GRANULAR

Better knowledge for better rural policies
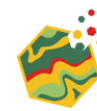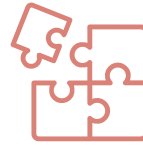
GRANULAR

Our goal is to develop novel data and reusable tools to support public action in rural areas

Research and Innovation project

Funded by Horizon Europe programme and the UK Research Innovation

Coordinated by IAMM Montpellier, France

24 partners 4 years (2022-2026)

What is GRANULAR?

GRANULAR (Giving Rural Actors Novel Data and Re-Usable Tools to Lead Public Action in Rural Areas) is a transnational research and innovation project that will generate new insights into rural diversity based on a multi-actor and interdisciplinary approach.

The project's multi-actor labs will evaluate existing data and generate new datasets using a wide range of methods and primary data, such as remote sensing, crowd-sourced data, mobile phone data and web scraping, to measure resilience, well-being, quality of life and attractiveness.

The data-collection methods and indicator development will enhance and support co-creation and co-learning with multiple actors in rural areas, directly supporting policy development.

Objectives

- Support just digital, economic and ecological transitions in rural areas.

- Conceptualise rural diversity, including its multiple characteristics and functionalities.

- Inform rural actors on the diversity of rural areas.

- Empower rural actors to engage in just, carbon-neutral and inclusive transitions.

7 Living Labs, 9 Replication Labs

Outputs

GRANULAR

- **7 Living Labs and 9 Replication Labs:** to co-design tools, data and analyses to guide decision-making.

- **Rural Compass:** to understand rural diversity.

- **Rural proofing mechanism:** applied to 4 European policies.

- **Online repository:** existing and new data sources for rural areas.

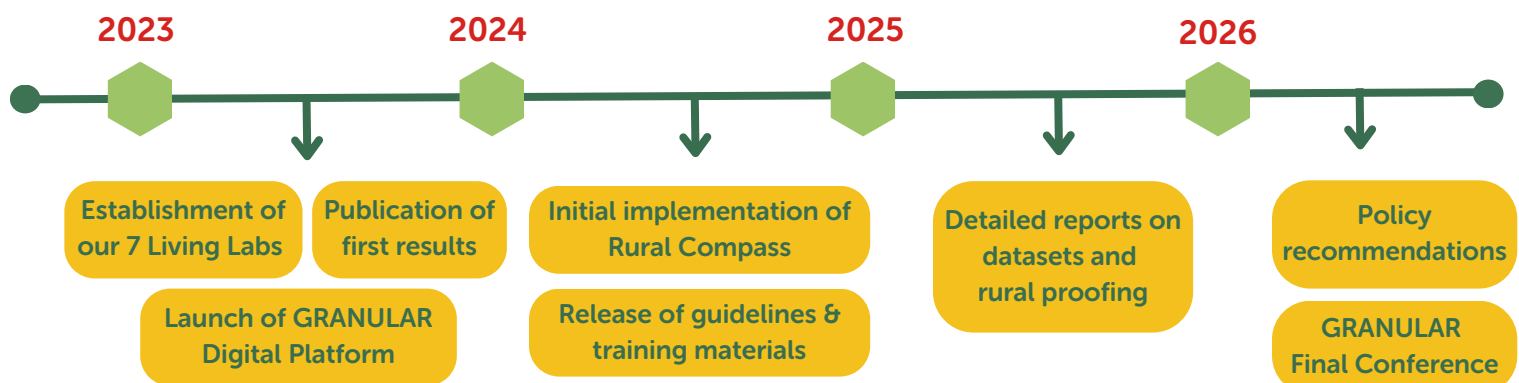- **Thematic reports:** on climate neutrality, socio-economic resilience, food systems, wellbeing, attractiveness.

- **Digital platform:** data and tools at different granularity.

- **Briefs, reports and analyses:** on thematic topics, European and national policies, rural proofing.

GRANULAR Timeline

2023
- Establishment of our 7 Living Labs
- Publication of first results
- Launch of GRANULAR Digital Platform

2024
- Initial implementation of Rural Compass
- Release of guidelines & training materials

2025
- Detailed reports on datasets and rural proofing

2026
- Policy recommendations
- GRANULAR Final Conference

Why is GRANULAR important?

Across European countries, there is no clear agreement on the definition of "rural". Geographical specificities, as well as economic and social characteristics, environmental and cultural assets, all play a role in making rural areas heterogeneous.
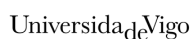
In addition, policy makers and scientists lack data at the appropriate level of granulometry to be able to grasp rural diversity. They also lack practical tools to develop tailored policies that fit rural specificities and are able to unleash the full potential of rural areas.

GRANULAR will contribute to bridging this gap. It is generating novel datasets and methods to better understand the characteristics, dynamics and drivers of rural areas. These elements will be used to develop the GRANULAR Rural Compass, an innovative tool to help rural actors understanding the specificities of their territories, with the aim of identifying main challenges and designing tailored place-based policies to address those challenges.

What does GRANULAR claim?

- **Rural areas are not only synonymous with agriculture or sparsely populated areas.** Rural areas have multiple dimensions and all of them should be understood and addressed through place-based policies to make rural areas more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.

- **Co-creation of new data and methodologies for rural areas can create a bridge between policy-making and the rural population.** Also, data-driven insights can improve and strengthen the appeal of rural areas, and create an enabling environment for business development.

- **Rural actors should be involved in the co-creation of datasets and indicators to understand the needs of rural areas.** These datasets and indicators should be open, easy to access and understood by the rural population.

- **Rural areas need a new generation of policy-making** that addresses rural needs through bottom-up and better data collection.

You can read more about GRANULAR here

ruralgranular.eu

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