



D6.3

Comprehensive report on funded activities and impact assessment



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Deliverable leader and key author(s)	Markéta Kollerová, Tomáš Mildorf
Contributors and authors	Open Calls beneficiaries, WP6 leaders
Peer reviewers	John O'Flaherty, (MAC), David Pešek (CVUT), Petra Skalská (CVUT), Petra Ritschelová (CVUT)
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Brief abstract	This deliverable provides a comprehensive assessment of the PoliRuralPlus Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) programme, detailing the operational execution, technical deliverables, and pilot-level outcomes of 26 funded third-party projects across four Open Call phases. It evaluates the effectiveness of the cascade funding instrument through beneficiaries' feedback and sets out key lessons learned and recommendations for future regional innovation programs.

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
AEMET	Agencia Estatal de Meteorología (State Meteorological Agency, Spain)
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AKIS	Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System
AOI	Area of Interest
API	Application Programming Interface
AUA	Agricultural University of Athens
AUEB	Athens University of Economics and Business
AWS	Amazon Web Services
CEPF	Confederation of European Forest Owners



CJ	Consiliul Județean (County Council, Romania)
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development
DL	Deep Learning
DMO	Destination Management Organisation
DSP	Direcția de Sănătate Publică (Public Health Directorate, Romania)
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
EFI	European Forest Institute
EPSG	European Petroleum Survey Group (Geodetic Parameter Dataset)
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
EU	European Union
EUDR	European Union Deforestation Regulation
FastMCP	Fast Model Context Protocol
FSTP	Financial Support to Third Parties
GAL / LAG	Gruppo di Azione Locale / Local Action Group
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCD	Human-Centred Design
IoT	Internet of Things
ISJ	Inspectoratul Școlar Județean (County School Inspectorate, Romania)
ISRIC	International Soil Reference and Information Centre
IT	Information Technology
KIPA	Kytherian Foundation for Culture and Development

KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LLM	Large Language Model
LoRaWAN	Long Range Wide Area Network
LPIS	Land Parcel Identification System
LTVRA	Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas
MAAT	Multi-Actor Approach Tool
MCC	Monaghan County Council
MCP	Model Context Protocol
MIRRI	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization - SK
ML	Machine Learning
MQTT	Message Queuing Telemetry Transport
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NEB	New European Bauhaus
NER	Named Entity Recognition
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPK	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium
NSO	National Statistics Office (Malta)
OAuth	Open Authorization
OWL	Web Ontology Language
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
PostGIS	PostgreSQL Spatial Extension
PWA	Progressive Web Application
QGIS	Quantum Geographic Information System
RAG	Retrieval-Augmented Generation
RAIM	Regional Development Indicators Module (Latvia)
RAP	Regional Action Plan

RDF	Resource Description Framework
REA	European Research Executive Agency
SEO	Search Engine Optimization
SFSC	Short Food Supply Chain
SIH	Slovak Investment Holding
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
SPARQL	SPARQL Protocol and RDF Query Language
SRID	Spatial Reference System Identifier
SSO	Single Sign-On
SUS	System Usability Scale
TAM2	Extended Technology Acceptance Model
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
UAT	User Acceptance Testing
ÚHÚL	Forest Management Institute (Ústav pro hospodářskou úpravu lesů, Czechia)
UNIWA	University of West Attica
UX	User Experience
VSR	Slovak Rural Parliament
VPR	Vidzeme Planning Region
WCS	Web Coverage Service
WKT	Well-Known Text



Executive summary

The PoliRuralPlus Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) programme allocated €850,968¹ across 26 third-party projects to advance sustainable, data-driven rural-urban development across 14 European countries. Implemented through a progressive four-stage innovation pathway - Outreach, Mobilise, Develop, and Enhance - the programme engaged local actors, developers, farmers, and regional authorities to build software applications, deploy IoT sensor networks, and validate the project's flagship GeoAI tool, JackDaw.

The programme operated through competitive phases aligned with the nine PoliRuralPlus pilot regions. The Outreach Call focused on gathering grassroots ideas and mapping local stakeholder needs. The Mobilise Call supported community hackathons and ideathons to mobilize regional actors and IT experts. The Develop Call funded applied software engineering to create operational digital applications. Finally, the Enhance Call supported real-world operational validation, user experience testing, and digital capacity building centered on the JackDaw platform.

Across the four Open Calls, 339 applications were received. Thirty proposals were approved following the evaluation process, of which 26 proceeded to the funded project portfolio assessed in this deliverable. This corresponds to an approval rate of 8.85% at the selection stage and a final funded-project rate of 7.67%. The 26 funded projects comprised six Outreach, seven Mobilise, six Develop and seven Enhance projects.

The funded initiatives delivered key achievements across multiple thematic areas. In regional governance, projects deployed structured indicator frameworks and open mapping tools, such as ARISE in Spain hosting 148 digital itineraries and LocalLinks.AI in Czechia mapping 460 supplier-customer relationships across 175 producers. To digitalize short food supply chains, applications like Italy's Field2Fork AI Hub deployed e-commerce platforms with conversational AI assistants, while Malta's MALTESE platform streamlined direct produce sales for local farmers. In climate resilience, FloodAI+ in Portugal built a multilingual flood risk screening tool, and Finland's Avoin-Map released open-source web map services for building energy efficiency and land-use carbon impacts. Finally, Enhance projects thoroughly validated the JackDaw GeoAI platform under operational conditions. Netherlands-based SYLVAN-AI integrated a 265 GB PostGIS database of 442 million European cadastral parcels to reduce spatial analysis time by 96%, while Spain's AGROJACK connected live LoRaWAN soil sensors directly to JackDaw to deliver real-time agronomic advice.

While this deliverable (D6.3) provides a comprehensive synthesis of the operational execution, technical deliverables, and pilot-level outcomes of the funded Open Call projects, the comprehensive, macro-level impact assessment, long-term socio-economic evaluation, cross-pilot synergies, and overarching integration into the broader PoliRuralPlus framework will be covered in detail in Deliverable D6.4: Analysis of the third parties' efforts, results, impacts, and synergies and integration into PoliRuralPlus.

¹ Minor differences are due to rounding of individual project values



1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and scope of the report

The primary purpose of Deliverable D6.3 (*Comprehensive Report on Funded Activities and Impact Assessment*) is to systematically document and evaluate the operational execution, technical deliverables, and third-party impacts generated through the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism under the PoliRuralPlus project. This report covers the four competitive Open Calls - Outreach, Mobilise, Develop, and Enhance - which allocated €850,968 across 26 sub-granted projects.

D6.3 assesses the implementation of the FSTP programme, the outputs of the funded projects, beneficiaries' experience, technical validation and immediate/project-level outcomes observable within the Open Call implementation period. D6.4 provides the complementary project-level synthesis of third-party efforts, broader impacts, cross-project and cross-pilot synergies, integration with the PoliRuralPlus ecosystem, and longer-term implications. Accordingly, D6.3 should be read primarily as an assessment of FSTP execution and early outcomes rather than as the final evaluation of all long-term socio-economic impacts generated by third-party support.

This document serves the following operational and analytical functions:

- **Financial and administrative accountability:** Providing full transparency on the management of Horizon Europe cascade funding, detailing the administrative pipeline, proposal volumes, selection workflows, and geographical distribution of the beneficiaries.
- **Third-party activity synthesis:** Documenting the technical deliverables, engagement activities, and communication outputs produced by external beneficiaries across the four call phases.
- **Third-party impact assessment:** Evaluating the direct socio-economic, technical, and environmental outcomes achieved specifically by the third-party initiatives within their targeted pilot contexts (a dedicated, separate report addresses the overarching impact assessment for the broader PoliRuralPlus project objectives).
- **Ecosystem technology validation:** Consolidating real-world user testing, integration results, and technical feedback gathered on core PoliRuralPlus technologies, specifically the JackDaw GeoAI agent, the Multi-Actor Approach Tool (MAAT), and related spatial toolboxes.
- **Replicability & lessons learned:** Compiling best practices, user journey insights, and open-source assets to support future technical replication and knowledge transfer across European regions.

This deliverable is primarily intended for the European Research Executive Agency (REA) to verify FSTP compliance, as well as PoliRuralPlus consortium partners and regional stakeholders seeking to integrate third-party tools, datasets, and lessons into regional actions.

1.2 Overview of the Open Calls

The PoliRuralPlus project implemented a Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) programme through a series of four Open Calls: **Outreach**, **Mobilise**, **Develop**, and **Enhance**. The Open Calls were designed to extend the impact of the project beyond the consortium by engaging external organisations in the development, testing, validation, and dissemination of innovative solutions addressing rural-urban challenges across Europe.

The Open Calls targeted different stages of innovation and stakeholder engagement. Together, they created a pathway from awareness raising and community mobilisation to the development and validation of practical



digital solutions that contribute to sustainable, inclusive, and place-based rural-urban development. The calls were closely linked to the needs of the nine PoliRuralPlus pilot regions and supported the broader objectives of the project, including digital transformation, stakeholder participation, innovation uptake, and evidence-based policy development.

1.2.1 Objectives of the Open Calls

The overall objective of the Open Calls programme was to expand the reach and impact of PoliRuralPlus by supporting external actors capable of contributing innovative ideas, technologies, and approaches to rural-urban development. Specifically, the Open Calls aimed to:

- Encourage innovative and transferable approaches to rural development that can be replicated or scaled across different regions;
- Promote collaboration among stakeholders from different sectors, including technology providers, public authorities, research organisations, civil society organisations, farmers, and regional development actors;
- Generate practical solutions and new knowledge that can support policy development and implementation at local, regional, and European levels;
- Foster the development and deployment of digital tools and applications addressing pilot-specific challenges;
- Strengthen stakeholder engagement and community participation through collaborative innovation activities;
- Support the uptake and validation of PoliRuralPlus digital tools and services, including the JackDaw GeoAI platform and related project technologies.

1.2.2 Funding scheme

The Open Calls were implemented under the Horizon Europe Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism. Four calls were launched during the project:

- **Outreach call** (June–August 2024), focusing on strengthening rural-urban interactions and supporting grassroots innovation initiatives;
- **Mobilise call** (January–March 2025), focusing on community-driven innovation activities, hackathons, ideathons, and stakeholder mobilisation using PoliRuralPlus tools;
- **Develop call** (May–July 2025), supporting the development and deployment of digital applications addressing pilot-specific rural-urban challenges;
- **Enhance call** (September–December 2025), supporting real-world validation and user testing of the JackDaw GeoAI solution.

The calls were open to legal entities established in EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries. Depending on the specific call, applications could be submitted either by individual organisations or, in the case of the Develop Call, by consortia of up to three partners. Funding was allocated through competitive evaluation procedures, with grants awarded to projects demonstrating strong relevance, feasibility, innovation potential, and expected impact.



1.2.3 Selection process

All Open Calls followed a transparent and competitive selection process. Applicants submitted proposals through the PoliRuralPlus Knowledge Hub using a standard application package consisting of an administrative section and a technical proposal. The technical proposal described the project objectives, implementation approach, expected outcomes, stakeholder involvement, and budget justification.

Submitted proposals were assessed against predefined evaluation criteria covering three principal dimensions:

- Objectives – relevance to the call objectives and the needs of the designated pilot region;
- Impact – expected benefits for rural-urban communities, innovation potential, stakeholder engagement, sustainability, and scalability;
- Implementation – quality and feasibility of the work plan, operational capacity of the applicants, and appropriateness of the proposed budget.

Only proposals meeting the eligibility requirements and minimum quality thresholds were considered for funding. Successful projects entered into sub-grant agreements with the PoliRuralPlus coordinator (CVUT) and were required to deliver technical outputs, communication activities, and final reports documenting the results achieved and lessons learned during implementation.

2. Overview of funded projects

2.1 Open Calls design

The open calls are managed through a structured, step-by-step procedure designed to effectively guide external projects from selection to final integration. The process begins with regional alignment, where applicants tailor their proposals to address the specific, practical needs of the nine designated pilot regions. Following competitive selection, approved applicants sign a sub-grant agreement and complete an onboarding process to launch their initiatives.

During the implementation phase - which typically runs between three and nine months - projects execute their planned activities, moving from community hackathons and software development to real-world AI testing. Funding is delivered through a milestone-based system, with payments released upon the successful submission and approval of required technical reports, media outputs, or data packages. The procedure concludes with a knowledge-transfer phase, where the newly generated data and digital solutions are integrated directly back into the main PoliRuralPlus platform for wider European use.

2.1.1 Outreach call

Objectives: To foster grassroots innovation in rural-urban interactions and uncover unique regional ideas that redefine these relationships. It aimed to leverage local insights across key EU regions to strengthen rural-urban synergies, gather innovative development strategies, and expand the PoliRuralPlus stakeholder database.



Funding scheme:

- Budget: Fixed lump sum of €5,000 per project.
- Beneficiaries: Single legal entities located within designated EU pilot regions.

Eligible activities: Organizing regional workshops, brainstorming, gathering and documenting innovative grassroots ideas, mapping local intricacies, and formulating micro-proposals or strategic solutions that address regional rural-urban dynamics.

2.1.2 Mobilise call

Objectives: To leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Deep Learning (DL) for community-driven innovation. Funded projects are designed to promote, validate, and extend PoliRuralPlus tools within pilot regions by bringing together local stakeholders, tech experts, and regional advisors.

Funding scheme:

- Budget: Fixed lump sum of €10,000 per project (Max 9 projects funded, one per pilot region).
- Beneficiaries: Single legal entities (consortia are not eligible) established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Eligible activities:

- Defining at least two regional rural-urban themes or challenges.
- Organizing and facilitating a local/regional hackathon, datathon, or ideathon (online or in-situ).
- Engaging local IT experts, community representatives, and policymakers.
- Providing technical mentoring on PoliRuralPlus tools (e.g., JackDaw Chatbot, Map Whiteboard, Policy Advisor) and documenting outcomes via mandatory reports and media outputs (blog and social media posts).

2.1.3 Develop call

Objectives: To fund applied, small-scale innovation projects that translate promising concepts into working digital tools. These projects had to deploy practical, place-based digital applications that integrate advanced technologies, support New European Bauhaus (NEB) values (sustainability, inclusion, aesthetics), and interface smoothly with the overarching PoliRuralPlus ecosystem.

Funding scheme:

- Budget: €30,000 to €100,000 per project.
- Beneficiaries: Open to single legal entities *or* small consortia of up to three entities.

**Eligible activities:**

- Developing, testing, and deploying operational digital applications (utilizing AI, Machine Learning, IoT, GIS, or data-driven decision tools) in real or near-real conditions.
- Building software or tools that align with specific regional pilot goals (e.g., circular economy in Ireland, short food supply chains in Italy, or smart precision farming in the Czech-Bavarian region).
- Ensuring technical interoperability and feeding newly collected data back into the project's data architectures (like the JackDaw platform).

2.1.4 Enhance call

Objectives: Specifically dedicated to testing, validating, and optimizing **JackDaw** (the project's flagship GeoAI conversational map-agent). The goal was to apply JackDaw to real-world contexts, collect structured end-user feedback regarding usability, and build digital capacity among regional actors.

Funding scheme:

- Budget: Fixed lump sum of up to €25,000 per project.
- Beneficiaries: Single legal entities only (SMEs, NGOs, public authorities, research organizations, or self-employed individuals).

Eligible activities:

- Applying the JackDaw GeoAI chatbot to real use cases such as regional policy-making, spatial planning, local research, or community engagement.
- Gathering and submitting structured user feedback via dedicated online forms and compiling a detailed 10–15 page Final Validation Report outlining user journeys and UX barriers.
- Conducting training sessions to improve local actors' digital skills regarding AI-based map analysis.

Project	Country	Lead organisation	Funding (€)	Theme	Project duration
OUTREACH CALL					
GREEN: Green Resources Economic & Environment Networking	IE	McAdam Consulting Services Ltd	5.000	Circular economy and green business opportunities through stakeholder networking and resource collaboration	10/2024-12/2024
DigiStake: Digital Stakeholders	SK	CEDA -Culture and Education Association	5.000	Digital stakeholder collaboration platform to support rural digitalisation, agricultural modernisation and community engagement	10/2024-12/2024

DEMO: Diffusion of the short supply chain: from rural to urban systems	IT	Cluster Srl	5.000	Strengthening short food supply chains by connecting rural producers with urban markets through multi-actor networks	10/2024-12/2024
FarmTourist: Recapturing Connections within Czech - Bavarian Borderlands	CZ	Úhlava, o. p. s.	5.000	Cross-border rural tourism and local product promotion linking agriculture, tourism and regional cooperation	10/2024-12/2024
EDQMS VR: Economic Development Quality Monitoring System for the Vidzeme Region	LV	InnoMatrix Ltd.	5.000	Economic development monitoring and stakeholder-driven governance to support sustainable regional growth	10/2024-12/2024
AgriFusion	MT	The Veg Box Ltd	5.000	Sustainable agriculture, food security and stronger rural-urban food system connections through stakeholder collaboration	10/2024-12/2024
MOBILISE CALL					
AI4RURAL Ideathon: Promoting AI-Driven Solutions for Rural-Urban Development in Castilla-La Mancha	ES	Itecam	10.000	AI-driven innovation for rural-urban development through stakeholder ideation and entrepreneurship	06/2025-11/2025
DIPS: Digital Innovation for Pošumaví and Šumava	CZ	Úhlava, o. p. s.	10.000	Digital innovation and stakeholder collaboration to support sustainable regional development	06/2025-11/2025
D2D: From Data to Decisions: A Pilot Framework for Enhancing Regional Development Evaluation	LV	NovoFutura	9.870	Data-driven decision-making and regional development monitoring for evidence-based governance	06/2025-11/2025
INCO: Intelligent Consumption	IT	Virgolettare di Rocco Devito	10.000	Smart and sustainable consumption using digital solutions to strengthen rural-urban value chains	06/2025-11/2025
M-ATI: MaYA Agri-Tech Ideathon	MT	Malta Youth in Agriculture Foundation	10.000	Agri-tech innovation and youth entrepreneurship to support sustainable	06/2025-11/2025

				agriculture and rural development	
Go Mallusjoki!: An Ideathon for AI-powered Rural Event Industry Ecosystem	FI	Avoyn Ry	10.000	AI-enabled innovation for rural event ecosystems, community engagement and local economic development	06/2025-11/2025
RURBAN Challenge: Smart Rural-Urban Agritourism Challenge - Central Greece	GR	Open Farm P.C.	10.000	Smart agritourism solutions connecting rural and urban areas through innovation and stakeholder collaboration	06/2025-11/2025
DEVELOP CALL					
ARISE: Archaeological Routes for Inclusive Synergy & Entrepreneurship	ES	Obsidian Innovation Institute - Associação	92.138	AI-powered rural innovation ecosystem supporting entrepreneurship, stakeholder collaboration and sustainable regional development	10/2025-07/2026
LocalLinks.AI: Smart Mapping and Activation of Short Food Supply Chains in Rural -Urban Regions	CZ	Šumavaprodukt s.r.o.	99.775	AI-enabled platform strengthening local value chains, community connections and rural-urban collaboration	10/2025-07/2026
Field2Fork AI Hub: Bridging Apulia's Rural Roots and Urban Markets	IT	EXO Soc. Cons. a r.l.	91.563	AI-driven farm-to-fork solutions improving sustainable food systems and agricultural value chains	10/2025-07/2026
MALTESE: Malta Agro-Leadership & Tech Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Empowerment	MT	Projektberatung und Management Expert Assoziation	99.978	Digital innovation ecosystem supporting sustainable agriculture, local entrepreneurship and rural resilience	10/2025-07/2026
Avoyn-Map: Open-Source Spatial Tools for Smart Rural-Urban Development	FI	Avoyn Ry	93.750	Open geospatial platform for participatory planning, community engagement and rural-urban development	10/2025-07/2026
DASK: Digital Agricultural Skills and Knowledge for Kythera	GR	DASKALOS APPS	100.000	AI-supported decision support and digital tools for sustainable rural development and	10/2025-07/2026

				stakeholder collaboration	
ENHANCE CALL					
SYLVAN-AI: Validating JackDaw for Inclusive Sustainable Forestry and Rural Land Management	NL	Sylvanity B.V.	25.000	AI-supported forestry and rural land management through conversational access to geospatial and environmental data	02/2026-07/2026
GeoEDUHealth Access - Bacău: Validation of JackDaw GeoAI for Territorial Accessibility	RO	SC MEDIA TREND SRL	25.000	Assessment of regional accessibility to healthcare and education services using AI-enhanced geospatial analysis	02/2026-07/2026
FloodAI+: Validating the JackDaw GeoAI chatbot for rural-urban flood resilience	PT	Porvalor	25.000	AI-powered interpretation of flood risks and hazard data for citizens, farmers, businesses, and planners	02/2026-07/2026
AURA: Assessment of Urban–Rural AI	GR	Synapsi - Anthropokentrik es Lyseis Technologias	23.895	AI-driven territorial planning and decision support for urban–rural development scenarios	02/2026-07/2026
J-VERSE: JackDaw Validation in Real Spatial Environments	CY	Catalink Limited	25.000	Validation of AI-based territorial analysis through environmental monitoring, user testing, and IoT-supported microclimate assessment	02/2026-07/2026
AgroJack: From Farm to Visitor: JackDaw for Agricultural Decision-Support and Tourism Services	ES	Espacio SOA SLU	25.000	AI-enhanced agricultural management and rural tourism services through geo-contextualised digital tools	02/2026-07/2026
eMooJI: enhanced MooFind JackDaw Intelligence	DE	Moofind UG	25.000	Participatory AI solutions for pasture management, landscape monitoring, and digital transformation in agriculture	02/2026-07/2026

Table 1: Overview of projects funded within PoliRuralPlus Open Calls Outreach, Mobilise, Develop, and Enhance



2.2 Distribution of funding

The external funding programme allocated a total of €850,968 across 26 projects, distributing resources progressively through four targeted open call phases. Financial support was heavily concentrated in the **Develop Call**, which accounted for over 68% of the total budget to prioritize technical realization and regional digital tool deployment. Geographically, **Greece, Spain, Malta, and Czechia** emerged as the primary funding recipients, driven by their successful participation in higher-tier digital development initiatives. From a thematic perspective, the project explicitly prioritized **Regional Governance & Monitoring** alongside **Short Food Supply Chains**, directing over half of the entire financial envelope toward data-driven decision tools and integrated urban-rural logistics.

The €850,968 reported in this deliverable represents the final eligible value associated with the 26 projects included in the final FSTP portfolio. For financial transparency, this figure should be distinguished from the total FSTP envelope originally foreseen under the Grant Agreement and from any amounts associated with proposals approved but not subsequently contracted. Any residual or reallocated FSTP amount is accounted for through verified project financial-management.

2.2.1 Distribution of funding by Open Call

This table highlights how the total funding envelope of **€850,968** was divided across the four strategic phases of the project.

Open call phase	Number of projects	Total funding (€)	Percentage of total funding
Outreach call	6	30,000	3.53%
Mobilise call	7	69,870	8.21%
Develop call	6	577,203	67.83%
Enhance call	7	173,895	20.43%
Total	26	850,968	100.00%

Table 2: Distribution of funding by Open Call

Distribution of Funding by Open Call Phase

Total Allocated Funding: 850 968.05 €

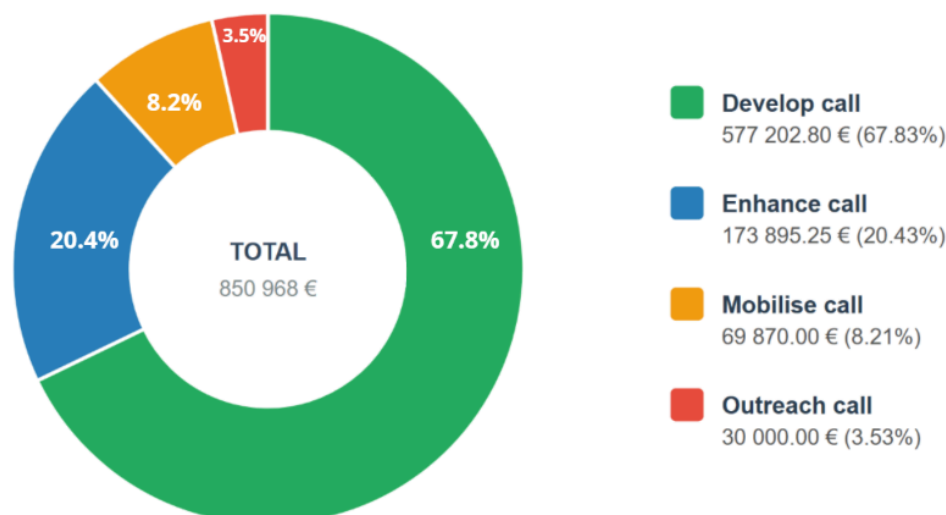


Figure 1: Distribution of Funding by Open Call

2.2.2 Funding by target country / region

For interpretation of the geographical analysis, four concepts should be distinguished: **beneficiary country**, referring to the legal location of the funded third party; **target pilot region**, referring to the PoliRuralPlus regional challenge addressed; **implementation/test location**, referring to where the activity or technology was actually tested; and **replication geography**, referring to additional areas where transfer is proposed or subsequently demonstrated. These categories may not coincide for an individual project.

This table tracks how funds were distributed geographically. It ranks regions from highest to lowest based on total external funding received.

Beneficiary country	Number of projects	Total funding received (€)
Greece (GR)	3	133,895
Spain (ES)	3	127,138
Malta (MT)	3	114,978
Czechia (CZ)	3	114,775
Finland (FI)	2	103,750
Italy (IT)	3	106,563

Cyprus (CY)	1	25,000
Germany (DE)	1	25,000
Netherlands (NL)	1	25,000
Portugal (PT)	1	25,000
Romania (RO)	1	25,000
Latvia (LV)	2	14,870
Ireland (IE)	1	5,000
Slovakia (SK)	1	5,000

Table 3: Distribution by beneficiary country

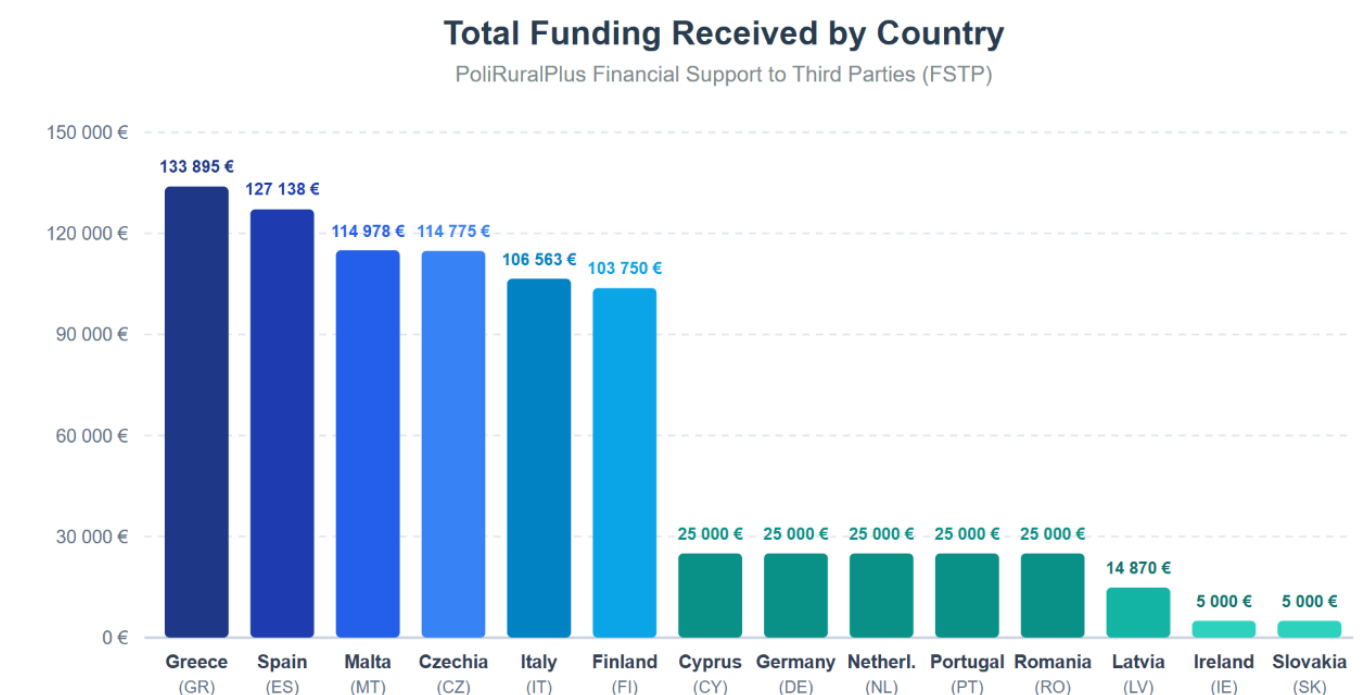


Figure 2: Distribution by beneficiary country

2.2.3 Funding by thematic area

Projects have been clustered into macro-thematic pillars based on their main focus to illustrate where financial resources were prioritized.



Each funded project has been assigned to the thematic category representing its principal intervention focus for the purpose of portfolio analysis. Several projects addressed more than one theme; consequently, the classification should be understood as an analytical simplification rather than an assertion that each project contributed exclusively to a single thematic area.

Thematic area	Number of projects	Total funding (€)
Regional governance & monitoring (e.g., spatial analysis, tool validation, regional KPIs)	7	282,644
Short food supply chains (e.g., local farm-to-fork apps, market connections)	4	206,338
Sustainable agriculture & food systems (e.g., agritech, pasture management)	4	139,978
Digital collaboration & regional digitalisation (e.g., networking hubs, IT frameworks)	4	117,008
Circular economy & green business (e.g., flood resilience, resource optimization)	3	55,000
Rural tourism & agritourism (e.g., regional visibility, event eco-systems)	4	50,000

Table 4: Distribution by thematic area

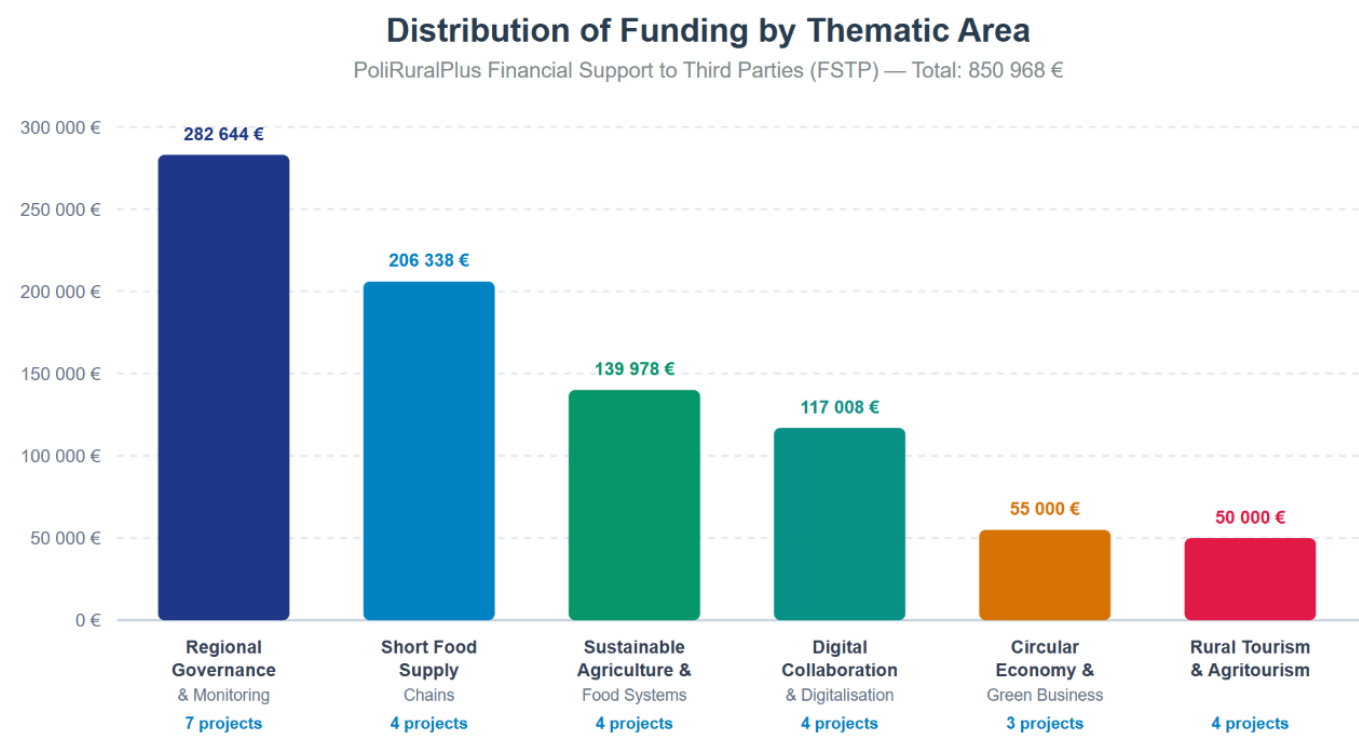


Figure 3: Distribution by thematic area

2.3 Portfolio of funded projects

This chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of the external projects funded under the PoliRuralPlus Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) program. It outlines the standardized, Horizon Europe-modeled evaluation pipeline and the strict three-pillar criteria: Objectives, Impacts, and Implementation used to score proposals. Finally, it presents the official participation metrics, detailing how the programme managed 339 applications to select 30 high-impact projects, resulting in an overall selection success rate of 8.85%.

2.3.1 Evaluation methodology

The evaluation process operates through a multi-step sequence designed to filter proposals from submission through to final funding approval:

- **Eligibility check:** Every submitted proposal first underwent an automated and manual eligibility review to verify entity compliance, country eligibility, submission limits, and strict adherence to strict page/language rules.
- **Independent expert review:** To eliminate bias, eligible applications were assigned to a panel of independent external and internal experts who conducted individual evaluations, assigning qualitative text feedback alongside quantitative marks.
- **AI pre-screening** (Develop & Enhance Call Specific): In instances of high application volumes during the Develop and Enhance Call, an AI-based pre-screening tool was used exclusively as an initial filter for



clustering, completeness, and baseline relevance; this was always followed by manual evaluation from two human experts.

- **Consensus & panel review:** The individual evaluations were fed into a central consensus panel composed of selected PoliRuralPlus project experts. This panel cross-checked consistency across all submissions, resolves scoring anomalies, and finalizes a single ranking list.
- **Quality thresholds:** To be considered for funding, proposals had to meet strict quality ceilings. A proposal had to score at least 3.0 out of 5.0 in every single individual category and hit a minimum cumulative threshold of 11.0 out of 15.0 points overall.
- **Geographical priority & tiebreakers:** Priority was heavily given to funding one proposal per pilot region. If an absolute tie occurs within a region, the following tiebreakers were applied to determine the winning project:
 - *Outreach Call:* The proposal demonstrating higher, more ambitious Impact KPIs is selected.
 - *Mobilise & Develop Calls:* Preference goes to the project with stronger relevance to the overarching PoliRuralPlus ecosystem, particularly the explicit integration of the project's digital technologies and tools.
 - *Enhance Call:* Priority is awarded to projects displaying the clearest validation outcomes and broader stakeholder engagement depth.

Evidence sources used in the assessment.

Findings in D6.3 draw on several evidence types: (i) contractual and administrative Open Call records; (ii) beneficiaries' technical deliverables and final reports; (iii) platform, application or technical performance data where available; (iv) beneficiaries' survey responses; and (v) WP6 synthesis and assessment. These evidence types have different strengths. Statements derived from beneficiaries' questionnaires are identified as self-reported, while technical or quantitative claims are linked, where possible, to project deliverables, system measurements or other verifiable records.

To enhance transparency and distinguish between independently verified metrics and self-reported estimations, an 'Evidence source' column has been integrated into the comparative synthesis tables (Tables 7 and 8), categorizing the primary evidentiary foundation for each reported output and outcome.

2.3.2 Selection criteria

Proposals were systematically scored across three core dimensions using a 0 to 5 scale (with 0.5 steps), evaluating the comprehensive viability of the submission rather than individual isolated points.

Pillar 1: Objectives (0–5 Points)

This criterion measures the baseline alignment, relevance, and innovative nature of the proposed project.

- **Problem Definition:** The clarity with which the proposal frames a specific rural-urban challenge and demonstrates immediate relevance to the designated pilot region's unique priorities.
- **Harnessing Advanced Technology:** The soundness of using advanced digital frameworks (AI, Deep Learning, ML, GIS, or IoT) to effectively mitigate the identified regional problems.
- **Methodological Rigor:** The appropriateness of the proposed strategies for mapping stakeholder needs, gathering data, and executing collaborative interactions.



Pillar 2: Impacts (0–5 Points)

This criterion evaluates the tangible, long-term benefits and the scalability potential of the initiative.

- **Outcome Significance:** The breadth of expected socio-economic or environmental outcomes and their targeted impact on regional development.
- **Stakeholder Mobilization:** The quality and diversity of the engagement plan, ensuring meaningful collaboration between IT experts, local authorities, public bodies, SMEs, and citizens.
- **Replicability & Transferability:** The potential for the solutions, methodologies, or user guides to be successfully adapted and scaled to other contexts or regions across the EU.
- **Strategic Alignment:** The explicit contribution of the proposal to broader frameworks, such as the New European Bauhaus (NEB) values of sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics.

Pillar 3: Implementation (0–5 Points)

- **Work Plan & Feasibility:** The coherence, clarity, and realism of the proposed timeline, phased milestones, and intermediate outputs (such as mid-term prototypes or event setups).
- **Budget Soundness:** The financial efficiency and precise justification of cost allocations (covering personnel, travel, or indirect expenses) relative to the scale of the proposed work plan.
- **Team & Partner Expertise:** The operational capacity, technical skills, and past event-management or digital development credentials possessed by the applicant or consortium.

2.3.3 Number of applications received & success rate

The PoliRuralPlus open calls generated significant engagement across the European innovation ecosystem, scaling progressively in competitiveness from the initial grassroots sourcing to the final software validation phases. The selection process managed a total of 339 applications across the four specialized calls, with declining success rates due to growing application volumes as the financial scopes expanded.

The evaluation metrics extracted from the official selection committee proceedings are summarized below:

Open Call phase	Applications received	Formally excluded	Proposals evaluated	Projects approved	Selection success rate
Outreach call	16	0	16	9 ²	56.25%
Mobilise call	24	0	24	8 ³	33.33%
Develop call	102	0	102	6	5.88%

² Out of the 9 projects originally approved for funding, 6 were ultimately funded, as 3 applicants withdrew during the sub-grant agreement preparation phase

³ Out of the 8 projects originally approved for funding, 7 were ultimately funded, as 1 applicant withdrew during the sub-grant agreement preparation phase.



Enhance call	197	37	160	7	3.55%
Total ecosystem	339	37	302	30	8.85%

Table 5: Number of applications received & success rate

Across the four Open Calls, 339 applications were received. The figures reported in this section distinguish between proposals selected/approved following evaluation and projects that ultimately proceeded to grant contracting and implementation. A total of 30 proposals were approved at the selection stage, while 26 projects proceeded to the final funded portfolio assessed in this deliverable. The difference reflects four approved applicants who withdrew during the sub-grant agreement preparation phase due to organizational constraints, conflict of interest, or unforeseen scheduling and time-commitment conflicts. Accordingly, the selection-stage approval rate was 30/339 (8.85%), while the final funded-project rate was 26/339 (7.67%). Unless otherwise stated, subsequent analysis in D6.3 refers to the 26 funded projects.

Key takeaways

- **Progressive competitiveness:** The programme witnessed an exponential spike in interest over time, moving from 16 submissions in the initial Outreach phase up to 197 submissions in the final Enhance phase. This dropped the success rate from an accessible 56.25% down to a highly competitive 3.55% for the final call.
- **Administrative adherence:** While the Outreach, Mobilise, and Develop calls maintained perfect proposal compliance with zero formal rejections, the massive volume of the Enhance Call resulted in the administrative exclusion of 37 proposals (18.8% of its total pool) due to critical non-compliance issues such as missing mandatory templates or exceeding explicit page count restrictions.
- **Ecosystem selectivity:** Out of 339 total external attempts to secure funding under the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism, only 30 initiatives successfully crossed all quality limits and consensus hurdles, resulting in a lean overall selection success rate of 8.85%.

3. Implemented activities and outcomes

3.1 Summary of activities

The 26 projects funded across the four Open Call tiers executed a progressive sequence of innovation activities tailored to the territorial priorities of the PoliRuralPlus pilot regions.

- **Grassroots exploration and co-creation (Outreach call):** Six projects conducted localized surveys, focus groups, and multi-actor workshops across Ireland, Slovakia, Italy, Czechia, Latvia, and Malta. These initiatives mapped structural bottlenecks, evaluated regional waste biomass streams, gathered baseline data on short food supply chains, and established Quadruple Helix networks linking local authorities, farmers, businesses, and researchers.



- **Community mobilisation and ideation (Mobilise call):** Seven projects hosted regional hackathons, ideathons, and datathons across Spain, Czechia, Latvia, Italy, Malta, Finland, and Greece. Engaging secondary school students, IT developers, young farmers, and municipal leaders, these events generated over 30 technical prototypes and concepts tackling smart rural tourism, municipal indicator governance, and predictive local food procurement.
- **Applied software engineering and digital deployment (Develop call):** Six projects engineered operational web platforms, mobile applications, and open-source spatial services reaching Technology Readiness Levels 7–8. These tools deployed AI-driven agricultural e-commerce gateways in Italy, Greece, and Malta, spatial supply-chain mapping architectures in the Czech-Bavarian borderlands, multi-actor cultural heritage management layers in Spain, and open-source land-use carbon/energy mapping tools in Finland.
- **GeoAI validation and field integration (Enhance call):** Seven projects validated the flagship JackDaw GeoAI conversational agent under operational field conditions. The validation campaigns integrated JackDaw with live LoRaWAN soil sensor probes in Spain, connected a 265 GB pan-European cadastral PostGIS database in the Netherlands, cross-referenced spatial microclimate predictions against IoT hardware in Cyprus, integrated Web Coverage Services for flood risk screening across Lisbon, Valencia, and Dresden, and conducted extensive human-centered usability trials with public servants and farmers in Romania, Germany, Scotland, and Greece.

3.2 Project results and achievements

This section presents the concrete results, technical deliverables, and operational achievements accomplished across the 26 projects funded under the PoliRuralPlus Open Call program. Organized progressively by funding tier, Outreach, Mobilise, Develop, and Enhance, each project profile documents the core objectives, implemented work packages, key tangible outputs, and measurable outcomes achieved within their designated regional pilots and European testbeds. Together, these summaries demonstrate how third-party initiatives transitioned from grassroots need assessments and community ideation into operational software deployments (TRL 7–8) and rigorous real-world validations of the JackDaw GeoAI ecosystem.

Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) reported in this deliverable are based on beneficiaries' self-assessment. They should therefore be interpreted as indicators of technical maturity within the relevant project context rather than as independent certification of market readiness.

OUTREACH CALL
GREEN: Green Resources Economic & Environment Networking, IE, McAdam Consulting Services Ltd
Project objectives: To conduct a detailed scoping exercise identifying specific manufacturing and service-based opportunities for job creation and business growth within the green and circular economy over the next five years in County Monaghan.
Activities implemented: • Conducted extensive desk research mapping out national waste data, local policy plans (MCC Climate Action Plan), and regulatory barriers.



- Compiled an expanded core group list of local and extra-regional circular economy experts.
- Conducted face-to-face individual and group consultations to overcome local technology literacy barriers.
- Co-hosted and executed a major facilitated in-person consultation and brainstorming workshop at a central community venue in Castleblayney.

Main outputs delivered:

- A comprehensive scoping document clustering circular opportunities under four priority macro-sectors: Agriculture/Food, Building/Construction, Industrial/Commercial, and Household/Consumer.
- A detailed inventory mapping major unique local waste streams (e.g., 200,000+ tonnes of poultry litter and 100,000 tonnes of spent mushroom compost annually).
- A consultation "Word Cloud" analyzing recorded keywords from focus group sessions.
- An evaluative index of existing local, national, and European funding mechanisms available to Monaghan businesses.

Key outcomes achieved:

Brought together 23 key stakeholders (including 21 SMEs) to collectively pool ideas, creating direct synergy with incoming LEADER and local enterprise programmes. The project mapped actionable business opportunities—such as utilizing local gas pipelines for industrial-scale poultry litter Anaerobic Digestion, converting waste tires and construction timber into biochar, and scaling social enterprises to tackle domestic upcycling storage deficits.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/exploring-circular-economy-opportunities-in-county-monaghan/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/exploring-circular-economy-business-opportunities-in-county-monaghan/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/McAdamConsulting_Outreach_D3_User_Needs_and_Innovation_Solutions_Report.pdf

DigiStake: Digital Stakeholders, SK, CEDA -Culture and Education Association

Project objectives:

To support rural development, agricultural modernization, and community engagement in Slovakia by improving stakeholder collaboration and accelerating digital transformation.

Activities implemented:

- Identified and recruited a diverse base of local actors using community outreach and regional networks.
- Collected specific user needs by running targeted surveys, individual interviews, and hands-on workshops with local officials, farmers, and NGOs.
- Organized and executed digital literacy and digital skills capability workshops for rural participants.
- Developed and launched a dedicated web environment to act as an interactive central hub.

Main outputs delivered:

- The fully operational online collaboration platform and space: <https://atraktivnyvidiek.sk>.



- A comprehensive regional user needs assessment mapping digital literacy gaps and infrastructure barriers.
- Tailored digital training curriculum modules and workshop materials.
- Ongoing feedback mechanisms, including online suggestion forms.

Key outcomes achieved:

Bridged the urban-rural divide by establishing a functional "Quadruple Helix" engagement model (uniting government, industry, academia, and civil society). The project effectively elevated regional digital literacy, built a shared digital development vision, and integrated local strategies directly into the broader EU Rural Pact framework.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/digistake-transforming-slovakia-through-digital-innovation-and-rural-urban-collaboration/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/sk/knowledge-transfer/blog/digistake-key-achievements-challenges-and-future-prospects/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/CEDA_OUTREACH_D3_User_Needs_and_Innovation_Solutions_Report.pdf

DEMO: Diffusion of the short supply chain: from rural to urban systems, IT, Cluster Srl

Project objectives:

To promote, support, and develop Short Food Supply Chain (SFSC) models in the Apulia region by actively connecting rural agricultural producers with urban consumers.

Activities implemented:

- Conducted extensive literature and regional regulatory analysis regarding short supply chains and zero-mile distribution frameworks.
- Designed and distributed a localized sector survey to a sample of small Apulian agricultural businesses.
- Organized and hosted an interactive thematic consultation session via the Zoom portal on February 26, 2025.
- Facilitated five specialized focus groups focusing on fresh product perishability, logistics coordination, entrepreneur cooperation, food safety certifications, and territorial boundaries.

Main outputs delivered:

- A comprehensive sector survey report mapping out producers' propensity toward alternative marketing models (e.g., e-commerce, home delivery, farmer's markets).
- Actionable data and analytical insights demonstrating that 76% of interviewed small businesses have experience in SFSC channels.
- A strategic summary of operational bottlenecks (e.g., high communication costs, supply fragmentation, lack of specialized staff).

Key outcomes achieved:

Generated essential baseline data and stakeholder consensus required to influence regional policy-makers regarding direct-to-consumer support. The project proposed shared logistical and business network models—such as cooperative electric/refrigerated vehicle pooling via Local Action Groups (GALs)—to overcome southern Italy's cultural barriers regarding entrepreneur cooperation.



Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/demo-it-to-support-short-food-supply-chain-initiatives/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/demo-it-project-results/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/CLUSTERsrl_OUTREACH_D3_User_Needs_and_Innovation_Solutions_Report_1.pdf

FarmTourist: Recapturing Connections within Czech - Bavarian Borderlands, CZ, Úhlava, o. p. s.

Project objectives:

To map, network, and connect small/medium farms with the gastronomy and tourism sectors in the Pošumaví – Šumava – Bavarian Forest cross-border region, creating a symbiotic short supply chain.

Activities implemented:

- Contacted over 80 regional stakeholders, creating an active, interactive database of regional partners willing to cooperate.
- Organized and executed the central "From Farm to Tourist" workshop on January 21, 2025, at the historical former Dominican monastery in Klatovy.
- Conducted a targeted survey among workshop participants to evaluate regional interest across distribution, marketing, identity, and funding pillars.
- Collaborated across borders with German regional actors (e.g., Kulturverein Über d' Grenz e. V. and Landkreis Regen) to identify Czech-Bavarian market connectivity barriers.

Main outputs delivered:

- A finalized *Topics of Interest* survey evaluation chart mapping regional priorities (showing 85% interest in distribution/vending solutions and 78% in online marketing training).
- An expanding stakeholder partnership database for the Pošumaví region.
- A cross-border integration summary addressing language, administrative, and consumer habit differences between Czechia and Bavaria.
- A localized media kit, including a widely distributed post-event press release sent to approximately 40 journalists and media portals.

Key outcomes achieved:

Successfully mobilized 46 in-person workshop attendees, securing 26 fully completed long-term commitment questionnaires from regional entities. The project introduced innovative distribution concepts to local farmers—such as automated farm product vending machines and integrating family-run farms with caravan tourism networks ("stellplatzen") through platforms like BezKempu. It also established dedicated local web showcases and a regional feature article on *ZaPlzni.cz*.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/connecting-farms-local-products-and-tourism-introducing-the-farmtourist-project/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/how-to-connect-farms-gastronomy-and-tourism-in-posumavi-and-the-bavarian-forest/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/Uhlava_OUTREACH_D3_User_Needs_and_Innovation_Solutions_Report.pdf

EDQMS_VR: Economic Development Quality Monitoring System for the Vidzeme Region, LV, InnoMatrix Ltd.



Project objectives: To identify current data monitoring gaps, introduce modern digital solutions (including AI and big data analytics), and strengthen regional stakeholder involvement in strategic development planning.
Activities implemented: • Conducted a comprehensive mapping and high-level analysis of existing regional economic monitoring frameworks and data sources. • Studied international governance models and best practices from Germany, Finland, and Sweden for adaptation to the Latvian context. • Engaged stakeholders through targeted working groups, interviews, and co-creation sessions with local authorities, entrepreneurs, and academia. • Organized a dedicated innovation session at the 83rd International Scientific Conference of the University of Latvia to discuss regional monitoring.
Main outputs delivered: • A finalized <i>User Needs and Innovation Solutions Report</i> identifying data decentralization and system incompatibilities. • A structured database of regional stakeholders and public feedback. • Technical and strategic guidelines for enhancing the official Regional Development Indicators Module (RAIM). • A public press release detailing conference proceedings and academic engagement.
Key outcomes achieved: Enhanced the regional capacity to analyze and support innovation-driven, high-value-added sectors. The project mapped out a clear roadmap for transitioning VPR's monitoring approach into an automated, AI-powered system linked via APIs to national data streams. It also laid the foundation for a future "Civic Economy Monitoring Council" to sustain open, multi-level governance.
Website articles & Report: • https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/exploring-opportunities-for-establishing-a-monitoring-framework-for-the-development-of-vidzeme-planning-region/ • https://www.poliruralplus.eu/lv/knowledge-transfer/blog/advancing-economic-monitoring-in-vidzeme-from-insights-to-action/ • https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/InnoMatrix_OUTREACH_D3_User_Needs_and_Innovation_Solutions_Report.pdf
AgriFusion, MT, The Veg Box Ltd
Project objectives: To transform Malta's agricultural landscape by gathering insights into the needs of local farmers and consumers, enhancing sustainable farming practices, optimizing food security, and bridging rural-urban divides through digitization and youth empowerment.
Activities implemented: • Deployed a mixed-method research campaign combining structured online (Google Forms) and in-person surveys targeting different demographics. • Conducted one-on-one semi-structured interviews with farmers, local government officials, and tech providers.



- Organized targeted and mixed focus group sessions alongside interactive, thematic co-creation workshops.
- Analyzed qualitative datasets systematically by incorporating Artificial Intelligence analytical workflows.

Main outputs delivered:

- An *Actionable Roadmap* outlining policy alignment, technological farm pilots, and multi-stakeholder networks.
- A localized assessment mapping consumer demand trends, SME financial constraints, and digital literacy gaps among older generations.
- A compiled dataset analyzing global best practices in AI-powered farming, IoT precision sensors, and blockchain food traceability.

Key outcomes achieved:

Formulated a multi-pronged framework to empower young agricultural entrepreneurs and reverse sector decline. The project established a continuous community feedback loop, verified consumer willingness to support local farm-to-table channels, and laid the groundwork for a national coalition linking producers directly to urban value chains.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/agrifusion-a-present-for-maltas-agricultural-future/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/agrifusion-exploring-opportunities-for-maltas-agricultural-sector/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/VegBox_OUTREACH_D3_User_Needs_and_Innovation_Solutions_Report.pdf

MOBILISE CALL

AI4RURAL Ideathon: Promoting AI-Driven Solutions for Rural-Urban Development in Castilla-La Mancha, ES, Itcam

Project objectives:

To leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced digital technologies to address the territorial challenges of the Sierra and Mancha Conquense region across three macro-streams: Smart Rural Tourism, Smart Forest Management, and Digitalisation of Cultural Heritage

Activities implemented:

- Developed a dedicated event microweb within Itcam's portal and established contest rules.
- Hosted a high-value intensive innovation and creativity day on November 20, 2025, at Finca La Estacada (Tarancón).
- Conducted an applied technical session introducing different levels of AI (General AI, ML, LLMs, RAG) and demonstrating the PoliRuralPlus digital toolset (Advisor, Jackdaw, MAATool, Magpie, Vulture).
- Presented technology showrooms and real success stories covering smart wine tourism, multispectral drone reforestation mapping, and digital twins.



- Facilitated specialized group mentoring and a live pitch competition evaluated by an expert jury.

Main outputs delivered:

- Nine complete conceptual prototypes and slides formulated by multidisciplinary teams.
- Three official PoliRuralPlus blog publications, two specialized project articles, and a comprehensive multichannel social media package.
- A structured jury evaluation database and score ranking index.
- A high-definition general event video published on YouTube.

Key outcomes achieved:

Mobilized around thirty ecosystem actors, activating an agile rural-urban innovation network. The project selected RecomIA (by Frédéric Fyon) as the grand prize winner, which developed an automated community composting management system powered by wireless sensors and a generative AI compliance assistant. To maintain momentum, Itecam committed to scaling up both *RecomIA* and *Turicleta* (a solar-powered e-bike aggregator app) into operational pilot implementations.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/smart-forest-management-connecting-the-ecological-value-of-forests-with-the-local-economy/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/how-to-promote-smart-rural-tourism-in-the-sierra-and-mancha-conquense/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/digitalisation-of-cultural-heritage-past-present-and-future-come-together-in-the-sierra-and-mancha-of-cuenca/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/ideathon-ai4rural-technology-creativity-and-artificial-intelligence-to-transform-the-sierra-and-mancha-conquense/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/rural-innovation-the-ai4rural-ideathon-brings-together-around-thirty-professionals-and-companies-in-taranc%C3%B3n/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MOBILISE_Ideathon_Report_AI4RURAL_Ideathon_ES.pdf

DIPS: Digital Innovation for Pošumaví and Šumava, CZ, Úhlava, o. p. s.

Project objectives:

To identify and co-design community-driven digital solutions that strengthen rural-urban interactions, open data access, and agricultural-tourism linkages in the Czech-Bavarian border region.

Activities implemented:

- Conducted extensive cross-border communication and analytical mapping between June and August across the Pošumaví-Šumava-Bayerischer Wald region.
- Defined four distinct regional challenges and distributed detailed briefs to participating student teams 14 days in advance.
- Hosted an intensive two-day Ideathon workshop on September 25–26, 2025, in Klatovy.
- Assigned a dedicated expert mentor (mayors, farmers, LAG staff, or IT professionals) to guide each student team.
- Executed a full-day, multi-institution scientific excursion on November 18, 2025, introducing students to 3D metal printing, AI applications, and robotics.



Main outputs delivered:

- Four comprehensive digital portal prototypes: *Regional Student Portal*, *ViaPoint*, *FarMAppka*, and the *SZES Klatovy Portal*.
- Five specialized blog posts and news articles published on the official PoliRuralPlus site, alongside a feature article on *ZaPlzni.cz*.
- A bilateral integration summary outlining language and consumer habit barriers between the Czech Republic and Bavaria

Key outcomes achieved: Engaged secondary school youths directly in regional policymaking, with the Gymnázium J. Š. Baara (Domažlice) winning for its *ViaPoint* smart tourist guide app designed to predict overtourism and balance cross-border visitor loads. The event mapped crucial user needs into real-world software specifications, such as *FarMAppka*, which maps crop rotations using LPIS data and connects local food producers with regional gastronomy.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/ideathon-in-klatovy-young-people-shaping-the-future-of-the-countryside/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/innovation-from-klatovy-students-searched-for-smart-solutions-in-tourism-and-regional-development/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/educational-excursion-of-dips-ideathon-participants-a-day-when-technology-and-science-came-within-students-reach/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/ideathon-in-klatovy-lets-shape-the-future-of-our-region-together>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/ideathon-in-klatovy-when-young-ideas-connect-with-the-future-of-the-region/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MOBILISE_Hackathon_Report_DIPS_CZ.pdf

D2D: From Data to Decisions: A Pilot Framework for Enhancing Regional Development Evaluation, LV, NovoFutura

Project objectives:

To co-create innovative solutions and prototypes for a unified indicator system to support regional development assessment, improve rural-urban collaboration, and promote data-driven governance in the Vidzeme Planning Region, to define sector-specific indicators as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) relevant to local municipalities.

Activities implemented:

- Organized a regional hackathon executed in a distinct two-stage hybrid framework (Phase 1 online; Phase 2 in-person in Smiltene).
- Conducted a Phase 1 baseline assessment where teams used worksheets to list existing indicators, evaluated them using a traffic-light color-coded system (green, yellow, red), and completed homework assignments logging real data for at least two indicators.
- Conducted a Phase 2 practical development session where teams used extended worksheets to refine KPIs, define methodological notes (formulas, units, frequency), assign data collection responsibilities, and map out municipal process flow diagrams.
- Engaged on-site domain experts and integrated AI tools to validate indicator logic and process design.
- Evaluated the suite of PoliRuralPlus tools (such as *Advisor*, *Jackdaw*, and *MAATool*) to test their operational suitability for metadata archiving and regional spatial comparison.

**Main outputs delivered:**

- Draft sector-specific KPIs co-created by municipal practitioners and experts across six thematic focus areas: Economy and Innovation; Governance and Civic Participation; Environment, Nature and Resources; Mobility and Accessibility; Living Environment and Housing; and People and Society.
- A completed prototype concept for a citizen-oriented digital housing management platform.
- Harmonized methodological recommendations and structured documentation (worksheets and process layouts) serving as a regional knowledge base.

Key outcomes achieved:

Engaged more than 80 unique municipal practitioners and data analysts across both stages. The Living Environment and Housing team won first place for its digital municipal housing stock visibility platform modeled after "booking.com". The hackathon resolved localized analytic capacity deficits, providing a scalable model for cross-municipal benchmarking and participatory framework development.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/online-launch-and-first-stage-of-the-vidzeme-d2d-hackathon-successfully-completed/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/insights-from-the-d2d-hackathon-final-meeting-in-vidzemelatvia/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/data-to-develop-hackathon-co-creating-the-future-of-regional-development-through-ai-and-collaboration/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/empowering-regional-development-through-data-and-ai-vidzeme-launches-two-phase-hackathon-data-for-development/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/vidzeme-planning-region-hackathon-phase-2-wraps-up/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MOBILISE_Hackathon_Report_D2D_LV.pdf

INCO: Intelligent Consumption, IT, Virgolettare di Rocco Devito**Project objectives:**

To strengthen the socio-economic interactions between rural producers and urban consumers in Apulia through an intelligent matching system, traceability tools, and anti-waste digital workflows.

Activities implemented:

- Conducted a technical case-study mapping exercise focused on AI applications within rural-urban logistics and established qualified expert partnerships.
- Analyzed urban consumer purchasing behaviors and target segments to compile a definitive regional market report.
- Engaged regional agricultural stakeholders to secure formal letters of intent and build a dedicated database of verified short-supply-chain producers.
- Organized and executed a cross-sector multi-actor hackathon structured into distinct ideation, development, and co-creation phases.
- Tested PoliRuralPlus platform components (such as *UseAdvisor* decision matrices and the *Jackdaw* geospatial and predictive prototyping environment) to model distribution flows and simulate localized demand scenarios.
- Hosted a multi-actor validation final meeting to align developers, agricultural cooperatives, and communication specialists around a unified development trajectory.



Main outputs delivered:

- Four distinct preliminary project prototypes tailored to the regional agri-food chain (one per participating team: *AgriRoots*, *RuralTech Innovators*, *HubRurale*, and *Link&Value*).
- A structured database of rural stakeholders alongside a comprehensive target-profile marketing plan.
- A complete operational workflow and automated data collection protocols for direct-to-consumer delivery mapping.
- Five public communication deliverables (including two news features and three specialized blog posts) published on the official PoliRuralPlus network

Key outcomes achieved:

The RuralTech Innovators team won for its Short Supply Chain Anti-Waste System. This prototype utilizes a predictive machine learning matching algorithm that cross-references consumer pre-orders with real-time producer seasonal margins, automatically routing excess or off-grade edible produce to local markets at discount rates. The project effectively created a model for a resilient, data-driven local food ecosystem in southern Italy.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/inco-project-intelligent-consumption/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/the-short-food-supply-chain-in-the-digital-age/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/web-marketing-and-artificial-intelligence/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/ai-short-food-chains-and-the-mediterranean-diet-the-project-bring-ing-cities-and-countryside-closer-together/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/inco-project-report/>
- [https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MOBILISE Hackathon Report INCO IT.pdf](https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MOBILISE_Hackathon_Report_INCO_IT.pdf)

M-ATI: MaYA Agri-Tech Ideathon, MT, Malta Youth in Agriculture Foundation

Project objectives:

To mobilize multi-sector stakeholders to co-create digital and AI-driven solutions addressing Malta's structural challenges in land fragmentation, limited market visibility, and severe climate water scarcity.

Activities implemented:

- Conducted two technical capacity-building webinars in September 2025 reviewing NSO datasets and showing agritech use cases from prior EU projects.
- Hosted the in-person intensive design thinking ideathon on October 3, 2025, at the DiHubMT innovation facility.
- Utilized provocative statement positioning lines to spark live stakeholder debates before separating into five multidisciplinary teams.
- Guided group work through MaYA mentors utilizing the PoliRuralPlus *Rural Attractiveness Explorer* and *Jackdaw GeoAI* platforms.
- Conducted an expert panel review where pitches were weighted against distinct problem-solving, context-utility, and impact metrics.

Main outputs delivered:

- Five detailed concept notes and pitch decks tackling core national agrarian vulnerabilities.
- A localized public media framework consisting of nine blog posts, image sets, and video summaries hosted at www.maya.org.mt/ideathon.



Key outcomes achieved:

Organized Malta's first dedicated youth-led agri-tech innovation platform, engaging over 40 participants across fields. The jury awarded first prize to Go(v) Local First, a digital forecasting and matching platform that structures institutional public food procurement (schools, hospitals, canteens) to give automated preference to local Maltese producers. Follow-up consultation tracks are underway with national cooperatives to turn these concepts into active policy tools.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/from-soil-to-society-rethinking-access-to-agricultural-land-in-malta/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/local-first-using-ai-to-strengthen-maltas-local-food-markets-winning-idea/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/farming-with-nature-smart-water-smarter-communities/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/setting-the-stage-for-the-malta-maya-agri-tech-ideathon-1st-webinar/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/from-ideas-to-action-insights-from-the-second-agri-tech-ideathon-webinar/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MOBILISE_Hackathon_Report_M-ATI_MT.pdf

Go Mallusjoki!: An Ideathon for AI-powered Rural Event Industry Ecosystem, FI, Avoin Ry

Project objectives:

To surface actionable community concepts, establish a long-term development strategy, and design an AI-assisted four-season visitor journey for the Rural Event Industry Ecosystem in Mallusjoki.

Activities implemented:

- Designed and embedded a single-day public ideathon on July 24, 2025, directly within the local *Takinkääntöviikko* festival to maximize diverse civic reach.
- Convened local residents, summer cottage owners, regional businesses, and municipal leaders for a collaborative paper-and-board canvas brainstorming session.
- Conducted a post-event quantitative data clustering and strategic packaging phase.
- Formulated a complete structural framework for open-source village digital enablers (shared calendars, tool banks, and map-based storytelling layers).

Main outputs delivered:

- A structured database archiving 39 distinct community-generated concept innovations compiled from 51 unique participants.
- An official *Brand and Development Strategy (2025-2030)* and a *Regional Action Plan (RAP)* aligned with New European Bauhaus values.
- Anonymized, GDPR-compliant demographic statistics maps (tracking gender, age, and holiday home distribution).
- Five news and blog publications alongside a localized press kit for *Orimattilan Sanomat*.

Key outcomes achieved:

Garnered strong political endorsement, with keynotes and evaluation assistance from the Mayor and Vitality Director of Orimattila. The project selected an **Escape game-style local food producer experience** as its top-scoring flagship, mapping out a visual route that links food vendors via QR code cards. All validated



concepts directly feed into the upcoming *Avoin Map* pilot project, establishing open-source, reproducible digital scaffolding for village management across Finland.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/go-mallusjoki-ideathon-brought-people-together-in-july-2025/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/the-spirit-of-mallusjoki/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/harvest-of-ideas/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/go-mallusjoki-an-ideathon-to-develop-the-rural-event-industry-in-the-mallusjoki-region/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/people-first-tech-second/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MOBILISE_Hackathon_Report_Go_Mallusjoki_FI.pdf

RURBAN Challenge: Smart Rural-Urban Agritourism Challenge - Central Greece, GR, Open Farm P.C.

Project objectives:

To connect primary food production, rural hospitality, and digital technology in Central Greece by establishing a collaborative ecosystem where urban innovators and local producers co-create solutions for real regional challenges. It focuses on using advanced digital tools and storytelling to unlock the region's agritourism potential, increase the visibility of local assets, and reduce the digital literacy gap between rural and urban actors.

Activities implemented:

- Organized and executed a two-day hybrid hackathon on September 27–28, 2025, at the Chamber of Evia in Chalkida, combining in-person workshops with livestream access.
- Conducted extensive regional outreach to inform over 100 producers from the Open Farm network, local hospitality associations, and a mailing list of over 1,000 academic staff across national universities (including AUA, AUEB, and UNIWA).
- Facilitated interactive expert panels on agritourism trends, digital storytelling, and smart destination tools.
- Provided guided team mentoring to seven multidisciplinary working groups, focusing on business model design, environmental sustainability, and the application of AI tools.
- Conducted pitch presentations judged by an expert panel evaluating innovation, feasibility, and regional context alignment.

Main outputs delivered:

- Seven distinct solution concepts and pitch decks connecting primary production with tourism and digital innovation.
- A portfolio of media materials, including two news features, three specialized blog posts, and extensive social media summary graphics.
- A high-definition post-event video overview and a localized digital photo library.

Key outcomes achieved:

The hackathon mobilized 68 physical and digital participants, creating a meaningful cross-sectoral dialogue that bridged the gap between young urban professionals and inland agricultural producers. Two winning projects—**SoapCircle** (a circular-economy concept transforming recycled olive oil into natural soaps and educational DIY kits) and **Bee Parent** (an family-friendly "adopt-a-hive" programme featuring interactive digital storytelling)—were selected to receive advanced technical mentoring from Open Farm experts. Both winning



initiatives were directly integrated into the national *Open Farm Days 2026* spring festival, turning these early-stage ideas into visible, pilot-ready business models while establishing a highly replicable, data-driven framework for sustainable tourism across Central Greece.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/smart-agritourism-challenge-launches-in-chalkida-two-days-of-ideas-tech-and-teamwork-for-rural-tourism/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/smart-agritourism-challenge-co-creating-sustainable-tourism-ideas-in-evia/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/smart-technologies-shaping-the-future-of-agritourism-in-central-greece/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/smart-agritourism-challenge-in-greece/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/smart-agritourism-challenge-co-creating-sustainable-tourism-ideas-in-evia-greece/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MOBILISE_Hackathon_Report_Rurban_Challenge_GR.pdf

DEVELOP CALL

ARISE: Archaeological Routes for Inclusive Synergy & Entrepreneurship, ES, Obsidian Innovation Institute - Associação

Project objectives:

ARISE aimed to address visitor information fragmentation in the Sierra y Mancha Conquense pilot region by connecting major Roman archaeological sites, rural businesses, multi-stop routes, and local services into a unified digital journey. Additionally, the platform provides a structured, multi-actor operational environment to enhance local business visibility, improve multi-sector stakeholder coordination, and support evidence-based decision-making for long-term territorial management.

Activities Implemented:

- Executed a nine-month, five-work-package technical plan transitioning from co-design requirements to public deployment, operational consolidation, and replication preparation.
- Developed a dual-layer web platform combining a mobile-first public visitor interface and a restricted Multi-Actor Approach Tool (MAAT) workspace for stakeholder governance.
- Engineered server-side integrations connecting GeoAI conversational guidance via PoliRural Jackdaw (using SRID 4326 bounding polygons), live AEMET weather data, and an indicative renewable-energy forecasting tool.
- Curated and verified rights-cleared regional content, establishing local image-provenance records and multilingual translations across Spanish, English, and Portuguese.
- Implemented systematic quality assurance and security protocols, executing 94 automated feature/integration tests (1,007 assertions) alongside GDPR-compliant data-handling frameworks.
- Conducted stakeholder consultations, on-site verification visits, platform demonstrations, and published a public open-source software distribution package on GitHub.

Main outputs delivered:



- Public Visitor Service: A live, mobile-first web platform featuring interactive Leaflet/OpenStreetMap exploration, route-planning tools, a Jackdaw-backed Chat Guide, and local business/news listings.
- Restricted Operational Layer: An administrative content management system paired with an authenticated MAAT workspace for initiative tracking, task management, route co-design, and KPI/New European Bauhaus monitoring.
- Structured Datasets & APIs: Five machine-readable dataset packages containing 199 verified records (businesses, points of interest, routes, news/events, videos) alongside OpenAPI/Swagger-documented interfaces.
- Replication Basis: A general-purpose, data-free source code repository published on GitHub under the Apache-2.0 license, supported by architecture guides, administrator manuals, and database migrations.
- Dissemination Assets: Six institutional news articles, three official PoliRuralPlus platform blog/news contributions, three milestone social media campaigns, and technical documentation.

Key outcomes achieved: The ARISE project converted its heritage synergy concept into an operational, maintainable digital service, meeting or exceeding all nine project key performance indicators. The platform reduced visitor information fragmentation while boosting local enterprise discoverability by onboarding 63 rural businesses and hosting 148 planned itineraries. Furthermore, it established a permanent multi-actor governance framework (engaging 48 registered MAAT stakeholders across 17 collaborative sessions) and created a fully open-source, transferable technical architecture ready for replication across other European rural-heritage territories.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/arise-reaches-mid-term-milestone-with-public-platform-now-online-in-sierra-y-mancha-conquense/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/arise-moves-towards-completion-connecting-cultural-heritage-local-businesses-and-territorial-collaboration-in-sierra-y-mancha-conquense/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/arise-enters-its-final-implementation-phase-in-sierra-y-mancha-conquense/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/arise-concludes-with-a-live-digital-platform-for-heritage-led-rural-development/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/arise-final-results-a-reusable-heritage-synergy-platform-for-rural-territories/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/ES_ARISE_Develop_Mid-term_Part-A-PUBLIC_WOOnh3I.pdf
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/ES_Arise_Develop_Final_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC.pdf

LocalLinks.AI: Smart Mapping and Activation of Short Food Supply Chains in Rural -Urban Regions, CZ, Šumavaprodukt s.r.o.

Project objectives:

The LocalLinks.AI project aimed to map, visualize, and strengthen short food supply chains (SFSC) across the Bavarian-Czech cross-border rural innovation network (Pilsen Region/Pošumaví). It specifically addresses the regional lack of structured information regarding supplier-customer connections by deploying an AI-assisted digital framework that connects farmers, retail outlets, consumers, and public institutions.

Activities implemented:



- Designed an extended relational data model for mapping complex supplier-customer food networks.
- Developed and deployed the operational beta editor platform, *LocalFarmsAI* (localfarms.ai), featuring AI-driven semi-automated data extraction, validation, and confidence scoring.
- Organized multi-actor stakeholder workshops, technical consultations, and pilot testing in Klatovy and Sušice involving local farmers, sellers, and Local Action Groups (LAGs).
- Engineered automated data synchronization pipelines linking LocalFarmsAI with the PoliRuralPlus *Atlas of Regional Speciality* platform for spatial network visualization.
- Integrated the *Jackdaw GeoAI* conversational chatbot to allow natural-language spatial queries over regional food datasets.
- Published institutional news articles, PoliRuralPlus blog posts, and social media releases, and documented six good practice cases into the Atlas repository.

Main outputs delivered:

- LocalFarmsAI Editor & Database: An operational beta platform containing validated records for 175 producers, 220 sales outlets, and 460 mapped supplier-customer relationships.
- PoliRuralPlus Technical Integrations: Automated data feeds into the *Atlas* visualization environment and GeoAI natural-language query integration via *Jackdaw*.
- Documentation & Educational Assets: A comprehensive user manual, open export utilities (Excel, CSV, JSON), and six documented regional good-practice case studies.
- Dissemination Package: Two external media articles, four official PoliRuralPlus blog posts, and five targeted social media communications.

Key outcomes achieved:

LocalLinks.AI reached beneficiaries reported TRL 7–8 operational status, exceeding its initial proposal targets by mapping 460 active regional food relationships and engaging 175 primary producers. The project transformed fragmented local food data into a structured, spatial intelligence ecosystem that enhances the visibility of small farmers and supports evidence-based decision-making for regional development. Furthermore, the project established a modular data schema and API architecture designed for transferability, enabling potential adaptation to comparable regional food supply networks across other pilot territories.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/locallinks-presented-in-klatovy-a-step-toward-smarter-regional-food-systems/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/smart-there-and-back-connecting-rural-and-urban-areas-through-locallinksai/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/locallinks-ai-nears-completion-following-extensive-stakeholder-testing/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/locallinks-ai-brings-regional-food-networks-closer-to-consumers/>
- <https://www.uhlava.cz/index.php?page%3D547%26pages%3D0%26idp%3D1708%26lang%3Dcz%26sm%3D0%26task%3Don&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1785753830139493&usg=AOvVaw0MUq12BeRiWA9XnbryM8BH>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/CZ_LocalLinksAI_Develop_Mid-term_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC_qVQ6Vtz.pdf
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/CZ_LocalLinksAI_Develop_Final_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC.pdf

Field2Fork AI Hub: Bridging Apulia's Rural Roots and Urban Markets, IT, EXO Soc. Cons. a r.l.
Project objectives:

The Field2Fork AI Hub project aimed to strengthen short food supply chains in the province of Foggia (Apulia) by bridging the gap between small agricultural producers and urban consumers through a participatory digital ecosystem. By combining e-commerce with a conversational AI assistant named the "Personal Farmer," the platform seeks to improve producers' digital visibility, simplify transparent product discovery, and encourage sustainable, localized purchasing choices

Activities implemented:

- Engaged with local producers to collect product information, identify territorial needs, and organize an initial digital agrifood catalog.
- Engineered a containerized, hybrid e-commerce microservices architecture combining a PrestaShop backend with a Tailwind CSS/Glassmorphism conversational frontend.
- Developed the "Personal Farmer" conversational AI middleware utilizing structured system prompting, intent routing, and dynamic HTML card rendering.
- Implemented a local zero-kilometer logistics model featuring Named Entity Recognition (NER) for geospatial pickup hub assignment and tokenized checkout URLs.
- Executed a dual-track e-commerce strategy providing both a traditional SEO-optimized market interface and an interactive AI chat interface.
- Conducted stakeholder workshops, an online webinar, and two User Acceptance Testing (UAT) surveys with 170 consumers and 23 agri-food producers.
- Published promotional content across regional media outlets (Foglie, L'Attacco), PoliRuralPlus blogs, and institutional social media channels.

Main outputs delivered:

- Field2Fork AI Hub Platform: A live, dual-track digital marketplace featuring a standard catalog-driven store and the "Personal Farmer" AI assistant.
- Zero-Kilometer Logistics Engine: An integrated geolocation system cross-referencing user coordinates with local farm hubs to facilitate streamlined pick-ups.
- Evaluation & Research Datasets: Empirical survey results from 170 consumers (scoring platform usability at 4.44/5) and 23 local producers (scoring platform value at 4.25/5).
- Dissemination Assets: Two press news articles, three official PoliRuralPlus blog posts, video webinars on YouTube, and a full media kit.

Key outcomes achieved:

The Field2Fork AI Hub delivered a scalable, high-performing digital ecosystem that connects small rural farmers directly with urban consumer demand. Validation testing demonstrated high user acceptance, with 90.3% of surveyed consumers giving positive evaluations and rating the Personal Farmer's information clarity at 4.64/5. Furthermore, the platform demonstrated how local agrifood storytelling, AI personalization, and localized pickup hubs can reduce supply chain friction, providing a highly replicable model for resilient, zero-kilometer food systems across other rural regions.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/ai-driven-short-food-supply-chains-the-field2fork-ai-hub-project-launches-in-foggia/>

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/the-field2fork-project-state-of-the-art-and-summary-of-the-integration-between-artificial-intelligence-e-commerce-and-the-0-km-agricultural-supply-chain/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/the-future-of-short-food-supply-chains-in-apulia-is-digital-field2fork-ai-hub-concludes-successfully/>
- <https://exo-ricerca.it/blog/2026/01/05/field2fork-ai-hub-poliruralplus/?lang=en>
- <https://darepuglia.it/field2fork-ai-hub-lintelligenza-artificiale-al-servizio-della-filiera-corta-in-puglia/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/IT_Field2ForkAI_Hub_Mid-term_Report_Part-A-10.03.2026_tOHYUnS.pdf
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/IT_Field2ForkAIHub_Develop_Final_Report_PART_A_PUBLIC.pdf

MALTESE: Malta Agro-Leadership & Tech Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Empowerment, MT, Projektberatung und Management Expert Assoziation

Project objectives:

The MALTESE project aimed to address the challenges facing small-scale, fragmented agriculture and rural entrepreneurship in Malta by combining accessible digital tools with blended learning, practical mentoring, and multi-actor cooperation. Its specific focus is to equip rural youth and farmers with digital skills, foster circular agri-business models, simplify access to AI advisory services, and strengthen direct rural-urban market connections.

Activities implemented:

- Developed and demonstrated the MALTESE Agro-Innovation Digital Hub, featuring a simplified, no-account GeoAI JackDaw Chatbot interface with server-side OAuth2 authentication and Model Context Protocol (MCP) server integration.
- Configured a localized Map Whiteboard environment containing Maltese field and soil layers for participatory spatial planning and collaborative drawing exercises.
- Deployed and localized a PrestaShop-based Rural-Urban E-Market, populating store profiles and processing direct local produce transactions.
- Established a technical software architecture connecting IoT environmental and soil-moisture sensors (MQTT, Python, PostgreSQL) to the JackDaw advisory interface.
- Organized and executed a four-day capacity-building training course (May 5–8, 2026) in Dingli covering digital tools, circular economy practices, smart irrigation, and Business Model Canvas pitching.
- Conducted follow-up mentoring for participant-led business concepts and hosted the Final Dissemination Event at the Malta Digital Innovation Authority in Birkirkara on June 25, 2026.

Main outputs delivered:

- MALTESE Digital Hub Suite: Operational web prototypes for the GeoAI JackDaw interface (semablu-jackdaw.vercel.app), Map Whiteboard composition, and Rural-Urban E-Market (maltese.wirelessinfo.cz).
- E-Market Deployment: Nine created local producer store profiles and 61 recorded platform marketplace transactions.
- Training & Mentoring Outputs: 25 unique attendees trained across 73 participant-days, resulting in three winning participant-owned circular agri-business concepts.
- IoT & Data Frameworks: Established MQTT-Python-MCP-PostgreSQL sensor data architecture and integrated GeoJSON layers for soil types, Natura 2000 sites, and funding guidance.



- Dissemination Package: Six verified institutional website articles, three PoliRuralPlus platform blog/news items, dedicated social media updates, and training course materials.

Key outcomes achieved:

The MALTESE project demonstrated that complex rural digital tools become widely usable when access barriers are removed, delivering a no-account GeoAI advisory interface and exceeding its marketplace transaction target with 61 recorded sales across nine onboarded producers. It empowered local actors by delivering practical training to 25 participants, directly incubating three active youth-led circular business concepts presented at the national final event. Furthermore, the project established a scalable, modular digital foundation and IoT architecture that bridges small-scale Maltese producers with urban markets, providing a reusable innovation framework that will remain publicly accessible until at least July 2029.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/the-maltese-project-launches-to-support-digital-innovation-and-rural-entrepreneurship-in-malta/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/maltese-training-in-malta-turns-digital-tools-in-to-rural-action/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/join-the-maltese-final-dissemination-event-digital-innovation-youth-leadership-and-circular-agri-business-for-rural-malta/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/from-prototype-to-practical-geoai-how-the-at-hens-jackdaw-code-camp-improved-maltese/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/final-event-to-future-action-what-maltese-leaves-behind-for-rural-malta/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MT_MALTESE_Develop_Mid-term_Final_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC.docx_qZpp2nN.pdf
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/MT_Maltese_Develop_Final_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC.pdf

Avoin-Map: Open-Source Spatial Tools for Smart Rural–Urban Development, FI, Avoin Ry

Project objectives:

The Avoin Map project aimed to strengthen rural-urban development, support the rural events ecosystem, and enable climate-conscious, data-informed planning in the Mallusjoki pilot region (Finland). It specifically addresses rural challenges by converting fragmented Finnish geospatial datasets into three accessible, open-source web map services focused on building energy efficiency, land-use carbon impacts, and local activity discovery.

Activities implemented:

- Executed a two-phase, nine-month agile technical plan combining open-data integration, Postgres/PostGIS databases, Docker-based cloud infrastructure, and open-source software development.
- Developed and deployed three operational map services: Energy Map, Zoning Map, and Activity Map.
- Conducted laser scanning, drone imaging, building surveys, and condition planning for the Mallusjoki community hall to anchor Energy Map in a real renovation case.
- Engaged local residents, architects, municipal planners, regional councils, and experts from the Finnish Environment Institute through co-design workshops, interviews, scenario testing, and usability reviews.
- Engineered technical interoperability by submitting a pull request to the PoliRuralPlus *JackDaw*



repository, enabling natural-language query access to building-energy data.

- Published open-source repositories and documentation via GitHub (AvoioOrg) and delivered a complete dissemination package consisting of news articles, PoliRuralPlus blog posts, and social media campaigns.

Main outputs delivered:

- Operational Map Services: Deployed web applications for Energy Map (energiakartta-test.netlify.app), Zoning Map (hiilikartta-test.netlify.app), and Activity Map (activity.avoin.org).
- Open Source Code & Data Assets: Fully documented open-source repositories on GitHub (AvoioOrg) containing backend schemas, GeoServer infrastructure, and PostGIS spatial storage.
- PoliRuralPlus Technical Contribution: Merged/submitted pull request and demonstration deck for JackDaw GeoAI integration presented at the Athens Code Camp.
- Community Architectural Case Study: Condition plans, laser scan datasets, and material/energy efficiency recommendations for transforming the Mallusjoki community hall into a Green Culture Centre.
- Dissemination Package: Two news articles, three official PoliRuralPlus blog posts, and social media releases across LinkedIn and Facebook

Key outcomes achieved:

The Avoio Map project met all project commitments and KPI thresholds, taking three modular, open-source spatial services to operational pilot maturity. It established an evidence-based decision framework for climate-smart land use and building renovations - evidenced by over 100 scenario analyses completed across 15 distinct users (including Finnish Environment Institute planners) - while boosting local event visibility for the Mallusjoki rural ecosystem. Furthermore, by publishing its codebase and building-energy API extensions for JackDaw, the project left a durable, highly transferable digital legacy that can easily be maintained, adapted, or replicated by other European rural municipalities.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/rural-industry-ecosystem-services-are-under-development-for-the-mallusjoki-pilot-region/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/avoin-map-project-reaches-mid-term-milestone-in-mallusjoki/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/avoin-map-project-completes-three-pilot-services-for-sustainable-rural-development/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/map-services-for-rural-sustainability-from-energy-renovation-to-climate-conscious-land-use/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/activity-map-for-rural-events-making-local-life-easier-to-discover/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/FI_Avoio_Map_Develop_Mid-term_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC_wEslsYq.pdf
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/FI_AvoioMap_Develop_Final_Report_Part_A_PUBLIC.pdf

DASK: Digital Agricultural Skills and Knowledge for Kythera, GR, DASKALOS APPS

Project objectives:

The DASK (Digital Agricultural Skills and Knowledge) project aimed to accelerate the digital transformation of agricultural communities in Kythera and Antikythera (Greece) by closing critical digital skill gaps and bridging traditional farming with modern agritech. Grounded in the "digital terroir" philosophy, its goals focus on



establishing a unified digital gateway that combines direct local product e-commerce and agritourism bookings with 24/7 AI-powered agricultural training.

Activities implemented:

- Executed a nine-month, three-phase technical work plan encompassing requirements analysis, agile microservices development, and pilot validation.
- Developed and deployed an integrated, bilingual (Greek/English) web platform combining an E-Market, Agritourism Experience booking engine, Training Centre, and Knowledge Base.
- Integrated the PoliRuralPlus *Jackdaw GeoAI Chatbot* localized as "Ο Μαυροπετρίτης των Κυθήρων" (Eleonora's Falcon), utilizing Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) and AWS Transcribe voice input for Greek-language agricultural advice.
- Mobilized local producers, AKIS actors, and agricultural cooperatives (olive oil and honey) through co-design workshops, a remote evaluation session, and an in-person product photography training session in Chora.
- Formed a local "Digital Champions" peer network to deliver hands-on, one-to-one digital onboarding support to farmers.
- Published a scientific preprint on arXiv detailing the retrieval-grounded LLM architecture and delivered a comprehensive dissemination package.

Main outputs delivered:

- DASK Operational Web Platform: A deployed microservices-based web application (dask-platform.onrender.com) featuring 70+ database models, 115+ page templates, and 5 distinct user roles.
- Jackdaw GeoAI AI Assistant: A localized, voice-enabled AI assistant grounded in a curated regional knowledge base spanning beekeeping, viticulture, olive cultivation, and local practices.
- Project Website & Scientific Publications: A public web hub (dask-agri.netlify.app), an arXiv technical publication, and an accepted journal paper in *Open Research Europe*.
- Replication & Sustainability Package: A replication toolkit, a freemium-based business model, and a two-year partnership framework with KIPA.
- Dissemination Package: Two external news articles, three PoliRuralPlus platform blog posts, and active social media updates.

Key outcomes achieved:

The DASK project achieved beneficiaries reported TRL 7 operational maturity, meeting or exceeding all its key performance targets, including training 81 farmers and AKIS actors (surpassing the target of 20) and certifying 32 digital skills. The platform onboarded 20 local products, 10 agritourism experiences, and 12 integrated product-experience packages, with 77.8% of surveyed farmers affirming that DASK creates new revenue opportunities. By combining AI-driven advice with hands-on, skill-first product photography training, DASK established an effective, locally owned model for sustainable rural digital transformation across Mediterranean island communities.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/dask-platform-development-update/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/sustainable-farming-in-kythera/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/from-interest-to-action-adoption-lessons-from-the-dask-kythera-pilot/>



- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/from-the-counter-to-the-customers-screen-how-digital-skills-and-product-photography-power-rural-e-commerce/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/the-ai-assistant-behind-dask/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/GR_DASK-Develop_Mid-term_Final_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC-v2.0.docx_RAAkaRH.pdf
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/GR_DASK_Develop_Final_Report_Part-A_PUBLIC.pdf

ENHANCE CALL

SYLVAN-AI: Validating JackDaw for Inclusive Sustainable Forestry and Rural Land Management, NL, Sylvanity B.V.

Project objectives:

The SYLVAN-AI project aimed to validate and extend the PoliRuralPlus *JackDaw* GeoAI tool within the complex domain of sustainable forestry and rural land management. It specifically addresses the spatial data fragmentation facing small-scale forest owners and planners by providing a conversational interface that calculates regulatory compliance (EUDR, Green Deal, Natura 2000), evaluates climate risks, and accelerates spatial time-to-insight by at least 50%.

Activities implemented:

- Built a hybrid retrieval engine combining *JackDaw*'s tool-using GeoLLM with a local 265 GB PostGIS grounding database containing 442.3 million cadastral parcels across 27 EU countries, Natura 2000 layers, soil maps, and Czech forest typologies.
- Deployed a production three-pane dashboard (sylvan-ai.com) secured by PoliRuralPlus OAuth2 Single Sign-On (SSO).
- Engineered five pre-configured "guided journeys" (Compliant Owner, Climate-Aware Planner, Investor, Conservationist, Carbon Estimator) alongside free-form natural language and drawing-tool map interactions.
- Implemented built-in data privacy/trust safeguards, including input-boundary PII stripping, a no-hallucination guardrail, and a 0–100% confidence scoring indicator.
- Conducted a systematic audit of the hosted *JackDaw* endpoint surface, delivering an actionable hardening backlog to the PoliRuralPlus technical team.
- Executed stakeholder workshops, direct outreach (EFI, CEPF-EU, Dutch municipalities), and hands-on validation sessions using an in-app System Usability Scale (SUS) survey and benchmarking harness.

Main outputs delivered:

- SYLVAN-AI Production Platform: A deployed, single sign-on web application (sylvan-ai.com) featuring integrated Leaflet map layers, streaming chat pipelines, and Word report export tools.
- 265 GB Pan-European Spatial Foundation: Harmonized EPSG:4326 PostGIS databases covering cadastre parcels, EEA Natura 2000 sites, Copernicus terrain/land-cover, ISRIC SoilGrids, NASA fire weather, and Czech ÚHÚL forest typology.
- Technical Hardening & Replicability Assets: An itemized *JackDaw* endpoint bug/hardening backlog, reproducible country-data loaders, and a 6-week Transferability Roadmap targeting the Vidzeme



(Latvia) and Central Greece pilot regions.

- Dissemination Package: Two news articles, two PoliRuralPlus platform blog posts, dedicated social media cam

Key outcomes achieved:

SYLVAN-AI achieved beneficiaries reported TRL 7 operational deployment, exceeding all its core proposal targets. In hands-on stakeholder testing, the platform achieved a mean System Usability Scale (SUS) score of 87.5 (against a target of >70) with zero recorded critical hallucinations. Across five benchmarked European forest use cases (Czechia, Greece, France, Germany, Spain), SYLVAN-AI reduced spatial "time-to-insight" from an average of 296 minutes via traditional geoportals down to just 11 minutes—a 96% efficiency increase that far surpassed the 50% project goal.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/sylvan-ai-validating-jackdaw-geoai-for-sustainable-forestry-and-land-management-in-europe/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/sylvan-ai-is-launched/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/one-country-at-a-time-how-a-code-camp-in-piraeus-added-a-czech-forest-layer-to-sylvan-ai-and-a-blueprint-for-the-rest/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/NL_SYLVAN-AI_Final_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC.pdf

GeoEDUHealth Access - Bacău: Validation of JackDaw GeoAI for Territorial Accessibility, RO, SC MEDIA TREND SRL

Project objectives:

The GeoEDUHealth Access - Bacău project aimed to validate the *JackDaw GeoAI* conversational platform against real health and education accessibility datasets in Bacău County, Romania. It sought to provide non-technical public servants in regional institutions with a natural-language tool to analyze travel times, service coverage, and infrastructure gaps without requiring specialized, in-house GIS expertise.

Activities implemented:

- Cleaned, prepared, and ingested eight local Bacău County datasets into JackDaw's Raven catalog (covering hospitals, schools, roads, administrative boundaries, and accessibility isochrones).
- Designed and executed a rigorous, 24-query test battery across eight analytical categories (tested in both English and Romanian) and independently verified every query against QGIS ground-truth data.
- Hosted two institutional validation workshops at the Bacău County Council involving the County School Inspectorate (ISJ), County Council (CJ), and Public Health Directorate (DSP), attended by key regional policymakers and MEP Dragoș Adrian Benea.
- Conducted an online validation survey gathering structured feedback on usability, transparency, and trust from 58 institutional stakeholders.
- Issued press releases, published two official PoliRuralPlus blog posts, and secured regional broadcast/TV media coverage.

Main outputs delivered:

- Technical Validation & Feedback Report: A comprehensive 24-query test suite and benchmarking report detailing JackDaw's spatial performance, limitations, and QGIS verification results.
- Institutional Survey Dataset: A quantitative dataset compiled from 58 institutional respondents across



Bacău's public health, education, and transport sectors.

- Reusable Testing Protocol: A domain-agnostic, 8-category evaluation methodology for testing conversational GeoAI tools against local accessibility data.
- Dissemination Package: Two PoliRuralPlus blog posts, nine regional newspaper press articles, six local TV/video broadcast segments, and two dedicated stakeholder workshops.

Key outcomes achieved:

The project established that *JackDaw GeoAI* lowers the barrier for non-technical public servants to evaluate local spatial accessibility, performing reliably on factual queries and spatial filtering. Crucially, the testing identified a key technical limitation regarding answer reproducibility on complex, derived spatial questions, which was logged and transferred directly to the CTU Prague development team as a priority for platform refinement. Furthermore, the project engaged 58 key public officials across three county institutions, providing a highly visible, evidence-first framework for validating AI tools in public-sector regional planning.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/geoeduhealth-access-bac%C4%83u-validating-jackdaw-geoai-for-territorial-accessibility-in-rural-romania/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/geoeduhealth-access-bac%C4%83u-final-validation-of-the-jackdaw-geoai-solution-for-territorial-accessibility-in-rural-romania/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/bac%C4%83u-the-first-territory-in-romania-where-a-european-artificial-intelligence-solution-has-been-validated-under-real-conditions/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/RO_GeoEDUHealth_Enhance_Final_Report_Part-A-P_UBLIC.pdf

FloodAI+: Validating the JackDaw GeoAI chatbot for rural-urban flood resilience, PT, Porvalor

Project objectives:

The FloodAI+ project aimed to validate the *JackDaw GeoAI* conversational platform for rural-urban flood resilience across three European pilot contexts (Lisbon, Valencia, and Dresden). It focused on demonstrating how conversational GeoAI can simplify access to complex spatial flood-risk datasets, evaluate exposure across populations and infrastructure, adapt technical terminology for non-expert users, and generate structured validation feedback for the PoliRuralPlus ecosystem.

Activities implemented:

- Identified, harmonized, and processed heterogeneous raster and vector geospatial flood-risk datasets across Lisbon, Valencia, and Dresden.
- Developed, integrated, and functionally tested three specialized Model Context Protocol (MCP) tools within Raven/JackDaw: the *Flood Hazard Connector*, *Flood Exposure Connector*, and *Multilingual Flood Glossary*.
- Prepared and published pilot-specific population rasters and a Lisbon flow-velocity raster as Web Coverage Services (WCS) via the PoliRuralPlus GeoServer infrastructure.
- Executed two online stakeholder workshops (including a hands-on validation session on July 13, 2026), collecting Mentimeter feedback and user-journey insights on usability, clarity, trust, and decision-support relevance.
- Implemented a multilingual glossary covering 30 flood-risk concepts across four languages (English, Portuguese, Spanish, German) with three executable audience style profiles (citizens, farmers, planners/emergency managers).



- Published two official PoliRuralPlus blog posts, three project news items, and social media updates, alongside compiling a standalone User Tip Sheet and Replication Guidelines.

Main outputs delivered:

- Pilot-Level FloodAI+ Tool Suite: Three operational MCP tools (*analyze_flood_hazard*, *analyze_flood_exposure*, *explain_flood_term*) enabling natural-language and map-bounded flood queries within Raven/JackDaw.
- Published WCS Geospatial Products: Service-ready 5m resolution flood hazard/velocity and population grid coverages hosted on PoliRuralPlus GeoServer.
- Multilingual Terminology & Style Framework: A 30-term flood glossary configured in four languages and three audience-tailored style profiles.
- Dissemination & Practical Guidance Package: Two PoliRuralPlus blog posts, three news articles, a standalone 12-page Validation Report, a 2-page User Tip Sheet, and an Impact-to-Improvement Map.

Key outcomes achieved:

FloodAI+ built a functional pilot integration extending *JackDaw GeoAI* with bounded flood-hazard and exposure screening capabilities. Stakeholders in hands-on testing confirmed strong potential for conversational GeoAI to accelerate flood-risk interpretation, rating the ability to understand risk information faster than traditional GIS at 4.2/5, with 10 out of 13 participants reporting increased confidence. Furthermore, the project identified actionable development priorities regarding data provenance, uncertainty communication, and visual map outputs, leaving a reusable technical and methodological foundation for the PoliRuralPlus ecosystem.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/upcoming-webinar-floodai-1-st-workshop/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/floodai-holds-its-first-workshop-to-present-jackdaw-and-collect-stakeholder-feedback/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/floodai-2nd-workshop-hands-on-validation-of-jackdaw/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/maps-first-decisions-next-lessons-from-jackdaws-first-floodai-workshop/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/testing-jackdaw-in-practice-lessons-from-the-second-floodai-workshop/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/PT_FloodAI_Enhance_Final_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC.pdf

AURA: Assessment of Urban–Rural AI, GR, Synapsi - Anthropokentrikes Lyseis Technologias

Project objectives:

The AURA (Assessment of Urban-Rural AI) project aimed to validate and evaluate the *JackDaw GeoAI Chatbot* in operational, real-world rural-urban decision-making contexts across Central Macedonia, Greece. Using Human-Centred Design (HCD) principles, the project sought to assess JackDaw's usability, reliability, and usefulness across residential planning, rural tourism, and business intelligence, producing structured feedback and 27 prioritized recommendations to improve the tool while building local digital capacity.

Activities implemented:

- Executed a sequential, three-phase evaluation protocol involving 81 total participants across Central Macedonia:
 - Phase 1 (Usability Testing, n=9)*: Moderated, observation-based usability testing across three

user personas (planners, real-estate/business intermediaries, citizens).

2. *Phase 2 (Collaborative Workshops, n=12)*: Facilitated co-discovery workshops engaging local decision-makers (municipal planners, DMO chairs, chamber heads, agricultural deputy mayors) to evaluate cross-stakeholder interpretation.
 3. *Phase 3 (Community Validation, n=60)*: Scaled, scenario-based community testing assessing task performance and Technology Acceptance Model (TAM2) metrics before and after a major mid-project JackDaw interface update.
- Formulated three regional use-case blueprints: *Smart Residential Decentralisation* (Peri-urban Thessaloniki), *Sustainable Rural Tourism – "Pink Blossom Valley"* (Veria), and *Data-Driven Rural Business Intelligence* (Kilkis).
 - Conducted standardized quantitative and qualitative assessments utilizing the System Usability Scale (SUS) and Extended Technology Acceptance Model (TAM2).
 - Attended the Athens *JackDaw Code Camp* (June 16, 2026), presenting early findings that directly prompted the development team to release a major interface update on June 17, 2026 (redesigning the map area-selection controls).
 - Delivered a comprehensive dissemination campaign across social media (44 posts across LinkedIn and Facebook), one news article, and two PoliRuralPlus platform blog posts.

Main outputs delivered:

- **Evaluation Evidence & Database**: Structured usability and TAM2 dataset generated from 81 participants across public, economic, civil society, and end-user sectors.
- **Consolidated Recommendations Package**: A prioritized list of 27 concrete, actionable recommendations for JackDaw (categorized into Critical, High, and Medium priorities) covering area-selection controls, Greek language handling, system reliability, and source transparency.
- **Transferable Use-Case Blueprints**: Three documented, transferable blueprints and a regional adaptation checklist targeting peri-urban growth, climate-sensitive tourism, and rural SME intelligence.
- **Dissemination Package**: One external news article, two official PoliRuralPlus blog posts, 22 social media campaign topics (achieving over 3,400 Facebook views), and the final public validation report.

Key outcomes achieved:

AURA met or exceeded all five of its proposal KPIs, generating an empirical evidence base that directly shaped JackDaw's technical development. The project proved the value of continuous usability testing when its mid-evaluation feedback led to a live interface update that measurably reduced average area-selection time on Task 1 from 212 seconds down to 168 seconds. While participants confirmed JackDaw's strong potential as an intuitive conversational layer over spatial data, the study clearly identified that wider technology acceptance is constrained by data coverage, output consistency, and lack of cited sources rather than interface mechanics alone. Ultimately, AURA built digital AI literacy among 81 regional stakeholders and delivered a robust framework for replicating GeoAI evaluations across European rural-urban regions

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/aura-project-assessing-jackdaw-in-real-ruralurban-contexts/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/putting-jackdaw-to-the-test-early-findings-from-auras-usability-evaluation/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/aura-concludes-validating-geoai-for-better-ruralurban-decisions/>

- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/GR_AURA_Enhance_Final_Report_PartA_PUBLIC.pdf

J-VERSE: JackDaw Validation in Real Spatial Environments, CY, Catalink Limited

Project objectives:

The J-VERSE (JackDaw Validation in Real Spatial Environments) project aimed to rigorously validate the usability, reliability, and practical added value of the *JackDaw GeoAI* chatbot across real territorial contexts in Cyprus. It examined JackDaw by evaluating non-specialist and professional user interactions while technically cross-referencing JackDaw's environmental outputs against independent meteorological data (Open-Meteo) and hyper-local IoT microclimatic measurements.

Activities implemented:

- Conducted multi-stakeholder usability testing involving 35 participants across seven categories (completing 132 evaluation forms) to assess JackDaw's conversational map interface.
- Engineered an external validation toolkit consisting of a FastAPI backend and a GraphDB-hosted OWL Knowledge Graph to semantically unify and compare data streams via SPARQL queries.
- Deployed two physical PATROLIoT sensor devices across four location campaigns in Nicosia and Limassol to capture ground-truth microclimate temperature and humidity readings.
- Executed controlled API and conversational prompting experiments comparing JackDaw, Open-Meteo, and local IoT datasets aligned in 30-minute time buckets.
- Delivered a public validation dashboard, two PoliRuralPlus blog posts, five LinkedIn dissemination campaigns, and an accepted scientific paper for the KGCSW-SETN 2026 Workshop.

Main outputs delivered:

- J-VERSE Validation Environment & Dashboard: Web-based stakeholder testing platform (jverse.catalink.eu) and a public results visualization dashboard (j-verse-dashboard.catalink.eu).
- Semantic Evaluation Infrastructure: A FastAPI backend (jverseapi.catalink.eu/docs) and an RDF/OWL Knowledge Graph integrating JackDaw, Open-Meteo, and PATROLIoT data.
- Aligned Environmental Datasets: 30-minute bucketed microclimatic time-series datasets covering Nicosia and Limassol.
- Dissemination Package: Two PoliRuralPlus blog posts, one news article, five social media campaigns, and an accepted peer-reviewed conference paper.

Key outcomes achieved:

J-VERSE completed a multi-layered evaluation demonstrating that while JackDaw provides an accessible, fast (mean ease of use 4.16/5), and responsive interface for non-specialists, high usability does not automatically guarantee data accuracy or conversational reliability. Technical comparisons showed that while controlled JackDaw API outputs matched Open-Meteo broad-area temperature trends, open conversational answers frequently diverged from both controlled outputs and local IoT microclimate observations. The project achieved 19 of 21 targeted KPIs, delivered a reusable semantic validation framework, and provided concrete recommendations to the PoliRuralPlus team regarding data provenance, spatial scale handling, and response consistency.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/j-verse-using-knowledge-graphs-to-validate-jackdaw-against-weather-apis-and-iot-data/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/putting-jackdaw-to-the-test/>



- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/testing-jackdaw-in-cyprus-what-users-weather-data-and-local-sensors-revealed/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/CY J-VERSE Enhance Final Report Part-A-PUBLIC.pdf>

AgroJack: From Farm to Visitor: JackDaw for Agricultural Decision-Support and Tourism Services, ES, Espacio SOA SLU

Project objectives:

The AGROJACK project aimed to validate the *JackDaw GeoAI* conversational agent in an operational, dual-purpose rural living lab: the Aires de la Vera estate in La Vera (Extremadura, Spain), an active fruit farm and agrotourism destination. The project sought to prove that a single Model Context Protocol (MCP) integration could serve two distinct user groups simultaneously: non-technical tourist visitors seeking geo-contextual recommendations and estate guidance, and professional farm managers making data-driven irrigation and fertilization decisions based on live IoT soil sensors.

Activities implemented:

- Deployed and connected a self-hosted Model Context Protocol (MCP) server in Python (FastMCP) communicating via OAuth 2.0 to JackDaw's Chat API, exposing custom tools for QR-code tree descriptions, activity recommendations, visitor feedback logging, and agronomic sensor retrieval.
- Connected *AgroSens*, an IoT environmental sensing platform utilizing LoRaWAN soil probes across two depths to capture live pH, electrical conductivity (EC), NPK, moisture, temperature, and salinity readings.
- Integrated JackDaw as a geo-contextual assistant into the native *Aires de la Vera* mobile application for estate visitors and into the *AgroSens* web interface for farm staff.
- Executed three structured internal tourism validation sessions with 24 total participants testing QR-scanning and localized activity recommendation flows.
- Conducted on-farm validation trials with farm personnel and demonstrated the IoT-JackDaw system to over a dozen neighboring farmers.
- Expanded the *AgroSens* sensing platform to a multi-user architecture to support sensor deployment requests from surrounding local farms.
- Issued two news features, one PoliRuralPlus platform blog post, social media campaigns, and a permanent project page on the Espacio SOA corporate website.

Main outputs delivered:

- AGROJACK Dual-Domain Platform: A deployed, dual-purpose integration pairing the *Aires de la Vera* mobile app and the *AgroSens* web dashboard through a shared, self-hosted FastMCP server.
- Four Custom MCP Tools: Python-based callable tools (`explain_qr_point`, `get_nearby_activities`, `log_visitor_interaction`, `get_sensor_readings`) that allow JackDaw to query local databases and sensor nodes autonomously.
- Multi-User AgroSens Platform: Upgraded multi-tenant IoT sensor infrastructure supporting multi-farm onboarding across La Vera.
- Replicability & Dissemination Assets: Two documented replication roadmaps (for agrotourism SMEs and sensor-equipped farms), two news features, one official blog post, and social media campaigns.

Key outcomes achieved:



AGROJACK met or exceeded all five of its proposal KPIs, generating over 200 total tourism interactions (yielding ~50 structured validation logs, surpassing the KPI target of 30) and over 15 validated agricultural decision-support interactions. JackDaw demonstrated high analytical utility, correctly interpreting root-zone sensor data to generate plain-language irrigation and fertilization advice that was validated as expert-aligned by the farm manager. The project achieved strong community adoption, prompting three neighboring farmers to request sensor deployments on their own lands, while establishing a documented, scalable blueprint for connecting rural SMEs to European GeoAI agents.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/agrojack-completes-its-validation-of-jackdaw-geoai-at-the-aires-de-la-vera-estate/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/from-farm-to-visitor-how-we-taught-jackdaw-to-speak-for-our-estate/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/when-farmers-ask-for-more-agrojacks-neighbours-want-jackdaw-on-their-own-farms/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/ES_AGROJACK_Enhance_Final_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC.pdf

eMooJI: enhanced MooFind JackDaw Intelligence, DE, Moofind UG

Project objectives:

The eMooJI (enhanced MooFind JackDaw Intelligence) project aimed to apply, test, and evaluate the *JackDaw GeoAI* ecosystem in practical agricultural, livestock-management, and rural-planning contexts across three European regions (Hesse in Germany, Aberdeenshire in Scotland, and Catalonia in Spain). Its core purpose was to eliminate the technical barrier to accessing spatial data by enabling non-expert farmers and land managers to retrieve geospatial information through natural-language and voice-based interaction.

Activities implemented:

- Developed the eMooJI progressive web application (emooji.moofind.com) connected to the consortium-hosted JackDaw AI agent via the JackDaw API, featuring voice input, dark mode, polygon-based Area of Interest (AOI) selection, and chat-export tools.
- Configured and demonstrated interoperability with preconfigured PoliRuralPlus Model Context Protocol (MCP) services and connected an external MooFind MCP server to stream custom data APIs.
- Conducted structured, individual one-to-one validation sessions (in-person and remote) with 16 stakeholders (68.7% female participation) across Germany, Scotland, and Spain, spanning farmers, veterinarians, advisors, and public-sector officers.
- Prepared and distributed user-support onboarding materials, step-by-step tutorials, video guides, and a freely accessible, reusable agricultural Question Bank.
- Published the eMooJI application source code to an open-source public repository on GitLab.
- Produced a complete communication package, including two PoliRuralPlus blog posts, one news article, and social media updates.

Main outputs delivered:

- eMooJI Progressive Web Application: A deployed, open-source, mobile-responsive web interface (emooji.moofind.com) supporting voice commands and polygon-based spatial queries.
- Public Source-Code Repository: An open-source codebase published on GitLab ([\[gitlab.com/moofind/emooji\]](https://gitlab.com/moofind/emooji)) (<https://gitlab.com/moofind/emooji>) to support third-party replication



and adaptation.

- Reusable Question Bank: A freely accessible, structured library of practical agricultural and environmental queries covering pasture conditions, terrain, protected areas, and land use.
- Dissemination Package: Two official PoliRuralPlus blog posts, one news feature article, social media campaign posts, and user-onboarding guides.

Key outcomes achieved:

The eMooJI project proved that conversational GeoAI and voice-based interactions lower the barrier for non-technical farmers to access Earth Observation and spatial datasets without operating complex GIS software. Validation across all three regions demonstrated strong concept transferability and achieved a System Usability Scale (SUS) score above 70%, with voice input highlighted as a key usability enhancer for field work. Furthermore, testing identified critical technical priorities—such as resolving response latency/timeouts, improving polygon-query handling, and increasing data-source transparency—delivering actionable feedback and open-source assets for the future scaling of the PoliRuralPlus ecosystem.

Website articles & Report:

- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/bringing-ai-closer-to-farmers-how-emooji-makes-map-based-decisions-easier/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/news/moofind-launches-emooji-a-multilingual-progressive-web-interface-for-the-jackdaw-geoai-platform/>
- <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/knowledge-transfer/blog/testing-geoai-beyond-the-lab-lessons-from-the-emooji-project/>
- https://www.poliruralplus.eu/media/documents/DE_eMooJI_Enhance_Final_Report_Part-A-PUBLIC.pdf

4. Assessment of the Open Calls

4.1 Feedback from beneficiaries

To systematically capture end-of-project insights, operational challenges, and evaluations of the cascade funding mechanism, an online post-implementation impact survey was distributed to all 26 funded Open Call winners across the four call phases.

Survey coverage and interpretation.

The beneficiaries' feedback survey received responses from 21 of the 26 funded projects, corresponding to a response rate of 80.8%. Unless otherwise stated, percentages in this section are calculated using the number of valid responses to the individual survey item rather than automatically using all 21 respondents. For this reason, the denominator (**n**) is reported alongside each percentage. Differences between denominators reflect item non-response or questions that were not applicable to all respondents



The 21 responses provide **high coverage of the funded-project population**, representing 80.8% of the 26 funded projects. The findings therefore provide a strong indication of beneficiaries' experience, while some risk of non-response bias remains because five projects did not participate in the survey.

The respondent cohort represents a well-balanced cross-section of the European rural innovation ecosystem:

- **Small businesses:** 33.3% (7/21 respondents)
- **Technology companies:** 28.6% (6/21 respondents)
- **Research or education organisations:** 23.8% (5/21 respondents)
- **Non-governmental and community organisations (NGOs):** 19.0% (4/21 respondents)

Respondents could identify more than one organisational characteristic where applicable. Consequently, category totals and percentages are not mutually exclusive and may sum to more than the 21 survey respondents or exceed 100%.

Overall satisfaction with the Open Call process was consistently positive, achieving an overall mean score of 4.67 out of 5.00. Two-thirds of respondents (66.7%, 14 beneficiaries) rated their experience as "Very satisfied" (5/5) and 33.3% (7 beneficiaries) rated it as "Satisfied" (4/5). Notably, zero negative or neutral ratings (scores 1–3) were recorded across the entire cohort.

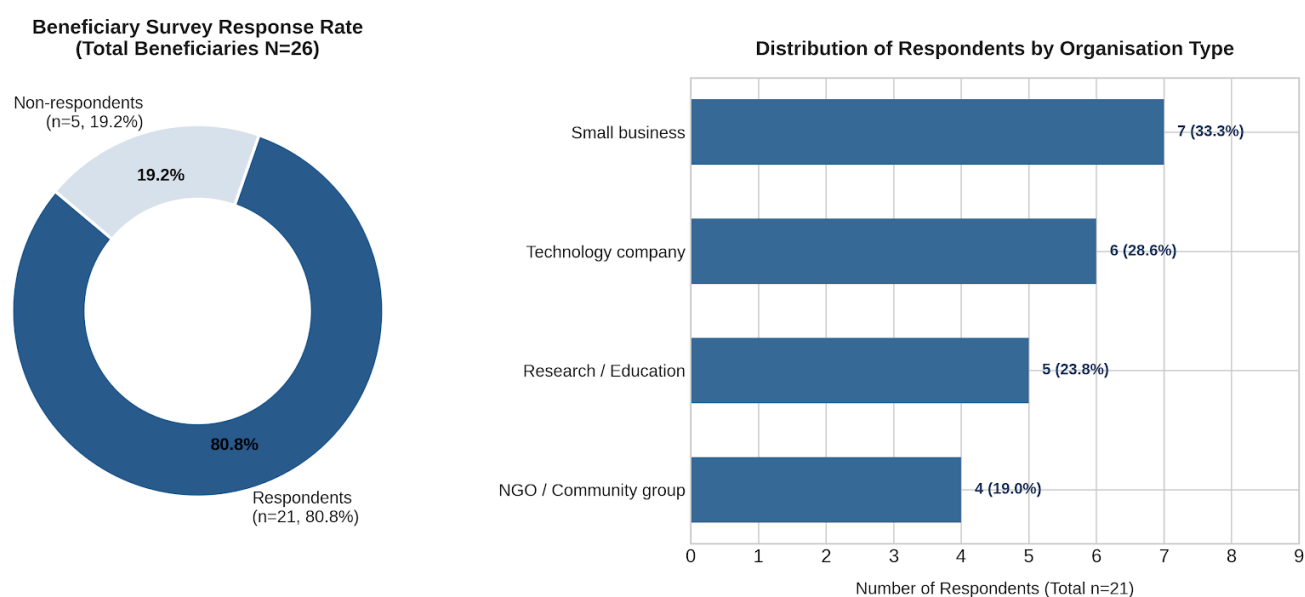


Figure 4: Survey participation rate and the distribution of beneficiary organisations' profiles



4.1.1 Application process

Beneficiaries highlighted that the application procedure was clear, well-structured, and accessible compared to standard Horizon Europe instruments. The provision of concrete call descriptions, predefined regional challenges, and dedicated application packages via the PoliRuralPlus Knowledge Hub enabled applicants to align their proposals directly with territorial pilot needs. However, several technical applicants noted that the application phase should provide clearer upfront definitions regarding the technological readiness level (TRL) and maturity expectations of the core ecosystem tools (such as the JackDaw GeoAI agent) to help calibrate project work plans more accurately.

4.1.2 Evaluation process

The multi-tiered evaluation methodology—combining automated/manual eligibility checks, independent expert panels, and consensus reviews—was perceived as transparent, fair, and objective. The strict three-pillar scoring criteria (**Objectives**, **Impacts**, and **Implementation**) provided balanced weighting between technical feasibility and regional relevance. Beneficiaries appreciated receiving qualitative evaluation feedback alongside quantitative scoring. The primary critique concerned the geographic restriction policy: while prioritizing pilot-specific alignment ensured localized impact, certain research and technology applicants felt that future calls should open challenge themes to a broader European territory to avoid excluding innovative solutions tackling identical rural-urban bottlenecks outside designated consortium pilot areas.

4.1.3 Grant management and reporting

Beneficiaries reported high satisfaction with the consortium's administrative responsiveness, approachable coordination team, and milestone-based lump-sum mechanism. Grant execution nonetheless presented specific operational hurdles:

- **Participant recruitment and regional engagement:** 47.6% (10/21 respondents) identified finding local partners or rural participants as a primary hurdle during implementation, emphasizing the need for consortium support in field activation.
- **Timeline constraints:** 42.9% (9/21 respondents) noted that short project durations (ranging from 3 to 9 months) constrained the depth of field testing, long-term validation, and user adoption cycles.
- **Administrative and deliverable burden:** 23.8% (5/21 respondents) cited reporting and administrative formalities as a significant challenge. Beneficiaries recommended streamlining mid-term reporting, reducing intermediary paperwork, and standardizing reporting templates from day one to allow technical teams to focus on technical delivery.
- **Feedback integration loops:** Enhance Call partners noted that while testing the JackDaw GeoAI tool, faster technical turnaround and agile bug-resolution channels were needed to incorporate iterative user feedback directly into the platform during active validation windows.

4.2 Effectiveness of the Open Call instrument

4.2.1 Ability to attract relevant applicants

The cascade funding mechanism proved highly attractive across the European innovation ecosystem, eliciting 339 total applications across four calls. The instrument engaged a balanced mix of grassroots community leaders, regional SMEs, deep-tech startups, and academic institutions across 14 European countries. The progressive four-stage funnel (**Outreach** → **Mobilise** → **Develop** → **Enhance**) guided participants from ideation to TRL 7–8 operational deployment.

The data reflects two key dimensions of ecosystem activation:

- **Multi-actor networking** (Figure 5): Every single respondent (100%) established new partnerships through their project, with 57.1% (12/21 beneficiaries) collaborating with more than five new organisations and 33.3% (7 /21 beneficiaries) engaging three to five partners.
- **Capacity building & knowledge gain** (Figure 6): The instrument served as a strong catalyst for digital upskilling, with 71.4% (15/21 beneficiaries) gaining new competencies in AI or data management, 57.1% (12/21 beneficiaries) in digital tools, and 47.4% (11/21 beneficiaries) in regional cooperation and market access. Additionally, 81% (17/21 beneficiaries) affirmed that their project significantly deepened their understanding of local rural-urban needs.

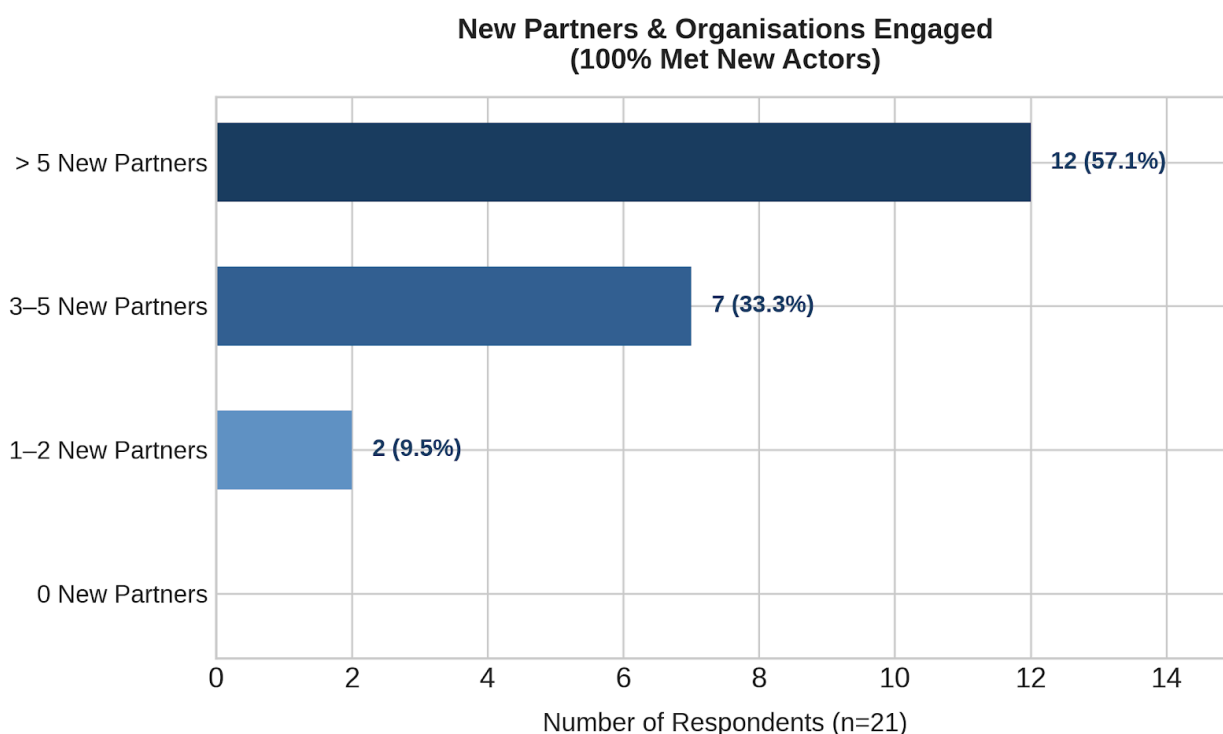


Figure 5: Ecosystem Networking & Partner Collaboration

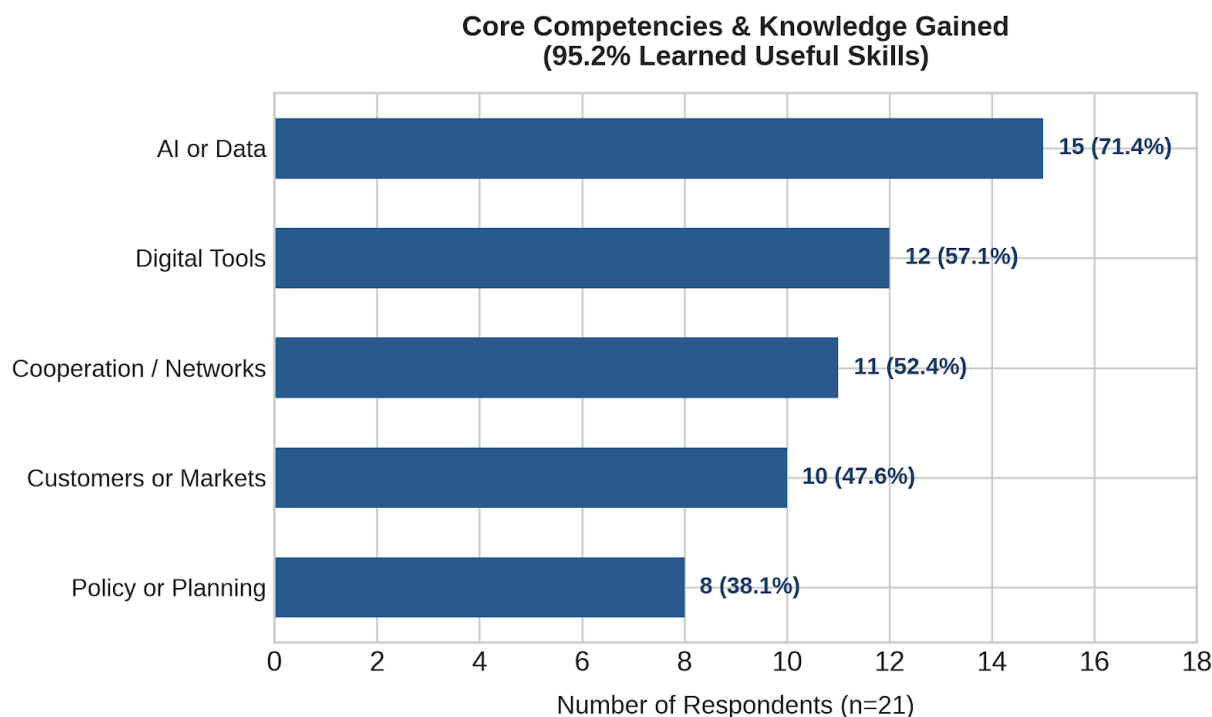


Figure 6: Digital Skills & Competencies Acquired

4.2.2 Quality of supported projects

The funded portfolio demonstrated robust technical completion:

- **Tangible output delivery:** **90.5%** (19/21 projects) successfully tested or deployed operational tools, services, or frameworks in real-world environments (71.4% tested; 19.0% already actively used in practice).
- **Domain innovations:** Projects delivered operational RAG-based LLMs, localized Model Context Protocol (MCP) servers, IoT soil sensor networks, PostGIS cadastre spatial backends, and multi-actor governance portals (e.g., *ARISE*, *LocalLinks.AI*, *Field2Fork*, *SYLVAN-AI*, *DASK*).
- **Efficiency gains:** Testing benchmarks demonstrated substantial performance improvements, such as *SYLVAN-AI* cutting spatial compliance analysis time by 96% and *AURA* measurably reducing UI map-selection times through iterative validation.

4.2.3 Added value for pilot regions

The FSTP instrument created direct, measurable added value across the nine PoliRuralPlus pilot regions by funding tailored solutions to place-based challenges:

Primary beneficiary group	% of projects impacting group	Core territorial added value delivered
Rural businesses & SMEs	76.2% (16/21 projects)	Expanded digital visibility, e-commerce adoption, zero-km delivery logistics, and agritourism linkages.
Farmers & producers	71.4% (15/21 projects)	Data-driven decision support (irrigation, fertilization), short food supply chain mapping, and peer skill training.
Local residents & communities	57.1% (12/21 projects)	Inclusive service accessibility mapping, community composting, participatory planning, and village event platforms.
Public authorities & planners	57.1% (12/21 projects)	Automated KPI regional monitoring dashboards, spatial accessibility analysis, and evidence-based flood risk planning.
Visitors & tourists	33.3% (7/21 projects)	Curated cultural routes, smart event guides, and geo-contextual mobile discovery trails.
Young people	33.3% (7/21 projects)	Youth hackathons, agri-tech entrepreneurship incubation, and digital skill certifications.

Table 6: Regional added value

A central criterion for assessing FSTP added value is the extent to which funded activities responded to challenges, priorities or actions identified in the nine PoliRuralPlus Regional Action Plans. The Open Calls should therefore be understood not as a parallel innovation mechanism, but as a means of translating selected regional needs into practical experimentation. Where a project was linked to a pilot region, the assessment considers the chain **RAP challenge/objective → funded project → project output → immediate outcome → contribution to RAP implementation and/or monitoring**. This linkage is important for determining whether FSTP activities strengthened the implementation capacity of the RAPs and for informing subsequent monitoring under WP5.

Pilot/RAP	RAP challenge or action	FSTP project	Output	Immediate outcome	Relevant RAP KPI / monitoring item	Evidence Source
Pilot 1: Monaghan, Ireland	Intervention II (Actions 2.1 & 2.2): Mapping agricultural waste streams (poultry litter, spent mushroom compost) and identifying circular waste-to-resource valorisation opportunities.	GREEN (Outreach)	Comprehensive scoping report categorising circular opportunities across 4 macro-sectors; inventory of major local waste streams; evaluation index of funding mechanisms.	Mobilised 23 key stakeholders (including 21 SMEs); identified actionable business pathways (poultry litter anaerobic digestion, biochar from waste timber) aligned with LEADER priorities.	KPI 4: Territorial & Environmental Sustainability (waste mapping completed); KPI 1: Multi-Actor Participation.	Final technical report / Beneficiary self-report
Pilot 2: Slovakia (National)	Goal 1 (Action 1.1): Developing and enhancing the national stakeholder platform as a digital hub for participatory dialogue, consultation, and inclusive governance.	DigiStake (Outreach)	Deployment and upgrade of the online collaboration hub atraktivnyvidiek.sk; regional user needs assessment; modular digital skills training curriculum.	Established a functional "Quadruple Helix" engagement model; elevated digital literacy among rural actors; integrated local strategies directly into the EU Rural Pact framework.	KPI 3: Innovation & Digitalisation (use of digital tools by municipalities); KPI 7: Communication & Visibility.	Application/ platform analytics / Final technical report
Pilot 3: Apulia, Italy	RAP SFSC Objective: Strengthening short food supply chains, overcoming logistics bottlenecks, and connecting rural	DEMO (Outreach)	Sector survey mapping producers' propensity toward alternative marketing models; analysis	Established critical baseline data; generated stakeholder consensus on cooperative vehicle pooling and	RAP Strategic Targets: Number of agri-food producer partnerships; circular economy initiatives.	Beneficiary survey / Final technical report

	agricultural producers with urban consumer demand.		of supply fragmentation and communication costs.	direct-to-consumer delivery via Local Action Groups (GALs).		
Pilot 3: Apulia, Italy	RAP SFSC Objective: Developing intelligent matching, traceability, and anti-waste digital workflows to strengthen rural-urban value chains	INCO (Mobilise)	4 regional prototypes (including the winning ML anti-waste matching tool); verified producer database; automated direct-to-consumer delivery protocols.	Mobilised 30+ regional actors; validated predictive algorithms that pair real-time producer crop margins with consumer pre-orders to route surplus produce at discount rates.	RAP Strategic Targets: Number of producer-consumer partnerships; uptake of agricultural digital tools.	Final technical report / Technical benchmark
Pilot 3: Apulia, Italy	RAP SFSC Objective: Overcoming digital market access barriers for smallholders in Foggia through transparent, zero-kilometre e-commerce.	Field2Fork AI Hub (Develop)	Dual-track e-commerce platform with the "Personal Farmer" conversational AI assistant; zero-km logistics engine utilizing Named Entity Recognition (NER) for pickup hubs.	Validated operational beta platform: 90.3% consumer satisfaction (n=170, score 4.44/5); onboarded 23 agri-food producers and established direct urban delivery pathways.	RAP Strategic Targets: Strengthening short food supply chains; rural-urban market integration.	Application/ platform analytics / Beneficiary survey
Pilot 4: Czech-Bavarian Borderlands (CZ/DE)	Tourism & Cross-Border Linkages: Connecting family farms with gastronomy and regional tourism; overcoming cross-border	FarmTourist (Outreach)	Stakeholder database (80+ entities); Topics of Interest survey report; cross-border integration summary; localized media kit.	Mobilised 46 workshop participants in Klatovy (26 long-term commitment agreements); introduced automated farm vending machines and farm caravan tourism ("stellplatz").	KPI 2: Rural-urban and cross-border connectivity; KPI 1: Stakeholder engagement in regional planning.	Final technical report / Beneficiary survey

	marketing and language barriers.					
Pilot 4: Czech-Bavarian Borderlands (CZ/DE)	Digital Innovation & Youth: Engaging youths and secondary school students in co-designing smart digital tools for tourism and agriculture.	DIPS (Mobilise)	4 digital portal prototypes (including winning ViaPoint for balancing visitor flows and FarMAppka for crop mapping via LPIS); bilateral integration report.	Two-day ideathon in Klatovy connecting students with mayors, LAGs, and farmers; translated youth concepts into concrete municipal software requirements.	KPI 3: Shared digital infrastructures and training participants; youth involvement in governance.	WP6 administrative records / Final technical report
Pilot 4: Czech-Bavarian Borderlands (CZ/DE)	Shared Data Platforms: Systematic data collection, AI-assisted validation, and spatial mapping of supplier-customer food networks.	LocalLinks.AI (Develop)	Operational beta editor localfarms.ai; automated data feeds into the PoliRuralPlus Atlas of Regional Specialities; JackDaw natural-language query integration.	Reached TRL 7–8; mapped 460 supplier-customer relationships across 175 producers and 220 sales outlets; contributed 6 best-practice cases to the regional repository.	KPI 3: Uptake of shared digital and data platforms; KPI 2: Strengthening cross-border economic ties.	Application/platform analytics / Final technical report
Pilot 5: Vidzeme, Latvia	VPR PATHWATCH: Establishing a harmonised regional development monitoring framework, data governance, and inter-municipal collaboration.	EDQMS_VR (Outreach)	User Needs and Innovation Solutions Report; strategic guidelines for modernising the official Regional Development Indicators Module (RAIM) via APIs and AI.	Developed the "Civic Economy Monitoring Council" governance model; built capacity among regional planners for automated data-driven decision-making.	KPI 6: Governance and institutional capacity; inter-municipal indicator agreements.	Final technical report / Beneficiary self-report

Pilot 5: Vidzeme, Latvia	VPR PATHWATCH: Co-creating sector-specific municipal KPIs and developing practical digital tools for municipal asset management.	D2D (Mobilise)	Harmonised KPI framework across 6 municipal sectors; prototype for a digital municipal housing management platform modeled after "booking.com".	Two-stage hybrid hackathon engaging 80+ municipal practitioners and data analysts; resolved local analytical deficits through peer-reviewed indicator workflows.	KPI 6: Institutional governance capacity; KPI 1: Multi-actor engagement across local municipalities.	WP6 administrative records / Final technical report
Pilot 6: Malta	Agriculture & Food Security: Addressing agricultural land fragmentation, climate water scarcity, and generational renewal through digital inclusion.	AgriFusion (Outreach)	Actionable Roadmap for national agritech adoption; consumer demand and farm constraint dataset; AI-supported qualitative survey analysis.	Established continuous community feedback loops; demonstrated consumer willingness to back local farm-to-table channels; supported youth agricultural empowerment.	RAP Strategic Targets: Building digital and green competencies; cross-sectoral partnerships.	Beneficiary survey / Final technical report
Pilot 6: Malta	Agritech & Youth Entrepreneurship: Mobilising multi-sector actors to co-create digital solutions for land access, water efficiency, and public procurement.	M-ATI (Mobilise)	5 detailed concept notes and pitch decks (winning project: Go(v) Local First, an automated platform prioritising local produce in public institutional procurement).	Mobilised 40+ multidisciplinary participants in Malta's first dedicated youth agritech ideathon; initiated consultations with national cooperatives to adopt procurement tools.	RAP Strategic Targets: Youth entrepreneurship support; community training and capacity building.	WP6 administrative records / Final technical report
Pilot 6: Malta	Digital Innovation Ecosystem: Equipping smallholders with	MALTESE (Develop)	MALTESE Agro-Innovation Digital Hub: no-account GeoAI JackDaw interface,	Trained 25 participants across 73 participant-days; incubated 3 youth-led circular	RAP Strategic Targets: Delivery of community training sessions;	Application/ platform analytics /

	accessible digital tools, circular business models, and direct market visibility.		localized Map Whiteboard, and localized PrestaShop Rural-Urban E-Market.	agribusiness concepts; onboarded 9 producer stores and logged 61 transactions.	operational stakeholder partnerships.	Beneficiary survey
Pilot 7: Sierra y Mancha Conquense, Spain	Heritage & Smart Rural Development: Leveraging AI for cultural heritage valorisation, smart rural tourism, and community-based ecological transition.	AI4RURAL (Mobilise)	9 conceptual prototypes (winning project: RecomIA for automated community composting with sensor-guided AI; Turicleta e-bike aggregator).	Activated an agile rural-urban network of 30+ professionals and enterprises; secured commitments from Itecam to scale winning solutions into real-world pilots.	RAP Strategic Targets: Heritage project valorisation; smart rural digitalisation actions.	WP6 administrative records / Final technical report
Pilot 7: Sierra y Mancha Conquense, Spain	Heritage & Smart Rural Development: Overcoming fragmented visitor information across Roman archaeological sites while boosting local enterprise visibility.	ARISE (Develop)	Operational web platform arise.xilbi.com (Leaflet/OSM maps, JackDaw Chat Guide, AEMET weather, renewable tool); authenticated MAAT workspace.	Reached TRL 7–8; listed 63 rural businesses; recorded 148 planned itineraries; registered 48 stakeholders across 17 collaborative MAAT governance sessions.	RAP Strategic Targets: Digitalisation actions; multi-actor monitoring via MAAT; local business activation.	Application/ platform analytics / Technical benchmark
Pilot 8: Mallusjoki, Finland	Rural Event Ecosystem: Building an AI-assisted four-season visitor economy, carbon-neutral events,	Go Mallusjoki! (Mobilise)	Regional Action Plan & Brand Strategy 2025–2030; structured database of 39 community-generated	Mobilised 51 citizens during the Takinkääntöviikko festival; secured endorsement from the Mayor of Orimattila; established the community	RAP Strategic Targets: Number of sustainable events held; support for rural tourism businesses.	Beneficiary survey / Final technical report

	and community-driven rural vitality.		innovations; escape-game local food route concept.	foundation for open map services.		
Pilot 8: Mallusjoki, Finland	Sustainable Planning & Climate: Providing accessible spatial tools for building-energy retrofitting and carbon-conscious land-use decision-making.	Avoin-Map (Develop)	Three live web applications (Energy Map, Zoning Map, Activity Map); PostGIS backend; architectural laser scan plans for the Mallusjoki community hall.	Over 100 scenario analyses completed across 15 distinct planning and research users; established actionable renovation roadmap to create a Green Culture Centre.	RAP Strategic Targets: CO ₂ reduction measures; evidence-based land-use and energy planning.	Application/ platform analytics / Final technical report
Pilot 9: Central Greece	Smart Agritourism & Agriculture: Unlocking agritourism potential by bridging primary food producers with urban tech innovators through digital storytelling.	RURBAN Challenge (Mobilise)	7 agritourism solution pitch decks (winning projects: SoapCircle circular olive-oil soap and Bee Parent interactive hive adoption).	Engaged 68 physical and digital participants; integrated winning business concepts directly into the national Open Farm Days 2026 festival.	RAP Strategic Targets: Cross-sectoral collaboration; digital tool adoption among rural SMEs.	WP6 administrative records / Beneficiary survey
Pilot 9: Central Greece (Kythera Island)	Digital Skills & Agritourism: Overcoming extreme geographical isolation and low digital literacy among island farmers through "digital terroir" tools.	DASK (Develop)	Integrated bilingual platform dask-platform.onrender.com (E-market, agritourism bookings, JackDaw "Eleonora's Falcon" chatbot, Knowledge Base).	Trained 81 farmers/AKIS actors; certified 32 digital skills; listed 20 products and 10 agritourism experiences; 77.8% of farmers confirmed new revenue opportunities.	RAP Strategic Targets: Adoption of digital tools in rural territories; capacity building for primary producers.	Beneficiary survey / Application/ platform analytics



Table 7: Mapping of Pilot-Specific FSTP Projects to Regional Action Plan (RAP) Priorities, Outputs, and Monitoring Indicators

4.2.4 Horizontal projects under the Enhance Call (Cross-Pilot JackDaw GeoAI Validation)

Projects funded under the Enhance Call operated across European rural-urban testbeds to validate, harden, and extend the core JackDaw GeoAI ecosystem. While not restricted to a single consortium pilot, they directly addressed structural challenges identified across the RAPs, such as climate adaptation, digital capacity, service accessibility, and precision agriculture.

Several Enhance projects validated JackDaw's potential while simultaneously identifying substantive technical limitations requiring future development.

Thematic & Territorial Context	Alignment with RAP Priorities & Challenges	Enhance Project	Project Output	Immediate Outcome	Contribution to RAP Monitoring & Tools	Evidence Source
Forestry & EU Compliance (Netherlands / Pan-European)	Supporting smallholder forest owners with EUDR, Green Deal, and Natura 2000 reporting without requiring GIS expertise.	SYLVAN-AI	Conversational platform sylvan-ai.com pairing JackDaw with a 265 GB PostGIS layer (442M cadastral parcels across 27 EU countries, Czech forest typology).	Reduced spatial compliance analysis time by 96% (from 296 to 11 minutes); scored an SUS usability score of 87.5/100 with zero critical hallucinations.	Validates GeoAI decision support for forestry, climate, and environmental actions in regional plans.	Technical benchmark / Final technical report
Territorial Service Access (Bacău County, Romania)	Addressing analytical deficits in rural municipalities evaluating travel times	GeoEDU Health Access	24-query test battery benchmarked against QGIS ground-truth data; technical validation and reproducibility report.	Engaged 58 public officials across school, health, and road directorates; identified critical reproducibility limits on	Establishes accessible spatial analysis methods for planning transport and social infrastructure in peripheral areas.	Technical benchmark / Beneficiary survey

	to essential healthcare and schools.			complex spatial derivations for CTU Prague.		
Flood Resilience & Hazards (Lisbon, Valencia, Dresden)	Translating complex hydrological models and spatial exposure data into plain-language guidance for non-specialist planners and citizens.	FloodAI+	3 MCP tools (Hazard Connector, Exposure Connector, Multilingual Glossary); WCS population and flow-velocity layers on GeoServer.	Hands-on testing with stakeholders; 76.9% of participants reported increased confidence interpreting flood maps; rated faster than traditional GIS (4.2/5).	Contributes reusable climate adaptation and disaster risk management workflows relevant to municipal RAPs.	Beneficiary survey / Final technical report
Spatial Planning & HCD (Central Macedonia, Greece)	Overcoming usability and language barriers in municipal spatial planning, tourism management, and SME intelligence.	AURA	Three-phase evaluation across 81 participants (SUS and TAM2); consolidated list of 27 prioritised technical recommendations for JackDaw.	Early findings prompted a live JackDaw UI update that cut area-selection time from 212s to 168s; enhanced AI literacy among local decision-makers.	Directly supports digital skills development and SMART planning priorities outlined in the Greek RAP.	Technical benchmark / Beneficiary survey
Microclimate & Sensor Validation (Cyprus)	Assessing the consistency between high-level GeoAI meteorological models, weather APIs, and hyper-local physical IoT sensors.	J-VERSE	GraphDB Knowledge Graph; FastAPI backend; four field deployment campaigns using PATROLIoT stations in Nicosia and Limassol (30-min buckets).	Demonstrated that conversational answers can diverge from controlled API data; formulated concrete guidelines on spatial scale and data provenance.	Validates sensor data integration and environmental monitoring frameworks for regional planning.	Technical benchmark / Final technical report



Agritourism & Precision Farming (Extremadura, Spain)	Dual challenge: delivering geo-contextual guidance to orchard visitors while optimizing root-zone irrigation via IoT sensors.	AGROJACK	Self-hosted FastMCP server linking the Aires de la Vera visitor app (QR tree codes) and AgroSens LoRaWAN probes (pH, EC, NPK, moisture) to JackDaw.	Logged 200+ visitor interactions; generated expert-aligned irrigation/fertilisation advice; prompted 3 neighbouring farms to join the sensor network.	Demonstrates synergy between agritourism and precision agriculture aligned with Spanish RAP goals.	Application/ platform analytics / Beneficiary survey
Livestock & Pasture Management (Germany, Scotland, Spain)	Eliminating technical GIS hurdles for farmers assessing pasture conditions, terrain slope, and Natura 2000 restrictions.	eMooJI	Progressive web app emooji.moofind.com featuring voice commands, polygon-based AOI selection, dark mode, and an open query bank.	Validated with 16 rural stakeholders (68.7% female); scored SUS >70%; demonstrated high transferability of hands-free voice interaction in the field.	Advances digital transformation and sustainable pasture management in regional agriculture.	Beneficiary survey / Final technical report

Table 8: Cross-pilot and thematic alignment of Enhance Call projects with RAP challenges and technological validation



4.2.5 Lessons learned

Participant recruitment in rural areas: 47.6% (10/21 respondents) cited finding local stakeholders and engaging rural participants as their primary operational challenge. Grassroots outreach requires substantial lead time, trusted local intermediaries (e.g., LAGs, farmer cooperatives), and tailored offline engagement formats.

Co-design bridges tech divides: Combining conversational AI interfaces and voice input with hands-on training (e.g., product photography, prompt workshops) overcame digital literacy barriers among older or non-technical rural producers.

Project duration realism: 42.9% of beneficiaries emphasized that 3-to-9 month project timelines are tight for initiatives requiring seasonal agricultural validation, software development, and community mobilization simultaneously.

Cross-call synergies: Beneficiaries expressed a strong desire for structured peer exchange, joint webinars, and technical matchmaking sessions between winners across different calls and pilot territories during active implementation.

4.3 Recommendations for future Open Calls

4.3.1 Process improvements

Streamline administrative & reporting workflows: Standardize validation reporting templates from day one and reduce intermediary deliverable requirements, replacing narrative overhead with lightweight, milestone-driven technical verification.

Adjust duration and budgeting by tier: Expand implementation windows for technical development (Develop Call) and real-world testing (Enhance Call) from 6–9 months to 9–12 months to allow for seasonal agricultural cycles, stakeholder recruitment, and comprehensive user testing.

Expand thematic geographic eligibility: While maintaining focus on pilot regional challenges, allow high-potential applicants from non-consortium EU regions facing identical structural bottlenecks to participate in development calls.

4.3.2 Support mechanisms

Centralized stakeholder matchmaking & onboarding packages: Provide sub-grantees with a consortium-backed communication toolkit, direct introductions to regional pilot partners, and dedicated stakeholder engagement channels to accelerate local participant recruitment.

Agile technical feedback & co-development channels: Establish dedicated developer liaison channels (e.g., Code Camps, shared repositories, rapid issue-tracking sprints) between third-party innovators and core platform developers to accelerate technical bug fixes and feature requests during pilot execution.

Inter-project networking & knowledge exchange: Organize regular cross-call demo days, thematic working groups, and peer-learning webinars across European sub-grantees to share technical architectures and avoid duplicating effort.



4.3.3 Scaling and replication opportunities

100% replicability potential: Among respondents answering the replication question, **21 of 21 (100%) considered their project's result capable of being transferred, adapted or replicated beyond its original context.** This is a beneficiaries' self-assessment of replication potential rather than evidence that replication has already occurred. Demonstrated replication would require documented adoption or implementation in a second organisational or territorial context.

High long-term sustainability: 81.0% (17 projects) are actively continuing or plan to continue utilizing their project tools, partnerships, and platforms beyond the funding period. This finding indicates substantial beneficiaries' commitment to continuation, but it should be interpreted as stated intention at the end of the funded period rather than evidence of long-term financial or institutional sustainability.

Open-source & modular frameworks: Maximize European impact by encouraging future third parties to publish codebases under open-source licenses (such as *ARISE*, *Avoin-Map*, and *eMooJI* on GitHub/GitLab), standardizing Model Context Protocol (MCP) integrations, and establishing permanent API endpoints into overarching EU data spaces.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Summary of funded activities

The PoliRuralPlus Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) programme distributed €850,968 across 26 sub-granted projects across 14 European countries, structuring third-party innovation through four distinct, progressive phases: Outreach, Mobilise, Develop, and Enhance. Across these stages, the initiative transitioned from initial grassroots consultation and multi-stakeholder ideation to full-scale software engineering and operational GeoAI testing. The six Outreach projects mapped hyper-local priorities, circular economy opportunities, and short supply chain bottlenecks. The seven Mobilise projects organized regional ideathons and hackathons that engaged over 250 local actors, IT specialists, students, and municipal leaders. The six Develop projects brought practical digital tools to beneficiaries reported TRL 7–8 operational deployment—delivering zero-kilometer e-commerce engines, spatial food supply chain networks, open-source building-energy and carbon mapping platforms, and rural training ecosystems. Finally, the seven Enhance projects directly tested and expanded the JackDaw GeoAI conversational platform in real territorial environments, evaluating its usability, integrating live IoT soil and microclimate sensors, connecting pan-European cadastral databases, and deploying domain-specific flood and accessibility models.

5.2 Key outputs, outcomes and emerging impacts

To avoid conflating delivery with impact, this assessment distinguishes among **outputs**, **immediate outcomes** and **emerging impacts**. Outputs are the directly produced results of funded activities, such as software applications, datasets, APIs, events, training activities or technical integrations. Immediate outcomes are observable changes in use, behaviour, capability, collaboration or service delivery associated with those outputs during the funded period. Emerging impacts are broader economic, social, environmental, governance or territorial effects to which



the funded activities plausibly contribute. Given the short implementation and observation period of the FSTP projects, D6.3 primarily evidences outputs and immediate outcomes; longer-term socio-economic and territorial impacts require continued observation and are addressed further in D6.4.

Because the funded activities operated within wider regional innovation ecosystems and over relatively short time periods, attribution of broader territorial change exclusively to FSTP support is not possible. Impact statements in this section therefore distinguish direct project outputs from reported or plausible contributions to wider change.

The funded projects delivered tangible socio-economic, environmental, and technical impacts directly aligned with the overarching objectives of PoliRuralPlus:

- **Economic and short supply chain resilience:** Initiatives such as *LocalLinks.AI* (mapping 460 supplier relationships across 175 producers), *Field2Fork AI Hub* (achieving 90.3% consumer approval for AI-driven zero-km logistics), *MALTESE* (logging 61 commercial marketplace transactions), and *DASK* (onboarding 20 local products and 10 agritourism packages) established viable, tech-enabled revenue streams for small-scale primary producers.
- **Environmental planning and climate adaptation:** Projects advanced green territorial governance by deploying actionable decision tools, including *FloodAI+* (translating 5m hydrodynamic hazard grids into multi-audience risk screenings), *Avoin-Map* (performing over 100 land-use carbon and energy renovation scenario analyses), and *AGROJACK* (validating real-time agronomic irrigation and fertilization advice directly from root-zone LoRaWAN sensors).
- **Digital capacity building and governance:** The portfolio achieved extensive cross-sectoral mobilization, connecting municipal authorities, research bodies, and rural civil society. Platforms like *DigiStake* and *D2D* established multi-level indicator frameworks and Quadruple Helix governance networks, while *SYLVAN-AI* demonstrated a 96% reduction in spatial analysis time (from 296 minutes to 11 minutes) for European forestry compliance.

5.3 Assessment of Open Call effectiveness

The evidence indicates that the Open Call instrument generated substantial demand, supported a diverse portfolio of externally led activities and produced a range of operational outputs and short-term outcomes. Beneficiaries' feedback was strongly positive. These findings support a favourable assessment of the instrument within the scope of this programme; however, no external counterfactual or comparable funding programme was evaluated in D6.3. The report therefore does not attempt to establish that the PoliRuralPlus approach was superior to alternative innovation-funding models.

Attracting 339 total applications and achieving an ecosystem selection success rate of 8.85% (30 approved across all initial proceedings, resulting in 26 finalized projects), the programme proved to be an agile vehicle for engaging non-traditional EU actors, including rural SMEs, young entrepreneurs, and regional associations. The progressive call design aligned grassroots needs directly with advanced digital tools. Direct beneficiaries' feedback confirmed high overall satisfaction (mean satisfaction of 4.67 out of 5.00), with 100% of surveyed participants reporting that their technical outputs, methodologies, and platforms are transferable to other European regions, and 81% actively continuing their initiatives post-grant. The instrument proved that combining financial cascade support with structured mentoring and open technical architectures can accelerate regional innovation uptake far faster than traditional centralized models.



5.4 Implications for the PoliRuralPlus methodology.

Taken collectively, the four Open Calls demonstrate the value of coupling regional needs identification and participatory planning with targeted external experimentation. Outreach supported identification and articulation of local opportunities; Mobilise created mechanisms for stakeholder and innovator engagement; Develop translated selected needs into operational digital applications; and Enhance tested data, AI and GeoAI capabilities in real-world settings. The main lesson is therefore not only that individual sub-projects generated useful outputs, but that an integrated pathway from regional challenge identification to experimentation, technical validation and potential replication can strengthen the implementation of place-based Regional Action Plans. The evidence also shows that this pathway requires adequate time, stakeholder recruitment capacity, trusted local intermediaries, accessible technical support and clear mechanisms for transferring successful experiments into regional planning and exploitation processes.

5.5 Final recommendations

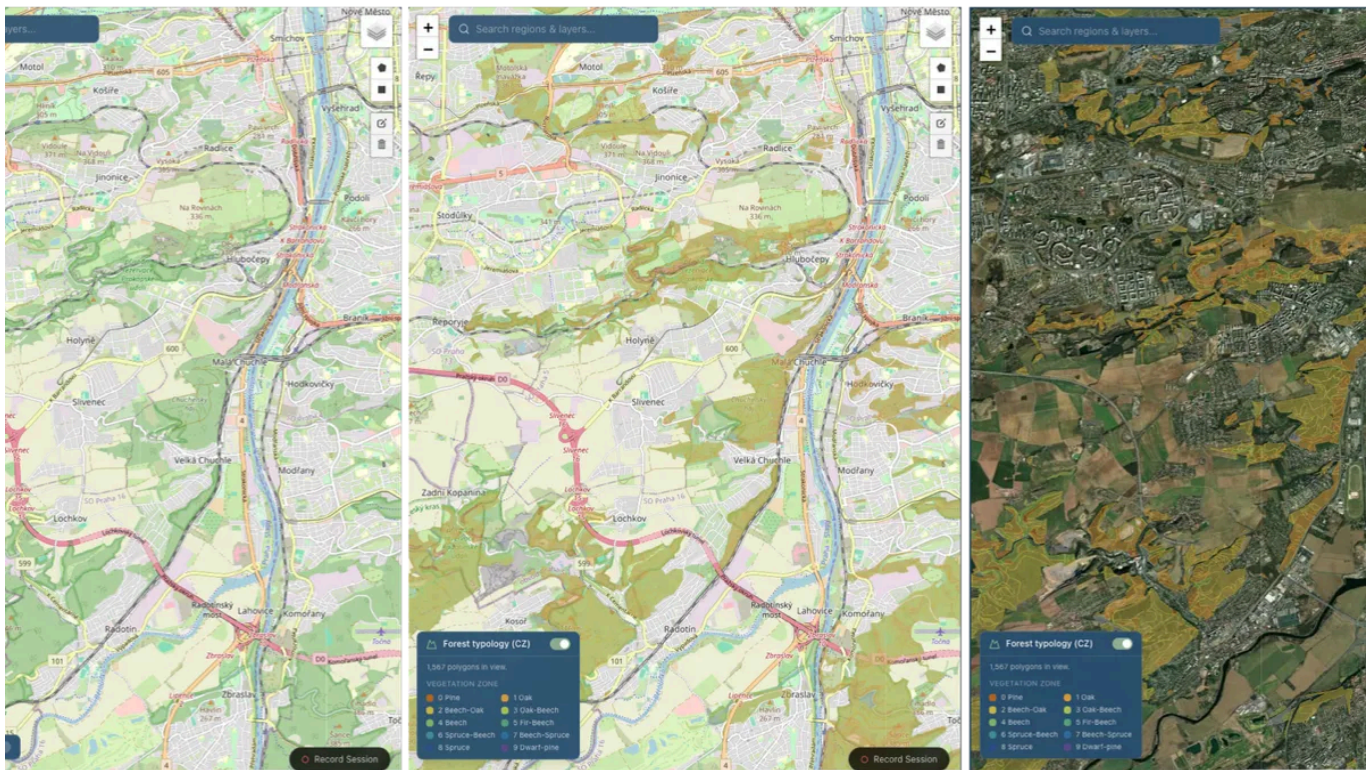
To maximize the long-term impact and operational efficiency of future cascade funding programs, future initiatives should embrace several structural, procedural, and technical adaptations. First, grant administrators should streamline administrative and reporting overhead by standardizing technical validation templates from the outset and shifting from heavy narrative deliverables toward lightweight, milestone-based code and verification checks. Second, project timelines for applied technical development and field validation should be lengthened to 9–12 months to accommodate seasonal agricultural cycles, extended user acceptance trials, and the necessary lead times for grassroots participant recruitment. Third, future consortia should provide dedicated stakeholder engagement and communication toolkits to assist technical winners in recruiting local participants and connecting with regional public bodies more swiftly.

On a technical level, open calls validating centralized digital platforms require real-time, agile feedback mechanisms, in addition to the dedicated developer code camp also shared issue trackers, and rapid API turnarounds, to ensure user feedback directly guides core software iterations during active testing. Cross-call collaboration can also be actively fostered through mandatory inter-project demo sessions and peer exchanges, enabling sub-grantees across different territories to share architectural components and avoid duplication of effort. Finally, long-term sustainability and European scaling must remain anchored in open-source licensing, standardized Model Context Protocol integrations, and continuous data feeds into shared European rural data spaces, ensuring that the digital solutions developed leave an enduring, accessible legacy for rural communities across the European Union.

Annexes

Annex 1

Story 1: Slashing EU Forestry Compliance from Hours to Minutes with SYLVAN-AI



For millions of private smallholders and regional forestry authorities across Europe, navigating environmental compliance has long meant battling administrative bottlenecks. Assessing whether a parcel meets the strict requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), the EU Green Deal, or Natura 2000 preservation targets typically required hours of cross-referencing disconnected cadastre portals, elevation rasters, and soil maps.

Through the Enhance Call, Netherlands-based Sylvanity B.V. developed SYLVAN-AI to turn this fragmented workflow into a natural-language conversation. The team harmonized a 265 GB PostGIS grounding database containing 442.3 million European cadastral parcels, terrain layers, and Czech forest typologies directly with the PoliRuralPlus JackDaw GeoAI conversational agent.

The results demonstrated measurable process acceleration. Across five diverse European forest use cases spanning Czechia, Greece, France, Germany, and Spain, SYLVAN-AI reduced the spatial "time-to-insight" from a historical average of 296 minutes down to just 11 minutes. This 96% efficiency leap was achieved while securing an exceptional System Usability Scale (SUS) score of 87.5 out of 100 among professional foresters and institutional bodies, operating with zero critical hallucinations. SYLVAN-AI demonstrated that conversational GeoAI can transform complex spatial compliance into an accessible tool for sustainable land management.

Story 2: Activating Cross-Border Food Systems with LocalLinks.AI



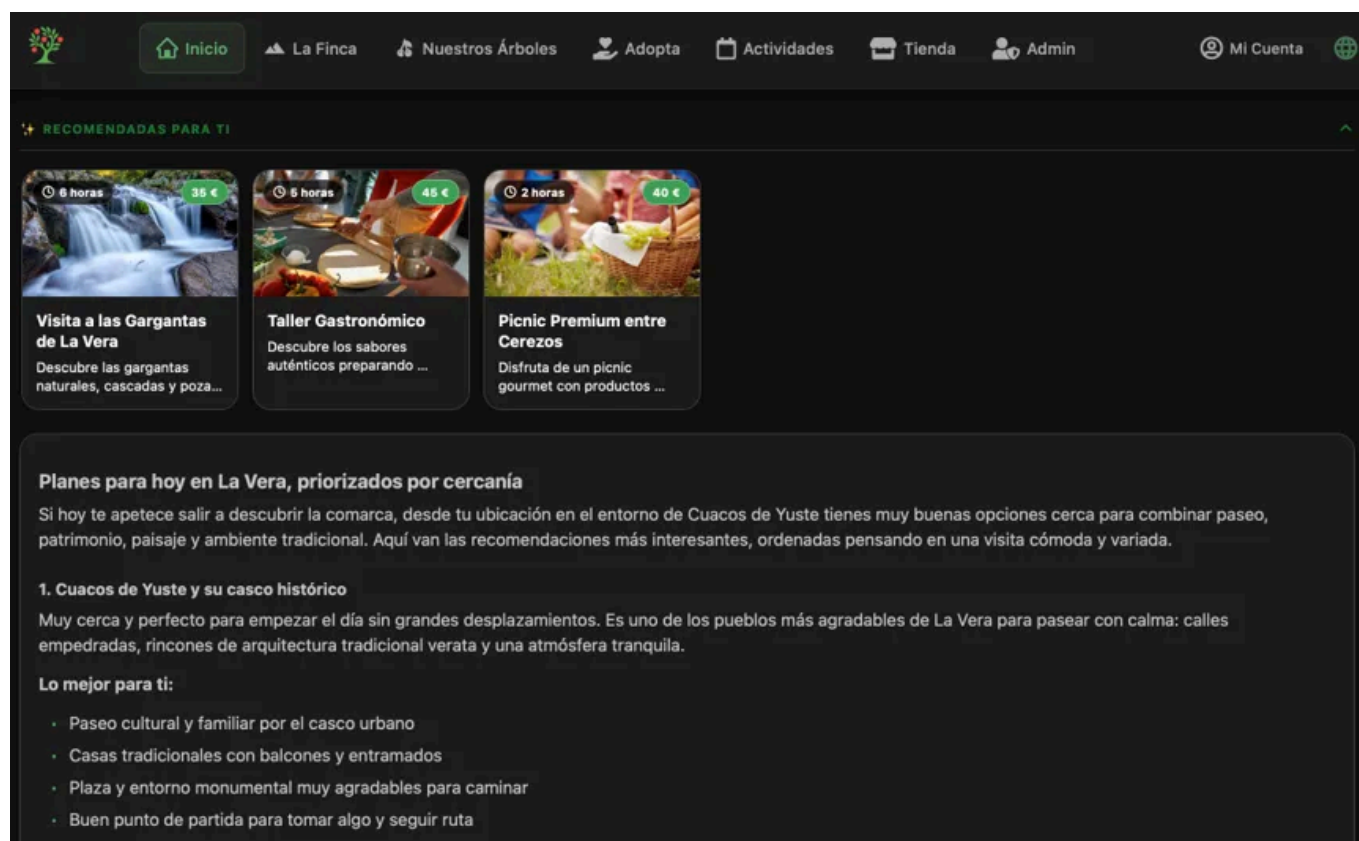
Connecting regional food producers to nearby restaurants, schools, and consumers is often hindered by missing, outdated, or unstructured data. In the cross-border Bavarian-Czech borderlands (Pošumaví), small farmers operated in isolation, lacking a unified digital channel to showcase their yields and establish stable local distribution networks.

Under the Develop Call, Czech enterprise Šumavaproduct s.r.o. deployed LocalLinks.AI and its core operational platform, LocalFarmsAI. The team built an AI-assisted data platform that semi-automates information harvesting, confidence scoring, and supplier-buyer matching. By integrating the platform directly with the PoliRuralPlus Atlas of Regional Speciality and deploying JackDaw for natural-language spatial queries, the initiative brought local food supply chains into interactive map views.

LocalLinks.AI advanced to TRL 7–8 operational maturity, far exceeding its initial targets. The platform mapped and verified 460 active commercial relationships between 175 primary agricultural producers and 220 sales and gastronomy outlets. By working side-by-side with Local Action Groups (LAGs) and farmers in Klatovy and Sušice, LocalLinks.AI provided smallholders with direct market visibility while giving regional planners open, exportable datasets to strengthen local food security and short supply chains.



Story 3: Ground-Truth Agronomy Meets Conversational Tourism at AGROJACK



Agritourism destinations often struggle to balance two competing operational priorities: providing rich, self-guided experiences for non-technical visitors while simultaneously managing precision irrigation and crop nutrition in the field.

At the Aires de la Vera estate in Extremadura, Spain, Espacio SOA SLU used the Enhance Call to create AGROJACK, a dual-purpose living lab. AGROJACK engineered a self-hosted Model Context Protocol (MCP) server that bridged the PoliRuralPlus JackDaw GeoAI agent with live in-field hardware. On the estate trails, visitors scanned QR codes on fruit trees to converse with JackDaw inside a mobile app, receiving interactive botanical stories and localized travel tips. Simultaneously, LoRaWAN multi-depth soil probes transmitted live pH, soil moisture, electrical conductivity, and NPK nutrients to the same AI backend.

The platform logged more than 200 visitor interactions and delivered real-time, expert-aligned agronomic advice directly to estate managers. When JackDaw accurately analyzed root-zone telemetry to recommend timely irrigation and fertilization adjustments, local farmers took notice. The demonstration proved so persuasive that three neighboring commercial fruit farms requested immediate sensor deployments on their own properties. This prompted the project team to expand AGROJACK into a multi-tenant platform, creating an expanding, community-wide precision agriculture network across the La Vera region.



Annex 2 – Beneficiaries’ feedback survey

No.	Question	Easy answer format
1	What type of organisation are you?	Farmer / small business / NGO or community group / public body / research or education / technology company / other
2	Because of this project, did you meet or work with new people or organisations?	No / Yes, 1–2 / Yes, 3–5 / Yes, more than 5
3	Who were your main partners or contacts during the project?	Farmers or producers / local businesses/citizens or community groups/municipality or public authority/researchers or advisers / IT or data experts / other
4	Did the project help you understand local rural or urban needs better?	Not really / A little / Quite a lot / Very much
5	Did you learn something useful for your work?	No / Yes, about digital tools / Yes, about AI or data / Yes, about cooperation / Yes, about customers or markets / Yes, about policy or planning / other
6	Did the project help you improve or test a practical idea, service, product, event, or tool?	No / Not yet / Yes, tested / Yes, already used in practice
7	Who benefited from your project?	Farmers / rural businesses / local residents / visitors or tourists / public authorities / young people / urban consumers / other
8	What was the most useful result for you?	One short sentence
9	Will you continue using the idea, contact, tool, or result after the funding ends?	No / Maybe / Yes / Already continuing
10	Could your result be useful in another village, region, farm, business, or community?	No / Maybe, with changes / Yes, quite easily / I don’t know



11	How satisfied were you with the overall Open Call process (application, contracting, reporting, and communication)?	Very dissatisfied / Dissatisfied / Neutral / Satisfied / Very satisfied
12	What was the biggest challenge during your project?	Administration or reporting / Time available / Budget / Finding partners or participants / Technical issues / Other
13	What would you recommend we improve for future Open Calls?	One short sentence