RURACTIVE

Südburgenland, Austria

D2 - Local Action Plan

Co-funded by the European Union

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

UK Research and Innovation

Authors:

- **Wirtschaftsagentur Burgenland GmbH**
  Thomas Böhm, Nina Peischl
- **Bundesanstalt für Agrarwirtschaft und Bergbauernfragen**
  Theresia Oedl-Wieser, Oliver Tamme, Martina Schorn

- **University of Bologna Mentors:**
  Benedetta Cavalieri,
  Tyler von der Heyden

0. Reading This Local Action Plan

This Local Action Plan (LAP) documents the co-development process of solutions undertaken by each Dynamo to establish and empower its local Multi-Actor Rural Innovation Ecosystem (RIE). It is the result of a 12-month participatory and inclusive community-led process from May 2024 to May 2025, and contains both the description of the four steps taken to activate the RIE as well as the co-developed, innovative, place based solutions that will be implemented to support the just, sustainable and smart transition of the Dynamo's territory.

The solutions described in the LAP target one or more core Rural Development Drivers (RDDs, namely: Sustainable multimodal mobility; Energy transition and climate neutrality; Sustainable agrifood systems and ecosystem management; Nature-based and cultural tourism; Culture and cultural innovation; Local services, health and wellbeing) and integrate aspects from the three RURACTIVE crosscutting priorities (climate change mitigation and adaptation, social justice and inclusion, and biodiversity), and take into account gender considerations. During the co-development phase, Dynamos activated, engaged and empowered the local community through four Local Workshops (LWs) that provided support in defining their place-based solutions. This LAP presents the results of these four LWs, highlighting the crucial role of the local community in creating each solution proposal. For further reference to the methodology to activate the RIE and to the conceptual framework of RURACTIVE, the full documents are available on the website.

Each LAP is organised into six main sections:

- Background and Strategic Vision – Introduces the territory, its cultural identity, socio-economic profile, and key development challenges. Further, it outlines the chosen RDDs that guided the focus of local action.
- Step 0: Getting Started – Describes the early activities to set up the foundational elements of the RIE and frame the work, including the selection of the RDDs and territories where the LAPs will be implemented, mapping of previous participatory processes, and a review of relevant local and regional policies.
- Step 1: Identification – describes the activities undertaken for brainstorming, analysing and prioritising local stakeholders
- Step 2: Engagement – explains how local actors were involved through events like Open Days and the creation of Local Task Forces (LTFs).
- Step 3: Empowerment – summarises the series of Local Workshops (LWs 1–4), the recruitment of Local Community Trainers (LCTs) for capacity building and training of local communities, how local challenges were identified, and how solutions were co-designed and refined through structured participation.
- Place-Based Solutions – Lists the key challenges identified and introduces detailed breakdowns of the main place-based solutions co-developed with RIE stakeholders to be carried forward into the implementation stage starting from September 2025

This LAP serves as both a strategic roadmap and a practical implementation tool. It is intended to guide the co-implementation of local solutions and to support replication efforts by other rural communities across Europe in the future. The LAP has been collaboratively developed by the Dynamo partner in close cooperation with their RIE stakeholders, with support and guidance from mentors at the University of Bologna and RURACTIVE project partners.

1. Background Information

The gently rolling landscape of the southern Burgenland hill country descends from the East Styrian hill country and the Günser Mountains to the southeast. The highest points in this region, situated just south of the Günser Mountains, reach slightly over 400 meters above sea level. The southern area is deeply influenced by the course of the River Raab, which meanders through the land, shaping the terrain with its numerous tributaries and inlets. This river system, along with its winding waterways, plays a vital role in the area's natural beauty and ecological character, contributing to the distinctiveness of the landscape in this part of Burgenland.

The region is home to three stunning nature parks, which encompass 19 communities working together to preserve and promote the local natural environment. In addition to these parks, the area features four designated Natura 2000 sites, which are recognized for their exceptional biodiversity and ecological significance. These nature parks, along with the Natura 2000 areas, serve as exemplary models for sustainable development, showcasing the concept of "protection through utilization." This approach emphasizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing natural landscapes by integrating sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and the local communities. The aim is to balance ecological preservation with the responsible use of natural resources, ensuring the long-term stability and resilience of these unique areas.

Figure 1. *Images of the gently rolling landscape of the southern Burgenland hill country*

2. Step 0: Getting started

2.1. Chosen RDDs

 **Sustainable agri-food systems and ecosystem management**	The Südburgenland focus lies in promoting agricultural products and in engaging with and supporting farmers, particularly given their limited resources for marketing. Efforts are made to advance agri-tourism initiatives that connect visitors with local farmers, showcasing traditional and sustainable food production methods.
 **Nature-based and cultural tourism**	The aim is to enhance nature-based and cultural tourism by developing immersive and educational experiences. Local cultural narratives are integrated into these tours to offer visitors a deeper understanding of the area's cultural and natural heritage. By promoting sustainable tourism practices, benefits are ensured for both the local community and the natural environment.
 **Culture and cultural innovation**	Developing new perspectives and growth opportunities for existing cultural activities is also a priority. This is pursued by involving and collaborating with new stakeholders in the region who can contribute fresh insights and good practices for local implementation. Cultural innovation efforts concentrate on preserving and promoting the unique heritage of southern Burgenland.
 **Sustainable multimodal mobility**	As an organisation, support is provided for the development of hiking and cycling routes along the new "Bahntrassenweg" (railway path). This initiative aims to involve municipalities, accommodation providers, and inns, ensuring the route's long-term sustainability and vitality.

2.2. Starting to set up the RIE

For the identification and engagement of stakeholders, previous projects with relevant thematic focus were analysed to determine potential participants for this initiative. Thomas Böhm from WAB and Theresia Oedl-Wieser from BAB were selected as RIE coordinators because of their extensive expertise and strong regional networks. Thomas Böhm is well-connected within the region and had significant experience in project coordination and partnership development, while Theresia Oedl-Wieser has a strong local network in Vienna and expertise in agricultural development and related thematic areas. The selected locations for periodic workshops and engagement activities were

Castle Jormannsdorf, the Bird Watching Tower in Rechnitz, the Infopoint Moschendorf, and Minihof Liebau – Jost Mill. Each of these venues was easily accessible, barrier-free, and equipped with technical infrastructure, including Wi-Fi, ensuring seamless execution of all planned activities. These locations offered suitable environments for stakeholder engagement and collaborative project development.

Figure 2. *Selected locations for periodic workshops and engagement activities: Castle Jormannsdorf (top left), Birdwatching Tower Rechnitz (top right), Info Point Moschendorf (bottom left), Jost Mill in Minihof Liebau (bottom right).*

2.3. Local Policy Analysis Results

The analysis of local policies in Burgenland highlights a strong strategic focus on sustainability, climate protection, agriculture, mobility, and tourism. These priorities align with the objectives of our project. At the regional level, the LEADER strategies for North, Central, and South Burgenland play a crucial role in rural development, emphasizing local participation. Additionally, the Burgenland Tourism Strategy 2030, the Climate Strategy, the Bio-Strategy, and the Sustainability Strategy support environmentally friendly and resilient local economies. The Transport and E-Mobility Strategies aim to promote sustainable mobility, complementing RURACTIVE's goal of enhancing smart rural transport solutions. The Future Agriculture Strategy fosters innovation in farming, aligning with our focus on sustainable agri-food systems.

At the national level, policies such as the CAP Strategic Plan Austria 2023–2027, the National Water Management Plan, and the Nitrate Action Program reinforce sustainable land and resource management. The Mobility Master Plan 2030 and the Electromobility Act set the framework for a greener transport sector, crucial for inclusive and connected rural areas—another key aspect of our

project. The Plan T Master Plan for Tourism strengthens sustainable tourism development, supporting RURACTIVE's vision of rural revitalization through nature-based and cultural tourism. Cross-cutting themes such as social inclusion and equality, addressed in the Federal Equal Treatment Act and the 2030 Agenda, align with RURACTIVE's commitment to participatory, community-driven rural transformation. Additionally, the Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2030+ contributes to the project's objectives by emphasizing the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity. Overall, these policies create a solid foundation for implementing RURACTIVE's approach, ensuring that rural regions in Burgenland can thrive through sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development.

***Figure 3**. Local policy factsheet based on the chosen RDDs.*

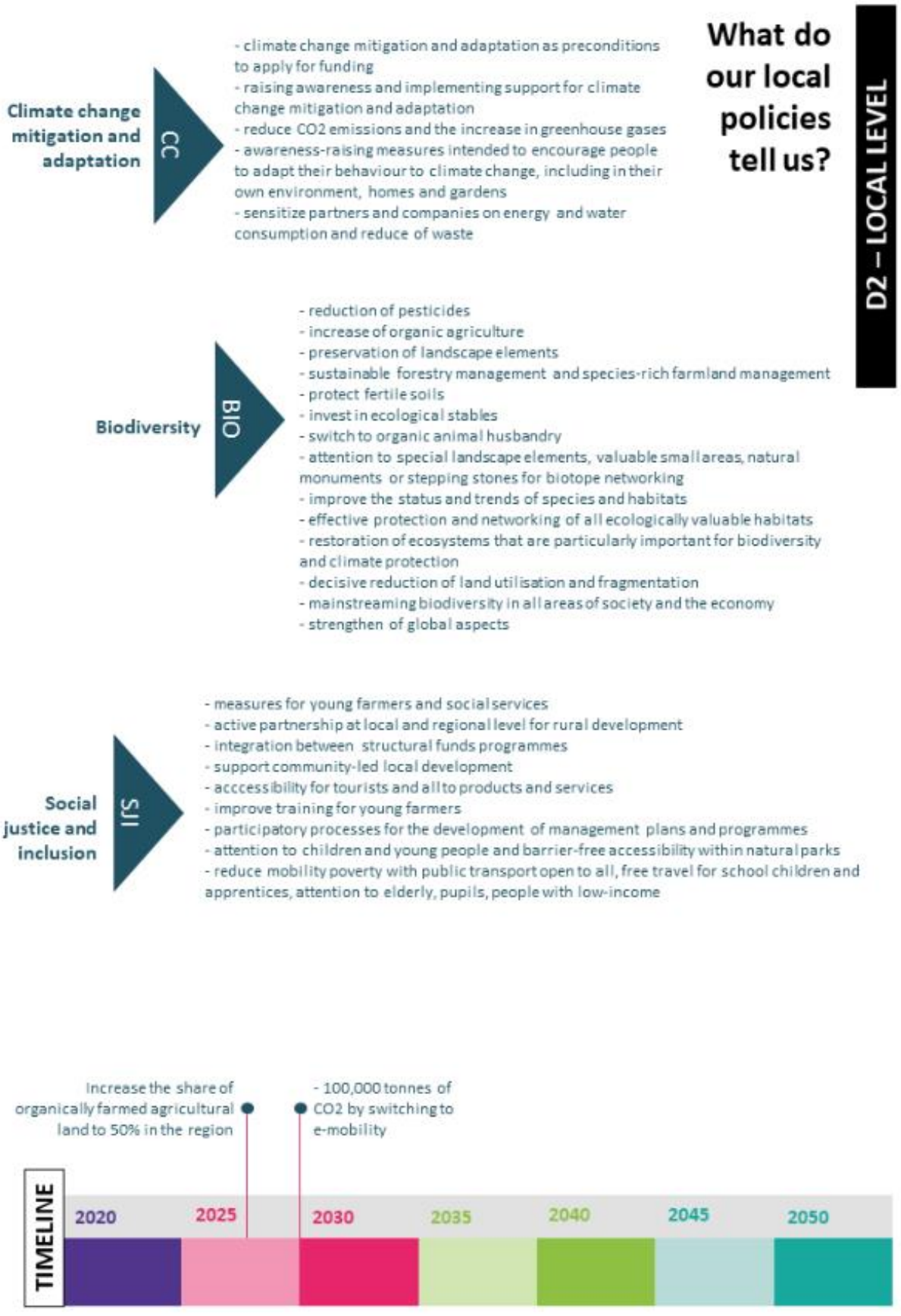

Figure 4. *Local policy factsheet based on the cross-cutting priorities*

3. Step 1: Stakeholders Identification: brainstorming, analysing and prioritising

3.1. RIE composition

As part of the identification and engagement of relevant stakeholders, previous projects with a similar thematic focus were analysed to determine potential participants for this initiative. The following projects were specifically considered:

- LIVERUR - LIVING LAB RESEARCH CONCEPT IN RURAL AREAS (www.liverur.eu)
- LUIGI - Linking Urban and Inner-Alpine Green Infrastructure - Multifunctional Ecosystem Services for more Liveable Territories (https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/luigi/)
- ROBUST - Unlocking Rural-Urban Synergies (a Horizon2020 project with BAB participation, https://rural-urban.eu/)

A database containing a list of 53 diverse stakeholders was created based on this information. A stakeholder mapping analysis was then conducted, classifying the importance and role of each stakeholder according to the Rural Development Drivers (RDD).

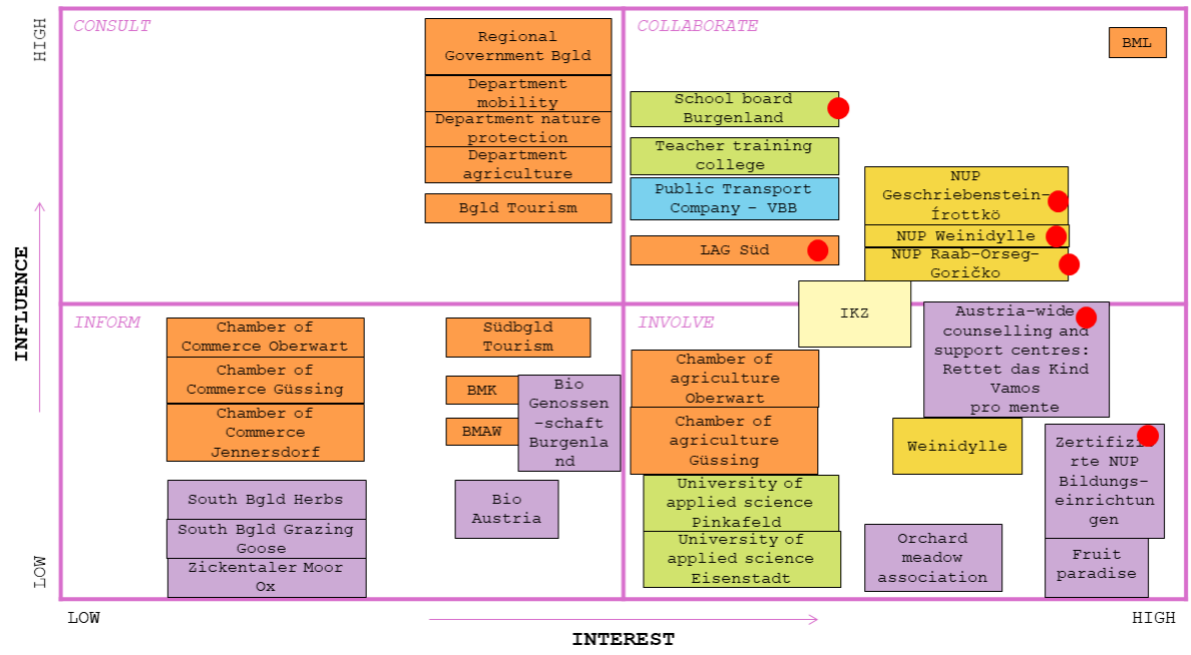

Figure 5. *Stakeholder identification matrix. Red dots represent stakeholders at risk of exclusion. The domains are represented by the colours: (Policy = orange, Research = green, Industry/services/investors = blue, Public/user = purple).*

Based on this analysis, stakeholders were selected from whom high participation is expected, due to previous successful collaborations and experience. Additionally, key institutions necessary for the implementation of specific project activities were identified. Considering the project objectives and resources, the selection was limited to a group of relevant stakeholders to ensure efficient and targeted collaboration:

1. Regional Government Burgenland, Department nature protection
2. South Burgenland Tourist Organisation

3. Chamber of Agriculture - District Department Oberwart
4. Chamber of Agriculture - District Department Güssing/Jennersdorf
5. Nature Park GESCHRIEBENSTEIN-ÍROTTKÖ
6. Nature Park Weinidylle
7. Nature Park Raab-Őrség-Goričko
8. LAG South / South Burgenland Plus
9. Teacher Training college
10. School Board Burgenland
11. Certified NUP educational institutions
12. Regional Government Burgenland, Department agriculture
13. Regional Government Burgenland, Mobility Department
14. University of applied sciences Pinkafeld

4. Step 2: Stakeholders' engagement: local task force and involving stakeholders

4.1. LTF composition

The Local Task Force is a multidisciplinary team composed of experts from various sectors, working together to promote sustainable regional development. The team includes professionals from economic, environmental, educational, and social sectors, ensuring a strong base to address local challenges. Currently, 33% of the members are female, while 67% are male. Members of the LTF:

© WKB

Christoph Winkler, Regional Office Manager Oberwart – Chamber of Commerce Burgenland

Engelbert Kenyeri, Chairperson – Nature Park Geschriebenstein

Christine Zopf-Renner, Head of Coordination, Project Development & Bicycle Coordinator – Mobility Center Burgenland

Elisabeth Kopfer-Grosz,Representative – Weinidylle

Robert Nehfort, Representative – University College of Teacher Education Burgenland

Rene Höfer, Managing Director – Vamos Association for Integration

Oliver Stangl, Managing Director – Südburgenlandplus Association

© Karl Schrotter

Elisabeth Pichler, Department Head for Federal School Cluster & Quality School Coordinator – Education Campus Oberwart

Martin Wagner, Local Community Trainer

4.2. Open Day

On July 25, 2024, the Open Day of the Horizon Europe project RURACTIVE took place at the historic Jormannsdorf Castle, offering a valuable platform for discussing and further developing innovative ideas for regional development in Southern Burgenland. Around 40 representatives from various sectors, including politics, research, business, and interested citizens, gathered to exchange ideas on current projects and to contribute to shaping the future of rural areas.

The event featured a marketplace filled with new and creative ideas. Over 40 stakeholders and actors in regional development took the opportunity to connect and discuss topics such as sustainable mobility, accessibility, innovation support, and environmental certification. Special attention was given to sustainable mobility solutions for rural areas, which attracted 16 participants, as well as cross-border projects like the "Castle Road," aimed at promoting cultural exchange and tourism. Climate neutrality was another key topic, sparking discussions with 22 participants, alongside nature and cultural tourism, which played a central role in the event and was of great interest to 26 attendees.

***Figure 6**. Participants in the RURACTIVE Open Day at the historic Jormannsdorf Castle*

The event attracted a diverse age group, ranging from 18 to over 65 years old, which fostered a wide range of perspectives on the issues discussed. Social inclusion was particularly emphasized, with participants from potentially disadvantaged groups, including migrants (1) and people with disabilities (2), contributing to an open and inclusive dialogue.

In addition to the main topics, the event focused on the exchange of concrete implementation projects, where participants shared their experiences and ideas. These included initiatives such as start-up support, the development of carbon sinks in nature park management, and the promotion of barrier-free nature experiences in the region’s parks. Environmental certification in tourism and the development of cross-border projects was also prominently featured.

The Wirtschaftsagentur Burgenland showcased the progress of the Horizon Europe project RURACTIVE during the event, highlighting its role as an important platform for implementing innovative regional development strategies.

5. Step 3: Stakeholders Empowerment

5.1. LCT Recruitment

Martin Wagner has deep connections to South Burgenland, dedicating years to empowering local communities, schools, and organisations. His work fosters positive change through entrepreneurship, education, and innovation. Martin's impact is evident in initiatives like SAVIO Burgenland and CARITAS Burgenland, where he provided pro bono advisory services, coordinated youth projects, and built impactful partnerships. As co-founder of the deep-tech scale-up NXRT, he secured a seven-figure investment (40+ employees) to develop XR simulation solutions, advancing innovation in automotive and training industries while contributing to regional growth.

Figure 7. Local Community Trainer of D2

Through the Initiative for Teaching Entrepreneurship, Martin has inspired young minds in Burgenland with workshops on entrepreneurial design and project management, preparing them to embrace change and innovation. With education from institutions like the WU Vienna, University of St. Gallen and Cambridge, Martin combines global knowledge with a profound understanding of South Burgenland's needs, aligning innovation with regional goals. A Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree, Martin has supported over 1,000 early-stage ideas and startups, mentoring entrepreneurs to create ventures that drive meaningful change.

5.2. LWs1 Vision and Challenges

On October 3rd, 2024, the first RURACTIVE local workshop for Southern Burgenland took place at the Wine Museum in Moschendorf. The goal was to collaboratively identify key regional challenges and lay the foundation for future solutions. A total of 15 participants attended, including 8 newcomers to the project. Participants represented a broad age range: 2 were aged 18–35, 5 were 35–50, 6 were 50–65, and 1 was over 65. The group included 9 women and 5 men. Individuals from socially excluded groups were present as well: 2 people with disabilities, 2 long-term unemployed persons, and 2 identifying as LGBTQIA+. Stakeholders came from diverse backgrounds—policy (4), research (4), public/users (4), and industry/services (1)—and were active in various RDDs, particularly nature-based tourism (12), local services and well-being (9), sustainable mobility (6), and energy transition (5).

During the workshop, eight region-specific challenges were identified, such as limited culinary services along the Bahntrassenweg cycle path, lack of digital tools in tourism, low volunteer engagement in environmental protection, and the need for sustainable mobility and agricultural solutions.

The shared vision for 2050 is for Southern Burgenland to become a model region for sustainable tourism and agrifood systems.:, It envisions the integration of environmental stewardship, digital innovation (e.g., AR/VR trails), and community engagement. Focus areas include biodiversity conservation, regenerative agriculture, local food processing, and youth involvement—aiming to create a resilient, eco-conscious, and economically vibrant region.

Figure 7. *Discussion and location of the RURACTIVE LWs1 for Southern Burgenland at the Wine Museum in Moschendorf*

List of challenges	
Challenge 1 - Place based	**Culinary provision for cyclists - tourists and locals - along the 'Bahntrassenweg' cycle path is inadequate.**
Challenge 2 - Place based	**Insufficient volunteer participation in environmental and nature protection in Southern Burgenland.**
Challenge 3 - Place based	**Sustainable utilisation options for grass from the protected areas**
Challenge 4 - Place based	**Reduction of motorized private transport**
Challenge 5 - Place based	**Car-free arrival and exploration of a nature park**
Challenge 6 – For open call for innovators	**There is not enough digital audio-visual support for the existing leisure and tourism attractions in southern Burgenland**
Challenge 7 – For open call for innovators	**Cycling without Age**
Challenge 8 – For open call for innovators	**Cooling system for the grape harvest**

5.3. LWs2 Learning from others

The second RURACTIVE local workshop for Southern Burgenland took place on January 23rd, 2025, at Castle Jormannsdorf. The event focused on co-creating initial solution ideas for region-specific challenges identified in Workshop 1. After a short presentation of the RURACTIVE project and the challenges to be addressed, participants assigned themselves to thematic groups based on their interests. Each group worked collaboratively to develop concrete solution proposals, using the RURACTIVE methodology. To encourage wider idea generation, all participants had the opportunity to contribute to an online word cloud, collecting additional suggestions in real time. The session concluded with a prioritization phase, where participants scored ideas to determine which solutions should be developed further.

The workshop gathered 15 participants, including three newcomers. Age distribution included three participants aged 18–35, three aged 35–50, six aged 50–65, and three aged 65–80. The gender split was balanced: eight female and seven male participants. Stakeholders came from various sectors—industry/services (7), research (6), policy (2), and public/users (4)—and were active in diverse RDDs such as nature-based tourism (7), sustainable mobility (7), energy transition (6), and agrifood systems (7). The participatory process resulted in the formulation of innovative solution concepts, including a Green Food Cruiser, volunteer engagement models, compact biogas plants, and mobility communication improvements—laying the groundwork for targeted place-based actions in the region.

Figure 9. Discussion and group work at the RURACTIVE LWs2 hosted at Castle Jormannsdorf

List of challenges	
Challenge 1 - Place based	**Culinary provision for cyclists - tourists and locals - along the 'Bahntrassenweg' cycle path is inadequate.**
Challenge 2 - Place based	**Insufficient volunteer participation in environmental and nature protection in Southern Burgenland.**
Challenge 3 - Place based	**Lack of sustainable grass management including the non-use and mowing in protected areas.**
Challenge 4 - Place based	**Need to reduce motorised private transport.**
Challenge 5 – Place based	**Need to replace car travels within the nature park (arrival and exploration).**

List of solutions proposals	
Proposal 1	**Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser – Regional Supply for Cyclists Along the Bike Path**
Proposal 2	**Accompanied Volunteer Work and Corporate Volunteering to Promote Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland**
Proposal 3	**Volunteering in Southern Burgenland as a Unique Holiday and Leisure Experience**
Proposal 4	**Sustainable Grassland Management through Compact Biogas Small-Scale Plants for the Preservation of Protected Areas**
Proposal 5	**Hay Pellets for Sustainable Energy Production: Using Hay from Protected Areas as Regional Heating Material**
Proposal 6	**Optimization of Communication of Public Transport Services in Burgenland**

5.4. LWs3 Fine-Tuning

The third RURACTIVE local workshop for Southern Burgenland took place on March 24th, 2025, at Castle Jormannsdorf. Building on the results of LWs2, participants collaboratively advanced the development of concrete solution concepts. Prior to the event, participants were assigned to three working groups, each focusing on one of the top-priority solutions selected through voting at the end of LWs2, followed by feasibility research. The three solutions addressed were:

1. Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser – Regional Supply for Cyclists Along the Bahntrassen Bike Path,
2. Integrated Engagement Concept for Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland, which split into two distinct concepts during group work:
    a. Corporate Engagement Concept and
    b. Nature Action Program for Schools, and
3. Sustainable Grassland Management through Compact Biogas Small-Scale Plants.

Using the RURACTIVE Canvas, the groups refined key challenges, objectives, and implementation strategies for each solution. The workshop brought together 23 participants, including 9

newcomers. Age distribution was diverse: 5 participants were aged 18–35, 8 were 35–50, 9 were 50–65, and 1 was over 65. The gender balance included 14 men and 9 women. Among the group, 1 person identified as having a disability, 1 as long-term unemployed, and 1 as LGBTQIA+. Participants represented different sectors: research (8), policy (5), public/users (7), and industry/services (3), and were active across several RDDs—most notably in energy transition (12), mobility (9), and tourism (10).

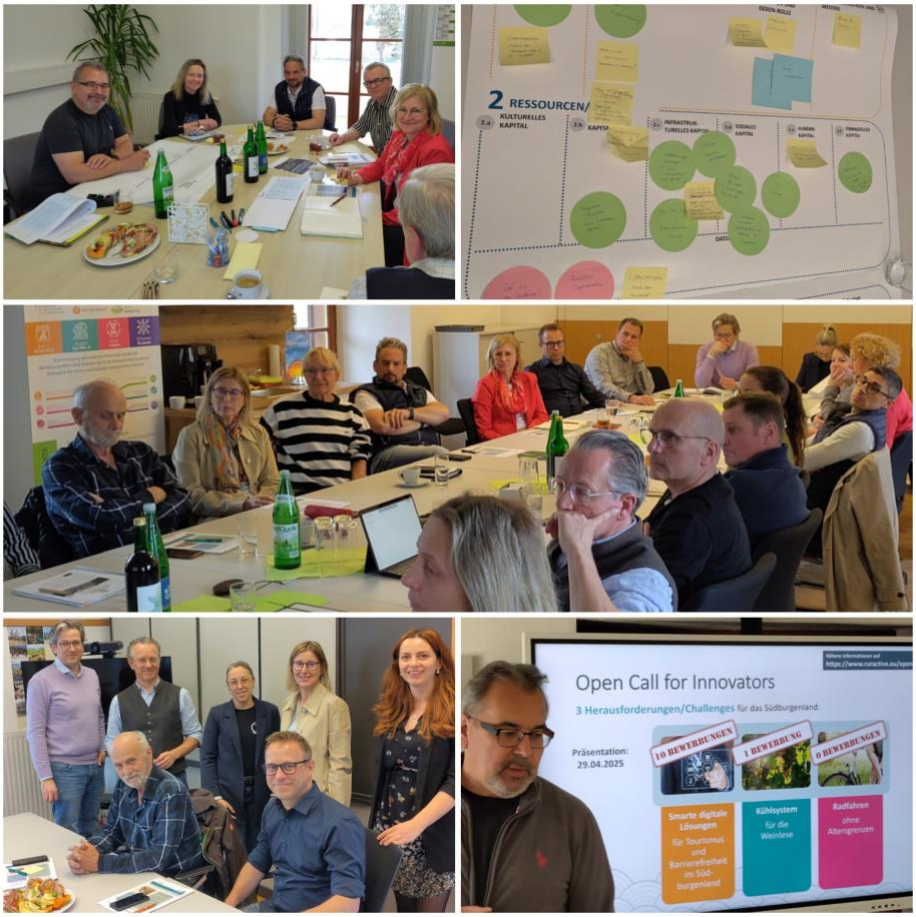

Figure 10. Co-development work on rural development solutions at the RURACTIVE LWs3 workshop hosted at Castle Jormannsdorf

5.5. LWs4 Co-Tuning

Local Workshop 4 (LWs4) was divided into two separate sessions to better tailor the content and ensure that the most relevant stakeholders were present for each topic.

Part 1 – Cooling System for Grape Harvest

The first session took place on April 29, 2025, from 14:00 to 18:00 at the Technology Center in Güssing. A total of 10 participants attended, including winemakers from the region. The session focused on the challenge “Cooling system for the grape harvest”. One innovator was invited to present a solution: the Peltier Cooling System (PeCoS) for use during grape harvesting. As part of the workshop, the planned prototype of the PeCoS cooling system was thoroughly discussed with the participating winemakers. The feedback received led to several practical suggestions for improvement and a collaborative approach to modifying the prototype to better suit real-world needs.

***Figure 8**. The first part of LWs4 on Cooling Systems for Grape Harvest at the Technology Center in Güssing*

Part 2 – Smart Digital Tourism and Accessibility

The second session took place on May 22, 2025, from 9:00 to 15:30 at the Birdwatching Tower in the Nature Park Geschriebenstein, Rechnitz. Two innovators were invited to present their solutions for the challenge "Smart digital tourism and accessibility solutions for Southern Burgenland". The solutions presented were:

- "Smart NFC" by Zoomguide
- "Heritage Lens Südburgenland" by ForSports

The session began with the presentation of Smart NFC, followed by the Heritage Lens solution. Again, 11 participants attended, including stakeholders from a variety of relevant sectors such as tourism, digital innovation, and nature park management. Participants provided valuable input for adapting the proposed solutions to better meet the needs of the region. The feedback gathered during the session helped refine the concepts and aligned them more closely with local requirements and expectations.

Open Call for innovators: Selected Solutions	
Proposal 1	**Smart NFC**

Proposal 2	**Heritage Lens Südburgenland**
Proposal 3	**Cooling system for the grape harvest**

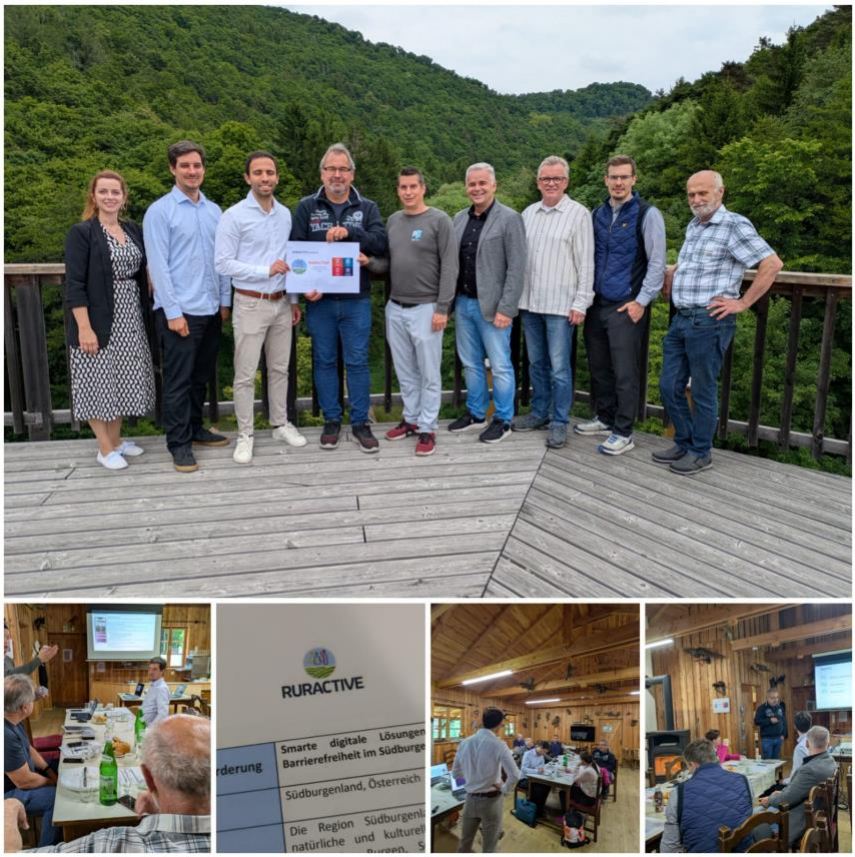

Figure 12. The second part of LWs4 on Smart Digital Tourism and Accessibility at the Birdwatching Tower in the Nature Park Geschriebenstein, Rechnitz.

6. List of Solutions and action plan of implementation

As part of the first workshop, eight local challenges were jointly identified in close collaboration with regional stakeholders. Building on these challenges, the stakeholders themselves developed initial ideas for possible solutions. Through a participatory selection process, the following solutions were chosen for further development:

- Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser – Regional Supply for Cyclists Along the Bahntrassen Bike Path
- Integrated Engagement Concept for Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland
- Sustainable Grassland Management through Compact Biogas Small-Scale Plants

During Workshop 3 and the ongoing development process, it became clear that the original solution "Integrated Engagement Concept for Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland" would be more effective if divided into two distinct approaches: one focusing on corporate volunteering and the other on environmental education in schools. This separation allows for a more targeted definition of objectives, clearer communication with stakeholders, and more effective implementation strategies. While synergies between the two concepts remain, their separation enhances overall clarity and impact.

These selected solutions reflect the region's priorities and offer innovative, needs-based responses to local challenges. They are now being further refined in collaboration with stakeholders and innovators, with the goal of developing actionable, locally rooted prototypes that can serve as practical models for sustainable regional development.

Solutions N.	Solution title	Related challenge/s
1	**Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser – Regional Supply for Cyclists Along the Bahntrassen Bike Path**	Culinary provision for cyclists - tourists and locals - along the 'Bahntrassenweg' cycle path is inadequate.
2	**Corporate Engagement Concept for Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland**	Insufficient volunteer participation in environmental and nature protection in Southern Burgenland.
3	**Nature Action Program for Schools – Student Engagement in Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland**	Insufficient volunteer participation in environmental and nature protection in Southern Burgenland.

4	**Sustainable Grassland Management through Compact Biogas Small-Scale Plants for the Preservation of Protected Areas**	Lack of sustainable grass management including the non-use and mowing in protected areas.

6.1. Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser – Regional Supply for Cyclists Along the Bahntrassen Bike Path

Solution 1 - Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser – Regional Supply for Cyclists Along the Bahntrassen Bike Path	
Objectives of the solution	1. **Enhance the Cycling Experience** Improve the overall appeal and enjoyment of cycling in Südburgenland by providing convenient access to regional culinary offerings along the bike paths. 2. **Promote Sustainable and Regional Products** Offer fresh, sustainable, and locally sourced food and beverages through a mobile catering service, supporting local farmers and businesses. 3. **Strengthen the Regional Economy** Involve local providers—such as catering businesses and farmers—in the operation of the Green Food Cruiser, encouraging economic growth within the region. 5. **Encourage Sustainable Tourism and Mobility** Foster healthier and more sustainable lifestyles by making cycling a more attractive and enjoyable option, thus promoting eco-friendly tourism. 6. **Optimize Logistics and Coordination** Develop an effective operational strategy, including route planning, scheduling, and coordination with local suppliers, ensuring smooth and efficient service delivery of the products.
Brief Description	**Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser – Regional Supply for Cyclists Along the Bike Path** To enhance the cycling experience in Südburgenland, a needs and supply assessment will analyse different cyclist groups (leisure cyclists, racing cyclists, e-bikers) and their culinary preferences. Simultaneously, a supply assessment will document existing businesses along the bike path, their services, and their willingness to expand or adjust their offerings. These insights will help develop a targeted and sustainable culinary concept while integrating local businesses and strengthening the regional economy.

	Based on the findings, a Green Food Cruiser—a mobile catering service using an electric vehicle or cargo tricycle—will provide cyclists with regional food and beverages. A digital solution or a hotline could offer a call-in option, allowing cyclists to request the vehicle or check its current location. Additionally, planned stops could be set up at high-traffic locations (e.g., scenic viewpoints, rest areas). A detailed concept must be created, addressing the organizational and logistical implementation of the project. This includes considerations for vehicle procurement, route planning, coordinating with local suppliers, scheduling, and ensuring compliance with regulations. The Green Food Cruiser initiative directly addresses key crosscutting priorities such as climate action, biodiversity protection, and social inclusion. By promoting the use of electric vehicles and short regional supply chains, the project contributes to climate change mitigation. Moreover, the inclusive design of the service—through barrier-free access, gender-sensitive planning, and multilingual communication—ensures that diverse user groups can benefit equally, especially women, people with disabilities, and low-income tourists.
Relevant RDD and RDD subcategory	RDD Nature-based and cultural tourism RDD Sustainable agrifood systems and ecosystem management RDD Sustainable multimodal mobility
Relevant Challenge/s	Culinary provision for cyclists - tourists and locals - along the 'Bahntrassenweg' cycle path is inadequate.
Specific Activities	**Legal and Regulatory Assessment**: Clarify legal requirements such as hygiene regulations, food handling permits, business licenses, and permissions for operating vehicles on cycle paths. **Concept Co-Development**: Design a culinary and logistical concept for the Green Food Cruiser in close co-design with local food producers (targeted outreach to femal led producers) and—where possible—with future users such as cyclists or cycling associations (always keeping considering the specific needs of women and people with disabilities). **Cyclist Needs and Supply Assessment:** Conduct surveys and interviews to identify preferences and expectations of different cyclist groups (e.g. leisure cyclists, sport cyclists, e-bikers; considering the specific needs of women and people with disabilities to ensure inclusive service development) regarding food and service offerings. In parallel, document existing food supply options along the bike path, including recently installed self-service vending machines, to identify gaps and synergies. **Local Supply Mapping**: Identify existing local food providers and businesses along or near the bike path and assess their willingness to participate in the initiative.

	Funding Opportunities and Financial Planning Research and identify potential funding sources (regional, national, or EU level) to support the initial implementation of the Green Food Cruiser, including the acquisition of the vehicle, necessary equipment, and the pilot operation. Develop a financing strategy that covers these one-time and start-up costs. **Business Plan and Feasibility Study**: Develop a long-term business plan that includes cost and revenue projections, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and an economic feasibility analysis to assess whether the model can be financially sustainable in the long run. **Procurement and Vehicle Adaptation** Purchase the Green Food Cruiser and adapt the vehicle to operational needs, including the installation of cooling systems, storage space, and other technical equipment required for food safety and service efficiency. **Digital Platform Creation**: Develop a user-friendly digital solution (app, website or hotline) for real-time location tracking, order placement, and service requests. **Develop communication materials** to raise awareness about sustainable farming practices and regional biodiversity (e.g.printed materials, integration of QR codes linking to background information, or visual design of the Green Food Cruiser). Including test runs and event-based rentals to local businesses, farmers, schools, and social organizations (e.g., Vamos, ProMente) for special occasions or promotional purposes. **Marketing and Outreach**: Promote the initiative through regional media, events, and tourism partners to raise awareness and attract users. **Evaluation and Scaling**: Collect feedback, monitor key indicators, and adapt the service for future upscaling or long-term implementation.
Targets	A **map and analytical overview** of the existing food infrastructure along the Bahntrassen cycle path – including newly installed self-service vending machines – identifying complementarities and unmet needs. A **minimum of 100 completed survey responses** from cyclists and local providers as part of the needs and supply assessment with **at least 50% of the respondents being female**. **One business plan** including operational models, cost estimates, revenue projections, and stakeholder responsibilities. **An initial concept and prototype for a digital user interface** (app or hotline). A **viable version** of the digital platform (app or hotline) with basic functionality (real-time location, ordering).

	One procured and technically adapted **operational prototype** of the Green Food Cruiser. **At least two pilot operations** during the 2027 spring cycling season to test logistics and gather user feedback.
Location of implementation	▪ Oberschützen-Rechnitz ▪ Südburgenland/Area Nature Park Geschriebenstein ▪ Austria
Geography and territorial context	▪ Hilly ▪ Flat ▪ River ▪ Flood plain
Integration of relevant crosscutting priorities	**Social Justice and Inclusion** – The cycle path is partly barrier-free, ensuring accessibility for all cyclists, including people with disabilities. – Data collection will consider the specific needs of women and people with disabilities to ensure inclusive service development. – Availability of accessible public toilets along the route will be displayed in the app for greater convenience. – Involvement of local direct marketers, particularly women-led businesses, fosters economic inclusion and gender equality. – Language used in communication and the digital platform will be simple and easy to understand, ensuring low-threshold access for all users. – Translations (e.g., English) may be considered to reduce language barriers and foster inclusive access for tourists and non-German speakers. **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation** – Utilization of an electric vehicle or cargo tricycle ensures low-emission and environmentally friendly operations. – The sale of regional products minimizes ecological footprints through short supply chains and reduced transportation distances. – The call-on-demand service optimizes routes, reducing unnecessary trips and further lowering emissions. – Public transportation options for accessing the cycle path support sustainable travel choices. – Year-round availability due to a milder climate especially in the off-season and winter. **Biodiversity**

	– Indirect positive impacts on biodiversity arise from encouraging regional consumption and awareness-raising activities. – Awareness raising through inclusion of information about sustainable farming practices and regional biodiversity on the food truck, such as insights into the preservation of traditional orchards (e.g., through QR codes on products or the cruiser).
Forms of Innovation considered	**Digital and Technological Innovation** – Development of a call-on-demand service with real-time location tracking to enhance accessibility and service efficiency. – Integration of regional direct marketer sales points on the app/website map to promote local businesses. – Implementation of a digital ordering system, potentially allowing local producers to register new products. – Display of available facilities (e.g., public toilets) and high-traffic rest areas on the app/website for user convenience. **Financial Innovation and Business Models** – Exploration of crowdfunding as a potential financing method for the acquisition and development of the Food Cruiser. – Rental of the cruiser to local businesses, farmers, schools and organizations (e.g., Vamos, ProMente) for special events or promotional activities. **Technical Innovation** – Utilization of an electric tricycle for sustainable transportation of food and beverages, reducing emissions. – Optimization of logistical operations to ensure efficient scheduling, route planning, and coordination with local suppliers. – Use of sustainable packaging solutions to minimize environmental impact. **Social, Organizational, and Governance Innovation** – Strengthening regional networks by involving local businesses, direct marketers, and social organizations in the project. – Collaborative partnerships with inclusion-focused organizations to promote equal participation and social integration.
Gender Sensitive Planning aspects	– Collect gender-disaggregated data during surveys to identify different usage patterns, preferences, needs or safety concerns. – Consider aspects of personal safety and comfort for female users when planning stop locations and operating hours of the Food Cruiser.

Resources/Capitals needed	Cultural Capital – Availability of diverse regional food products (e.g. ice cream, beverages, snacks, and meals) reflecting local culinary identity – Regional winegrowing traditions represented through the Weinidylle network Natural Capital – Landscape of Southern Burgenland – Regional agricultural environment enabling short food supply chains Built Capital – Existing self-service vending machines and public toilets along the route (usable as Cruiser stops or reference points) – Planned digital information screens (by the regional tourism board) Social Capital – Strong networks with local tourism businesses for distributing questionnaires to cyclists – Cooperation with the Weinidylle association to reach regional winegrowers – Established relationships with schools, universities, and local producers for participation, testing, and promotion – Expressed willingness of Nature Park Geschriebenstein to act as operator Human Capital – Local project team and nature park staff available for coordination and implementation – Educational institutions contributing to survey distribution, data evaluation, and pilot support Data – Potential survey results from cyclists and producers to inform service development Financial Capital – Access to a regional tourism funding programme managed by the tourism board – Potential in-kind and financial support from Nature Park Geschriebenstein

Main stakeholders involved and their contribution	– **Nature Park Geschriebenstein:** Prospective operator of the Green Food Cruiser; provides organizational support and local network coordination. – **Regional Tourism Board:** Key partner for promotion and public outreach; provider of planned digital info screens; potential funding source. – **Verkehrsbetriebe Burgenland GmbH:** Owner and administrator of the Bahntrassen cycle path; responsible authority for granting permission to operate the Green Food Cruiser on the route. – **Local Producers and Direct Marketers:** Supply of regional products; essential partners for co-creating the culinary concept. – **Weinidylle:** Distribution of questionnaires and partner in the search for operators. – **Business Campus Oberwart, Vamos, ProMente:** Partners supporting inclusive participation; potential co-organizers for events and activities involving the Green Food Cruiser. – **Virtual Vehicle Research GmbH:** Technical advisor and supporter in the development of the digital platform (app, location tracking, order system). – **University of Applied Sciences Burgenland (Fachhochschule Burgenland):** Potential partner for the development of the app/website and for supporting survey design, data analysis, and pilot evaluation. – **Local Project Team:** Coordination and overall project development; expertise in business planning and networking. – **Schools, Nature Conservation Organizations or Regional Associations:** Hedgerow planting and care.
Main and other Beneficiaries	– Cyclists (improved culinary services) – Local food producers and businesses – Tourism sector (more attractive cycling infrastructure)
Target groups at risk of exclusion	▪ Women ▪ Older people ▪ People with disabilities ▪ Low-income individuals
Timeframe (M to M)	– August– September 2025: Preparation phase – August – October 2025: Needs and supply assessment – August – October 2025: Evaluation of existing infrastructure (e.g., vending machines, rest areas) – May – September 2025: Legal and regulatory clarification for mobile food operations

	– June – December 2025: Assessment of regional producers' willingness and identification of anchor partners – July – December 2025: Development of governance and operator model (Nature Park Geschriebenstein) – August – December 2025: Business plan and feasibility study – January – June 2026: Securing of funding commitments (regional, national, EU) – January – June 2026: Development and validation of a concept for the digital user interface (app or hotline) – July – December 2026: Procurement and technical adaptation of the Green Food Cruiser – January – March 2027: Development of a viable version of the digital platform – January – April 2027: Develop communication materials – April-May 2027: Conduct at least two pilot operations of the Green Food Cruiser during the cycling season. – May – June 2027: Evaluation and documentation of the pilot phase
Indicative cost	– Vehicle and equipment: EUR 35,000-45.000 – Survey: EUR 3,000 – IT / Website / App prototype: EUR 1,000-3,000 – Advertisement: EUR 2,000 – Personnel: Variable *(Personnel costs will depend on the chosen operator model, but for planning purposes, the following assumptions can be made:* One person operating the Green Food Cruiser for 8 hours per operating day at an estimated rate of EUR 20/hour. → EUR 160 per day Approximately 15 hours per month for logistical tasks (e.g. supplier coordination, route planning), also calculated at EUR20/hour. → EUR 300 per month
Indicative funding sources	– **Tourism Fund** of the Regional Tourism Board (Burgenland): max. EUR 20,000 – **Contribution by Nature Park Geschriebenstein:** approx. EUR 5,000-10,000 – **Crowdfunding:** Considered as a complementary financing method to increase regional identification and community involvement – **Private Sector Contributions:** From involved producers or local businesses (e.g., rental use of the cruiser) – **RURACTIVE WAB project budget:** EUR 3,000 for conducting of the survey

Long Term Impact Assessment	Economic – Strengthening of local value creation by integrating small producers, farmers, and food processors – Seasonal or weather-dependent business may lead to unstable income models – Increased visitor activity may lead to higher competition for existing local businesses Environmental – Promotion of sustainable mobility – Low-emission operation via electric vehicles or tricycle – Strengthening of regional food systems and short supply chains – Indirect support of biodiversity through awareness and use of local, seasonal produce – Environmental impact of vehicle production and battery disposal over time – Local ecosystems could be affected if stops are placed in ecologically sensitive areas – Creation of micro-habitats along the cycle path through edible hedgerows enhances ecological connectivity and supports pollinator populations in the region. Social – Enhanced digital inclusion through simple interfaces – Intergenerational use of the service (families, older people, school groups, etc.) – Inclusion of marginalized groups through partnerships with social organizations (e.g., Vamos, ProMente) – If access depends heavily on digital tools, digitally excluded groups may still face barriers Cultural – Promotion of regional culinary traditions and identity – Cultural storytelling via the Cruiser (e.g., QR codes, seasonal specialties, product origin stories) – Strengthening of regional pride and visibility, especially during events and thematic tours
Communication and Engagement	– Use of digital information screens (planned by the regional tourism board) – Collaboration with local schools and universities

	– Active promotion via regional media, tourism newsletters, and social media – **Distribution of flyers and surveys** at rest areas, partner businesses, and through local tourism partners – **On-site events and test runs** as public showcases to raise awareness and encourage feedback – **Inclusive language and design** to ensure broad accessibility, with potential English translations for tourists
Sustainability consideration	**Long-term operation:** Planned handover to Nature Park Geschriebenstein as local operator **Flexible Use:** Regular service, events, rental **Scalability:** Concept can be adapted to other regions or tourism routes
Synergies with other solutions	Sustainable Grassland Management – Probably use of food waste for biogas plants Accompanied Volunteer Work and Corporate Volunteering – Joint data collection – Integration into package development – Catering für volunteer projects – Joint markteting – Sale of processed products Smart digital tourism and accessibility solutions – Depending on what will actually be implemented
Synergies with local policies	Content and objectives in accordance with many programs and strategies: – Tourismusstrategie Bgld 2030 – Klimastrategie Bgld – Biostrategie Bgld – Gesamtverkehrsstrategie – Mobilitätsmasterplan 2030 – Plan T – Masterplan for tourism – Rahmenstrategie 2023 Naturparke Burgenland
Synergies with EU policies when relevant	– EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – EU Strategie für den Alpenraum – EU Strategie für den Donauraum

6.2. Corporate Engagement Concept for Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland

Solution 2 - Corporate Engagement Concept for Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland

Objectives of the solution	1. **Foster Corporate Responsibility through Meaningful Environmental Action** Engage companies in hands-on nature and environmental conservation activities that align with their sustainability goals and reporting requirements. 2. **Create Win-Win Partnerships between Nature Parks and Businesses** Develop practical and inspiring offers that provide ecological benefits for protected areas while giving companies an opportunity to engage in team-building with purpose. 3. **Promote Regional Identity and Sustainability** Strengthen the connection between businesses and the region through collaborative environmental efforts in Southern Burgenland's nature parks. 4. **Establish a Scalable and Structured Engagement Model** Design and pilot a replicable engagement format across three nature parks, providing a professional, low-threshold entry point for corporate involvement in environmental protection.
Brief Description	To address the current lack of corporate engagement in environmental and nature conservation in Southern Burgenland, a structured regional engagement program will be developed targeting companies with sustainability ambitions. The initiative aims to create professionally designed and meaningful conservation activities within the region's three nature parks—Naturpark Geschriebenstein, Naturpark in der Weinidylle, and Naturpark Raab. The program will provide companies with tailored opportunities for hands-on nature work—such as habitat maintenance, invasive species removal, or landscape restoration—that can be booked as one-day or multi-day modules. These activities will be developed in close cooperation with the nature parks and environmental experts to ensure ecological relevance and practical feasibility. In parallel, all necessary organizational elements such as risk management, logistics, and insurance will be clarified. Participating companies will receive a package including professional guidance, all necessary equipment, catering options, and a digital certificate of participation. Each company will also be provided with a report and photo documentation to support their sustainability reporting. Pilot activities will take place in spring 2026 and will be used to refine the offers and produce marketing materials such as videos, photos, and testimonials.
Relevant RDD and RDD subcategory	RDD Nature-based and cultural tourism RDD Sustainable agrifood systems and ecosystem management

Relevant Challenge/s	Insufficient private action and volunteer participation in environmental and nature protection in Southern Burgenland.
Specific Activities	**1. Concept Development and Internal Structuring** • Design an integrated corporate engagement concept for all three nature parks, including target groups, communication strategy, and service components (e.g., certificates, documentation, etc.) • Define ecological and pedagogical frameworks for corporate involvement in nature conservation tasks **2. Offer Development with Nature Parks** • Organize bilateral workshops with each nature park (Nature Park Geschriebenstein, Nature Park Weinidylle, Nature Park Raab) and an external expert to co-develop two tailored volunteer offers per park • Identify suitable locations, seasonal opportunities, and conservation needs for activities **3. Operational and Legal Setup** • Clarify legal issues such as liability, insurance coverage, and occupational safety • Develop a governance model and assign clear roles for: o Incoming/sales coordination o Central nature park contact and coordination o On-site facilitation and ecological guidance • Establish a simple inquiry and booking process for companies (e.g. via email form or platform), including availability calendar and FAQs **4. Material and Partner Preparation** • Identify and engage sponsors for tools and equipment (e.g., Lagerhaus, municipalities) • Create communication materials such as social media content, a flyer, website content, and templates for company reports, certificates, and feedback forms **5. Pilot Activities and Evaluation** • Conduct two pilot volunteer days in spring 2026, including one specifically carried out in cooperation with Vamos – Association for Integration – to test the offer from an accessibility and inclusion perspective. • Use pilots to collect feedback, test logistical and ecological workflows, and produce visual material (photos, videos, testimonials) for future promotion • Issue participation certificates and sample reports for pilot companies **6. Finalization and Launch Readiness** • Incorporate learnings from the pilots • Finalize offer portfolio based on pilot learnings

	• Begin active marketing through incoming agency and partner networks • Launch outreach activities via regional partners and the incoming office
Targets	**By Winter 2025** • One engagement concept for corporate environmental action in all three nature parks, with guidelines applicable in other similar cases • 2 tailored volunteer offers per park (co-developed in workshops – one per nature park – with an external expert) • Three sponsorship partnerships with regional actors providing tools and materials worth at least EUR 1,000. **By Spring 2026** • Minimum of 2 companies involved in the pilot phase • Gather qualitative and quantitative feedback from at least 70% of participating employees and company representatives • A photo and video documentation package for promotional use
Location of implementation	• Nature Park Geschriebenstein, Nature Park Weinidylle, Nature Park Raab • Southern Burgenland • Austria
Geography and territorial context	▪ Mountain area (partly) ▪ Hilly ▪ Flat ▪ River
Integration of relevant crosscutting	**Social Justice and Inclusion** – The program provides low-threshold access for companies of various sizes and backgrounds, ensuring broad participation and reducing entry barriers. – By encouraging teamwork in nature-based activities, the initiative fosters internal inclusion and strengthens collaboration across hierarchical or departmental boundaries. – Testing the offer with Vamos – Association for Integration – from an accessibility perspective contributes to greater inclusion. **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation** – The volunteer activities contribute to climate adaptation by supporting the maintenance of climate-resilient habitats, such as dry grasslands and traditional orchards. – Removal of invasive species helps stabilize ecosystems and reduce pressure on native vegetation, which is essential in the context of climate change.

	– The experience allows participants to learn about the role of ecosystems in climate regulation and the importance of adaptive landscape management. – Companies are encouraged to reflect their climate-related contributions in sustainability reports, increasing awareness of nature-based solutions. **Biodiversity** – All activities are designed in collaboration with nature park experts to ensure they actively support biodiversity goals. – Tasks such as meadow care, tree planting, or habitat restoration directly benefit native species and contribute to landscape connectivity. – Educational components are embedded in the program, including briefings and info materials on the ecological significance of each task. – The initiative raises long-term awareness among participants and companies about the value of biodiversity and regional ecosystem services.
Forms of Innovation considered	**Digital and Technological Innovation** • Use of digital communication tools for participant feedback, certificate generation, and delivery of sustainability documentation. • Integration of the program into existing digital tourism channels (e.g., regional tourism board websites, digital information screens). **Financial Innovation and Business Models** • Exploration of a mixed financing model combining company fees, in-kind contributions (e.g., tools, material), and potential sponsorships. • Strategic positioning of the program as a service product that supports companies' CSR and ESG goals, offering value beyond philanthropy. **Technical Innovation** • Development of standardized, replicable modules for nature conservation tasks to ensure high quality and scalability. • Systematic documentation of activities and outcomes (e.g., area maintained, species supported), enabling measurable impact tracking. **Social, Organizational, and Governance Innovation** • Establishment of a new coordination structure between the incoming agency, nature parks, and implementing staff to enable cross-sectoral cooperation.

	• Introduction of a structured volunteer product for companies, which does not yet exist in the region. • Strengthening of regional identity and civic engagement by involving businesses in the care of local landscapes and protected areas.
Gender Sensitive Planning aspects	• Collect gender-disaggregated data during pilot evaluations to identify different motivations, expectations, and experiences among female and male participants. • Ensure that communication materials, visuals, and promotional language reflect diversity and avoid stereotypes, appealing equally to all genders. • Consider different physical requirements and comfort needs when designing the volunteer tasks and selecting equipment, ensuring that activities are accessible and inclusive.
Resources/Capitals needed	**Available Resources** • **Nature Park Infrastructure and Landscapes**: The three nature parks offer a wide range of suitable areas and conservation tasks that can be used as the foundation for volunteer activities. • **Tourismus Burgenland GmbH**: The regional tourism agency has expressed interest in acting as the central coordination and marketing partner ("incoming office") for the corporate offers. • **Existing Network with Nature Parks**: Strong working relationships with the management teams of Nature Park Geschriebenstein, Nature Park Weinidylle, and Nature Park Raab to ensure smooth cooperation and alignment with conservation goals. • **Regional Communication Channels**: Access to platforms such as the Southern Burgenland tourism association, nature park newsletters, and local media enables effective outreach. **Required Resources / Capital Needs** • **Personnel**: – Regional coordination and incoming agency role (sales, promotion, booking) – Central nature park coordinator (inquiries, planning, communication) – On-site project lead for ecological guidance and group facilitation • **Expert Support**: – External specialist for workshop facilitation and offer development with each nature park • **Material and Equipment**: – Tools and safety gear for conservation work (potentially sponsored by regional businesses such as Lagerhaus)

	– Information folders, certificates, and reporting templates • **Communication and Marketing Materials**: – Visual documentation (photos, video clips) during pilot phase – Promotional flyer, digital content, and program landing page • **Insurance and Legal Services**: – Clarification of liability and insurance coverage for volunteer participants and partner organizations
Main stakeholders involved and their contribution	**Tourismus Burgenland GmbH** Central coordination and marketing ("incoming office"); Handling of inquiries and bookings; Promotion of the program via tourism channels **Verein Burgenländische Naturschutzorgane und Naturschutzbund Burgenland** Collaboration in the development of the offer and possibly deployment of experts in the implementation of the activity **Nature Park Geschriebenstein, Nature Park Weinidylle, Nature Park Raab** Provision of project sites; Definition of suitable tasks; Communication and outreach support **Vamos – Association for Integration** Would test the offer with people with disabilities. **On-site project leads / nature experts** Ecological supervision during activities; Participant guidance and safety on-site **External expert / consultant** Concept support and workshop facilitation; Co-development of volunteer offers with parks **Regional businesses and municipalities** Potential sponsors (tools, materials); Logistical support (e.g. rest areas, infrastructure) Verein Burgenländischer Naturschutzorgane **Tourism Association Südburgenland** Communication and outreach support; Distribution via regional channels **Participating companies** Provide volunteer teams and funding
Main and other Beneficiaries	**Local nature parks and their ecosystems** – Direct support in habitat management and ecological maintenance – Strengthening of long-term conservation capacity **Participating companies and their employees** – Team-building through meaningful shared experiences – Content for sustainability/CSR reporting – Increased environmental awareness among staff **Regional tourism and image of Southern Burgenland**

	– Strengthened profile as a region for sustainable and responsible business engagement – Additional visibility through corporate communication channels **Local economy and service providers** – Potential for bookings (catering, accommodation, transport) linked to corporate groups
Target groups at risk of exclusion	▪ People with disabilities ▪ Women ▪ Long-term unemployed
Timeframe (M to M)	**April – September 2025:** • Concept development • Preparation of communication materials and project outline • Workshops with the three nature parks • Development of two concrete offers per park • Clarification of legal and insurance aspects • Identification of sponsors and regional partners **October – December 2025:** • Finalization of operational and communication structure • Preparation for pilot phase (logistics, staffing, marketing) **January – March 2026:** • Promotion of pilot offers to selected companies • Finalization of participant materials (certificates, info package, report templates) **March – June 2026:** • Implementation of 2 pilot activities • Visual documentation and participant feedback collection **June – July 2026:** • Evaluation and adjustment of the program • Finalization of ready-to-market volunteer offers • Start of outreach for regular program rollout
Indicative cost	**Workshops and Expert Support** External facilitation and content development: EUR 3.000-5.000 **Equipment and Materials** Tools, safety gear: EUR 2.000-5.000 Print materials, certificates, info packages: EUR 1.500-2.500 **Communication and Promotion** Visual documentation (photo/video): EUR 1.000 Marketing materials and digital content: EUR 1.000 **Legal and Insurance Clarification** Legal consulting, insurance setup: EUR 1.000

	Note: Costs may be reduced through in-kind contributions from regional partners
Indicative funding sources	**Corporate Contributions** Participation fees from companies covering parts of implementation costs (e.g., equipment, facilitation, materials) **Sponsorship from Regional Businesses** In-kind or financial contributions (e.g., tools from Lagerhaus, catering from local suppliers, support from municipalities) **Public Environmental and Tourism Funds** Possible support for ecological and tourism project components and biodiversity-focused measures **RURACTIVE WAB project budget:** EUR 3,000 – 5,000 for external expert to conduct co-creation workshops for the development of volunteer offers
Long Term Impact Assessment	**Economic** – Strengthening of local value creation by integrating service providers (e.g., catering, accommodation) – Generation of new income sources for nature parks through company partnerships – Increased regional visibility through corporate communication channels **Environmental** – Ongoing support for biodiversity and habitat care through recurring corporate engagement – Raised awareness of ecosystem services and climate adaptation measures among corporate actors – Long-term improvement of ecological conditions in targeted conservation areas **Social** – Promotion of a culture of corporate social responsibility and regional solidarity – Strengthened collaboration between economic and environmental actors – Increased employee satisfaction and sense of purpose through meaningful team activities **Cultural** – Reinforcement of regional identity by connecting businesses to local nature and landscapes – Communication of environmental values and traditions (e.g., orchard care, dry grassland maintenance) – Integration of nature-based engagement into company culture and branding
Communication and Engagement	– Development of a dedicated flyer and web content to present the program and offers in a concise, appealing way

	– Use of tourism marketing channels (e.g. Tourismus Burgenland, regional newsletters, tourism websites) for initial outreach – Targeted promotion through business networks and chambers (e.g. WKO, CSR platforms) to reach potential partner companies – Visual storytelling through photos and videos from pilot activities to illustrate impact and emotional value – Provision of a media and documentation package to participating companies for internal and external communication (e.g. sustainability report, employee magazine) – Testimonials and quotes from pilot participants to build trust and credibility for future partners
Sustainability consideration	– The program is designed as a long-term offering that can be repeated annually and scaled across additional nature parks or regions. – All activities are ecologically meaningful and aligned with the conservation goals of the respective nature parks. – The operational model enables gradual handover to regional partners for sustainable continuation beyond the project phase. – Materials and equipment are selected for durability and reusability to minimize resource consumption. – Participating companies are encouraged to integrate the program into their long-term CSR and employee engagement strategies. – Pilot documentation (e.g. photos, testimonials, feedback) creates a reusable foundation for future promotion and upscaling.
Synergies with other solutions	Sustainable Grassland Management – Opportunity for interconnection with grass mowing and control of invasive plants Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser – Catering – Joint marketing – Joint data collection – Integration into package development Nature Action Program for Schools

	– Joint Workshop and development of programs Smart digital tourism and accessibility solutions – Depending on what is actually implemented
Synergies with local policies	Content and objectives in accordance with many programs and strategies: – Tourismusstrategie Bgld 2030 – Klimastrategie Bgld – Biostrategie Bgld – Plan T Masterplan for tourism – Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2030
Synergies with EU policies when relevant	– EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – EU Strategie für den Alpenraum – EU Strategie für den Donauraum

6.3. Nature Action Program for Schools – Student Engagement in Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland

Solution 3 - Nature Action Program for Schools – Student Engagement in Environmental and Nature Conservation in Southern Burgenland	
Objectives of the solution	1. **Foster Environmental Awareness Among Young People** Engage students in hands-on conservation activities to build understanding and appreciation of ecosystems and biodiversity. 2. **Integrate Nature Conservation into Education** Offer age-appropriate and curriculum-aligned experiences in nature parks that complement formal education with real-world learning. 3. **Support Nature Parks Through Educational Volunteering** Involve school classes in meaningful, supervised tasks that support the maintenance and ecological goals of protected areas. 4. **Build a Scalable and Accessible Engagement Format for Schools** Develop a replicable offer for all three nature parks that can be expanded over time and published on the digital sustainability platform of the Bildungsdirektion.
Brief Description	To increase youth engagement in nature and environmental protection, a dedicated volunteer and education program for schools will be developed in Southern Burgenland. The initiative will enable students to participate in meaningful, guided outdoor activities in the three regional nature parks—Nature Park Geschriebenstein, Nature Park Weinidylle, and Nature Park Raab. The program will be free of charge for schools and tailored to different age groups. Activities may include habitat care, orchard maintenance, dry

	grassland support, or the removal of invasive species. All actions will be supervised by trained nature educators and coordinated in cooperation with teachers. Educational offers will be developed in co-creation with nature park managers, a pedagogical expert and representatives of key partner institutions such as the Business Campus Oberwart, the University College of Teacher Education Burgenland, and certified nature park education providers during workshops held in 2025. The number and content of these offers will depend on what is considered useful and appropriate for different age groups and school types. Pilot activities with selected schools—potentially in cooperation with the Business Campus Oberwart—will take place in spring 2026. These pilots will serve both to evaluate and refine the formats and to produce communication materials (photos, videos, testimonials). The finalized program will be made available via the digital sustainability platform of the Bildungsdirektion Burgenland and promoted to schools across the region. The initiative aims to strengthen environmental literacy, promote civic engagement, and connect young people with their local natural heritage.
Relevant RDD and RDD subcategory	RDD Nature-based and cultural tourism RDD Sustainable agrifood systems and ecosystem management
Relevant Challenge/s	Insufficient volunteer participation in environmental and nature protection in Southern Burgenland.
Specific Activities	1. Concept Development and Educational Design – Design a structured, school-oriented engagement concept for all three nature parks incorporating the expertise of key partners such as the Business Campus Oberwart, the University College of Teacher Education Burgenland, and certified nature park education providers. – Define educational and ecological goals of the program for different age groups – Align with school curricula and sustainability education priorities 2. Offer Development with Nature Parks – Conduct co-creation workshops with each nature park and an educational expert. – Develop formats for meaningful, age-appropriate volunteer activities – Determine how many differentiated offers are needed (based on age, season, location)

	3. Organizational and Legal Setup – Clarify legal and insurance requirements for school participation and student safety – Define responsibilities and coordination roles (e.g. nature park contact, education lead) – Establish a simple inquiry process for schools (e.g. request form, calendar, FAQs) 4. Pilot Implementation and Testing – Conduct pilot activities in spring 2026 with selected schools (e.g. via Business Campus Oberwart) – Evaluate logistics, educational impact, and group engagement – Collect visual materials (photos, videos) for documentation and communication 5. Communication and Material Preparation – Prepare teaching materials, parent info, certificates, and learning documentation templates – Produce a promotional flyer and web texts for the Bildungsdirektion platform 6. Program Finalization and Launch – Incorporate feedback from pilots – Finalize school offers and upload to the digital sustainability platform – Inform schools via educational networks and regional stakeholders
Targets	By the end of 2025 – One educational engagement concept for all three nature parks – Three co-creation workshops (one per nature park) By Fall 2026 – At least three different school classes involved – Pilot the educational offers with three school classes (approx. 15 students each) representing different age groups between 10 and 18 years to assess adaptability and age-appropriateness. – A minimum of 10 qualitative feedback inputs from participating students and teachers with at least 50% from female participants
Location of implementation	• Nature Park Geschriebenstein, Nature Park Weinidylle, Nature Park Raab • Southern Burgenland • Austria
Geography and territorial context	▪ Mountain area (partly) ▪ Hilly ▪ Flat ▪ River

Integration of relevant crosscutting	**Social Justice and Inclusion** – The program is free of charge for all schools, ensuring equal access regardless of location, resources, or school type. – Activities can be adapted to the needs of diverse student groups, including inclusive school settings. – Clear and inclusive communication materials will ensure broad understanding among students, teachers, and parents. – The digital publication on the Bildungsdirektion platform ensures equal visibility and reach for all schools in the region. **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation** – Student activities support the care of climate-resilient habitats such as traditional orchards and dry grasslands. – Participants learn about nature-based climate action and ecosystem services through hands-on tasks. – Seasonal tasks may include adaptation-focused measures, such as the removal of invasive species or the protection of water-retaining vegetation. **Biodiversity** – All activities are developed in close coordination with nature park experts to ensure they benefit local biodiversity. – Students actively contribute to habitat maintenance and restoration, learning about native species and ecological connections. – Educational elements are integrated through briefings, discussions, and learning materials before, during, and after the activity. – The program fosters long-term awareness of biodiversity and environmental responsibility among young people.
Forms of Innovation considered	**Digital and Technological Innovation** • Publication and promotion of the offers via the new digital sustainability platform of the Bildungsdirektion Burgenland • Use of digital tools for school registration, feedback collection, and optional documentation of learning outcomes **Financial Innovation and Business Models** • The program is designed as a free public education service, financed through public funding and in-kind contributions • Use of existing networks (e.g., nature parks, educational institutions) to ensure cost efficiency • Potential for long-term public-private partnerships (e.g. tool donations, transport sponsorships) **Technical Innovation**

	• Development of standardized, age-appropriate modules for environmental engagement in protected areas • Adaptation of tools and materials for safe and inclusive use by school-age children **Social, Organizational, and Governance Innovation** • Introduction of a structured engagement program for schools that complements formal education with real-life nature experiences • Collaboration between nature conservation and educational institutions at the regional level • Strengthening of environmental awareness and civic responsibility among students through experiential learning in nature
Gender Sensitive Planning aspects	• Collect gender-disaggregated feedback from students and teachers during the pilot phase to understand different experiences and learning effects. • Ensure that all communication materials, imagery, and learning examples are inclusive and free from stereotypes. • Design volunteer activities so they are equally accessible and engaging for all genders, regardless of physical strength or prior experience in nature. • Use diverse role models (e.g. male and female nature guides) during the activities to promote balanced representation in environmental roles.
Resources/Capitals needed	**Available Resources** • Nature Park Infrastructure and Landscapes: All three nature parks offer suitable locations and conservation tasks for school groups. • Educational Network of the Bildungsdirektion Burgenland: Enables wide dissemination through the digital sustainability platform. • Cooperation with Business Campus Oberwart: Potential test partner for piloting activities with school classes. • Experienced nature park staff and educators: Available to guide and supervise school groups in the field. • Existing teaching and communication materials: Can be adapted for environmental education purposes. **Required Resources / Capital Needs** • Personnel – Coordination and communication with schools – On-site educational facilitation and safety supervision – External expert for pedagogical development of the formats • Material and Equipment – Child-appropriate tools and safety gear

	– Learning materials, certificates, info sheets for parents and schools • Communication and Documentation – Visual documentation during pilot phase – Promotional flyer, educational web content for the platform • Transport and Logistics (if not covered by schools) Optional support for school travel to nature park sites (to be clarified case-by-case) • Insurance and Legal Clarification Clarification of responsibilities and liability coverage for student groups
Main stakeholders involved and their contribution	**Bildungsdirektion Burgenland** Dissemination of the program through the digital sustainability platform; Support in reaching out to schools and integrating the offer into educational communication channels **Verein Burgenländische Naturschutzorgane und Naturschutzbund Burgenland** Collaboration in the development of the offer and possibly deployment of experts in the implementation of the activity **Nature Park Geschriebenstein, Nature Park Weinidylle, Nature Park Raab** Identification of suitable activities and locations; Provision of nature educators or rangers for on-site facilitation; Coordination with schools regarding scheduling and logistics **Business Campus Oberwart** Potential partner for test phase and feedback collection from pilot school groups **External expert / consultant** Co-development of age-appropriate and curriculum-aligned offers; Input for teaching materials and educational framing **Regional businesses and municipalities** Potential sponsors (tools, materials) **Teachers and schools** Provide volunteer teams and funding Participation in pilot activities Feedback on practicality, age-fit, and educational value
Main and other Beneficiaries	Students – Gain hands-on experience in nature conservation – Develop environmental awareness and sense of responsibility – Strengthen teamwork and personal engagement outside the classroom Teachers and schools – Access to ready-to-use, curriculum-relevant outdoor learning offers

	– Opportunities to enrich lessons with real-world environmental topics – Strengthened school profile in sustainability education Nature parks – Support in landscape maintenance and biodiversity-related tasks – Stronger connection to the educational community – Increased awareness of nature parks among younger generations Educational authorities – Contribution to regional and national goals for sustainability education
Target groups at risk of exclusion	• Older people • People with disabilities • Migrants and minorities • Long-term unemployed
Timeframe (M to M)	**June – December 2025** • Development of overall concept for schools • Input from key stakeholders – including nature park staff, mayors of the nature park municipalities, biodiversity experts/rangers, and schools – will be gathered during the regular autumn "Jour Fixe" meeting. • Preparation of communication and educational materials • Jour Fixe • Workshops with nature parks and pedagogical expert • Definition of suitable formats and age-specific offers • Clarification of legal and safety-related aspects **January – October 2026** • Finalisation of pilot formats • Coordination with test schools (e.g. Business Campus Oberwart) • Preparation of logistics and documentation templates • Upload of first information to digital sustainability platform (if already implemented) • Outreach to pilot schools • Preparation of pilot materials (permissions, checklists, teacher guides) • Implementation of pilot activitiy • Visual documentation (photos, videos) and collection of feedback **January – July 2027** • Evaluation and refinement of offers based on pilot results, with particular attention to the feedback and outcomes of female participants • Final publication of school offers on the sustainability platform • Informing schools across Burgenland through official channels

Indicative cost	**Workshops and Expert Support** External facilitation and content development: EUR 3.000-5.000 **Equipment and Materials** Child-appropriate tools and safety equipment: EUR 2.000-3.000 Educational print materials, certificates, permission forms: EUR 1.000 **Communication and Promotion** Visual documentation (photo/video): EUR 1.000 Marketing materials and digital content: EUR 1.000 **Legal and Insurance Clarification** Legal consulting: EUR 1.000 *Note: Costs may be reduced through in-kind contributions from regional partners or existing school infrastructure.*
Indicative funding sources	**Sponsorship from Regional Businesses** In-kind or financial contributions (e.g., tools from Lagerhaus, catering from local suppliers, support from municipalities) **Public Environmental and Tourism Funds** Possible support for ecological and tourism project components and biodiversity-focused measures **Support from the Bildungsdirektion Burgenland** Possible funding or coordination support for dissemination **In-kind Contributions from Nature Parks** Staff time, equipment use, and on-site logistics **Municipalities or Local Sponsors** Optional support for transport costs, snacks, or materials during pilot phase **RURACTIVE WAB project budget** EUR 3,000 – 5,000 for external expert to conduct co-creation workshops for the content development
Long Term Impact Assessment	**Economic** – Strengthened positioning of Southern Burgenland as a region for innovative sustainability education – Indirect economic benefit through increased visibility of nature parks and future visits by families or school events – Efficient use of existing infrastructure and resources through long-term integration into school offerings **Environmental** – Ongoing support for conservation work in nature parks through recurring student activities – Long-term awareness for biodiversity, climate adaptation, and ecosystem care among young generations – Strengthening of ecological identity and protection values through personal experience **Social**

	– Promotion of civic responsibility and environmental engagement among students – Stronger connection between schools and regional environmental institutions – Equal access to extracurricular learning experiences, regardless of school type or location **Cultural** – Appreciation of local nature and landscapes as part of regional identity – Revitalisation of traditional ecological knowledge (e.g. orchard care, meadow maintenance) – Inclusion of environmental topics into school culture and interdisciplinary projects
Communication and Engagement	– Promotion of the program through the digital sustainability platform of the Bildungsdirektion Burgenland – Direct information to schools via official channels (e.g. circulars, newsletters, teacher networks) – Development of visually engaging flyers and digital content for teachers, students, and parents – Use of photos and testimonials from pilot schools to show authenticity and impact – Provision of support materials for teachers (e.g. checklists, briefings, info for parents) to lower barriers to participation
Sustainability consideration	▪ The program is designed for long-term integration into school activities and can be repeated annually or seasonally. ▪ All activities are ecologically meaningful and aligned with the nature parks' long-term conservation strategies. ▪ By publishing the offers on the Bildungsdirektion's digital sustainability platform, long-term visibility and accessibility are ensured. ▪ Teaching materials and formats are designed to be reusable and adaptable for different age groups and school types. ▪ The program strengthens collaboration between education and nature conservation sectors in the region. ▪ Experiences gained during pilot activities serve as a foundation for future upscaling or integration into broader educational initiatives.
Synergies with other solutions	Sustainable Grassland Management ▪ Opportunity for interconnection with grass mowing and control of invasive plants Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser ▪ Catering Corporate Engagement ▪ Joint Workshops and development of the programs

	Smart digital tourism and accessibility solutions ▪ Depending on what is actually implemented
Synergies with local policies	Content and objectives in accordance with many programs and strategies: • Tourismusstrategie Bgld 2030 • Klimastrategie Bgld • Biostrategie Bgld • Plan T Masterplan for tourism • Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2030
Synergies with EU policies when relevant	• EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 • EU Strategie für den Alpenraum • EU Strategie für den Donauraum

6.4. Sustainable Grassland Management through Compact Biogas Small-Scale Plants for the Preservation of Protected Areas

Solution 4 - Sustainable Grassland Management through Compact Biogas Small-Scale Plants for the Preservation of Protected Areas	
Objectives of the solution	1. **Sustainable Grassland Management** Promote the sustainable use of grasslands in protected areas by integrating regular mowing and innovative utilisation approaches to prevent shrub encroachment and loss of biodiversity. 2. **Biogas Production** Establish compact biogas small-scale plants to process biomass from grasslands, focusing on sustainable energy production (heat and electricity) and composting. 3. **Invasive Species Control** Research and develop processing techniques for ragweed to prevent its spread and explore its potential for biogas and compost production. **4. Regional Supply Strengthening** Reduce transport distances and costs through decentralized biogas production, contributing to local energy and compost supplies while fostering a circular economy. 5. **Pilot Implementation** Conduct pilot testing to validate the feasibility, efficiency, and environmental benefits of the concept, particularly concerning ragweed processing.
Brief Description	The lack of sustainable grassland management in protected areas leads to shrub encroachment and the loss of valuable habitats. At the same time, this development promotes the spread of invasive species such as ragweed

	(Ambrosia artemisiifolia), which increasingly causes health and ecological problems in Austria. A combination of compact biogas small-scale plants with regular mowing (in accordance with nature conservation regulations) could be an approach to sustainably use grasslands while also combating ragweed. Small-scale decentralised plants ensure short transport routes and low transport costs, which are crucial. Heat, electricity, and compost are the usable outputs, strengthening the regional supply. While there are already biogas plants processing grassland vegetation and landscape maintenance material, including small-scale facilities, there is still little to no research or practical implementation regarding the specific utilisation of ragweed. Therefore, a pilot facility could be used to test how ragweed needs to be processed to stop the germination of its seeds, enabling the controlled spread of this plant. The facility could also explore the potential for energy production and composting from grass and ragweed biomass. To move towards implementation, a detailed concept is needed that evaluates the feasibility and develops an organisational and logistical framework. This should assess the entire process, from the collection and transport of biomass to the biogas plant, to the utilization of heat and compost outputs. Research and analysis of existing knowledge on grass utilization in biogas production should be integrated, while the specific focus on ragweed processing and its ecological and economic viability would be an innovation within this concept.
Relevant RDD and RDD subcategory	RDD Sustainable agrifood systems ecosystem management RDD Energy transition and climate neutrality
Relevant Challenge/s	Lack of sustainable grass management including the non-use and mowing in protected areas.
Specific Activities	– Call for feasibility study – Realisation of feasibility study – Search for potential areas to harvest grassland – Include relevant stakeholders into the process (mayors, farmers, energy infrastructure provider, legal counsellors, experts in the field of environmental protection, ...) – Address stakeholders of under-represented groups – Evaluate amount of grassland/other resources for biogas plant and search for partners/farmers for supply with material – Search for potential spot for powerplant – Define type of powerplant – Find potential users for created energy

	– Reduction of neophytes in the course of the treatment process – Ensure bird and insect protection when cutting grassland – Conservation of valuable rough pastures – Involvement of schools and associations in mowing grassland – Involvement of schools and associations in traditional local building skills
Targets	– Call for feasibility study launched – Additional resources to use for year-round operation of powerplant found – Outcomes of feasibility study shared with relevant stakeholders – Search for funding sources accomplished – Operator of small-scale powerplant found – Users for created energy defined
Location of implementation	▪ Naturpark Weinidylle ▪ Southern Burgenland ▪ Austria
Geography and territorial context	▪ Mountain area
Integration of relevant crosscutting	**Social Justice and Inclusion** – Collaboration with local farmers and associations. – Creation of local skill-building opportunities. – Collaboration with schools and associations in mowing/grassland management activities. **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation** – Utilization of renewable energy from biogas plants contributes to reducing carbon emissions. – Decentralized production reduces transport emissions and supports regional energy autonomy. – Composting supports soil health, enhancing climate resilience. **Biodiversity** – Regular mowing prevents shrub encroachment, preserving open habitats for diverse species. – Processing ragweed helps mitigate its spread, protecting native biodiversity.
Forms of Innovation considered	**Digital and Technological Innovation** – Monitoring systems for the biogas process to ensure efficient and sustainable operations. **Financial Innovation and Business Models**

	– Potential crowdfunding campaigns to finance pilot plants. – Development of business models promoting decentralized, community-based energy and compost production. **Technical Innovation** – Innovation in small-scale biogas technology to adapt to diverse biomass types **Social, Organizational, and Governance Innovation** – Formation of local cooperatives or partnerships for biomass collection, plant operation, and product distribution.
Gender Sensitive Planning aspects	– Encourage participation of female-led farms and female-led local enterprises in the grass collection, processing, and product distribution. – Female farm women and female entrepreneurs should be reached by contacting the chamber of agriculture and the chamber of commerce as well as the farm women association and business women association – Inclusion of gender perspectives in feasibility studies to identify and address barriers to participation.
Resources/Capitals needed	**Natural capital** – Cultural landscape, orchard meadows – Consideration of nature conservation requirements – Protection of natural habitat **Infrastructural capital** – Energy supply grid – Biogas powerplant **Human capital** – Knowledge on landscape management – Workforce for grass mowing – Knowledge on how to build and run a biogas small-scale plant **Financial capital** – Funding for feasibility study – Funding for implementation of pilot powerplant **Data** – Estimation of useable material for biogas powerplant and the delivery date of the resources needed – Estimation of available land for grass harvesting – Estimation of the potential of biogenic land

	– Estimation of possibilities for alternative resources for powerplant (e.g. food waste) to secure year-round operation – Location of feed points – Legal requirements (regarding technical and environmental aspects) – Monitoring of gender specific aspects if available
Main stakeholders involved and their contribution	– Land owner of the potential grassland: provide land for harvesting of grass – Farmers that harvest grassland – Energy grid provider (Netz Burgenland, Energie Burgenland): to provide technical informations needed and support distribution of produced biogas – 9 municipalities of the Naturpark Weinidylle – Chamber of Agriculture: to provide data on land/resources – Maschinenring of Southern Burgenland to provide machines for harvesting of grassland – Ornithologists for ornithological monitoring (Daniel Leopoldsberger) – Ecologist for ecologic grassland management: Verein Berta (Brigitte Gerger) – Stakeholder of "Green Tech Valley" Network: to discuss potential and options for realization of small-scale biogas powerplant – Enterprise "CTex" (Southern Burgenland): learn about options for tailored biogas storage system – European Centre for Renewable Energies (Güssing): include technological knowledge/expertise – Actors with gender expertise or assessing gender related aspects if available
Main and other Beneficiaries	– Consumers of outputs (e.g. school, private households, public buildings, energy associations) – Municipalities of the Naturpark Weinidylle – Farmers, especially female operations manager, regional companies managed by women if being available – Natural habitat
Target groups at risk of exclusion	▪ Women ▪ People with disabilities
Timeframe (M to M)	Overall aim: Preparatory works for the implementation of a pilot biogas small-scale powerplant until Summer 2027 1) Prepare feasibility study (July-December 2025) a. Prepare call for feasibility study b. Search for funding options for feasibility study c. Publish call for feasibility study d. Select planning office/company to realize feasibility study

	2) Run feasibility study (January-April 2026) 3) Search for additional waste/resources for the biogas small-scale plant to operate on a year-round basis (from January 2026 onwards) 4) Search for funding options for implementation of pilot powerplant (May 2026 onwards)
Indicative cost	– Minimum 250.000 € for pilot powerplant (estimation)
Indicative funding sources	– RURACTIVE WAB project budget: EUR 5,000 for feasibility study – LEADER: funding of feasibility study? – EFRE?, KEM/Klar? Specific calls for alternative energy provision systems (Klimaaktiv?) – Financial funding options for young farmers (AIF?) for implementation of pilot connected to a farm? – Crowdfunding?
Long Term Impact Assessment	▪ Economic ▪ Environmental ▪ Social ▪ Cultural
Communication and Engagement	– Make use of regional social networks and communication channels – Communication and information via existing (social) media channels
Sustainability consideration	**Long-term operation:** Aiming for a long-term operation via an economically sustainable implementation in the pilot and a year-round operation through the search for additional resources for the biogas small-scale plant **Scalability:** Concept can be adapted to other areas as the biogas small-scale plant is an easily scalable technology
Synergies with other solutions	Accompanied Volunteer Work and Corporate Volunteering – Opportunity for interconnection with grass mowing and control of invasive plants Needs-Based Sustainable Green Food Cruiser – Probably use of food waste for biogas plants
Synergies with local policies	Content and objectives in accordance with many programs and strategies: – Klimastrategie Burgenland – Austrian Biodiversity Strategy 2030
Synergies with EU policies when relevant	– EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – EU Circular Economy Action Plan