



Association of Popular Universities of Extremadura Region (Spain)

Network of Social Transformation

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WHO WE ARE?

- **Non-profit organization founded in 1992**, representing **220 rural municipalities in Extremadura (Spain)**.
- **Network for education, culture and digital transformation** in rural areas.
- **Key areas of work:** culture, education, environmental awareness, civic participation, and digital & social inclusion.
- **Mission:** promote equal opportunities and empower citizens towards **sustainable and inclusive development**.
- **Strong capacity:** 290 staff, **100,000 participants per year**, and **30+ years of training experience** across all age groups.



WHAT CAN WE DO?

AUPEX has extensive **experience** in carrying out activities in the following lines of work:

- Lifelong education and training
- Employment and digital skills
- Social intervention and inclusion
- Sustainability and ecological transition
- Culture and Heritage
- International cooperation and global citizenship



WHAT CAN WE DO?



Our **participants/impact data**, annual average:

+100000 participants

+4000 Employment, training, and innovation programs

+2000 Research and social intervention

+40000 Digital transformation programs

+54000 Cultural programs

+3000 International cooperation programs

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

- **Digital skills:** *Extremadura Digital Literacy Program* through **75 digital competence centers**, reaching **over 42,000 users annually**.
- **International cooperation & SDGs:** **Latin American partners** on joint planning and actions to advance the **Sustainable Development Goals**, foster educational innovation for entrepreneurship, and strengthen territorial leadership.
- **Innovation & future skills:** **11 Circular FABs**, providing open innovation spaces, technologies, and activities that support citizens and SMEs.

AUPEX is the joint effort of a team that believes in the power of learning and culture to transform lives, with more than **290 employees**.

A **multidisciplinary team** that combines innovation, creativity, and social commitment.

Our values as a team:

- Networking with municipalities, organizations and citizens.
- Commitment to education and territorial development.
- Innovation and sustainability in every project.
- Professionalism and management expertise.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-NEB-2026-01-PARTICIPATION-02: Innovative approaches for the spatial design of neighbourhoods:

1. Participatory and Co-creation Methodologies

AUPEX can design and implement inclusive participatory processes, engaging diverse community members (youth, elderly, vulnerable groups) in co-creating neighbourhood spatial solutions aligned with NEB values.

2. Community Capacity Building & Social Innovation

Through training programmes, workshops and local facilitation, AUPEX strengthens citizens' skills in climate literacy, democratic participation and sustainable placemaking, ensuring long-term ownership of neighbourhood transformation processes.

3. Integration of Social Inclusion into Spatial Design

AUPEX brings expertise in working with disadvantaged and rural communities, ensuring that spatial design strategies reduce inequalities, prevent green gentrification, and promote accessibility, affordability and intergenerational fairness.

4. Local Engagement, Dissemination & Replicability

With strong regional networks and experience in European projects, AUPEX can lead stakeholder engagement, communication, and knowledge transfer activities, facilitating replication of innovative spatial design models in rural and peri-urban contexts.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-NEB-2026-01-PARTICIPATION-03: Understanding inhabitant's experiences of neighbourhoods to support their health and well-being

1. Community-Based Research & Participatory Assessment

AUPEX can facilitate participatory research methodologies (focus groups, living labs, citizen surveys, storytelling approaches) to capture inhabitants' lived experiences of neighbourhoods, especially in rural and vulnerable contexts.

2. Inclusion of Vulnerable and Underrepresented Groups

With strong experience working with disadvantaged communities, older adults, and rural populations, AUPEX ensures that diverse voices are integrated into research on health, well-being, accessibility, and sense of belonging.

3. Health & Climate Literacy Capacity Building

AUPEX can design educational and awareness programmes linking neighbourhood design, climate resilience and physical and mental well-being, empowering citizens to actively contribute to healthier living environments.

4. Social Impact Evaluation & Knowledge Transfer

AUPEX can support qualitative and community-level impact assessment, translating research findings into practical recommendations for policymakers, local authorities, and community organisations, while ensuring effective dissemination and replicability.