

# ROBUST

## Unlocking Rural-Urban Synergies

### Two sides of the same coin



Cities are centres of industry and innovation while the countryside remains a place for food production and recreation. This image often dominates our understanding of rural and urban areas.

The research project ROBUST breaks with these stereotypes and stresses inter-connection, interdependence and blending of the rural and the urban. ROBUST advances our understanding of the interactions between rural, peri-urban and urban areas. It identifies and promotes policies, governance models and practices that foster mutually beneficial relations.

### Functional relations between rural and urban

Urban and rural areas are connected through a variety of functional linkages. ROBUST analyses these relations and interdependencies between rural, peri-urban and urban areas in 5 thematic categories.



New businesses and labour markets



Public infrastructures and social services



Sustainable food systems



Cultural connections



Ecosystem services

### Living Labs and Communities of Practice

ROBUST works with 11 Living Labs and 5 Communities of Practice to identify and promote policies, governance models and practices that foster mutually beneficial relations.

#### Living Labs

Policy makers, researchers, citizens, businesses and other stakeholders develop and test new solutions for rural-urban interactions.



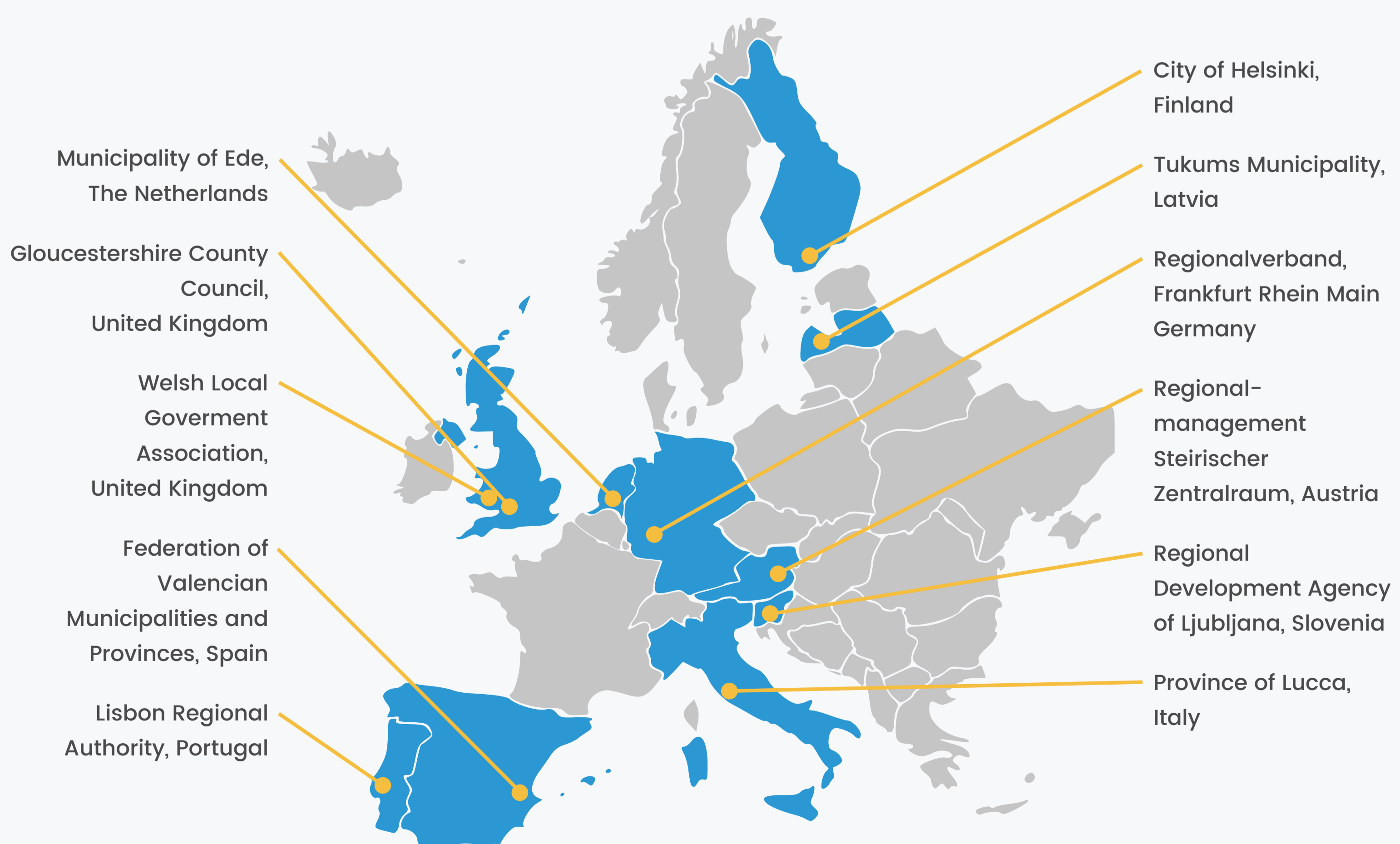
#### Communities of Practice

In 5 Communities of Practice the Living Labs share their findings and experiences across Europe. They are: New businesses and labour market, Public infrastructures and social services, Sustainable food systems, Cultural connections, Ecosystem services.



### Analysing rural-urban relations across Europe

ROBUST works with 11 case studies across Europe to analyse rural-urban linkages. In each case study region, a partner from the public sector teams up with a local research partner.



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Rural-Urban Europe

ROBUST is a European research project involving 24 partners from 11 countries. Find out more on [rural-urban.eu](http://rural-urban.eu)

