

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	Mancomunidad de Municipios Alto Tajo
PIC number:	879821817
Project name and acronym:	RuralConnect

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	Rural voices – opening conference and thematic forums		
Type:	1 day - Awareness-raising Event		
In situ/online:	In-situ		
Location:	Zaorejas, Guadalajara, Spain		
Date(s):	February 12 th 2026		
Website(s) (if any):	www.rural-connect.eu		
Participants			
Female:	29		
Male:	21		
Non-binary:			
From country 4 [Spain]:	39		
From country 8 [Italy]:	4		
From country 13 [Ireland]:	1		
From country 14 [Luxembourg]:	3		
From country 14 [Romania]:	3		
Total number of participants:	50	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
The event took place in Zaorejas (Guadalajara, Spain) on 12 th February			

1. Organisers/hosts: mancomunidad de municipios alto tajo and asociación elebo (spain), with the ruralconnect consortium
2. the stakeholder session officially launched ruralconnect in spain and introduced the project to local and regional stakeholders (public authorities, civil society organisations, citizens, and community actors). the event addressed the current rural context: limited youth participation channels, reduced access to opportunities and services, and the need for structured, inclusive governance mechanisms that translate citizen input into concrete local action.
3. objectives
4. present ruralconnect's vision, core objectives, work plan and participation pathways
5. mobilise stakeholders to engage in national activities and become part of the project ecosystem
6. collect expectations, concerns and priority topics for rural territories
7. capture actionable citizen recommendations to feed into upcoming governance labs and the rural youth parliament methodology
8. agenda (summary)

16:00–16:15 institutional welcome and project presentation (host authority + introduction to ruralconnect and eu/cerv framing)

16:15–16:35 ruralconnect overview: objectives, work packages, roles, timeline, and engagement model

16:35–17:10 stakeholder dialogue: questions, needs, opportunities for involvement, and first expressions of interest

17:10–17:30 conclusions, next steps, and participation certificate information

9. main discussion points (synthesis)

participants emphasised that rural participation needs continuity (not one-off consultations), clear feedback loops from institutions, accessible formats (transport/hybrid options), and trust-building through quick wins. stakeholders highlighted the importance of connecting youth engagement to real municipal decision-making and of coordinating across municipalities to avoid fragmentation.

10. citizen recommendations:

- create recurring participation spaces with a public calendar and clear mandate
- ensure feedback loops: public response by authorities to proposals within a defined timeframe
- pilot small, visible actions early to build trust and momentum
- improve accessibility (mobility support and hybrid participation)
- train youth and facilitators in dialogue, mediation and civic engagement
- co-create a local participation charter and integrate it into municipal routines

11. participant feedback: the feedback was positive and focused on: clarity of the project roadmap, relevance for rural governance, and value of early stakeholder involvement. participants requested practical guidance on how to join activities and how recommendations will be tracked and used.

12. media coverage and visibility

The event was documented with photos and project-branded materials. dissemination will be ensured via the ruralconnect website and partners' communication channels (www.rural-connect.eu); Local media covered the launch of RuralConnect in the Alto Tajo area and the stakeholder session in Zaorejas, contributing to awareness and stakeholder mobilisation. Press coverage includes: Nueva Alcarria (9/02/2026): <https://nuevaalcarria.com/articulos/zaorejas-acoge-la-apertura-en-espana-de-ruralconnect-un-proyecto-europeo-para-dar-mas-voz-al-mundo-rural> and El Decano de Guadalajara (9/02/2026) <https://eldecanodeguadalajara.com/index.php/news/17351/ruralconnect-abre-en-el-alto-tajo-un-espacio-de-di%C3%A1logo-europeo-con-delegaciones-de-cinco-pa%C3%ADses/>

Radio Nacional de España (RNE) – RTVE Guadalajara provided public media coverage of RuralConnect through a phone interview with Elena Botezan (Asociación Elebo) in the local morning news programme 'Informativo Guadalajara Matinal' on 12 February 2026. The interview presented the project purpose, the stakeholder session in Zaorejas and the opportunities for local actors to engage with RuralConnect activities. The segment is available on RTVE Play (minute 07:10 to 08:10): <https://www.rtve.es/play/audios/castilla-la-mancha-informativos/informativo-guadalajara-matinal-12-02-26/16935179/>

This coverage strengthened territorial visibility, supported stakeholder mobilisation and reinforced EU/CERV communication objectives. Partners will further amplify the broadcast through the RuralConnect website and consortium channels, ensuring consistent EU funding acknowledgement and a clear call to action.

13. integration of the first transnational project meeting (tpm1)

the first tpm aligned partners on coordination routines, reporting cadence, quality assurance checkpoints, communication standards and evidence collection rules (attendance records, photo rights, feedback summaries). partners also confirmed the next milestones and the approach to stakeholder mobilisation across countries to ensure consistent implementation and dissemination.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	28.02.2026	Initial version.