



# Ruralities

**RURALITIES - CLIMATE SMART, ECOSYSTEM-ENHANCING AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED RURAL EXPERTISE AND TRAINING CENTRES**

## **D5.1 RURALITIES TRAINING TO EMPOWER/EQUIP THE ACTORS OF THE RURAL AREAS (SIMSES)**

**Deliverable D5.1**

**WP5 – ALLIANCE**

**Horizon Europe Grant agreement: 101060876**

29/03/2023 by IRI (P7)  
Version 1.0



*Funded by the European Union's HORIZON EUROPE Programme  
(HORIZON-CL6-2021-COMMUNITIES-01) under grant agreement No. 101060876*

# 1. DELIVERABLE INFORMATION

Work package	WP 5
Task	T5.1 – Engage, connect and empower the actors of the SIMSES
Due date	31.03.2023
Submission date	31.03.2023
Deliverable lead	Siniša Borota (IRI)
Version	1.0
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Keywords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Climate change mitigation</li> <li>– Education, general (including training, pedagogy, and didactics)</li> <li>– Public sector innovation</li> <li>– Rural development studies</li> <li>– Training and support</li> <li>– Vocational training</li> </ul>
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## Document Revision History

Version	Date	Description of change	List of contributor(s)
V0.1	13.03.2023.	Outline of the document	Siniša Borota (IRI)
V0.2	16.03.2023.	Final draft	Siniša Borota (IRI), Cecilia Penín Traba (DEX)
V0.3	17.04.2023.	Review	Robert Miskuf (PEDAL), Gabor Mester (PEDAL)
V1.0	29.03.2023.	Final version	Siniša Borota (IRI)

## Dissemination Level

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### 3. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Acronym	Description
AP	Associated Partner
AU	African Union
BEN	Beneficiary
COO	Coordinator
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
DoA	Description of Action
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement or General Assembly, on depend on the context
HEP	Horizon Europe Programme
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
MAA	Multi-Actor Approach
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PBL	Problem-Based Learning
PMP	Project Management Plan
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RURALITIES	Climate smart, ecosystem-enhancing and knowledge-based rural expertise and training centres
RURNex	Environmental, economic, social and societal nexus
SIMSES	Simplified Rural Socio-Ecological Systems
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound
SSM	System Thinking Methodology
STM	System Thinking Methodology
UN	United Nations
WP	Work Package
WPL	Work Package Leader

## 4. ABSTRACT

The project 'Climate smart, ecosystem-enhancing and knowledge-based rural expertise and training centers' (Ruralities) delivers an ecosystem-enhancing and climate action driven expertise and learning framework organized in hubs e.g., the 'Ruralities, comprising a series of innovative methodologies with the learner at its core, supported by a comprehensive network of living labs, and a blockchain-based digital platform combining the Internet and wireless technologies, to assist engage, connect and empower actors. This is done via a multi-point approach e.g., multi-actors, multi-disciplines, multi-systems, multi-scale, multi-sectors, and multilevel.

Ruralities is rooted in the recruitment, preparation, training and coaching of 1.000+ facilitators for a variety of tasks (e.g., trainers, facilitators, role models, hub coordinators, etc.), and who play a significant role in creating the matrix and the platform upon which the learning framework is built, develops and evolves. Ruralities proposes to ideate, implement, futureproof, validate and deliver the aforementioned expertise and learning centers via real-scale practicing in 6 simplified rural socio-ecological systems (SIMSES) e.g., demonstrators, 2 in Italy, 1 in the United- Kingdom (UK), 1 in Slovenia, 1 in Spain and 1 in Romania. Ruralities coordinates identified actions of local, regional authorities in supports of rural innovation in regions and economic sectors where rural innovators are not yet engaged in a relevant network.

Ruralities coordinates identified SIMSES networks promoting rural innovation solutions whilst establishing innovative multipoint 'Ruralities Hubs' of expertise and training on rural innovation. This is done via coordinating action for the managing authorities and regional bodies influencing regional and national policy instruments in Italy, the UK, Slovenia, Spain and in Romania.

### Partners:

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country
1	COO	PEDAL	PEDAL CONSULTING SRO	SK
2	BEN	RDRP	ASOCIATIA RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH PLATFORM	RO
3	BEN	CETRI	CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (CETRI) LTD	CY
4	BEN	ASIN	ASOCIACION DE INVESTIGACION DE INDUSTRIAS CARNICAS DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS	ES
5	BEN	NIC	KEMIJSKI INSTITUT	SI
6	BEN	UPM	UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA DE MADRID	ES
7	BEN	IRI	INSTITUT ZA RAZVOJ I INOVACIJE – IRI	RS
8	BEN	PART	PARTICULA GROUP DRUSTVO S OGRANICENOM ODGOVORNOSCU ZA ISTRAZIVANJE RAZVOJ I PROIZVODNJU	HR
9	BEN	UNIZG	SVEUCILISTE U ZAGREBU AGRONOMSKI FAKULTET	HR
10	BEN	ACTS	AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY STUDIES	KE
11	BEN	CITT	CENTRO DE INVESTIGACAO E TRANSFERENCIA DE TECNOLOGIA PARA DESENVOLVIMENTO COMUNITARIO	MZ

12	BEN	EQUIP	EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY IN GENERAL PRACTICE/FAMILY MEDICINE	DK
13	BEN	MUNI	MUGLA SITKI KOCMAN UNIVERSITY	TR
14	BEN	MARIN	MARIN BIYOTEKNOLOJI URUNLERI VE GIDA SANAYI TICARET LIMITED SIRKETI	TR
15	BEN	ULB	UNIVERSITE LIBRE DE BRUXELLES	BE
16	BEN	INAG	INAGRO, PROVINCIAAL EXTERN VERZELFSTANDIGD AGENTSCHAP IN PRIVAATRECHTELIJKE VORM VZW	BE
17	BEN	AASTMT	ARAB ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MARITIME TRANSPORT	EG
18	BEN	RRAP	REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA POSAVJE	SI
19	BEN	YXSAV	YXS AVALANA SRL	RO
20	BEN	UNIVI	UNIVERSITATEA PENTRU STIINTELE VIETII“ION IONESCU DE LA BRAD” DIN IASI	RO
21	BEN	SIRET	ASOCIATIA GRUPUL DE ACTIUNE LOCALA SIRET-MOLDOVA	RO
22	BEN	SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture	TZ
23	BEN	UNINO	UNIVERSITE DE NOUAKCHOTT AL AASRIYA	MR
24	BEN	IFAYA	INSTITUT FACULTAIRE DES SCIENCESAGRONOMIQUES (IFA) DE YANGAMBI	CD
25	BEN	ACD	ALTERNATIVE COMMUNAUTAIRE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (ACDD)	CI
26	BEN	PROTO	PROTOTIPI LIMITED	NG
27	BEN	AMVO	ALMANAR VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION	SD
28	BEN	CDD	COMMUNICATION POUR UN DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE C.D.D.	TG
29	BEN	YTED	YOUTHS IN TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT UGANDA LIMITED	UG
30	BEN	CTIC	FUNDACION CTIC CENTRO TECNOLOGICO PARA EL DESARROLLO EN ASTURIAS DE LAS TECNOLOGIAS DE LA INFORMACION	ES
31	BEN	FHV	FONDAZIONE HOMO VIATOR – SAN TEBALDO	IT
32	BEN	MOFE	MONTEFELTRO SVILUPPO SCARL	IT
33	BEN	MUSE	MUSEUM GRAPHIA	IT
34	BEN	CDM	LA CORTE DELLA MINIERA SRL	IT
35	BEN	DEX	DESARROLLO DE ESTRATEGIAS EXTERIORESSA	ES
36	BEN	REDA	ASOCIACION RED ASTURIANA DEDESARROLLO RURAL	ES

37	BEN	GMV	MONTAGNA VICENTINA SOCIETA COOPERATIVA	IT
38	BEN	MARA	MAROC HORIZON D'AVENTURES	MA
39	BEN	UNWI	UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI	MW
40	BEN	NOMA	0KMNOMADS.ORG	GH
41	BEN	UNIM	MAGYAR AGRAR- ES ELETTUDOMANYIEGYETEM	HU
42	BEN	ENIC	ECOLE NATIONALE D'INGENIEURS DECARTHAGE	TN
43	BEN	UASZ	UNIVERSITE ASSANE SECK DE ZIGUINCHOR	SN
44	BEN	CPF	CONFEDERATION PAYSANNE DU FASO	BF
45	BEN	UNAD	UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA	RW
46	BEN	ZLAN	ZAMBIA LAND ALLIANCE	ZM
47	BEN	EVRO	EVROSAD PROIZVODNJA TRGOVINA EVETOVANJE D.O.O. KRSKO	SI
48	BEN	SEVO	TURISTICNO DRUSTVO SENOVO	SI
49	BEN	IISAC	ISTITUTO D'ISTRUZIONE SUPERIORE A CECCHI	IT
50	AP	HITP	THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP	UK
51	AP	ASPI	ASPIRE-IGEN GROUP LIMITED	UK
52	AP	EW	CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TRUST	UK

## 5. INTRODUCTION

### 5.1 Deliverable description

Deliverable D5.1 is a part of the Work package WP5 – ALLIANCE. It is defined within the RURALITIES Grant Agreement, under the Description of the action (Part A) as a “(H)andbook and action plan for the implementation of actors’ engagement, connection and empowerment including a format for the Memorandum of Understanding and a blueprint for training activities (empowerment)”. The present deliverable is closely linked to D4.1 Dissemination and Communication Plan, therefore its interpretation should take into account the contents of the aforementioned plan in order to fully understand the scope and objectives of this document.

WP5 is split into four tasks:

T5.1 - Engage, connect and empower the actors of the SIMSES

T5.2 - Cooperate with EU projects, EC and UN services

T5.3 - Characterise the SIMSES (specific) and national rural landscape (general)

T5.4 - Characterise the pan-European and pan African Union rural landscape

The deliverable D5.1 derives from the task T5.1. Nonetheless, it is interconnected in some way with all other work packages and tasks as it represents the initial groundwork and continuous source for not only engaging, connecting and empowering the actors of the SIMSES but systematically building and continuously growing the RURALITIES Alliance.

### 5.2 Objective of the deliverable D5.1

The RURALITIES project aims to engage, connect, and empower actors of the rural scene, taking into account the environmental, economic, social, and societal nexus. Effective engagement, connection, and empowerment of rural actors represent essential components of successful implementation of the overall RURALITIES project objectives, as they ensure involvement and contribution of a comprehensive and inclusive network of stakeholders.

The main objective of the deliverable D5.1 is to provide sound framework and methodological foundation which will be used to jumpstart the implementation of engagement, connection, and empowerment activities in six simplified rural socioecological systems (SIMSES).

The goal is to outline ways to use an inclusive multi-actor approach and system thinking methodology to integrate both explicit and tacit knowledge of rural actors, facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration and social participation, build bridges, and break silos between actors, meet their particular and specific needs, support inclusive cooperation between all actors of the value chains, and build pragmatic mechanisms to facilitate efficient participative co-creative processes.

MAA methods of engagement, STM analyses, a MoU format and a blueprint for training activities are essential tools that will support the implementation of the RURALITIES project objectives. Next three chapters will outline frameworks for engagement, connection and empowerment elements of the T5.1 respectively.



## 6 ENGAGEMENT

### 6.1 Strategy and methodology

Engagement of the actors of the SIMSES represents the backbone of RURALITIES, and one of the most complex challenges for at least two reasons.

First, the large scope of the project activities demands that the work with the actors of the SIMSES transcends the local level and generate benefits for the entirety of RURNex actors worldwide. Second is related to the socio-economic, cultural, structural, and geographical diversity of the targeted SIMSES. In order to approach these challenges systematically the consortium will employ sound methodology with series of coherent and adjustable methods, and unify rural actors around the RURALITIES project objectives and a shared vision.

Engagement activities will be operationalized through the multi-actor approach which connects the four levers of transformation (the quadruple helix), including science and innovation, economy and finance, individual and collective action, and governance. MAA will subsequently provide descriptive data for the application of the system thinking methodology in order to uncover latent connections between relevant actors, the interconnectedness of specific problems, and comprehensively analyse applicable data for the purpose of the further utilized methodologies as well as the future actions and training activities.

The RURALITIES project aims to engage a vast and diverse network of rural actors in geographical, cultural and socio-economic sense. All of these actors possess different types of explicit, inherent, tacit and practical knowledge which derive from their own unique perspectives and experiences. In order to achieve optimal results, they all must be involved. The consortium will achieve this by providing applicable frameworks through which all forms of knowledge can interact and contribute to the co-creation processes that lead to rural innovation. This will create opportunities for scientists, farmers and all other stakeholders to collaborate in developing sustainable solutions.

The MAA is based on interactive innovation, which emphasizes collaboration between different actors to make the most of their complementary types of knowledge, whether it is scientific, pragmatic or organizational. Through this collaboration, solutions and opportunities are co-created and co-owned, ready for practical implementation. MAA makes sure that other scientific methods and frameworks employed during the implementation of the project are tailor-made for specific localities by involvement of local actors. This will also contribute to avoiding overlap with already existing good practices. Aside from the quality gains, MAA ensures the social legitimacy of co-created solutions and innovations as well.

It is important to involve all identified actors throughout the whole length of the project, from its conceptualization and initiation to the execution and post-execution phase. In that sense, the consortium will identify 50.000-100.000 rural actors by March 2024 (M18). They will be engaged in testing the transcontinental AU-EU campaign 'Rural Thrive 2050' supported by T4.3. and deliverable D4.2.

The actors of the SIMSES will conduct the engagement activities using MAA with comprehensive analysis, following the steps outlined further.

### 6.2 Identify, define and profile the selected SIMSES

The first step is enabled by the creation of the framework for data management by the responsible partner organization. Initial activities which identify, define and profile specific rural contexts, dynamics, key issues and needs of the selected SIMSES are initiated during the first 6 months of the implementation of the GA. A good example is the LAGs webinar organized by P4.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Link to the video of the webinar, the agenda and LAGs presentations:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1E5UIU4T6NKfgGXqC\\_cBN7LtSEH7bHjC5](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1E5UIU4T6NKfgGXqC_cBN7LtSEH7bHjC5)



### 6.3 Identify and map out the key actors of the SIMSES

The next step is to identify and map out the key actors of the SIMSES who will be engaged in the project. Relevant actors will be identified through stakeholder mapping activities within the SIMSES using the influence/support matrix outlined below.

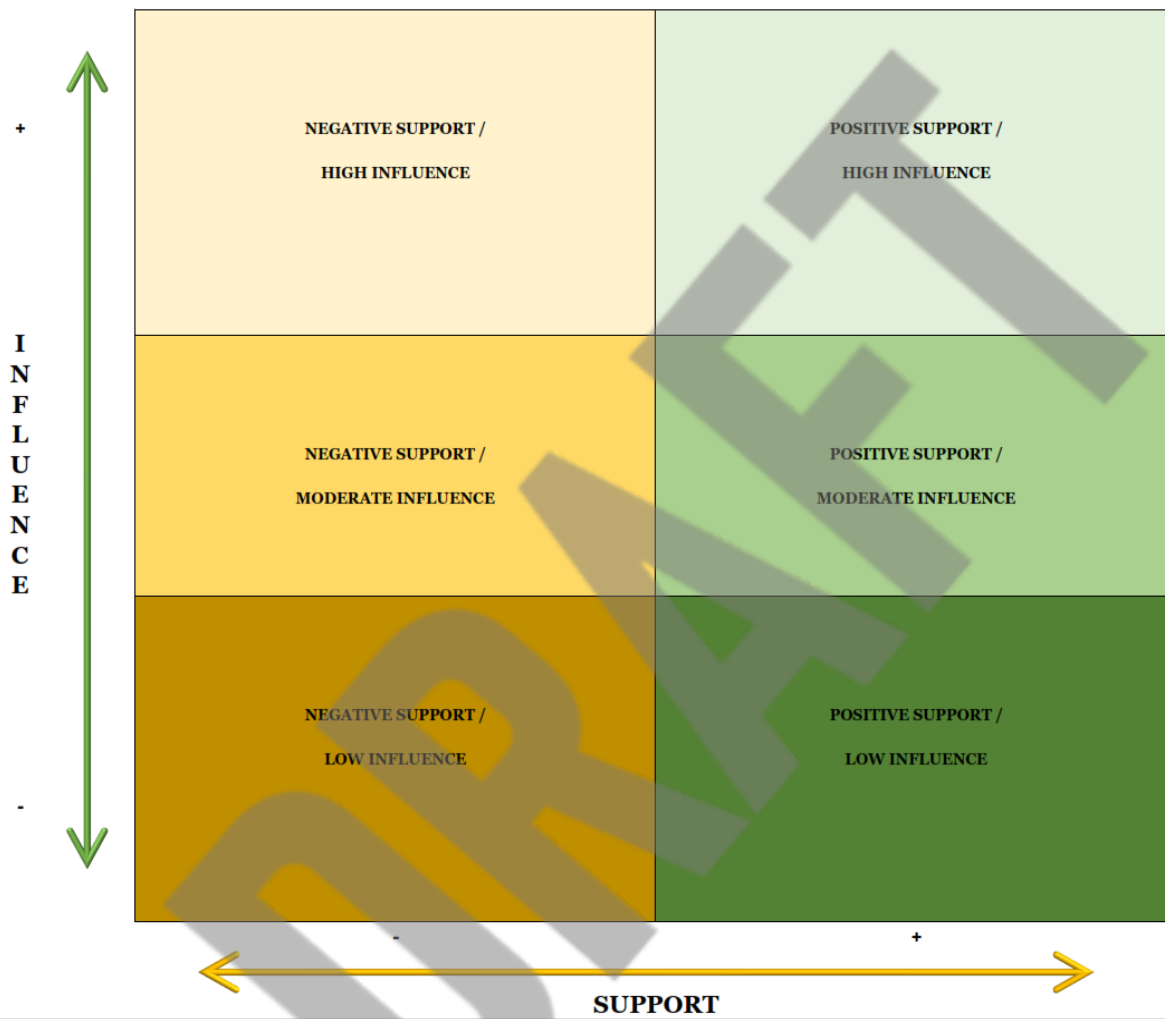


Figure 1. Influence/support matrix designed



## 6.4 Define the engagement objectives

Engagement objectives will be precisely defined and operationalized in preparation of the Deliverable D5.2 (Blueprint for the establishment of 'RURALITIES Hubs') according to the project's specific objectives, tasks and activities which will be implemented within the scope of selected SIMSES.

Objectives must be specific and measurable in order to track progress and determine whether particular engagement activities are successful in achieving planned outcomes. Objectives will be prioritized based on their level of importance and feasibility. This will ensure the rational use of resources and efforts.

## 6.5 Develop a communication plan and engagement materials

A communication plan is initiated through the deliverable D4.1 and it will be updated throughout the project cycle in order to ensure effective sharing of information with the actors of the SIMSES and all interested stakeholders, and implementation of other outreach activities. It contains a key messages framework, communication channels, and a timeline for communication activities. Engagement materials include promotional materials, newsletters, and other materials to promote the project activities and engage various social actors.

## 6.6 Gather the relevant data

Actors of the SIMSES will be provided with adequate methods for the purpose of identifying and gathering data on relevant actors in relation to their own specificities (e.g., geographical scope, cultural background, identified challenges, etc.).

Aforementioned methods include:

- Desktop studies;
- Focus groups;
- Structured and semi-structured Interviews;
- Physical and online surveys;
- Forums;
- Workshops;
- Snow-ball sampling.

In order to achieve a meaningful multi-actor impact, it is crucial to involve a diverse range of actors. The following actors are outlined in D4.1 Table 1 and represent non-exhaustive list of identified target groups:

- Unorganised rural people (URP): EU citizens, households, active citizens, schools and consumers;
- Diverse rural actors (DRU): communities, local governments, municipalities, world of work, and civil society organisations;
- Socio-economic agents (SEA): smallholders' businesses, SME, and industries;
- Diverse scientific community (DSC): multi and transdisciplinary;
- Diverse projects community (DPC): H2020, Horizon Europe, LIFE+, PRIMA, COST, Interreg, and beyond EU;
- Diverse policy makers (DPM): state officers, expert regulatory and policy standardization/certification;
- Media and social media (MSM): websites, You Tubers, journalists, influencers, local TV, and radios.

Nonetheless, an active engagement of all partners in the project consortium is vital as well. When gathering data, it is crucial to consider all of the different interests, goals, and perspectives of each individual actor.

## 6.7 Informing the complementary methods and further activities

The MAA approach provides relevant data which will inform complementary methods utilized during later implementation stages of the project by taking into account different dimensions, including technical, organizational, and social aspects, to bridge the gap between science and practice. It will provide data for the application of STM which takes the gathered data further and considers the interconnectivity of various elements and actors involved, identifies leverage points, and recognizes feedback loops regarding the effects of changes within the systems.

M8 of the project initiates T6.1 which will produce D6.1 due to the M18 (RURALITIES Handbook on the system thinking methodology). D6.1 will build on the previously described framework to provide tools for identifying and analyzing the relations and nature of interactions between the identified actors.

Next, in M8 the preparation of D5.2 (Blueprint for the establishment of 'RURALITIES Hubs') will start within the WP5. This deliverable which is due M24 will follow-up on the D6.1 and utilize provided framework to support the establishment of 'RURALITIES Hubs'. Previous analysis will help identify potential areas of conflict between the identified actors, but also possible channels for collaboration. Moreover, this will further inform the development of effective strategies for rural development and rural innovation.

Data collected through MAA and processed by STM represents a sort of an idiosyncratic analytical treasure which will also be used for the implementation of the living lab methodology and the development of RURALITIES Co-Labs. It will provide key stakeholders which will be involved in the RURALITIES Co-Labs, and a good ground material related to understanding their peculiar needs, challenges and interests. This will enable the consortium to fast-track their successful establishment within the SIMSES and maximize their impact on the respected communities. Moreover, this will enable later co-creation activities and development of RURALITIES capacity building programme to empower rural actors in WP8.

MAA will aid in a continuous effectiveness evaluation of established RURALITIES Co-Labs and help to make needed adjustments to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the stakeholders. Furthermore, MAA will provide relevant stakeholders for the citizen science activities supported by the RURALITIES Citizen Sensing Mobile App and maximize their participation levels. The data collected through MAA will be used to help determine ways to engage additional stakeholders in the activities related to citizen science and recognize potential challenges which may arise in the process. It will also offer insights for decision-making regarding the selection of research questions and the methods of data collection.

The schema which outlines the relationship between the MAA, other used methodologies and project outputs is schematized below:

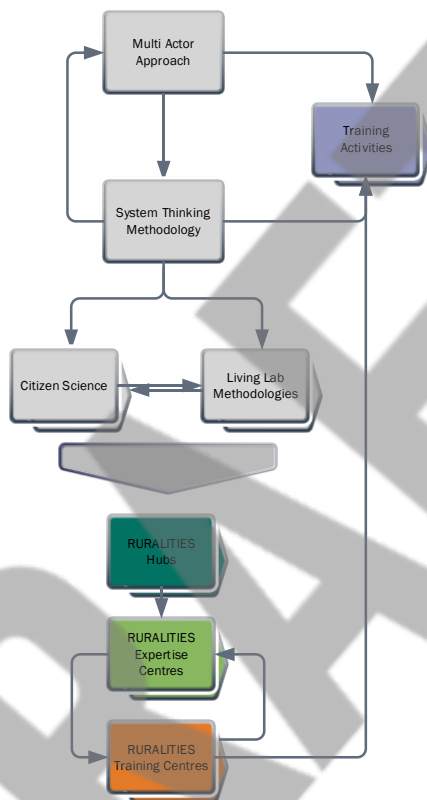


Figure 2. Schema of the relationship between the MAA, other methodologies and project outputs

## 7. CONNECTION

### 7.1 Introduction

Rural challenges require all relevant social actors to work in a collaborative and cohesive manner. From public-private partnerships to non-governmental organizations, bringing together social actors with diverse backgrounds is vital for achieving the shared RURALITIES vision. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be generated in order to connect rural actors, facilitators, citizens within the SIMSES and the RURNex with an aim of creating and establishing the RURALITIES Alliance.

The MoU will connect the RURALITIES Alliance as an official document serving as a Rorex cooperative agreement which describes the terms, conditions and details of the co-creation relationship between the actors. It is a significant tool for establishing a shared understanding of the aims and objectives of the RURALITIES project. The MoU will act as a safety net for prevention of potential misunderstandings and conflicts, but also give enough clearance to avoid passiveness and missed opportunities.

By signing an MoU, actors will commit to working together, behind the same vision, in order to achieve common objectives, with each actor having a role in the process and contributing according to their possibilities and merits.

In the next subchapter, a format for the Memorandum of Understanding will be provided. The following format is to be used within the framework of the RURALITIES expertise centres in WP7 which will implement the MoU with actors identified by the previously outlined engagement activities.

### 7.2 Format for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

#### Section 1 - Background / Preamble

This introductory section will summarize very briefly the objective of the project in the context of the Horizon Europe programme and the motivation of the consortium to establish and sign a memorandum of understanding of the project 'Climate smart, ecosystem-enhancing and knowledge-based rural expertise and training centres' (RURALITIES).

#### Section 2 - Aims and scope / Purpose.

This section will specify objectives of the MoU, what it intends to achieve and its connection with the accomplishment of the general and specific objectives of the project. Moreover, it will include the expected outcomes and specific milestones to be achieved. It must be concise and specific, so that all actors involved understand them clearly and are enabled to contribute effectively towards a shared RURALITIES vision.

#### Section 3 - Terms and conditions

This section will define the general conditions to which the MoU signatories agree (e.g., to promote the project and to collaborate between the parties to ensure the fulfilment of its objectives, to support the sustainability of its results, etc.) as well as the legal nature of the MoU and the obligations it may entail for the signatories. It will also establish how to settle any disputes that might arise concerning the MoU.

## Section 4 - Partner roles and responsibilities

The roles of the partners and their main responsibilities for the achievement of the project's objectives and their sustainability will be specified. This section may include a brief description of the tasks, activities, and deliverables. It serves as a guide for the co-creation ensuring all actors understand their roles and responsibilities and are committed to fulfilling them.

## Section 5 - Areas of cooperation

It will describe the areas in which the signatory parties commit themselves to collaborate towards the achievement of the project's objectives and their sustainability and it will specify the ways in which they will collaborate.

## Section 6 - Intellectual property

This section will explain how the intellectual property of the project results will be managed between the signatory parties including the ownership, use, and protection of trademarks, copyrights and other forms of intellectual property.

## Section 7 - Costs / Financial contributions

If applicable, this section should be used to indicate whether parties are required to make financial contributions in the context of the MoU and to describe how possible costs associated with the MoU will be covered.

## Section 8 - Confidentiality

The use, disclosure and treatment of possible confidential information between the parties during the term of the MoU will be specified.

## Section 9 - Entry into force, amendment, and termination

The date of entry into force and termination will be set in this section. It will also explain the process to introduce amendments to the MoU by the parties.

## Annex I - Adhesions to the memorandum of understanding

A list of the parties adhered to the MoU will be included with a signature by their legal representatives and a date of adhesion.

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## 8. EMPOWERMENT

### 8.1 Introduction

Empowerment of rural actors within the SIMSES will be achieved through systematically designed and tailor-made training activities which will reach the peak within the WP8 and establishing of the RURALITIES training centres.

This chapter will provide a blueprint for training activities which will be designed in accordance with MAA and STM in order to provide adequate knowledge and tools for the selected SIMSES taking into consideration their diversity. Moreover, this will support T8.2 and provide framework for RURALITIES capacity building programme through which 50+ capacity building events will be organized.

### 8.2 Identify the target audience:

The first step is to identify the target audience which consists of the actors from selected SIMSES. This activity will be supported by the engagement methods of the MAA. The training program and activities will be tailored made according to the needs and interests of the learners.

### 8.3 Identify facilities:

Facilities will be identified in the deliverable D5.2 (M24) in order to support the preparation of RURALITIES Hubs. They will be selected through communication and engagement of consortium partners within the selected SIMSES as well as initially engaged rural actors.

The facilities must fulfil the following criteria.

They must be appropriate for training and capacity building events which will support the development of RURALITIES hubs in WP6 and a crucial milestone number 6, and fulfil certain criteria. They need to be accessible which means they have to be within or in the close proximity to the targeted rural areas where the training activities will take place. The purpose of this criteria is to minimize potential transportation costs and travel time for participants and therefore increase participation levels. Furthermore, facilities must have adequate infrastructure and capacity to accommodate all participants and support the training activities (space, equipment, internet access, etc.). Finally, they must ensure safety of the participants and to be cost-effective.

### 8.4 Define learning objectives:

The learning objectives will be concisely defined through the substantial engagement of the consortium partners within the SIMSES and it will use the framework provided in D6.1 enabling the feedback mechanism between MAA and STM in order to deliver tailor-made and adequate engagement objectives due to the significant geographical and socio-economic diversity of selected SIMSES, differences in issues they face, and differences in their needs.

Deliverable D8.1 (Rural scene education nexus characterization compendium) and Deliverable D8.2 (Multiactors onsite and online learning catalogue) will precisely define the learning objectives based on the substantial input from WP5 and WP6.



Learning objectives will be aligned with the project's goals and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound). Finally, they will consider both short-term and long-term aspects and be designed accordingly.

## 8.5 Establish the training scope

This stage involves establishing the overall range of the content which is planned to be covered as well as the difficulty levels. **This will be precisely defined in the WP8.**

## 8.6 Generate specific training programmes (curriculums)

Specific programmes based on the previously defined learning objectives will be developed and designed to provide a systematic and comprehensive approach to sustainable rural development, with an emphasis on system thinking. This will be done through the framework of Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as a training approach which uses previously identified (through STM) complex real-world problems as a learning engine, as opposed to direct presentation of facts and explanation of concepts. PBL fosters the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills in the environment which encourages group work and lifelong learning. PBL will be incorporated into all to-be-used training methods and co-creation frameworks and activities such as living labs and game-based learning.

## 8.7 Identify training methods:

The training methods will be chosen **through efforts on the WP8** based on the learning objectives and the target audience's needs. The training methods will include a combination of classroom-based training, hands-on practical training, and field-based training. Serious game developed through the RURITAGE project is a good example of the method which will be utilized.

## 8.8 Develop training materials:

The training materials will be developed **through activities on the WP8 and they will be** based on the learning objectives and the training methods. These will include manuals, handouts, presentations, and other materials to facilitate the training process.

The training materials must be on appropriate level regarding difficulty of use, and they be accessible. This also means the consortium will make efforts to make them available in various formats and that adjustable to serve learners with disabilities.

## 8.9 Selection and recruitment of facilitators:

**Facilitators will be identified through communication and engagement activities within the selected SIMSES and delivered in the D5.2 (M24) and supplemented with D6.3 (M24) for the purposes of establishing the RURALITIES Hubs.**

They will have to possess relevant experience in training or coaching and who are passionate about rural innovation and who can supervise the empowerment of actors at the SIMSES scale. Ideally, they will come



from a wide array of backgrounds, including rural community members, agricultural workers, educators, researchers, and other professionals.

The consortium partners will set up a selection process designed to assess candidates' skills, experience, and commitment to the RURALITIES project goals. Work with the selected facilitators in order to prepare them for their roles in the project which is primarily to supervise the empowerment of rural actors.

## 8.10 Conduct training activities:

Once the facilitators are trained, training activities will be conducted and the training centers established through activities in the WP8. They must be tailored to the specific needs of each SIMSES and be flexible, effective and engaging.

## 8.11 Impact measurement:

The impact of the training activities will be measured regularly to ensure that the project is achieving its goals, and identify room for improvement. Metrics such as the number of facilitators trained, the number of learners engaged will be tracked and feedback from learners, facilitators, and other stakeholders will be collected in order to monitor the project's development and improve the training activities. Further elaboration of the impact methodology will be delivered in the D2.1 (M12).

## 9. ACTIVITY CALENDAR

The calendar of planned activities within the task 5.1 includes the range from month 7 to month 18 of the project. This correlates with the period from April 2023 to March 2024.

Activity	Project Month											
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Identify the specific needs of the SIMSES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Define PPP framework focused on specific identified needs			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Explore PPP focused on specific identified needs						x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Create PPP focused on specific identified needs									x	x	x	x
Identify a group of 50.000-100.000 individuals	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Explore and make adjustments to create learning a pathway framework									x	x	x	x
Generate a group of 100+ facilitators (KPI) within the selected SIMSES					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Identify multi actor facilities for the training and capacity building events							x	x	x	x	x	x
Conceptualize, explore and pilot the precursors of the 'RURALITIES Hubs'							x	x	x	x	x	x
Participative production of RURALITIES capacity building programme			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Deliver the blueprint for the establishment of 'RURALITIES Hubs' in WP-6							x	x	x	x	x	x

Figure 3. Calendar of planned activities

## 10. CONCLUSION

Promoting effective dialogue among the actors of the rural areas (SIMSES) is one of the key elements of the RURALITIES strategy to increase the visibility of the research and results with the objective to boost and diffuse rural innovation solutions. The action plan described in this document and other referenced deliverables will guide the strategy to create innovative multipoints 'RURALITIES Hubs' to ensure the sustainability of the project. Being this deliverable an action plan, most of the RURALITIES tasks will be informed by the strategy, ideas, live documents and contents produced in this deliverable.

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