



Association of Popular Universities of Extremadura Region (Spain)

Network of Social Transformation

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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 employees**.

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-HLTH-2026-01-ENVHLTH-01: Towards a better understanding and anticipation of the impacts of climate change on health

Community-Based Data Collection and Citizen Engagement

AUPEX can mobilise its network of local adult education centres and community stakeholders to support participatory research, citizen science initiatives, and co-creation workshops. This can contribute to collecting qualitative and behavioural data on climate-related health impacts.

Vulnerability Mapping and Social Impact Assessment

AUPEX can facilitate local-level assessments of vulnerable populations (elderly, rural communities, socioeconomically disadvantaged groups) to identify differential climate-health risks. Through surveys, focus groups, and community consultations, AUPEX can contribute to understanding social determinants and inequalities linked to climate change and health.

Capacity Building and Climate-Health Literacy

AUPEX can design and implement training programmes, awareness campaigns, and educational materials to improve climate and health literacy among citizens, educators, and local authorities.

Pilot Demonstration Actions and Policy Uptake at Local Level

AUPEX can coordinate or support pilot interventions in collaboration with municipalities (e.g., local heatwave preparedness plans, community resilience actions). Its strong connection with local governments enables testing of research outcomes and facilitating policy translation and replication at regional and national levels.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-ENVHLTH-04: Towards climate resilient, prepared and carbon neutral populations and healthcare systems:

Community-Based Climate Resilience and Preparedness Actions

AUPEX can mobilise its network of local adult education centres and municipalities to co-design and implement community-level preparedness plans (e.g., heatwave response, wildfire smoke protection, flood-related health risks). This supports testing resilience models in real-life local settings.

Capacity Building for Health and Climate Literacy

AUPEX can develop and deliver training programmes targeting citizens, caregivers, local authorities, and civil protection actors on climate-health preparedness, risk prevention, and low-carbon lifestyles. These activities can strengthen behavioural change and community adaptation capacities.

Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable and Low-Carbon Healthcare Practices

AUPEX can facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote sustainable practices in public buildings, community health services, and social care systems—contributing to carbon footprint reduction strategies.

Pilot Demonstrations and Replication Pathways

AUPEX can coordinate or support pilot initiatives focused on resilient community infrastructures and carbon-neutral actions (e.g., energy efficiency in public educational centres, sustainable procurement practices). Its territorial presence enables validation, community acceptance, and replication at regional and national level.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-ENVHLTH-05: Support for a multilateral initiative on climate change and health research

Stakeholder Engagement & Community Outreach: Leverage AUPEX's network of 222 adult education centers to involve local communities, patients, caregivers, and health professionals in designing and co-creating interventions, ensuring gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches.

Data Collection & Knowledge Sharing: Support the generation, standardization, and FAIR-compliant management of new health and climate-related data, while utilizing existing datasets, biobanks, and registries to enhance the research impact.

Social Sciences & Humanities Expertise: Contribute expertise in behavioral, societal, and educational research to ensure the societal relevance and effective implementation of climate and health interventions.

Networking & Capacity Building: Facilitate collaboration with European research infrastructures, SMEs, and other Horizon Europe projects, while promoting joint activities, workshops, and training to strengthen the consortium's multidisciplinary approach.