



SPECIFICATIONS

– Territorial diagnoses and territorial dialogue facilitation –

July 23rd, 2024

**Interreg
Sudoe**



Co-funded by
the European Union

RURENER

Address: 41 rue de Blanzat 63100 Clermont-Ferrand

France

Contact: Céline Seince, director

Phone: +33(0)6 45 68 68 79

Email: rurener@gmail.com

Introduction

RURENER is the European network of rural communities committed to ecological and social transition. Our vision is that of a Europe aware of the potential of its communities, and in particular rural communities, to drive its socio-ecological and climate transition. We support a transversal approach of rural development through cooperation between communities and collective learning at E.U. level. Our systemic approach relies on the interactions between social, environmental, economic, climate and governance issues. Drawing on the experience of network members and the monitoring of the territorial impacts of local policies, we bring the voice of rural communities to Brussels, so that their role in social and environmental transition is recognized, and their needs and potential are better taken into account in E.U. policies.

As part of the European project RURAL TRANSITION LABS, for which RURENER is the lead partner, we would like to call on a service provider to support us in carrying out socio-political diagnoses and facilitating territorial dialogue processes at the heart of the Transition Labs' approach.

The "Rural Transition Labs" project

1.1 Description and goals of the project

The "Rural Transition Labs" project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the European programme Interreg Sudoe (South-West Europe). Its goal is to structure a network of Rural Transition Labs to promote the resilience of rural areas through a participatory approach rooted in ecosystems. The Labs will follow 3 fundamental principles: participation & transparency; ecosystem-based approaches; and systemic change. This implies that they:

1. Develop participatory processes to co-construct their projects, they communicate and make their achievements accessible to all;
2. Value local resources / endogenous species as a basis for resilience;
3. Define a shared long-term vision to which their projects will contribute, while promoting systemic change based on cooperation and innovation.

The project will run from January 1st, 2024 to December 31st, 2026.

Context

The project consortium is composed of 7 partners with complementary profiles:

- The Rural Transition Labs and their pilot projects:
 - The Ayuntamiento de Cartagena (Spain)
 - Pilot project in the Oeste Region
 - The intermunicipality CIM do AVE (Portugal)
 - Pilot project in the municipality of Póvoa de Lanhoso
 - The Syndicat mixte Est Creuse Développement (France)
 - Pilot project involving farms in several municipalities
- Technical partners:
 - The Technological Center for Energy and Environment of the Region of Murcia, Spain (CETENMA), in charge of developing a GIS mapping tool to support territorial cooperation.
 - The Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), that developed the original Transition Labs concept, adapted to rural areas with the project
 - The European network RURENER, in charge of coordinating the consortium and promoting dialogue and socio-political diagnosis in the three Labs.

One of the first phases of the Rural Transition Labs' project consists in analyzing the socio-political contexts of each of the Labs and building a shared vision among local stakeholders of the desired future for their territory. To carry out this task in the context of trans-regional cooperation, RURENER would like to call on one (or more) service providers to support it in carrying out the diagnostics, facilitating the dialogue processes in Spain and Portugal in particular, and building the skills of the actors involved.

2. Statement of the need

The service has three components:

- Carrying out **sensitive diagnoses** for the Labs in CIM do AVE (Portugal) and Cartagena (Spain), according to a methodology co-constructed with RURENER, that will be responsible for the diagnosis in Est Creuse (France);
- Conducting **territorial dialogue** processes for the Labs of CIM do AVE and Cartagena; the processes will be co-led by CIM do AVE in Portugal and CETENMA in Spain (that received previous capacitation), and under the general supervision of RURENER, that will lead the Lab of Est Creuse;
- **Building capacity** of the actors involved in the Labs on dialogue facilitation and driving change.

2.1 Nature of the services

These specifications include two lots:

- Lot n°1: Support for the CIM do AVE Laboratory (Portugal)
- Lot n°2: Support for the Cartagena Laboratory (Spain)

Whether the service provider(s) responds to one or the two lots, regular sharing with the activities carried out in France and the other lot will be essential to ensure project coherence and cross-learning. The activities concerned by the service are as follows:

LOT n° 1 – Support of the Lab of CIM do AVE (Portugal)

DIAGNOSIS (January – April 2025)

- 3 to 4 coordination meetings (1h30) by videoconference or face-to-face between RURENER and the service provider to share and discuss the sensitive diagnosis methodology (mutualized if responding to several lots)
- Based on the stakeholders mapping already carried out by each Laboratory, conduct of 15 to 18 interviews with the 4 categories of stakeholders identified in the diagnosis methodology (elected representatives, local authority technicians/agents, socio-economic actors, State institutions). Given the large number of stakeholders identified at Intermunicipal level, group interviews may be carried out. In order to identify levers and blocking points in changing practices, these interviews (approx. 1h/interview) will focus on the actors' vision of their territory and its future, their needs with regard to the topic in question (sustainable management of water resources in the management of public green spaces), cooperative relationships (or not) with other actors. Fluent use of Portuguese is required to conduct the interviews. The interviews will be organized with the support of CIM do AVE (logistics, contact with actors...).
- Writing of a diagnosis with the support of RURENER (< 10 pages based on a template proposed by RURENER).
- Organization and conduct of a presentation to CIM do AVE's political and technical teams, followed by a collective presentation to all actors involved in the diagnosis.

TERRITORIAL DIALOGUE (February to July 2025):

This phase will be implemented in all three laboratories. RURENER will lead the implementation in the French Laboratory and is seeking a service provider to support facilitation in the Portuguese Laboratory. The partner, CIM do AVE (Portugal), has already been trained in facilitating dialogue processes, and will therefore be a great help in carrying out this mission. However, as CIM do AVE is a stakeholder itself, we are looking for an external facilitator (= the service provider) to conduct the dialogue.

- Creation of a dialogue group based on the stakeholders interviewed during the first phase, and the conduct of 3 to 4 additional interviews if necessary
- Definition of the framework of the dialogue with the political and technical team of the Lab (1 steering meeting)
- Organization and conduct of 3 collective meetings - including invitations and minutes to be coordinated with CIM do AVE (it involves 3 trips to the Lab)
- Coordination meetings with RURENER (4 meetings of 1h30 each - one meeting after each collective meeting to optimize learning and ensure consistency across the project)
- Conduct of a capacity-building session for the local actors

LOT n°2: Support of the Lab of Cartagena (Spain)

DIAGNOSIS (January – April 2025)

- 3 to 4 coordination meetings (1h30) by videoconference or face-to-face between RURENER and the service provider to share and discuss the sensitive diagnosis methodology (mutualized if responding to several lots)

- Based on the stakeholders mapping already carried out by each Laboratory, conduct of 10 to 12 interviews with the 4 categories of stakeholders identified in the diagnosis methodology (elected representatives, local authority technicians/agents, socio-economic actors, State institutions). In order to identify levers and blocking points in changing practices, these interviews (approx. 1h/interview) will focus on the actors' vision of their territory and its future, their needs with regard to the topic in question (sustainable management of water resources in the management of public green spaces), cooperative relationships (or not) with other actors. Fluent use of Portuguese is required to conduct the interviews. The interviews will be organized with the support of the city council of Cartagena (contacts, availability of rooms) and CETENMA.
- Writing of a diagnosis with the support of RURENER (< 10 pages based on a template proposed by RURENER).
- Organization and conduct of a presentation to Cartagena's political and technical teams, followed by a collective presentation to all actors involved in the diagnosis.

TERRITORIAL DIALOGUE (February to July 2025):

This phase will be implemented in all three laboratories. RURENER will lead the implementation in the French Laboratory and is seeking a service provider to support facilitation in the Spanish Laboratory. The partners, City Council of Cartagena and CETENMA (Spain), have already been trained in facilitating dialogue processes, and will therefore be a great help in carrying out this mission. However, as they are stakeholders themselves, we are looking for an external facilitator (= the service provider) to conduct the dialogue.

- Creation of a dialogue group based on the stakeholders interviewed during the first phase, and the conduct of 3 to 4 additional interviews if necessary
- Definition of the framework of the dialogue with the political and technical team of the Lab (1 steering meeting)
- Organization and conduct of 3 collective meetings - including invitations and minutes to be coordinated with Cartagena city council and CETENMA (it involves 3 trips to the Lab)
- Coordination meetings with RURENER (4 meetings of 1h30 each - one meeting after each collective meeting to optimize learning and ensure consistency across the project)
- Conduct of a capacity-building session for the local actors

2.2 Parties involved in the project and its results

A wide variety of parties are involved in the project: elected representatives and local authority officials, public officers, socio-economic actors (associations, companies, cooperatives, civil society etc.) and State or Regional institutions. These actors, with their diverse sensitivities, expertise and knowledge, should be considered as stakeholders during the preliminary interviews and throughout the dialogue process.

Methods of intervention and skills expected of the candidate(s)

To meet these specifications, the service provider must mobilize one (or more) person(s) with **significant experience** in **environmental consensus-building** and conduct of **territorial dialogue processes applied to environmental issues**, in Spanish and/or Portuguese as a minimum (written comprehension of French or English sufficient).

2.3 Deliverables expected

LOT n°1: Support of the Lab of CIM do AVE (Portugal)

PHASE 1: Sensitive diagnostics

- **1 sensitive diagnosis** for the CIM do AVE Laboratory
 - o Including identification of priority actions on the issues addressed

PHASE 2: Territorial dialogue

- **1 anonymized summary of interviews** with the support of RURENER
- **1 framework process** for territorial dialogue (objectives, players, timetable, deliverables, governance)
- **3 collective meeting reports**
- **1 concrete final product** produced during the collective dialogue sessions and based on the priority areas identified in the diagnosis (e.g.: a co-constructed action plan to address the issues addressed).
- **1 capacity-building session**

These deliverables will be produced in Portuguese.

LOT n°2 : Support of the Lab of Cartagena (Spain)

PHASE 1: Sensitive diagnostics

- **1 sensitive diagnosis** for the Cartagena Laboratory
 - o Including identification of priority actions on the issues addressed

PHASE 2: Territorial dialogue

- **1 anonymized summary of interviews** with the support of RURENER
- **1 framework process** for territorial dialogue (objectives, players, timetable, deliverables, governance)
- **3 collective meeting reports**
- **1 concrete final product** produced during the collective dialogue sessions and based on the priority areas identified in the diagnosis (e.g.: a co-constructed action plan to address the issues addressed).
- **1 capacity-building session**

These deliverables will be produced in Spanish.

2.4 Monitoring of the mission

The mission will be monitored by the RURENER director, with whom the service provider will work closely, with the understanding that the chosen service provider(s) will become part of the RURENER team for the duration of the mission. The Rural Transition Labs project has been designed to take into account and adapt to the needs and particularities of the territories involved, and listening, which is at the heart of the mission, will also be at the heart of the relationship between the service provider(s) and RURENER, to ensure the best quality of the preparatory work carried out. The service providers will be in regular contact with RURENER, and an initial coordination meeting will be held in 2024.

2.5 Calendar

The mission will start as soon as the contract is signed and will run until December 31, 2025, the scheduled date for delivery of the deliverables - in no case exceeding December 31, 2026. An interim payment may be made as the assignment progresses.

2.6 Assessment criteria

The following criteria must be met by the service provider:

- Significant experience in **environmental consensus-building** and knowledge of the **territorial dialogue process**
- Fluency in **Spanish** and/or **Portuguese** and sufficient understanding of English, Spanish or French (for the link with RURENER).
- Knowledge of the territorial issues involved in the Laboratories' work: water resource management, urban planning, changes in agricultural models, etc.
- Ability to deliver the service according to schedule
- Previous experience in rural areas is a plus

How to apply

Service providers wishing to respond to these specifications are invited to submit their application with an estimate of the cost of the service and specifying the lot(s) concerned by the response, by e-mail to rurener@gmail.com or by regular mail to RURENER, 41 rue de Blanzat 63100 Clermont-Ferrand France, before December 31st, 2024.