



GRANULAR

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

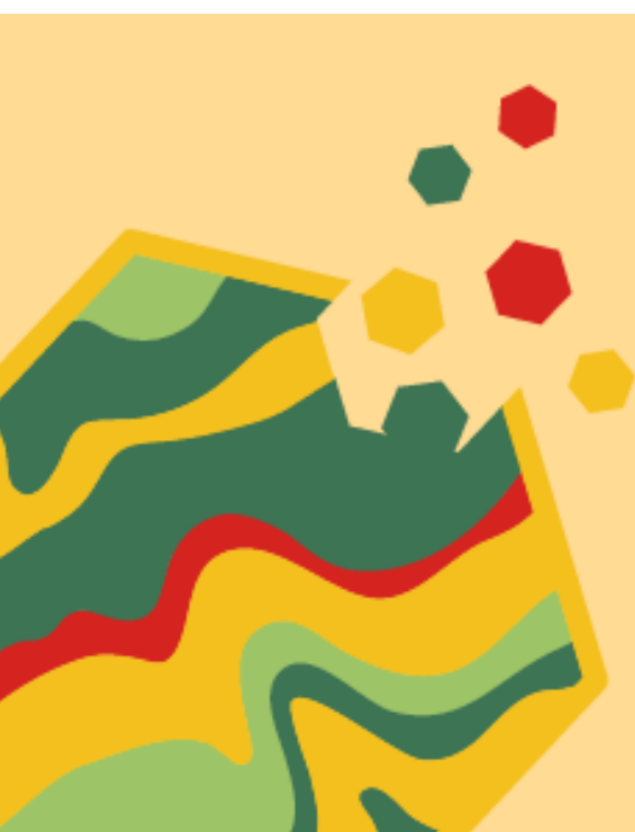
Pays Pyrénées Méditerranée



PAYS PYRÉNÉES
MÉDITERRANÉE

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The **Living Lab in France** aims to **enhance mobility flows** and **develop targeted transport alternatives** to individual cars, monitor the use of natural areas to minimise impacts on biodiversity, and assess the impact of drought.

Energy production in the region meets only 19% of its needs. Despite a reliance on oil products, which poses challenges due to greenhouse gas emissions and cost fluctuations, renewable energy sources such as photovoltaic panels and wood are already in use. **Transportation**, largely dependent on cars, is the leading contributor to emissions in the area, with over 4 out of 5 work-related trips made by car. **Access to daily services** like bakeries, grocery stores, pharmacies, and fuel stations remains a challenge for residents.

The **local economy relies heavily on tourism** (seaside, thermal, and outdoor activities) and **agriculture** (viticulture, arboriculture, and livestock farming). However, many **jobs** in these sectors are **seasonal and unevenly distributed across the region**. Agriculture benefits from high-quality products like PDO wines, renowned beers, fruits, and cheeses, with 20% of agricultural land dedicated to organic farming. Yet, the sector is vulnerable due to its reliance on water resources.

Residents are increasingly affected by **natural risks**, such as floods and wildfires, **exacerbated by climate change**. Decreasing precipitation and rising temperatures threaten water availability, which must be balanced among residents, farmers, and the tourism industry.

PAYS PYRÉNÉES
MÉDITERRANÉE | France

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Thematic Priority:

- Recreational flows
- Commuting
- Climate change

More info:

https://www.ruralgranular.eu/living_lab/living-lab-france-ppm/



French Living Lab workshop.

ABOUT THE LIVING LAB

The Living Lab encompasses **58 municipalities in Southern France** (Occitanie Region, including Languedoc-Roussillon and Pyrénées-Orientales) and is managed by Pays Pyrénées Méditerranée, an association dedicated to local development. This association, already operating a [LEADER](#) Local Action Group, is establishing the data-oriented Living Lab as part of the [GRANULAR project](#). Nestled between the Pyrenean mountains and the Mediterranean Sea, the region features diverse landscapes, with 60% forest coverage and the Tech coastal river flowing through it. Its communities share a rich Catalan cultural heritage and a 120 km border with South Catalunya, Spain. The area serves as one of two key corridors connecting the Iberian Peninsula to the rest of Europe.

OBJECTIVES

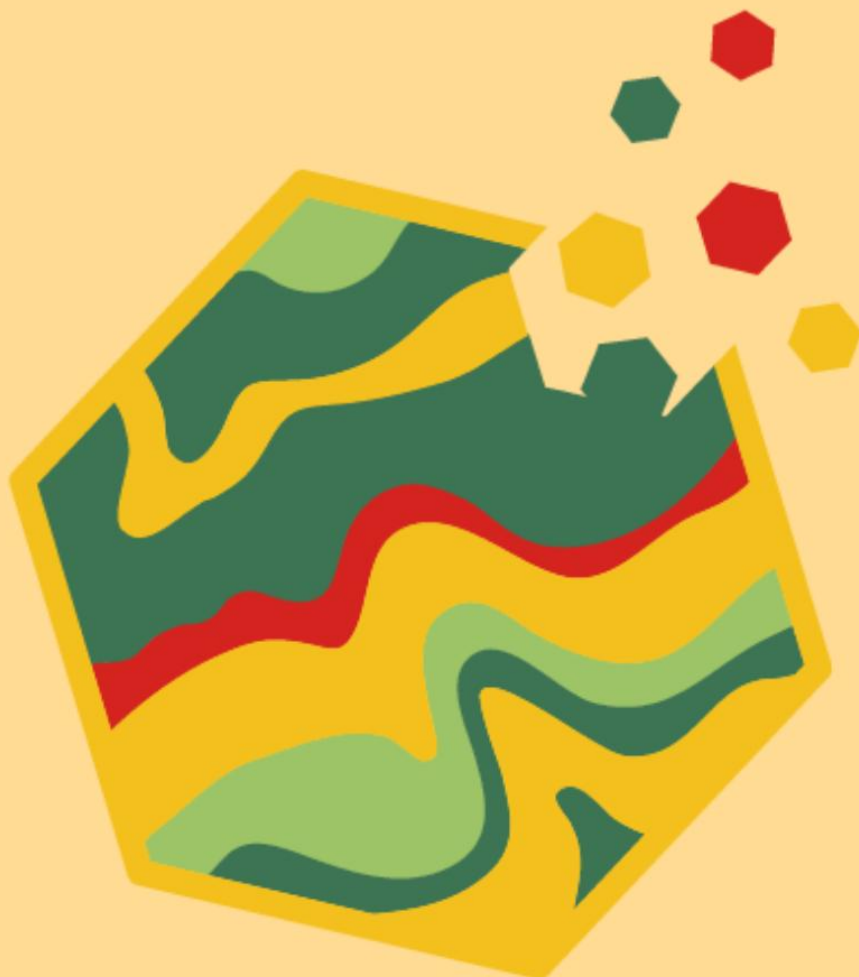
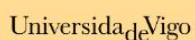
- **Addressing Displacement and Promoting Sustainable Transport:** Transportation is the primary source of energy consumption in the region, necessitating a shift to alternative, less fossil fuel-dependent modes of transport. Approaches to this objective include the use of active and passive methods to gather year-round data on mobility practices and choices, and engaging key actors to collaboratively understand and monitor mobility flows. It is expected to gain shared insights and tools for tracking mobility trends, and enhance data integration to inform sustainable transport strategies.
- **Protecting Natural Spaces and Balancing Recreational Use:** The region's wellbeing and attractiveness depend on its natural spaces, but unregulated use can threaten biodiversity. Municipalities, regional authorities, outdoor activity providers, associations, natural reserves, and environmental groups will combine existing data (e.g., path meters, mobility flows) with remote sensing tools. In addition, they will identify and discuss biodiversity hotspots and areas at risk from overuse. The outputs from this objective will include strategies for biodiversity preservation and sustainable recreational use, and awareness-building initiatives and enhanced data-sharing among stakeholders.
- **Managing Water Resources and Monitoring Drought Impacts:** Drought exacerbates water resource management issues, affecting biodiversity, agriculture, and daily life. Catchment area unions, natural reserves, local and regional authorities, and forest owners plan to expand existing monitoring tools by integrating remote sensing data and field insights. These will focus on the impacts of drought on biodiversity in mountains and forests and on agricultural production. The outcome will contribute to informed decision-making and proactive drought resource management.

DATA TO BE COLLECTED

The analysis will focus on three interconnected dimensions like mobility patterns, natural area attendance, and the impacts of drought on natural and agricultural sectors. Firstly, it will investigate the location of trip-generating centres and mobility flows, analysing the origins and destinations of journeys, the number of travellers across different times of the day and year, the modes of transport utilised, and the factors influencing transport choices. Secondly, the Lab will examine the intensity of attendance in natural areas, identifying key hotspots and sensitive locations. It will evaluate the impacts of overuse or misuse on these areas. Lastly, the research will assess the severity of drought in different areas, identify vulnerable hotspots, and explore how overuse or mismanagement exacerbates these impacts.



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