



**RURACTIVE**

# **LOCAL COMMUNITY TRAINER**

**Expression of interest**

**Updated 26/11/2024**

# Entry Guide & Rules

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# RURACTIVE Glossary

**Dynamos (Ds):** 12 rural pilot areas, in 7 EU, 2 Associated Countries and Switzerland where the RIEs will be established. RURACTIVE Dynamos: D1-Northern Ostrobothnia, FI, PP: UOULU; D2-Südburgenland, AT, PPs: BAB, WAB; D3- Diputacion Zamora, ES, PPs: DZ, CARTIF, D4- North-East Scotland, UK PP: GBIZ, JHI; D5-Andalucia, ES, PP: BALAM; D6- Zagori, GR, PP: EMZ; D7-Zakarpattya, UA, PP: FORZA, D8- Fiastra Valley, IT, PP: BF; D9- Zadar, HR, PPs: URB, CZAD; D10-Abruzzo, IT, PP: BORGHI, D11- Gotland, SE, PPs: RG, UU; D12- Törbel, CH, PP: BFH.

**Rural Innovation Ecosystem (RIE):** communities of people, places and practices that share interests in one or more specific RDDs to be established in Dynamos' areas.

**Rural Development Drivers (RDDs):** Set of drivers that guide rural development. They include Sustainable multimodal mobility, Energy transition and climate neutrality, Sustainable agrifood systems and ecosystem management, Nature-based and cultural tourism, Culture and cultural innovation, Local services, health and wellbeing.

**Stakeholder:** An institution, organization, group or individual that has some interest or impact in one or more of the RDDs of the project, either as possible contributors to the co-development and implementation of solutions, or as a beneficiary of such solutions.

**Groups at risk of social exclusion and underrepresentation:** Stakeholders at risk of exclusion due to factors like physical disabilities, age, ethnic origins, religious beliefs and other intersecting aspects. Historically, these groups have been underrepresented and largely excluded from decision-making processes, especially in rural areas. These groups encompass, but are not limited to: 1) Young People (aged 18-29 years); 2) Older people over the age of 65-75 (varying based on national or local retirement age criteria); 3) People with long-term physical, mental, intellectual disabilities, or sensory impairments; 4) Migrants, and individuals belonging to linguistic, ethnic, and religious minorities; 5) Long-term unemployed: individuals who have been jobless and actively seeking employment for at least a year; 6) LGBTQIA+ community (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual and more based on sexual orientation or gender identity).

**Beneficiaries:** local communities, including specific groups at risk of exclusion, that will benefit from the solutions developed by the RIEs.

**Local Community Trainer (LCT):** is a selected representative of local community, who will be paid by RURACTIVE to serve as a local community knowledge exchange facilitator(s). LCT can also be one of active members of the Dynamo local task force (LTF).

**Local Task Force (LTF):** A group of selected stakeholders that are most actively involved in the RIE, consisting of stakeholders that have specific expertise or interest in one or more RDD or that can benefit the most from the project co-development activities.

# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

**IAAC:** Institut d'Arquitectura Avançada de Catalunya

**ILAP:** Local Action Plan

**LCT:** Local Community Trainer

**LCP:** Local Communication Plan

**LTF:** Local Task Force

**LWS:** Local Workshop

**M:** Month

**RDD:** Rural Development Driver

**RIE:** Rural Innovation Ecosystem

**UCD:** University College Dublin, National University of Ireland

**UNIBO:** Alma Mater Studiorum\_Università di Bologna

**WP:** Work Package

# 1. Introduction

RURACTIVE aims to empower rural communities to act for societal change by making available knowledge regarding the development and implementation of place-based community-led solutions that integrate various forms of innovation (digital and technological, technical, organisational, governance and social, financial and business models).

To unlock the innovation potential of rural communities to implement such solutions addressing six RURACTIVE Rural Development Drivers (RDDs), it is crucial to understand the learning needs and gaps of local communities to facilitate this process.

The RDDs being considered by RURACTIVE are:

- sustainable multimodal mobility,
- energy transition and climate neutrality,
- sustainable agrifood systems and ecosystem management,
- nature-based and cultural tourism,
- culture and cultural innovation,
- local services, health and wellbeing.

Alongside these RDDs three cross-cutting priorities are considered: **climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, social justice and inclusion.**

To achieve these priorities, RURACTIVE partners will collaborate with twelve European rural communities, known as **Dynamos**. These Dynamos serve as hubs of rural innovation, where local communities, in partnership with RURACTIVE, drive the implementation of innovative solutions tailored to their unique contexts. The Dynamos are central to the project, acting as focal points for piloting new practices, fostering local engagement, and addressing specific rural challenges.

With this foundation in place, addressing key challenges in rural communities, particularly focusing on the digital divide but also community empowerment, and knowledge transfer is essential for facilitating the process of implementing these innovative solutions.

## 1.1 Empowering rural communities by addressing the digital divide

RURACTIVE aims to address the digital divide—the gap between individuals and communities that have access to digital technologies and those that do not- and empowering rural communities to fully participate in the digital age.

In rural areas, this digital divide is particularly pronounced, as many communities face limited access to digital infrastructure, tools and competences. This gap often leaves rural populations, especially the elderly, women and youth, at a disadvantage in accessing essential services, educational opportunities and economic activities.

RURACTIVE aims to close the gap between rural and urban populations by improving digital skills and capabilities across all community members.

The **RURACTIVE strategy** to bridge this gap focuses on providing training, tailored to the needs of different groups, in essential digital and technological areas and facilitating the competence development in information and data literacy, digital communication and collaboration, digital content creation, digital safety, digital technologies for rapid prototyping and problem-solving.

The **Local Community Trainer (LCT)** will play an important role in implementing this strategy on the ground at the local level (in Dynamos), serving as the key person responsible for guiding their community through these training initiatives.

## 1.2 Implications Phases

### **Phase 1 - Expression of interests via an online form** (October to December 2024)

Community trainers' selection recruitment, dealing with the identification of trainers within local communities through dissemination or directly proposed from RIEs stakeholders by expression of interest through the [official form](#).

### **Phase 2: Training sessions for Local Community Trainers** (February to April 2025)

Hybrid training program will be designed and offered to all LCTs with online and hybrid sessions. The training program will consist of 6 online sessions (2 hours each), 2 Knowledge Transfer Workshops (2 hours each), and personal work (12 hours).

### **Phase 3: Applying obtained skills in addressing Micro-Solutions** and training local community members (May to August 2025)

Micro-solutions (Interventions) in which training sessions or series of workshops or activities with local communities (target group) will take place run by the LCT accompanied and supported by IAAC and Dynamos support.

The objectives of the micro-solutions are to connect local community training starting with the local action plan, prototype community-based solutions, and provide opportunities to engage your local community.

We estimate that the Local Community Trainers (LCTs) will need to dedicate 20 hours for the interventions and 10 hours for preparation to implement micro-solutions.



# 2. Local Community Trainer

A Local Community Trainer (LCT) is a selected representative of local community, who will be paid (lump sum) by RURACTIVE to serve as a local community knowledge exchange facilitator(s). LCT can also be one of active members of the Dynamo local task force (LTF).



## 2.1 LCT Profile

We are looking for local people with diverse skills (not only digital) who can effectively lead and support their community in the digital transition through training and support.

As a **Learner**, you should have strong skills in understanding and absorbing information. This includes active listening to better understand community needs, as well as open-mindedness and curiosity to explore new ideas and approaches.

As a **Trainer**, you should be skilled in teaching and sharing knowledge. This involves public speaking and communication skills to effectively convey information to participants. Patience and a good sense of organisation are important for managing training sessions and ensuring that they run smoothly. Additionally, you should be able to identify and address the gaps and needs of the people involved in the training, ensuring that learning is inclusive and effective.

A deep understanding of the local context and key stakeholders, as well as a tolerance towards diversity, is crucial for creating a supportive learning environment.

As an **Engager**, you should excel in interacting and connecting with the community. Empathy is key to building strong relationships with community members, while strong networking skills will help you foster connections within the community.

## 2.2 Budget

Each Dynamo may have one or more LCTs. The estimated budget of each Dynamo to cover its LCT team is 3000 euros\*.

It is the responsibility of each Dynamo to distribute this budget among its LCT team.

*\*Our team will review the submissions regularly, and selected participants will be notified via email. Please ensure that the email provided during submission is accurate and regularly checked.*

# 3. Eligibility

A Local Community Trainer (LCT) is a "volunteer" or selected representative (specific budget) who serve as local community leader, knowledge exchange facilitators, and active members of the Dynamo local task force (LTF).

## 3.1 What you get and what you give

### 3.1.1. What you get

- € A 16-hour instructional training program in which you will develop digital and technological competences.
- € Support and accompaniment both during the training program and during your training to the local community of your Dynamo.
- € You will receive a financial amount to be defined by your Dynamo with a maximum of 3000 euros including costs and dedication in the training program and in your training to the local community.
  - This amount of euros could change depending on the number of local community trainers representing your Dynamo.

### 3.1.2. What you give

- € As LCT you commit to attend at least 90% of the Train of Trainers sessions.
- € As LCT you commit to support and lead the community co-creation process and knowledge transfer through training and facilitating workshops in your local community.
- € As LCT you commit to contribute actively to your Dynamo by facilitating the communication between innovators and the local community.

## 3.2 Rules & Rights

- Participation is open to all aspiring facilitators, local members of rural communities, makers based in any country of the European Union.
- No specific English proficiency level is required, but applicants should be able to engage in basic conversations and understand written text.
- The candidate must be from outside Dynamos institutions
- The candidate must participate in and successfully complete the "Training of Trainers" (ToT) for WP3.
- The candidate must attend at least 90% of the ToT sessions.
- Selected participants are required to collaborate with the Ruractive WP3 research project and submit a mini-report, detailing insights and experiences from phases 2 and 3, within one week after completion.
- Participate in Community-led development tasks (WP4)

- Participate in all phases of T3.3 (1, 2 and 3)
- Support and lead the community co-creation process and knowledge transfer.
- Facilitate the communication between innovators and the local community.

### 3.3 Selection process

Rolling expression of interest for submissions from October 1st to November 29th, 2024.

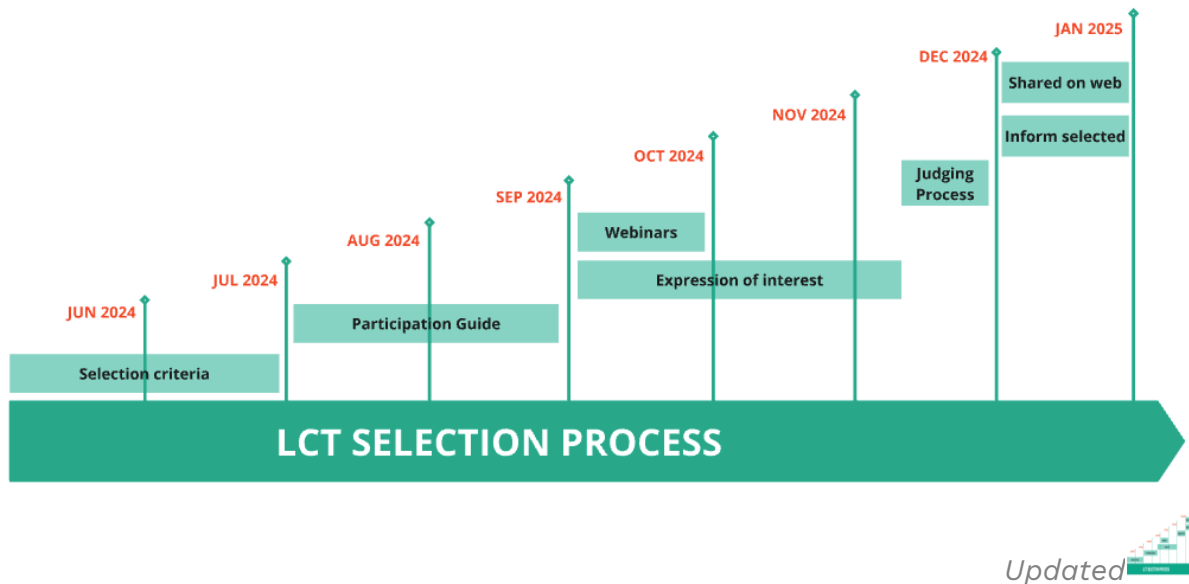
After Submission deadline, a committee comprising Dynamos (LTF), UNIBO and Fab Lab Barcelona team will review applications in multiple rounds: initial screening, detailed evaluation, and interviews (if applicable).

The judging process will be maximally equitable due to the following structure: 50% of the votes will be allocated to DYNAMO (2 people), 25% to UNIBO (1 person), and 25% to IAAC (1 person), ensuring a fair and balanced evaluation of the candidates' submissions.

Selected candidates will receive an email or letter, congratulating them and outlining the next steps (e.g., orientation, training dates).

IAAC will provide feedback to unsuccessful candidates, if feasible, to encourage future participation.

# 4. Calendar



Open for entries period will be closed on December 10th at 23:59 h CET.

- Open for entries → October 1st
- Submission deadline → December 10th
- Judging process → from December 10<sup>th</sup> to 20th
- Selected announcement → December 23th
- Collecting and sharing → Jan 20th

*\*Please note that the Ruractive organization reserves the right to modify or change the dates without previous notice.*

# 5. Submission

All submissions should be submitted by completing the entry form, including the one-minute video, considering the following points:

- The submitted video might be used for evaluating your soft skills, so please be aware before submitting.
- Make sure to fill in each question. Do not leave any boxes empty.
- By filling out the entry form, you are accepting the Ruractive LCT terms and conditions (please see the 'Rules & Terms' section for further details).
- IAAC organisation is not responsible for the authenticity of the information included by the participant in the open call form.
- IAAC organisation is not responsible for claims of plagiarism.

*\*Our team will review the submissions regularly, and selected participants will be notified via email. Please ensure that the email provided during submission is accurate and regularly checked.*