RURBANIVE meeting #2 – Transport poverty
Date: 10/11/2026
Time: 09:30–11:00 CET
Format: Online

Agenda

09:30–09:35 | Welcome & Opening

- Opening remarks and objectives of the meeting (AEIDL)

09:35–09:45 | RURBANIVE presentation

- Alexandros Liasos, ICCS - experiences from Trikala and Lemgo related to enhanced mobility

09:45–10:30 | Keynote Interventions (3 speakers)

- **Keynote 1: Patrik Schwarcz-Kiefer** – European Committee of Regions (CoR), rapporteur for the opinion *"Combatting transport poverty to strengthen European cohesion and competitiveness"*

- **Keynote 2: Jaime Sierra Munoz** – Joint Research Centre (JRC), focusing on the Transport Poverty Hub.
- **Keynote 3: Jorge Manso Garcia** – POLIS Network, bringing a city and regional mobility perspectives.

10:30–10:40 | Policy Findings Presentation

- Serafin Pazos-Vidal & Janne Sinerma, AEIDL
- Presentation of selected policy insights relevant to transport poverty
- Connections to emerging urban–rural governance paradigms

10:40–10:55 | Roundtable Discussion & Audience Q&A

- Moderated exchange among speakers (AEIDL)
- Structured interaction with participants

10:55–11:00 | Wrap-up & Next Steps

- Key takeaways
- Outlook on the Forum series and future RURBANIVE activities (AEIDL)

General questions to guide the RURBANIVE Forum discussions:

a) What does transport poverty look like in rural and peri-urban areas, and how does it differ from the urban context?
b) How can better data and digital tools help rural and urban authorities jointly address mobility gaps and improve access to services, jobs and markets across rural–urban territories?

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c) What should change at EU level to make rural–urban mobility more inclusive and reduce transport poverty?

Purpose of the RURBANIVE Forum

This online Forum series is part of RURBANIVE Horizon Europe project broader effort to enhance mutual learning, anticipatory governance, and EU level capacity building. Each online forum is structured to help policymakers, practitioners, and civil society actors develop the skills and shared understanding needed to design futureproofed policies in the face of climate, demographic, technological, and governance challenges. It is organized by the European Association for Innovation in Local Development (AEIDL) which leads RURBANIVE work on EU policy recommendations.

Background information

Transport poverty has gained increasing attention in EU policy as a challenge linked to **social inclusion, territorial cohesion and the green transition**. The European Commission's 2025 Recommendation on transport poverty highlights the need for affordable, accessible and sustainable mobility, with particular relevance for **rural, peri-urban and remote areas**.

Recent work by the **Joint Research Centre (JRC)** is contributing to a stronger evidence base. The new **Transport Poverty Hub** provides spatial data and indicators to identify areas facing limited transport accessibility, while recent JRC research explores how transport networks, accessibility and socio-economic conditions can be combined to better understand the territorial distribution of transport poverty across Europe. These developments provide new opportunities to move beyond broad territorial classifications and better understand where and why people face difficulties in reaching essential services and opportunities.

The rural dimension is particularly important. In many rural areas, access to **employment, education, healthcare, public services and markets** depends on connections with nearby towns and cities. At the same time, rural and urban areas are economically and socially interdependent, with people and goods moving across administrative boundaries on a daily basis. Transport poverty can therefore be understood not only as a lack of transport within a particular territory, but also as a challenge of **rural–urban connectivity and territorial cohesion**.

This perspective also points towards the potential of **rural–urban synergies**. Rather than planning mobility within separate administrative or sectoral boundaries, rural and urban authorities can work together to understand mobility patterns across their wider functional areas and develop complementary transport solutions. Data-driven mobility planning and digital simulation can support this process by identifying accessibility gaps, testing different scenarios and helping decision-makers design transport systems that are more efficient, sustainable and responsive to users' needs.

Against this background, the session will explore **how stronger rural–urban cooperation and better use of mobility data and digital tools can contribute to tackling transport poverty**. In particular, it will consider how mobility systems can strengthen connections between rural communities, towns and cities, improve access to essential services and economic opportunities, and support a more inclusive and sustainable transition across functional territories.

About RURBANIVE

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RURBANIVE is a Horizon Europe project designed to strengthen rural–urban synergies through immersive innovation ecosystems, supporting bidirectional collaboration, experimentation, and policy development.

The project develops six “Rural-Urban Enablers” (RUE) and establishes seven Rural-Urban Co-Creation Labs (RUCL), supported by an integrated Community Store and a Community of Practice Suite to promote social, technical, and policy innovation across territories. You can find further details in the CORDIS EU project database, and the project website https://rurbanive-project.eu/

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