

ERASMUS+ KA2 PROJECT PROPOSAL

KA2 Small-Scale Partnerships

KA202: Vocational Education and Training (VET) Strategic Partnerships

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Project Themes and Key Focus Areas

The proposed Erasmus+ project is centered around several critical themes and focus areas, which are in line with contemporary global challenges and sustainable development goals. These include:

Circular Economy

- Promoting efficient use of resources, waste reduction, recycling, and reusing processes.

Sustainable Architecture

- Energy-efficient design, low carbon footprint, green buildings, and the use of eco-friendly materials.

Heritage Conservation

- Sustainable restoration and preservation of historic buildings and cultural heritage sites.

Green Transition

- Strategies to reduce carbon emissions and foster sustainable urban transformation.

Energy Efficiency

- Energy-saving techniques in buildings, with a focus on renewable energy sources..

Rural Revitalization

- Sustainable revitalization of rural areas and promoting rural lifestyles.

Urban Regeneration

- Modernizing old or unused structures in a sustainable way to bring them back into functional use.

Inclusive Design

- Creating living spaces accessible to all, including individuals with disabilities and disadvantaged groups.

Mission

The mission of this Erasmus+ project is to create a collaboration that promotes inclusivity, **sustainable architecture**, and **community-based restoration**. By bringing together architecture students, volunteers, and professionals, the project encourages the exchange of ideas and the development of skills in **heritage conservation**, **circular economy**, and **eco-friendly building practices**. Through hands-on workshops and the renovation of rural structures, the project seeks to positively impact local communities by promoting sustainable living practices and **energy-efficient solutions**.

Vision

I imagine a future where **community-inclusive design**, sustainable living practices, and **urban regeneration** shape the built environment. This project aspires to lead the way in integrating **innovative concepts** such as **circular economy** and **green transition** into architectural practice, creating a resilient, environmentally responsible, and socially inclusive architectural landscape. By fostering collaboration and inclusive design, the project aims to empower communities and architects alike to contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future across Europe.

Community-Based Restoration

- Involvement of local communities in restoration projects, ensuring social sustainability.

Climate Change Adaptation

- Making settlements resilient to climate change through water management and robust infrastructure.

Sustainable Living Practices

- Encouraging lifestyles that are in harmony with nature, including permaculture and the use of renewable energy.

Eco-Friendly Building Materials

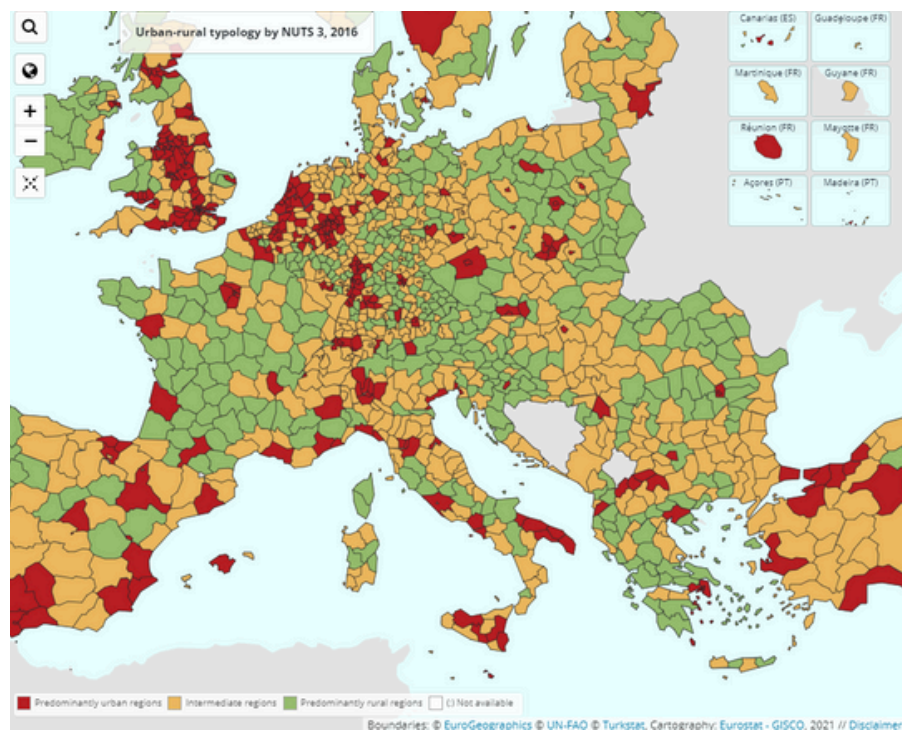
- Utilization of renewable, recyclable, and natural materials in construction.

1. General Objectives

The project aims to address the growing need for sustainable practices in rural areas by renovating and repurposing abandoned village buildings using environmentally friendly building techniques. The initiative not only promotes the green transition aligned with the European Green Deal but also fosters community-led development and environmental education, aligning with the EU's Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas.

- Preserve and repurpose unused rural buildings, turning them into sustainable living spaces.
- Promote sustainable building practices, reducing the environmental footprint of rural housing.
- Empower local communities by integrating them into the renovation process and fostering ownership.
- Offer training programs for students, volunteers, and residents in sustainable construction, heritage conservation, and renewable energy systems.

Urban-rural typology in Europe by NUTS 3, 2016



- Predominantly urban regions (rural population: <20 % of the total population)
- Intermediate regions (rural population: 20–50 % of the total population)
- Predominantly rural regions (rural population: >50 % of the total population)

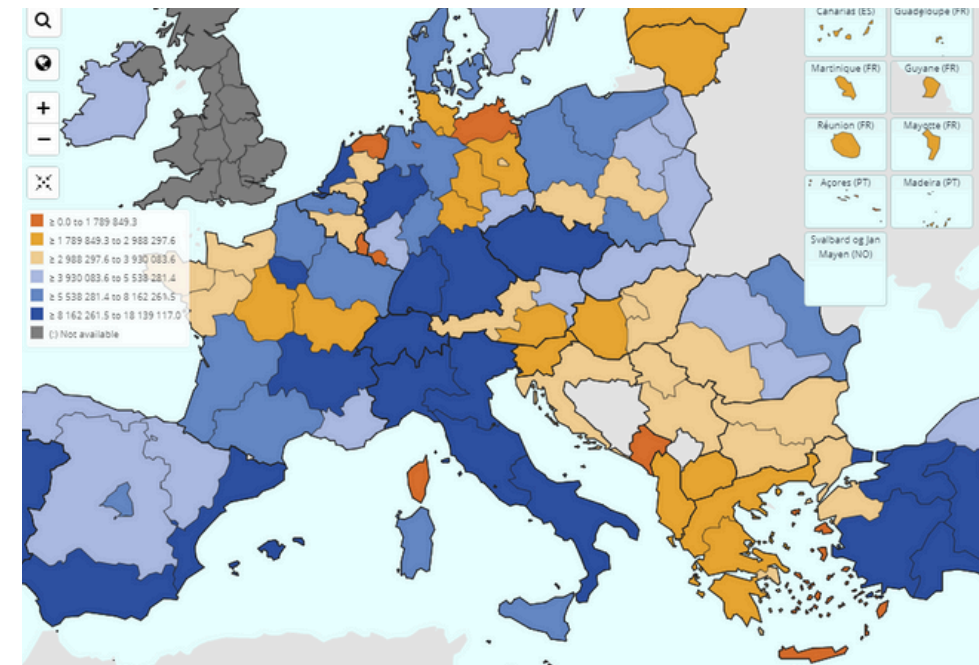
[eurostadt map link](#)

2. Motivations and Origin of the Idea 💡

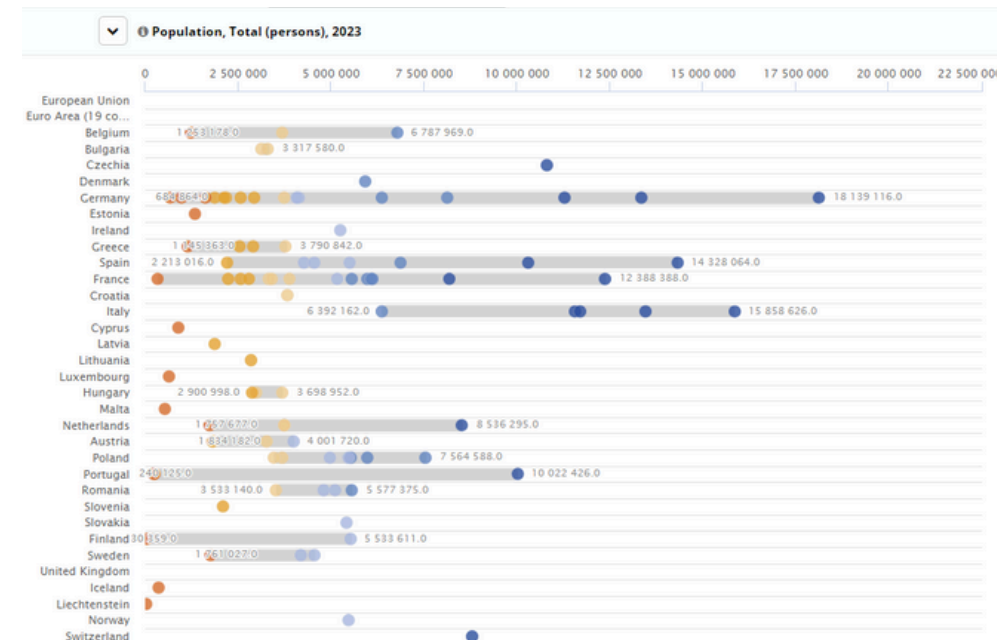
The idea originated from the observation that many rural areas across Europe have an abundance of abandoned or underutilized buildings, which present both a challenge and an opportunity. These structures, often left behind as populations migrate to urban areas, can be restored and repurposed to address modern sustainability goals.

Rather than allowing them to deteriorate further, this project proposes to renovate these buildings, turning them into examples of sustainable, energy-efficient housing.

In Germany, about 77% of the population lives in urban areas, while around 23% reside in rural regions.



Population, Total (persons), 2023



[German Federal Statistical Office](#)
[eurostadt map link](#)

3. Target Audience

Involving a diverse range of participants is crucial for the project's success. Rural communities will benefit directly from the renovations, while vocational students and young professionals will acquire valuable skills in sustainable construction. Collaborating with NGOs and educational institutions will enhance knowledge sharing and practical experiences, ensuring a lasting impact.

- **Rural communities** in need of housing renovation and green infrastructure.
- **Vocational students and young professionals** seeking skills in sustainable architecture and eco-friendly building techniques.
- **Local and international NGOs** involved in environmental and rural development projects.



5. Expected Results:

Involving a diverse range of participants is crucial for the project's success. Rural communities will benefit directly from the renovations, while vocational students and young professionals will acquire valuable skills in sustainable construction. Collaborating with NGOs and educational institutions will enhance knowledge sharing and practical experiences, ensuring a lasting impact.

- **Sustainable Renovation Models:** Creation of at least one pilot building that serve as model for green rural housing across Europe.
- **Skills Development:** Training participants in sustainable building practices, thus fostering a new generation of professionals skilled in eco-friendly architecture.
- **Community Empowerment:** Increased local participation in sustainability initiatives, leading to long-term community resilience.

4. Key Activities

The project will focus on several key activities that are essential for promoting sustainable development and community resilience. These initiatives will include sustainable housing renovations to implement green building practices, training programs to equip participants with vital skills in eco-friendly construction, and community engagement efforts to raise awareness and foster local involvement.

- **Sustainable Housing Renovation:** Renovating selected village houses using energy-efficient materials, renewable energy solutions (e.g., solar panels, water harvesting systems), and eco-friendly design principles.
- **Training Programs:** Offering workshops and hands-on training for students, vocational learners, and community members on green construction techniques and the use of renewable energy systems.
- **Public Engagement and Community Workshops:** Organizing community meetings to promote awareness of the green transition and sustainable living practices. Sharing case studies from successful projects in Europe to inspire local stakeholders.
- **Partnership Development:** Working with partners such as OffeneHäuser, Rural Youth Europe, and Herkes İçin Mimarlık, to share knowledge, resources, and expertise, ensuring a holistic approach to sustainable rural development.

7. Alignment with Erasmus+ KA2

This project aligns with KA2 Cooperation Partnerships by fostering collaboration between NGOs, educational institutions, and public bodies to promote innovation and sustainable development in rural areas. The project supports:

- **Sustainability and Green Transition:** By addressing rural housing challenges through eco-friendly solutions.
- **Vocational Training:** Providing essential skills in green technologies and construction.
- **International Collaboration:** Facilitating knowledge exchange across borders with the involvement of international partners.

6. Timeline

Activity	Date
Start of School (Winter Semester)	October 2024
Winter Break	December 2024 - January 2025
Thesis Submission Deadline	June 2025
Erasmus+ KA2 First Submission Deadline	20 March 2024
Erasmus+ KA2 Second Submission Deadline	23 October 2024
Start of School (Summer Semester)	April 2025
Summer Break	July 2025
Potential Dates for Thesis Defense	July - August 2025

Purpose

- **Create Sustainable Rural Housing Models:** To renovate rural houses using energy-efficient materials, renewable energy systems, and eco-friendly design principles, serving as models for green transformation in rural areas.
- **Provide Vocational Training and Skills Development:** Equip young professionals, students, and local communities with practical knowledge and skills in sustainable building techniques and the use of renewable energy systems.
- **Raise Community Awareness and Participation:** Engage local communities in the green transition, fostering long-term involvement in sustainable living practices and encouraging collective action.
- **Promote International Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:** The project will facilitate cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange, bringing together expertise from different regions to address common challenges in rural development.

Participants

- **Rural Communities:** Residents of rural areas.
- **Vocational Students and Young Professionals:** Volunteer participants.
- **Local and International NGOs:** Organizations involved in rural development projects.
- **Project Partners:** Key partners like OffeneHäuser, Rural Youth Europe, Herkes İçin Mimarlık, and UNAVISION, who will collaborate to provide knowledge, expertise, and strategic alignment for the project.

Location

- **Rural Regions in Europe:** The project will take place in selected villages across Europe, focusing on rural areas in need of sustainable development and housing renovation.
- **Pilot Areas:** Specific villages will be chosen to serve as models for the project, where sustainable housing practices will be implemented as part of the green transformation process.

Method

- **Housing Renovation:** Selected village houses will be renovated using eco-friendly materials and renewable energy solutions such as solar panels and water harvesting systems.
- **Training Programs:** Workshops and training sessions will be offered to participants, and community members on green construction techniques and sustainability practices.
- **Community Engagement and Workshops:** Public meetings and workshops will be organized to raise awareness about the green transition and sustainability. Successful case studies from other European projects will be shared to inspire local stakeholders.
- **Partnership Development:** Collaboration with international partners.

Conclusion

- **Pilot Projects:** The renovated houses will act as demonstration models for sustainable rural housing, showcasing energy-efficient solutions and eco-friendly designs that can be replicated across Europe.
- **Skill Development:** Participants in the project will acquire valuable skills in sustainable building practices and renewable energy technologies, contributing to the creation of a workforce equipped for green jobs in rural areas.
- **Empowering Communities:** The project will foster greater community participation in sustainability initiatives, empowering rural populations to take charge of their own development and resilience.
- **International Knowledge Exchange:** Through partnerships and collaboration, the project will contribute to a broader European network focused on sustainable rural transformation and the green transition.