



SUSPLACE detailed information pack for applicants



SUSPLACE is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovative Training Network (ITN), funded by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020.



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1. INTRODUCTION

SUSPLACE is funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN Action of the European Programme Horizon 2020 (see http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-mca/actions/itn/index_en.htm.) The objective of SUSPLACE is to train 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) in innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to study sustainable place-shaping practices. The SUSPLACE approach will provide insight into how to utilize the full potential of places and communities for development, help to build capacities of people to engage in place-shaping processes and strengthen connectivity between policy-makers, academics, businesses and civil society.

SUSPLACE offers an exciting opportunity in an emerging field of research for 15 ESRs. ESRs can potentially acquire a PhD at the end of the programme. SUSPLACE brings together six academic and seven non-academic partners in six European countries.

Academic partners (host universities):

1. Rural Sociology Group, Wageningen University (**WU**), Netherlands;
2. Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff University (**CU**), United Kingdom;
3. Faculty of Social Sciences, Latvia University (**LU**), Latvia;
4. Department of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences, University of Aveiro (**UAVR**), Portugal;
5. Luke Economics and Society Research Unit, Luke Natural Resources Institute (**LUKE**), Finland;
6. Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (**KU Leuven**), Belgium.

Non-academic partners:

1. Royal HaskoningDHV BV (**RHDHV**), The Netherlands;
2. Foundation Except Integrated Sustainability (**EXCEPT**), The Netherlands;
3. Visionary Analytics (**VA**), Lithuania;
4. Welsh Government (**WG**); Wales, United Kingdom;
5. Binaural – Associação Cultural de Nodar (**BN**), Portugal;
6. SKEY (*Suomen Kestävän Elämäntavan Yhteisöt ry*) Global Eco village Network Finland (**GEN-Finland**), Finland;
7. Kalnciema Quarter (**KQ**), Latvia.

This information pack gives an overview of the project in terms of the research projects available, the training offered, the planning of research and training and the partners involved.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

Overview

The overall aim of the Marie Curie ITN programme SUSPLACE is to train ESRs in innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to study sustainable place-shaping practices. SUSPLACE will provide excellent and innovative research training on SUSTAINABLE PLACE-SHAPING and offer attractive career opportunities as researchers, change agents, connectors and intermediates in collective forms of sustainable place-shaping on different scales, at various institutes such as local and regional governments, NGOs, consultancies and private sustainability businesses. SUSPLACE will provide knowledge-exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers, to better prepare them for the current and future societal challenge of development, integrating themes such as food, energy, climate and resources which are unfolding in places.

Sustainable place-shaping is seen as a way to strengthen the participation, collaboration, collective agency, self-efficacy and leadership of people, engaging in places. The integrative challenge is to embark upon a revised and more embedded conceptualization of place — as a dynamic and contingent ‘meeting place’ for ecologies, economies and communities, incorporating both fixities and flows of resources, people and goods and services — in order to meet the ‘grand aims’ of sustainability. Place is considered here in a dynamic view as an assemblage of social relations reconfigured through processes of restructuring and continuously changing as a result of economic, institutional and cultural transformation. Places are not essences but processes, and places do not necessarily mean the same thing to everybody. The nature of a place is not just a matter of its internal features, but a product of its connectivity with other places. Places are thus the outcome of networks, points of intersection, integrating the global and the local.

Processes of globalisation and modernization have provoked un-sustainability reflected in inequalities, exclusion, poverty, economic shrinkage, resource depletion, ecological hazards and food insecurity in various places. Via adopting a place-based, relational approach, SUSPLACE will address the time and space differentiated outcomes of these unbound processes. The SUSPLACE approach will provide insight into how to utilize the full potential of places and communities for development and help to build capacities of people to engage in place-shaping processes and thus strengthen connectivity between policy-makers, academics, businesses and civil society. SUSPLACE will raise the knowledge, skills and capacities needed to design and deliver appropriate, integrative solutions in sustainable place-based development, via its working programme along the following themes: INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT & CONNECTED PLACES, GREENING ECONOMIES and PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY. The combination of social innovation, sustainable use of resources and new economic mechanisms contributes to viable and resilient places, addressing the European Horizon 2020 goals of ‘smart, sustainable and inclusive growth’. SUSPLACE addresses the EU’s territorial principles, such as balanced territorial development, integrated development in places, territorial integration in cross-border and transnational regions, ensuring global competitiveness based on strong local economies, improving territorial connectivity for individuals, communities and enterprises and managing and connecting ecological, landscape and cultural values of regions. These principles can be brought together under the umbrella of a place-based approach. SUSPLACE contributes to a new generation of sustainability researchers capable of tackling and coping with the complex and interdependent trade-offs between the multiple aspects of sustainable place-based development in European communities and regions. The knowledge gap in place-based policies on novel practices, integrative planning, interdisciplinary solutions, effective trajectories and implementation underlines the urgency of this training programme at this moment.

Objectives

Hence, the main objectives of SUSPLACE are:

- To analyse, evaluate and develop novel practices of sustainable relational place-shaping rooted in place-based assets and daily lived practices. This will improve insight and capacity to develop place-based solutions within different political-economical, socio-cultural and ecological contexts at a varied range of spatial scales and will contribute to the creation of more sustainable and resilient places.
- To train 15 ESRs in sustainable place-shaping in places and Living Labs via participative research methods. A Living Lab is a concrete site of experimentation where, via public-private cooperation, innovative and smart solutions are developed and tested in practice, where citizens work as testers, users and co-creators, where students are trained in a real-life setting, and researchers carry out place-based research. A collaborative research approach equitably involves sustainability scientists, public and private practitioners in the research process in real life and via virtual platforms, with the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change. SUSPLACE develops new approaches to enhance sustainable place-shaping practices. This will strengthen a) the re-grounding of practices in place-based assets b) the re-appreciation of places and the building of capacities, agency and self-efficacy of actors and c) the repositioning of economic activities towards more sustainable development.
- To train ESRs researchers in an interdisciplinary and multi-method approach which is a) context sensitive to spatial differentiation b) interdisciplinary in combining concepts from different scientific disciplines: sociology, geography, planning, policy sciences, regional science, economics, political ecology, architecture, engineering, and c) integrates aspects of places such as quality of life, mobility's, environmental aspects, land-use, urbanisation and social capital. The aim is to enlarge the capacities of researchers in their contribution to integrative place-based development, planning and policy.
- To train researchers in both scientific skills and professional, transferable skills (management, organisational, advisory, (client-oriented and audio-visual) communication, sustainability, policy-sensitivity and entrepreneurial skills). The aim of SUSPLACE is to enable ESRs to pursue an academic career or high-professional career in collective forms of sustainable place-shaping on different scales.
- To establish long-term collaborations in research and training and between science, policy, NGO's and stakeholders, also beyond the scope of this programme, via follow-up projects, PhD-training, participation in international networks, and collaboration agreements between participants.
- To increase awareness among the general public of the research work performed and its implications for citizens and society via stakeholder participation, an electronic platform and varied outreach activities in which ESRs will participate. To develop concrete products to disseminating SUSPLACE findings and results. The SUSPLACE approach will provide insight into how to utilize the full potential of places and communities for development and help to build capacities of people to engage in place-shaping processes and thus strengthen connectivity between policy-makers, academics, businesses and civil society.

Sustainable place-shaping

Seeds of sustainable transitions are rooted and unfolding in places - actually in innovative place-shaping practices - situated at the intersection of unbound, but spatial differentiating socio-cultural, political-economic and ecological processes. Sustainable place-shaping is framed within a relational approach to place. A relational perspective considers places not as geographical, administrative areas, but as nodes in networks, points of intersection, integrating the global and the local. Places are not pre-given, but constructed and resulting from ordering processes, which can be understood from the perspective of connectivity as they are part of wider networks and relations, linked to other places through social, economic and political relations. Policies can promote such connectivity by a long-term potential emphasis on stimulating increased participation, collaboration and engagement in policy decision making. A relational approach analyses places, the (material and immaterial) processes and practices by which they are produced, and the ways people reflect on, and give varied meanings to places.

Some scholars argue that in a world dominated by global flows and fluidity, place and space seem to have lost their relevance. They argue that global forces of modernisation have led to more uniform places, an erosion of culture, marginalization of groups and uneven development – enhanced by developments in markets, technology and governance. As a consequence places lose their distinctiveness, their reality and significance, which results in a loss of sense of place, the ‘erasure of place’, non-places or ‘placelessness’.

However, it is the territorial differentiation of globalisation that brings place once again to the fore. Indeed, we see an emerging interest in place and place-based approaches in science, policy and practice. This is relevant in the context of the European 2020 goals of sustainable, inclusive and smart growth because:

- 1) The spatially different effects of globalisation lead to ‘territories of difference’ creating inequalities, exclusion and all sorts of dispersed and unevenly distributed issues of sustainability in the fields of food, energy and climate, poverty and migration, intertwined and unfolding in places.
- 2) Places are relevant for our sense of place and belonging. Subjective perceptions, attachment, sense-making, the construction of narratives and place identities are key elements in a place-based approach. Especially (cultural) geographers have emphasized this point “as place remains fundamentally important to our sense of identity, our sense of community and our humanity”.
- 3) Places can be considered as arenas of debates on land-use and -functions, encompassing power struggles and negotiations, but also innovative types of people’s agency, self-efficacy, alliances and forms of self-organisation.

General processes do not just happen to people and places. People tirelessly work to construct and reconstruct -make and shape- the physical, socio-economic, cultural and political dimensions of place and they are in turn shaped by the places they inhabit. Actors at the local level reproduce and transform their territories by their meaningful conduct, either intentionally or unintentionally. In other words, ‘the local co-constructs the global’.

Places as outcome of connectivity transcends the often used dichotomies between nature and society, the local and global, the rural and urban, the past and future. It also helps us to understand transformative agency in the form of initiatives, collaboration and social movements, not as a defensive countervailing power to intertwined structural processes, but as a way of negotiating the conditions of engagements in these processes. This is an empowering perspective, which helps us to understand (temporal and spatial) place-based approaches to development.

The SUSPLACE Research is organised along 5 research themes (Working Packages 2-6):

WP 2 INCLUSIVE PLACES

Objectives: To analyse how conditions can be created for people's participation and engagement in sustainable place-shaping, contributing to self-efficacy, social innovation and social cohesion within varied contexts on different scales. This WP focuses on the 'human factor', how people appreciate and value places, express agency and take responsibility in sustainable places and how they reflect on and negotiate the conditions of engagement in global processes.

WP 3 RESILIENT PLACES

Objectives: The WP will develop modes of innovation for greening places, and contribute to effective governance of social-ecological systems and long-term sustainability, based on the assumption that place-based approaches will strengthen the resilience of areas against global pressures. The WP focuses on the notion of a 'coupled' social-ecological system which sees human society as dependent upon natural systems, while at the same time human agency acts as the driver of ecosystem dynamics.

WP 4 CONNECTED PLACES

Objectives: To deliver knowledge about how place-based sustainability initiatives can be better integrated facilitating stronger connections between public, private and third sector stakeholders, as well as their spaces of practice. ESRs will explore the twin processes of (dis)connection which frame the working practices of these stakeholder groups, and the opportunities and constraints for developing place-based initiatives oriented towards co-production.

WP 5 PLACE-BASED GREENING ECONOMIES

Objectives: To deliver mechanisms for greening economies, adjusted to the boundaries of the ecological system, which utilize place-specific and scarce resources efficiently and in a socially/culturally sustainable way. Such an economy is low-carbon, resource efficient, socially just, and enhances investments which enhance the earth's natural capital or reduce ecological scarcities and environmental risks. The WP also delivers knowledge how post-liberal values, corporate/social responsibility and cooperation contribute to economies for the private/public good.

WP 6 PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

Objectives: The development of innovative place based spatial pathways. The WP will deliver theoretical, empirical and policy-oriented analysis and development of an integrative place-based paradigm as key component of deliberative sustainable place-shaping. The WP delivers methods and (policy-) strategies and will visualize sustainable place-based pathways.

3. QUALITY

SUSPLACE addresses:

SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE GAPS: Interdisciplinary solutions, novel place-shaping practices and integrative research are needed to deal with the current sustainability challenges in places and sustainability science more generally. The need for sustainable transformation has heightened the need to re-conceptualise place. Referring to the three constitutive dimensions of sustainable place-shaping, the goal of SUSPLACE is to re-establish a combined relational notion of place and space which centrally incorporates ecological, political-economic and socio-cultural processes.

EU GOALS ON TERRITORIAL AND PLACE-BASED DEVELOPMENT: The OECD (2009) report 'Regions Matter' stresses the individual characteristics of regions and their place specificity and proposes to go beyond the 'one-size-fits-all' development approaches. The Barca report 'An Agenda for a Reformed Cohesion Policy', argues that place-based policies are the best way to tackle the "*persistent underutilization of potential and reducing persistent social exclusion*". Hitherto little is known about the best way to implement a place-based approach. Much of the knowledge for sustainable development is not held by institutions but embodied by people in places. SUSPLACE will contribute to EU policy-goals by delivering new knowledge and insights how to develop places based on social capital, place based assets and resources, and place-based policies.

PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING: Despite global flows of knowledge, administrative boundaries raise obstacles to inter-regional and transnational learning. SUSPLACE promotes learning between quite different types of 'place' within the European context. SUSPLACE will facilitate cooperation between stakeholders by applying approaches which support social learning and innovation among multiple stakeholders such as practitioners, researchers and policy-makers. SUSPLACE identifies and analyses (sustainable) place-shaping on different levels such as the entrepreneurial level, community level and the territorial (sub-national) level. SUSPLACE will establish new alliances and networks, which is an important factor in fostering competitiveness, to utilise place potentials such as valuable natural, landscape and cultural heritage, city networks and labour markets divided by administrative borders. The use of participative research methods will increase connectivity between people, policy and place.

SKILLED RESEARCHERS WITH RESEARCH PROSPECTS: SUSPLACE will train a new generation of mobile, sustainability researchers, skilled in: balancing and integrating territorial development; increasing territorial connectivity; managing/connecting the ecological, landscape and cultural values of regions; tackling and coping with the complex and interdependent trade-offs between political, economic, ecological and social and cultural aspects of place-based sustainable development; and well equipped to facilitate place-specific multi-stakeholder processes key to sustainable place-shaping.

4. METHODOLOGY

The SUSPLACE research methodology includes the following principles:

A RELATIONAL APPROACH: SUSPLACE addresses the structural forces of globalization but also acknowledges the transformative agency of humans in shaping a place to their needs. Places and spaces are established in social practices, constituted in and through relations and interactions. This means that places are not considered as given geographic entities, but as the outcome of unbounded and dynamic processes which often stretch out far beyond that particular place. A relational approach understands places and spaces and their (re)production and alteration, the processes and practices by which they are produced and the ways people reflect on, and give highly varied meanings to places. This helps us to understand processes of (re-)localization. 'Thinking space relationally' in this context is an empowering perspective.

INTERDISCIPLINARITY: The competences of the future generation of sustainability researchers need to reflect the acknowledged requirements in society for holistic and integrated solutions. This challenge goes beyond skills to combine several academic schools of thought and professions, in order to provide ESRs with a profound and critical theoretical basis in social sciences and different (sub) disciplines, such as environmental and rural sociology; urban, economic and cultural geography; spatial planning; environmental and governance studies. As place denotes a 'node in global networks' embracing different combinations of social, cultural, community, economic and ecological facets, we need the integration of related knowledge domains for place-based research. The need to move beyond current scientific barriers to a more sustainability science approach is becoming all the more urgent, such that we can begin to develop more effective and dynamic understandings of links between society and the environment (socio-ecological systems). This includes applying a multitude of theoretical perspectives, cross-scale dynamics and approaches, incorporating a range of non-linear interactions and irreducible uncertainty systems and new research strategies and methodologies. Progressing sustainability science will also mean more explicit engagement with non-scientists and a realisation that a variety of expertise is required in order to effectively advance adaptations and transformations. The interdisciplinary quality of SUSPLACE is assured via the participants who have expertise in place-shaping from various perspectives and have experience with the challenge and the added value of interdisciplinary research. The interdisciplinary approach is also shown in the set-up of projects, courses, conference and a Summer School. The secondments across different disciplines and professions, and its integrative outputs. At the start of the project, the involved researchers will develop a common research framework to explain the general interdisciplinary theoretical reasoning for the research, and which will help the ESRs in understanding the concept of sustainable-place-shaping.

DEVELOPMENT OF PLACE-BASED SOLUTIONS BY COMPARATIVE PLACE-STUDIES AND TESTING IN LIVING LABS: The study of varied places within the ESR projects interacting with stakeholders enhances the competences of the ESRs in handling complex and varied realities. The city of Amsterdam, the city-region of Cardiff, and the Cardiff University campus will function as LIVING LABS in specific ERS projects to implement and test solutions for sustainable place-shaping, involving citizens as testers, users and co-creators. An example is ESR project 14, supported by the Welsh Government, which aims to result in an evidence base for policy interventions focused on sustainable city region building, tested in the Cardiff city-region. Cities increasingly face challenges of sustainability and quality of life, challenges that put at risk resource and food security, mobility and logistics, water and waste management, health and wellbeing, which require a cohesive approach. The Living Lab of Cardiff city-region is organised as a cooperation between Welsh Government and the interdisciplinary 'meeting place' of the Sustainable Places Research Institute incorporating strong links between policy-makers, stakeholders, and social and technical research institutes, thus combining social innovation,

design and engineering expertise. The Cardiff University campus will be used as a Living Lab in ESR project 8, aiming to connect students closer to communities. The Living Lab of Amsterdam Metropolitan Solutions (AMS) brings together knowledge, sharing experiences and devising shared solutions. Sustainable solutions for metropolitan cities are tested in practice. An example is ESR project 1 which aims to analyse greening and food initiatives in cities.

A COMPARATIVE APPROACH towards places will develop awareness and understanding of cultural biases, context-specific aspects and more general features, and also stimulate future mobility of researchers. Comparison in the sense of iterative explanation-building (triangulation) is crucial for the development and refinement of empirically grounded theories. Place-based solutions will be developed to contribute to viable, inclusive, and resilient places, low-carbon economies, and support social innovation, empowerment and self-efficacy.

PARTICIPATIVE (QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE) RESEARCH METHODS: Participatory action research aims to strengthen research as agent, increase connectivity between people, businesses and place and the development of tools and sets of practices responding to people's desire to act creatively in the face of pressing issues in their lives, organizations and communities. It bridges the academic divide between theory and practice by developing theory through practical application. This also encompasses reflective action learning, citizen engagement and active participation. It is a collaborative co-learning approach using people's knowledge, which supports practitioners in developing practical solutions, which is vital for the formulation of acceptable policy recommendations.

MULTI-METHOD RESEARCH. Researchers will follow an eclectic approach, using multiple and mixed combinations of qualitative and quantitative research methods to enhance internal case validity. ESRs will be trained in inter-disciplinarity to provide them with the language, tools, skills and competences to interact with different epistemic communities. A longitudinal case study approach will enable a focus on processes, such as on the evolution of joint or community learning in collaborative practices. Data will be gathered during fieldwork, for example during secondments. Each ESR will do 2 secondments at one of the participating organisations of at least 3 months in the 2nd and 3rd year of their contract. The SUSPLACE programme will introduce ESRs in depth to relevant methods, which will be applied in their specific projects, such as: Appreciative Inquiry (part of course BS1), a transformation method to develop the potential of social systems; Learning Histories (applied by partner WG in the Pathfinder project); Qualitative sociological methods (interviews, participatory observation, action research) ; Sustainability methods (trained by partner Except); Tools for engaging people in multi-stakeholder processes (co-creation, sustainability in action, world café, etc., trained by the partner RHDHV in course BSS4); Community assets mapping (trained by the visiting scientist Gibson).

INTERACTION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS: This is relevant from the perspective of ESRs as well as the participating organisations. Interaction and cooperation will take place via meetings, management, training, cooperation in WP's, projects and places, supervision and secondments, online communication (website, blog, social media), cooperation in outreach and dissemination activities, research networks, the SUSPLACE Summer School and SUSPLACE conference, via agreements between institutions, and follow-up activities beyond the programme.

5. ESR PROJECTS

SUSPLACE offers joint supervision arrangements, following the principles of the European Charter for Researchers. In each ESR project multiple beneficiaries are involved via co-supervision and secondments, so that ESRs can acquire additional knowledge, feedback, collect data in different contexts and follow speciality courses at these universities.

Each ESR will be able to do 2 secondments in the 2nd and 3rd year for at least 3 months tailored to their needs (see table 1). Partners host/supervise 2 or 3 projects during secondments to equip ESRs with knowledge and professional skills. All ESRs will be linked to a daily supervisor at their host institution. A supervisor will be someone working in the field and will be accessible for queries and consultancy at mutually agreed intervals. All ESRs will be co-supervised by a member of the co-hosting beneficiary, and by the contact persons of the partners during secondments. The proposals will be subject to the peer review approval system of WASS (WU) as part of the certification of training and supervision. After a year ESRs will be assessed whether they are able to complete a PhD based on an extended proposal (Introduction, Theoretical Framework and Methodology). Parallel to this, each ESR has to develop a Career Development Plan (CDP) which includes a training- and supervision plan (TSP) as well as a data-handling plan. The CDP is a planning and assessment document for Career Development through which the training, the supervision, the development of skills and research progress of individual ESRs is monitored.

Non-academic partners contribute to the supervision of ESRs by their reflection and feedback on the ESRs' projects and progress during courses and the Summer School, and by providing supervision during secondments. Secondment of ESRs to non-academic partners is seen as a crucial part of the training. Secondments are important for data-collection in specific contexts and cases, for the development of professional skills, and contribute to employability of ESRs by offering job experience and potential future job opportunities. Public and private organizations are increasingly in need of researchers trained in sustainable resource use and the shaping of sustainable places. During secondments partners will monitor and reflect on the ESRs' projects, progress and competences. ESRs will be monitored and supervised by the contact person of the partner institute. It will ultimately be up to each ESR and his or her supervisors to decide on the specific choices in the individual CDPs.

Table 1. ESR projects: subject, host and co-host university and planned secondments

No	ESR project	Host	Co-host	Secondment 1; 2 nd year	Secondment 2; 3 rd year
1	Sustainability awareness and agency	KU Leuven	WU	LU	WU
2	Eco-villages and sustainable living	LUKE	UAVR	GEN-Finland	UAVR
3	Sense of Place	LUKE	WU	GEN-Finland	WU
4	Managing the commons	UAVR	LUKE	LUKE	RHDHV
5	Re-grounding of practices	UAVR	LUKE	BN	LUKE
6	The Energetic Society	WU	UAVR	CU	UAVR
7	Place ambassadors	CU	LU	BN	LU
8	Connected Learning Spaces	CU	KU Leuven	WU	KU Leuven
9	Leadership of Place	WU	CU	WG	CU
10	Circular Economy	KU Leuven	LU	LUKE	VA
11	Place Branding	LU	WU	KQ	RHDHV

12	Social economy, social entrepreneurship	LU	KU Leuven	KU Leuven	EXCEPT
13	Nature as pathway	LUKE	WU	WU	EXCEPT
14	Sustainable city-regions	CU	WU	WG	RHDHV
15	Place-based policies and pathways	WU	CU	CU	VA

SUSPLACE involves 15 Research projects organized along the 5 research themes which have been previously described.

Fellow ESR1	Host: KUL. Co-host/supervision: WU.
SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS AND AGENCY IN FOOD. WP2: INCLUSIVE PLACES	
Objectives: To conduct a comparative analysis of place-based collective processes and actors' awareness and agency in transition pathways aimed at realizing more sustainable food systems. Not only the practical system and larger systems and structures (political) influence the conditions for sustainable change, but also individual and shared beliefs, values, worldviews and paradigms, referred to as change from the inside-out or the inner dimension of sustainability. Next, the study will identify and analyse this inner dimension, and institutional mechanisms that can facilitate the development of such initiatives in specific contexts. Policy tools will be analysed, developed and evaluated, which pro-mote these collective processes and put them on a sound legal and institutional basis.	
Expected Results: Insights into how to increase awareness, agency and attitudes in sustainability, as well as the major barriers and success factors in greening and food initiatives in cities. Guidelines for policies facilitating the overcoming of major barriers.	
Planned secondments: 1) LU, 2 nd year. Goal: data-collection in a Transition Town in Latvia. 2) WU, 3 rd year. Goal: Co-supervision and data-collection in the Living Lab of Amsterdam city-region.	
Fellow ESR2	Host: LUKE. Co-host/supervision: UAVR
ECO-VILLAGES AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING. WP2: Inclusive places	
Objectives: This project will explore new sustainable forms of housing and living in rural and/or in the urban context. Eco-villages are human-scale settlements consciously designed through participatory processes to secure long-term sustainability. Thus sustainable living in the eco-village context means a (re)connection to places with calls for new forms of social practices along with administrative and political arrangements. Partner GEN-Finland participates in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Methods to analyse of everyday practices and deeds 2) Knowledge on how to design lifestyles in a specific place according to the dimensions of sustainability 3) Guidelines for policies that support diffusion of eco-village-type of sustainable living in different institutional and policy contexts.	
Planned secondments: 1) GEN-Finland, 2 nd year. Goal: ethnographic study 2) University of Aveiro, 3 rd year. Goal: Analyzing eco-villages.	
Fellow ESR3	Host: LUKE. Co-Host/supervision: WU.
SENSE OF PLACE IN SUSTAINABLE PLACE-SHAPING. WP2: INCLUSIVE PLACES	
Objectives: This project assumes that cultural transformation or "a new cultural narrative" is needed to meet the overall objectives of sustainable development, and that a strong sense of place also contributes to ecologically more sustainable practices, ways of life and human well-being. The project aims to identify and analyse how sense of place contributes to more sustainable worldviews and behaviour, thus sustainable place-shaping, and how sense of place can be strengthened by participation, education, public policies or planning practices. Partner GEN-Finland participates in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Theoretical understanding of the connection between sense of place, participation and sustainability 2) Guidelines for practitioners, trainers and policy-makers, how to support the sense of place in various contexts (education, policies etc.).	
Planned secondments: 1) GEN-Finland, 2 nd year on case-study analysis 2) WU, 3 rd year, co-supervision and analysis of sense of place in the Dutch context.	

Fellow ESR4	Host: UAVR. Co-Host/supervision: LUKE.
MODES OF INNOVATION IN MANAGING THE COMMONS. 3 RESILIENT PLACES	
Objectives: Enhance sustainable management of the commons, which requires new modes of innovation including recognition and power for grassroots innovation actors and processes, involving them within an inclusive, multi-scale innovation politics, through a participatory approach capable of determining the social/cultural values of forest ecosystem services. RHDHV participates in this project.	
Expected Results: Innovative mechanisms, and grassroots alliances in managing the commons 4) Testing of innovative participatory approaches 3) Guidelines for implementing an Integrated Landscape approach.	
Planned secondments: 1) MTT, second year, 3 months. Goal: co-supervision and analysis of how grassroots alliances in Finland use wild nature, building sustainable strategies based on wild natural resources (plants, game) creating new food and non-food products and services. 2) RHDHV. Goal: learn skills to develop modes of innovation for alliances.	
Fellow ESR5	Host: UAVR. Co-Host/supervision: LUKE
RE-GROUNDING OF PRACTICES IN PLACE-SPECIFIC ASSETS AND RESOURCES. WP3 RESILIENT PLACES	
Objectives: Analyse innovative practices of sustainable place-shaping in the so-called ‘Aldeias de Magaio Network’ in Portugal, which can be seen as a form of endogenous development rooted in natural, economic and social local resources. The project aims to understand the factors which influence the production and use of traditional products, including the role of actors, agents and consumer demands and the impact on local communities. Binaural-Nodar participates in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) New ways of comm. and diss. of local products in global markets 2) Insights in the impacts in local communities.	
Planned secondments: 1) Binaural-Nodar, 2 nd year. Goal: learn skills in innovative and participative tourism-related activities and communication. 2) LUKE, 3 rd year Goal: Analysis of re-grounding of practices in natural areas in Finland	
Fellow ESR6	Host: WU. Co-Host/supervision: UAVR.
THE ENERGETIC SOCIETY. WP3 RESILIENT PLACES	
Objectives: Analyse new forms of entrepreneurship, society’s learning abilities but also facilitative governance in the emerging ‘energetic society’, which refers to self-organising groups of citizens with learning ability and creativity, starting up new networks and organisations. Examples are community-owned energy projects and new cooperatives on sustainable energy-production.	
Expected Results: Lessons how to mobilise and facilitate ‘the energetic society’ and build new alliances based on cases on sustainable energy-production in three European countries (Wales, Netherlands, Portugal).	
Planned secondments: 2) Cardiff University, 2 nd year. Goal: to analyse Welsh cases and learn skills in a governance facilitation role. 2) UAVR, 3 rd year. Goal: co-supervision and analysis of Portuguese ‘energetic citizens groups’.	
Fellow ESR7	Host: CU. Co-Host/supervision: LU.
PLACE AMBASSADORS. WP4 CONNECTED PLACES	
Objectives: To explore the role of private sector businesses in supporting sustainable place-shaping through their enrolment in formal ‘place ambassador’ schemes. Place ambassadors are owners of local businesses who share with visitors the distinctiveness of the local wildlife, history, cultural heritage and geology. Partner Binaural-Nodar participates in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Insights how to create connectivity between the public and private sector in sustainable place-shaping, by capitalising on local knowledge and enthusiasm for promoting meaningful experiences of place.	
Planned secondments: 1) Binaural-Nodar, 2 nd year, 3 months. Goal: Learn skills in creative-based educational and communication activities in rural areas. 2) LU, 3 rd year. Goal: Analyse place ambassadors in urban spaces in Latvia.	
Fellow ESR8	Host: CU. Co-Host/supervision: KU Leuven
CONNECTED LEARNING SPACES – UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AS LIVING LABS. WP4 CONNECTED PLACES	

Objectives: To explore the significance of place within learning experiences for sustainability from the starting point of the physical and natural spaces of University campuses as a living laboratory to increase connectivity and engagement between university students and local communities. The Cardiff University Campus and Amsterdam Metropolitan Solutions (a partnership between Wageningen University, Delft University, MIT and the city of Amsterdam) will participate in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Develop skills and knowledge of kinaesthetic learning 2) Its application to sustainable place-shaping through practical activities 3) Devise new ideas for place-based learning through University institutions as Living Labs.	
Planned secondments: 1) WU, 2 nd year, 3 months. Goal: co-supervision and learn from the experiences in the Living Lab of Amsterdam Metropolitan Solutions (in which WU is involved). 2) KU Leuven, 3 rd year. Goal: Learn about the role of food in learning spaces in Belgium.	
Fellow ESR9	Host: WU. Co-Host/supervision: CU.
LEADERSHIP OF PLACE. WP4 CONNECTED PLACES	
Objectives: Analyse reflexive approaches to governance needed to replace hierarchical, policy-centred leaderships with collaborative modes of governance and cross boundary leadership. Analyse how leadership of place in rural places and 'Smart Cities' can be developed and mobilised to generate more sustainable futures for regions and localities. WG will participate in this project. This research builds on earlier research on place leadership. A link will be made with the RSA network on 'Leadership in urban and regional development' and planned international research on smart cities via this network.	
Expected Results: 1) Identification of effective collaborative leadership which connects varied actors to enable 'smart cities' 2) Insights into how to build capacities in (rural) places where there doesn't seem to be a 'critical mass' for innovation.	
Planned secondment(s): 1) Welsh Government, 2 nd year, 3 months. Goal: to analyse public leadership and compare collaborative leadership of place in the Welsh context. 2) CU, 3 rd year. Goal: Analyse sustainable citizens' leadership in Welsh places.	
Fellow ESR10	Host: KU Leuven. Co-Host/supervision: LU.
CIRCULAR ECONOMY. WP 5 GREENING ECONOMIES	
Objectives: To derive the macro-, meso- and micro-level conditions for economic systems to shift towards sustainability using a metabolic approach. A metabolic approach describes how the development of economic systems depends on how human activity, material and energy flows and ecological funds are used and allocated to activities. Visionary Analytics will participate in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) A multi-scale integrated understanding of the societal and ecosystem metabolism of food systems 2) Information to stakeholders on the underlying social, economic and ecological conditions that enhance or prevent systems from greening.	
Planned secondments: 1) LUKE, 2 nd year, 6 months. Goal: co-supervision, data-collection, acquire additional knowledge on greening economies 2) Visionary Analytics, Insight in effects of greening the economies (e.g. on labour markets)	
Fellow ESR11	Host: LU. Co-Host/supervision: WU.
PLACE BRANDING AND COMMUNICATION IN URBAN CREATIVE CLUSTERS. WP5: GREENING ECONOMIES	
Objectives: To create creating sustainable niches for the greening of economies, by combining culture, creativity and economy in urban neighbourhoods and to explore communication and branding as drivers for green economy initiatives. KQ, organisation in urban creative clusters and farmers' markets will participate in this project. Also RHDHV will participate in this project.	
Expected Results: 1) Knowledge and skills to develop effective branding strategies 2) Knowledge on the conditions for promoting green urban economies.	
Planned Secondments: 1) KQ (Kalnciema Quarter), 2 nd year. Goal: Learn from KQ's experiences how to create sustainable urban niches 2) RHDHV, 3 rd year. Goal: learn skills in stakeholder collaboration in green urban projects.	
Fellow ESR12	Host: LU. Co-Host/supervision: KU Leuven
SOCIAL ECONOMY, SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP. WP5 GREENING ECONOMIES	

<p>Objectives: Analyse the potential of new markets outside the dominant capitalist system of profit-making and address social economy initiatives, like: community services, social cooperatives, food banks, shared land use projects, charity initiatives, supported work with regard to their organisational arrangements, business models and contribution to sustainable place-shaping, social cohesion and quality of life. This will increase our insight into ‘hidden’ novelties, practices and economies. Partner EXCEPT will participate in this project.</p>	
<p>Expected Results: 1) Insights into how the social entrepreneurship can contribute to the greening of economies. 2) Capabilities to critically reflect on social entrepreneurship; 3) Act practically as knowledge broker among various parties involved in social economy initiatives.</p>	
<p>Planned secondments: 1) KU Leuven. Goal: co-supervision and additional knowledge on food economies; 2) Except. Goal: learn skills in sustainable and social entrepreneurship.</p>	
Fellow ESR13	Host: LUKE. Co-host/supervision: WU.
<p>NATURE AS PATHWAY FOR REACHING SOCIAL AND HEALTH GOALS. WP2 SUSTAINABLE PATHWAYS</p>	
<p>Objectives: To explore nature-based health and social care services provided by entrepreneurs (‘Green Care’), i.e. utilisation of landscape, animals and plants which support physical, mental and social well-being, and the environmental awareness of various client groups (e.g. disable, socially excluded), which can contribute to sustainable place-shaping (e.g. through landscape maintenance, biodiversity, livelihoods and social inclusion). Partner Except will participate in this project.</p>	
<p>Expected Results: 1) Analysis on effects of Green Care –service with specific intervention and client group with a framework of assessment 2) Guidelines for policies that support diffusion of Green Care in the different institutional and policy contexts.</p>	
<p>Planned secondments: 1) WU, 2nd year. Analysis of innovative pathways and co-supervision. 2) Except 3rd year. Analysis of the role of businesses and nature-based health and social care services.</p>	
Fellow ESR14	Host: CU. Co-Host/supervision: WU.
<p>SUSTAINABLE CITY-REGIONS. WP 6: PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY</p>	
<p>Objectives: To promote a better understanding of the relationship between the economic drivers of city-region development and the broader social and environmental priorities of sustainable place-making at a regional scale based on the establishment of two City-Region areas (Swansea Bay and Cardiff City-Region) areas. Welsh Government and RHDHV will participate in this project.</p>	
<p>Expected Results: 1) An evidence base for policy interventions focused on sustainable city-region building; 2) Testing in a ‘Living Lab’ to explore the specific role of City-Region alliances and relationships in integrating together sector- (food, housing, transport, energy etc.) based approaches to sustainable place-shaping.</p>	
<p>Planned secondments: 1) Welsh Government, 2nd year. Goal: analyse potential policy interventions in city-regions. 2) RHDHV, 2nd year. Goal: learn skills in action-based research and consultancy in regional development.</p>	
Fellow ESR15	Host: WU. Co-Host/supervision: CU
<p>PLACE-BASED POLICIES AND STRATEGIES. WP6 PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY</p>	
<p>Objectives: Analyse different pathways for sustainable place-shaping addressing the questions how do these paradigms unfold in European places and under which conditions. The research builds on several cases including the emerging findings of other ESR projects and visualizes future scenarios for European regions. Visionary Analytics will participate in this project.</p>	
<p>Expected Results: 1) Strategies for integrative place-based policies 2) Visualized future scenarios for European regions.</p>	
<p>Planned secondments: 1) CU, 2nd year. Goal: Acquire knowledge in sustainable pathways and policies 2) Visionary Analytics, Lithuania, 3rd year. Goal: learn skills in innovation policy and foresight as a method to implement policies.</p>	

6. TRAINING

The training programme as specified in the individual ESRs Career Development Plans offer:

- 1) Training through research.
- 2) Mandatory Joint Network Training and events (Table 2)
- 3) Local Training, which includes a set of optional courses, including Language Skills (Table 3) and
- 4) 'on the job' training to ESRs via secondments.

Table 2. Mandatory Joint Network Training and events

BEN= All Beneficiaries; WA= Wageningen Academy¹; WASS= Wag. School of Social Sciences; VS= Visiting Scientist; 1.5 ECTS = 40 hours

No.	MAIN Training Events and Conferences	Goal	ECTS	LEAD + others	Month
	Basic Skills		6		
1	SUSPLACE INTRO COURSE (BS1)	To inform the ESRs about SUSPLACE and the Common Research Framework. To inform ESRs about Ethics, IPR and research rules. To assist in the writing of their research proposal and CDP.	0.5	WU/WASS + BEN	8
2	A GLOBAL SENSE OF PLACE (BS2)	To acquaint ESRs with the theoretical historical-economic and geographical approaches on place-based development.	2	WU + BEN + VS	8
3	RESEARCH SKILLS (BS3)	To acquaint ESRs with methods and practical implications of participatory research and project management.	1	WU + VS	8
4	FACILITATION OF PLACE BASED DEVELOPMENT (BS4)	To train ESRs in an integrative approach of places, engagement in multi-stakeholder and in cooperation for developing joint visions and agendas	1.5	RHDHV + WA	13
5	WRITING TECHNIQUES (BS5)	To train ESRs in the writing of scientific and popular papers.	1	WU/WASS	13
	Advanced Skills		11		Month
6	SUSTAINABLE PLACE-SHAPING (AS1)	To acquaint ESRs with the approaches & concepts on sustainable place-shaping via cases through literature review, lectures and discussions.	2	WU + BEN + VS	18
7	COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION (AS2)	To acquire skills for presenting/disseminating research findings to different audiences, communication with practitioners and skills in applying social media and audio-visual technologies.	1	WU/WASS + BN	18
8	PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY (AS3)	The course introduces ESRs in land-use and spatial planning and enhances the capacity to critically assess planning policy to its contribution to sustainable development in different European contexts. Attention will be given to 'tools' for decision-making procedures (VA): Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).	1	CU + WG + VA	30
9	URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE (AS4)	This course introduces ESRs in urban/regional development and regeneration, combining insights from theory with practice-based perspectives on contemporary regeneration strategies, projects, economic development policies and initiatives. ESRs will learn methods for engaging citizens (WG) and the assessment of greening effects on jobs and skills (VA).	1	CU + WG + VA	30
10	SUMMER SCHOOL: INTERDISCIPLINARITY (AS5)	Learn to organize a scientific conference/workshop. Learn about strengths/weaknesses of interdisciplinary work/organisation. Learning to deal with diversity in discourses. Reflection and peer-review on research by SUSPLACE Ben. and partners; visit cases in sustainable place-shaping.	2	UAVR + Participants	24
11	SUSPLACE CONFERENCE (AS6)	To discuss research findings with academics and policy-makers.	2	LUKE + Participants	42
12	PARTICIPATION IN (AT LEAST) 2 (INTER)NATIONAL CONF. (INCL. AS6)	To practice the writing conference papers; learn from colleagues; get access to relevant academic networks.	2	Participants	
	Professional Skills		6		Month

¹ Wageningen Academy is part of Wageningen UR.

13	SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT SKILLS (PS1)	Acquire knowledge, skills, tools for implementing sustainability projects.	1.5	Except	8
14	VALORIZATION OF RESEARCH (PS2)	To acquaint ESRs with the 'life-world' of practitioners in place-based development (entrepreneurs/intermediates/NGOs). Train ESRs in translating research findings to policy-makers and practitioners; Train ESRs in advisory skills, valorisation of knowledge and marketing/PR. VA will train ESRs in general impact assessment, linked to cases.	1	WU + VA	18
15	PERSONAL LEADERSHIP (PS3)	Training in sustainability awareness, attitude, agency and leadership applicable in their career development. ESRs reflect on their leadership role. Use of the method of the 'master circle session' (by RHDHV), a certified method to empower and build personal leadership skills.	1,5	WU + RHDHV+ ESRs	36
16	TAILOR-MADE CAREER DEVELOPMENT (PS4)	Mentoring of ESRs and ERs in their career development; Strengthening of their communicative, entrepreneurial and networking skills.	2	All Participants	Varying
	Elective training (at least 7,5 ECTS)		> 7,5		Varying
17	SPECIALITY COURSES	Offer additional knowledge and skills to the SUSPLACE programme tailored to ESRs individual needs, e.g. entrepreneurial skills (table 1.2c).	0 – 3	BEN	
18	'ON THE JOB' TRAINING OF SKILLS DURING SECONDMENTS	Training of ESRs in professional skills: project-management, organisational, advisory, (client-oriented and audio-visual) communication, policy-sensitivity and entrepreneurial skills.	2	BEN/Partners	
19	TEACHING AND SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS	Provide ESRs with educational skills.	0 – 4	ESRs	
20	MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION	Provide ESRs with management and organisational skills by organising seminars and events at the host institute.	2 – 4	ESRs	
21	LANGUAGE SKILLS	To improve the ESRs' language skills.	0 – 5	BEN	
22	SOCIAL MEDIA & VIRTUAL PLATFORMS (1 ECTS per year)	To improve communication skills.	0 – 3	ESRs	
23	DISSEMINATION CORE GROUP (1 ECTS/year)	To improve dissemination skills.	1	ESRs	
	To pass as a PhD WASS requires a training of at least 30 ECTS as part of a Training and Supervision Plan (TSP) (part of the CDP)				

Table 3. Specific optional Courses offered by host institutes (open to all ESRs across the network)

Beneficiary	Courses offered by host institutes
WU	Sociology and anthropology of Place-shaping; Sociological Theories of rural transformation; Courses in land-use and spatial planning; Sociology of food provisioning and place-based development; Empowerment in sustainability; Sustainability leadership.
CU	Business skills training; Environmental policy and climate change; Environmental Behaviours: citizens, consumers and communities; Space and place: international planning practice; Debates in eco-city planning and development; Theories and principles of sustainable development; Planning city futures; Governing place; Researching sustainability.
UL	Sociological theories; International comparative research; Regional/rural development.
UAVR	Rural and natural tourism; Research methodologies and techniques; Sociology and economy of sustainable development; Territorial planning and environmental sustainability; Social and economic territorial dynamics; Environmental sociology; Environmental policies and plans.
LUKE	(training through research, through the network and visiting researchers) Regional policy and rural policy; Green economy; Ecosystem services and their valuation (in particular cultural); Cultural sustainability; Landscape research (values, assessment and planning); Environmental policy and governance.
KUL	Natural resource economics and policy; Survey design and data analysis, social and economic aspects of biotechnology; Tourism and sustainable regional development; Corporate social responsibility.

	<p>GLAMUR); co-coordinator of the NWO funded PhD-programme AGRINOVIM and national research projects on multifunctional agriculture; coordinator of the Marie Curie INT PUREFOOD (2010-2014); supervisor of 31 PhD-candidates of which 10 completed.</p> <p>Dr. ing. L.G. Horlings: Assistant professor, will be involved for 50% as coordinator of WP7 and WP8 and co-supervisor of ESRs. She is expert in place-based leadership, multi-stakeholder initiatives, sustainability and place-based policies; participant in EU research projects DERREG, EUWelNet and GLAMUR, the RSA network on regional and urban leadership, the COST Action Investigating Cultural sustainability and 2 INTERREG projects. She co-supervises 3 PhD's.</p>
Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	<p>The Social Sciences Department of Wageningen University has all research facilities to host ESRs. The HRM division has ample experience with selection and appointment procedures of international researchers and career consultancy and is familiar with Marie Curie ITN regulations and will support the Steering Committee with the selection procedure of all ESR candidates. The Project Administration section of the SS department has the expertise, capacities and experiences to support RSO in SUSPLACE management tasks and administrative procedures. WASS coordinates and certifies the Training and Supervision Plan (min. 30 ECTS) of WASS PhD-candidates. In 2013 WASS hosted 405 PhD-candidates and 39 completed their thesis.</p>
Independent research premises?	<p>YES.</p>
Previous Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	<p>Participant in 19 EU-funded projects, of which 9 as project coordinator. Most relevant are: IMPACT (1999-2002), SUS-CHAIN (2003-2006), COFAMI (2005-2008), ETUDE (2007-2009), DERREG (2009-2011), FOODLINKS (2011-2013) and SOLINSA (2011-2014). RSO also coordinated the relevant international NWO-funded PhD-programme AGRINOVIM (1999-2004). RSO offered courses to various BSc and MSc-educational programmes of WU, the International Master of Rural Development and was engaged training PhD-candidates via WASS and PhD Summer and Winter Schools.</p>
Current involvement in Research and Training Programmes	<p>Coordinator of the Marie Curie INT PUREFOOD (264719: 2010–2014) and of the EU-funded research projects SUBURBFOOD (2012-2015), GLAMUR (2013-2016) and TRANSMANGO (2014-2018). RSO is partner in the International Master of Rural Development (IMRD, Erasmus Mundus funded). RSO contributes to three BSc and five MSc-programmes of WU and the training of WASS PhD-candidates and a PhD Summer School.</p>
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation products (max.5)	<p>Roep, D., Wellbrock, W., Horlings, I. (2014). Raising self-efficacy and resilience: collaborative leadership in the Westerkwartier, in: M. Woods, B. Nienaber, J. McDonagh (Eds.), <i>Globalization and Europe's rural regions</i>. Ashgate, Surrey.</p> <p>Horlings, L.G. & Marsden, T (2014) Pathways for sustainable development of European regions; eco-economic strategies and new urban-rural relations. <i>European Journal of Urban and Regional Studies</i>, 21 (1): 14-20.</p> <p>Horlings, I. & Padt, F. (2011) Leadership for Sustainable Regional Development in Rural Areas: Bridging Personal and Institutional Aspects, <i>Sustainable Development</i>, 21 (6): 413–424.</p> <p>Wiskerke, J.S.C. (2009). On places lost and places regained: reflections on the alternative food geography and sustainable regional development. <i>International Planning Studies</i>, 14 (4): 361–379.</p> <p>Roep, D., Van der Ploeg, J.D. & Wiskerke, J.S.C. (2003). Managing technical institutional design processes: some strategic lessons from environmental co-operatives in the Netherlands. <i>NJAS Journal for Life Sciences</i>, 51: 195-217.</p>

Cardiff University

Beneficiary Cardiff University (CU) Sustainable Places Research Institute	
General description	<p>The Sustainable Places Research Institute brings together a team of ten leading academics from Schools across the University to develop the emerging field of sustainability science and studies the complex and dynamic interrelations between ecology, society and economy. It acts as an integrating hub for examining the interdependencies and trade-offs between key resource sectors, such as energy, food, water, and waste, while combining place-based community, business and governance interests to derive solutions that can progress sustainable transition. The Institute's research</p>

	<p>framework is based upon three sets of structuring and interacting research themes which ‘propel’ sustainable place-making: (i) a re-appreciation and re-valuing of the ecological and physical infrastructures of places; (ii) the re-positioning and adaptation of markets and governance structures around natural resources in and through places; and (iii) a re-grounding of socio-technical and community processes and practices around the use and re-definition of place-based assets. Feeding into these themes are the outputs from five distinct programmes of research: 1) Sustainable Rural-Urban Communities; 2) Co-Evolving, Interactive Systems; 3) Health, Infrastructure and Well-being; 4) Food, Land and Security; 5) Risk, place, identity and sustainability.</p>
Role and Commitment of key persons	<p>Coordinator of WP4, coordinator of 2 advanced courses, participation in basic and advanced courses, Participation in WP7, hosts 3 ESRs. Key persons: Prof. dr. T. Marsden, Dean of Graduate Studies at CU, director Sustainable Places Research Institute, will be involved for 5%. Dr. Alex Franklin, will be involved for 15%. She is coordinator on “Transitions and adaptations in selected city-rural regions” of this institute. Dr Abid Mehmood is working in the Sustainable rural-urban communities programme at the Institute.</p>
Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	<p>The Research Institute offers expertise on the broad field of place-making, including ecologic, economic, sociologic, planning & governance expertise. It operates as a scientific 'meeting place' in research and training between the Schools of Social Sciences, Planning and Geography, Medicine, Earth Sciences, Law, Architecture, Psychology and Engineering, and the ESRC Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society. The Institute runs Master and PhD programmes in 6 constituent Schools. The School of Planning and Geography offers facilities for a wide range of courses on sustainable place-making.</p>
Independent research premises?	<p>YES.</p>
Previous Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	<p>CU and SPI staff have coordinated and participated in numerous EU and national sustainability research projects. Previously Cardiff University has been involved in 2 FP7 – PEOPLE – ITNs: FP7 ITN – MINILUBES (ENGIN), FP7 ITN – GATEWAYS (EARTH). Currently Cardiff is involved in FP7: TRANSMANGO (2014-2018) and the Marie Curie ITN PUREFOOD (264719: 2010–2014). Other involvement in training programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiff University leads the Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Catalysis, which was awarded by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) • Cardiff University is part of a consortium of research intensive universities awarded a Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Water Informatics Science and Engineering. • Cardiff University is part of a consortium of research intensive universities awarded a Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) by the UK Natural and Environmental Sciences Research Council (NERC) • Cardiff University leads the Wales Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council
Current involvement in Research and Training Programmes	<p>Within CU, the University Graduate College offers a comprehensive programme of formal training courses, events, seminars and online learning for postgraduate researchers to develop both their research and professional skills. The programme covers 200 topics and offers structured activities to practice and develop skills and interdisciplinary opportunities to broaden postgraduate researchers’ experiences. The Programme is informed by the ‘Researcher Development Framework’, a major new approach to researcher development, which aims to develop world-class researchers and their career potential and build up research capacity across the EU. Training offered within the SPI includes a specialised ‘doctoral and researcher interdisciplinary sustainability science training programme’. In addition, the SPI runs six research programmes in sustainable place making</p>
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation products	<p>Marsden, T.K and Morley, A (2014) (eds) <i>Sustainable Food Systems: building a new paradigm</i>. Earthscan from Routledge.</p> <p>Marsden, T.K (2013) Sustainable place-making for sustainability science: the contested case of agri-food and urban-rural relations. <i>Journal of Sustainability Science</i> 8 (2):213-226.</p> <p>Marsden. T.K (2013) From post-productivism to reflexive governance: contested transitions in securing more sustainable food futures. <i>Journal of Rural Studies</i> 29: 123- 134.</p>

	<p>Marsden, T.K (2012) Third natures: reconstituting space through place-making strategies for sustainability. <i>International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food</i> 19 (2): 257-274.</p> <p>Franklin, A., Newton, J., Middleton, J. and Marsden, TK. (2011) Reconnecting skills for sustainable communities with everyday life' <i>Environment and Planning A</i> 43 (2): 347-362.</p>
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University of Latvia

Beneficiary University of Latvia, Faculty of Social Sciences (LU)	
General Description	The Faculty of Social Sciences (SZF) is a centre for advanced social and political research in Latvia. Research is organized in three main areas: regional and rural development; Latvia's role in the Baltic Sea region and Northern Europe; democracy, inclusion, communication and culture.
Role and Commitment of key persons	<p>Coordination of WP5, Participation in basic and advanced scientific courses, Participation in WP7, hosts 2 ESRs.</p> <p>Dr. T. Tisenkopfs, Professor in sociology, will be involved for 10%. He is expert in sustainable rural development and innovation, participant in 6 EU FP 7 research projects including Marie Curie INT PUREFOOD (2010-2014). Director of PhD programme in sociology, supervisor of 10 PhD students of which 5 passed promotion. Dr. Baiba Bela, will be involved for 5%. She is associate professor in social anthropology, expert in place based development, identities and social inclusion. Director of MA programme in sociology and Latvian coordinator of EU Erasmus Mundus joint master programme MISOCO (2009-2014). Editor in chief of Latvia Human Development Report 2012/2013 "Sustainable nation". Supervisor of 1 PhD student.</p>
Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	SZF has all research facilities to train ESRs. The faculty's library is Latvia's most extensive information centre in social sciences. SZF has experience in administering EU educational programs at master (MISOCO) and PhD levels (e.g. the Marie Curie ITN PUREFOOD). Implementation of EU Structural Funds project "Support to the development of doctoral studies at UL" (2009-2013) has improved the research infrastructure and quality and efficiency of PhD training. University of Latvia runs 24 PhD programs and 18 doctoral schools. In 2009-2013 19 PhD students successfully defended their thesis.
Independent research premises?	YES.
Previous Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	<p>Training programmes: SZF offers 3 PhD study programs in sociology, political science and communication studies and runs a Doctoral School in post-Soviet studies. Previous research programmes: Participation in EU FP projects SINERGI (2005-2008), ETUDE (2007-2009), FOODLINKS (2011-2013), SOLINSA (2011-2014). Coordination of EEA and Norway Grant „Research Potential of Higher Education Institutions for the Enhancement of Regional Development” (2009-2011).</p>
Current involvement in Research and Training Programmes	SZF key researchers currently participate in: State Research Programme "National Identity" (2010-2014); Erasmus Mundus "Joint European Master in International Migration and Social Cohesion" (2009-2014); Marie Curie ITN PUREFOOD (2010-2014); FP 7 Projects SUPURBFOOD (2012-2015), GLAMUR (2013-2016) and Sifor AGE (2013-2016); The European Social Fund Project "Elaboration of innovative diagnostic instruments for regional development".
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation products	<p>Tisenkopfs, T., S. Sumane and I. Kunda (2014) Learning as issue framing in agricultural innovation networks, <i>The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension</i>, 20 (3): 1-18.</p> <p>Bela, B. (2014) (ed.) <i>Latvia. Human Development Report. Sustainable Nation</i>. ASPRI & University of Latvia, Riga.</p> <p>Dockès, A.-C., Tisenkopfs, T. & Bock, B. (2012) The concept of agricultural knowledge and innovation systems. In: <i>SCAR-CWG AKIS, Agricultural knowledge and innovation systems in transition - a reflection paper</i>. European Commission, Brussels, pp. 23-46.</p> <p>Tisenkopfs, T., Kovach I., Lostak M. & Sumane S. (2011) Rebuilding and Failing Collectivity: Specific Challenges for Collective Farmers Marketing Initiatives in Post-Socialist Countries, <i>International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food</i>, 18 (1): 70-88.</p> <p>Tisenkopfs, T. & Lace, I. (2010) Smiltene municipality: the construction of social capital. In: Milone, P. & Ventura, F. (eds) <i>Networking the Rural. The Future of Green Regions in Europe</i>. Royal Van Gorcum, Assen: pp. 129-150.</p>

University of Aveiro

Beneficiary Universidade de Aveiro	
General Description	The University of Aveiro (UAVR) organizes research through a network of 14 Research Units and 4 Associated Laboratories. The Department of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences (DCSPT) includes research groups in Regional/Urban Planning and in Governance, Competitiveness and Public Policies (which includes a sub-area on Territory, Development and Tourism Attractiveness).
Role and Commitment of key persons (including supervisors)	Coordination of WP3, Participation in basic and advanced courses, organization of the Summer School, Participation in WP7, hosts 2 ESRs. Elisabete Figueiredo , Professor, will be involved for 15%; Sandra Valente, researcher, will be involved for 5%, both in the research, supervision and training of 2 ESRs. Prof. Figueiredo currently coordinates the project «RURAL MATTERS - Meanings of the Rural in Portugal: between social representations, consumptions and development strategies». She supervised 2 PhD's and she is currently supervising 1 PhD. Sandra Valenta holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences with a thesis on Forest management and the relevance of the integration of stakeholders knowledge. She is a researcher at CESAM – Center for Environmental and Marine Studies. She was and is currently involved as a team member in several national and EU research projects, such as e- Ecorisk, CLIMED, CASCADE - CATastrophic Shifts in drylands: how CAN we prevent ecosystem Degradation.
Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	DCSPT has close links to external agencies and professionals. Facilities: The DCSPT encompasses several research groups in social sciences, focusing on natural/ecologic resources, governance and public policies. DCSPT runs or cooperates in several Master Programmes, has on-going PhD programmes and cooperates on PhD courses (e.g. Tourism, Planning, Territory, Risk, Public Policies). In terms of infrastructure, DCSPT possesses all the necessary facilities (room, computers, etc.) to accommodate 2 ESRs.
Independent research premises?	YES.
Previous Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	DCSPT (co)hosts several EU or national research projects, for example: 'Towards the Improvement of Women's Skills in the Tourism Sector (PIHM/GC/0073/2008); RECOVER (PTDC/AGR-AAM/73350/2006); Selling the Rural: Selling the Unreal? (CNR- IBIMET, 140.4); CLIMED - Effects of climate change and climate variability on water availability and water management practices in Western Mediterranean (INCO-MED - ICA3-CT-1999-30005). DCSPT ran or has cooperated in several Master Programmes, PhD programmes and cooperated on PhD courses.
Current involvement in Research and Training Programmes	DCSPT currently (co)hosts several EU or national research projects, as for example: 'Rural Matters' – meanings of the rural in Portugal - between social representations, consumptions and development strategies' (PTDC/CS-GEO/117967/2010) coordinated by Elisabete Figueiredo; The Overall Rural Tourism Experience and Sustainable Local Community Development (PTDC/CS-GEO/104894/2008); ForeStake – the role of local stakeholders to the Success of Forest Policy in areas affected by fire in Portugal (PTDC/AGR-CFL/099970/2008). As mentioned, DCSPT runs or cooperates in several Master Programmes, has on-going PhD programmes and cooperates on PhD courses (e.g. Tourism, Planning, Territory, Risk, Public Policies). Elisabete Figueiredo and Sandra Valente are still involved in these training programmes.
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation products	Figueiredo, E. (2013). More than Food? Promoting the countryside to tourists using local food productions in Italy. In: Kozak, N. and Kozak, M. (Eds.) <i>Tourism Research: An Interdisciplinary Perspective</i> , Newcastle, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 282-299. Figueiredo, E. and Raschi, A. (Editors) (2013). <i>Fertile Links? Connections between tourism activities, socioeconomic contexts and local development in European Rural Areas</i> , Florence University Press, Florence. Silva, L. and Figueiredo, E. (Editors) (2013). <i>Shaping Rural Areas in Europe - Perceptions and Outcomes on the Present and the Future</i> , Springer, Dordrecht. Figueiredo E., Valente S., Coelho C., Pinho L. (2009) Coping with risk: analysis on the importance of integrating social perceptions on flood risk into management mechanisms - the case of the municipality of Águeda, Portugal. <i>Journal of Risk Research</i> . 12 (5): 581-602. Schwilch G., Bachmann F., Valente S., Coelho C., Moreira J., Laouina A., Chaker M., Aderghal M.,

Santos P., Reed M. (2012) A structured multi-stakeholder learning process for sustainable land management. <i>Journal of Environmental Management</i> , 107: 52-63.

LUKE Natural Resources Institute Finland

Beneficiary LUKE Natural Resources Institute Finland	
General Description	LUKE Natural Resources Institute Finland is a cross-disciplinary research institute, aggregating broad expertise and research competence to support the sustainable use of natural resources. It comprises the former state research institutes MTT Agrifood Research Finland, the Finnish Forest Research Institute, the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, and the statistical services of the Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. LUKE operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
Role and Commitment of key persons (including supervisors)	Coordination of WP1, organises the SUSPLACE Conference, participates in basic and advanced courses, Participation in WP7, hosts 3 ESRs. Prof. dr. Hilkka Vihinen is professor of Rural Policy at LUKE and will be involved for 10%. She has coordinated and participated in a number of national and EU research projects, such as SASSPO (coordinator, FP6), EUROLAN (WP coordinator), ETUDE (WP coordinator FP7), Eco villages (WP coordinator, Interreg Baltic Sea), COST 51 Integrating innovation and development policies for the forest sector. She leads the Green Economy – multidisciplinary research programme at LUKE and is the vice-Secretary General of the Finnish Rural Policy Committee, which stands for the national rural policy in Finland. Dr. Katriina Soini is a Principal Research Scientist at Luke and will be involved for 15%. She holds an adjunct professor at the University of Eastern Finland in environmental policy. Her research work covers widely topics related to sustainable development, in particular in the rural context. Theoretically her work is related to the environmental governance, place-based approaches and innovations. She has co-ordinated a number of national research projects and been involved in the EU -projects (e.g. EURECA/AGriGen) and networks. Currently she is co-ordinating the COST Action IS1007 'Investigating Cultural Sustainability'.
Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	At Luke, the Rural Policy team at the Economic Research Units LUKE Economics and Society Research Unit focuses on the social sciences and policy research covering topics ranging from local food systems, regional policy and new livelihoods based on sustainable use of natural resources. LUKE has several research units across Finland, which provides an excellent opportunity to focus on place-specific aspects and regional comparisons. Luke has close links to the leading organisations in the field of Green Economy in Finland (e.g. Finnish Environmental institute, Helsinki, Jyväskylä and Eastern Finland universities) as well as key rural policy actors (Rural Policy Committee). In terms of infrastructure, Luke possesses all the necessary facilities (room, computers, etc.) to accommodate ESRs.
Independent research premises?	Yes
Previous Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	LUKE has participated in several EU or national research projects related to the topic of the SUSPLACE programme. Participation in COST Action 866 <i>Green Care in Agriculture</i> resulted in many national research activities coordinated by MTT (one of the organisations merged into LUKE). Through the COST Action IS1007 'Investigating Cultural Sustainability' coordinated by Katriina Soini, a large network has been created in relation to place-based approaches in sustainable development. MTT co-organised a <i>PhD winter school</i> on Place-based approaches in Belgium in February 2014 and participated in a Baltic Sea INTERREG project. In the field of biodiversity MTT/Luke has participated in EU projects, in which conservation of local biodiversity has been explored as a part of the local livelihoods. (e.g. EURECA, 2006-2010/AGriGEN). As to sustainable living, Hilkka Vihinen leads BALANCE: Balancing local politics, housing preferences and sustainability in the new detached housing areas in the rural urban interaction zones (Finnish Academy of Sciences), and has been partner leader in Eco-villages for sustainable rural development.
Current involvement in	Currently Luke (co)hosts several EU or national research projects and networks, as for example:

Research and Training Programmes	Hunting and culturally sustainable rural development; Ecosystem Services and Human well-being; COST Action Investigating Cultural Sustainability; Vihinen and Soini act as Adjunct Professors and supervisors of PhD researchers and Master Thesis students for Jyväskylä University, University of Eastern Finland, University of Helsinki and University of Vaasa.
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation products	<p>Soini, K. & Birkeland, I. (2014). Exploring the scientific discourse of cultural sustainability. <i>Geoforum</i> 51, 213-223.</p> <p>Soini, K., Ovaska, U., Kantanen, J. (2012). Spaces of Conservation. The Case of Yakutian Cattle. <i>Sociologia Ruralis</i>, 52 (2): 170-191.</p> <p>Soini, K., Vaarala, H., Pouta, E. (2012). Residents' sense of place and rural landscape perceptions. <i>Landscape and Urban Planning</i> 4, 1: 124-134.</p> <p>Soini, K., Palang, H., Semm, K. (2006). From places to non-places. Landscape and sense of place in Finnish and Estonian countryside. In: Terkenli, T. and Hautsarre, A. (eds.) <i>Landscapes of a new cultural economy of space</i>. Part 4: Processes of deworldment. Landscape series 5. Kluwer Publishers, pp. 117-148.</p> <p>Vihinen, H., Kröger, L. (2008). The governance of markets. In: Van der Ploeg, J. and Marsden, T. (eds.) <i>Unfolding webs</i>, Van Gorcum.</p>

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Beneficiary Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven)	
General Description	The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) of the KU Leuven aims at providing attractive academic training at an international level in the fields of Bio-engineering, Geology, Geography and Tourism. The department aims at making an important contribution to the scientific understanding of societal issues such as environmental pollution, food production, climate change, nature and landscape management, soil and water management, exploitation of underground resources, rural and urban development, international development collaboration and tourism. KU Leuven boasts a rich tradition of education and research that dates back six centuries. The university's basic research orientation has always been and will remain fundamental research. At the same time, the university remains vigilantly open to contemporary cultural, economic and industrial realities, as well as to the community's needs and expectations.
Role and Commitment of key persons	Coordination of WP6, Participation in basic and advanced courses, Participation in WP7, hosts 2 ESRs. Erik Mathijs , professor, will be involved for 5%. Tessa Avermaete will be involved for 5%. Both will be involved in the research, supervision and training of ESRs.
Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	KU Leuven is currently by far the largest university in Belgium in terms of research funding and expenditure (EUR 365 million in 2012), and is a charter member of LERU. KU Leuven conducts fundamental and applied research in all academic disciplines with a clear international orientation. EES has close links to external agencies and professionals. Facilities: The department of EES runs and cooperates in several Master Programmes, has on-going PhD programmes and cooperates on PhD courses. In terms of infrastructure, the department of EES possesses all the necessary facilities (rooms, computers, etc.) to accommodate 2 ESRs. KU Leuven employs 7,018 researchers on its academic staff (2013). 39% of its graduate students and 36% of its postdoctoral researchers are international scholars (2011-2012). To strengthen international collaboration, KU Leuven has its own international research fellowship programme and supports international scholars in international funding applications. KU Leuven Research & Development (LRD) is the technology transfer office (TTO) of the KU Leuven. Since 1972 a multidisciplinary team of experts guides researchers in their interaction with industry and society, and the valorisation of their research results (101 spin offs, ...).
Independent research premises?	YES.
Previous Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	Leuven participates in over 540 highly competitive European research projects (FP7, 2007-2013), ranking sixth in the league of HES institutions participating in FP7. KU Leuven takes up the 8th place of European institutions hosting ERC grants (as first legal signatories of the grant agreement). To

	date, the 69 ERC Grantees (including affiliates with VIB and IMEC) in our midst confirm that KU Leuven is a breeding ground (49 Starting Grants) and attractive destination for the world’s best researchers. The success in the FP7 Marie Curie Actions is a manifestation of the three pillars of KU Leuven: research, education and service to society. In our 136 Actions, of which 53 Initial Training Networks, hundreds of young researchers have been trained through research and have acquired the necessary skills to transfer their knowledge into the world outside academia.
Current involvement in Research and Training Programmes	The department EES (co)hosts several EU or national research projects, as for example: GLAMUR, TRANSMANGO (KBBE.2013.2.5-01/613532), Food4Sustainability, the Erasmus Mundus STeDe.
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation products	<p>Kenis, A., Mathijs, E. (2012). Beyond individual behaviour change: the role of power, knowledge and strategy in tackling climate change. <i>Environmental Education Research</i> 18(1): 45-65.</p> <p>Mathijs, E., Nevens, F., Vandebroeck, P. (2013). <i>Transition to a sustainable agro-food system in Flanders: a system analysis</i>. MIRA Topic Report in collaboration with AMS, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.</p> <p>Kenis, A., Mathijs, E., 2014. (De)politicising the local: The case of the Transition Towns movement in Flanders (Belgium). <i>Journal of Rural Studies</i> 34: 172-183.</p> <p>Vranken, L., Avermaete, T., Petalios, D., Mathijs, E., 2014. Curbing global meat consumption: Emerging evidence of a second nutrition transition. <i>Environmental Science & Policy</i>, in press.</p> <p>Van Passel, S., Van Huylenbroeck, G., Lauwers, L., Mathijs, E., 2009. Sustainable value assessment of farms using frontier efficiency benchmarks. <i>Journal of Environmental Management</i> 90 (10): 3057-3069.</p>

Royal Haskoning DHV

Partner Organisation Royal Haskoning DHV (RHDHV)	
General description	Royal HaskoningDHV, headquartered in the Netherlands, ranking globally in the top 10 of independently owned, non-listed companies and top 40 overall, is an engineering and project management consultancy with over 130 years of experience. Our professionals deliver their services in the fields of asset management, aviation, buildings, energy, industry, infrastructure, maritime, mining, strategy, transport, urban and rural planning, water management and water technology. Backed by the expertise and experience of 7,000 colleagues all over the world, these professionals provide their services locally to public and private clients from 100 offices in 35 countries
Key Persons and Expertise	The company will be actively involved in the training of ESRs, the secondments, the Summer school and the Conference. Job van den Berg is senior consultant strategic management, leading professional governance & sustainability. Jantine Zwinkels is junior consultant sustainability.
Key Research facilities, infrastructure and Equipment	The company possesses a lot of conceptual, methodological and practical knowledge on processes of sustainable development and is willing to exchange experiences and insights with participants, scientists and policy-makers. This can be done during a master circle session, an innovative and certified method to empower and build the personal leadership development and skills of the participants in an organization context. Besides this knowledge Royal HaskoningDHV has also the right facilities. An important example of this is the I-room, which can be used to facilitate interactive workshops on multiple cases
Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	<p>Royal HaskoningDHV has a lot experience in facilitating training and educational programmes, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction courses on sustainability for consultants; • Courses how to implement sustainability in contracting and policy programmes ; • Courses on co-creation and building coalitions; • Training professional skills to facilitate workshops and interdisciplinary project teams • Master circle sessions for policy-makers, scientists and students.
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation	<p>RHDHV (2013) Integrated Planning and Design in the Delta.</p> <p>RHDHV (2011) Kwartiermakers van de toekomst (forerunners of the future).</p> <p>RHDHV (2012) Mastercircle, meesterschap in complexe ontwikkelingen (mastering complex</p>

product	development challenges).
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EXCEPT Integrated Sustainability

Partner Organisation EXCEPT Integrated Sustainability (Except)	
General description	<p>Except Integrated Sustainability is a Foundation which delivers concepts and strategies for resilient, just, and inspiring cities, companies, and governance. Since 1999 we bring together private and public partners and guide them towards systemic and fundamental improvement, where all stakeholders benefit. Our team of 30 multidisciplinary researchers, designers and strategists apply innovative systemic analysis, develop road maps towards resilience, and execute solutions with inspiring design. Together we bridge gaps between sectors to accelerate the frontier of sustainability, and create concepts that are realistic and feasible.</p> <p>Except develops cutting edge methodologies and tools for systemic improvement of socio-economic systems using its Symbiosis in Development (SiD) framework. SiD manages both the process and the theory to reach equitable, self-reliant and resilient communities, places, and organizations. It then guides stakeholders to design and execute projects based on these strategies to realize fundamental societal change.</p>
Key Persons and Expertise	<p>Tom Bosschaert, SiD Systems analysis, expertise in process design. Michiel van der Vight, expertise in Stakeholder participation and community involvement. Elke Miedema, expertise in future-proof buildings, places, and cities. Carmen Vercouteren, expertise in Industrial ecology and natural systems. Tim Horsten, expertise in resilient business and supply chain analysis.</p>
Key Research facilities, infrastructure and Equipment	Working spaces, research methodologies, knowledge databases, online collaboration tools.
Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	Yearly participation in research programmes of Yale University, Delft University, Wageningen University, Utrecht University, Brighton University and others. Collaboration with research institutes such as TNO, SIGN, Erasmus Knowledge Center, etc.
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation product	<p>Natural Capital, Innovation strategies for ecosystem service accounting (2013-2014) Symbiosis in Development (SiD) analysis and process framework (multiple publications, 2006-2014) Urban Renaissance; Partner-based transformation system for marginalized urban environments towards bottom-up resilient places. (multiple projects & publications, 2001-2014)</p>

Visionary Analytics

Partner Organisation Visionary Analytics (VA)	
General description	<p>Visionary Analytics is a research based policy advisory, specialising in education and innovation policy areas. It develops new tools and applies solid methods to provide tailored advice for the EU institutions and national governments. VA services focus across three domains: education, innovation and methods. Education policy is key area of our services. We focus on the following thematic areas: funding of education; education governance and reforms; and education insights incl. anticipating skills needs, green skills, education innovations, social innovations, transferability of skills; and school to work transitions. In line with our expertise in supporting innovation policy, we offer services in the below-mentioned broadly defined thematic areas: innovation policy and instruments; innovation governance; innovation systems; and RTDI strategies for organisations and sectors. Our expertise covers the following methods: impact assessment, policy evaluation, applied research and studies and foresight analysis.</p>
Key Persons and Expertise	<p>Dr Agnė Paliokaitė, Managing Director, expertise in innovation and research policy areas. Research Managers: Mr Simonas Gaušas, expertise in education policy area, but also greening and regional development; and Dr. Žilvinas Martinaitis, expertise in education, labour market and research policy areas. Ms Lina Kraučiuonienė, Quality Manager, experienced evaluator of public policies.</p>

Key Research facilities, infrastructure and Equipment	Visionary Analytics has office premises of around 70 square meters plus spacious meeting hall which is available upon need. VA has all the necessary equipment which is needed for the efficient and well-balanced work of its employees and for providing secondments to ESRs.
Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	Visionary Analytics mostly provides its services in the framework of service contracts with public institutions. Examples include: Identification of R&D and innovation priorities for Lithuanian Smart Specialisation Strategy; Support for testing, monitoring and analysis model – technical assistance in reporting on research and higher education; Cedefop project ‘Mid-term skills supply and demand forecast’; Ex-ante Assessment of Lithuania’s Participation in European Research Infrastructures; Technical assistance to Managing Authority for preparation of National Progress Programme; Technical assistance for the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre. Visionary Analytics is a member of CEDEFOP ReferNet and SkillsNet networks.
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation product	VA (2013) Young, Green and Union: addressing sustainable youth employment for Europe (general and 8 sectoral reports) , ETUC, 2013. VA (2013) Potential of Lithuanian education system to ensure the growth of competitiveness of the national engineering industry (in Lithuanian), The Engineering Industries Association of Lithuania (LINPRA). VA (2012) Ex-ante Assessment of Lithuania’s Participation in European Research Infrastructures (in Lithuanian), Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania.

Welsh Government

Partner Organisation Welsh Government (WG)	
General description	WG is one of the devolved administrations in the UK, with wide ranging responsibilities for policy, delivery and legislation, including in the fields of sustainable development, environment, land-use planning, housing, construction and regeneration.
Key Persons and Expertise	Matthew Quinn , Director Environment and Sustainable Development. He is Director, Environment & Sustainable Development in the Department for Natural Resources in the Welsh Government, with responsibility for all aspects of environment, nature, resource efficiency, sustainable development, energy and climate change policy, including the Future Generation’s Bill and Environment Bill in the Welsh Government legislative programme and Natural Resources Wales. He started his civil service career in 1986 in the former Department of the Environment in London and in 1990 he led part of the team that produced the first UK Environment White Paper, <i>This Common Inheritance</i> . Before coming to Wales, he was Director (Environment and Transport) in the Government Office for the South West.
Key Research facilities and Infrastructure	The Welsh Government is bound by its statute to pursue sustainable development in the carrying out of its functions. WG has the facilities to host ESRs. WG has teams engaged on social, economic and environmental research. Welsh Government has developed the Cynefin programme to test and develop better outcomes for places, assess new processes for joint working to support people in local places and engage them in effective policy making for sustainability. This is concentrated on three levels, Place, Process and Policy. Welsh Government has also published other research e.g.: Welsh Government & Zero Waste Scotland, Consumer Behavioural Study on the use and re-use of Carrier bags 2012; Welsh Government, Sustainability Survey 2011: Summary of Findings; Welsh Government, Technical Report for the Sustainability Segmentation Study 2011.
Previous and current involvement in Research and Training programmes	Welsh Government has strong links with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and in partnership with Cardiff University WG has facilitated a number of student placements. At present a PhD studentship is funded, working on Fuel Poverty and Community Energy. In addition WG supported the establishment of the NERC GW4 Doctoral training Partnership.

Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation product	WG (2013) Shaping a more prosperous and resilient future. Department for Natural resources and Food. WG (2013) Sustainable Development Indicators, Cardiff. Welsh Assembly Government (2009) One Wales: One Planet; The Sustainable Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff.
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Binaural – Associação Cultural de Nodar

Partner Organisation Binaural – Associação Cultural de Nodar (BN)	
General description	BN is a leading Portuguese socio-cultural NGO in the field of innovation in the use of creativity and audio-visual technologies for the documentation and promotion of both tangible and intangible features of rural areas. BN has developed a wide range of activities: hosting international media arts residencies in close contact with rural communities, management of sound and video memory archives, education activities about rural landscapes and soundscapes, definition of innovative and participate tourism-related activities, connecting visitors with experiences, methodologies and practices, and regular publication of cultural objects.
Key Persons and Expertise	Luis Costa , economist and managing director. He has expertise in management, ranging from industrial and financial holdings, rural development agencies to cultural organizations (sound and video ethno-anthropological research, in cultural and social mediation and in educational activities with rural youths and elders) and interaction with the academic world. Manuela Barile , media artist and artistic director. Expertise in media, performing arts practice and coordinator of creative-based educational activities in rural areas.
Key Research facilities, infrastructure and Equipment	BN employs 5 full-time staff in cultural management and production, rural heritage audio/visual documentation and rural development and empowerment. They are connected with local stakeholders (rural villages' inhabitants, municipalities, and regional development agencies), Portuguese government, national private foundations, universities and international partners. They are part of a European network of mountainous areas memory archives (funded by Culture EU Programme), and have been partners with Estonian, Italian and Spanish cultural organizations in hosting artist residencies, etc. BN has a dedicated office with four rooms in the village of Sul, São Pedro do Sul Municipality. BN is also equipped with state-of-the-art audio/video recording and editing equipment.
Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	Binaural's directors have been invited over the years to write scientific papers, to speak at conferences and lectures on scientific and exploratory arts, creativity in rural areas and rural development. Each year BN organizes a rural-based artist residency directed at master students in media arts. Also each year BN organizes an international summer school, crossing ethno-anthropological research with multimedia work in their territory. BN has partnerships in place with six Portuguese universities/schools, ranging from media arts, anthropology, visual cultures and territorial sciences.
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation product	Costa, L. & Costa, R. (eds) (2011) Three Years in Nodar – Context-Specific Art Practices in Rural Portugal (316 page catalogue with essays, field work documentation and sound samples from over 30 artists and researchers). Costa, L. (2011) Living an Ancient World – Texts of Art and Territory (120 page ebook). Costa, L. & Valverde, M.C. (2011) Landscape, Heritage and Local Participation the Building Blocks for a Rural Park Framework. Scientific paper published in the proceedings of International Geotourism Congress, Arouca 2011.

SKEY/GEN-Finland

Partner Organisation SKEY/GEN-Finland	
General description	SKEY (Suomen kestävän elämäntavan yhteisöt ry; unofficial name in English 'GEN-Finland') is a member of Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) Europe and a founding member of Baltic Ecovillage Network (BEN). GEN-Finland is a NGO and a national network of Eco villages and other sustainable lifestyle organisations, as well as individuals, who are interested in these aims and activities. GEN-

	Finland promotes sustainable life-style and communality by supporting development of new Eco villages, fostering collaboration between Eco villages, and reinforcing the common significance of eco-communities and sustainable lifestyle in Finland and internationally. A significant task of GEN-Finland is to follow-up and to attend R&D projects that support these topics.
Key Persons and Expertise	Mia Saloranta , chairman of the board; architect. Expertise: Eco village planning, green infrastructure, eco-building, international connections, project management. Ansa Palojärvi , board member of GEN-Finland and BEN; biologist, researcher. Expertise: ecology, sustainable farming and food production, Eco villages, urban agriculture.
Key Research facilities, infrastructure and Equipment	Main research facility is the network of Finnish Eco villages and eco-communities, altogether ten sites in different parts of rural Finland. The Eco villages provide basic office facilities and equipment.
Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	EU Erasmus+ application (2014-2016) for adult education organizations. Associate project partner in the 'Eco villages for Sustainable Rural Development' project (2010-2013) http://www.balticecovillages.eu/partners funded by Baltic Sea Regions Programme Supervising Master Thesis. Lecturing for architect students, eco-builders, and rural developers.
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation product	Saloranta M. (Ed.) (2014) LET-keskus: selvitys ekokyliien tarpeista ja ideoista - Liiteraportti Luomura ry:n LET-Keskus -esiselvityshankkeeseen (A report of a study concerning the needs of Eco villages for eco-building center in Finland), Luomura ry. Palojärvi, A., Pyysiäinen, J., Saloranta, M. (Eds.) 2013. Inspiring stories from Eco villages: experiences with ecological technologies and practices. BMK Leidykla. http://balticecovillages.eu/inspiring-stories-ecovillages-experiences-ecological-technologies-and-practices . KEKO Kestävän elämäntavan koulutusohjelma. (translation into Finnish: Ecovillage Design Curriculum). http://www.gaiaeducation.net/index.php/en/download-the-curriculum.html .

Kalnciema Quarter

Partner Organisation Kalnciema Quarter (KQ)	
General description	Kalnciema Quarter is a cultural SME in a creative urban district engaged in the multifunctional use of urban space and new forms of green marketing.
Key Persons and Expertise	Ms. Una Meiberga is a partner in EU FP 7 Project SUPURBFOOD aimed at promoting sustainable food provision in cities. She organises and has expertise in KQ farmers markets, cultural and educational activities. Mr. Karlis Dambergs is a chief manager of KQ, expert in urban renovation, architectural heritage, and revitalisation of urban space through combination of economic, social and cultural activities.
Key Research facilities, infrastructure and Equipment	KQ offers a seminar space, conference facilities, an exhibition hall, offers 6 wooden architecture buildings for public use, regular farmers markets and cultural activities. KQ can host ESRs to share experience on green economy, inclusive socialising, and place branding in urban settings.
Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes	As a partner in FP7 Project SUPURBFOOD, KQ develops a new internet platform to support organisation of farmers markets, participates in assessment of business models for multifunctional land use. KQ hosted a study visit of PhD researchers within Marie Curie ITN PUREFOOD, organises student training in wooden architecture, and courses on healthy diet for general public.
Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation product	Publications about KQ in: Die Zeit: http://www.zeit.de/2014/06/riga-kulturhauptstadt-szene-holzhaeuser Svenska Dagbladet: http://www.svd.se/resor/weekendresor/reseguid-riga_5429673.svd Cultural Heritage-Contemporary Challenge. The 4th Baltic Sea Region cultural heritage forum in Riga, 9-11th September 2010. http://balticregion.mantojums.lv/faili/VKPAI%20-%20Report%20(2012)[WEB].pdf Innovative products: New forms of farmers markets in Riga and the implementation of a new market platform: Markethopper.