



## **ANNEX: 50 SELECTED LOCAL PROJECTS**

### **Biodiversity:**

#### **Adapting syntropic agriculture to the French Mediterranean climate**

*Catfarm*, a community-based educational centre, is pioneering regenerative agriculture on its 1.5 hectares of land. Inspired by syntropic agriculture, the project aims to replicate natural ecosystems to create productive, sustainable farms while engaging local farmers and the community. This approach, known for transforming degraded lands into biodiverse rainforests, will be adapted to Mediterranean climates and local grape production.

#### **Agroforestry center in German Sieben Linden Ecovillage**

Since its inception, *Ecovillage Sieben Linden* has embraced agroforestry, creating an impressive forest garden that sustains its 150 inhabitants. The ecovillage has expanded its efforts, integrating alley-cropping on a 17-hectare field, planting fruit trees, and hosting events to promote agroforestry. The next step is establishing two demonstration fields and a consultation centre to inspire regional adoption, in collaboration with the German Agroforestry Federation.

#### **Aranda Ambassadors: Local Climate Action for a resilient future in Northern Spain**

*Aranda Ambassadors* is a local replication of the EU Climate Pact programme. Supported by the community, working groups of local ambassadors will identify key challenges such as energy, mobility, and rewilding, and plan actions around them. Monthly meetings will foster collaboration, while quarterly sessions with city representatives will align efforts and secure support. This initiative aims to inspire similar projects across Europe, promoting best practices and ecological resilience.

#### **Biodiversity in the South of Finland: Increasing knowledge and participation**

This project engages local residents in climate action by supporting species sensitive to climate change through tree planting and creating pollinator-friendly areas, promoting environmental awareness and preservation in villages and towns. In addition, the *Sepra* association encourages regional and international cooperation through the Green Belt, aiming to protect the Baltic Sea area, linking local actions with broader environmental goals.

#### **Biodiversity storytelling in the South of Romania**

This project aims to raise awareness about local biodiversity in *Turnu Măgurele* and focuses on traditional seeds and bird species. By identifying and preserving local seed varieties, encouraging their use, and exploring cross-border best practices, this project aims to enhance local efforts and empower the community to value and sustain their biodiversity assets.



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### **Casalina - Building social resilience in Italian Puglia**

Through the *Casalina* project, an abandoned farmhouse in Puglia was revitalised, transformed into a green oasis through reforestation, permaculture, and sustainable agriculture. The project now intends to level up its hands-on experience by expanding the organisation and the area of the farm. Engaging the local community through events and supporting migrant workers, it fosters solidarity and environmental stewardship, creating a model for sustainable rural development.

### **Croatian Grassy Perspectives**

*Grassy Perspectives* is revolutionising Osijek's city parks by promoting sustainable practices and community engagement. By addressing issues like unnecessary tree cutting, over-mowing or the introduction of non-native species, it enhances biodiversity conservation. Additional activities include educational activities, artistic collaborations, and public events to ensure a deeper connection between residents and their natural spaces, inspiring collective action for a more resilient urban environment.

### **C4C KEBAP: A German communal hub**

*KEBAP* (KulturEnergieBunkerAltonaProject) has transformed a historic World War II bunker into an urban relic in Hamburg, where over 150 local members share a rooftop garden, eco-friendly heat, and cultural events that unite diverse generations and social classes. *KEBAP*'s innovative economic model fuels cultural spaces with green energy sales, making it a great example of urban renewal and community engagement.

### **El Campillo de la Felicidad: Regenerative biodiversity in southern Spain**

*El Campillo de la Felicidad* is enhancing biodiversity in private gardens and communal areas while reducing the use of biocides and synthetic fertilisers. Community involvement is central and fostered through permaculture practices, such as the composting of organic waste. Participants will receive social currency rewards, fostering mutual aid networks and collective garden maintenance.

### **Fresnedillas por el clima: Participatory mapping for climate change adaptation in central Spain**

*Fresnedillas por el clima*'s mission is to map local water sources and biodiversity hotspots while fostering a strong community network, involving both the wisdom of elders and the curiosity of children. With the support of the University of Madrid, the project seeks to create a detailed environmental blueprint through service learning, providing a foundation for future sustainable interventions in the area.

### **Heritage community garden in Peipsilan, Estonia**

*Peipsi cooperation centre*, in collaboration with the Peipsimaa Museum, aims to preserve and promote heirloom plants along the shores of Estonia's largest lake. By creating plant beds featuring Peipsi onions, chicory, turnips, and wildflowers, this project seeks to conserve local biodiversity and highlight the



significance of traditional species. The community will be involved in cultivation and education, which will foster a deep connection to the region's natural and cultural heritage.

### **Hungarian Auróra Climate Garden**

*Auróra Climate Garden* in Budapest's 8th district is a green infrastructure model based on reforestation, and green composting. This inclusive urban space is open to all, from youth and surrounding minorities to local businesses, visitors or civic groups. Run by volunteers, it boosts community engagement through provision of ecosystem services, workshops and tailored advice. By recording an inspiring film, the project expects to increase local awareness and collective commitment toward climate resilience.

### **Little Wild: Sustainable living models in the French Pyrénées**

*Little Wild* focuses on creating sustainable living models through regenerative practices like permaculture, natural building, and organic food growing. This project aims to provide re-learning spaces for resilience skills, fostering community engagement. Involving local citizens through community consultations and participatory workshops, ensuring alignment with collective priorities and enhancing local ownership and support.

### **Manas Garden: A Hungarian habitat conservation project**

*Manas Garden* is a 90-hectare space dedicated to ecological restoration, including the creation of a natural water dam, controlling for invasive species and/or installing burrows for nesting. Involving residents, school groups, and volunteers, different events will be hosted, such as music festivals, educational programmes and eco-architecture camps. Overall, the project seeks to enhance biodiversity and preserve valuable wetlands, making it a model for community-driven ecological resilience.

### **Native orchard and wetland creation in Hungary**

The *Castanea Association* focuses on practical solutions in response to the ecological crisis, using methods like permaculture and regenerative development. In Kerkakutas, the plan is to plant native fruit trees and create wetlands, engaging the municipality, local NGOs, and residents. Castanea aims to foster a sustainable human-nature relationship and inspire regional participation in their health promotion efforts and environmental and educational transformative projects.

### **Nature-based solutions in Romania to build climate resilient local communities**

The *Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve* is highly vulnerable to climate-induced droughts and floods. In response, local communities are developing ecological restoration projects turning agricultural lands into wetlands, thus bolstering biodiversity, sustainable tourism, and fisheries. It is planned that this successful model be applied to develop financial mechanisms, governance adaptations, and stakeholder engagement, driving a shift towards a climate-smart economic framework.

### **School in the Orchard – In Romania we work with nature!**



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*School in the Orchard – We Work with Nature!* is an exciting project connecting urban Bucharest and rural Buzau through holistic ecological education. With a history of promoting plant-based local food, it involves creating community gardens and compost stations in schools. Through its focus on education and practice, the project aims to train 150 eco-leaders and engage 900 children in hands-on activities, fostering healthy habits and regenerative practices as a way to strengthen community bonds.

### **Skyttorp: A Swedish public forest garden**

This project focuses on agroforestry and forest gardening, offering locals free learning opportunities to plant and propagate but also to learn about nature and biodiversity. Involving local schools and the church, it connects children with nature from an early age. The *Skyttorp* garden will be a community-created space for social gatherings, biodiversity, food production, resilience and education.

## Circular economy:

### **Agoras Climáticas: Engaging communities through climate assemblies in Southeastern Spain**

In Alicante, Murcia, and Malaga, *Climate Assemblies* are being set up to educate and train various societal levels. A number of workshops will target the administration, trade unions, NGOs and citizens across sectors such as education, health, transport, food and tourism to generate specific recommendations. Civic engagement is ensured through random selection and deliberative processes, which will translate into community-driven, scientifically informed proposals that can influence policy.

### **Ai 300 scalini: Cultivating community and culture in an Italian public garden**

*Ai 300 Scalini* is an 'agri-cultural' space in the hills near Bologna. This community-driven area intertwines cultural and social activities and sustainable agriculture. It presents a regenerated vineyard, community oven, performance stage, greenhouse, orchard, apiary, rainwater harvesting system, and renewable energy production among other features. Visitors are encouraged to reach the space on foot, and by promoting shared practices, the project thrives on community care, participation and social interaction.

### **Bicis para todas (Bikes for everyone): A recovery project in the Spanish province of Castellón**

By salvaging discarded bikes, *Bicis para todas* provides vulnerable individuals with essential transportation, promoting social inclusion and reducing waste. So far it has recovered and refurbished over 1,000 bicycles, embodying sustainability, solidarity, and sustainable mobility. The project is run by volunteers, and it now includes a social workshop in the Xenillet-Torrent neighbourhood, addressing broader community issues such as education, social exclusion, and environmental awareness.

### **Circle Centre: An engaged Swedish Library of Things**

In Lund, *Circle Centre* has blossomed into a vibrant community hub, offering a 'Library of Things' where residents can borrow rather than buy infrequently used items, such as tools and outdoor equipment. Now, they are creating a resource bank and toolkit to help communities share tools and resources. This project



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supports a sharing economy, encouraging sustainable consumption and reducing waste at both neighbourhood and municipal levels.

### **EcoFashion 94: Pioneering French sustainable fashion**

Born from the REconomy initiative, *EcoFashion 94* aims to reduce pollution and greenhouse gases from excessive clothing consumption. This project engages citizens through a network of repair shops, second-hand stores, co-design workshops, and sustainable fashion clubs. By involving the local community in prototype testing and awareness-raising activities, *EcoFashion 94* fosters a culture of sustainable fashion in Val-de-Marne.

### **Les Immersives: Guiding French youth towards green careers**

*Les Immersives* aims at helping young people from vulnerable neighbourhoods find a career in the green sector. Through meetings and immersive experiences at Bordeaux's creative recycling centre, youth will explore professions in ecological transition, sustainable development, and the circular economy. Supported by a network of social players and local professionals, this project addresses the critical need for career guidance amidst global environmental challenges, aiming to boost self-confidence.

### **SOUP! Co-creating a solidarity purchase group between Italy and Slovenia**

In the cross-border region of Gorizia/Gorška, *SOUP!* is forming a bioregional solidarity purchase group. This project connects local farmers, producers, and consumers, promoting the production and consumption of sustainable, locally sourced products and strengthening community bonds across national borders.

### **Urban(eat)a: Turning urban waste into delicious food in Spain**

In Barcelona, a project called *Urban(eat)a* empowers citizens to harvest edible fruits from urban trees, collaborating with local governments and community groups. Gleaning events and transformation of fruits into products like marmalade and olive oil, not only contribute to alleviating food waste by making use of unwanted food, but also foster community engagement and sustainable practices.

### **Zéro Déchet Troyes: Bringing zero waste to the next level in France**

*Zéro Déchet Troyes* campaigns against organic and food waste, and advocates for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction. The association actively engages citizens through workshops and events and lobbies local institutions to implement effective waste regulations. To enhance their efforts, they have planned a study visit to the premises of a leader in bio-waste source separation and composting in Besançon, to learn best practices, bolster their members' skills and foster community interest in bio-waste management.



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### Renewable energy:

#### **#EnergiaParaElPueblo: A sustainable energy model in rural western Spain and Portugal**

*#EnergiaParaElPueblo*, in the Duero-Douro region, is one of Europe's largest energy communities across over 50 municipalities along the Spanish-Portuguese border. It focuses on producing renewable energy through community solar installations and developing an electric vehicle charging network. Driven collaboratively by local authorities, associations, SMEs and citizens, its Community Transformation Office engages locals through informative and participatory sessions.

#### **COMMUTE Granada: COMMunity Mobility in rUral TERRitories in the South of Spain**

Since 2021, Granada's provincial government has championed the development of local energy communities, initiating projects focused so far only on photovoltaic self-consumption. Through new collaborations, projects and services, such as rural electric car-sharing schemes, *COMMUTE Granada* aims to diversify its offer and foster innovative, community-led energy solutions that address both energy efficiency and sustainable mobility, enhancing the quality of life in rural areas.

#### **Ecofficine: An Italian community in transition**

The *Ecofficine* cooperative focuses on community-driven sustainability by engaging municipalities, citizens, associations, and companies in a participatory energy transition. The aim with this project is to lower energy costs and secure reliable local energy supplies, reducing dependence on international factors and contributing to a long-term decarbonisation path, essential for environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation.

#### **ECOINVOLTa: A Community of Practice in Southern Italy**

*ECOINVOLTa* aims to foster a renewable energy Living Lab in rural Avellino that would involve citizens of ten municipalities in creating networks of local stakeholders and supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities. By facilitating collaboration between research centres, local citizens, and green economy service providers, it aspires to bridge gaps and address challenges related to low awareness and mistrust in a region marked by small agricultural towns with high depopulation rates.

#### **Energía Bonita: Energy transformation on a Spanish island**

Palma de Mallorca is seeking to achieve significant energy savings by educating the local community about energy consumption and providing training to help members reduce their own usage. *Energía Bonita* also expects to foster dialogue on socioeconomic changes, needed to achieve 100% renewable energy, and address complex issues like energy poverty and resource distribution in a tourism and agriculture-based economy.

#### **Energia Nostra: A Renewable Energy Community in Italy**



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*Energia Nostra*, a renewable energy cooperative in the area of Cormons, is set to start recruiting new members and developing a crowdfunded agrivoltaic plant, which uses land for both solar energy production and agriculture. Thus, the project will be contributing to a fair energy transition by actively engaging residents and local organisations in the production and use of renewable electricity, lowering electricity bills and supporting projects with a positive local impact.

### **Estonian farmers engaged in reducing waste and emissions**

A group of farmers in *Saaremaa* want to find a solution to recycle farm waste from dairy and pig farms by exploring technologies for a biogas plant, which will reduce emissions and the carbon footprint of local businesses. Locals have been consulted, and their concerns about increased traffic congestion will be considered in the project's implementation from the start, thanks to planned road improvements in cooperation with the municipality.

### **Hungarian Community-driven Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)**

By involving the community in every step of the process, the development of *Pilisborosjenő's SECAP* will reflect the needs and aspirations of its residents, including reduced emissions, improved energy efficiency, and tackling energy poverty. To do that, the project aims at equipping the locals involved with tools and planning techniques that will help them better assess the needs, plan the resources and end up collaboratively designing a comprehensive action plan.

### **Jalea Luz: Pioneering social and renewable energy in the South of Spain**

*Jalea Luz* is a dynamic Renewable Energy community uniting social ecology, renewable energy and collaborative housing cooperatives in Seville. This innovative project aims to reduce energy poverty by utilising the rooftops of public buildings for solar energy, particularly benefiting vulnerable groups such as migrants, women, and children. Toward fostering community engagement, a Social Committee will be created to drive a just energy transition, supported by local social entities and community organisations.

### **Köncert: A Renewable Energy Community for all in Königsberg, Italy**

*Köncert* is a cooperative that includes citizens, SMEs, public administration, and farms. In order to promote energy culture and social inclusion, the project will develop a Citizen's Desk for energy transition and fund a collective solar power plant, embodying community ambition and fostering regional sustainability. Other actions include increased member outreach, school projects, support for vulnerable groups, and collaboration with other energy communities.

### **Silvi Solar Renewable Energy Community: Empowering citizens in central Italy**

Focusing on community-led local development (CLLD), *Silvi* aims to create a Renewable Energy Community. The municipality believes that centring clean energy transitions around people is crucial for effective energy and climate solutions. By directly involving citizens, *Silvi* plans to accelerate decarbonisation and address energy challenges such as high consumption and increased prices, especially during peak tourism seasons.



### **Tiszamente Energy Community: Empowering local sustainability in Hungary**

This energy community, uniting eight municipalities, aims to optimise energy costs and enhance energy sharing. Formed in response to rising operational costs and energy poverty, it focuses on leveraging smart grid technologies and renewable energy sources. Led by the mayor of *Újszentmargita*, the project engages local authorities, community stakeholders, and technical experts. Community involvement through surveys and public consultations ensures that local needs will be met.

### **UBEK Energy Community: Sustainability and sovereignty in northern Spain**

*UREK* is a new regional energy community in the Basque Country, which seeks to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and large grid operators. By uniting citizens, businesses, and public institutions, this project aims to establish a sovereign, democratic, and participatory energy system, fostering a local, sustainable energy framework.

## **Water management:**

### **A Romanian climate adaptation pilot**

In *Daia*, this project aims to create a replicable model for regional water management by exploring traditional agricultural practices like no-till farming, cover crops, and rotational grazing. In addition, it seeks to develop a comprehensive, nature-based water retention strategy across borders, including rehabilitating wetlands, building swales, and planting buffer strips.

### **A syntropic oasis to RE-connect in Italy**

In the National Park of Gargano, *Syntropic oasis to RE-connect* aims to create a resilient and biodiverse ecosystem within an ecovillage. The plan is to develop an innovative water management system, including a bio lake and swales, to retain and redistribute water in a context of reduced rainfall and karstic soil. The project will address climate challenges collaboratively with the local community, supporting reforestation and demonstrating sustainable farming practices, such as alternatives to chemical fertilizers.

### **Agroecology School: Celebration of Water in Spain**

In Velez Blanco, a diverse group of families and professionals is transforming their community through community learning: the *Agroecology School*. They learn about regenerative farming, permaculture, agroecology and circular economy, involving local farmers and neighbours to achieve resilient and drought-proof systems in the surrounding terraced mountain landscape. Their upcoming "Celebration of Water" event will kick off a community-led programme to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.

### **Balanced management of water resources along the Hungarian-Romanian border**





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This project aims toward improving water governance of the Sebes-Körös river and other smaller across border watercourses in the *Bihar-Kis-Sárrét* region. This will ensure that during droughts, cross-border agreements will enable increased water flow, yet, while in times of surplus, coordinated management will help mitigate excess water. By reducing the need for high-cost pumping, this initiative also enhances cooperation between local authorities, institutions, and businesses in agriculture and nature conservation.

### **L'acqua si Pianta! Waterwise communities in Ligurian Hinterland, Italy**

Engaging local families through communal gardening, the project *L'acqua si Pianta!* carried out rainwater collection and identification of century-old trees, earning widespread support from residents and local authorities in Liguria. It now aims to combat climate change through reforestation, enhancing hydrological cycles, and transitioning to a syntropic and regenerative orchard. This collaborative effort integrates agroecology principles to build resilience against droughts and floods.

### **Sustainable water management from a mining project on a Spanish Island**

The *Alcudia Valley Rural Development Group (RDG)* has initiated a participatory approach to address the environmental challenges posed by an upcoming tungsten mine in Abenójar. Through extensive community engagement, the project focuses on improving water quality, treating and reusing wastewater from mining operations for extensive farming and cinegetic species, for instance, and ensuring sustainable freshwater supply.

### **Talvok, a German regional initiative to ensure water conservation in 2,000 hectares of cultural landscape**

*Talvok* focuses on the holistic regeneration of water cycles in a valley through climate-adapted management of forests, orchards, pastures, and fields. By drafting a feasibility study and engaging the community through guided hikes and cultural events, it is expected that a deeper understanding of sustainable water management and climate adaptation is fostered as a result of the project, while also connecting people with the landscape and its water cycles.

### **The Rainbow Legacy: The value of rainwater for future generations and biodiversity in Poland**

In the districts of Gniezno and Poznan, the *Rainbow Legacy* project aims to combat drought and promote ecological habits through educational workshops and an information campaign. By showcasing rain gardens and their water retention techniques, it seeks to engage the community in sustainable practices, enhancing biodiversity and water management. This grassroots effort aspires to expand into a larger project, addressing the critical water challenges faced in the region.

### **Transition is thriving in southern Spain**

*Almócita en Transición* is a community-driven project addressing rural depopulation and climate change where residents, local associations and administrations collaborate closely. Key actions so far include establishing an energy community, creating communal vegetable gardens, implementing a composting



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system, and repopulating Mediterranean forests. And the next step is establishing a nursery for local species, focusing on the link between agriculture, ecosystems and water resources.

### **Use less water! – A project by a German community in Saxony-Anhalt**

This eco-conscious project features an innovative water management system, with dry separation toilets that save 100,000 litres of drinking water annually. The project focuses on composting and optimising the use of faeces and urine in a circular economy. The *Vitopia* cooperative, with over 100 members, organises workshops and events to engage the community, promoting sustainable practices and environmental awareness.