

Abruzzo, Italy

D10 - Local Action Plan







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BorghilN

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0. Reading This Local Action Plan

This Local Action Plan (LAP) documents the co-development process of solutions undertaken by each Dynamo to establish and empower its local Multi-Actor Rural Innovation Ecosystem (RIE). It is the result of a 12-month participatory and inclusive community-led process from May 2024 to May 2025, and contains both the description of the four steps taken to activate the RIE as well as the co-developed, innovative, place based solutions that will be implemented to support the just, sustainable and smart transition of the Dynamo's territory.

The solutions described in the LAP target one or more core Rural Development Drivers (RDDs, namely: 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) and integrate aspects from the three RURACTIVE crosscutting priorities (climate change mitigation and adaptation, social justice and inclusion, and biodiversity), and take into account gender considerations. During the codevelopment phase, Dynamos activated, engaged and empowered the local community through four Local Workshops (LWs) that provided support in defining their place-based solutions. This LAP presents the results of these four LWs, highlighting the crucial role of the local community in creating each solution proposal. For further reference to the methodology to activate the RIE and to the conceptual framework of RURACTIVE, the full documents are available on the website.

Each LAP is organised into six main sections:

- Background and Strategic Vision Introduces the territory, its cultural identity, socioeconomic profile, and key development challenges. Further, it outlines the chosen RDDs that guided the focus of local action.
- Step 0: Getting Started Describes the early activities to set up the foundational elements of the RIE and frame the work, including the selection of the RDDs and territories where the LAPs will be implemented, mapping of previous participatory processes, and a review of relevant local and regional policies.
- Step 1: Identification describes the activities undertaken for brainstorming, analysing and prioritising local stakeholders
- Step 2: Engagement explains how local actors were involved through events like Open Days and the creation of Local Task Forces (LTFs).
- Step 3: Empowerment summarises the series of Local Workshops (LWs 1–4), the recruitment of Local Community Trainers (LCTs) for capacity building and training of local communities, how local challenges were identified, and how solutions were co-designed and refined through structured participation.
- Place-Based Solutions Lists the key challenges identified and introduces detailed breakdowns of the main place-based solutions co-developed with RIE stakeholders to be carried forward into the implementation stage starting from September 2025



This LAP serves as both a strategic roadmap and a practical implementation tool. It is intended to guide the co-implementation of local solutions and to support replication efforts by other rural communities across Europe in the future. The LAP has been collaboratively developed by the Dynamo partner in close cooperation with their RIE stakeholders, with support and guidance from mentors at the University of Bologna and RURACTIVE project partners.



1. Background Information

Abruzzo is a central-southern region that ranks, among the Italian regions, below the average value for the absolute number of inhabitants (1,293,941 residents in 2020) and also for the level of population density (119 inhabitants / km2). It has an area of 10,831 Km2 and its territory is 65% mountainous, hosting the highest peaks of the Apennines. One-third of the territory is exposed to high seismic risk, placing it among the most at-risk regions in Italy. The coastal area, which extends for 130 km, borders the Adriatic Sea to the east. L'Aquila is the region's capital and has a population of 69,900. However, the most populous city is Pescara, on the coast, with 119,500 inhabitants, followed by Teramo with 53,000 inhabitants and Chieti with 50,000. The demographic contraction detected at the national level, particularly in the southern regions, also affected the population of Abruzzo, which in the period 2014-2020 decreased by 3%.



Figure 1. Distribution of community-based cooperatives in the Abruzzo region

According to the ISTAT report "The geography of inland areas in 2020 - Vast territories between potential and weaknesses", two-thirds of the municipalities of Abruzzo (202 out of 305) are identified as inner areas. However, only one-third of the total population lives in these areas – 460,328 people out of 1,281,012. Small towns in Abruzzo face several challenges, including depopulation, an aging population, and a lack of essential services. These problems are particularly acute in the mountainous and inland areas of the region.

Many small towns in Abruzzo, especially those in the mountains, are experiencing a sharp decline in population, with a depopulation rate higher than the regional and national average. This phenomenon is linked to various factors, including a lack of job opportunities, difficulty in accessing services, and a lack of attractiveness for young people. A growing number of elderly people and a decrease in the number of young people is creating a demographic imbalance which can negatively impact the vitality of towns and their ability to meet the challenges of the future. Further, difficulty in accessing essential services, such as transport, health, education, and

RURACTIVE

commerce, is a common problem in small towns in Abruzzo. This can make life in these villages less attractive and further contribute to depopulation. Despite these difficulties, many villages in Abruzzo have great tourist and cultural potential, thanks to their beauty, history and traditions. The recovery and enhancement of local heritage, together with targeted policies to attract new residents and investments, could represent a way out of this crisis.

The "Borghi IN" network (hereby referred to as BorghiIN) is a project funded by Confcooperative Nazionale and promoted and coordinated by Confcooperative Abruzzo. The network is made up of more than 30 villages in Abruzzo that have chosen to address the problems of depopulation and abandonment with a new form of enterprise: the community-based cooperative. They are created by citisens of a specific territory who create and develop projects articulated in various sectors to increase the economic and social well-being of the community, create job opportunities and protect the cultural heritage of the villages. Starting from the needs of the communities they work with, BorghilN's cooperatives are initiating bottom-up transformative processes that represent a virtuous example of social innovation, understood as the capacity to provide sustainable, non-extractive and collective responses to deeply rooted social needs. More specifically, there are 38 community cooperatives in Abruzzo, distributed across its 4 provinces (L'Aquila, Chieti, Pescara and Teramo). Each of these cooperatives has specific characteristics, such as their degree of maturity, local embeddedness, and relationships with public authorities.









Figure 2. Views of some villages in the Abruzzo region connected through the Borghi IN network

2. Step 0: Getting started

2.1. Chosen RDDs



Sustainable agri-food systems and ecosystem management

BORGHI supports sustainable, small-scale agriculture and ecosystem preservation through actions by different communities within the cooperatives. In Campo di Giove, ancient crops are being revived alongside a shared community mill. Navelli focuses on traditional saffron cultivation, while Tufillo works to restore olive oil production amid declining farm labour. These efforts promote agrobiodiversity, reduce land abandonment, and strengthen local food systems in mountain areas.



Sustainable multimodal mobility

This RDD is supported by the National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI) and driven by the community-based cooperatives in inland Abruzzo. An already existing initiative "Muoversi Gran Sasso" targets 28 small municipalities in the province of L'Aquila, aiming to improve access to transport for elderly and vulnerable residents. Cooperatives in towns like Tufillo, Campo di Giove, Navelli, Calascio, and Goriano Valli are leading efforts to align public investments with local needs through participatory needs assessments and feasibility studies.



Local services, health and wellbeing

This RDD is actively addressed through the Borghi IN Rete network, particularly via pilot actions in Calascio and surrounding municipalities, with a focus on developing a more inclusive, community-driven model of diffuse welfare. These efforts are part of an emerging strategy to reframe local services as tools for wellbeing, particularly for elderly and vulnerable populations in remote mountain areas. This RDD is further supported by regional and national frameworks such as the National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI), and aims to promote healthier ageing, reduce isolation, and strengthen everyday wellbeing through better-connected, community-oriented services.



Culture and cultural innovation

Some municipal cooperatives have started to work on broad cultural activities linked to quality tourism. Aielli (AQ) in particular has stood out at national level for the quality of its public spaces, combined with a festival and murals that have coloured the town and generated a community willingness to work on the beauty of the places, and bring new residents



back to the town. Network capacity building is being carried out on these and other activities.

2.2. Starting to set up the RIE

The stakeholders were identified through different participatory processes carried out by BorghilN in the Abruzzo region prior to the start of the RURACTIVE project. BorghilN identified stakeholders both within the BorghilN network projects and through the capacity-building meetings they organized each month in various areas of the region. Below are reported some of the activities and projects BorghilN followed. BorghilN worked on an innovative social welfare project focused on the elderly population and the monitoring of vital parameters to support community and neighbourhood care (HOW project).





Figure 3. Pictures from the HOW project showcasing the elderly monitoring device and recording



Figure 4. Flyer for an event organised by BorghilN promoting local food



Luciana Mastrolonardo and Giulia Candeloro, BorghilN's consultants, were initially identified as RIE coordinators. At a later stage, during the process of the co-development of solutions, the previous coordinators were replaced by Massimiliano D'Innocenzo who took over their role.

As RIE sites, BorghilN identified the six following locations in the Abruzzo region:

- 1. Collebrincioni (AQ) large meeting room owned by the Arci Circle (Circolo Arci) association
- 2. Sante Marie (AQ) Community Emporium and the municipality makes a space available
- 3. Campo di Giove (AQ) lake reserve with its hut and a community mill
- 4. Popoli (PE) community Caffe and the Municipium all available
- 5. Navelli (AQ) ancient monastery
- 6. Calascio (AQ) community space in an ancient Church

















Figure 5. Images showing the diversity and beauty of the chosen RIE sites in villages around the Abruzzo region

2.3. Local Policy Analysis Results

All RURACTIVE's RDDs are relevant to the Abruzzo region, with implications across most intersectoral policy areas. "Sustainable multimodal mobility" is currently one of the core focuses as the "National Strategy for Inland Areas" (SNAI) is investing large sums of money to improve the transportation services and network promoting sustainable mobility for the future.



Concerning the "Sustainable agri-food systems and ecosystem management", the "Rural Development Programme" has a relevant role in the regional system. "Local services, health and well-being" and "Culture and cultural innovation" are also promoted by the "National Strategy for Inland Areas" (SNAI) and the "Regional Programme of the European Regional Development Fund" (PR FESR).

- Biodiversity: Abruzzo is a region with many parks, both national and regional. It is essential
 to protect the environment that surround, and are contained within, the many little villages
 in the BORGHI network, and so all services concerning mobility, culture, agriculture should
 be carried out with consideration for protecting nature, ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Climate adaptation and climate change: Abruzzo aims to reduce emissions while also adapting infrastructure to withstand the effects of climate change, especially regarding mobility and agriculture.
- Social justice and inclusion: The policies aim to make sustainable solutions accessible to all, including marginalized groups (elderly, women, migrants), and promote participation in the transition.



What do our local policies tell us?



Sustainable multimodal mobility

- Improving transportation networks, broadband connectivity, and public facilities
- Enhance sustainable mobility and air quality
- Promotion of bicycle mobility, zero-emission buses, both electric and hydrogen
- Creation of an interchange network between trains, buses, cars, and bicycles
- Ensure that the transportation system can continue to function effectively under changing climate conditions and natural disasters



Sustainable agri-food and ecosystem management

- Enhance agricultural productivity
- Preserve natural resources
- Promote diversification in rural economies
- Facilitate the entry and retention of young and qualified entrepreneurs in agricultural, forestry, and non-agricultural businesses
- Emphasise practices that enhance environmental well-being
- Encourage practices such as organic farming, crop diversification, and reduced use of chemical inputs
- Recover, conserve, characterize, and promote diverse crops and livestock breeds



Local services, health and wellbeing

- Improving its quality of life through the development of eco-sustainable economic activities and the creation of job opportunities
- Support the establishment of community cooperatives
- Mobilize resources to enhance services, infrastructure, and economic prospects
- Resources for healthcare, education, and social inclusion programs
- ▲ Improving health and social care and supporting vulnerable groups
- Interactions and relationships between institutional actors, professionals, the third sector, and citizens



Culture and cultural innovation

- Enhance the skills of the resident population, cultural traditions and territorial resources
- Strategies for the promotion, training and development of tourism resources
- Coordinated and integrated promotion actions across the territory
- Contribute to the economic well-being of the region while preserving its natural and cultural heritage
- Promotion of the cinema and audiovisual sector
- Foster cultural growth, free expression, social promotion and education, communication, social cohesion and inclusion, and economic and social development of the territory and the communities that inhabit it





What do

our local

policies

tell us?

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promoting the sustainable use of resources
- Emphasis on eco-sustainable economic activities and the recovery of environmental goods
- Improve infrastructure, emergency response systems, and community resilience
- Create policies on co-benefits of health and climate change mitigation actions
- Provide technical guidance and recommendations for executing interventions of civil protection
- Enhancing resilience and minimizing damage caused by natural hazards and climate-related events through preparedness, early warning systems, and infrastructure improvements
- Integrate risk assessment and vulnerability analysis to identify areas and communities most susceptible to climate impacts
- Adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower
- Enhance natural carbon sinks, such as forests and wetlands
- Education and outreach programs engage stakeholders in climate action

Biodiversity

Promote and protect the assets of inner areas, including their natural and cultural resources

- Enhancing the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, flora, and
- Support the local communities for healthy ecosystems and variety of species
- Encouraging sustainable land use and protecting natural habitats
- Reduce anthropogenic pressure on ecosystems, species, and populations
- Boosts rich forest biodiversity, including diverse tree species such as oak, beech, pine, and chestnut
- Strengthen the integrated production system and enhance the resources and territorial vocations of the Abruzzo communities, particularly those at risk of social and/or demographic impoverishment
- Support economic development, cohesion, and social solidarity
- Open the community cooperatives to a variety of members of the community: individuals, legal entities, and non-profit associations and foundations
- Reduce disparities between regions
- Improve equitable access to essential services
- Address structural disadvantages related to economic decline, aging populations, and limited resources
- Emphasis on community-driven approaches and initiatives and inclusive decision-
- Support social inclusion activities for vulnerable groups, including families, children, elderly individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness
- Promote equal opportunities for women, address generational disparities, and enhance the inclusion of people with disabilities

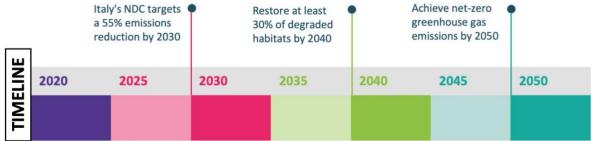
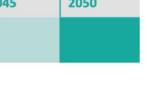


Figure 7. Local policy factsheet based on the cross-cutting priorities





Social

justice and

inclusion

3. Step 1: Stakeholders Identification: brainstorming, analysing and prioritising

3.1. RIE composition

A total of 38 key stakeholders were identified: 11 from Industry/Services/Investors; 5 from Politics; 17 from the Public/User; and 5 from Research. The transversal stakeholders identified for the RIE are 10 and they are GAL, natural parks, universities, Confcooperative Abruzzo. In terms of the number of stakeholders selected for the RDD, the distribution is as follows: Sustainable multimodal mobility - 7; Culture and cultural innovation - 11; Local services, health and well-being - 6; Sustainable agri-food systems and ecosystem management - 4. The groups at risk of exclusion identified include older people and long-term unemployed. A total of 38 stakeholders were added to a list of priority stakeholders to be engaged over the course of the RURACTIVE project.

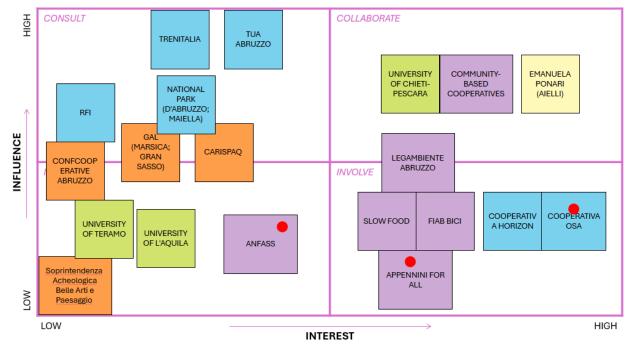


Figure 8. Stakeholder identification matrix. Red dots represent stakeholders at risk of exclusion. The domains are represented by the colours: (Policy = orange, Research = green, Industry/services/investors = blue, Public/user = purple).

4. Step 2: Stakeholders Engagement: local task force and involving stakeholders

4.1. LTF composition

The Local Task Force was structured to integrate the representatives of the Borghi IN Rete network in RURACTIVE activities. The local task force is composed of representatives from the community-based cooperatives of the Borghi IN network, primarily connected to the selected Rural Development Drivers.

N	Name of the cooperative	Municipality	Representative
1	AJAVDE'	Pizzoferrato (CH)	Casciato Romeo
2	VALLIS REGIA	Barrea (AQ)	Tiziana Taucci
3	LA GIOSTRA	Collelongo (AQ)	Daniele Pisegna
4	TAVOLA ROTONDA	Campo di Giove (AQ)	Domenico Curciarello
5	L'ALVEARE	Tufillo (CH)	Marialaura Ottaviano
6	PONTE DI FERRO	Lama dei Peligni (CH)	Cristian Borrelli
7	URSUNIA	Orsogna (CH)	Samantha Di Rico
8	ORO ROSSO	Navelli (AQ)	Massimiliano D'Innocenzo
9	CAST COMMUNITY	Castiglione a Casauria (PE)	Mariani Parmeggiani
10	VIVI CALASCIO	Calascio (AQ)	Franco Cagnoli
11	SETTE BORGHI	Sante Marie (AQ)	Luciana Orlandini
12	TERRE DA MARE DEL CERRANO	Silvi/Pineto (TE)	Fabio Di Paolo
13	LA MAESA	Aielli (AQ)	Pierluigi Nucci
14	COLLE OSPITALE	Colledimezzo (CH)	Federica Fortunato
15	DIAMOCI UNA MANO	Palena (CH)	Andrea De Iuliis
16	ACCOGLIENTI E GENTILI	Fresagrandinaria (CH)	Di Biase Carlino
17	LA CHIAVE DEI TRE ABRUZZI	Popoli (PE)	Andrea Di Pasquale
18	TERRENOSTRE	Valle Roveto (AQ)	Giuseppe De Vecchis
19	COLLEBRINCIONI	Collebrincioni (AQ)	Daniele Ciuffetelli
20	LA MONNA	Scontrone (AQ)	Massimiliano Melone
21	BORGO SAN GIOVANNI	San Giovanni Lipioni (CH)	Alessandro Rossi
22	CUORE DELLE VALLI	Tione Degli Abruzzi (AQ)	Massimo Pedone
23	FANESIA	Fano Adriano (TE)	Marcella Cipriani
24	ATESSIAMO	Atessa (CH)	Gabriella Rossi
25	CIVITERRA	Civitella Casanova (PE)	Marzia Foglietta
26	SORGENTE VIVA	Canistro (AQ)	Aleandro Mariani

4.2. Open Day

BorghilN organised the RURACTIVE Open Day within the framework of the Festival of Communitybased Cooperatives, an annual event aimed at consolidating the network and establishing connections with other national networks. The festival was held in Aielli from the 12th to the 14th of July 2024, with the Open Day taking place on the second day, throughout the morning. This was a great opportunity to promote the RURACTIVE project, including it in communication and dissemination activities and materials linked to the festival. The meeting dedicated exclusively to RURACTIVE attracted a total of 36 people: among them, 6 young people (18-35 years), 12 people 25-50 years and 18 people 50-65 years. A good gender balance, with 17 male and 19 female participants was also found. At this point, most of the participants, mainly representatives of the community-based cooperatives inside Borghi IN, were not actually involved or interested in only one RDD, but mainly with a transversal approach. 4 representatives of local administrative bodies were 9 3 researchers and present, general public.



Figure 9. BorghilN festival poster 'noi siamo CHE FARE' which hosted the RURACTIVE open day

5. Step 3: Stakeholders Empowerment

5.1. LCT Recruitment



Emanuela Ponari is 28 years old and holds degrees in Political Science and International Relations, as well as in Media, Digital Communication, and Journalism. She is a passionate professional communicator with a strong aptitude for storytelling, both verbally and in writing, across physical and digital platforms. She thrives on direct interaction with people and enjoys working in collaborative environments. Her education and experience have enabled her to develop a unique combination of analytical and creative skills, which she applies to craft impactful communication strategies.

Figure 10. Local Community Trainer of BORGHI

Emanuela is skilled at managing complex projects and optimising both time and resources to ensure concrete results aligned with set objectives. She remains focused on achieving measurable outcomes while maintaining high standards of quality. What motivates her most is the ability to connect with others through storytelling, whether in person or online. She believes that effective communication can drive change, and she is committed to using her talents to create content that resonates with diverse audiences. With a strong team-oriented approach, adaptability, and a results-driven mindset, Emanuela is always seeking new opportunities to grow professionally and make a positive impact in the world of communication.

5.2. LWs1 Vision and Challenges

The first local workshop was hosted by the Coop. Oro Rosso di Navelli at the Ostello sul Tratturo, a former convent of S. Antonio. Twenty-five people participated, representing a cross-section of the Borghi in Rete network: 17 from community-based cooperatives, 1 municipal representative, 4 researchers, and 3 from the general public. The group had strong female representation (15 women, 10 men), and was predominantly composed of people aged 35–50, with seven participants aged 18–35.

The session opened with participant introductions to better understand each cooperative's reality and day-to-day challenges. This was followed by a brief overview of the RURACTIVE project and its goals. Participants then worked collectively to reimagine the future of Abruzzo's internal areas—not as peripheral regions dependent on urban centers, but as active protagonists of their own development. Through the Rural Development Driver framework, participants identified and discussed key challenges in small working groups. Topics included sustainable multibmodal mobility (6 participants), sustainable agrifood systems and ecosystem management (7 participants), and culture and cultural innovation and local services health and wellbeing (both with 6 participants). Using posters and post-its, each group articulated concerns and ideas, which were then shared and adopted in plenary.



A recurring theme was the need to shift from fragmented local efforts to a networked, cooperative model of rural development. This includes fostering economies of scope to improve proximity services—healthcare, transportation, housing, and infrastructure—tailored to local needs. There was strong agreement that innovation should emerge from within the communities but also welcome the perspectives of newcomers. External appreciation can help local populations recognize the value of their own cultural heritage, much of which is at risk of being lost. Participants emphasised the importance of intergenerational knowledge transfer, creating synergies between locals and newcomers, and building sustainable cultural models. With limited municipal budgets, cultural initiatives must be both collaborative and economically viable. Suggestions included moving beyond traditional religious events to more diverse cultural offerings, supported through cooperation across municipalities.

Ultimately, the workshop reinforced the value of community-based networks as a vehicle for reclaiming identity, promoting innovation, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of rural life in Abruzzo.

	List of challenges
Challenge 1 - Place based	Need to design new ways to preserve and share elderly knowledge: preservation and transmission of intangible cultural heritage
Challenge 2 - Place based	Mountain micro-chains challenge: design collaborative networks for sustainable Apennine agriculture
Challenge 3 - Place based	Need to co-create a Shared Proximity Services Hub
Challenge 4 - Place based	Challenge of integrating arts, culture and care: innovating mental health solutions for Rural Communities
Challenge 5 - Place based	Challenge of Creating a Shared Mobility Service
Challenge 6 – For open call for innovators	Enhancing share multimodal mobility services
Challenge 7 – For open call for innovators	Fostering habitat beyond welfare
Challenge 8 – For open call for innovators	Building Bridges: enhancing community cooperation through shared and community-based governance system



Figure 11. Participants and activities hosted by the Coop. Oro Rosso di Navelli of BorghilN for the Local Workshop 1

5.3. LWs2 Learning from others

The second workshop was hosted in Fano Adriano, organised by the community-based cooperative Fanesia, on the 31st of January 2025. In a more sustainable perspective, for this workshop, as the location is not so easy to reach with public transportation, a shuttle bus was organised by BORGHI for all the members of the network and for stakeholders involved in, as part of the sustainable mobility policy pursued by BORGHI.

It was a great success, with 40 people travelling to Fano Adriano to participate in several planning and co-development activities. 12 participants were new to RURACTIVE and hadn't previously attended the open day or LWs1, and the day hosted a balance between genders (22 male and 18 female). 3 participants noted that they were part of the group at risk of exclusion of long-term unemployed. Most participants were middle-aged (28 people 35-50), with 3 young 18-35 years, 8 of 50-65 years, and 1 person with 65-80 years. Among participants, 3 representatives of local municipalities, 4 researchers and 28 persons from the service sector. After the presentation of the previous work completed as part of the RURACTIVE project in plenary, participants worked in pairs and then in small groups, choosing challenges and proposed solutions from other



dynamos. In this discussion, 15 people worked on the RDD of sustainable multimodal mobility, 11 on sustainable agrifood systems and ecosystem management, 8 on culture and cultural innovation, and 6 on local services health and wellbeing.



Figure 12. Images from the presentation of challenges and potential solutions that could be addressed in the RURACTIVE project

	List of challenges
Challenge 1 - Place	Need to design new ways to preserve and share elderly knowledge:
based	preservation and transmission of intangible cultural heritage
Challenge 2 - Place	Mountain micro-chains challenge: design collaborative networks for
based	sustainable Apennine agriculture
Challenge 3 - Place	Need to co-create a Shared Proximity Services Hub
based	
Challenge 4 - Place	Challenge of integrating arts, culture and care: innovating mental
based	health solutions for Rural Communities
Challenge 5 - Place	Challenge of Creating a Shared Mobility Service
based	
Challenge 6 – For open	Enhancing share multimodal mobility services
call for innovators	
Challenge 7 – For open	Fostering habitat beyond welfare
call for innovators	
Challenge 8 – For open	Building Bridges: enhancing community cooperation through shared
call for innovators	and community-based governance system

List of solutions proposals		
Proposal 1	Narratives of Communities	
Proposal 2	Sharing the land	
Proposal 3	Shared Proximity Services Hub	
Proposal 4	Creation of a network of cultural centres	
Proposal 5	Shared Mobility Service	





Figure 13. Participants walked around town to discuss current challenges faced in Fano Adriano and other towns in Abruzzo









Figure 14. Participants and activities hosted in Fano Adriano for Local Workshop 2

5.4. LWs3 Fine-Tuning

LWs3 was hosted by the Coop. Oro Rosso on the premises of the Navelli Town Hall, in collaboration with the Municipality. The meeting was very productive, with a high participation of 30 people, well balanced with 18 males and 12 females, mostly middle-aged (25) with 2 young people and 3 older people. In addition to the network members, external stakeholders participated, representing the Municipality of Navelli, the Proloco of Navelli, the Consortium for the Tutela dello Zafferano dell'Aquila and also 3 ordinary citizens, intrigued by the issues.

After the initial introduction, the participants were divided into 4 groups. Each used the Canva proposed by UNIBO, to examine in detail the sections and discuss the solutions and specific activities in each group. The morning ended with a final plenary, in which all the groups expressed the need to have more time to arrive at proposals for truly useful and detailed solutions. and almost two hours dedicated to this exercise proved insufficient to analyse in detail the times, costs and future impacts of the solution, so we organized another moment of comparison in a second phase, once a first draft of the solution tables had been compiled.

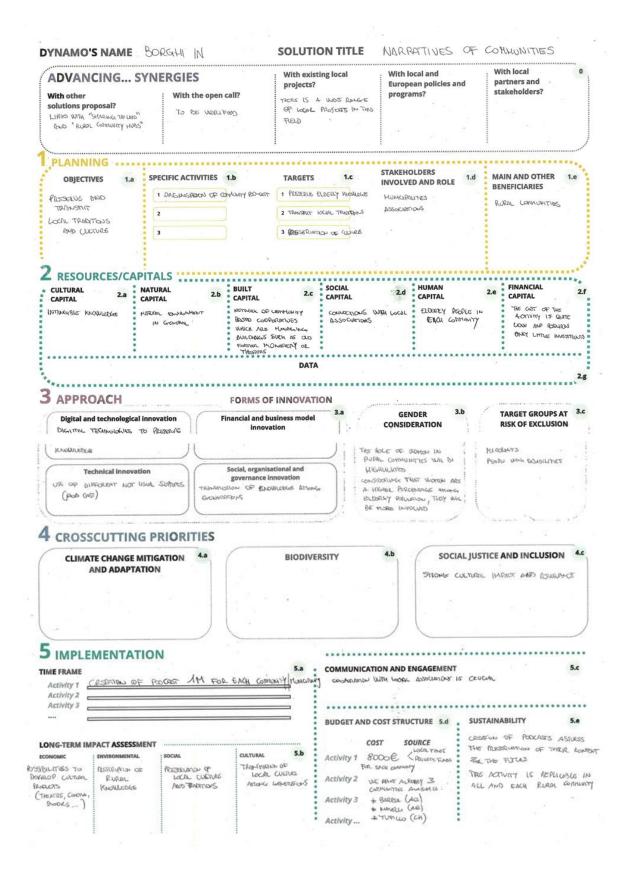


Figure 15. BorghilN's LWs3 poster addressing 'soluzioni in comune' hosted in the Municipality of Navelli

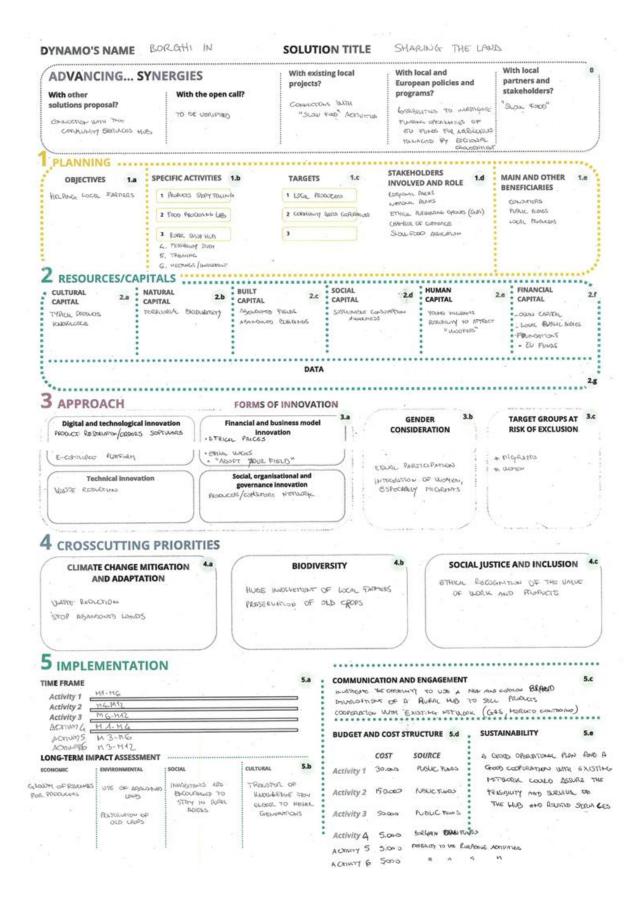


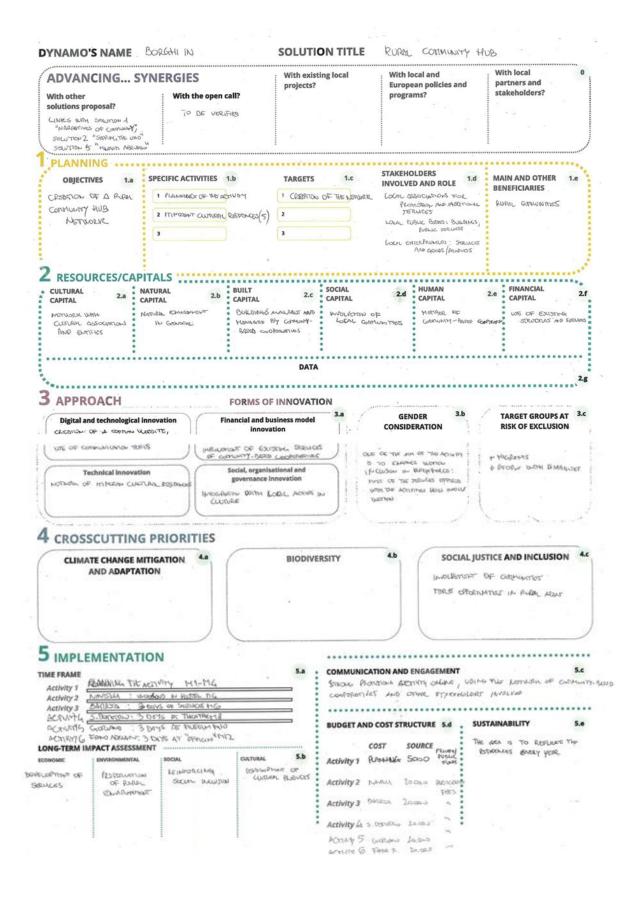
List of solutions proposals (after LW3)		
Proposal 1	Narratives of Communities	
Proposal 2	Sharing the land	
Proposal 3	Rural Community Hubs [former "Shared Proximity Services Hub" and "Creation of a network of cultural centres"	
Proposal 4	"Muoversi Abruzzo" [former Shared Mobility Service]	













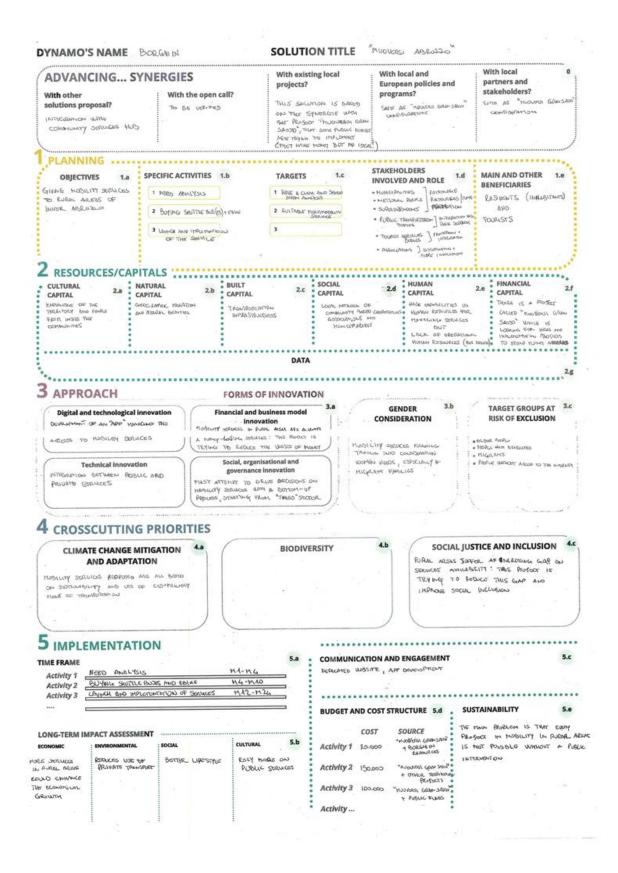






Figure 16. Photos from BorghilN's LWs3 in the Municipality of Navelli

5.5. LWs4 Co-Tuning

LWs4 was hosted by the Coop. Oro Rosso in Navelli. Since Borghi IN Rete is a network of community cooperatives spread across the entire regional territory, organising 3 separate meetings with the Innovators was particularly complex. The workshop was therefore structured in 2 days, with a joint presentation of the challenges of RURACTIVE and Borghi IN Rete and separate meetings with each of the innovators. During the separate meetings, the two innovators not involved were invited to participate in a guided tour of the village of Navelli and its surroundings, to learn and experience the reality of the territory. This opportunity was particularly appreciated by the Innovators, who had a unique opportunity to get to know places and inhabitants of at least one area of inland Abruzzo. Strong participation was recorded with 8 representatives from the innovators and 12 local participants, including 3 external stakeholders (Municipality of Barisciano, Proloco Association of Navelli, University of L'Aquila). Among the participants, almost all middle-aged, 3 under 35, one of whom was long-term unemployed.

Open Call for innovators: Selected Solutions		
Proposal 1	RUMBLE (challenge Enhancing share multimodal mobility services)	
Proposal 2	REENO (challenge Fostering habitat beyond welfare)	
Proposal 3	FacilitAREAS (challenge Building Bridges: enhancing community cooperation through shared and community-based governance system	





Figure 17. Photos from BorghilN's LWs4

6. List of Solutions and action plan of implementation

In response to the social, cultural and infrastructural challenges facing the rural villages of inner Abruzzo, three integrated solutions have been developed through the Borghi IN Rete network.

One initiative promotes intergenerational dialogue and the preservation of intangible cultural heritage by collecting local stories, customs and memories through theatre and immersive audio experiences. Using 8D sound and "SilentSystem" headphones, these performances allow visitors to explore local traditions—such as saffron cultivation in Navelli or olive farming in Tufillo—through sensorial, site-based narratives.

A second solution proposes a shared food processing lab, co-designed with 30 cooperatives, to support small-scale farmers, particularly women-led enterprises, in transforming and marketing traditional mountain products. By improving access to legal, well-equipped facilities, the project strengthens rural economies, promotes biodiversity, and fosters collaborative, climate-adaptive agriculture.

The third solution addresses the lack of accessible transport for elderly and vulnerable residents by initiating a community-led needs analysis and feasibility study across 28 municipalities. This aims to reshape existing mobility investments—such as the underused "Muoversi Gran Sasso" scheme—ensuring future services align with the daily realities of local populations while also supporting seasonal tourism.

Together, these solutions seek to revitalise rural life by weaving culture, economy, and mobility into a resilient and inclusive framework.

Solutions N.	Solutions' title	Related challenge/s
1	Narrative of	Need to design new ways to preserve and share
	Communities	elderly knowledge: preservation and transmission of
		intangible cultural heritage
2	Sharing the lab	Mountain micro-chains challenge;
		Design collaborative networks for sustainable
		Apennine agriculture
3	"Muoversi Abruzzo"	Creating a Shared Mobility Service



6.1. Narrative of Communities

o. r. Marrative of Communities		
	Solution 1 Narrative of Communities	
Objectives of the solution	Wider objective: to preserve and transmit local tradition and culture Specific objectives: to bridge generations closer together and not lose traditional cultural heritage. The idea is to preserve historical traditions with new technologies and digital tools, and to replicate traditional customs and local stories through theatrical performances (or other forms of art) to make them appealing to both young people and tourists.	
Brief Description (max 250 words)	The co-creation and organisation of theatre workshops by residents of the local villages encourages locals, especially the elderly, to share and document their experiences, traditions and customs. The solution also directly targets young people (under 30) by engaging them as active listeners and participants in collecting and sharing these stories, providing them with life lessons, and the ability retain knowledge and stories that risk being lost forever.	
	The performance produced is therefore not designed for a "live" performance but developed to generate an audio-immersive path in the form of an audio podcast allocated on a public web platform. In the presence of the visitor, the "SilentSystem" is used, distributed via wireless headphones, which isolates spectators by alienating them from external background noise, giving them the opportunity to find themselves in an immersive environment in a new dimension that stimulates them to materialize the images evoked by the text and sounds. Furthermore, the sound is processed in 8D allowing those who listen, both in person and remotely, to live an absolutely new experience at an auditory level, thanks to different mixing techniques that give the sound that three-dimensional aspect, making it possible to perceive its echo, distance and direction, as if those voices and sounds were actually generated and not reproduced. Walking in a sonic universe of texts, sounds and suggestions, the visitors' gaze frames the space and listens to its memory. The user thus becomes an integral part of the performance through an experiential path that winds through the external and internal spaces of the hosting places. This generates an original form of theatre, a sensorial experiential path that places the visitor at the centre, offering a new, intimate and engaging experience of the places, capable of offering an implementation of contents that tell their history and memory through the generation of a new work of art. The places will thus be	



narrated in an original form, capable of generating immersive paths and therefore of valorising a heritage of memory.

Three municipalities/communities have been identified within the Borghi IN Rete network: Barrea, Navelli and Tufillo.

The material collected will be used for two different purposes.

- Enable the construction of artistic "products", including theatrical performances, audio storytelling, or other forms of art, depending on the nature of the living memories collected, and the history and context of each community.
- Form the basis for the development of a digital archive, which will allow the preservation and transmission of local rural culture that would otherwise be lost over time.

The "restitution" will consist of a virtual theatre activity with both "live" and remote audiences, inside museums and places of culture, with the use of the silent system, transmitted via wireless headphones, which isolates spectators, alienating them from external background noise. The themes that will be addressed in the workshops will focus on ancient peasant traditions, with a specific focus for each community:

- Barrea: the artificial lake (created in 1951) and how this intervention transformed local community life
- Navelli: the traditional cultivation of saffron, how it has permeated all aspects of local community life since the 13th century, and the changes that occurred after World War II
- Tufillo: the relationship between citizens and the cultivation of olive trees, a longstanding resource for local families, now at risk of abandonment due to a shortage of labour.

targeting groups at risk of exclusion (women, elderly, youth,

Relevant RDD Culture and cultural innovation Local services, health and wellbeing and RDD Agrifood and Ecosystem Management subcategory Relevant Need to design new ways to preserve and share elderly knowledge: Challenge/s preservation and transmission of intangible cultural heritage Specific STEP ONE **Activities** Introductory meetings: explain the project, engage the community, shape and contextualise the collection of testimonies. Ensuring participation of a diverse range of community members in these initial meeting and planning phases -



disability, etc.)

- Include community members or external individuals to come and integrate stories for the podcast related to awareness around climate change and biodiversity
- Recruit youth participants: young members of the communities will support the professionals, developing further skills in the next phases.
- Gender based considerations: both elderly and young people groups should have a good gender balance and, if this is not the case during the activity there should be corrections to the groups composition to meet the equity

STEP TWO

During this step, group meetings and personal interviews will be made, on the base of the planned work decided in step one. The work in each community will focus on those "indigenous voices" that represent the deep roots of a historical and identity heritage: innovation, tradition, memory and technology will come together to create a new artistic work, which has the possibility of replicating itself countless times, without the aid of the presence of the artists who therefore leave a permanent and repeatable mark.

- First group meeting with the elderly people individuated in step one: during the meeting, reflections will be guided to the focus for each community (the lake in Barrea, the saffron production in Navelli, the olive trees cultivation in Tufillo)
- First interview to each elderly people, with the involvement of professionals together with young people
- Second group meeting: first results of the interviews will be presented and discussed together; additional reflections on the focus for each community will be stimulated, together with open discussions on the climate change and implications in our communities
- Second interview with elderly people

STEP THREE

 Creation of the digital archive- professionals will process collected material to systematise it create a real archive of testimonies that will remain available to present and future generations.

STEP FOUR

 Presentation/Performance - both a live and virtual audience will be able to experience the performance at symbolic locations within the three communities involved. This will promote the accessibility and inclusiveness of the sites and will generate immersive sensory



	paths of virtual and augmented reality that will favour their use by visitors, tourists and communities of the territories involved. The chosen sites will become the site of an artistic residence to produce an artistic performance inspired by the memory of the place and the territory that hosts it.
Targets	The specific and measurable objectives of the action will be the following: - a total number of at least 15 elderly people involved in each community, through interviews, recordings and collection of real testimonies on the chosen themes - among them, a good gender balance, so at least 7 women should be involved in each community - at least 3 hours of podcast recordings in each village involved - Each 3-hour recording must include a story/explanation related to each of the three cross cutting priorities (biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, social justice and inclusion) - at least 5 young people under 30 who will listen to the testimonies live and will support the team of professionals in the collection work, in each community
	- among them, at least 2 women in each community, to assure a good gender balance
	 Reach/awareness raised through the development of this material (At least 1000 listeners to the final audio/podcast material)
Location of	3 villages in Abruzzo Region, Italy:
implementation	- Barrea (AQ)
	- Navelli (AQ)
	- Tufillo (CH)
Geography and	Mountain area
territorial	Hilly
context	
Integration of	- Social justice and inclusion
relevant	There will be benefits for elderly people, as their knowledge will be
crosscutting	valorised, for young people who will learn from older generations, for
	the community as a whole, thanks to a rapprochement between generations and the preservation of intangible heritage. Groups at risk of exclusion will also be included throughout the meeting, planning and design steps of the solutions – providing input on the type and content of material produced - Biodiversity
	Each of the three topics defined for each village in the action will be focused of a different aspect of biodiversity conservation and



education. In Barrea, the creation of an artificial lake in the '50s altered the ecosystem composition. A story of the archive will preserve knowledge about the old ecosystem and train young people to be more considerate of it. In Navelli, the importance of field rotation to preserve saffron (necessary for cultivation) will ensure the continutaion of ecosystem dynamics. In Tufillo, the traditional process of olive cultivation will be archived to reduce the risk of it disappearing over time, again maintaining the typical biodiversity of the area.

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Clear implications in this crosscutting priority are evident in all the process, with a reflection on how to deal with climate change in each of the village involved. One of the most relevant implications is linked to the increase in drought: the lake in Barrea, the saffron production in Navelli, the olive trees cultivation in Tufillo are threatened by this effect of climate change. Education is a key factor in understanding the importance of keep the traditional environment and this action will contribute to the education of the young generation.

Forms of Innovation considered

Digital and technological

Use of digital technologies to preserve knowledge and use

- Technical

Use of different and not usual supports (podcast), useful to keep the memory but also to spread and disseminate the result among more people

- Social

involvement of local communities, cross-age communication and collaboration, transmission of knowledge among generations

Gender Sensitive Planning aspects

Each activity in the framework of the project has no implication on any gender base, on the contrary is completely open to anyone, regardless of gender.

Anyway, the role of women in rural communities will be highlighted, also in consideration that women are a larger part of elderly people in rural areas, so they will be more involved.

In the selection of elderly people involved and recorded, we will assure a gender-balanced engagement, as during the first phase we will work with the professionals in order to capture different gendered experiences. One of common aspect in each village topic will be the exploration of the role of women in rural communities

Resources/Capit als needed

Basic resources needed

- Cultural

The intangible knowledge of elderly people is in all respects a capital, a resource that must be preserved and valorised, from many points of



view. We need to capitalize this resource and make is available for next generations

- Natural:

The natural environment in general is the main resource in our villages, and all traditions are linked to the rural environment, to the land, to the agricultural world; in this project, we have individuated three different villages with three different agricultural and environmental topics

- Building:

The community-based cooperatives involved are all managing buildings, monasteries or theatres; this will be a way to enhance them and make them alive and useful for the community. In Barrea, the cooperative is running several apartments in an historical palace in the old village, where external professional can be hosted and the activities of the project can be developed; in Navelli, the cooperative is running a hostel in an old monastery, with common spaces to host activities and also events and presentations; in Tufillo, the cooperative is running a local shop and is in the process to run some old houses in the old village, to be used as base for the work

- Social:

This project is based on the social capital of each village involved; also connections with local associations are important and useful: they will be Ass. "Antologia" and Ass. "Volontariato Barrea" in Barrea; Proloco di Navelli and Consorzio per la Tutela dello Zafferano dell'Aquila DOP in Navelli; Proloco di Tufillo APS and "Bosco di Simurgh" APS in Tufillo

- Human:

Elderly people in each community are the core resources of this project

To develop the project, required money is not so much, as the cost of limited and there is no need of investments or expensive purchasing.

Main stakeholders involved and their contribution

Municipalities involved: Comune di Barrea, Comune di Navelli and Comune di Tufillo

Associations working in each municipality:

- Barrea: Ass. "Antologia", Ass. "Volontariato Barrea"
- Navelli: Proloco di Navelli, Consorzio per la Tutela dello Zafferano dell'Aquila DOP
- Tufillo: Proloco di Tufillo APS, "Bosco di Simurgh" APS

Professional artists from "Arte e Spettacolo" (Tiziana Irti and Giancarlo Gentilucci) and "Teatro Vagante" (Sara Gagliarducci and Valentina Nibid)

Main and other Beneficiaries

General rural communities in Barrea, Navelli and Tufillo Elderly people



	Young people	
Target groups at	 Young people 	
risk of exclusion	 Older people 	
Timeframe (M to	The project will have a total duration 18 months and can be divided	
M)	into different work phases.	
	STEP ONE M1-M3	
	The first part will be the preparatory part, in order to better define	
	the following ones. It will include the preparation and the study of	
	specific activities to be carried out.	
	It will last for 3 months, with some visits to each community in order	
	to better known both elderly than younger people to be involved in	
	the work and to go into the three topics in details.	
	The three places have already been chosen: they are three villages	
	where a community-based cooperative, part of BorghilN network, is	
	active and is running/managing a building for hospitality. During the	
	first phase, only inspections will be carried out to verify them and to	
	adapt the activities to the specific place and people.	
	STEP TWO M4-M12	
	The planning phase will be followed by 3 identical phases in duration	
	and, at least in general terms, also in content, with 3 months (total	
	9M) dedicated to each territorial reality.	
	During these months, the crew will go to the villages and carry out	
	residencies, during which oral testimonies from the elderly will be	
	collected	
	STEP THREE M13-M16	
	In this phase the podcasts will be created: the recordings made will	
	then be edited for the creation of the archive and of the artistic	
	restitution, which will be presented to the population in the following	
	step. Same activities will be repeated in the following 2 months for	
	the other 2 villages: Barrea and Navelli in the province of L'Aquila,	
	even if in two territories quite different and far away each other, and	
	Tufillo, in the province of Chieti, they represent three really unique	
	environments, three different sides of the rural area of Abruzzo.	
	STEP FOUR M17-M18	
	It will be the presentation of the results, with a real restitution of the	
	testimonies to the community in the form of a performance. This will	
	be both virtual and with an audience both "live" and remotely, with	
	some symbolic places of the three communities involved.	
Indicative cost	The total cost of the activity is 35.000 euro	
	The preparation phase will cost approximately 5.000 euros, mainly for	
	internal and external staff of community-based cooperatives and	
	other associations involved.	



Each activity in the 3 villages will have a total cost of 10.000 euros, to be divided between technicians and artists for the creation of the final product and the costs of the residency.

The costs of technicians and artists can be quantified in 8,000 euros, while the costs of the residency are approximately another 2,000 euros, including food and accommodation on site and reimbursement of travel expenses to reach the three chosen locations.

These costs can be better quantified in the initial planning phase.

Indicative funding sources

The total cost needs to be covered, at least in part, by public funds, using additional calls and projects, with the possibility to use funds for cultural activities by municipalities and other local public entities. We would also apply for private funds, such as Banking Foundations.

Long Term Impact Assessment

Economic

Contribution to the economic growth of rural areas and municipalities, through the use of the cultural heritage for arts performances

Environmental

Preservation of old traditions and customs, linked to the agricultural rural world and transfer of knowledge among generations.

Social

There will be benefits for elderly people, to feel part of the community and to give value to their knowledge and stories.

Cultural

The project will push a new relationship among generations, and will contribute in an essential way to the preservation of the traditional cultural heritage of each villager involved and of the Region in general.

Communication and Engagement

To create engagement, it is crucial to involve local associations and municipalities, especially to create engagement and involve elderly people.

In the initial phase, preparatory open meetings will be hosted in each village in order to present the project and to inform people about the possibility to contribute: elderly people need specific communication tools, like posters and direct messages, voice call... young people could be easily reached but need to be involved, so it is crucial to invite already existing associations, already individuated.

Large use of social networks to promote the activities and the participation: the policy of our network BorghilN is not to create additional social media for each project or activity, but to use existing one: we have our social media as network and each member of the network has its own social media, with a potential audience really



	wide, so it is fundamental to create contents linked to the project
	that could be spread in all those channels.
Sustainability	Creation of podcasts assures the preservation of their content for the
consideration	future.
	The activity is replicable in all and each rural community
Synergies with	This solution has a close connection with solution n.4 on Integrating
other solutions	arts, culture and care in the Rural Community Hub as elderly people
	are the majority of the little villages population and those who can
	transmit traditions and local culture.
Synergies with	The project is developed in cooperation with the local Municipality
local policies	and involves many public and private entities.
Synergies with	The solution is perfectly in line with many SDGs. In particular,
EU policies when	SDG3 Good health and well-being
relevant	

6.2. Sharing the Lab

Solution 2 Sharing the lab	
Objectives of the solution	The solution aims to meet the varied needs of BorghilN's community cooperatives by creating a shared food processing lab that is widely accessible and financially sustainable. An initial feasibility assessment will identify the optimal location, equipment, and setup to serve the network effectively and legally to promote more local produce, reduce transportation and importation requirements to reduce climate change impacts, to allow a greater reach of local produce through shared larger scale packaging techniques and equipment that have previously not been available. The feasibility study ensures the lab is a well-founded, scalable tool for rural resilience and innovation.
Brief Description (max 250 words)	The identification, outfitting and development of this lab will then enable broader outcomes over time: stronger farmer collaboration, preservation of traditional crops, easier access to local markets, and greater recognition of the value of artisanal products. "Sharing the Lab" is an innovative rural development initiative aimed at establishing a shared food processing and packaging laboratory for community cooperatives in Abruzzo. Designed to empower small-scale farmers—particularly those cultivating traditional mountain crops—the lab will reduce processing costs, improve market access, and foster sustainable,
	inclusive agricultural practices. Many cooperatives currently have small producers among their members, often of typical mountain products, with low productivity and difficult to



place on the market at the right price, so there is a great interest in packaging the products and in carrying out small food transformations, but the costs of identifying and opening a laboratory have always held back both individual producers and individual cooperatives.

The lab will be co-designed through a participatory process involving all 30 cooperatives in the BorghilN network. A feasibility study and business plan will guide the selection of a legally compliant location, appropriate equipment, and a financially sustainable management model. The project promotes economic resilience by enhancing economies of scale and enabling new value-added products for market distribution through local farmer markets and regional initiatives.

By supporting the cultivation of traditional crops, the lab contributes to biodiversity preservation, helps prevent land abandonment, and promotes climate adaptation through sustainable, low-emission agriculture. Social inclusion is central to the model, ensuring representation of women-led farms and informal female labor, and reinforcing community solidarity and fair food access.

The use of modern, digital equipment will increase production efficiency and quality, making local products more competitive. At the same time, the shared governance model strengthens the social and organisational fabric of rural areas by deepening collaboration among the BorghilN cooperatives.

Relevant RDD and RDD subcategory

- Sustainable Agrifood System and Ecosystem management
- Local services, health and wellbeing

Relevant Challenge/s

Mountain micro-chains challenge:

Design collaborative networks for sustainable Apennine agriculture

Specific

Activities

- 1. Conduct a feasibility study including all 30 cooperatives of the BorghilN network - research will be conducted on similar projects to learn from past experiences.
 - a. Form a group of 3 individuals to lead this study
 - b. Organise stakeholder meetings with cooperative leaders, farmers, and community members to gather input, promote collaboration, and encourage participation. Ensure that this core group contains individuals outside the cooperative so that the considerations of residents of different communities, women, youth, elderly, people with a disability, and other groups at risk of exclusion are included in the planning and development.



- c. Study comparable projects (especially among RURACTIVE Dynamos) to extract lessons learned and best practices.
- d. Ensure a focus on climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and biodiversity as individual topics to be discussed and addressed in each stage of the feasibility assessment
- e. Identify potential premises for the lab (minimum three options) that are in accordance with Italian laws and are accessible for a wide group of people (reused/refurbished buildings that can be multifunctional no new buildings) these will then be voted on by the members of the network to choose the most appropriate.
- f. Identify necessary equipment and machinery to equip the laboratory – consider requests of the individual cooperatives, identify the machinery that will allow greater economies of scale, or that will be useful to the largest possible number of cooperatives.

2. Business Plan

- a. Define capital and operational costs for the lab setup, including equipment, installation, and compliance expenses.
- b. Estimate ongoing maintenance and management costs.
- c. Establish usage fees for cooperatives to ensure long-term financial sustainability.
- d. Draft an Operational Plan outlining governance, access, logistics, and maintenance (rules around what can be sold/packaged, how it can be done, and how to ensure inclusivity and diversity).
- e. Draft a Marketing Plan for promotion, service outreach, and long-term user engagement.

3. Setting up the laboratory

- a. Finalize the acquisition or leasing of the selected location.
- b. Procure and install machinery based on cooperative requirements and feasibility findings.
- c. Equip the lab according to the business plan.
- d. Assign ownership of equipment to BorghilN, unless otherwise funded by the host cooperative.

4. Communication activities

- a. Develop a communication plan to publicize the lab and its services.
- b. Organize a press conference for the official launch.



c. Host promotional events including tastings, open houses, and product showcases.

d. Run seminars and outreach efforts at farmer markets and other relevant venues to promote lab use and the resulting products.

Targets

To measure the effectiveness of the activities, we will try to fix the following targets:

- Involvement of at least 5 community cooperatives and related products (at least 1 product per cooperative)
- Participation of at least 20 farmer producers, from at least 5 municipalities (in which each community-based cooperatives is based)
- Organization of at least 5 planning events in 5 different municipalities to involve farmers
- Organization of at least 2 press conferences, the first one to launch the project and the second at the opening of the lab
- Organization of at least 5 promotional events with tasting during the implementation of the project

Location of implementation

Abruzzo Region (Italy) [Several little villages/municipalities involved]

Geography and territorial context

- Mountain area
- Hilly

Integration of relevant crosscutting

1) Biodiversity

Thanks to the laboratory, small farmers will have the opportunity to reduce the costs of packaging and distribution of their products and will therefore be encouraged to maintain typical mountain crops, preserving the biodiversity that characterizes mountainous Abruzzo and contributing to the protection of the ecosystem, against the abandonment of cultivated land which constitutes a serious danger that even regional policies struggle to address.

2) Climate change adaptation and mitigation

The incentive to maintain typical mountain crops contributes to a more sustainable agriculture, with low emissions and less impact on land use. The reduction in sales costs will try to offset the increasingly high production costs, creating greater economic viability for small farmers.

3) Social justice and inclusion

There will be benefits for farmers, with the recognition of a better price for agricultural products, but also for the consumer, by enhancing the use of local food, more healthy and secure. The decision about where to locate the lab and which production should be in the lab will be decided in a democratic way among the network, with a process that will increase the inclusion and



the engagement of each community and of each participant. The common management of the lab will also increase the cooperation inside the network.

Forms of Innovation considered

Digital and technological

Thanks to a common work and unity, producers will be able to equip themselves with a laboratory with more modern, digital, advanced machinery capable of guaranteeing greater effectiveness and efficiency. A new or improved product or process whose technological characteristics are significantly different from previous ones.

Technical

The preparation of the laboratory will allow farmers to take advantage of new systems and techniques for the production and packaging of their products, in order to make them more attractive and desirable on the market.

Social, Organisational & Governance Innovation

The solution improves the structure and effectiveness of the existing network, introducing new ways in which farmers can collaborate and organize their work to improve its sustainability, to preserve biodiversity and to counter industrial agriculture. It encourages the creation of a stronger local network, strengthening collective action and creating social value, as well as preserving agricultural heritage, improving quality of life and social solidarity. The study and development phase of the business plan will contribute to the development of a more participatory decision-making structure, with a positive impact on resource management.

Financial & Business Model Innovation

The greatest financial innovation will be in improving resource allocation and risk management, with a huge growth in economies of scale. The development of a business plan will also be a useful exercise as an example for the creation of new businesses, with a clear marketing plan, capable of establishing better operational strategies. The possibility of using a common lab will give greater impetus to the creation of new transformed products, with greater possibilities of sale on the markets.

Gender Sensitive Planning aspects

Each activity in the framework of the project has no implication on any gender base, on the contrary is completely open to anyone, regardless of gender.

Moreover, two phenomena are quite common: many farms are leaded by women, while, in case they are not, others include the informal work of women, so the project will improve their connections and cooperation.

To assure a correct gender balance, the working group (3 persons) elaborating the feasibility study and the business plan should involve at least 1 woman. The need analysis of each cooperative will include experiences and practices by women, both in case they are leading the firm, then in the case



they are working (often informally and not officially). The final list of users of the shared lab should include a minimum number of women-leaded farms.

Resources/Capita Is needed

Natural Capital

- Biodiversity of the territory of Abruzzo
- Regional agricultural environment enabling short food supply chains

Cultural Capital

- Availability of diverse regional typical products, expression of the regional and local identity
- Experience in community-based models, in sharing services, in putting together resources, as base of our network

Built Capital

 Existing network of community-based cooperatives: we will first of all check the availability of already existing buildings of the network to host the network.

Social Capital

- Strong networks with local municipalities and community in general to inform farmers and involve them
- Established relationships with local producers' associations for participation, testing, and promotion

Human Capital

- Representatives of community-based cooperatives in the network, already existing working groups in Borghi IN Rete
- Educational institutions contributing to survey distribution, data evaluation, and pilot support

Financial Capital

- Access to a funding possibility by local bodies (Region Abruzzo thought the PSR and chamber of commerce periodically publish calls to support investment in lab for food)
- Potential in-kind and financial support from Borghi IN Rete

Main stakeholders involved and their contribution

Public stakeholders will be involved, in order to integrate the solution with local policies

Chamber of commerce of Chieti/Pescara and Chamber of commerce of Gran Sasso d'Italia: integration with local initiatives to help farmers in rural areas Slow Food association: promotion and policies to enhance production and consumption of local food products, integration with the system of "Presidi" that already includes several local and typical products.

GAL (Local Action Group): it is a local partnership composed of representatives of local socio-economic interests, both public and private, with the aim to promote the local development of a rural area, with several calls and opportunities of funds.



	Regional and National parks: contribution to the biodiversity individuation
	and conservation, local help to little farmers of typical mountain productions
	Taking into consideration to have new products, new packaging, additional
	production in the future, some stakeholders will be involved in order to reach
	additional marketplaces, such as:
	Ethical purchasing groups (GAS): development of the market for local
	products, to reach more consumers
	Farmer markets in cities like L'Aquila, Sulmona, Pescara, like "Mercato
	Contadino", "Campagna Amica" to increase the market base for our products
Main and other	Consumers (both local and generic)
Beneficiaries	Public bodies
	Local producers
Target groups at	■ Women
risk of exclusion	Young people
Timeframe (M to	1. Feasibility study
M)	M1-M8
,	2. Business Plan
	M9-M12
	3. Setting up the lab
	M13-M18
	4. Communication activities
	M1-M18
Indicative cost	1. Feasibility study 5.000 euro
	Internal and external staff costs
	2. Business plan 5.000 euro
	External professionals and services
	3. Setting up the food processing lab 30.000 euro
	This will include tools and machineries to set up the laboratory .The
	machinery purchased will be the property of BorghiIN, unless it is
	financed by the cooperative hosting the laboratory itself, which in
	this case will be the owner.
	4. Meetings/Involvement 10.000 euro
	Cost of tasting and promotional activities
Indicative	Feasibility study
funding sources	RURACTIVE project budget for external and internal experts to
Tanania sources	conduct the study among the network and to individuate best
	location and best equipment for the lab
	2. Business plan
	·
	We will use BorghilN own funds
	3. Setting up the food processing lab



The huge cost needs to be covered by public funds, using additional calls and projects. Possibility to use regional funds for agricultural services (PSR funds)

4. Communication activities We will use BorghilN own funds

Long Term Impact Assessment

Economic

Contribution to the economic growth of rural areas and municipalities, through the promotion of local products

Environmental

Consumption promotion of local products with the "farm to fork" approach, reduction of food waste and transportation costs and emissions, contributing to the mitigation of climate change. The project will also contribute to the education on agricultural biodiversity, to recover old and traditional crops, to recover unused and abandoned lands.

Social

The will be benefits for farmers, with the recognition of a better price for agricultural products, but also for consumer, by enhancing the use of local food, more healthy and secure.

Cultural

The project will push a change in the consideration of food and farmers by young generation

Engagement

Communication an Informing and involving farmers using the local community-based cooperatives, organizing meetings and events at municipal level, to present the project.

> Cooperation with existing networks (GAS, "Mercato contadino" and similar farmer markets) for the selling of the products.

> Use of social networks to promote the project activities and to inform farmers and possible consumers.

Press conference to present the project and at the launch of the lab.

Events in presence to promote the products

Sustainability consideration

- The solution has great sustainability potential, as the lab will be available for the community-based cooperatives involved in the long period
- Sustainability will depend on the feasibility study and the business plan elaboration: if those activities will be done in the proper way, the network will create the lab in the best place available (feasibility study) and with the best organizational and marketing plans for the future years.



- The availability of the lab could attract new members to join the network, as there is a general lack of labs in the whole territory (to be studied in the feasibility study)
- Tools and equipment are selected for durability and reusability to minimize resource consumption.
- Participating companies are encouraged to integrate the program into their long-term CSR and employee engagement strategies.
- Pilot documentation (e.g. photos, testimonials, feedback) creates a reusable foundation for future promotion and upscaling.
- Flexibility: in case of future needs, the lab equipment could be improved with new tools, also by reinvesting the money earned
- Repeatability: the lab could be also an example for other territories; even at regional level, considering the big extension of the network, the lab could be repeating in a different area, in order to be closer to the local community-based cooperatives (for example, if the lab will be close to L'Aquila, an additional lab could be useful close to cooperatives like Tufillo, San Giovanni and Fresagrandinaria, that are quite far away)

Synergies with other solutions

There could be synergies with solution n.4 on Mobility, as the mobility has a relevant role in the use of the lab and in reaching the markets in which the products are sold.

Synergies with solution 1 could be implemented, as the topics of "Narratives of community" are linked to traditional agricultural products and the result of the solution could be used to promote the consumption of products from the lab.

Synergies with local policies

National Plan for Recovering and Resilience (PNRR)

- Regional Rural Development Programme (PSR)

The solution is perfectly in line with many SDGs. In particular,

Synergies with EU policies when relevant

- SDG15 Life on land

- SDG13 Climate action

- SDG12 Responsible consumption and production

- SDG3 Good health and well-being

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

6.3. "Muoversi Abruzzo"

Objectives of the solution Objectives of the solution The general objective is to have a clear and shared need and territorial analysis on the base of the real needs of the inhabitants (and also visitors). This analysis should represent each group, on the base of the real data of the



population: migrants, women in total, women among migrants, school/university population, workers, retired people.

To respond to the mobility needs of the rural areas of inland Abruzzo, in particular of the small villages in the province of L'Aquila, making transport more accessible to the elderly and frail.

Specific objective

To determine from a needs and territorial assessment some possibilities for public investments, identifying the real needs of the population of small villages, enhancing our network of Community-based cooperatives and its social commitment to the communities as a whole.

Brief Description (max 250 words)

Funding currently has been allocated by the National Strategy for Internal Areas (SNAI) for the L'Aquila area (Campo Imperatore, Altopiano di Navelli and Media Valle dell'Aterno) for a project called "Muoversi Gran Sasso". This financing, did not take into account the needs and requirements of the communities involved, resulting in little adherence to reality, difficult to implement and with very disappointing prospects of results. As Borghi IN we therefore started a constant dialogue with SNAI, through meetings with the Community-based cooperatives of the Gran Sasso area (Calascio, Castel del Monte, Goriano Valli and Navelli) representing the inhabitants of the places involved. From these relationships with SNAI we also learned that similar funds had been allocated for other areas of Inner Abruzzo falling within the Strategy, so this problem is common to many of the areas in which the various Borghi IN cooperatives operate.

The idea is therefore twofold:

- on the one hand, to provide our area with a needs analysis and a feasibility study for mobility services

In this way, the "Muoversi Gran Sasso" project, which involves a network of public/private entities working to build a mobility service to support the elderly and frail, in connection with existing services and with a balance between services for citizens (weekdays) and for tourists and visitors (weekends and summer), would have a good chance of bringing benefits to the small municipalities involved. Specifically, the project involves 28 municipalities in the Subequana-Gran Sasso area, with a total population of 12,809 inhabitants.

- on the other hand, research and analyze all similar projects in other areas identified by the Strategy in Abruzzo, in order to extend the collaboration started and repeat the needs analysis and feasibility study for each area where there may be similar developments

Relevant RDD and RDD subcategory

Multimodal Mobility, Health and Wellbeing



Relevant	Creating a Shared Mobility Service
Challenge/s	
Specific	There will be two separate and interdependent phases.
Activities	1) Good practices research
	- Conduct a study on similar mobility initiatives in other groups of
	communities from around Italy
	- A second meeting will be conducted in each municipality to discuss
	the potential for implementation of
	- Then, analysis of costs and possible financial coverage sources will be
	studied
	2) Needs and territorial analysis analysis
	- A first series of meetings in presence in each municipality involved will
	be held (including beneficiaries and groups at risk of exclusion
	including women, youth, elderly, people with a disability) to
	determine the desires and needs of each community
	- Conduct surveys to determine the current needs of communities: ask
	about preferences in terms of travel modalities, transport needs and
	infrastructure, ask about awareness and CO2 emissions, issue of
	climate adaptation measures, changing weather patterns - snow,
	flood, etc, distance to shared mobility options, reasons for private
	vehicle usage, etc
	- Also collecting data around age, sex, group at risk of exclusion, as well
	as questions targeted to climate change and biodiversity awareness
	- Assess current state of art in terms of sustainable mobility options in
	the area
	- The needs analysis will conclude with a draft proposal of interventions
	to be discussed again within each community
Targets	- A meeting with each of the 28 municipalities to facilitate a needs
_	assessment
	- Include the involvement of at least 30% of the population of each
	municipality involved.
	- Collect at least 100 surveys with the data related to CCPs and
	demographic characteristics of participants
	- Research and analyse at least 5 similar projects from around Italy to
	gain a better understanding of best practice approaches
	- A follow up meeting with each of the 28 municipalities as part of the
	feasibility assessment
	- Create a shortlist of interconnected solutions proposals for
	implementation plans
Location of	First implementation in "Gran Sasso" area, involving 3 local district
implementation	individuated (Terre della Baronia with Calascio's and Castel del Monte's
p.cc.itation	



	cooperatives, Altopiano di Navelli with Navelli's cooperative and Media Valle
	dell'Aterno with Goriano Valli's cooperative) – Abruzzo region – Italy
Geography and	Mountain area
territorial	
context	
Integration of	1) Adaptation and mitigation of climate change:
relevant	One of the cornerstones of the solution is the search for answers to the
crosscutting	problem of mobility that are eco-sustainable. This is achieved through two
	measures: - reducing the number of trips in private cars, or sharing these
	means (often in small towns everyone travels alone by car), with a
	consequent reduction in consumption and fuel use;
	- offering alternative energy mobility services, via electric buses or shuttles,
	which therefore use clean energy to replace the use of private or even public
	cars with classic fuel.
	2) Biodiversity:
	The National Strategy for Internal Areas involves national and regional parks:
	Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park, Sirente-Velino Regional Park,
	Maiella National Park, Abruzzo National Park. The search for mobility
	solutions will also take into account the needs of visiting the aforementioned
	parks, but above all the needs of their territories to be protected and
	respected, through eco-sustainable services that take into account the animal
	and plant species protected by the parks themselves.
	3) Social justice and inclusion:
	Increase citizen participation, by offering local people the possibility to
	actively contribute to the transition towards more sustainable energy use and
	involvement, by strengthening collaboration between local communities and
	taking their needs more into account. This solution will save money, thanks
	to shared mobility opportunities, and make transport more accessible,

especially for the most vulnerable sections of the population, alongside significant other benefits related to road safety, a better work-life balance, and access to social services for the elderly.

Forms of Innovation considered

Technical Innovation

Innovation will be implicit in the outcome of the activities, with the search for innovative and eco-sustainable mobility solutions.

Financial Innovation

Mobility services in rural areas are always loss-making services; the feasibility study will try to identify possible strategies to reduce waste and optimize resources. The idea of trying to guide the choices of national and local politics from the bottom is an attempt to optimize these resources

Social, organizational and governance innovation

This is a first attempt to guide decisions on mobility services with a bottomup process, starting from the involvement of the "third sector".



Digital and Technological Innovation

The collection of needs will take place thanks to discussions and interviews, but online tools, such as questionnaires and video conferences, will be used in order to optimize research times and methods. For the inhabitants of small towns, the use of new technologies is not a given and participation mediated by digital devices involves a change in mentality, useful for preparing the citizens themselves to be users of future mobility services, through new technologies.

Gender Sensitive Planning aspects

Mobility services planning takes into account the needs of women in rural areas, especially migrant families.

One of the most difficult aspects to address will be gathering the needs of migrant women, who are often not used to openly communicating with strangers. The research team itself will need to have gender parity, so that for this category of beneficiaries there is at least one woman in charge of carrying out dialogues and interviews.

A part of the analysis will therefore need to be dedicated to these specific aspects, mapping the frequency and reasons why women (especially caregivers, mothers and migrant women) travel and what obstacles they encounter (for example, time constraints, lack of safe transport, limited digital access).

In data collection, it will be necessary for the people interviewed to be equally divided between women and men, not only as an aggregate data, but at all levels: overall equity, equity among migrant people, equity in age categories, equity in worker categories, so as not to overlook the gender implications in any social group considered.

The feasibility study will then have to take this analysis into account and propose appropriate responses.

Resources/Capit als needed

Cultural: sense of community in each municipality, relationships already created within Borghi IN network

Natural capital: the individuated area is situated in part inside the Gran Sasso National Park, in part in the Velino-Sirente Regional Park, and in the little area located in-between

Built capital: Local building of each community-based cooperative could be used to manage the project, for example to host meetings

Social: connections within the network

Human: local inhabitants, expert on feasibility study, need analysis, surveys among the network's members.

Financial: the SNAI project is a unique opportunity to use a great amount of money in this field in this area, so this project has a great potential, if we manage to use our need analysis and feasibility study with a bottom up approach to guide the use of this funds



Main	 Municipalities of Navelli, Tione degli Abruzzi, Castel del Monte and
stakeholders	Calascio: these municipalities will be involved to individuate all the
involved and	possible beneficiaries of the mobility services, to make interview,
their	meetings and to inform them about the project in the area of
contribution	"Muoversi Gran Sasso"
	 Gran Sasso National Park and Sirente-Velino Regional Park will be
	involved in the feasibility study to take into consideration the
	sustainability aspect and the protection of the biodiversity of the
	territory
	 Public transportation bodies (TUA Abruzzo) to integrate the public
	mobility services with us
Main and other	Residents (inhabitants)
Beneficiaries	The service aims to collect and analyse the needs for residents, to connect
	the internal and peripheral areas with the reference urban centres, helping
	to promote the movement from the centre to the outskirts.
Target groups at	■ Women
risk of exclusion	Older people
	Migrants and minorities
Timeframe (M to	Need analysis M1-M8
M)	- Planning the activity: M1-M3
	- First meetings in presence in each municipality involved: M4-M5
	- Interviews with possible beneficiaries M6-M7
	 Second meetings in each municipality M7
	- Need analysis completion M8
	Feasibility study M9-M18
	- From the need analysis to a first draft proposal of possible
	interventions M9-M10
	- Meetings with beneficiaries M10-M12
	 Analysis of costs and possible financial coverage sources M13-M15
	- Feasibility study completion M16-M18
Indicative cost	Need analysis 5.000 euro
	Feasibility study 10.000 euro
Indicative	The ideal situation would be to find the financial resources inside RURACTIVE
funding sources	project. If not enough, Borghi IN will cover extra costs.
Long Term	Economic: through the improvement of the transportation and
Impact	mobility services, there will be an improvement of business
Assessment	opportunities; reduction of the cost of mobility and transportation
	Environmental: improved mobility system with ecological
	sustainability, promotion attitudes towards nature conservation and
	green mobility, reduction of pollution and energy consumption



	Social: improvement of the quality of life in little villages, better
	services for young, elderly and migrants
	Cultural: better awareness about habits and the impact of transport use;
	change in attitudes, improvement of quality of life in little villages in
	comparison with big centres
Communication	Dedicated website, APP development, inclusion of local actors in the initial
and	phase
Engagement	
Sustainability	The main problem Is that the project is not economically sustainable without
consideration	public funds, both in time (future survival) than in the space (replicability in
	other areas)
	To date, the travel market is very latent and not very explicit also because
	there are no valid solutions that allow its sustainability.
	The service cannot therefore be read in the sole dimension of travel but in a
	much broader and more extensive form as a response to a complex and
	articulated range of needs, becoming in fact a real added value for the
	inhabitants, to the point of representing a social taxi service or even a
	reserved service from one's home to the real destination or a real plus for the
	users.
	For economic sustainability, it is necessary to measure the service not only
	on the ticket but rather as a combination of accessory services that make a
	single trip possible under the conditions of effective cost coverage.
Synergies with	This solution has a close connection with solution n.3 on Shared Proximity
other solutions	Service Hub, as mobility is one of the several proximity services, with a bigger
	relevance, as mobility is a basic need to offer other kind of services.
Synergies with	The project is in the process to be developed in a great synergy with local
local policies	public bodies and with the involvement of the Regional Transportation
	services.
Synergies with	The solution is perfectly in line with many SDGs. In particular,
EU policies when	- SDG11 Sustainable cities and communities
relevant	- SDG10 Reduced inequalities
	- SDG3 Good health and well-being

