europe and according to the terms of the contract signed between the selected consortia and RURBANIVE. A payment calendar tied to milestones, such as reports and corresponding deliverables, will be set in advance according to the implementation phases of the sub-projects as described below. Implementing this approach, rather than a payment tied to complex administrative justifications, will decrease the administrative burden of the Open Call. No pre-financing is foreseen, and payments will follow the "General eligibility conditions for lump sum costs" according to the EU Grants: AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement: V1.0 – 01.05.2024 and specifically Article 5.

The RURBANIVE Open Call will be launched in January 2025. Before assigning external evaluators, each proposal will be verified by the RURBANIVE OC Advisory Board for eligibility according to the predefined criteria of the OC. The proposal evaluation and sub-grant

¹ in accordance with the [EU TRL scale](#)

agreement preparation will take place between April 2025 and August 2025. Selected projects will be launched in September 2025 having an implementation timeframe of 12 months (until August 2026). The 12-month implementation period will be divided into 3 phases:

- Phase 1 – Design (Duration: 4 months / September 2025 – December 2025) [Deliverable: Activity plan]
- Phase 2 - Development (Duration: 5 months / January 2026 – May 2026) [Deliverable: RUE solution demonstration]
- Phase 3 - Validation (Duration 3 months / June 2026 – August 2026) [Deliverable: Report on market or community associated activities].

An initial timeline for RURBANIVE Open Call can be seen in the following table. The dates may change due to unforeseen events and situations. Therefore, these are an indication of what is initially expected; the dates are to be confirmed by the RURBANIVE team along the process and in agreement with the EC. The dates are not legally binding.

Table 4 RURBANIVE Open Call Timeline

| Step | Start | Completed |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Open Call preparation plan | January 2024 | December 2024 |
| Open Call launch - Receiving proposals | January 2025 | March 2025 |
| External expert selection eligibility and proposal evaluation | April 2025 | June 2025 |
| Subgrant agreements | July 2025 | August 2025 |
| Open Call Project implementation | September 2025 | August 2026 |
| Project Implementation Phase 1 - Design | September 2025 | December 2025 |
| Project Implementation Phase 2 - Development | January 2026 | May 2026 |
| Project Implementation Phase 3 - Validation | June 2026 | August 2026 |

The RURBANIVE OC will be carried out in compliance with the basic principle calls of the European Commission, which are: Excellence, Transparency, Fairness, Impartiality, Confidentiality, Efficiency and Speed.

1.7. Specific requirements for the sub-projects

Selected consortia will receive funding for developing and applying their own Rural-Urban Enabler, i.e. different from the six (6) Rural-Urban Enablers that will be developed by the RURBANIVE partners (described in section 1.1), representing regions beyond the existing RUCLs, within the six (6) domains as described previously. These digital Enablers should be followed by tailor-made **Business Models**, which will be exemplified using the appropriate Business Model Tool (e.g. business model canvas), co-created with end-users of the targeted areas of the applicants and inspired methodologically by the RURBANIVE's RUCLs.

Proposals must consist of original work by the applicants and their anticipated developments do not infringe upon any third-party rights. Any challenges stemming from third-party claims resulting from the sub-granted projects are the responsibility of the applicant. It is not the obligation of the RURBANIVE Consortium to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the proposed solution.

Proposals must implement the multi-actor approach², bringing together service providers alongside rural community organisations, action groups or networks with a demonstrated ability to connect with a large number of local communities and disseminate and exploit project results.

Proposals must demonstrate their long-term commitment and alignment to RURBANIVE objectives, must deliver co-created solutions that have a market potential supported by a sustainable plan for upscaling the digital Enabler and bring it more in line with market needs. i.e.:

- demonstrate their acceptance from the rural-urban communities
- Include a business case and exploitation strategy, considering:
 - State-of-play overview, including key traditional and emerging Business Models (BM) in markets relevant to the proposed digital Enabler
 - Development of one new BM for each digital Enabler developed, meeting a) location-specific requirements and the diverse needs of different population groups, b) replicability requirements tailored to user needs while taking into consideration technical, economic, environmental, and social aspects;
 - Validation of the new business models with feedback from the stakeholders involved in the respective rural communities.

RUEs are expected to start at minimum **TRL5** and reach a maximum **TRL8**³ (for all domains) by the end of the project; please see **Table 3 RURBANIVE Open Call RUE positioning in terms of R&I maturity**.

All of RURBANIVE's **12 RUEs** (6 developed by RURBANIVE Partners and 6 developed by the selected consortia of the OC) will be integrated into the **Community Store**, which is a **key outcome of RURBANIVE**, integrating enablers, practices, models and other results of the project to be access and visualise through **Rural-Urban Immersiveness (RUI)**. RUI will utilise immersive technologies (such as, mixed and augmented reality). This immersive digital environment will allow vivid realisations, what-if scenarios, and experimentation techniques in the rural-urban settings generating rural-urban synergies. **Enablers realised through rural-urban immersiveness will promote experimentation and innovation focused on building up the well-being economies of rural and urban areas.**

The activities that qualify for the financial support to third parties are:

- Personnel costs mainly associated with development, integration, deployment and networking activities
- Software, hardware and data justified for the needs of the project
- Access to and use of infrastructure justified for the needs of the project
- Audio/visual products and other communication activities related to the project
- Travel for meetings with RURBANIVE consortium, connections associated with the project and event/conferences

1.8. Submission procedure

RURBANIVE's Open Call for proposals will be submitted digitally through the opencalls.fund platform developed by reframe.food. Interested Applicants should visit RURBANIVE's website (<https://rurbanive-project.eu//rurbanive-open-call/>) for any updates and the FAQ section available in the opencalls.fund platform as well as on the project website.

² Proposals can adopt or use as guideline RURBANIVE's RUC approach.

³ in accordance with the [EU TRL scale](#)

Submissions received through any other channel will be automatically discarded.

Documents required in subsequent phases will be submitted via dedicated channels (e.g. via email or via the opencalls.fund), which will be indicated by the RURBANIVE consortium in the contracting phase.

In case multiple versions of the same application are submitted, only the last version will be evaluated. All the previous ones will be discarded.

Throughout the entire process, the confidentiality of applicants' identities and the contents of the proposals will be rigorously upheld. Any details pertaining to the proposed solution will be handled with the utmost discretion.

By applying to RURBANIVE Open Call consortia automatically accept the terms and conditions of the Open Call as described in the Open Call Kit.

1.9. Language

English is the official language for the RURBANIVE Open Call. Applications submitted in any other language will not be evaluated. English is also the only official language throughout the whole execution of the RURBANIVE project. This means all requested contributions (documents of the OC kit) must be submitted in English to be eligible. In the case of official documents as a proof of the legal existence of the applicant, they can be submitted in original language, however if it is deemed essential to facilitate the eligibility check, Applicants may be requested to provide additional documentation (i.e., translation of an official document into English) in a timely manner.

1.10. Documentation format

Any document requested by the Applicants in any of the phases (e.g submission, eligibility check) must be submitted electronically in PDF format without restrictions for printing. The structure of the provided proposal template must be followed when preparing the proposal and should not exceed the limit of **15 pages**. All tables, figures, references, and any other element pertaining to the application must be included as an integral part of the application and are thus counted against this page limit. Excess pages will not be considered during the evaluation of the proposal.

The reference font for the body text of applications is Arial and the minimum font size allowed is 11 points. Paragraph spacing of 6 pts and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables. Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible. The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) must be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers). The cover page and the ToC are not included in the limit of the 15 pages. Removing explanatory text in the proposal template, located below the paragraph subtitles is allowed.

Applications that do not comply with these requirements will be excluded from evaluation as non-eligible.

1.11. Origin of the funds

All sub-grantees will sign a dedicated Sub-grant Agreement with RFF. The funds provided to the Sub-grant Agreement originate from the funds of the European Project RURBANIVE which is funded by the European Commission under Grant Agreement Number 101136597, and remain therefore, property of the EU until the balance is paid, whose management rights have

been transferred to the project partners of RURBANIVE. This relation between the sub-grantees and the European Commission through the RURBANIVE project carries a set of obligations to the sub-grantees with the European Commission. It is the responsibility of the sub-grantees to fulfil these, and of the RURBANIVE consortium partners to inform them on these.

More details on the obligations of sub-grantees can be found in Chapter 4.

2. Proposal Submission and Selection

All Open Call selected consortia must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in this section and sign and submit the same documents. The proposal is submitted by the Consortium Leader, on behalf of all participating parties. **At the time of submission, all Applicants** must submit the following documents:

- Consortium Declaration,
- Declaration of Honour,
- Declaration of Conducting Business.

The Consortium Declaration is submitted by all OC consortium partners. The document must be filled in appropriately, signed by each partner's legal representative and stamped (with the institution's stamp if applicable), scanned, merged in one pdf file and uploaded as one pdf file.

The Declaration of Honour is submitted by all OC consortium partners. The document must be filled in appropriately, signed by each partner's legal representative and stamped (with the institution's stamp if applicable). Partners' scanned documents are then merged in one pdf file and uploaded as one pdf file.

The Declaration of Conducting Business is submitted only by SMEs and declares that the Applicants are SMEs according to EC standards. The document must be filled in appropriately, signed by SMEs' legal representatives and stamped (with the SMEs stamp). SMEs' scanned documents are then merged and uploaded as one pdf file.

In the case of Research Institutes (RI), confirmation from a responsible authority/registry (e.g., Commercial court or similar) must be submitted (any official document from the respective registration authority is acceptable).

Public organisations do not need to submit the Declaration of Conducting Business.

For private entities (NGOs, etc.), any official document from the respective registration authority or any official document as proof of their legal existence at the moment of application is acceptable.

Important:

As a rule, all documents that require to bear stamps and signatures must be signed by the legal representatives of the consortia parties. **In the case of parties coming from a country where the use of stamps is not mandatory, it is required to provide relevant justification documents in English.** E-signatures are also acceptable and in this case the existence of stamps is not required. PadES and CadES are acceptable e-signature formats for the RURBANIVE OC.

Although there is no requirement for letters of support/intent, parties can make a reference in their proposal.

During the contracting phase, all parties participating in the selected consortia of the RURBANIVE Open Call for co-creating digital Enablers with rural communities must provide Annex 4 - Bank account information (payments will be made separately to each partner directly from the RURBANIVE consortium partner/treasurer) and three signed copies of the Sub-grant Agreement for RURBANIVE Open Call selected consortia (indicative model given as an Annex 10), which will be sent to them following the evaluation phase. No pre financing will be paid to the OC project partners.

2.1. Open Call Publication

The RURBANIVE Open Call will be published on the Funding and Tenders portal as well as on RURBANIVE's website (<https://rurbanive-project.eu//rurbanive-open-call/>), on January 1st, 2025 and it will remain open until March 31st, 2025, at 17:00 CET.

The publication will be supported by the Open Call Kit, which includes the following documents:

- **Open Call text**, which provides the scope and objectives of the open call.
- **Applicants' Guide**, (present document).
- **Proposal template**, word document to be completed by the applicant, saved, and submitted as .pdf in the application phase.
- **Budget template**, excel document to be completed by the Applicant, saved and submitted as .pdf in the application phase.
- **Consortium Declaration**, which describes composition of consortium (signed by all parties and submitted as .pdf in the submission phase)
- **Declaration of Honour (DoH)**, which confirms the ability of all parties to execute the sub-project (if selected), exclusion of conflict of interest, etc. (signed by all parties and submitted as .pdf in the submission phase)
- **Declaration of conducting business**, which secures that the applicants are eligible for the OC (in terms that they are SMEs according to the EC rules). In the case of Research Institutes (RI), confirmation from a responsible authority/registry (e.g., Commercial court or similar) should be submitted (any official document from the respective registration authority is acceptable). Public organisations do not need to submit the respective document. For private entities (NGOs, etc.), any official document from the respective registration authority or any official document as proof of their legal existence at the moment of application is acceptable.
- **Bank account information**, which collects information of all the participating parties' bank accounts where the RURBANIVE payments will be transferred to (only for selected consortia, it's applicable only at the contracting stage).
- An indicative **Sub-grant agreement contract**, as a reference for the Applicants (applicable only at the contracting stage and subject to changes by the Treasurer only).

Interested Applicants have to regularly check the FAQ section in the opencalls.fund platform. FAQ is also available and will be regularly updated on the project website.

2.2. Eligibility Criteria

2.2.1. Overall eligibility criteria

RURBANIVE will accept applications, involving consortia of 2-4 parties (≥1 technology & service provider and ≥1 end-user) and proposed solutions **must fall within one of the following domains**:

- i) improving logistics, and shortening value chains
- ii) ecosystem and biodiversity restoration
- iii) regional circular bioeconomy development
- iv) user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness
- v) culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion and
- vi) enhanced mobility

An automatic filtering to discard non-eligible proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- Legal entity in eligible country (as defined in section 3.2.2);
- Uniqueness of the proposal (one proposal per consortium);
- Each party can participate in only one proposal; If any applicant is found to participate in multiple applications, all such project applications will be rejected.
- Proposal includes at least one technical party (e.g. entities such as SMEs and other private for-profit or non-profit organizations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc) and at least one rural community (e.g. actors from the rural-urban environments, such as Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.);
- Proposed solutions fall within one of the six (6) domains: circular economy, ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, improving logistics, and shortening value chains, user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness, culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion & enhanced mobility.
- Proposed solutions must be different from the six (6) RUEs being developed within the RURBANIVE project as described in section 1 of the Applicants Guide.
- Proposed solutions must be applied in rural areas, different from those covered by the existing RUCs areas as described in section 1 of the Applicants Guide.

Table 5 Six (6) Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs) developed in seven (7) RUCs within the RURBANIVE project

| Domain | Brief Description of the Rural-Urban Enabler | Rural-Urban Co-creation Lab |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Circular Bioeconomy | The enabler for the circular bioeconomy is built to optimise regional biomass streams by standardising data collection and visualising resource flows. | Lower Austria, Austria |
| Ecosystem and biodiversity restoration | Quarry Restoration with Mediterranean biome adapted plants & crops, and a Botanical Path tour | Milos, Greece |
| Improving logistics, and shortening value chains | A socially driven digital platform to educate and popularise the food industry for the general public | Prague, Czech Republic |
| User engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness | Leverage local resources to drive equitable economic development & balanced exchange of value between rural and urban areas | Kendainiai, Lithuania |
| Culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion | Employ different cognitive computing tools to foster sustainable tourism by attracting urban populations to rural areas through personalised experiences | Burgos, Spain |
| Enhanced mobility | A simulation software that will explore alternatives to enhance connectivity between urban centres and their suburban and rural counterparts | Lemgo, Germany |
| | | Trikala, Greece |

On top of that, the following eligibility criteria apply:

- Existing consortium members of the RURBANIVE project and their affiliated entities are not eligible for the OC.
- The proposal must be delivered before the defined deadline (March 31st, 2025 @ 17:00 CET), applying the requested submission procedure.
- Proposals shall only ask for funding for that part of the work that is not yet accomplished and will be carried out once having been selected for funding. Of course, this does not exclude the usage of e.g., results, IP, infrastructures or approaches already held by the applicants.
- All Applicants must have a valid VAT number and must be active and operational. However, in case having VAT number is not mandatory according to the national legislation of the applicant's country, a registration number from the respective national authority (National business registry, Commercial court or similar) must be provided.

Only proposals that comply with these criteria are eligible to move on to the evaluation round.

2.2.2. Definition of eligible countries

Association with Horizon Europe is governed by the Horizon Europe Regulation 2021/6951. Legal entities from associated countries can participate under the same conditions as legal entities from the EU Member States, unless specific restrictions or conditions are set in the work programme and/or call/topic text. Such measures could include the limitation of participation in certain actions to legal entities established only in the EU, or in the EU and specified non-EU countries, to safeguard the EU's strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security.

Important notice:

The Open Call adheres to the **Council Implementing Decision 2022/2506** that stipulates that legal commitments must not be entered into with any public interest trusts established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust, concerning inter alia financial support to third parties. Consequently, the concerned Hungarian entities are excluded from receiving FSTP (financial support to third parties) from this Open Call. For further information please follow this [link](#).

According to the EU Grants: List of Participating Countries (HE): 2.9 – 21.03.2024⁴, besides the EU Member States (including their outermost regions, as well as **Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to EU Member**), the following **Horizon Europe associated countries** are eligible to receive funding through RURBANIVE Open Call (listed in alphabetical order): Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo⁵, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand (associated to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' as from the Work Programmes 2023 onwards, including for the institutionalised European partnerships), North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom (associated to the entire Programme,

⁴https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

⁵ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

with the only exception of the EIC fund⁶, for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2024 and onwards⁷).

Until association agreements start producing legal effects either through provisional application or their entry into force, transitional arrangements may apply if provided for in the particular Horizon Europe Work Programme. The transitional arrangements apply with regard to the following countries and legal entities established in these countries, with which association negotiations are being processed or where association is imminent (listed in the alphabetical order):

1. Canada (applicable to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness', including for the institutionalised European partnerships, and for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2024 and onwards)
2. Morocco (applicable for the entire Programme)
3. Switzerland (applicable to calls under the ERC Work Programme 2024 with opening date after 18 March 2024; legal entities established in Switzerland are currently not covered by the transitional arrangement with regard to other parts of Horizon Europe)

Participants (other third countries) from the following low - to middle - income countries are automatically eligible for funding⁸:

- Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi
- Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba
- Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic
- Ecuador, Egypt (Arab Republic), El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana
- Haiti, Honduras
- Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Iraq
- Jamaica, Jordan
- Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Kyrgyz Republic
- Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya
- Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania,

⁶ The UK will participate in all parts of the Horizon Europe programme with the only exception of the EIC Fund (which is part of the EIC Accelerator of Horizon Europe that provides investment through equity or other repayable form)

⁷ The transitional arrangements continue to apply to grant award procedures implementing Union budgets 2021 to 2023. However, no Horizon Europe grants will be signed with entities established in the UK for the budgetary appropriations for years 2023 or earlier (even if the grant agreement is signed in 2024 or later), save for exceptional circumstances clearly defined by the work programmes and rules of the Programme (e.g. based on being essential for implementing the action)

⁸ Subject to the respect of EU restrictive measures (Please note that entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/05 are NOT eligible to participate in any capacity (including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties, if any).

- Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar
- Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria
- Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines
- Rwanda
- Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu
- Uganda, Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Vietnam
- Yemen Republic
- Zambia, Zimbabwe.

2.3. Eligible costs

RURBANIVE project follows the guidelines of the European Commission in terms of cost eligibility for financing within its open calls. Payments will follow the “General eligibility conditions for lump sum costs” according to the EU Grants: AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement: V1.0 (01/05/2024) and specifically Article 5 and 6.

As mentioned above (Section 1), each selected consortium will receive the funding on a lump sum basis. To justify the lump sum, Applicants need to provide a detailed explanation with cost estimations. The cost estimations are subject to the basic eligibility rules of Horizon Europe, that is the proposed budget may be adjusted to exclude costs that are deemed ineligible. If the evaluators find overestimated costs, this is recorded in the Evaluation Summary Report and will be reflected in a modified lump sum amount in the sub - grant agreement. If the pre-selected sub-grantee does not agree with the amount of the grant offered, they are at liberty to withdraw their proposal.

The following cost categories are considered eligible:

1. **Personnel costs** – Costs of the personnel realising the work and preparing the deliverables/reports during each of the 3 phases. Applicants must calculate personnel costs according to the rules and regulations of their country and real labour market data regarding the relevant positions. For the proposal template, only the final amount allocated to personnel costs is necessary. Personnel costs are considered direct costs and can't be managed as indirect costs.
2. **Travel costs** – Travel costs necessary for the execution of the sub-project.
3. **Equipment costs** – Borrowing or loaning of the necessary equipment is not eligible, only depreciation costs for purchased equipment are eligible.
4. **Other goods & services** – Other goods and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, dissemination (including open access), protection of results, certificates on the methodology, translations, and publications.
5. **Subcontracting** - Subcontracting should be clearly justified. Costs must be reasonable and comply with the principle of sound financial management. Coordination tasks cannot be subcontracted. Applicants should ensure that there are sufficient details for the action tasks, the estimated budget, the procedure that will be followed to ensure best value-for-money. Any kind of organisation could be subcontracted, provided that they are not part of the RURBANIVE consortium. The evaluators will assess the scope and value-for-money aspects of subcontracting and

their assessment will be reflected in the score of each proposal. Subcontracting is allowed for up to a maximum of 25% of the proposed budget when properly justified. When submitting the proposal, Applicants should only write the total amount for subcontracting. Selected Applicants should follow the standards for subcontracting set by the European Commission, ensuring best value for money and absence of conflict of interest, during the project implementation. Procurement should be done according to the national and European regulation that is applied to each applicant's institution.

6. **Indirect costs** - Indirect costs (overheads) could be up to 25% of the direct cost. Subcontracting is not included in indirect cost calculation.

In the submitted proposals, costs must be described by each participating party in the consortium. The budget must be filled in for each proposal using the excel template available. Applicants will then save the excel sheet as pdf and upload it on the opencalls.fund platform.

Applicants should take into consideration that adequate budget must be allocated to dissemination activities, focusing on spreading concise messages addressing challenges of each region. A minimum 7% of the funding will be allocated to the deployment of dissemination activities such as organisation of info days, workshops and informal events to promote the RURBANIVE results.

Applicants **should explain and justify the budget (for each budget category separately)**. For personnel costs, indicate the number of person months, and link such personnel effort to the contents (tasks, goals) of the proposal. If Applicants use subcontracting, must justify it, and specify the role of subcontractor.

Important:

In terms of financial monitoring of the sub-projects implementation, no financial justification is required by the project, however the Subgrantee shall keep the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the Contract for at least three years after final payment. These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any audit under the Grant Agreement.

2.4. Application process

2.4.1. Applicant's registration

Applicants should register at the RURBANIVE Open Call page on the opencalls.fund (OCF) platform. This will be the central interface for managing the proposal applications for the remainder of the Open Call.

The information on the RURBANIVE Open Call will be available on rurbanive-project.eu/rurbanive-open-call/, as well as on the Funding & Tenders Portal.

It is important to note that **proposals and all corresponding documents need to be submitted once by the consortium Lead Partner**. Nevertheless, all members of a consortium can register to the opencalls.fund platform and submit questions via the dedicated FAQ section.

Questions can be submitted until Wednesday 26th of March, 2025 at 17:00 CET through email to the RURBANIVE support team at rurbanive@opencalls.fund or through the FAQ section of the OCF and responses will be made available by Friday 28th of March, 2025.

Please note that, and particularly for the week 24/03~29/03, questions will be answered using the same method in which they were submitted. For example, questions sent via email will receive a response by email, while those submitted through the online platform will be answered through the platform.

2.4.2. Application preparation

Applicants should follow the steps below:

1. The **consortium Lead Partner** needs to register to the platform prior to the submission of the proposal.
2. For the application preparation, the **consortium Lead Partner** is requested to apply online and provide all necessary information. Applicants must submit all requested documents on the [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund.eu) platform.
3. **Consortium Partners** that do not accept the terms and conditions and do not sign and upload to the platform the completed Consortium Declaration (Annex 1), Declaration of Honour (Annex 2) and the Declaration of Conducting Business (Annex 3) or any other document as stated in paragraph 3. Proposal Submission and Selection, in .pdf format, will not be able to submit the application. Later submission of these documents will not be accepted. The above annexes need to be signed by all consortium partners.
4. In case Applicants have any technical difficulties, they should contact RURBANIVE's OC team at rurbanive@opencalls.fund.eu until March 26th, 2025 at 17:00 CET.

It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the application. Failure of the application to arrive in time for any reason, including network communications delays or working from multiple browsers or multiple browser windows, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. The time of receipt of the application as recorded by the submission system will be definitive.

Technical issues may occur with large documents in different formats. The RURBANIVE project does not bear responsibility for technical problems at any stage. Make sure to check and test upload on time.

2.4.3. The application reception

Applications will ONLY be submitted via the [opencalls.fund](https://opencalls.fund.eu) platform. A full list of Applicants will be drafted containing their basic information for statistical purposes and clarity (which will be also shared with the EC for transparency). The application reception will close at 17:00 CET (Brussels time) on March 31st, 2025.

2.5. Evaluation process

2.5.1. Eligibility check

Once the Open Call for co-creating RUEs is closed (31st of March, 2025) and before assigning the applications to external evaluators, each proposal will be checked against the overall eligibility criteria. During April 2025, the eligibility check will be carried out by the RURBANIVE OC Advisory Board (AB), a team of consortium members with expertise on domains (AUA), digital technologies & data (ICCS) and exploitation and business modelling (RFF). Please note that only complete applications will be considered, those with missing or incomplete information will be discarded.

This procedural part of the evaluation will verify if:

- Legal entities are established in an eligible HE country, have a valid VAT number and are active and operational. However, in case having VAT number is not mandatory according to the national legislation of the applicant's country, a registration number from the respective national authority (National business registry, Commercial court or similar) must be provided.
- Each proposal is unique (i.e., one proposal is submitted per consortium).
- Each party participates in only one proposal. If any applicant is found to participate in multiple applications, all such project applications will be rejected.
- Proposal includes at least one technical party (e.g. entities such as SMEs and other private pro-profit or non-profit organizations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc.) and at least one end-user (e.g. actors from the rural-urban environs, such as Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.).
- Proposed solutions fall within one of the six (6) domains, namely: i) circular economy, ii) ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, iii) improving logistics, and shortening value chains, iv) user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness, v) culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion, and vi) enhanced mobility.
- Existing consortium members of the RURBANIVE project and their affiliated entities are not members in any consortium.
- The proposal is submitted on time and according to the described application process.
- Proposals only ask for funding for that part of the work that is not yet accomplished and will be carried out once having been selected for funding. This does not exclude the usage of e.g. results, IP, infrastructures or approaches already held by the applicants.

During the eligibility check the Applicants might be requested to provide additional explanations if their application raises questions such as, but not limited to, ambiguity of the information, inconsistencies which are obvious errors, among others. In that case, Applicants will be given 3 working days from the day of notification to correct or provide additional documents to complete their initial application. If the requested corrections are not provided in the specified time, their application will be discarded and will not move on to the evaluation round.

2.5.2. Remote Evaluation and key points

Each proposal will be reviewed by two (2) external evaluators with specific technical and/or business expertise related to the topics of the call. The evaluators will have to evaluate each proposal under the specific evaluation criteria.

All eligible proposals will be assessed by two expert evaluators against the following **award criteria**:

Concept and feasibility [Scoring 1-5; min 3] Proposed solutions must align with RURBANIVE's Open Call⁹ objectives.

- Alignment with the objectives and priorities of the open call. Sub-projects should focus on one of the following domains: i) circular economy, ii) ecosystem and biodiversity

⁹ Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to end-users

restoration, iii) improving logistics, and shortening value chains, iv) user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness, v) culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion, and vi) enhanced mobility.

- Description of the tasks that need to be completed in order to successfully execute the sub-project.
- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and is aligned with the RURBANIVE project, and more specifically with RURBANIVE's Open Call's objectives
- Soundness of the proposed solution including the engagement of citizens, civil society and end-users

Technology readiness and innovation development [Scoring 1-5; min 3] Projects must demonstrate the maturity of the proposed solution.

- Maturity level of the technology and its capability to deliver the desired outcomes
- Cutting-edge technologies or innovative approaches that can enhance the project's excellence and effectiveness
- Alignment with emerging trends or market demand
- Unique features or advantages of the proposed solution compared to existing solutions.

Impact & Exploitation [Scoring 1-5; min 3] Applicants must define a precise set of deliverables connected to these objectives.

- Demonstration of impact on the RURBANIVE ecosystem. Describe how the proposal aims to create an impact on target stakeholders (i.e. Rural-Urban communities, Policy makers, service & technology providers, Academia)
- Extent to which the proposed digital RUE will enhance rural-urban connections, increasing the economic, social and environmental resilience of rural communities.
- Demonstration of contributing to the further development of rural-urban services, increasing the possible transition to greener and climate-neutral communities.
- Strategies for exploiting the project's results such as commercialization, dissemination of knowledge, or policy influence.
- lasting value beyond the project's initial implementation phase and how its results can be leveraged for future endeavours.

Organisational capacity and sufficiency in the team's background [Scoring 1-5; min 3] Applicants must provide credible evidence that the project delivery team has the necessary skills, infrastructure and management experience to deliver the project in the timeframe and budget as specified. **Organisational capacity and sufficiency in the team's background** will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan outlining key milestones, tasks, responsibilities, and timelines.
- Appropriateness of the skills and experience of the team. More specifically: relevant experience in: a) EU funded projects, b) familiarity with the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas and its initiative "Research and innovation for rural Communities" and with the EU Territorial Agenda for 2030, c) in systems integration and interoperability of different systems components
- Quality of the team, including complementarity, gender balance and diversity.

- Necessary resources (e.g. availability of personnel, infrastructure, equipment) in order to participate in events/ workshops/ infodays and engage with stakeholders.
- comprehensive budget definition including the amount of funding requested and how it will be spent, the implementation steps and consequently the value/benefit.
- Capacity and role of each participant, the extent to which the consortium brings together the necessary technical capacity, and excellence of the technology provider, especially in being highly experienced in digitalization, innovation and technology development related to the domain of choice. (Domains: i) circular economy, ii) ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, iii) improving logistics, and shortening value chains, iv) user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness, v) culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion, and vi) enhanced mobility.)

All award criteria have the same weight. Each award criterion can be scored from 1 to 5 with a threshold of 3 points in each category, and a minimum of 12 points in total.

Specifically, a score of:

- 1 corresponds to 0.2 times the maximum points for the criterion,
- 2 corresponds to 0.4 times the maximum points,
- 3 corresponds to 0.6 times the maximum points,
- 4 corresponds to 0.8 times the maximum points, and
- 5 corresponds to the maximum points allocated for the given criterion.

In case of a need for consensus, an online interview of the applicant by the external evaluators will be conducted. The following criteria will be evaluated:

- (i) confirmation of proposed solution (40%);
- (ii) acceptance of the solution from the end-users (30%);
- (iii) reliability to successfully complete the project (30%).

Emphasis is given to ensure the engagement of the end-users as their participation in the OC ensures they are the source of a major part of project's data, as well as the eventual RUE end-users.

The Advisory Board will be formed to run the eligibility check of the submitted proposals and select the external experts who will evaluate the proposals.

Important note: RURBANIVE OC aims is to select six (6) different digital RUEs, one for each one of the 6 RURBANIVE domains. If two or more proposals are focused on the same domain among the 6 predefined by RURBANIVE, the one with the higher score will be selected whereas the next proposal in the ranking list will be selected provided that it concerns a different domain and it is above threshold. The proposals with the highest score in each of six (6) separate domains (considering the above rule) will be qualified.

For example, if we have three proposals ranked as follows: first for the domain of 'circular economy', second *again* for the domain of 'circular economy' and third for the domain of 'ecosystem and biodiversity restoration', the first and third proposals will be selected.

All Applicants will receive their Evaluation Summary Report (ESR).

2.5.3. Redress procedure

Within five (5) working days of the reception of the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), Applicants may submit a **written request for redress** to the RURBANIVE OC Advisory Board via email at rurbanive@opencalls.fund if they believe there was a shortcoming in the way their proposal was evaluated, which may have affected the final decision on whether they were selected as beneficiary or not, or if they believe the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect. A designated internal review committee (RURBANIVE OC Advisory Board) of the RURBANIVE project will examine the requests for redress.

The RURBANIVE OC Advisory Board's role is to ensure a coherent interpretation of such requests and an equal treatment of all applicants. Requests for redress must be:

- Related to the evaluation process or eligibility checks;
- Clearly describe the complaint and reasons for potential consideration;
- Received within the time limit (5 working days) from the reception of the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR);
- Sent by the same applicant's legal representative that submitted the proposal.

The RURBANIVE OC Advisory Board will review the complaint within five (5) working days and will recommend an appropriate course of action. If there is clear evidence that a shortcoming(s) could have affected the eventual funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal will be re-evaluated.

The redress process is concerned with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process:

- The RURBANIVE OC Advisory Board will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of the evaluators
- Any redress request that calls into question the scientific or technical judgement of the evaluators will be automatically rejected.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that could have affected the final decision on whether to fund it or not. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway to meet other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. This score could be lower than the original score. Only one request for redress per proposal will be considered by the RURBANIVE OC Advisory Board. All requests for redress will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

2.5.4. Contracting

Based on the evaluator comments in each ESR, the Advisory Board will start negotiations for the contract preparation with the representatives of the selected (winning) proposals (if shortcomings were identified and changes are needed in the proposals). If the negotiations do not finish successfully, the proposal will be rejected and the next highest ranked proposal will be selected. Contract preparation will go via an administrative and financial checking. On a case-by-case approach, a phone call or teleconference may be needed for clarification.

The objective of the contract preparation is fulfilling the legal requirements between the RURBANIVE consortium and every beneficiary of the call. The items covered will be:

- To validate the status information of the consortium, the following documents will be required from all parties:

- **Legal existence:** Company Register, Official Gazette or other official document per country showing the name of the organisation, the legal address and registration number and a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent. However, in case having VAT number is not mandatory according to the national legislation of the applicant's country, a registration number from the respective national authority (National business registry, Commercial court or similar) must be provided).
 - **Legal proof** that the applicant's organisation is not under liquidation or has filed for bankruptcy.
- **Bank Account Information:** The account where the funds will be transferred will be indicated via a form signed by the legal representative and the bank representative. The account should be a business bank account of each beneficiary. The financial information should not be older than three months.

The Subgrantee assumes full responsibility on the bank account info they provide through Annex 9 – Bank account information. For instance, if they provide a wrong IBAN, and the Treasurer proceeds with the transfer to that account, they will assume responsibility for any costs related to the transfer (expenses with the return of the amount from the wrong bank account and/or expenses with the new transfer will be deducted from their grant transfer). Ultimately, in a worst-case scenario, if the Treasurer does not manage to recover the amount transferred to the wrong bank account, the beneficiary who provided a wrong IBAN will not be able to claim that payment.

The request, by the RURBANIVE consortium, of the above documentation will be done within designated deadlines. The sub-project contract negotiations will be carried out from July to August 2025. In case negotiations have not been concluded within the above period, the application is automatically rejected and the next application in the reserve list is invited.

After successful negotiations, the legal representative of the open call winner will be invited to sign a contract, which will then be signed by the Open Call Manager / Treasurer (RFF). The final list of accepted proposals will then be published.

3. Implementation of RURBANIVE Open Call

3.1. Implementation timeline and activities

Selected projects will be launched in September 2025 having an implementation timeframe of 12 months (until August 2026). The 12-month implementation period will be divided into 3 phases:

- Phase 1 – Design [Deliverable: Activity plan] (September 2025 – December 2025)
- Phase 2 - Development [Deliverable: RUE solution demonstration] (January 2026 – May 2026)
- Phase 3 - Validation [Deliverable: Report on market or community associated activities]. (June 2026 – August 2026)

In all selected sub-projects, payments are deliverable based, meaning that the sub-grantees have to deliver a specific report after the end of each phase in order to receive the payment (no pre-financing is foreseen).

4. Applicants' responsibility

The selected Subgrantees are indirect beneficiaries of European Commission funding. As such, they are responsible for the proper use of the funding and ensure that they comply with the obligations set out in HE specific requirements as described in the “Enhancing social inclusion in rural areas: focus on people in a vulnerable situation and social economy (HORIZON-CL6-2023-COMMUNITIES-01) call. The obligations that are applicable to the beneficiaries include (but are not limited to):

4.1. Conflict of interest

The Subgrantees must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Sub-grant Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests'). At the same time, Applicants cannot be affiliated with consortium partners, nor can they be employees of the consortium partners. All potential conflicts of interest will be assessed carefully. Please see more info [here](#).

They must formally notify the RURBANIVE consortium without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The RURBANIVE consortium may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

If a Subgrantee breaches any of its obligations, the Sub-grant Agreement may be automatically terminated. Moreover, if the Sub-grant Agreement is terminated due to a breach made by a Subgrantee, the RURBANIVE consortium reserves the right to suspend further payments to the Subgrantees sub-grantee and claim the full refund of all payments made to the Subgrantee up to date.

4.2. Ethics, Data Protection & Confidentiality

Prior to granting financial support, RURBANIVE will require Applicants to identify and explain any ethical issues that may arise during the subproject implementation as part of their project proposals. A dedicated chapter in the proposal template will require from the Applicants to describe how they will comply with European Union ethical rules/principles and outline how

ethics principles will be integrated into the project, addressing aspects such as participant involvement, informed consent, privacy protection, data management, and any other relevant ethical considerations. All subprojects should follow an “ethics by design”-way of working, whereby ethical and legal principles, on the basis of GDPR, competition law compliance, absence of data bias are implemented since the beginning of the design process.

Once a project is selected for FSTP funding, regular monitoring and reporting will be conducted to ensure ongoing adherence to ethics principles. This monitoring mechanism contributes to the overall integrity and ethical excellence of the RURBANIVE project and reinforces its commitment to ethical research and innovation

During implementation of the sub-project and for at least five years after the final payment of the sub-project, the beneficiaries must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential at subcontract signing time (‘confidential information’).

If an OC beneficiary makes a request for a longer period of data protection and confidentiality, the European Commission and the RURBANIVE consortium may agree to keep such information confidential for an additional period beyond the initial five years. This will be explicitly stated in the Sub-grant Agreement.

If additional information is identified as confidential during the sub-project execution or through verbal communication, it must be accepted by the RURBANIVE coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of its disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may only use confidential information to implement the Sub-grant Agreement. The OC beneficiaries may disclose confidential information to the RURBANIVE consortium and to the selected external reviewers, who will be bound by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

Applicants must confirm that all proposed services, including the means of their delivery and upkeep, have been reviewed to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation on data protection, privacy, and fundamental rights.

OC beneficiaries will have to submit three deliverables (1. Activity plan, 2. RUE demonstration, 3. Report on market or community associated activities) during the sub-project implementation. In these deliverables the beneficiaries will report any ethics measures in a dedicated chapter. The deliverables will be reviewed by the Advisory Board of the Open Call, while the appointed Ethics Advisor will examine and assess the ethics measures if needed.

Throughout the project's implementation, the RURBANIVE Ethics Advisor will provide ongoing guidance and support to the FSTP projects. He will assist project implementers in addressing ethical challenges, ensuring continuous improvement in ethics compliance, and promoting a culture of ethical responsibility.

By implementing this proposed mechanism, RURBANIVE aims to foster ethical conduct and responsible practices in all projects funded through the FSTP. It establishes a system of checks and balances, providing assurance that the ethical commitments of RURBANIVE are upheld by external entities receiving financial support. This monitoring mechanism contributes to the overall integrity and ethical excellence of the RURBANIVE project and reinforces its commitment to ethical research and innovation.

The importance of involving women, youth, and vulnerable groups must be considered by all participants. The inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable groups brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and unique perspectives to the project. Their participation promotes a holistic understanding of societal challenges and facilitates the development of effective

solutions tailored to their specific needs. Furthermore, it aligns with RURBANIVE ethical responsibility to promote equal opportunities and ensure that marginalised groups are not further excluded by the project.

Personal data from individuals (such as: name, last name, address, country of residence, phone number, email address) will also be gathered via the Open Call during the process of potential applicants' and evaluators' registration and application on the opencalls.fund platform (to post a question or apply to a specific open call or enter the pool of external evaluators). The majority of the information (if not all of them) that will be required, for SMEs, start ups, research organisations, NGOs as potential applicants, are already publicly available in business registries across Europe (i.e. owners' name, company address and email). No sensitive personal data will be collected (e.g. health status, race, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinions, religious or philosophical conviction, receipt of social support, victims of violence, criminal records and sexual life).

Personal information (such as IP address, device type, geographic location etc) may also be collected (automatically) for statistical reasons and to better understand the people who visit the opencalls.fund platform, where they come from and what content they are interested in. the activities related to the Open Call, since personal information received will not be shared by default. Access to the opencalls.fund platform is also feasible following a registration process and obtaining user credentials. With respect to the personal data protection collected during the Open Call, all collected data will be anonymized, encrypted and stored on a server, which will have server-side encryption. Only the required personnel (specifically assigned for this project) will have access to the data.

According to the Grant Agreement, data will be kept for at least 5 years after the completion of the project (or 3 years for data related to Open Call grants of not more than EUR 60 000). However, the data will always be stored anonymously and will not be accessible by external third parties.

4.3. Promoting the action and giving visibility to the EU funding

The Subgrantees must promote the sub-projects, the RURBANIVE project and its results, by providing the description of their project upon request from the RURBANIVE Consortium and highlighting the financial support of the EC.

Unless the European Commission or the RURBANIVE coordinator requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must:

- acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement:
 - *For communication activities: "Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them."*
- display the RURBANIVE logo

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g., of beneficiaries), the European emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos. This obligation to use

the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Subgrantee is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found on the Europa web page.

Any publicity made by the Subgrantee with respect to the project, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC or RURBANIVE consortium are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The EC and the RURBANIVE consortium shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the name of the Subgrantee,
- contact address of the Subgrantee,
- the general purpose of the sub-project,
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the sub-project; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received,
- the geographic location of the activities carried out,
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground,
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications relating to foreground and, if funded within the subproject, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication,
- the publishable reports submitted to RURBANIVE,
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and RURBANIVE in the framework of the sub-project.

The Subgrantee shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and RURBANIVE does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the Subgrantee representative, the RURBANIVE consortium, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary's security, academic or commercial interests.

4.4. Financial audit and controls

The European Commission (EC) will monitor that RURBANIVE partners and the Subgrantees comply with the conditions for financial support to third parties set out in Annex 1 of the RURBANIVE grant agreement and may take any action foreseen by the grant agreement in case of noncompliance vis à vis the beneficiary concerned.

Moreover, the EC may at any time during the implementation of the RURBANIVE project and up to 2 (two) years after final payments, arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). Such audits will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

Such audits may cover financial, systemic and other aspects (such as accounting and management principles) relating to the proper execution of the grant agreement. They shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

The Subgrantee shall make available directly to the EC all detailed information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, with a view to verifying that the grant agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions and that costs have been charged in compliance with it. This information and data must be precise, complete and effective.

The Subgrantee shall keep all sub-project deliverables and the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the sub-project contract for up to five years from the end of the project (or 3 for grants of not more than €60,000.00). These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any audit under the grant agreement.

In order to carry out these audits, the Subgrantee shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the sub-project applicant offices, to its computer data, to its accounting data and to all the information needed to carry out those audits, including information on individual salaries of persons involved in the sub-project. For on-the-spot visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available. Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings a draft audit report will be drawn up and it will be formally sent to the Subgrantee concerned, which may make observations thereon within 30 days of receiving the notification to make observations. The Commission may decide not to consider observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final audit report shall be sent to the beneficiary concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

Based on the conclusions of the audit, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Sub-grant agreement.

4.5. Sub-project Communication

The Sub-grantee representative should:

- Provide any notices in writing to the RURBANIVE consortium.
- Notify the RURBANIVE coordinator immediately of any change of persons or contact details. The address list shall be accessible to all concerned.
- Notify the RURBANIVE coordinator about the dissemination activities that the Open Call recipient will organise.

4.6. Originality of the sub-granted projects

It is required that applications submitted are based on original works by the Applicants and that their foreseen developments are free from third party rights. RURBANIVE consortium is not obliged to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the foreseen products/services. Any issues delivered from third party claims that arise as a result of the sub-granted projects are on the sole responsibility of the applicant.

4.7. IPR ownership of the sub-granted projects

Each Subgrantee that generates results owns the attached Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) generated during the development process and will own results that are not IPRs. Each contractor is responsible for the management and protection of its IPRs and bears the costs associated with this.

The Subgrantees funded within the RURBANIVE project will be the unique owners of the technologies created within the framework of their sub-granted projects. Parts of their works will be requested to be public for RURBANIVE dissemination purposes.

4.8. Liability

The RURBANIVE consortium and the European Commission cannot be held liable for any acts or omissions of the applicant in relation to the selected sub-granted project implemented by the Subgrantee. The RURBANIVE consortium shall not be liable for any defaults of any products, processes or services created in the sub-granted project. Including, for instance, anomalies in the functioning or performance thereof.

In case any damage is caused to a third party by the Subgrantee, the Subgrantee will assume full responsibility for the damage caused. In no way will the RURBANIVE Consortium be responsible for any damages caused by the Subgrantee. Subgrantees shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that their acts within the framework of their sub-granted projects do not infringe third parties' rights.

4.9. Do No Significant Harm

Subgrantees must always respect the 'Do No Significant Harm Principle'. This means that the subproject's methodology should be designed in a manner which does not significantly harm any of the six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy Regulation. EU Taxonomy is a science-based classification system for determining whether an (economic) activity can be considered environmentally sustainable. It establishes six environmental objectives (as listed in Article 913 of the EU Taxonomy):

- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
- The transition to a circular economy
- Pollution prevention and control
- The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

while Article 17 specifies what can constitute a “significant harm” for these objectives. Thus, the regulation provides that no measure should lead to significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation.

5. Checklist

- 1. Is your proposal eligible?** The eligibility criteria are given in chapter 3 “Proposal Submission and Selection”. Make sure that you satisfy the minimum participation requirements (entities from eligible countries).
- 2. Is your proposal complete?** Have you completed all mandatory OC questions?
- 3. Have you checked all technical details related to submission?** Difficulties with application and submission arising from technical aspects will not be taken into consideration by the RURBANIVE project. Applicants should do test rounds and make sure to submit everything on time.
- 4. Does your proposal fulfil questions requests/comments?** Proposals should be precise, concise and must answer requested questions, which are designed to correspond to the applied evaluation. Omitting requested information will almost certainly lead to lower scores and possible rejection.
- 5. Have you maximised your chances?** There will be strong competition. Therefore, edit your proposal tightly, strengthen or eliminate weak points.
- 6. Have you submitted your proposal before the deadline?** It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the proposal. Failure of the proposal to arrive in time for any reason, including network communications delays, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. The time of receipt of the message as recorded by the submission system will be definitive.
- 7. Have you provided the necessary annexes?**
- 8. Have you described the dissemination activities as 7% of your budget?**
- 9. Does your planned work fit with RURBANIVE Open Call for co-creating Rural-Urban Enabler with rural-urban communities?** Check that your proposed work does indeed address the topics open in this call and addresses enhancing and increasing rural-urban connections.
- 10. Does your proposal address key societal and environmental challenges relating to the six (6) RURBANIVE domains?** Check that your proposed work does indeed address all the specific requirements set.
- 11. Do you need further advice and support?** You can reach out to the RURBANIVE Open Call team via rurbanive@opencalls.fund. Technical team can provide assistance to the extent possible, up until the 28th of March 2025 @ 17:00 CET.

6. Points of contact

All questions concerning the Call must be in writing and be stated on the FAQ section on the opencalls.fund or sent by e-mail to rurbanive@opencalls.fund. The deadline for asking clarification questions or requesting additional information is 17:00 CET on 26th of March 2025. The answers shall be given no later than 17:00 CET @ 28th March 2025.

We strongly recommend Applicants to regularly visit the FAQ section to get valuable feedback for the preparation of their proposal.

Annex A: Recommendations regarding data accessibility for the RURBANIVE Open Call

General

This document contains a set of recommendations regarding exposing data from your app or service. It is important to ensure that your dataset or your real-time data generator follows the FAIR principles, meaning is/are **findable** (not necessarily in the sense of having a DOI, think in terms of metadata), **accessible**, **interoperable** and **reusable**, such that it can be used for other applications as well.

Your service or app will (most likely) produce either data that is (i) **dynamic**, such as real-time data, or simply data that may change or update over time and data that is (ii) **static**, consisting of datasets, charts, image collections, etc. It may also be the case that your data falls in both categories. Below we list a few options for exposing your data to third-parties, depending on its static/dynamic trait, as well as the specifics of your application. The list of options is not exhaustive, and you may consider other options as well, as long as they follow the same principles described previously.

API recommendations

If your application will be responsible for creating a **data stream service** (e.g. real-time environment monitoring system), or data which will be continuously updated and maintained, an open-source API for accessing the service should be available. Below, we enumerate a list of types of APIs and data access features:

- **RESTful APIs** are **simple**, **broadly** used, offer a uniform interface, are **scalable** and are ideal for web services that require wide-spread compatibility. They are often used for web-services, IoT and mobile applications.
- **GraphQL** is a query language for APIs and a runtime for executing those queries by using a **type system** you define for your data. Unlike RESTful APIs, which rely on predefined endpoints to handle different types of operations, a GraphQL API allows clients to request exactly the data they need, nothing more and nothing less, through a single endpoint. GraphQL APIs are defined by a schema using GraphQL's Type System. This schema serves as a contract between the client and the server, ensuring the data adheres to a specific structure. You should use GraphQL for any app that requires optimising network data transfer and if your app needs to aggregate data from multiple sources, and in those cases where you will provide a wide variety of types of data to end-users.
- **gRPC (Google Remote Procedure Call)** is an open-source high-performance RPC (Remote Procedure Call) framework initially developed by Google. It uses HTTP/2 for transport, Protocol Buffers (protobuf) as the interface description language, and provides features such as authentication, load balancing, and bidirectional streaming. gRPC is particularly useful if your app requires low latency and high throughput. It works best in scenarios where you need to efficiently connect more services (including mobile devices) in a microservices architecture.
- **OData (Open Data Protocol)** is a REST-based API that allows clients to query and manipulate data using more involved query options such as filtering, sorting and

paging. It can also be successfully used for exposing and consuming data from relational databases over web APIs. We recommend using OData for exposing data from a relational database, where there are no specific latency or throughput requirements.

Dataset recommendations

If your app/service will produce a dataset, it should be made available as an open-source artefact, and be published on at least one dataset aggregator platform such as, for instance:

- kaggle.com
- Google Dataset (<https://datasetsearch.research.google.com/>)
- EU Open Data Portal (<https://data.europa.eu/en>)

The dataset(s) should be accompanied with metadata that offers detailed information regarding its contents and structure. Metadata should be available in English. Metadata information should minimally include:

- **Title:** A descriptive name for the dataset.
- **Creator/Author:** The person(s) or organisation(s) responsible for creating the dataset.
- **Date of Publication:** When the dataset was published or released.
- **Dataset Version:** Information on the version of the dataset, if applicable.
- **Description/Abstract:** A detailed summary of the dataset, including its purpose, scope, and main findings.
- **Keywords:** Words or phrases that describe the subject matter of the dataset.
- **Data Type:** The nature or genre of the content (e.g., qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods, images, text files).
- **Methodology:** Information on how the data were collected or generated, including tools, techniques, and protocols used.
- **Geographic Location:** The geographic area covered by the data.
- **Temporal Coverage:** The time period the data covers.
- **Language:** The language(s) of the dataset content.
- **Data Format:** The file format of the dataset (e.g., CSV, JSON, XML, TIFF).
- **Access and Use Conditions:** Information about the terms under which the dataset can be accessed and used, including any restrictions or licensing.
- **Related Publications:** References to publications that use or are based on the dataset.
- **Data Repository:** Where the dataset is stored or archived, including the URL if it's available online.
- **Citation:** Suggested citation for users who reference the dataset in their work.
- **Funding Information:** Details on the funding source(s) that supported the creation of the dataset.
- **Contact Information:** How to reach the dataset creator or custodian for questions or further information.

It is recommended that you also consider the Eurostat and the European Statistical System (ESS) single metadata structure (SIMS) [2], which are aimed at standardising metadata.

[1] <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/metadata/reference-metadata-reporting-standards>

[2]<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/64157/4373903/SIMS-2-0-Revised-standards-November-2015-ESSC-final.pdf>



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**Annex 5
Consortium Declaration**



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Title of the proposal:

On behalf of _____ (Company name) established in _____, (Official address), VAT/TAX number _____, represented for the purposes of signing and submitting the Declaration by _____ (Name of legal representative), declares that all provided information below is true and legally binding.

The Consortium leader declares that all Consortium partners have agreed on their roles and budget shares.

Payments will be done separately to each partner directly from the consortium coordinator.

The RURBANIVE project bears no responsibility in case the Consortium leader violates the mutual agreement set in this Consortium Declaration.

The RURBANIVE project bears no responsibility in case of dispute among Consortium partners regarding IP rights and allocation of income generated through reward crowdfunding campaigns.

By submitting this document, the Consortium accepts all the terms and the rules explained in RURBANIVE's Open Call kit.

Consortium leader

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Full name | | |
| Full address | | |
| Legal representative | | |
| Type of partner | End-user | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Technology & service provider | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Status of partner | Public entity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Private entity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Legal representative signature and stamp (if applicable) | | |

Project partner 2

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Full name | | |
| Full address | | |
| Legal representative | | |
| Type of partner | End-user | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Technology & service provider | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Status of partner | Public entity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Private entity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Legal representative signature and stamp (if applicable) | | |

Project partner 3

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Full name | | |
| Full address | | |
| Legal representative | | |
| Type of partner | End-user | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Technology & service provider | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Status of partner | Public entity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Private entity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Legal representative signature and stamp (if applicable) | | |

Project partner 4

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Full name | | |
| Full address | | |
| Legal representative | | |
| Type of partner | End-user | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Technology & service provider | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Status of partner | Public entity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Private entity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Legal representative signature and stamp (if applicable) | | |



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**Annex 6
Declaration of Honour**



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By signing this document, I declare that:

- 1) I am authorised to legally bind the legal entity named below, to the conditions stated in this form.
- 2) I and the business entity that I legally represent are fully aware and duly accept all rules and conditions as expressed in the documents and annexes related to the RURBANIVE Open Call and will fully respect any evaluation decision and application selection made under this Call.
- 3) All information provided in this declaration is true and legally binding.

Applying Business Entity Legal Representative Contact Information:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Title (Mr., Mrs., Dr.) | |
| Name | |
| Surname | |
| Business entity | |
| Position in the entity | |
| Full address | |
| Country | |
| Email address | |
| (Mobile) Telephone | |
| Signature and stamp (if applicable) | |

Declaration of Honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest

By signing this declaration of honour, I declare that all provided information below is true and legally binding both for me and for the business entity that I legally represent:

1. I declare that the mentioned business entity is not in one of the following situations:
 - it is bankrupt or being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
 - it or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata;
 - it has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organisations;
 - it is not in compliance with its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed, to be proved by the deliverance of official documents issued by the local authorities, according to the local applicable rules;
 - it or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it have been the subject of a judgement which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
 - is subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresenting the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure or another procurement procedure or failing to supply this information or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Union's budget.
2. I declare that the natural persons with power of representation, decision-making or control over the above-mentioned business entity are not in the situations referred to in a) to f) above;
3. I declare that:
 - Neither any person nor I that I know is subject to a RURBANIVE conflict of interest;
 - I have not made false declarations in supplying the information required by participation in the Open Call of RURBANIVE Project or have failed to supply the information required;
 - I am not in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in the abovementioned sub-points a) to f) within point 1.
 - I am aware and fully accept all RURBANIVE conditions and rules as expressed in RURBANIVE Open Call, namely in: Applicants' Guide, Declaration of conducting business, Bank account information.
4. I certify that the business entity that I represent:
 - is committed to participating in the RURBANIVE Open Call sub-project, should my application get selected for funding;
 - has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout its participation in the RURBANIVE Open Call sub-project and to provide any counterpart funding necessary;

- has or will have the necessary resources as and when needed to carry out its involvement in the RURBANIVE Open Call sub-project.
5. I confirm that all proposed services, including the means of their delivery and upkeep, have been reviewed to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation on data protection, privacy, and fundamental rights.
 6. I declare that the solution I am presenting in my application for the RURBANIVE Open Call is not being funded by any other source from the budget of the European Union and that should my application be selected for funding in this Open Call, it will not be used to apply for other EU grants.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Full name: <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div> | Signature and stamp (if applicable) |
| On behalf of Business entity: <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div> | |
| Done at (place) <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 100px;"></div> the (day) <div style="background-color: black; height: 15px; width: 50px;"></div> (month) <u>2025</u> | |



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**Annex 7
Declaration of Conducting Business**



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1. Glossary

SME – an entity that complies with the following European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC criteria:

Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250.

Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million

Dominant influence – An influence that can be exercised over a company to achieve the operating and financial policies desired by the holder of the influence, notwithstanding the rights or influence of any other party. If one organisation exerts such a dominant influence over a company, this company should be treated as a subsidiary of the organisation and consolidated into the group accounts of the organisation – in other words, it should be treated as a linked entity.

Holding – share of capital or voting rights, whichever is higher.

Partner enterprises - If holdings with other enterprises rise to at least 25% but not more than 50%, the enterprises in questions are treated as partner enterprises.

Linked enterprises – If holdings with other enterprises exceed the 50% threshold, these enterprises are considered linked enterprises.

Autonomous enterprise – If the enterprise is either completely independent or has one or more minority partnerships (each less than 25%) with other enterprises, it is considered an autonomous enterprise. These are also some cases where an enterprise is considered autonomous even if the holding thresholds of 25% and 50% are exceeded – if that percentage is held by the following categories of investors:

Public investment corporations, venture capital companies, individuals or group of individuals with a regular venture capital investment activity who invest equity capital in unquoted businesses (“business angels”), provided the total investment of those business angels in the same enterprise is less than €1,250,000,

Universities or non-profit research centres,

Institutional investors, including regional development funds,

Autonomous local authorities with an annual budget of less than €10 million and less than 5,000 inhabitants

Consolidation – to consolidate means to combine assets, liabilities and other financial items of two or more entities into one. In the context of financial accounting, the term consolidate often refers to the consolidation of financial statements wherein all subsidiaries report under the umbrella of a parent company. In case an enterprise draws up consolidated accounts voluntarily, without being required to do so under the Seventh Directive (Council Directive 83/349/EEC), the enterprise is not necessarily linked and can be considered only a partner.

Headcount – The number of people who are employed by a company.

AWU (Annual Working Unit) - One AWU corresponds to one person who worked full-time in the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year. The headcount is expressed in AWUs.

VAT Number – A unique number that identifies a taxable person (business) or non-taxable legal entity that is registered for VAT. Every country issues its own national VAT number.

Principal director – Chairman, CEO, Director-General or equivalent.

2. Declaration on information on the Legal Entity Status

Precise identification of the applicant enterprise

Name or Business name

.....

Address (of registered office)

.....

Registration / VAT number

.....

Names and titles of the principal director(s)

.....

Type of applicant (see explanatory note)

Tick to indicate which case(s) applies to the applicant enterprise:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Autonomous enterprise | In this case the data filled in the box below result from the accounts of the applicant enterprise only. Fill in the declaration only, without annex. |
| <input type="radio"/> Partner enterprise | Fill in and attach the annex (and any additional sheets), then complete the declaration by copying the results of the calculations into the box below. |
| <input type="radio"/> Linked enterprise | |

Data used to determine the category of enterprise

Calculated according to Article 6 of the Annex to the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC on the SME definition:

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Reference period (*) | | |
| Headcount (AWU) | Annual turnover (**) | Balance sheet total (**) |
| | | |
| (*) All data must be relating to the last approved accounting period and calculated on an annual basis. In the case of newly established enterprises whose accounts have not yet been approved, the data to apply shall be derived from a reliable estimate made in the course of the financial year. | | |
| (**) EUR 1,000. | | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Important: Compared to the previous accounting period there is a change regarding the data, which could result in a change of category of the applicant enterprise (micro, small, medium-sized or big enterprise).</p> | <p><input type="radio"/> No</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes (in this case fill in and attach a declaration regarding the previous accounting period).</p> |
|--|--|

Signature

Name and position of the signatory, being authorised to represent the enterprise:

.....

I declare in my honour the accuracy of this declaration and of any annexes thereto.

Done at

.....

Signature

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE TYPES OF ENTERPRISES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR CALCULATING THE HEADCOUNT AND THE FINANCIAL AMOUNTS

I. TYPES OF ENTERPRISES

The definition of an SME¹ distinguishes three types of enterprise, according to their relationship with other enterprises in terms of holdings of capital or voting rights or the right to exercise a dominant influence².

Type 1: Autonomous Enterprise

This is by far the most common type of enterprise. It applies to all enterprises which are not one of the two other types of enterprise (partner or linked).

An applicant enterprise is autonomous if it:

- does not have a holding of 25%³ or more in any other enterprise,
- and is not 25%³ or more owned by any enterprise or public body or jointly by several linked enterprises or public bodies, apart from some exceptions⁴,
- and does not draw up consolidated accounts and is not included in the accounts of an enterprise which draws up consolidated accounts and is thus not a linked enterprise⁵.

Type 2: Partner Enterprise

This type represents the situation of enterprises which establish major financial partnerships with other enterprises, without the one exercising effective direct or indirect control over the other. Partners are enterprises which are not autonomous, but which are not linked to one another.

The applicant enterprise is a partner of another enterprise if:

it has a holding or voting rights equal to or greater than 25% in the other enterprise, or the other enterprise has a holding or voting rights equal to or greater than 25% in the applicant enterprise, the enterprises are not linked enterprises within the meaning defined below, which means, among other things, that the voting rights of one in the other do not exceed 50%, and the applicant enterprise does not draw up consolidated accounts which include the other enterprise by consolidation, and is not included by consolidation in the accounts of the other enterprise or of an enterprise linked to it⁵.

¹ Henceforth in the text, the term "Definition" refers to the Annex to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC on the definition of SMEs.

² Definition, Article 3

³ In terms of the share of the capital or voting rights, whichever is higher is applied. To this percentage should be added the holding in that same enterprise of each enterprise, which is linked to the holding company (Definition, Article 3 paragraph 2)

⁴ An enterprise may continue being considered as autonomous when this 25% threshold is reached or exceeded, if that percentage is held by the following categories of investors (provided that those are not linked with the applicant enterprise):

- a) public investment corporations, venture capital companies, individuals or groups of individuals with a regular venture capital investment activity who invest equity capital in unquoted businesses ("business angels"), provided the total investment of those business angels in the same enterprise is less than EUR 1 250 000,
- b) universities or non-profit research centres,
- c) institutional investors, including regional development funds,
- d) autonomous local authorities with an annual budget of less than EUR 10 million and less than 5000 inhabitants

⁵ If the registered office of the enterprise is situated in a Member State which has provided for an exception to the requirement to draw up such accounts pursuant to the Seventh Council Directive 83/349/EEC of 13 June 1983, the enterprise should nevertheless check specifically whether it does not meet one or other of the conditions laid down in Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Definition.

- There are also some very rare cases in which an enterprise may be considered linked to another enterprise through a person or a group of natural persons acting jointly (Definition, Article 3 paragraph 3).

- Conversely, there are very few cases of enterprises drawing up consolidated accounts voluntarily, without being required to do so under the Seventh Directive. In that case, the enterprise is not necessarily linked and can consider itself only a partner. To determine whether the enterprise is linked or not, in each of the three situations it should be checked whether or not the enterprise meets one or other of the conditions laid down in Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Definition, where applicable through a natural person or group of natural persons acting jointly.

Type 3: Linked Enterprise

This type corresponds to the economic situation of enterprises which form a group through the direct or indirect **control of the majority of the voting rights** (including through agreements or, in certain cases, through natural persons as shareholders), or through the ability to exercise a dominant influence on an enterprise. Such cases are thus less frequent than the two preceding types.

In order to avoid difficulties of interpretation for enterprises, the Commission has defined this type of enterprise by taking over – wherever they are suitable for the purposes of the Definition – the conditions set out in Article 1 of Council Directive 83/349/EEC on consolidated accounts⁶, which has been applied for many years.

An enterprise thus generally knows immediately that it is linked, since it is already **required** under that Directive to **draw up consolidated accounts** or is included by consolidation in the accounts of an enterprise which is required to draw up such consolidated accounts.

The only two cases, which are however not very frequent, in which an enterprise can be considered linked although it is not already required to draw up consolidated accounts, are described in the first two indents of endnote 5 of this explanatory note. In those cases, the enterprise should check whether it meets one or other of the conditions set out in Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Definition.

II. THE HEADCOUNT AND THE ANNUAL WORK UNITS⁷

The headcount of an enterprise corresponds to the number of annual work units (AWU).

Who is included in the headcount?

- The employees of the applicant enterprise,
- persons working for the enterprise being subordinate to it and considered to be employees under national law,
- owner-managers,
- partners engaging in a regular activity in the enterprise and benefiting from financial advantages from the enterprise.

Apprentices or students engaged in vocational training with an apprenticeship or vocational training contract are not taken into account in the headcount.

How is the headcount calculated?

One AWU corresponds to one person who worked full-time in the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year. The headcount is expressed in AWUs. The work of persons, who did not work the entire year, or who worked part-time - regardless of its duration - and seasonal work is counted as fractions of AWU. The duration of maternity or parental leaves is not counted.

3. ANNEX TO THE DECLARATION CALCULATION FOR THE PARTNER OR LINKED TYPE OF ENTREPRISE

Annexes to be enclosed if necessary:

- **Annex A** if the applicant enterprise has at least one **partner** enterprise (and any additional sheets)
- **Annex B** if the applicant enterprise has at least one **linked** enterprise (and any additional sheets)

⁶ Seventh Council Directive 83/349/EEC of 13 June 1983, based on Article 54(3)(g) of the Treaty and concerning consolidated accounts (OJ L 193, 18/7/1983, p. 1), as last amended by Directive 2001/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 283, 27/10/01, p. 28).

⁷ Definition, Article 5.

Calculation for the partner or linked type of enterprise (see explanatory note):

| Reference period ⁸ : | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | Headcount (AWU) | Annual turnover (*) | Balance sheet total (*) |
| 1. Data ⁹ of the applicant enterprise or consolidated accounts (copy data from box B (1) in annex B) | | | |
| 2. Proportionally aggregated data of all partner enterprises (if any) (copy data from box A in annex A) | | | |
| 3. Added up data of all linked enterprises (if any) – if not included by consolidation in line 1 (copy data from box B(2) in annex B) | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |
| (*) €1,000 | | | |

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in the box "Data used to determine the category of enterprise" in the declaration.

⁸ All data must be relating to the last approved accounting period and calculated on an annual basis. In the case of newly established enterprises whose accounts have not yet been approved, the data to apply shall be derived from a reliable estimate made in the course of the financial year.

⁹ The data of the enterprise, including the headcount, are determined on the basis of the accounts and other data of the enterprise or, where they exist, the consolidated accounts of the enterprise, or the consolidated accounts in which the enterprise is included through consolidation.

4. ANNEX A - Partner enterprises

For each enterprise for which a 'partnership sheet' has been completed (one sheet for each partner enterprise of the applicant enterprise and for any partner enterprises of any linked enterprise, of which the data is not yet included in the consolidated accounts of that linked enterprise), the data in the 'partnership box' in question should be entered in the summary table below:

BOX A

| Partner enterprise (name/identification) | Headcount (AWU) | Annual turnover (*) | Balance sheet total (*) |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| 5. | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |
| (*) €1,000 | | | |

(attach sheets or expand the present table, if necessary)

Reminder:

This data is the result of a proportional calculation done on the 'partnership sheet' for each direct or indirect partner enterprise.

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in line 2 (regarding partner enterprises) of the table in the Annex to the declaration.

5. PARTNERSHIP SHEET

1. Precise identification of the applicant enterprise

Name or Business name

Address (of registered office)

Registration/VAT number

Names and titles of the principal director(s).....

2. Raw data regarding that partner enterprise

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Reference period | | | |
| | Headcount (AWU) | Annual turnover (*) | Balance sheet total (*) |
| Raw data | | | |
| (*) €1,000 | | | |

Reminder: These raw data are derived from the accounts and other data of the partner enterprise, consolidated if they exist. To them are added 100% of the data of enterprises which are linked to this partner enterprise, unless the accounts data of those linked enterprises are already included through consolidation in the accounts of the partner enterprise. If necessary, add “linkage sheets” for the enterprises which are not yet included through consolidation.

3. Proportional calculation

a) Indicate precisely the holding of the enterprise drawing up the declaration (or of the linked enterprise via which the relation to the partner enterprise is established) in the partner enterprise to which this sheet relates:

.....

Indicate also the holding of the partner enterprise to which this sheet relates in the enterprise drawing up the declaration (or in the linked enterprise):

.....

b) The higher of these two holding percentages should be applied to the raw data entered in the previous box. The results of this proportional calculation should be given in the following table:

‘Partnership box’

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Percentage: | Headcount (AWU) | Annual turnover (*) | Balance sheet total (*) |
| Proportional results | | | |
| (*) €1,000 | | | |

These data should be entered in Box A in Annex A.

6. ANNEX B - Linked enterprises

A. DETERMINE THE CASE APPLICABLE TO THE APPLICANT ENTERPRISE:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Case 1 | The applicant enterprise draws up consolidated accounts or is included by consolidation in the consolidated accounts of another enterprise. (Box B(1)) |
| <input type="radio"/> Case 2 | The applicant enterprise or one or more of the linked enterprises do not establish consolidated accounts or are not included in the consolidated accounts. (Box B(2)). |

Please note: The data of the enterprises, which are linked to the applicant enterprise, are derived from their accounts and their other data, consolidated if they exist. To them are aggregated proportionally the data of any possible partner enterprise of that linked enterprise, situated immediately upstream or downstream from it, unless it has already been included through consolidation.

B. CALCULATION METHODS FOR EACH CASE:

In case 1: The consolidated accounts serve as the basis for the calculation. Fill in Box B(1) below.

Box B(1)

| | Headcount (*) | Annual turnover (**) | Balance sheet total (**) |
|---|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Total | | | |
| (*) Where in the consolidated accounts no headcount data appears, the calculation of it is done by adding the data from the enterprises to which the enterprise in question is linked | | | |
| (**) €1,000 | | | |

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in line 1 of the table in the Annex to the declaration.

| Identification of the enterprises included through consolidation | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Linked enterprise (name / identification) | Address (of registered office) | Registration / VAT number (*) | Names and titles of the principal director(s) (**) |
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| 5. | | | |
| 6. | | | |
| Total | | | |
| (*) To be determined by the Member State according to its needs | | | |
| (**) Chairman (CEO), Director-General or equivalent. | | | |

Important: Partner enterprises of such a linked enterprise, which are not yet included through consolidation, are treated like direct partners of the applicant enterprise. Their data and a 'partnership sheet' should therefore be added in Annex A.

In case 2: For each linked enterprise (including links via other linked enterprises), complete a "linkage sheet" and simply add together the accounts of all the linked enterprises by filling in Box B(2) below.

Box B(2)

| Enterprise No.: | Headcount (AWU) | Annual turnover (**) | Balance sheet total (**) |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 (*) | | | |
| 2 (*) | | | |
| 3 (*) | | | |
| Total | | | |
| (*) attach one "linkage sheet" per enterprise | | | |
| (**) €1 000. | | | |

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in line 3 (regarding linked enterprises) of the table in the Annex to the declaration.

7. LINKAGE SHEET

(only for linked enterprises not included by consolidation in Box B)

1. Precise identification of the applicant enterprise

Name or Business name

Address (of registered office)

Registration/VAT number

Names and titles of the principal director(s)

2. Data on enterprise

| Reference period | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | Headcount (AWU) | Annual turnover (*) | Balance sheet total (**) |
| Total | | | |
| (*) €1,000 | | | |

These data should be entered in Box B(2) in Annex B.

Important: The data of the enterprises, which are linked to the applicant enterprise, are derived from their accounts and their other data, consolidated if they exist. To them are aggregated proportionally the data of any possible partner enterprise of that linked enterprise, situated immediately upstream or downstream from it, unless it has already been included through consolidation.

Such partner enterprises are treated like direct partner enterprises of the applicant enterprise. Their data and a 'partnership sheet' have therefore to be added in Annex A.



RURBANIVE

RURAL · URBAN · IMMERSIVENESS

RUral-u**R**BAN synergies emerged in an immers**I**VE innovation ecosystem

Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to end-users

ANNEX 8 Proposal Template



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Glossary

| | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| RUCL | Rural-Urban Co-creation Lab |
| RUE | Rural-Urban Enabler |
| RUI | Rural-Urban Immersiveness |
| IF | Rural-Urban Innovation Framework |
| CoPS | Community of Practice Suite |
| OC | Open Call |
| FSTP | Financial Support to Third Parties |

IMPORTANT: The allowed font type is “Arial” and the minimum font size is 11 points, the paragraph spacing 6pt and the line spacing single. The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left and right) must be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers). Proposals that do not comply with these requirements will be excluded from evaluation as non-eligible.

The entire proposal must not exceed the length of 15 pages. Budget tables do not count against the page limit of 15 pages. The cover page and the ToC are not included in the limit of the 15 pages. Removing explanatory text in the proposal template, located below the paragraph sub-titles is allowed. External evaluators are instructed to dismiss the pages after the 15th page from the evaluation.

This information is mandatory and will be used by the evaluation committee to assess the suitability and expertise of the applicants.

1. General information

This information is mandatory and will be used by the evaluation committee to assess the suitability and expertise of the applicants.

1.1 General details

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Proposal Title | |
| Proposal Acronym | |

1.2 Executive Summary

Please provide a brief overview of the proposal (objectives and expected outcomes) [max 1000 characters]

Executive Summary

Consortium Description

The partnership shall be composed of at least 2 and maximum 4 partners in total. Please keep only the tables according to the number of partners involved in the proposal (example: If your consortium is composed of 2 partners, delete the rest of the tables (i.e. for partners 3 and 4).

Partner 1/ Coordinator

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Company/Organization name | | |
| Country/ Full address | | |
| VAT Number | | |
| Type of partner (please select among the following groups A, B, C) | Group A: End-users¹ | |
| | Group B: Technology & service providers² | |
| | Group C: other³ | |
| Legal representative | | |
| email | | |
| Contact phone | | |
| Contact Person | | |

Partner 2

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Company/Organization name | | |
| Country/ Full address | | |
| VAT Number | | |
| Type of partner (please select among the following groups A or B) | Group A: End-users | |
| | Group B: Technology & service providers | |
| | Group C: other | |

¹ Example of end-users: Local & Regional Administrations, Civil Society, Cooperatives, Associations, NGOs, Local Action Groups, Chambers and other Trade representative organizations, etc.

² Example of rural communities: Entities such as SMEs and other private pro-profit or non-profit organizations, technological spin-offs, research institutions etc.

³ Please specify

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Legal representative | |
| email | |
| Contact phone | |
| Contact Person | |

Partner 3

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Company/Organization name | | |
| Country/ Full address | | |
| VAT Number | | |
| Type of partner (please select among the following groups A or B) | Group A: End-users | |
| | Group B: Technology & service providers | |
| | Group C: other | |
| Legal representative | | |
| email | | |
| Contact phone | | |
| Contact Person | | |

Partner 4

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Company/Organization name | | |
| Country/ Full address | | |
| VAT Number | | |
| Type of partner (please select among the following groups A or B) | Group A: End-users | |
| | Group B: Technology & service providers | |
| | Group C: other | |
| Legal representative | | |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| email | |
| Contact phone | |
| Contact Person | |

2. Proposal description

2.1 General description

a) Please choose **ONLY** one of the following domains:

Important note: Please select **ONLY** one of the RURBANIVE **six (6)** domains that best fits your proposed solution. In case your proposed solution may fall within more than one domain, please choose the most prominent one.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Circular bioeconomy | |
| 2. Ecosystem and biodiversity restoration | |
| 3. Improving logistics, and shortening value chains | |
| 4. User engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness | |
| 5. Culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion | |
| 6. Enhanced mobility | |

- b) Please indicate the rural areas you target. Note that the targeted rural areas have to be other than the areas covered by the seven (7) RUCLs, namely: 1. Lower Austria, AUSTRIA 2. Milos, GREECE 3. Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC 4. Kedainiai, LITHUANIA 5. Burgos, SPAIN 6. Lemgo, GERMANY & 7. Trikala, GREECE
- c) Briefly describe the background of your application and how the proposed activities address the topics of the Open Call for co-creating digital Rural-Urban Enablers (RUEs) with rural communities and how the proposed solution falls within one of the six (6) domains not yet adequately addressed by other projects or initiatives, namely: i) circular economy ii) ecosystem and biodiversity restoration iii) improving logistics and shortening value chains iv) user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness v) culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion & vi) enhanced mobility.

2.2 Objectives

Write the key objectives of the proposed solution. Identify the gaps and the data requirements necessary for understanding the underlying drivers of rural challenges, facilitating informed decision-making and solution design.

2.3 Work plan and activities

Draft the work plan and key activities of the proposal including a clear timeline. This work plan should address the 3 key phases of the implementation plan – Design, Development, Validation– as stated in the Applicants’ Guide.

Please add a timeline or Gantt chart to illustrate the proposed work plan

2.4 Team

Please present your team members and provide information on their education, experience, and skills. Explain briefly the main competences and experience of each partner in the consortium and how they are relevant for the delivery of the proposed digital RUE. Please refer to paragraph 3.5.2 of the Open Call Applicants Guide.

2.5 Expected results and deliverables

Describe the key expected results and deliverables that the proposal will achieve and deliver. Propose SMART indicators, where appropriate, to make the main objectives and expected results measurable.

Please keep in mind that there are already 3 mandatory deliverables, summarising each of the phase of the implementation and are tied with the payment. However, you can add additional deliverables in each of the implementation phase if you wish

2.6 Digital RUE’s multifaceted approach

Describe the RUE challenge.

Special attention should be paid to the following elements:

- *Describe how the consortium will develop and implement the proposed digital Rural-Urban Enabler within the 6 domains and address the most impactful societal and environmental challenges of the specific rural area that concerns.*
- *Describe how the digital RUE contributes to the expansion of the local ecosystem, capacity building of the community, and improvement of the livelihoods.*
- *Describe how the digital RUE harnesses the potential of using data from multiple sources and make users themselves part of the solution.*
- *Describe how the digital RUE enables the transferability and accelerates the uptake and upscale of the digital RUEs at a pan-European level towards sustainable and resilient rural areas.*

3. Business Impact

3.1 Business challenge

Describe the business challenge and business potential. Demonstrate how the proposed digital RUE will reach the stakeholders and state the estimated number of end-users in rural areas.

Special attention should be paid to the following elements:

- *Business model: describe which business model(s) is proposed and what are the financial projections for the next 3 years;*
- *Describe how the project will develop the value proposition and KPIs. A first glance of these issues should be included in the proposal.*
- *Substantiate your business model by relating it to a general business model, for example the Business Model Canvas (BMC). To learn more, visit www.BusinessModelGeneration.com and www.BusinessModelGeneration.com/book.*
- *Business innovation: clearly describe the innovative elements of the product and its business model.*
- *Please describe the starting Business Readiness Level of the business model in accordance with the EU TRL scale and the target Business Readiness Level*

4. Technology impact

4.1 Description of applied technology

Please describe the technology you will be using in your solution. What are the benefits compared to other technologies?

Please describe how the digital RUE enhances RURBANIVE's Community Store.

4.2 Graphical overview

If applicable, please provide a visual presentation of your solution.

4.3 Technology Readiness Level

Please describe the starting Technology Readiness Level of the proposed solution in accordance with the EU TRL scale and the target Technology Readiness Level. It is noted that RUEs are expected to start at TRL5 and reach TRL8 by the end of the project.

5. Other aspects

5.1 Impact on the RURBANIVE ecosystem

Describe how the proposal aims to create an impact on target stakeholders (i.e., Rural communities, Policy makers, RUE developers/ providers, Academia and Research). Formulate a few important KPIs, with which the impact could be measured.

5.2 Environmental and other sustainability impacts

Describe the environmental and other sustainability impacts of the co-created Rural-Urban Enablers with rural communities. Formulate a few important KPIs, with which the impact could be measured.

5.3 Impact on rural areas

Describe how your project will i) affect rural-urban connections and address challenges of rural areas in your region/ country and beyond and ii) how they will favor bi-directional rural-urban

synergies. Describe how your project is aligned with regional/ national and European policies about rural areas. Refer to the RIS3 strategy of your region if applicable.

5.4 Financial impact

Describe any relevant implication and support from public or private entities. Explain additional financial support you received from public or private resources for the development of this solution, and your approach to further fundraising in the future.

5.5 Post project digital RUE sustainability

Provide input for the development of the post project business and sustainability plan. Please name the partner who will take up the role of “exploitation actor”. More specifically, this partner will participate in the activities related to the post-project sustainability of the digital RUE.

5.6 Multi-actors’ involvement

Describe to what extent the different actors / end-users are involved in the proposed solution.

5.7 Ethical issues

Describe how you will comply with European Union ethical rules/principles and outline how ethics principles will be integrated into the project, addressing aspects such as participant involvement, informed consent, privacy protection, data management, and any other relevant ethical considerations by following an “ethics by design”-way of working, whereby ethical and legal principles, on the basis of GDPR, competition law compliance, absence of data bias are implemented since the beginning of the design process.

NOTE:

Proposals must consist of original work by the applicants and their anticipated developments do not infringe upon any third-party rights.

6. Costs and deliverables

6.1 Deliverables List

| No | Deliverable Name/Description | Type | Delivery Date | Phase | Overall Cost (€) ⁴ | Note |
|-------------------------|--|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Design Deliverable 1: Activity Plan | R ⁵ | M04 | DESIGN | | Cannot exceed 20% of the overall budget |
| 2 | Development Deliverable 2: RUE solution demonstration | R | M09 | DEVELOPMENT | | Cannot exceed 50% of the overall budget |
| 3 | Validation: Deliverable 3: Report on market or community associated activities | R | M12 | VALIDATION | | Cannot exceed 30% of the overall budget |
| Total Deliverables Cost | | | | | | 100% |

⁴ It includes the overall costs associated with the respective deliverable (personnel, travel, equipment, other, subcontracting and indirect costs) in Euros

⁵ R - report



RURal-uRBAN synergies emerged in an immersIVE innovation ecosystem

Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to end-users

Annex 9
Bank account information



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Disclaimer

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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Bank account information form

ACCOUNT HOLDER INFORMATION

| | |
|---|--|
| Name or Business name of sub-grantee | |
| Registration / VAT number | |
| Account Name Holder The name or title under which the account has been opened and NOT the name of the authorised agent | |
| Holder's Address | |
| Postcode | |
| Town/City | |
| Country | |

| | |
|---|--|
| Contact Person It does not need to be an authorised agent. | |
| Telephone | |

BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Bank Name | |
| Branch Address | |
| Postcode | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Town/City | |
| Country | |
| IBAN number / Account number (Format example: ES76 2077 0024 0031 0257 5766) | |
| SWIFT code 8 to 11 characters | |

| | |
|---|--|
| BANK STAMP + SIGNATURE OF BANK REPRESENTATIVE The bank stamp + signature of the bank representative can be substituted by the attachment of a recent bank statement (less than 2 months). | DATE + SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER (OBLIGATORY) |
|---|--|



RURBANIVE

RURAL · URBAN · IMMERSIVENESS

RURal-uRBAN synergies emerged in an immers**IVE** innovation ecosystem

Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to end-users

Annex 10 Model Sub-grant Agreement



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Contracting parties

REFRAME FOOD ASTIKI MI KerdoskopiKI Etairia - REFRAME.FOOD (RFF), LEONTOS SOFOU 20, po box: 000 570 01, Thermi Thessaloniki Greece, represented for the purpose of signing the Sub-grant Agreement by Manager, Grigorios Chatzikostas, legal representative of RFF

Hereinafter referred as the **“Open Call Manager/Treasurer”**

Of the one part, and

[NAME OF THE BENEFICIARY, established in ADDRESS, REPRESENTED for the purpose of signing the Sub-grant Agreement and representing the RUE consortium as a whole according to the consortium agreement signed by NAME OF ALL BENEFICIARIES

Hereinafter referred as the **“Subgrantee”**

Hereinafter collectively referred as the **“Contracting Parties”**

HAVE AGREED to the following terms and conditions including those in the RURBANIVE Open Call Annexes, which form an integral part of this RURBANIVE Sub-grant Agreement for Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to end-users, (hereinafter referred as the **“Contract”**).

General provisions

The European Commission (hereinafter referred as the **“EC”**) and the Coordinator of the RURBANIVE consortium, have signed the Grant Agreement no 101136597 for the implementation of the project: RUrAl-uRBAN synergies emerged in an immersive innovation ecosystem (Acronym: RURBANIVE) within the framework of the Programme HORIZON-CL6-2023-COMMUNITIES-01-2.

The Subgrantee has received the favourable resolution by the evaluators and therefore is entitled to receive funding and support according to the terms and conditions set out under this Sub-grant Agreement and in accordance with the RURBANIVE Open Call Applicants' Guide.

This Contract aims at defining the framework of rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties.

The funding received by the Subgrantee is the property of the EC. The Coordinator/ Treasurer and the Open Call Manager are mere holders and managers of the funds.

Article 1 - Entry into force and Termination of the contract

1.1 Entry into force

This contract shall enter into force on2025, subject to its signature by the last contracting party, the Treasurer.

The Open Call Manager shall sign this contract, only after the following documents have been received and checked:

- The original signed by all partners Consortium Declaration (Annex 5)
- The original signed by all partners Declaration of Honour (Annex 6)
- Declaration of Conducting Business by all partners (Annex 7)
- Copy of ID-card or Passport of legal representative(s) of all partners
- Copy of the original Extract of organisation registration for all partners
- Proof of VAT registration
- Bank Information Form filled out by all partners (Annex 9)
- Consortium Agreement signed among partners forming the consortium.

All Contracting parties must sign this document no later than2025.

Besides the hard copies that will arrive by mail, in order to ease the process, the Open Call Manager might opt to sign this Sub-grant agreement via *Validated ID or similar online platform*.

The original documents will be sent to the Subgrantee for the signature of the legal representative. Afterwards, the Subgrantee will send these documents to the Open Call Manager for the signature of the legal representative. Finally, the documents will be sent to the Treasurer for the signature of the legal representative. The original documents will be archived at the **Open Call Manager's/Treasurer**.

All documents shall be sent to the RURBANIVE Consortium first via email to the following address: RURBANIVE@opencallsfund.eu, while the Annexes 5, 6, 7, 9, the Consortium Agreement among RUE partners and this Contract will also be sent as originals, via regular mail, to the following address:

REFRAME FOOD ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIRIA - REFRAME.FOOD

- LEONTOS SOFOU 20, po box: 000 570 01
- THERMI THESSALONIKI Greece
- Attn: tbd

The Subgrantee is solely responsible for the accuracy of all data provided to the RURBANIVE consortium.

1.2 Contract termination

This contract terminates in the event of unjustified withdrawal by the Subgrantee of the current fulfilment of its Contract obligations. "Unjustified withdraw" covers any situation out of "Force Majeure" qualification which determines the absence of performance of the Subgrantee's contractual obligations. In this particular case, it entitles the RURBANIVE consortium the right to claim the Subgrantee the full refund of all payments made to the Subgrantee up to date.

Article 2 - Obligations and Responsibilities of the Subgrantee

The obligations and responsibilities of the Subgrantee are defined in detail in the RURBANIVE Open Call Applicants' Guide.

The main obligations and responsibilities of the RUE consortium are, but not limited to:

- Address a wider range of societal and environmental challenges related to the 6 RURBANIVE domains.
- Harness the potential of using data from multiple sources and make users themselves part of the solution.
- Enable the transferability and accelerate the uptake and upscale of the RUEs at a pan-European level towards sustainable and resilient rural areas.
- Enhance RURBANIVE's Community Store by adding at least 6 more RUEs based on the synergies between rural and urban environments across Europe
- Include solution customisation, gathering of service providers, population of end users, and designing a sustainable business model.
- Propose the digital RUE meaning digital Rural-Urban Enabler based on the six identified domains of RURBANIVE, which are i) circular economy, ii) ecosystem and biodiversity restoration, iii) improving logistics, and shortening value chains, iv) user engagement, empowerment, society and territorial awareness, v) culture, landscape and heritage access and promotion & vi) enhanced mobility
- The Consortium partners will propose a RUE which will have to be applied to geographical areas other than the existing 7 RUCLs at the local/ municipal level and on the regional level and other than the RUEs already developed within the project.
- The developed RUE is original work by the consortium and anticipated developments do not infringe upon any third-party rights. Any challenges stemming from third-party claims resulting from the sub-granted projects are the responsibility of the applicant. It's not the RURBANIVE consortium's obligation to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the proposed solution.
- The must implement the multi-actor approach, bringing together service providers alongside rural community organisations, action groups or networks with a demonstrated ability to connect to a large number of local communities and disseminate and exploit project results.
- The Consortium's Rural-Urban Enabler must have a market potential supported by a sustainable plan for upscaling the digital RUE and bring it more in line with market needs..
- The newly developed RUEs will become available in English and in the local language. In addition, during sub-project implementation matchmaking activities between the developed RUE and the RUEs developed by the RURBANIVE consortium will be pursued and the opportunity will be given to develop the RUE in all relevant languages. Lastly, every developed RUE will have to produce a SUMMARY, which will also be available through RURBANIVE's Community Store, in all languages of RURBANIVE's consortium.
- The RUE will be integrated into the Community Store, which is a key outcome of RURBANIVE, integrating enablers, practices, models and other results of the project to be access and visualise through Rural-Urban Immersiveness. This immersive digital environment will allow vivid realisations, what-if scenarios, and experimentation techniques in the rural/urban settings generating rural/urban synergies. Enablers realised through rural-urban immersiveness will promote experimentation and

innovation focused on building up the well-being economies of rural and urban areas. The RUE realised through rural-urban immersiveness will promote experimentation and innovation focused on building up the well-being economies of rural and urban areas.

- Consortium RUE will be launched in M21 having an implementation timeframe of 12 months implementation till M32 of RURBANIVE project duration.
- Provide any notices in writing to the RURBANIVE consortium.
- Notify the RURBANIVE Coordinator and Open Call Manager's/Treasurer immediately of any change of persons or contact details. The address list shall be accessible to all concerned.
- Notify the RURBANIVE Coordinator and Open Call Manager's/Treasurer about the dissemination activities that the Open Call recipient will organise or participate in.
- The Subgrantee shall keep all sub-project deliverables and the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the sub-project contract for up to five years from the end of the project (or 3 for grants of not more than €60,000.00).
- Submit predefined deliverables.
- Collaborate with the RURBANIVE consortium and adjust its operations according to the RURBANIVE consortium guidance.

In order to receive the funding from the RURBANIVE consortium, the Subgrantee must submit to the Open Call Manager/Treasurer the relevant deliverables:

- a) Activity Plan by M4 (Payment of 20% of the total fund),
- b) RUE demonstration by M9 (Payment of 50% of the total fund),
- c) Report on market or community associated activities by M12 (Payment of the final 30% of the total fund).

All deliverables will be reviewed by the RURBANIVE Open Call Advisory Board. Upon final acceptance of the deliverables, the Open Call Manager will inform the Treasurer to proceed with the payments to each partner of the consortium.

Upon final acceptance of their deliverables by the RURBANIVE AB, the Subgrantee must send the Request for Payment and a Certificate of Tax Residence to the Treasurer in order to receive the funding.

During the implementation of the sub-project and for five years after the end of the sub-project, the parties must maintain confidentiality for any data, documents or other material (in any form) identified as confidential at the subcontract signing time ('confidential information'). If a beneficiary makes a request for a longer period of data protection and confidentiality, the Commission and the RURBANIVE consortium may agree to keep such information confidential for an additional period beyond the initial four years. This will be explicitly stated in the current sub-contract.

If additional information is identified as confidential during the project's execution or through verbal communication, it must be accepted by the coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of its disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may only use confidential information to implement the Agreement.

The OC beneficiaries may disclose confidential information to the RURBANIVE consortium and to the selected reviewers, who will be bound by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

RURBANIVE OPEN CALL Dates:

| Step | Start | Completed |
|---|-------|-----------|
| 1. Open Call preparation plan and external experts' selection | M1 | M12 |
| 2. Open Call launch - Receiving proposals | M13 | M15 |
| 3. Proposal evaluation & Contracting phase | M16 | M18 |
| 4. Subgrant agreements | M19 | M20 |
| 5. Open Call Project implementation | M21 | M32 |
| Project Implementation Phase 1 - Design | M21 | M24 |
| Project Implementation Phase 2 - Development | M25 | M29 |
| Project Implementation Phase 3 - Validation | M30 | M32 |

Article 3 – Breach of Contractual obligations

In the event of the breach of the contractual obligations by the Subgrantee, the RURBANIVE consortium reserves the right to claim the full refund of all payments made to the Subgrantee up to date. The breach of the contractual obligations by the Subgrantee shall be determined by the RURBANIVE Consortium. The provision of false or misleading declarations by the Subgrantee or any unsolved situation of conflict of interest constitute a non-exhaustive example of a breach of contractual obligations by the Subgrantee.

Article 4 - Financial contribution and financial provisions

4.1 Maximum financial contribution

The maximum financial contribution to be granted by the RURBANIVE consortium to the Subgrantee shall not exceed the budget requested by the Subgrantee in the submitted proposal, which can be at max **€100,000** in total per RUE consortium (with a minimum funding per third party 20,000€ and a maximum funding of 60,000€ per third party). This financial contribution will be given in three instalments. The amount that will be given to all the RUE consortiums in total is **€600,000**.

4.2 Distribution of financial contribution

The financial contribution to be granted to the Subgrantee shall be distributed in accordance with the Open Call Applicants' Guide.

In any case, the financial grant to be paid will always be subject to:

- Reception of the relevant deliverable(s),
- A favourable resolution by the Open Call Manager responsible for assessing the subproject execution, namely the acceptance of deliverable(s),
- Reception of the Request for Payment and Certificate of Tax Residence (both electronically and in hard copy),
- The Subgrantee's Bank Account (Annex 4) matches the Instructions for payment issued by the bank of the Subgrantee,
- Payments to the Subgrantee will be made by the Treasurer. In particular:
 - The Treasurer reserves the right to withhold the payments in case the Subgrantee does not fulfil its obligations and tasks as per Open Call Applicants' Guide,
 - Banking and transaction costs charged by any of the banks related to the handling of any financial resources made available to the Subgrantee by the Treasurer shall be covered by the holder of the bank account which originated the cost. This means that the Treasurer bears the cost of transfers charged by their bank and the Subgrantee bears the costs of transfers charged by the bank of the Subgrantee.
- Payments will be released by the Treasurer no later than ten working days after the notification by the Open Call Manager
- The Subgrantee is responsible for complying with any tax and legal obligations that might be attached to this financial contribution.

4.3 Payment schedule

The payment schedule is directly linked to the relevant stage of the Subgrantee's subproject as per the Open Call Applicants' Guide. Payments will be done separately to each partner directly from the Treasurer. All payments to the RUE consortiums will be related to the acceptance of certain deliverables spread over the three phases, which will be evaluated by the Advisory Board.

Article 5 – Liability of the Subgrantee

Neither the the Open Call Manager /Treasurer, nor the EC can be held liable for any acts or omissions of the Subgrantee in relation to this Contract. At the same time, the Subgrantee is responsible for any act or omission that causes damage to the Open Call Manager/Treasurer, and/or the EC in relation to this Contract. The Subgrantee is also solely responsible for any damages that might come to third parties as a result of the Subgrantee's activities.

The Subgrantee shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that their acts within the framework of this Contract do not infringe third parties' rights. There is no joint liability between the Contracting Parties.

Article 6 – Confidentiality

With respect to all information of whatever nature or form as is disclosed between the Contracting Parties in connection with the subproject and identified in writing as confidential, the terms of this Article shall apply.

The Contracting Parties agree that such information is communicated on a confidential basis and its disclosure may be prejudicial to the owner of information.

Article 7 – Force Majeure

"Force Majeure" shall mean, any unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the Contracting Parties control, which prevents either of them from fulfilling any of their obligations under the Agreement, which was not attributed to error or negligence on their part, and which proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any default of a service, defect in equipment or material or delays in making them available, unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure, as well as labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties cannot be invoked as force majeure.

The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures to limit any damage due to force majeure. They shall do their best to resume the implementation of the action as soon as possible.

No contracting party shall be considered to be in breach of its obligations and tasks if such breach is caused by Force Majeure. A Contracting Party will notify the other Contracting Parties of any Force Majeure as soon as possible. In case the Subgrantee is not able to overcome the consequences of Force Majeure within 10 (ten) days after such notification, the RURBANIVE Consortium will decide accordingly, including the termination of the Contract.

Article 8 – Information and communication

The Subgrantees must promote the subproject, the RURBANIVE project and its results, by providing the description of their project upon request from the RURBANIVE Consortium and highlight the financial support of the EC.

Unless the European Commission or the RURBANIVE coordinator requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.), any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must: (a) display the EU emblem,

(b) display the RURBANIVE logo, and (c) include the following text:

For communication activities: "This project has indirectly received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under project RURBANIVE (Grant Agreement number: 101136597)"

When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Subgrantee is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found on the Europa web page.

Any publicity made by the Subgrantee in respect of the subproject, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC or RURBANIVE project is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The EC and the RURBANIVE consortium shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the official name of the Subgrantee,
- contact address of the Subgrantee,
- the general purpose of the subproject,
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the subproject; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received,
- the geographic location of the activities carried out,
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground,
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications relating to foreground and, if funded within the subproject, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication,
- the publishable reports submitted to RURBANIVE,
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and RURBANIVE in the framework of the subproject.

The Subgrantee shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and RURBANIVE does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the subproject representative, the RURBANIVE consortium, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the Subgrantee's security, academic or commercial interests.

Any publicity made by the Subgrantee in respect of the subproject accepted by the RURBANIVE consortium, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that

it reflects only the author's views and that the Project Coordinator, RURBANIVE consortium or EC are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

RURBANIVE consortium and EC shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium the following information:

- The legal name of the Subgrantee,
- Contact address of the Subgrantee,
- The general purpose of the project,
- The amount of financial contribution of the EC.

The Subgrantee shall ensure that all necessary authorizations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the Project Coordinator, RURBANIVE consortium or EC does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the Project Coordinator on the behalf of the Subgrantee, the EC may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the Subgrantee's security, academic or commercial interests.

Article 9 – Data protection

9.1 Data protection obligation

The contracting parties have the obligation to abide by the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

The processing of personal data shall be carried out lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner, collected for specific purposes and adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed.

The Subgrantee might use and process the data only for the purposes of this Contract and during the length of the Contract. Any unauthorised use is forbidden. In any event, neither the RURBANIVE Project coordinator nor the Treasurer will be held responsible for any abusive use of data incurred by the Subgrantee.

The Subgrantee shall not try to re-identify anonymised data. If re-identification occurs, the Subgrantee commits not to use such data. The Subgrantee shall delete, at the end of this Contract, the data to which the Subgrantee has been granted access during the incubation process, except where an agreement is entered into with the Data Provider.

9.2 New data produced

The Subgrantee acknowledges that they will be the "data controller" of any new dataset of personal information that the Subgrantee may produce in the course of the RURBANIVE project.

Article 10 – Financial audit and controls

The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the Project and up to five years after the end of the RURBANIVE project (foreseen for 31 December 2027), arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves including in the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF), on the Subgrantee. The audit procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC. Such audits may cover financial, systemic and other aspects (such as accounting and management principles) relating to the proper execution of the Grant Agreement. They shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

The Subgrantee shall make available directly to the EC all detailed information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, with a view to verifying that the Grant Agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions and that costs have been charged in compliance with it. The information and data must be precise, complete and effective.

The Subgrantee shall keep the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the Contract until 2031. These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any audit under the Grant Agreement.

In order to carry out these audits, the Subgrantee shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the Subgrantee's offices, to its computer data, to its accounting data and to all the information needed to carry out those audits, including information on individual salaries of persons involved in the subproject. They shall ensure that the information is readily available on the spot at the moment of audit and, if so requested, the data be handed over in an appropriate form.

On the basis of the findings made during the financial audit, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent by the EC or its authorised representative to the Subgrantee concerned, which may make observations thereon within one month of receiving it. The EC may decide not to take into account observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final report shall be sent to the Subgrantee concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

On the basis of the conclusions of the audit, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules. In addition, the EC may carry out on-the spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the EC in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

Article 11 – Amendments

Amendments or changes to this Contract shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorised representative of the Contracting Parties. Nevertheless, in the event the EC modifies the conditions, the RURBANIVE Consortium partners will amend the Contract accordingly.

Article 12 – Language

The contract is drawn up in English language, which shall govern all documents, notices, meetings and processes relative thereto.

Article 13 – Applicable law

This Contract shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Brussels.

Article 14 – Settlement of disputes

If the Contracting Parties are unable to resolve a dispute amicably, such dispute will be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce by three (3) arbitrators in Brussels.

Each of the Contracting Parties to the dispute shall appoint one (1) arbitrator, and the three (3) arbitrators so appointed shall elect the presiding arbitrator. Should a Party to the dispute, which should appoint an arbitrator, fails to do so within fourteen (14) days of the delivery of the written notice, to do so from the other Party to the dispute or should the appointed arbitrators fail to reach agreement on the presiding arbitrator within fourteen (14) days after their appointment, such arbitrator shall be appointed in accordance with the Rules upon request of any of the Parties to the dispute.

The seat of arbitration shall be Brussels.

The Contracting Parties agree that the language of the arbitration, including oral hearings, written evidence and correspondence, shall be English.

A duly rendered arbitration award shall be final and binding on the Contracting Parties to the dispute. Each Contracting Parties to the arbitration conducted in accordance with this section hereof shall bear its own expenses incurred in connection with such arbitration, including fees of its legal counsels. All other costs and expenses shall be apportioned between the Contracting Parties to the arbitration in accordance with the decision of the arbitrators.

Nothing in this Contract shall limit the Contracting Parties' right to seek injunctive relief or enforce an arbitration award in any applicable competent court of law.

Article 15 – Originality of the sub-granted projects

It is required that applications submitted are based on original works by the applicants and that their foreseen developments are free from third party rights. RURBANIVE consortium is not obliged to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the foreseen products/ services. Any issues delivered from third party claims that arise as a result of the sub-granted projects are on the sole responsibility of the applicant.

Article 16 – IPRs

Each subgrantee that generates results owns the attached Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) generated during the development process and will own results that are not IPRs. Each contractor is responsible for the management and protection of its IPRs and bears the costs associated with this.

The Subgrantees funded within the RURBANIVE project will be the unique owners of the technologies created within the framework of their sub-granted projects. Parts of their works will be requested to be public for RURBANIVE dissemination purposes.

Article 17 – Do No Significant Harm

Subgrantees must always respect the “Do No Significant Harm Principle”. The Commission Communication on the European Green Deal introduced the green oath to ‘do no harm’. The ‘Do No Significant Harm’ (DNSH) principle has been further specified in the EU Regulation on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investments, commonly defined as the ‘EU Taxonomy Regulation’. Six environmental objectives are listed in Article 913 of the EU Taxonomy and Article 17 specifies what can constitute a ‘significant harm’ for these objectives. Thus, the regulation provides that no measure should lead to significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation.

AS WITNESS:

The Contracting Parties have caused this Contract to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives in three (3) copies the day and year first above written:

| | |
|--|---|
| For [Beneficiary_Name], the Subgrantee Mr/Ms [NAME SURNAME] [REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL BENEFICIARIES] Signature Done at _____ on DD/MM/202Y | For REFRAME FOOD ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIRIA - REFRAME.FOOD (RFF), the Open Call Manager/Treasurer Mr Grigorios Chatzikostas Manager Signature Done at _____ on DD/MM/202Y |
|--|---|

END OF DOCUMENT



RURal-uRBAN synergies emerged in an immersIVE innovation ecosystem

Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to end-users

ANNEX 11 Frequently Asked Questions



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Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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1. Where can I find more details on the Open Call? Any Guide for Applicants?

The RURBANIVE Open Call Kit (with all relevant documents and instructions) can be found on the RURBANIVE project website: <https://rubanive-project.eu/rurbanive-open-call/>, under the Open Call tab.

2. Are single applicants eligible to apply? Or is this call meant for consortia only?

For the RURBANIVE Open Call, only consortia of 2-4 partners can apply. Single applicants are not eligible. Consortia with more than 4 entities will be rejected during the eligibility criteria evaluation phase.

3. How many applications can one entity submit? And how many of them can be selected for funding?

Applicants can participate in only 1 consortium and participate in the call with only one proposal. If multiple versions of the same application are submitted, only the last version will be evaluated.

4. For how long will the platform accept proposals?

The platform will open for proposal submission on the 2nd of January 2025 and it will remain open until 17:00 CET on the 31st of March 2025.

5. Can entities from non-EU countries submit proposals to the RURBANIVE Open Call?

Funding will be open to all legal entities eligible for Horizon Europe funding. Applicants from non-EU countries need to check with the Europe Regulation 2021/695 and the List of participating countries (HE): V2.5 – 01.04.2023) for their eligibility along with the specific eligibility criteria set for the RURBANIVE Open Call, described in Paragraph 2.2.2 of the RURBANIVE Open Call Applicants' Guide. For a proposal to be eligible, all partners of the competing consortium need to fulfil the eligibility criteria.

6. Can successful applicants receive payment in advance after contracting?

No pre-financing can be anticipated. All payments will be related to the acceptance of certain deliverables. First payment will take place after the submission and evaluation of the first deliverable in M04.

Interested applicants after they register to the opencalls.fund platform can submit their additional questions to the designated tab FAQ. Within 48 hours, an answer will be published.