

CITIZENS' LABORATORIES FOR YOUNG RURAL EUROPEANS



RURALAB+ is a project funded by the Erasmus+ programme and developed jointly by three entities: La Ponte Ecomuséu (Spain), Varėnos Kultūros Centras (Lithuania) and La Maison des minéraux (France).

Its main objective is to foster participation, collaboration and entrepreneurship among young people in rural areas, contributing to the sustainable development of their territories.

To this end, citizen laboratories will be set up as a space in which to work together on the ideas that have been selected on different 3 themes (**Heritage, Arts and culture, Sciences**) and promoted by young people who are related to the rural territories in which they will be working.

Citizen laboratories are collaborative spaces for the production of prototypes made up of the promoter of the idea, 5 previously selected collaborators as well as mediators who will help to ensure synergies throughout the process.

These laboratories consist of workshops for the collaborative development of experimentation and innovation projects in the rural environment and will be held in the three countries (3 in each) for a week on the dates indicated below. For this purpose, 3 ideas have been selected in each country and a call is open for people who wish to participate as collaborators.

They will take place over a period of **5 days** where work will be carried out in an open, collaborative and experimental way and where community-based learning processes are generated. Participation is free of charge, as transport and accommodation will be covered during the laboratory.

This is not a process of creating a type of business or a showroom, it is about the creation of a prototype improved thanks to the participation of different profiles and that can be replicated by other people in the future, since one of the main principles is the social return.

Objectives of the RURALAB+ project

The main objective is to design new environments for youth participation and collaborative entrepreneurship in rural areas using local community and cultural spaces.

This will be done through citizen idea labs focused on the sustainability of rural areas carried out by young rural people in order to evaluate, model and disseminate successful models of innovation at European level.

These types of laboratories are based on the collaborative production workshop model of Medialab Prado (Madrid) and are aimed at facilitating cooperation between people for the development of experimental cultural projects and the creation of new learning and practice communities that carry out these projects. Through a call for projects and another open to people who want to collaborate (CURRENT CALL), the aim is to offer a place for experimentation and production in which it is the participants themselves who develop the projects in work teams, which are made up of the person, organisation or entity promoting the idea and the people who want to join as collaborators (five for each project in this case to carry them out).

During the days in which the laboratories will take place, a considerable number of people (between promoters, collaborators and mentors) will meet in the places where they will take place (Lithuania, France and Spain) to carry out the 9 selected ideas aimed at improving and promoting participation, collaboration and entrepreneurship among young people in rural areas, contributing to the sustainable development of their territory.

The following deadlines are established:

1. Publication of selected projects: 27 February 2025.

2. Call for collaborators: from 27 February to 16 March 2025.

3. Labs (including transportation days)

- Lithuania: 20 - 26 of May, 2025
- France: 29 of June - 5 of July, 2025
- Spain: 31 of August - 7 of September, 2025



Why citizen and rural experimentation and innovation?

The laboratory's methodology follows the Medialab Prado model, where projects are prototyped with the help of work teams made up of promoters, collaborators and a mediation and mentoring team. Citizen innovation allows societies to transform their environment, challenging the traditional model in which citizens are only recipients of services. In the face of the growing

distance between people and institutions, self-organisation and collaboration have made it possible to generate local resources and infrastructures, rethinking new forms of the public sphere and the economy.

The rural environment has historically been a key space for citizen innovation, and with the development of communication and transport networks, the distinction between urban and rural is blurring. While cities are looking for models of communal production and management, rural areas continue to offer examples of self-organisation.

In this context, the citizen laboratories to be carried out in the RURALAB+ project are presented as spaces for experimentation and collective learning focused on European rural youth as an active and transforming agent capable of generating proposals and concrete actions that help to combat depopulation and the alarming ageing of these peripheral territories, and to do so in a sustainable and attractive way.

Purpose of the call for collaborators

The purpose of this call is the selection of collaborators.

The ideas (which have already been selected) will be developed with the help of technical assistance, as well as a group of collaborators who wish to participate in the development of the proposals.

These laboratories focus on different fields, such as art and culture (Lithuania), science (France), and Asturian cultural heritage (Spain). Anyone involved in crafts, engineering, art, anthropology, architecture, agriculture, sociology, history, urban planning, education, social work, ecology, archaeology, programming, psychology, geography, journalism, graphic design, or manual skills can participate as a collaborator. This includes professionals, amateurs, curious individuals, or anyone interested in the ideas of the organizers, regardless of their field or level of expertise, as long as their profile matches the requirements of each laboratory.



The maximum number of collaborators per idea will be 5 (1 from the country where it is developed and 2 from each partner country). Therefore, there will be a total of 45 collaborators (15 for each country that will develop 3 laboratories each).

Those interested in participating can apply to participate in a maximum of 2 laboratories (regardless of the country in which it will take place) that are of interest to them, although they will only be selected to participate as collaborators in one of them.

All travel and accommodation expenses are covered by the project.

General aspects of the workshops (Terms and conditions of the call for Collaboration)

Methodology

These laboratories aim to be a platform for learning, research, production and collective prototyping from which maximum support is given to the development of the selected ideas.

The proposals will be developed in multidisciplinary working groups made up of the promoter team together with the collaboration of interested parties, with the conceptual and technical advice of mentors, mediators and assistants.

The organisation will provide, as far as possible, the necessary means for the realisation and documentation of the selected projects.

Throughout the workshop, different activities such as talks, presentations, seminars or specific mini-workshops will be programmed.

The working days will be adapted to the particular needs of the projects, in conciliation with the activities and timetables of the centre where the workshop will take place (morning and afternoon).

Participants will need to create clear documentation for their projects, both during and after the workshop. This can include photos, notes, user manuals, or instructions. The goal is to share the results and source code under free licenses (such as Creative Commons) so that others can access and use the knowledge from the workshop.



Technical requirements

The selection committee, consisting of the promoting institutions as well as the mentors, examined in detail the technical feasibility of the realisation of the projects. For this reason, projects with clearly specified technical and spatial requirements were positively assessed.

The projects will subsequently be developed and exhibited in the facilities where the laboratory will take place. The organisation will only provide the basic equipment and means for the production of the selected projects, and always upon prior request of the proposals.

Access to and use of the technical means provided by the organisation will be coordinated and supervised by those responsible for the laboratory.

The costs of material and technical equipment not previously requested or approved must be covered by the project.

In case the selection committee has doubts about any technical requirements, it will contact the author(s) of the proposal.

Once the workshop is over, participants undertake to remove their materials within the maximum period established by each collaborating association. Once this deadline has passed, the organisation reserves the right to do with them as it sees fit, and under no circumstances will it be responsible for the return or transport of the prototype.

Likewise, the organisation reserves the right to keep the materials of the projects it has paid for if it considers it appropriate, so that they can be reused in future projects or activities.

Accommodation, travel and food

The European Commission will cover travel, accommodation and full board and lodging expenses (breakfast, lunch and dinner) for all participants.

The management of all these expenses will be carried out by the collaborating entities (La Ponte Ecomuséu (Spain), Varėnos Kultūros Centras (Lithuania) and La Maison des Minerais (France).

Registration

The call for collaborators will be open from 27 February 2025 and will be made through the questionnaire provided for this purpose.



As already stated in this document, those interested in participating can apply to participate in a maximum of 2 laboratories (regardless of the country in which they will be developed) that interest them, although they can only participate as collaborators in one of them.

Resolution

The selection committee will be composed of the workshop mentors, staff from Ponte Ecomuséu (Spain), Varėnos Kultūros Centras (Lithuania) and La Maison des Minerais (France).

Selection of collaborators

The selection of collaborators will be made by the committee through a qualitative process, considering the suitability of their profile to participate in the different laboratories. This decision will be taken in consultation with the promoters, prioritising cohesion and efficiency in the implementation of the methodologies to be applied in each laboratory.

Dissemination and continuity of projects

Projects and their documentation may be published on the project webpages, as well as on the websites and social networks of the participating organisations.

Obligations of those selected

The selected persons undertake to attend the workshop and the associated seminars.

All documentation, plans, designs, photographs, etc. will be published under a free licence that allows their reuse.

Likewise, all the code generated by the participants must be published in public repositories and accessible under a free licence that allows its reuse.

The credits of the project will detail the participation of each team member and their development within the framework of the workshop.

Whenever these projects are shown at festivals and/or exhibitions, and whenever their images are reproduced in catalogues and/or websites, their relationship with the organising entities must be stated as follows: 'Project developed in the framework of RURALAB+ financed by the European Union'.



The projects carried out may be published in printed catalogues and on the websites of the collaborating associations.

Data protection rights

Users may send their request regarding the protection of personal data by e-mail to the following address by sending an e-mail to **info@laponte.org** , with the reference 'Personal data'.

The members of the committee may make any clarifications, modifications and interpretations they deem appropriate.

All circumstances not foreseen in this call for applications will be resolved by the committee.

Contact: **info@laponte.org**

Participation in this call for proposals implies the acceptance of all its rules and contents.

ORGANIZE:

