



MOBILISE CALL



Guidelines for Applicants

Financial Support for Third Parties

The project PoliRuralPlus has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101136910.

Disclaimer

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2 Introduction

The PoliRuralPlus project, under the Horizon Europe framework, extends an invitation to submit proposals that advance rural-urban interactions across the European Union. This guide facilitates applicants in crafting and submitting their proposals.

Within the PoliRuralPlus project, a series of four open calls are anticipated. These calls are designed to attract and fund innovative proposals that align with the project's overarching aims. The primary objective of these calls is to extend the impact of the PoliRuralPlus initiative in enhancing rural attractiveness, fostering rural-urban integration and leveraging technological innovations for sustainable rural development.

This document provides guidelines for applicants for the second open call, hereinafter referred to as the call or the Mobilise call.

2.1 Mobilise Call Objective

The main objective of the Mobilise call is to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) for community-driven innovation focused on enhancing rural-urban interactions. Projects funded under this call are expected to organise local/regional hackathons/datahons/ideathons and through this promote PoliRuralPlus and other solutions and support their validation, extension and/or implementation in the PoliRuralPlus pilot regions. For specific objectives for each pilot area and PoliRuralPlus technologies that can be utilised, please refer to Sections 2.4 and 2.5.

The results of the projects funded under the Mobilise call should help to develop the Regional Action Plans¹ by PoliRuralPlus in each pilot region.

2.2 Scope and Funding

- **Budget:** €10,000 lump sum per project.
- **Total projects funded:** 9

2.3 Expected Results

- Organisation of a hackathon/datahons/ideathon in the selected PoliRuralPlus pilot region, showcasing the impact of AI/DL tools on rural-urban dynamics.
- Mobilising local stakeholders, IT experts, and regional advisors, leveraging AI/DL tools to illuminate their potential in transforming rural-urban interactions, and fostering community-driven innovations.

¹ A Regional Action Plan (RAP) is a strategic document that outlines specific actions and measures to address the developmental needs, challenges, and opportunities of a specific region or territory. It is typically aligned with broader policy objectives at national or international levels but focuses on localized implementation to achieve regional growth, innovation, and sustainability goals.

- Active engagement of local stakeholders, leading to the creation of prototypes and solutions that integrate PoliRuralPlus technologies with local insights.
- Encouraging community-driven initiatives to address specific challenges of the pilot region.
- Validate existing solutions developed by PoliRuralPlus or elsewhere, suggest improvements or new functionalities.

2.4 Specific Objectives per Pilot Area

In line with the overarching objectives of the PoliRuralPlus project, nine distinct pilot areas have been identified to validate methodologies, enhance tools, and unearth practical policy innovations. These pilots serve as crucial testing grounds, where the project's outcomes can be applied and refined to address diverse regional challenges and opportunities.

Pilot 1, situated in Ireland's Monaghan County, aims to foster a vibrant, integrated, and sustainable rural-urban community supported by a circular and green economy by 2040. Reflecting the Irish Pilot's commitment to sustainability, the roadmap has updated its research focus to “Advancing the Circular Economy in County Monaghan: Exploring Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Environmental Products and Services.”

Specific objectives to be addressed:

- Uncover pathways for sustainable enterprise development in the circular economy
- Identifying emerging sectors and innovative practices in the circular economy.
- Highlight opportunities for growth in the circular economic sector with focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Full integration of social enterprises advancing inclusive, community-driven circular growth.
- Enhanced quality of life, with Monaghan serving as a model for balanced and regenerative rural-urban collaboration.

Slovakia's pilot (Pilot 2), covering the entire country, focuses on envisioning more attractive and resilient rural areas, striving to revitalise Slovak rural regions through inclusive stakeholder engagement, strengthening political leadership, and enhanced capacity-building efforts. This pilot serves as a comprehensive platform for collaborative policy design through transparent consultations and participatory decision-making processes, essential for shaping impactful policies.

Specific objectives to be addressed:

- Developing a shared vision to make rural areas a desirable place to live, work, visit and invest by addressing the needs and aspirations of local communities.
- Revitalization of Slovak rural areas by implementing sustainable development initiatives that promote economic diversification, environmental stewardship and social well-being in rural areas.
- Strengthening stakeholder engagement and capacity building by empowering local stakeholders to co-create actionable solutions that address rural challenges.
- Facilitating Inclusive consultations and decision-making processes ensuring that diverse voices are heard through participatory foresight exercises, fostering policies that reflect the collective needs of rural communities.

This pilot aims to bridge the urban-rural divide by integrating digital tools, foresight methodologies, and cross-sector collaborations to craft a future-ready roadmap for Slovakia's rural transformation.

Pilot 3, located in the region of Central Greece, is geared towards providing training in sustainable agritech technologies and promotional services for agritourism. By enhancing digital skills and promoting local agricultural products, this pilot aims to stimulate economic diversification and capitalise on the region's natural resources.

Specific objectives to be addressed:

- Training for sustainable agritech technologies
- Promotional services for agritourism
- Increase in digital skills among AKIS actors
- Diversification of agritourism opportunities and promotion of local agricultural products

Italian pilot (Pilot 4), situated in Apulia, emphasises the promotion of short food supply chains (SFSC) to strengthen connections between rural and urban areas. By promoting healthy diets and lifestyles, this initiative aims to foster synergies and collaborative models between urban dwellers and rural communities.

Specific objectives to be addressed:

- Support measures for the establishment of short food supply chains
- Promotion of healthy diets and lifestyles
- Creation of direct linkages between rural and urban citizens
- Enhance awareness about the quality and accessibility of local food products

Pilot 5 in Finland, situated in the Mallusjoki rural district, aims to build a Rural Event Industry Ecosystem, fostering community engagement, public-private partnership, and economic opportunities through rural events. By enhancing and leveraging the region's natural- and human assets, innovativeness and creative sector, this pilot seeks to attract visitors from urban areas and stimulate community driven rural development.

Specific objectives to be addressed:

- Building the Rural Event Industry Ecosystem
- Community engagement and collaboration for wellbeing
- Economic opportunities through rural events
- Renew the community premises to Green Culture Centre in line with New European Bauhaus policy
- Attraction of urban visitors to rural areas

Pilot 6, the Bavaria-Czechia rural innovation network, defined by the Bohemian Forest (Šumava and Bayerischer Wald) and surrounding areas, aims to enhance connectivity, innovation, and social capital across rural and urban areas. By establishing incubators and fostering cultural connections, this pilot strives to create a conducive environment for rural startups and strengthen territorial identity.

Specific objectives to be addressed:

- Establishment of the Bavaria-Czechia Rural Innovation Network
- Improvement of connections and strategies for synergistic development
- Enhancement of business and innovation opportunities

- Strengthening of social connectivity and territorial identity
- Support local farming practices and food supply chains in order to meet sustainability targets

Spanish pilot (Pilot 7), situated in Segobriga and region of Sierra y Mancha Conquense, centres on rural-urban synergies and cultural heritage, leveraging the Segobriga Archaeological Park as a focal point for community collaboration and economic development. This initiative aims to attract visitors, foster local entrepreneurship, and bridge the gap between rural and urban areas.

Specific objectives to be addressed:

- Promotion of rural-urban synergies and cultural heritage
- Utilisation of interconnected sites engaging public private stakeholders supported by ADESIMAN as Local Action Group
- Economic development through community collaboration
- Bridging the gap between rural and urban areas

Pilot 8 in Latvia's Vidzeme Planning Region is a public regional development institution. Its mission is to coordinate and promote long-term and well-balanced development of the region, which is guided by the VPR Development Programme (DP). So far there are no systematic mechanisms to monitor progress of VPR DP on a territorial level, and so far, it is monitored only on an organization level. It is very important that each goal and planned activities of a VPR DP responds directly to needs of inhabitants and where possible actively involve them into the action. Therefore, a transparent, reliable system for collecting, aggregating and communicating regional development progress to the public is a necessity. The establishment of a unified monitoring framework in the Vidzeme planning region as a territory is very important in order to ensure a successful development management process and feedback to each of the parties involved in the implementation of the VPR Development Programme, thus also promoting the interest and involvement of each resident of the region in the development of their place, region and Vidzeme region as a whole.

Specific objectives to be addressed:

- Together with relevant stakeholders prototyping the systematic mechanism and potentially applicable ICT solutions for the monitoring of the development initiatives aligned with the Development Programme of the Vidzeme Planning Region as a territory.
- Uniting and mobilizing stakeholders to take ownership towards implementing and identifying regional development initiatives that are aligned with the Development Programme of the Vidzeme Planning Region.

Pilot 9 in Malta targets digital transformation and entrepreneurial capacity building in rural areas, aiming to level up agricultural sectors through digitization and youth empowerment. By fostering collaboration between rural and urban stakeholders, this pilot endeavours to bridge societal divides and promote circularity.

Specific objectives to be addressed:

- Digital transformation and entrepreneurial capacity building in rural areas
- Levelling up of agricultural sectors through digitization
- Empowerment of youth and promotion of circularity
- Bridging societal divides between rural and urban areas

3 Implementation Guidance

Projects funded under the Mobilise Call are expected to be implemented over a six-month period. The following guidance outlines recommended steps to ensure a successful execution of your project. These steps are flexible and can be adapted to meet the specific needs of your region and stakeholders.

1. Planning and preparation

- Define the key objectives and themes for your hackathon/datathon/ideathon. These should be consulted with the local PoliRuralPlus partner in the pilot region.
- Identify local stakeholders and potential participants, including IT experts, community representatives, and policymakers.
- Promote the event through local networks, social media, the PoliRuralPlus Knowledge Hub and community outreach.

2. Execution of the hackathon/datathon/ideathon

- Organise the event, ensuring active participation from diverse stakeholders.
- Provide real-time support to participants, helping them align their solutions with PoliRuralPlus tools and objectives. Technical mentor from PoliRuralPlus will be at hand to provide support for tools mentioned in Chapter 5.

3. Reporting and dissemination

- Document the outcomes of the event, including solutions developed and feedback gathered.
- Share the results through blog posts, social media, and presentations at local or regional events.
- Compile a final report summarising the project's achievements and lessons learned.

4 Eligibility Criteria

In order to ensure the integrity and impact of the PoliRuralPlus project, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. **Type of organisation:** Any type of organisation can apply for the Mobilise call funding as long as they have the operational and financial capacity to carry out the tasks that they propose.
2. **Single applicants:** Only single organisations are eligible to apply. Consortia or joint submissions are not permitted for this call.
3. **Eligible countries:** Applicants must be legally established in an EU Member State or an Associated Country as outlined by the Horizon Europe rules.
4. **Third parties:** The proposal should not include any subcontracting or transfer of financial contribution to third parties.
5. **One proposal per applicant:** Only one proposal will be accepted for funding per applicant. In the case of multiple submissions, only the last one received (timestamp of the system) will enter into the evaluation process, the rest being declared as non-eligible.

6. **Declaration of honour:** Applicants must declare their eligibility and no conflict of interest in the online application.
7. **Pilot specific proposals:** The proposal must address specific objectives identified within one of the 9 designated pilot regions of the PoliRuralPlus project (Section 2.4).
8. **Language:** English is the official language for PoliRuralPlus open calls. Submissions and deliverables done in any other language will not be evaluated. Any supporting documents requested at the time of proposal submission must also be in English, except the document proving the legal status of the organisation.
9. **GDPR compliance:** Any project involving personal data must adhere to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to ensure data privacy and protection.
10. **Non-beneficiary clause:** PoliRuralPlus beneficiaries and their affiliated entities are ineligible to apply.
11. **Deliverable obligations:** Applicants commit to produce obligatory deliverables as outlined in Chapter 7.

5 PoliRuralPlus Tools to Support the Development of Your ChallengesTechnologies

The applicants of the Mobilise call are encouraged to incorporate the following technologies developed by PoliRuralPlus in the planned hackathon/datathon/ideathon. The technologies enhance rural-urban development through data-driven decision-making and stakeholder collaboration. The utilisation of the tools could be considered for proposal evaluation in case of equal overall scores within a region (see Chapter 8 for more details).

Please note that a technical mentor experienced with the PoliRuralPlus technologies will be provided for the hackathon by the PoliRuralPlus project.

Incorporating these tools supports the Mobilise call’s goals by enhancing community-driven innovation, AI integration, and evidence-based decision-making. Proposals can also introduce additional technologies to address specific challenges.

Technology	Description
Jackdaw GeoAI Chatbot	<p>Jackdaw is an AI-powered chat agent designed for spatially contextualized conversations, addressing challenges in rural development where traditional language models struggle with location-specific queries. It enhances user questions with relevant spatial data, improving accuracy by integrating geographic context before querying AI models.</p> <p>Users interact with Jackdaw by selecting a location on a map and submitting a natural language query. The system analyzes the query, determines necessary spatial and temporal parameters, and retrieves relevant data from various sources. This enriched spatial context is</p>

	<p>integrated into AI-generated responses, which can be presented as text, tables, charts, maps, or dynamic dashboards.</p> <p>Built on a Python-based FastAPI backend, Jackdaw utilizes Qdrant for vector embeddings, PostgreSQL for data storage, and AI tools like OpenAI, LangChain, and Scikit-learn. It operates within a mono-repo alongside Magpie and Vulture, secured via OAuth authentication through the Digital Innovation Hub. By merging natural language processing with geospatial intelligence, Jackdaw pioneers the next generation of AI-driven spatial analysis, enabling smarter, data-informed decision-making in rural development.</p>
<p>PoliRuralPlus Hub</p>	<p>Hub4Everybody is evolving into a comprehensive AI-powered data platform, integrating Jackdaw (GeoAI Chatbot), and advanced textual analysis tools to support data management, analysis, and AI training. It will serve as a universal repository for geospatial data, documents, and metadata, ensuring seamless access for AI-driven decision-making.</p> <p>Jackdaw will leverage the Hub’s structured and unstructured data for spatial analysis, EO classification, and real-time insights. AI-powered textual analysis will extract insights from reports, policies, and research, enriching decision-making processes. Additionally, the Hub will integrate AI-driven e-learning, offering interactive training modules with personalized recommendations and geospatial insights.</p> <p>By standardizing data formats, enhancing interoperability, and embedding AI across its ecosystem, Hub4Everybody will become a cornerstone of PoliRuralPlus, driving intelligent data utilization, policy support, and digital learning innovation.</p>
<p>Map Whiteboard</p>	<p>Map Whiteboard is a real-time collaborative mapping tool that merges traditional web GIS functionalities with interactive features similar to Miro and Figma, enabling seamless shared map interactions. It supports pre-defined maps, GeoJSON uploads, WMS layer integration, shared cursors, and simultaneous feature editing, allowing users to collaboratively create and edit spatial data.</p> <p>Built on OpenLayers with a WebSocket API for real-time collaboration and a REST API for data management, MapWhiteboard operates on HSLayers-NG, a specialized OpenLayers extension for advanced web mapping.</p> <p>Currently at TRL 7, ongoing enhancements aim to integrate AI tools like Jackdaw for intelligent metadata search, improve interoperability with Hub4Everybody, refine mobile usability, and introduce onboarding tutorials and a light mode for non-technical users. These advancements will expand its utility for geospatial collaboration across industries.</p>
<p>Rural Attractiveness Explorer (RAE)</p>	<p>The Rural Attractiveness Explorer offers data visualization, filtering, map interactions, and scenario modeling to assess rural region attractiveness. Future development under PoliRuralPlus will tailor the</p>

	<p>app to individual pilot needs, whether focusing on innovation potential, tourism, or other factors.</p> <p>A key enhancement will be combining statistical data with OpenStreetMap infrastructure data for a more precise attractiveness assessment. Additionally, AI-driven interpretation models will analyze large datasets, generating insights and recommendations to enhance decision-making.</p> <p>With ongoing improvements, the application will remain user-friendly, flexible, and innovative, providing a comprehensive tool for evaluating and enhancing rural region appeal.</p>
<p>PoliRuralPlus Advisor</p>	<p>The PoliRuralPlus Advisor is an interactive tool designed to support the development of Regional Action Plans (RAPs) within the PoliRuralPlus project, fostering sustainable and inclusive rural-urban development through digital innovation. It helps stakeholders align RAPs with EU sustainability goals, centralizes knowledge sharing across pilot projects, and integrates digital solutions like low-code platforms and foresight tools.</p> <p>Built on Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) custom GPT technology, it serves as a virtual assistant providing tailored insights, automating knowledge management, and facilitating stakeholder collaboration. The Advisor enables data-driven decision-making, analyzes socio-economic and environmental impacts, supports AI-driven scenario modeling, and reduces manual documentation efforts, ensuring efficiency and consistency across regions.</p>
<p>Atlas of Best Practices</p>	<p>The Atlas of Best Practices is an interactive web tool showcasing transferable solutions for rural development, innovation, and sustainability. Refined under PoliRural and integrated with the PoliRuralPlus Digital Innovation Hub (DIH), it features region-specific best practices from projects like Enabling, Dalia, and Data4Food2030. With interactive mapping and a collaborative framework, stakeholders can explore, contribute, and update content dynamically. The Atlas fosters collaboration, supports knowledge exchange, and offers scalable solutions to common challenges, promoting sustainable regional development.</p>
<p>E-Market for Local Food</p>	<p>The E-Market for Local Food is a digital marketplace developed under the Data4Food2030 and THEROS projects. It supports the direct sale of regionally-produced, organic, and certified foods by connecting local producers, retailers, and consumers. Built on PrestaShop and hosted by Lesprojekt, it promotes short supply chains and the Farm-to-Fork approach. Key features include IoT sensors for real-time monitoring of transport conditions and blockchain technology for traceability and fraud prevention. Integrated data sources like OpenStreetMap and Copernicus optimize logistics and decision-making. The platform enhances</p>

	<p>transparency, empowers local producers, and promotes sustainability in line with the EU Green Deal.</p>
<p>Vulture: AI-Driven Productivity Sandbox</p>	<p>Vulture is an AI-powered sandbox designed for productivity experimentation, enabling users to efficiently manage, analyze, and retrieve information streams. Developed from WP3 buddy exercises, it integrates AI-driven workflows for intelligent content processing while ensuring privacy compliance and security.</p> <p>Users ingest information by forwarding emails with attachments, which are validated, analyzed for context, chunked into vector embeddings, and stored in a private, self-expanding Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) system using Qdrant. Vulture enables natural language search, retrieving relevant documents and generating AI-driven responses through GPT-4o.</p> <p>Beyond email-based ingestion, Vulture supports URL crawling, extracting targeted information for applications like policy impact tracking, as demonstrated in the Vidzeme Planning Region pilot.</p> <p>Technically, Vulture runs on a Python FastAPI backend, with a React front-end, Qdrant for vector search, and PostgreSQL for metadata management. It operates within a mono-repo alongside Jackdaw and Magpie, fostering a modular AI ecosystem. By combining AI-driven search, automated knowledge management, and seamless integration, Vulture provides a scalable tool for streamlining information workflows while maintaining user control and data privacy.</p>
<p>Multi Actor Approach Tool</p>	<p>A collaborative platform designed to support the management of pilots and living labs in rural-urban development. It enables stakeholder engagement, real-time collaboration, and data-driven decision-making through configurable workflows and advanced data visualization.</p> <p>Technically, the tool integrates modular work entities, supporting multi-layered geospatial, economic, social, and environmental data. It features customizable user roles with secure access controls, interactive dashboards for real-time visualization, and a scalable, interoperable design that adapts to evolving project needs. With its flexible structure and integration capabilities, the MAA Tool enhances transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency in stakeholder-driven planning and policymaking.</p>

6 Submission Process

Proposal submissions are solely via the online form on the PoliRuralPlus Knowledge Hub available at <https://www.poliruralplus.eu/open-calls/>.

Upon submission, applicants will receive a confirmation email, ensuring that their proposal has been successfully received.

The proposal contains two parts:

- **Part A: Administrative Form** - This section is designed to collect essential information about your organisation and designated contacts for technical and contractual matters. Please provide accurate and complete details to facilitate smooth communication throughout the application and project implementation process.
- **Part B: Technical Description** - Part B of the proposal is the narrative part that includes three sections that each correspond to an evaluation criterion. Part B needs to be uploaded as a PDF document following the template provided as part of the open call documents. Part B includes the proposed budget and its justification. The total length of Part B should not exceed 8 pages. Any excess pages will be disregarded during the proposal evaluation process.

It is highly recommended to submit your proposal application well before the deadline. If the applicant discovers an error in the already submitted application, and provided the call deadline has not passed, the applicant may resubmit the application. Only the latest submitted version (timestamp of the system) will be considered as eligible.

7 Obligatory Deliverables

The selected applicants will commit to provide the following set of deliverables which will serve as a criterion for evaluation of their project:

1. **Hackathon/datathon/ideathon Report:** A comprehensive document detailing the event, including:
 - Objectives and structure of the hackathon.
 - Profiles of participants and teams.
 - Summary of the winning projects and solutions.
 - Project presentation of all teams:
 - A slide deck or digital presentation prepared by the participating teams.
 - This should describe the problem tackled, the proposed solution, the use of PoliRuralPlus tools, and the impact of their project.
 - A template for this report will be provided during the project implementation.
2. **Media Outputs:**
 - 2 news articles, 3 blog posts, and/or social media summaries of the event and its outcomes.
 - These will serve both as dissemination material and proof of activity.

8 Proposal Evaluation

For evaluating proposals submitted under the Mobilise call, a detailed evaluation framework is needed to ensure transparency and fairness in the selection process. The framework will assess proposals based on their alignment with objectives and expected impacts, using a scoring system from 0 to 5, where 5 represents the highest level of excellence. The evaluation procedure will follow the same concept as used for Horizon Europe projects by the EU, ensuring consistency with established best practices for assessing project proposals.

8.1 Evaluation Criteria

Objectives (0-5 points)

Alignment with the objectives of the Mobilise call

- Does the proposal demonstrate a clear understanding of the call's objectives?
- Does it aim to harness AI/DL for enhancing rural-urban interactions effectively?

Alignment with regional pilots and relevance of challenges

- Does the proposal define at least 2 challenges relevant to the region?
- Are the chosen challenges significant for the region and its rural-urban dynamics?

Impacts (0-5 points)

Stakeholder mobilisation and engagement:

- Are relevant local stakeholders (e.g., IT experts, advisors, community representatives) identified?
- Does the proposal ensure meaningful collaboration and stakeholder engagement?

Implementation (0-5 points)

Feasibility and planning:

- Is the proposed timeline for the hackathon realistic and well-structured?
- Does the implementation plan detail roles and responsibilities?

Resource allocation:

- Is the €10,000 lump sum budget well allocated and justified; appropriately to achieve project objectives?

Partner expertise:

- Does the team possess the necessary skills and experience in organising hackathons or similar community events?

8.2 Proposal Scoring

- Evaluation scores are awarded for the criteria, and not for the different aspects in each criterion.
- The evaluators provide a score in the range from 0-5 to each criterion based on their textual comments.
- The whole range of scores should be used with steps of 0.5.
- Interpretation of scores:
 - **0** - The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
 - **1 - Poor.** The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
 - **2 - Fair.** The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
 - **3 - Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

- **4 - Very Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- **5 - Excellent.** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
- Definitions for score descriptors:
 - A ‘**minor shortcoming**’ is an issue that relates only to a marginal aspect of the proposal with respect to the criterion and/or can easily be rectified (it will not impact the scoring).
 - A ‘**shortcoming**’ is a problem that relates to an important aspect of the proposal. It impacts the scoring but does not render the proposal inappropriate for funding, i.e. the proposal is still expected to lead to useful results with positive impact.
 - A ‘**significant weakness**’ means that the proposal addresses the criterion in a limited and/or not sufficiently effective way (will lower the score below threshold). This can also be the case when the proposal includes a large number of shortcomings, each one of them not rendering the proposal inappropriate for funding, though all together make the proposal not addressing the criterion sufficiently in an effective way.

8.3 Evaluation and Selection Process

- Each proposal must pass an eligibility check based on eligibility criteria defined in Chapter 4.
- In order to ensure an unbiased evaluation process, proposals will be assessed by a panel of independent experts (individual evaluations).
- Each proposal will be evaluated based on three main criteria: **Objectives, Impacts and Implementation**, with a scoring range from 0 (lowest) to 5 (highest) for each criterion.
- Individual evaluations including comments and scores for each proposal will serve as the main input for a panel review made by selected experts from PoliRuralPlus. The panel of experts reaches an agreement on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking consistency across the evaluations. If necessary, the panel resolves cases where evaluators were unable to agree and ranks the proposals with the same score. As a result, there will be a final ranking list.
- Proposals must achieve a minimum score of 3 in all three criteria and an overall score of at least 11 to be considered for funding.
- Priority will be given to selecting one proposal per pilot region. If no proposals qualify in a specific region, the option to select two proposals from another region will be considered.
- **Relevance to PoliRuralPlus as tiebreaker:** In the event of equal overall scores within a region, the proposal with better relevance to PoliRuralPlus will be selected to ensure that the most potentially transformative project is chosen. This includes the utilisation of PoliRuralPlus tools mentioned in Chapter 5.

9 Financial Support

9.1 Origin of the Funds

Selected beneficiaries will sign a dedicated Sub-Grant Agreement with the PoliRuralPlus project coordinator (CVUT). A Model Sub-Grant Agreement is part of the open call documents. The funds

attached to the Sub-Grant Agreement come directly from the funds of the European Project PoliRuralPlus, and the PoliRuralPlus coordinator is managing the funds according to the Grant Agreement No 101136910 signed with the European Commission.

9.2 Use of the Financial Contribution

Each beneficiary commits to a proper use of the funding received, for the purposes of carrying out the sub-project in compliance with the defined work plan and expected deliverables. While no financial reporting will be requested within the experiment, teams must ensure that funds are properly spent. See the Model Sub-Grant Agreement for further details.

9.3 Funding Principle

Successful applicants will receive financial support from the PoliRuralPlus project in the amount of up to 10,000 EUR for the sub-project implementation. This will be provided as a lump sum contribution. Proposals requesting higher amounts will be considered as ineligible.

In total 90,000 EUR were allocated for the Mobilise call. It is expected to fund 9 sub-projects with a priority of one sub-project per pilot region.

Receiving a grant from the Mobilise call does not preclude participation in further PoliRuralPlus calls for proposals. The maximum support for one organisation across all calls is 60,000 EUR.

Please note that subcontracting or transfer of financial contribution to third parties is not permitted.

The financial contribution of up to 10,000 EUR will be distributed after successful implementation of the sub-project, given that all sub-project activities and deliverables are accepted.

10 Key Dates

- **Call opening:** 31 January 2025
- **Submission Deadline:** 31 March 2025, 17:00 CEST
- **Expected notification of results:** April 2025
- **Signature of Sub-Grant Agreement:** May 2025
- **Expected implementation period:** 6 months, June - November 2025

11 Processing of Personal Data

11.1 Processing of Personal Data by the PoliRuralPlus Coordinator

The personal data provided by the Applicants in the Mobilise call will be controlled by the PoliRuralPlus coordinator (Czech Technical University in Prague) and processed by Plan4all z.s., one of the PoliRuralPlus partners. The collected data will be handled according to the GDPR. Personal data will be processed exclusively for the purposes of performing, managing and monitoring the application or protecting the financial interests of the EU (including checks, reviews audits and

investigations). Personal data may be disclosed only to the external evaluators who evaluate their proposals and to the European Commission. The personal data will be kept for as long as it is necessary to process the application and its participation in the PoliRuralPlus project.

11.2 Processing of Personal Data by the Funded Sub-Projects

The selected sub-projects must put in place appropriate technical and organisational security measures to address data processing risks and in particular:

- prevent any unauthorised person from accessing computer systems that process personal data;
- ensure that access to personal data is limited to persons with special access rights;
- ensure that, during communication of personal data and transport of storage media, the data cannot be read, copied or deleted without authorisation;
- design its organisational structure in a way that meets data protection requirements.

12 Updates, Assistance and Consultancy

For additional support, including consultancy on proposal preparation, applicants are encouraged to contact the designated contact points for each pilot region, whose details can be found on the PoliRuralPlus Knowledge Hub. For any other questions, please use the primary contact details for this call.

Disclaimer: Applicants are advised to regularly check the PoliRuralPlus Knowledge Hub for the latest information and updates regarding the open call. PoliRuralPlus reserves the right to make any updates to the open call at any time without prior notice.

13 Conclusion

Your participation in the PoliRuralPlus Mobilise call contributes to the overarching goal of enhancing rural-urban interactions across the EU. We look forward to innovative proposals that promise significant regional impacts.