

# Rural Hacking

THE TOOLKIT FOR RURAL ACTIVISTS



european  
creative  
hubs  
network



Anceu Coliving

Rural Hacking is a movement for the revitalization of rural life.



Rural Hacking Toolkit is the result of the ECHN Rural Hacking Workshop. It was a four-day event funded by the European Creative Hubs Network that brought together 24 members from creative hubs, coworkings, and colivings across Europe at Anceu Coliving. This inspiring and energizing experience sparked new ideas, perspectives, and possibilities for revitalizing rural areas through creative hubs, coliving, and coworking spaces throughout Europe.



# ECHN Workshop

The ECHN Workshops are an initiative promoted by the European Creative Hubs Network to empower smaller creative hubs and to make use of their expertise for the broad ECHN community. Every year, the ECHN members nominate a workshop proposal that takes place in the chosen creative hub with the support of ECHN and is co-funded by the European Commission. The ECHN Workshops put the spotlight on smaller or peripheral creative hubs in order to identify hidden basins of innovative practices and accelerate the sharing of knowledge among the members of the ECHN network and beyond.





# Who is this toolkit for?

The Rural Hacking Toolkit is an invaluable resource for both **rural** and **urban** hub managers.

## URBAN

The toolkit is beneficial for urban hub managers as it encourages self-development and effective leadership. It provides a template to identify areas for improvement, which can be useful for urban hub managers looking to enhance their skills and become more effective leaders.

## RURAL

The Rural Hacking Toolkit is beneficial as it emphasizes the development of key skills such as adaptability, perspective, and communication. These are crucial for managing unpredictable challenges, understanding the unique needs of the local community, and building strong relationships.





# Agenda

- How to build a team with your local community?
- From where do we begin a local impact project?
- How to decide where to work first?
- Flow of information
- Co participation methods
- Common protocols
- Finance structure
- Purpose- driven projects
- Collaborating with influencers and mapping locals
- Skills for hub managers
- Alliances and connectivity.
- Acknowledgments



# THE CONTEXT

The Rural Hacking Toolkit is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at revitalizing rural communities. This is particularly important given the many challenges faced by rural areas, such as depopulation, rural exodus, and aging populations.

# ECHN WORKSHOP

The Rural Hacking Toolkit was developed during a 4-day training workshop organized by Anceu Coliving and supported by the European Creative Hubs Network. The project was enriched by the contributions of participants from 10 different nationalities, and representatives from various hubs, including: Quinta Quinhas, Sun and Co, Life at Selgars, The Living Room, Dinamo 10, Chateau Coliving, Wellbeing Economy Alliance, Vine 21, Tertulia Farm, Sonta Coliving, Burgas coliving, Making Rooms, Culture Hub Croatia, Buinho, Rooral and Alpiness.

# VALUES

This resource is grounded in the principles of hacker culture, emphasizing a hands-on approach to learning, doing, and sharing.

It offers practical examples and is designed to be a dynamic, ever-evolving tool for continuous improvement.

Through its open-source nature, this resource is poised to ignite a movement of rural revitalization efforts across the globe, providing communities with the tools and inspiration they need to bring positive change to their rural areas.





# How to build a team with your local community?

Developing impactful projects in a rural area requires a long-term perspective. To achieve success, it is essential to build a strong team within the local community. This involves understanding the different phases of team-building. Knowing where you are in this process is crucial for determining the next steps towards building meaningful initiatives.

- 01 **Forming**  
Building a community on a foundation of trust.
- 02 **Norming**  
Defining the bases for healthy communication and common protocols.
- 03 **Storming**  
Navigate conflicts smoothly
- 04 **Performing**  
Maximize community success with healthy performance management.



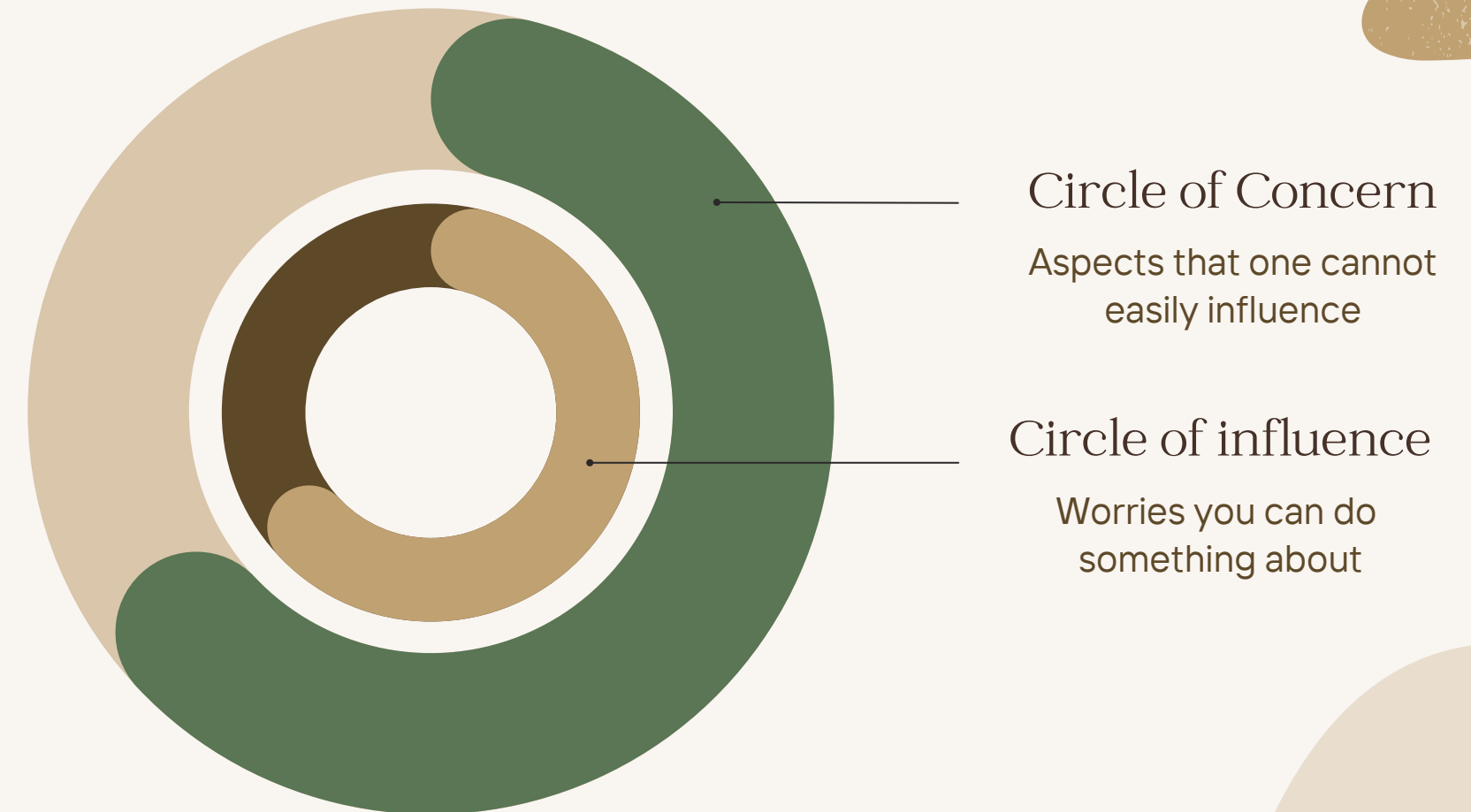
By understanding the different phases of a team building process, any team can successfully create a thriving community.

Forming	During this phase, the main objective is to establish a foundation of trust with the local community. It is essential to spend as much time as necessary in this phase, as it sets the tone for the entire rural impact project. Focus on easy tasks and simple projects to avoid conflicts, and do not expect significant results immediately. Keep working on building trust with the community and allow the process to flow naturally.
Norming	During this phase, the team should focus on creating a simple protocol that all community can follow. This should include communication channels, a decision-making process and governance structure for the local community.
Storming	It is a time where conflicts will inevitably arise. Instead of fearing them, use them as an opportunity to strengthen the local community's alliances. During this phase, the team should focus on redefining protocols and rebuilding trust with the community. It may be necessary to return to the forming phase and continue building trust.
Performing	The final phase, performing, is all about healthy management. By this point, the local community should be harmonized and have gained speed in their decision-making processes. Focus on fostering creative development and protecting the local community bonds. This can be achieved through gratitude dynamics that highlight the importance of each member and by creating spaces for creative meetings.

# From where do we begin a local impact project?

To decide where to start to create your local impact project, you can use theory of the circle of influence and concern by Covey. The circle of concern refers to the wide range of worries that one might have about a topic, while the circle of influence is a narrowing of the first circle into those worries that one can do something about. It's recommended to focus on those aspects that are in the circle of influence, as trying to create an impact on aspects that one cannot easily influence can lead to frustration and conflict.

It is important to prioritize those aspects that the team can easily influence, such as building trust among local community or creating a solid organizational structure. This will help to create a positive environment and foster motivation for the local community to work towards common goals.





# How to decide where to work on first?

To successfully build a local impact project, it's essential to consider both the organizational structure and the emotional motivation of the local community.

This can be compared to creating music, where the structure is like sheet music and the soul is the emotion and joy behind the performance. Both aspects need to be balanced to create a trustful environment and fertile ground for projects.

## ORGANIZATION

This is the logical component that requires attention, encompassing elements such as communication channels, financial considerations, and protocols. It may not be the most engaging aspect, so you can direct your focus solely towards it.

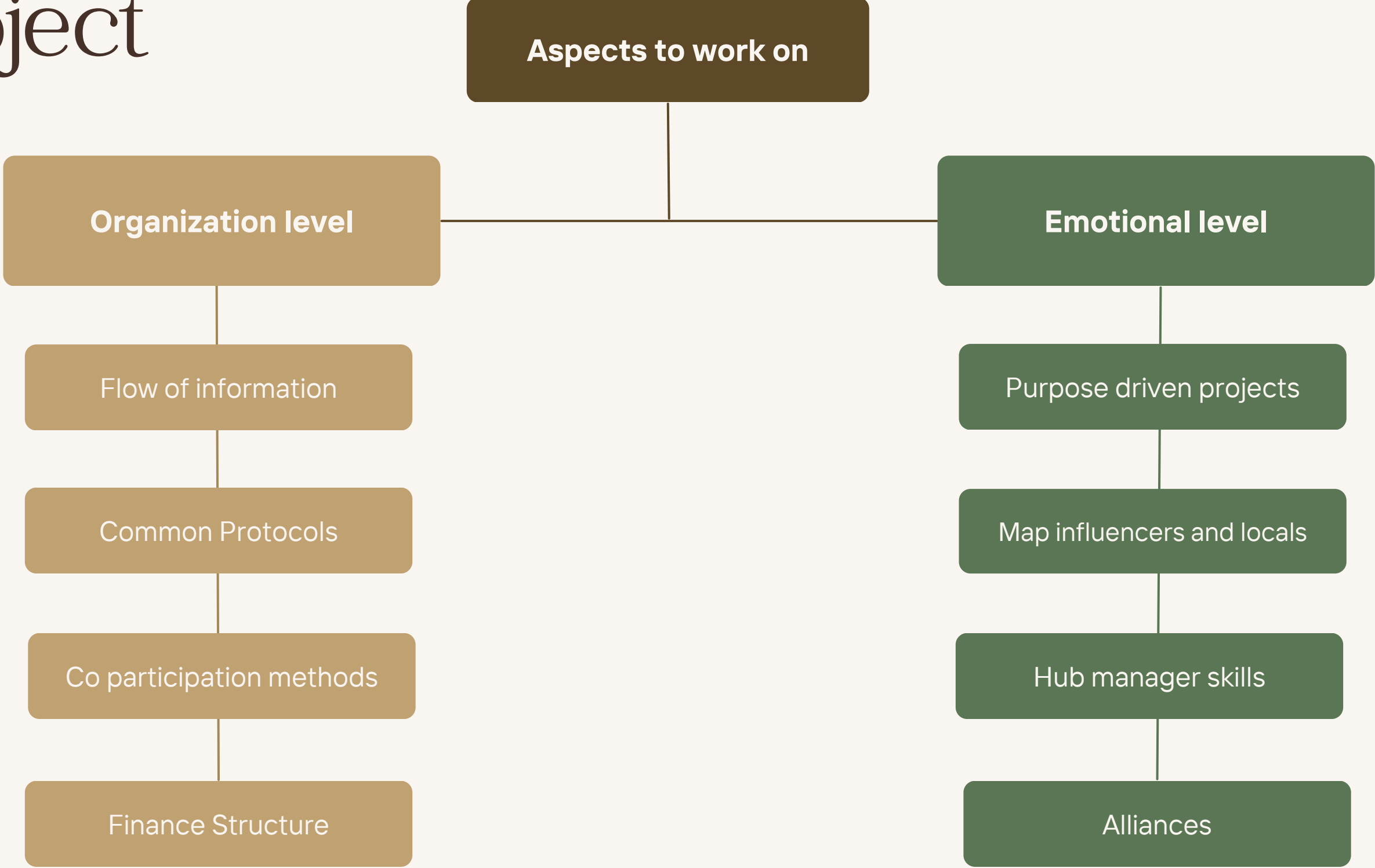
## SOUL

You will be focusing on the emotional component, specifically addressing aspects related to emotional intelligence. Without some degree of structure to harmonize emotions, this can become overwhelming and chaotic.





# Rural Impact project



# Flow of information

Circle of influence.  
Organizational level  
Flow of information

Creating an efficient information flow is crucial for the success of your local impact project. Here's what you need to keep in mind.



## Communication channels

You should identify the communication channels that are most commonly used among locals, such as physical bulletin boards, local radio stations, social media groups, and messaging apps like WhatsApp.



## Target Audience

It is important to define your target audience or group and tailor your messaging accordingly, taking into account factors like age, demographics, and interests.



## Existing structures

You should look for ways to integrate your project into existing communication structures, such as those used by partner organizations or other relevant individuals.

By collaborating with others and borrowing trust from established sources, you can help to spread the word about your project more effectively.



## Word of mouth

Word of mouth is an relevant factor to consider, so it's essential to actively listen to the feedback and opinions of locals and adjust your messaging and communication channels accordingly.



## Involve doers

Consider involving local micro-politicians, active citizens, community leaders, and entrepreneurs in your efforts to spread the word about your project, as they can be valuable allies in promoting your cause and helping to establish your project within the community.

Specifically, it is important to establish relationships with people who are organizing events in your area, so that they can include your project in their plans.

# Flow of information

In order to ensure the effective flow of information within your local impact project, you can begin to ask yourself some of these questions

Organizational level

\*  
**What is your strategy to share the purpose of your project?**  
\*

Flow of information

Organizational level

\*  
**How do the locals stay connected and informed?**  
\*

Flow of information

Organizational level

\*  
**What are the channels of communication with locals?**  
\*

Flow of information

Organizational level

\*  
**What is the tone and voice of the communication process?**  
\*

Flow of information

Organizational level

\*  
**How do you communicate so that there is transparency and consistency?**  
\*

Flow of information

Organizational level

\*  
**Where and how can you find active citizens in your rural area?**  
\*

Flow of information



 **Whatsapp group**

Join your local WhatsApp group and create one for key stakeholders to keep them updated on project events and activities.

[Connect with Rooral to get more information.](#)

 **Local newspaper**

Utilize local newspapers to specifically target a specific community.

[Connect with One Voice Blackburn to get more info.](#)

 **Information points**

Consider creating printed posters to distribute at local information points within the village.

[Connect with Anceu coliving to get more information.](#)

# Real-life examples from other creative hubs.

Circle of influence. Organizational level. Flow of information

Explore initiatives of other creative hubs in Europe to learn, copy and connect for creating a powerful flow of information within your local impact project.

 **Local events**


Leverage local events to introduce your project, for example during the Communal forest association meetings.

[Connect with Anceu coliving to get more information.](#)

 **Monthly event**

Organize a monthly online brunch with updates and participative content.

[Read more about this case of the European Creative Hubs Network.](#)

 **Existing FB group**

Promote events and opportunities to neighbors through their existing Facebook group.

[Connect with Culture Hub Croatia to get more info.](#)

# Coparticipation methods

Effective coparticipation methods can foster collaboration and engagement in local projects, bringing together diverse stakeholders and ensuring everyone has a stake in the project's success.



## Offer support

Firstly, offering support to existing local organizations and associations can be a great way to get involved in the community and establish relationships with key stakeholders.

This support can come in various forms, such as volunteering time or resources, providing expertise, or collaborating on projects.



## Local challenges

By actively participating in community initiatives, individuals can demonstrate their commitment to the area and gain a deeper understanding of the needs and priorities of local residents.

This can help to build trust and foster stronger connections with villagers.



## Involving locals

Sharing workload and responsibilities is also crucial for successful co-participation.

This means including others in decision-making processes, as well as delegating tasks and responsibilities.

By involving a range of people and empowering them to take ownership of projects, individuals can increase impact and build a sense of collective ownership.



## Valuing local

Valuing local and individual knowledge is another key aspect of effective co-participation.

This means recognizing and respecting the unique skills, experiences, and perspectives of local residents.

By valuing and leveraging this knowledge, individuals can build stronger relationships and develop more effective solutions to community challenges.



## Protecting heritage

Finally, protecting heritage and nature can be a powerful way to unite people around a common cause.

By preserving local landmarks, traditions, and natural resources, individuals can promote a sense of pride and belonging in the community.

This can help to foster deeper connections and a stronger sense of community among villagers.

# Coparticipation Methods

If you want to promote effective participation and co-creation in your local community, start by asking yourself these key questions.

Organizational level

\*  
**What are some tools that might help encourage connection between locals?**  
\*

Coparticipation method

Organizational level

\*  
**What traditions are unique to the community overarching purpose?**  
\*

Coparticipation method

Organizational level

\*  
**How can you use coparticipation methods to develop collaborative solutions to your rural challenges?**  
\*

Coparticipation method

Organizational level

\*  
**What are some simple and effective ways to involve locals in your project?**  
\*

Coparticipation method

Organizational level

\*  
**Who are the stakeholders that can be brought together in your rural context?**  
\*

Coparticipation method

Organizational level


\*  
**What heritage and nature projects can you contribute to in the area?**  
\*

Coparticipation method

# Real-life examples from other creative hubs.

Circle of influence. Organizational level. Coparticipation method.

Explore initiatives from creative hubs in Europe to learn from and connect with others who have successfully implemented coparticipation processes in their projects.



## Behave partnering

Partner with Behave, an art gallery and clothing brand, to involve the artistic community.

[Connect with Vine 21. to get more information.](#)



## Local grape harvest

Participate in the local grape harvest in Serbia alongside community members for a unique cultural experience.

[Connect with Sonta Coliving to get more information.](#)



## Gastronomic events

International gastronomy events to meet the locals and promote local culture.


[Connect with Rooral to get more information](#)



## Rural Hackatons

Curiositech project involved the development of four websites for NGOs of the area during one weekend.


[Read more about this project of Anceu coliving](#)



## Slope cleaning

Participate in slope cleaning in spring organized by the local brewery in collaboration with an NGO.

[Connect with Burgas coliving to get more info.](#)



## Adopt the space

Program, which invites citizens and local NGOs to propose and hold free activities .


[Connect with Culture Hub Croatia to get more info.](#)



## Rural Revival

Collaborative photography project to make portraits that raise awareness and inspire positive change.

[Read more about this case of Anceu coliving](#)



## Co governance

Create a co governance system with other 4 NGOs of the area, for the communal house management.

[Read more about this case of Anceu coliving.](#)



## Mural painting

Engaging community through collaborative murals and local gastronomy experiences.

[Read more about this case of Anceu coliving.](#)

# Common protocols

If you want to ensure that local projects are governed effectively, focus on building trust and collaboration. By doing so, you can help community hubs become a valuable resource for local residents, while also providing a space for fostering strong and resilient communities.



## Existing protocols and local traditions

Firstly, it is necessary to analyze existing protocols and identify the formal and informal authorities within the system.

Additionally, understanding local traditions is essential for effective governance.



## Basic structure and decision making

Creating a basic structure that can be further built upon is important in defining internal protocols.

Decisions should be made collaboratively between the hub staff and the locals. This ensures that everyone feels represented and valued in the decision-making process.



## Facilitator mindset to build trust

Finally, it is essential to prioritize building trust with the community. Putting the interests of the community first, ahead of personal interests or agenda, is vital to developing trust.

Having a facilitator mindset is key to successful collaboration, and taking small steps towards a goal is preferable to attempting sweeping changes that may not have community buy-in.



# Common protocols

To develop effective common protocols for building local impact projects, consider asking yourself the following key questions

Organizational level

\*  
**What is the ideal leadership structure for the local community?**  
\*

Common protocols

Organizational level

\*  
**What are the guidelines we need to co create?**  
\*

Common protocols

Organizational level

\*  
**What steps will you take to continuously improve the protocols?**  
\*

Common protocols

Organizational level

\*  
**What are the potential risks associated with implementing common protocols?**  
\*

Common protocols

Organizational level

\*  
**How can you effectively communicate and implement your common protocols?**  
\*

Common protocols

Organizational level

\*  
**How can you engage the stakeholders in developing common protocols?**  
\*


Common protocols



**Communal  
house manual**

Organize a co-creation dynamic to incorporate villagers ideas into the communal house manual.

[Connect with Anceu coliving to get more information.](#)



**Non formal  
Agreements**

Activate unused public buildings for initiatives by signing non-formal agreements with local government and NGOs.

[Contact Sonta Coliving for more information.](#)

# Real-life examples from other creative hubs.

Circle of influence. Organizational level. Common protocols

Here you can find impactful initiatives from creative hubs across Europe. You can learn how to create effective protocols for your local impact project by connecting and drawing inspiration from them.



**Safety  
net**

Everyone can use the organization as an "umbrella" for their own projects.

[Connect with Edgeryders to get more information.](#)



**Guiding  
Statements**

Encourage community members to take responsibility for project leadership with the support of the team.

[Contact The Making Rooms for more information.](#)

# Finance structure

Funding is an essential aspect to consider when setting up a project. It's crucial to find the right finance structure to support the activities in order to create a long term local impact initiative.

Apply for Public funds- Visit the website <https://creativesunite.eu/> with offers at national and European level.



## Find private partners

To ensure the success of the hub's activities, it's crucial to identify partners who can provide support.

Consider reaching out to international networks such as the European Creative Hubs Network.

Additionally, many companies prioritize their social responsibilities and may be willing to offer funding or other assistance to the hub.

Foundations are another viable option for securing international funding, as they often have a simpler application process and can provide valuable resources for the hub's projects.



## Involve local business

Another option is to involve local small businesses for micro-financing options.

This approach can not only provide the necessary funding but also strengthen the bond between the hub and the community.

The hub can also consider exploring new business lines like merchandising to generate revenue.



## Apply for Public funds

The hub can also explore funding opportunities through European Union public funds.

In addition, the hub can explore EU projects by mapping relevant actors in the field and partnering up with organizations that are already successful.

Eventually, the hub may get invited to participate in public funds proposals, which can provide a significant source of funding for the hub's activities.



# Funding structure

These are some powerful questions for you to keep in mind in order to build a funding strategy

Organizational level

\*  
**What types of funding sources align with your mission and values?**  
\*

Funding structure

Organizational level

\*  
**Who funds the local projects?**  
\*

Funding structure

Organizational level

\*  
**Are there existing partners involved?**  
\*

Funding structure

Organizational level

\*  
**How can you build relationships with potential funders?**  
\*

Funding structure

Organizational level

\*  
**What are the local projects that the micro business is interested in supporting?**  
\*

Funding structure

Organizational level

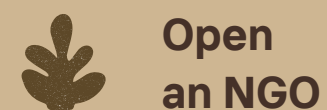
\*  
**What are the focus areas of the EU funding programs that align with the goals of your project ?**  
\*

Funding structure

# Real-life examples from other creative hubs.

Circle of influence. Organizational level. Funding Structure

Explore initiatives from creative hubs across Europe to learn, replicate, and connect with the aim of uncovering strategies to secure funding for your local impact project.



## Open an NGO

NGOs offer more opportunities for funding applications and easier development as a company.

[Connect with Culture for Croatia for more information](#)



## Online databases

Utilize online databases such as CORDIS where you can filter results based on topic, area of interest, and funding program.

[Connect with Culture for Croatia for more information](#)



## Erasmus Plus

You can reach out to successful EU project coordinators and propose partnership opportunities for your organization.

[Connect with Culture for Croatia for more information](#)



## Local NGO

Collaborate with local NGOs to learn about project funding strategies.

[Read more about this case of Burgas Coliving.](#)



## Siteground company

Siteground is a technology company that supports the development of rural areas through its partnership with Vivaces Association.

[Connect with Anceu to get more information](#)



## Aurea Telecom

It is a local Galician company that offers internet services to rural areas.

[Connect with Anceu to get more information](#)



## Eleven Yellow

Eleven Yellow is a fully remote company that is contributing to the development of rural areas.

[Connect with Anceu to get more information](#)



## Allianz Kulturstiftung i

The Allianz Kulturstiftung is an example of a foundation that supports cultural projects.

[Connect with Culture for Croatia for more information](#)



## European Union funds

Apply for funding through European programs such as Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs.

[Connect with Anceu to get more information](#)

# Purpose-Driven Project

For rural impact projects, having a well-defined purpose and long-term objectives is crucial. It's essential to consider the type of real value to be created, the challenges to be addressed, and the values to be worked on with the local community.



## Diagnosis of challenges

To determine the project's purpose and goals, it is important to make a diagnosis of the local challenges.

This means identifying the most pressing issues and needs of the community.

By understanding these challenges, you can ensure that your project addresses the most critical issues and has the greatest impact.



## Long term perspective

Once you have a good understanding of the local challenges, you can then start thinking about the long-term purpose of your project.

This could involve creating economic opportunities for the community, protecting the local environment, or addressing social issues such as poverty or inequality.

It is important to involve the locals in this process to ensure that your goals align with their needs and aspirations.



## Common values

In addition to a clear purpose, it is also important to identify the values that you want to work on with the locals.

This could involve promoting community participation, encouraging sustainable practices, or fostering a sense of cultural pride.

By identifying and promoting these values, you can create a stronger sense of community and ensure that your project has a lasting impact.



# Purpose driven project

Consider the following questions to help guide the development of a purpose-driven project.

Soul level

✱

**What is the purpose of the rural project?**

✱

Purpose-driven project

Soul level

✱

**What are the challenges that need to be addressed?**

✱

Purpose-driven project

Soul level

✱

**What values should be prioritized in working with the local community?**

✱

Purpose-driven project

Soul level

✱

**How can the impact be sustained over time?**

✱

Purpose-driven project

Soul level

✱

**What strategies can we use to identify the real value we want to create through our project?**

✱

Purpose-driven project

Soul level

✱

**How can we involve the local community in defining the objectives of our rural impact project?**

✱

Purpose-driven project

# Real-life examples from other creative hubs.

Circle of influence. Soul level. Purpose driven project

Here you can find creative initiatives across Europe.

Learn, connect, and discover the secrets to developing purpose-driven projects.



## Opening new trails

Collaborative initiative to create new hiking trails for villagers to enjoy.

[Contact Anceu coliving for more information.](#)



## Rural Hackers Residencies

International changemakers collaborate on rural impact projects in a village during a one-month experience."

[Read more information here about Anceu coliving case](#)



## Labregos a quinta

An event to bring together local entrepreneurs and build business alliances.

[Contact Quinta da Quinhas for more information.](#)



## Pegadas do Recordo

Preserve the intangible cultural heritage of the rural village by collecting and documenting forgotten stories.

[Contact Anceu coliving for more information.](#)



## Rural feminist Manifesto

Raise awareness of rural women by sharing their stories and collaborating with villagers to create a feminist manifesto.

[Contact Anceu coliving for more information.](#)

# Collaborating with Influencers and Mapping Locals

Engaging local influencers is key to gaining their support and building momentum for your rural impact project. They can offer valuable insights into the community's needs and preferences, informing the development of initiatives. Mapping villagers is also critical, helping you understand their personalities and needs.



## Meet the influencers

Local influencers possess a wealth of knowledge about the community's culture, history, and challenges, and can provide valuable insights into the local context, culture and traditions.

These influencers can come from different backgrounds, such as the bakery owner, community leaders,, truck drivers, and others.

They can provide you with advice on how to approach certain issues or situations, and help you avoid misunderstandings or conflicts.



## Map the locals

Mapping the villagers is an essential step in rural impact projects.

It helps in understanding the local context and ensures that the project is tailored to meet the needs and preferences of the villagers

By creating spaces and opportunities for collaboration and involving locals in your initiatives, you can gain their support and help build a more sustainable and impactful project.



## Common space

A common space is an effective way to establish positive relationships and engage with the local community. It creates an open area that brings together both local and foreign interests.

Opening up the project space to locals is also vital in mapping the villagers, providing an opportunity for them to interact with the project and provide valuable feedback on how it can better meet their needs. This fosters a sense of ownership among the villagers, which is crucial for the project's long-term success.



# Collaborating with Influencers and Mapping Locals

Here are some powerful questions to keep in mind as you seek to meet local influencers and map the villagers

Organizational level

\*  
**Who are the influencers of the local area?**  
\*

Collaborating with influencers

Organizational level

\*  
**What contribution does they bring to the community?**  
\*

Collaborating with influencers

Organizational level

\*  
**How can you meet local influencers effectively?**  
\*

Collaborating with influencers

Organizational level

\*  
**How is the personality of the villagers?**  
\*

Mapping the locals

Organizational level

\*  
**What do villagers need?**  
\*

Mapping the locals

Organizational level

\*  
**What skills does the local community offer for our project?**  
\*

Mapping the locals

# Real-life examples from other creative hubs.

Circle of influence. Soul level.

Collaborating with Influencers and Mapping Locals

Explore initiatives from other creative hubs in Europe to learn, copy, and connect with their success stories. Discover the secrets of building a powerful team with local influencers and creating a map of your community flow for effective rural impact projects.



## Hiring the influencer

Hiring the local influencer from the rural village.

[Contact Anceu coliving for more information.](#)



## Walks and coffees

One-on-one nature walks and coffees with Rogelio and Camilo, the influencers of the village of Anceu.

[Contact Anceu coliving for more information.](#)



## Attend local events

Attend local parties, activities, workshops... Get involved and relate with locals to understand them.

[Contact Anceu coliving for more information.](#)



## Communal House

Opening the communal house to the villagers, like the Casa do Pobo in Anceu.

[Read more about Casa do Pobo of Anceu here.](#)



# Skills for Hub Managers

To create sustainable and impactful projects, hub managers must establish positive relationships with the local community. This requires self-awareness, training, and skills development on the part of the manager.



## Flexibility

Developing adaptability is a key skill for managers of rural hubs to work on, as rural projects often face unpredictable challenges that require flexibility and a willingness to adjust plans accordingly.



## Perspective

Developing a contextual perspective is also crucial for managers of rural hubs to consider, as rural projects must take into account the unique needs of the local community and the context of the area in order to be successful.



## Communication skills

Effective communication skills are an essential skill for managers of rural hubs to cultivate, as they are critical for building strong relationships with local community members, networking with other stakeholders, and securing funding to support impactful projects.

# Becoming the Manager You Admire

## Template for Effective Leadership.

Hub managers working on rural impact projects should prioritize self-development. Use the attached template to identify areas for improvement and become the best possible manager.

Skills you have

Skills you do not have

Skills you want

Skills you dont want

KEEP	GET
ELIMINATE	AVOID



# Alliances and connectivity

Building alliances is an essential aspect of creating a rural impact project, and it involves creating partnerships at national, regional, and international levels



## Local and regional alliances

At the local level, connecting with inspiring individuals can spark serendipitous opportunities and invigorate teams working on local impact projects.

At the regional level, promoting sustainable rural-urban connections raises awareness and fosters mutually beneficial outcomes.



## Long term and global perspective

To achieve sustainability and effectiveness in rural impact projects, building alliances is key.

Adopting a global perspective is essential to gain a broader understanding of challenges and opportunities beyond local communities.

Strategies should aim to achieve win-win outcomes for long-term success and sustainability.



## Empathy and togetherness

It is through working with empathy, support, and togetherness that the goals of the alliance can be achieved.

Ultimately, skill-sharing and contributions from all parties involved can lead to a more successful and impact project.

Assertiveness and being in sync with the needs and values of all partners involved in the alliance is also important. This enables all parties to work towards a common goal.



## Alliances based on values

To create a successful partnership, it is crucial to focus on aspects such as bridge building, collaboration, and trust.

Compromising is also essential. It allows for a shared sense of ownership and investment in the partnership.

These values create a foundation that encourages healthy communication, which can lead to effective problem-solving and innovative solutions.



## Participatory approach and diversity

Creating a diverse and inclusive alliance can result in greater creativity and innovation.

Different perspectives and experiences can lead to unique solutions and ideas.

A participatory approach allows partners and alliances to be involved in the decision-making process, leading to a sense of ownership and investment in the project.



## Conflict resolution strategies

Conflict resolution is another critical aspect of building healthy alliances.

As tensions arise, it is important to manage them in a way that maintains the integrity of the partnership.

Strong organizational skills and tension management can ensure that the alliance continues to thrive.



### Twin Hubs exchanges

International exchanges between creative hubs with the support of the ECHN.

[Read more here about Anceu coliving case.](#)



### Erasmus + EU projects

Join a consortium and collaborate on a project with other countries.

[Read more here about Anceu coliving case.](#)



### International Residencies

Explore international residencies for creating positive rural impact.

[Read more here about Anceu coliving case.](#)



### International companies

Eleven Yellow and Siteground are remote companies helping develop Anceu village.

[Connect with Anceu coliving to get more information.](#)



### Erasmus for Entrepreneurs

Apply for Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs to bring European entrepreneurs to your hub.

[Read more here about Anceu coliving case.](#)



### The Break Experience

Women international entrepreneurs tackle local challenges during a month-long program in the village.

[Read more about Rooral experience case.](#)



### Local entities

Partner with local entities like forest associations or internet providers to improve rural areas.

[Connect with Anceu coliving to get more information.](#)

# Real-life examples from other creative hubs.

Circle of influence. Soul level. Alliances and Connectivity.

Discover initiatives from other creative hubs in Europe here. Learn from them, draw inspiration, and connect with them to uncover the secrets of creating a strong networks with a positive impact in your rural area.

# International alliances

Following the European Creative Hubs Network workshop, we've compiled a comprehensive list of essential international networks to support your efforts in developing rural impact projects with a global outlook. These networks are categorized by sector for easy reference.

Tech industry
<a href="#">The Lab</a>
<a href="#">Fab City</a>
<a href="#">Fab Lab</a>
<a href="#">Siteground</a>
<a href="#">Eleven Yellow</a>
<a href="#">Vulca</a>
<a href="#">Repair Café</a>
<a href="#">WordPress community</a>
<a href="#">WordPress Foundation</a>

Social impact networks
<a href="#">Ashoka</a>
<a href="#">Travel4impact</a>
<a href="#">Acumen</a>
<a href="#">Re;build</a>
<a href="#">Foundation WeAll</a>
<a href="#">Eu heritage volunteers</a>
<a href="#">Biosphere</a>

Creative hubs industry
<a href="#">European creative hubs network</a>
<a href="#">Coliving hub</a>
<a href="#">Creative Habitat</a>





# Acknowledgments

To the 24 passionate participants who contributed their time, expertise, and care to the Rural Hacking Toolkit, we are forever grateful. Their dedication to tackling rural challenges through innovative problem-solving was truly inspiring.

The supportive environment that they created together was fueled by inspiration, care, and a shared desire to make a positive impact in rural communities.

The insights and learnings shared in the Rural Hacking Toolkit will continue to inspire and empower others to create positive change.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Anceu Coliving

Here you have some first-hand experiences and insights. They provide a glimpse into the collaborative efforts that created this toolkit:

- [Alpiness Coliving.](#)
- [European Creative hubs Network.](#)
- [Serglars coliving](#)
- [Rooral](#)





# Collaborative project

Rural Hacking Toolkit is funded  
by the European union

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With the support of  
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