



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-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-09 Citizenship education as part of lifelong learning

1. Community-Based Citizenship Learning Models

AUPEX brings long-standing experience in adult and lifelong learning through community-based education. It pilots inclusive citizenship curricula embedded in real-life local contexts. Strong focus on rural areas, vulnerable groups and intergenerational participation.

2. Testing Civic Engagement Pathways Beyond Formal Education

AUPEX can design and test how adult education programmes translate into real civic action. From participation in local decision-making to volunteering and democratic engagement. Evidence-based links between learning, empowerment and democratic participation.

3. Inclusive and Accessible Civic Education Approaches

AUPEX ensures citizenship education reaches citizens facing barriers to participation. Tailored methodologies for low-skilled adults, seniors and people with disabilities. Combining digital tools with face-to-face, trust-based learning environments.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-10: Digital and media literacy as drivers for democratic and civic resilience

1. Grassroots Media Literacy for Democratic Resilience

AUPEX implements media and digital literacy initiatives rooted in local communities. Focused on critical thinking, disinformation awareness and information integrity. Particularly effective with adults, seniors and socially vulnerable groups.

2. Citizen-Centred Approaches to Counter Disinformation

AUPEX supports research and piloting of practical literacy strategies against manipulative narratives. Including emotional, crisis-related and polarising content. Bridging research insights with real-world citizen education practices.

3. Multi-Actor Engagement and Policy Uptake

AUPEX acts as a bridge between researchers, educators, civil society and local authorities. Facilitating co-creation, testing and validation of media literacy tools. Ensuring results are translated into actionable recommendations for policymakers.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-04 Digital tools, educational outcomes and mental health

1. Evidence from Non-Formal and Community Learning Contexts

AUPEX contributes insights from adult and community education settings often overlooked in research. Complementing school-based perspectives with family and community-level evidence. Relevant for understanding digital habits beyond formal education.

2. Participatory Research with Learners, Educators and Families

AUPEX facilitates the involvement of learners, parents and educators in data collection. Using qualitative and participatory methods alongside experimental designs. Ensuring young people's voices and lived experiences inform policy-relevant findings.

3. Translating Research into Practical Guidance

AUPEX supports the co-creation of actionable recommendations for schools and communities. Focused on healthy digital habits, well-being and balanced use of digital tools. Clear pathways from research outcomes to policy and educational practice.