



Association of Popular Universities of Extremadura Region (Spain)

Network of Social Transformation

Lola Lucio Carrasco
European Project Manager
lola.lucio@aupex.org
europeanprojects@aupex.org

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 employee**.

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-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-04: Bridging the gap between disaster risk management and climate adaptation

Bridging R&I results with local authorities: AUPEX has strong experience translating complex research outputs into practical, user-friendly tools and guidance tailored to the needs of regional and local authorities, especially in rural and climate-vulnerable territories.

Multilingual dissemination and capacity building: Through its extensive network of local entities and Popular Universities, AUPEX can support multilingual knowledge transfer, awareness-raising, and training actions that facilitate uptake, replication, and scale-up of climate adaptation solutions.

Systematisation and validation of good practices: AUPEX can contribute to identifying, assessing, and structuring adaptation solutions and good practices, with a focus on social, territorial, and governance dimensions, ensuring their applicability and replicability in diverse regional contexts.

Policy feedback and stakeholder engagement: With experience in EU projects and public policy dialogue, AUPEX can help channel evidence-based insights from local implementation back into regional, national, and EU policy cycles, strengthening the legacy and impact of the Adaptation Mission.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA-05: Demonstrating solutions to protect and preserve cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change

Community-centred co-creation and citizen engagement: AUPEX brings strong experience in engaging local communities, civil society, and cultural actors in participatory processes.

Integration of SSH and cultural governance perspectives: With a solid background in cultural, educational, and social innovation projects, AUPEX can contribute SSH expertise to address behavioural, governance, and socio-economic dimensions of heritage adaptation.

Support to demonstration and replication at local level: AUPEX can facilitate collaboration with regional and local authorities hosting cultural heritage, supporting demonstration activities, documenting lessons learned, and preparing replication frameworks for other territories, particularly in rural and climate-vulnerable regions.

Knowledge transfer and dissemination: AUPEX can translate demonstrated solutions into accessible, multilingual materials for policymakers, heritage managers, and citizens.

WHAT WE CAN DO AT THIS TOPIC?

HORIZON-MISS-2026-06-CLIMA-SOIL: Joint demonstration of solutions to build soil resilience to extreme weather events and support food security

Multi-actor engagement and co-creation at local level: AUPEX has strong experience facilitating participatory processes involving local authorities, civil society, and educational actors, supporting the multi-actor approach required to co-design, test, and validate resilience solutions.

Knowledge transfer and capacity building for land managers: Through its territorial networks and training expertise, AUPEX can translate scientific and technical results into practical guidance, training activities, and decision-support tools.

Support to demonstration, replication, and scale-up frameworks: AUPEX can contribute to structuring demonstration activities across regions, documenting impacts and lessons learned, and preparing replication pathways for other regional and local authorities, including governance, financing, and implementation aspects.

Dissemination and policy feedback: AUPEX can support dissemination of good practices in accessible and multilingual formats.