



Association of Popular Universities of Extremadura Region (Spain)

Network of Social Transformation

Lola Lucio Carrasco
European Project Manager
lola.lucio@aupex.org
europeanprojects@aupex.org

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 employee**.

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-CL5-2026-07-D1-04: Fighting disinformation and effectively communicating on climate change

1. Community-based pilots and citizen engagement

AUPEX can mobilise its network of 220 Popular Universities to implement local pilots that test innovative climate communication approaches, counter misinformation narratives, and engage vulnerable and rural audiences through participatory methods.

2. Climate literacy and anti-disinformation training

AUPEX can design and deliver training programmes for citizens, local authorities and community leaders to improve media literacy, strengthen critical thinking, and equip communities to identify, understand and counter climate-related misinformation.

3. Development of accessible communication tools and narratives

AUPEX can co-create multilingual, inclusive and easy-to-understand communication materials (videos, visual tools, storytelling formats, workshops) that translate complex climate science into actionable knowledge and support behaviour change.

4. Testing and validation of digital and AI-based solutions

AUPEX provides real-life environments for piloting and validating digital tools—such as fact-checking systems, ensuring they are usable, effective and scalable across diverse European territories.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-CL5-2027-01-D1-13: Next generation scenarios for informing climate and sustainability transitions

1. Co-design and societal validation of next-generation climate scenarios

AUPEX can support participatory co-design processes that integrate scientific scenario development with social, territorial and cultural perspectives, helping ensure scenarios are inclusive, transparent, and relevant for diverse end-users, particularly at local and regional levels.

2. Translation of complex scenarios into accessible narratives and tools

AUPEX brings strong expertise in transforming Integrated Assessment Models and scenario outputs into understandable narratives, visual formats and educational materials, improving communication, uptake and acceptance among policymakers, civil society and non-expert audiences.

3. Testing policy-relevant scenarios in real-world decision-making contexts

Through its extensive network of Popular Universities and local stakeholders, AUPEX can pilot the use of scenarios to inform climate and sustainability decisions, assess their usability for planning and adaptation pathways, and provide feedback to improve policy representation and implementation relevance.

4. Strengthening SSH integration and international capacity-building

AUPEX can contribute SSH-driven insights on behaviour, equity, justice and governance, while supporting capacity-building and dialogue with international partners—particularly in low- and middle-income countries—to foster globally representative and socially grounded climate transition scenarios.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-CL5-2026-09-D4-01: Researching the technical, social & economic factors impacting the energy performance of Smart Buildings (Built4People Partnership)

1. User-centred research and SSH expertise in smart buildings

AUPEX can lead or support social, behavioural and cultural research to analyse how different socio-demographic groups interact with smart building technologies, assessing impacts on energy use, comfort, health and well-being.

2. Living labs and real-life validation environments

AUPEX can provide access to real-life settings, including multifunctional buildings and community spaces, to validate research findings across different building categories and user profiles.

3. Engagement of diverse and vulnerable user groups

Through its extensive network of Popular Universities, AUPEX can engage citizens from varied educational, age and income backgrounds, ensuring inclusive data collection and robust evidence on barriers and enablers to smart building adoption.

4. Translation of research results into actionable guidance

AUPEX can co-develop practical recommendations, training materials and communication tools for building owners, designers, facility managers and public authorities, supporting the uptake of people-centric, energy-efficient smart building solutions in line with Built4People objectives.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-CL5-2026-10-D6-09: Road Safety and resilience of rural areas

1. Access to rural territories and stakeholder engagement

AUPEX can mobilise its extensive network of rural municipalities and local actors to support pilots on secondary and lower-class rural roads, facilitating cooperation with local authorities, citizens, vulnerable road users and community organisations.

2. Behavioural research and awareness-raising in rural contexts

AUPEX can contribute SSH expertise to analyse road user behaviour, risk perception and mobility needs in ageing and vulnerable populations, and to design targeted awareness, nudging and incentive-based measures fostering safer behaviour.

3. Validation of prevention and resilience strategies at local level

AUPEX can support the real-life testing of prevention strategies, enforcement-related awareness actions and resilience measures, including community-level responses to extreme weather events affecting rural road safety.

4. Communication, training and uptake of innovative tools

AUPEX can translate technical outputs into accessible training, guidelines and capacity-building actions for local and regional authorities, supporting effective implementation and long-term uptake in rural areas.