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RESEARCH PROJECT

TAE Labs

In progress TEALabs | 13/05/2025 → 30/04/2028

Territorial Agroecological Living Labs



Contact our coordinator



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comprehensive, globally oriented, and at the same time, **place-based framework of Territorial Agroecological Living Labs-TAELabs**. The project will propose innovations on the three transition domains proposed by López-García and González de Molina (2021): (1) **ecological and biophysical domain**; (2) **socio-economic domain**; and (3) **governance and policy domain**. The project will be developed in **5 Living Labs** (LLs) at landscape/territorial levels, covering fringe territories in metropolitan (n=3) and rural settings (n=2): **Madrid** (SP), **Rome** (IT), **Sörmland** (SE), **Brandenburg** (DE), and **Bornholm** (DK), in Northern and Southern European territories with **different climate and socio-historical and economic contexts**. While a specific geographic approach to TAELabs will be developed in WP1, the Figure shows the main features of each of the LLs' territories.



- 2 TAE Labs in metropolitan areas
 - Madrid region
 - Rome region
- 2 TAE Labs in rural areas
 - Easter Brandenburg
 - Bornholm
- 1 TAE Lab covering urban-rural areas
 - Sörmland

Common challenge:
Creation of an



Place-based, globally suitable
transition pathways
towards Agroecology-based territorialised
agri-food system in fringe territories

Source: Daniel López García

Fringe territories are peripheral spaces to the main socio-economic dynamics, but at the same time setting linkages between different territories, which host fringe (socio-economic) actors needed for sustainable localized dynamics of innovation. A special focus will be placed on the **assemblage** (Latour 2005) **between biophysical and social infrastructures, rural and urban settings, and fringe and core territories**, as well as **between actors**, with an intersectional focus to address different axes of inequality (gender, race, income, territory, etc.) in joining transitions (Facchini et al. 2024).

In **WP1**, the LLs will critically assess the agri-food system in each territory, identify its boundaries both in theoretical and empirical terms, the challenges they face, and co-design potential pathways to scale agroecology in each territory.

WP2, a common TAE Labs methodology will be performed in all LLs case studies, adapted to each local condition and its differentiated evolution. We will apply different transdisciplinary and co-design tools for systematic socio-ecological assessment of the LL evolution and performance, and its outcomes, through participatory and iterative processes. WP2 will coordinate the information flow between LLs and the different WPs, to feed local reflection and knowledge co-creation process.

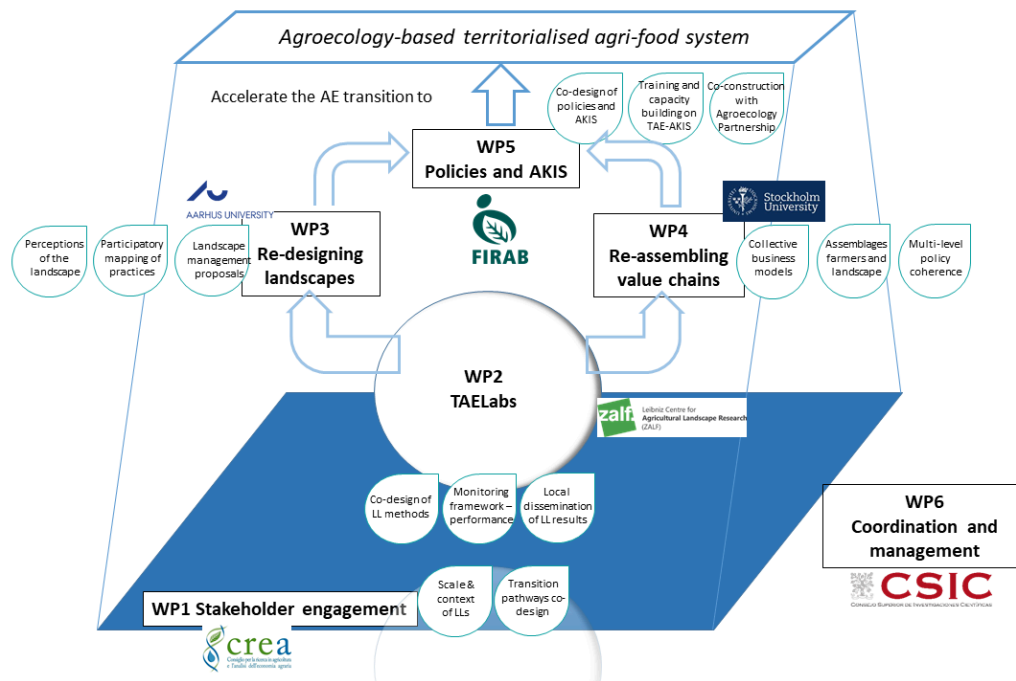
In **WP3**, an ecological and biophysical assessment will be performed, focusing on how different configurations of local food systems strengthen ecological

sustainability and improve the management of biodiversity by selecting specific farming methods and practices.

In **WP4**, we will investigate how collective, agroecology-oriented business models are assembled locally with different local actors, the landscape, physical infrastructures and multi-level policies, to enhance economic viability and equity. A participatory policy coherence analysis will be carried out, focusing on agro-food, environmental, and territorial planning policies, closely linked to the analysis of value chain assemblages.

WP5 will gather outputs from all previous WP's to stimulate newly designed policy measures and AKIS interventions that may enable and accelerate the agroecological transition at different territorial scales, with a special focus on conventional farmers, in dialogue with both local and extra-local research R+D processes.

A final **WP6** will manage coordination, communication, risk and ethics, impacts maximization, and data production, storage and dissemination.



Source: Daniel López García

Publications

[Interview with project coordinator Daniel López García](#)

Top image: Food market. Source: [Thomas Le](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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