ROBUST
Unlocking Rural-Urban Synergies

Cities are centres of industry and innovation while the countryside remains a place for food production and recreation. The 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 enhances 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.

Living Labs and Communities of Practice

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

New businesses and labour markets
Public infrastructures and social services
Sustainable food systems
Cultural connections
Ecosystem services

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

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.

Analysing rural-urban relations across Europe

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

Municipality of Ede, The Netherlands
Gloucestershire County Council, United Kingdom
Welsh Local Government Association, United Kingdom
Federation of Valencian Municipalities and Provinces, Spain
Province of Lucca, Italy
City of Helsinki, Finland
Takoma Municipality, Canada
Regionalverband, Frankfurt Rhein Main, Germany
Regional问我，管理-Steirischer Zentralraum, Austria
Regional Development Agency of Ljubljana, Slovenia

ROBUST is a European research project involving 24 partners from 11 countries. Find out more on rural-urban.eu

RuralUrbanEurope
Research
Province of Lucca,
Italy
Stakeholders develop and test new solutions for rural-urban interactions.

ROBUST receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727988.

RuralUrbanEurope
Practice

Rural-Urban Europe
Public infrastructures and social services
Sustainable food systems
Cultural connections
Ecosystem services

@RuralUrbanEU
#robustproject

ROBUST is a European research project involving 24 partners from 11 countries. Find out more on rural-urban.eu

Analysing rural-urban relations across Europe

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

Municipality of Ede, The Netherlands
Gloucestershire County Council, United Kingdom
Welsh Local Government Association, United Kingdom
Federation of Valencian Municipalities and Provinces, Spain
Province of Lucca, Italy
City of Helsinki, Finland
Takoma Municipality, Canada
Regionalverband, Frankfurt Rhein Main, Germany
Regional-Steirischer Zentralraum, Austria
Regional Development Agency of Ljubljana, Slovenia

ROBUST is a European research project involving 24 partners from 11 countries. Find out more on rural-urban.eu

RuralUrbanEurope
Research
Province of Lucca,
Italy
Stakeholders develop and test new solutions for rural-urban interactions.

ROBUST receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727988.