



# 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-CL3-2026-01-DRS-01: Designing new ways of risk awareness and enhanced disaster preparedness**

### **Citizen engagement and community-based preparedness**

AUPEX can mobilise its wide network of Popular Universities and local communities to co-design, test and validate inclusive risk awareness and preparedness approaches, with special focus on vulnerable groups, rural areas and youth.

### **Risk communication, education and behavioural change**

AUPEX brings strong expertise in translating complex disaster risk information into accessible educational materials, participatory training programmes and awareness campaigns that foster a culture of preparedness and safety.

### **Real-life pilots and societal validation**

AUPEX can provide real-life environments for piloting innovative tools, methodologies and communication strategies, ensuring usability, social acceptance and scalability at local and regional levels.

# WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

## HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-DRS-02: Multi-hazard approach and cumulative / cascading impacts

### **Societal and territorial perspectives in multi-hazard risk analysis**

AUPEX contributes Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) expertise to integrate social vulnerability, governance and territorial contexts into multi-hazard and cascading risk assessments.

### **Stakeholder engagement and knowledge co-creation**

AUPEX can engage local authorities, civil society and communities in participatory processes to validate multi-hazard scenarios, risk metrics and preparedness strategies across different territories.

### **Communication and uptake of complex risk models**

AUPEX supports the translation of advanced multi-hazard models and data into understandable narratives, training materials and decision-support tools for local and regional decision-makers.

## WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

**HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-DRS-03: Development of innovative tools, processes, equipment and technologies through responses to disasters and emergencies for search and rescue in hazardous conditions**

### **User-centred and inclusive validation of technologies**

AUPEX can support user-driven design and societal validation of search and rescue tools by involving communities, first responders and vulnerable groups in testing and feedback processes.

### **Training, awareness and capacity-building**

AUPEX can develop training and educational actions that accompany technological solutions, improving preparedness, acceptance and effective use of innovative tools by practitioners and communities.

### **Dissemination and community-level uptake**

AUPEX strengthens the visibility and uptake of advanced rescue technologies through local pilots, awareness campaigns and engagement with municipalities and civil society organisations.

# WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

## HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-DRS-04: Open topic on driving innovation uptake of disaster risk solutions

### **Bridging innovation and real-world deployment**

AUPEX acts as a bridge between technology providers, public authorities and citizens, facilitating the integration of high-TRL disaster risk solutions into local and regional preparedness and response systems.

### **Overcoming social and organisational barriers to uptake**

AUPEX addresses non-technical barriers (skills, trust, accessibility, governance) through training, participatory approaches and tailored communication strategies.

### **Scaling and replication across territories**

Through its territorial network, AUPEX supports scaling, replication and mainstreaming of proven disaster risk solutions across diverse contexts, including rural and disadvantaged areas.

# WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

**HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-DRS-05: Climate security and civil preparedness – new ways to develop pre- and post-crisis climate-change related scenarios for a more resilient Europe**

## **Local and regional climate risk preparedness**

AUPEX can support the development and validation of climate-related risk scenarios and preparedness tools focused on local and regional authorities, communities and vulnerable populations.

## **Climate literacy and public awareness**

AUPEX brings strong capacity in education, awareness-raising and behavioural change initiatives that strengthen civil preparedness for climate-induced disasters.

## **Participatory approaches and stakeholder engagement**

AUPEX facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue and co-creation processes, ensuring that climate security tools and strategies are socially grounded, inclusive and aligned with real territorial needs.