



Action Plan

INABLE Project

Work Package 1
Activity 1.3
Deliverable D1.3.1





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| Project acronym | INABLE |
| Project Title | Innovating Public Institutions as enablers of the Ecological Transition |
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Executive Summary

Building on the outcomes of A1.1 and A1.2, INABLE Project Partners developed a list of specific actions aimed at enhancing the ability of small-scale municipalities to spur sustainable innovation among private entities and citizens.

The analysis conducted in A1.1 assessed current municipal capacities, while the survey in A1.2 gathered insights from local stakeholders, providing crucial data to inform the action plan. The Action Plan covers a 3-year period, including a set of actions, identifying information needs, and a timeline necessary to achieve the intended impacts.

Additionally, a fundraising strategy was elaborated, outlining opportunities and mechanisms at the regional, national, and EU levels.

Stakeholder consultations revealed municipalities often lack designated 'digital officers', technical know-how, and funding for capacity building.

On the other hand, local businesses also have low digital skills and limited access to sustainability services.

This action plan outlines a set of initiatives over 3 years to strengthen the capacities of small municipalities in Croatia and Italy in supporting digitalization and sustainability among local enterprises and communities. The plan leverages learnings from INABLE to propose tangible actions aligned with stakeholder needs and national/EU funding opportunities.



Action Plan

The Action Plan was developed from INABLE Project Partners. Starting from the outcomes of A.1 and A.2 it was possible to define three main sub-challenges. To address them, we proposed three corresponding Solutions:

Solution 1 – Develop Local Digital Skills

Solution 2 - Map available resources and test innovative ideas

Solution 3 - Enable Knowledge Sharing

Once defined the Solutions, all Project Partners suggested several initiatives to make them into practice.

Then, the LP and Activity Coordinator proposed a set of priorities and a timeline of these initiatives, starting to describe them more in detail, identifying involved actors, the required budget and how each activity could be related to the other in the 3-year horizon.

The result is a coherent and ready-to-use Action Plan, which represents a remarkable tool for future initiatives and the capitalization of INABLE Project after its completion.



Year 1 (2025)

A1.1) Establish 'digital councils' of public/private experts in 10 municipalities

- *Description*

Each municipality establishes an advisory council of 5-7 digitalization experts from local public administrations, academics, civil society, and private sector.

Their aim is to create an ongoing dialogue and check on digital performances at the local level, taking into consideration problems, opportunities and technological progress.

Participants should define the frequency of meetings, internal communication tools and responsibilities.

- *Costs*

€0 - € 5,000 per municipality.

The financial resources will be used for administrative and operational costs of establishing and running councils (i.e: communication activities, organization/participation to events, external experts fees).

- *Timeline*

Councils established and active by Q2 2025 to inform Year 2 project activities.

- *Actors involved*

Municipal administrations select members and convene first meetings. Experts volunteer time to councils.

| LEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO SOLVE | LINKED SOLUTIONS |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low level of interaction and dialogue among diverse stakeholders on Twin Transition; - Low ability to map and make use of existing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 - Map available resources and test innovative ideas 3 - Enable Knowledge Sharing |



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| <p>technological and financial opportunities to solve public and private challenges related to digital and sustainability domains.</p> | |
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A1.2) Develop online green digital skills training courses

- *Description*

Using existing online learning platforms, the network of private and public partners will develop a set of training modules covering priority digital skills (e.g. data analytics, data management) and then specific focus on digital sustainability, Clean Tech, Eco Design, Green Tech jobs, monitoring of environmental impacts due to digital activities.

- *Costs*

€15,000 - €40,000 for the creation, promotion and management of training courses.

- *Timeline*

Modules launched across countries by Q4 2025. First cohort should finish courses by Q1 2026.

- *Actors involved*

National digital skills centers together with Partners and thematic experts will develop modules. Municipalities and business associations are expected to promote modules. SMEs and public officers will be the main target.

| LEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO SOLVE | LINKED SOLUTIONS |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low level of readiness to use new digital tools for working reasons; - Low level of awareness about the relationship between digital and ecological transitions. | <p>1 - Develop local digital skills</p> |



A1.3) Map renewable energy availability for sustainable data centres

- *Description*

Through a review of available data about existing and under-development renewable energy power plants, Partners will be able to create a map to balance local renewable energy production and energy requirements for the development of territorial data centres. This will allow to take into consideration a key aspect in terms of environmental impact of digital infrastructures and could create opportunities with local Renewable Energy Communities.

- *Costs*

€20,000 - 45,000 for research activities in 5-10 local communities (cities or districts).

- *Timeline*

Initiative launched by Q4 2025. Mapping completed by Q3 2026.

- *Actors involved*

Municipalities and Regional authorities convene consultations and provide data. Energy authorities should be engaged to obtain data and a better understanding of the market. Research centers and data providers coordinate mapping and analysis.

| LEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO SOLVE | LINKED SOLUTIONS |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low ability to map and make use of existing resources to manage the development of digital infrastructures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 - Map available resources and test innovative ideas |



Year 2 (2026)

A2.1) Launch public call for Local Authorities to identify Green & Digital Innovation Challenges

- *Description*

An Open Innovation Call for Challenges will allow Public Administrations to get in touch with potential subjects such as individuals, organisations or other enterprises able to contribute to the achievement of those same objectives.

Through our Network it will be in fact possible for a Local Authority (namely municipalities) to publish a Challenge, i.e. a content of text, video or other attachments, in which to specify what they are looking for in terms of skills, synergies, professionalism and experiences.

- *Costs*

€1,000 - € 5,000 for the Call design, launch, participants’ support, proposals’ evaluation and management over 3 months.

- *Timeline*

Call launch in Q1 2026, to leave open for at least 3 months.

- *Actors involved*

Municipalities frame challenges, while Private and public partners, especially Regional Development Agencies and Business Support Organisations disseminate the initiative.

| LEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO SOLVE | LINKED SOLUTIONS |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low level of interaction and dialogue among diverse stakeholders on Twin Transition; - Low ability to map and make use of existing technological, human and financial resources to solve public and private challenges related to digital and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 - Map available resources and test innovative ideas 3 - Enable Knowledge Sharing |



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| sustainability domains. | |
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A2.2) Call for innovative solutions to Local Authorities’ identified challenges

- *Description*

A call for expert Individuals, organisations or other enterprises will be launched. They may consult the identified Challenges and, if interested, can express to the Local Authorities the added value they can bring to the project in the role of Solution Provider.

The Challenges are open to all technical and scientific business, on which to build a qualified network aimed at disseminating knowledge, spur partnerships and consultancy collaborations. Those who have launched the Challenge and responded will be able to manage the matching in full autonomy.

- *Costs*

Free of Charge

- *Timeline*

Match Phase to start in Q2 2026.

- *Actors involved*

Municipalities frame challenges and dialogue with Solutions Providers. Citizens, SMEs, dev communities form teams. IT experts mentor teams.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low level of interaction and dialogue among diverse stakeholders on Twin Transition; - Low ability to map and make use of existing technological, human and financial resources to solve public and private challenges related to digital and sustainability domains. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 - Map available resources and test innovative ideas 3 - Enable Knowledge Sharing |



A2.3) Introduce municipal 'Digital Innovation Friends' initiative

- Description

Appointment of dedicated staff to steer digital transformation initiatives in each municipality for citizens and companies.

Digital Innovation Friends represent a community that contributes to the dissemination of digital skills and the online services offered by the public administration in a widespread manner.

The initiative will be developed on 2 levels:

LEVEL 1: volunteer tutors whose task in the area is to raise awareness about digital tools and risks in the daily life. The main target will be elderly.

Anyone can become volunteer tutor: students, academics, teachers, new technology enthusiasts and associations with a socially responsible approach.

LEVEL 2: professionals but also tech companies and consultants will be hired to support SMEs and entrepreneurs for a customized assessment of their digital level, preparing and implementing a specific support programme, to reinforce their digital skills
Strategic investments and win-win areas allowing higher productivity and lower environmental impacts will be proposed.

- Costs

€100,000 - € 150,000 annual budget to cover 10 support programmes over 1 year.

- Timeline

Staff selected by Q3 2026. Support Programmes launch is expected in Q4 2026, to be closed by Q4 2027.

- Actors involved

Local Authorities coordinate and manage the initiative. Students, academics, teachers, professionals but also tech companies, consultants and associations are involved as service providers or volunteer tutors.

Traditional SMEs or entrepreneurs will be involved as beneficiaries.



| LEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO SOLVE | LINKED SOLUTIONS |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low level of readiness to use new digital tools for personal and working reasons; - Low level of awareness about the relationship between digital and ecological transitions. - Low level of interaction and dialogue among diverse stakeholders on Twin Transition; - Low ability to map and make use of existing technological, human and financial resources to solve public and private challenges related to digital and sustainability domains. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Develop local digital skills 2 - Map available resources and test innovative ideas 3 - Enable Knowledge Sharing |



Year 3 (2027)**A3.1) Certify 100+ “Green Digital Officers” and establish municipal fab labs***- Description*

The action involves the certification of over 100 “Green Digital Officers” and the establishment of municipal fab labs. Green Digital Officers will undergo training programs to enhance their skills in digital technologies, fostering sustainable innovation and digital transformation within municipal operations. Simultaneously, the creation of fab labs within municipalities will provide shared digital fabrication spaces for citizens, promoting creativity, entrepreneurship, technological literacy and environmental awareness.

- Costs

€ 200,000 - €250,000 for:

- certification training programs for digital officers;
- Establishment and equipping of municipal fab labs (2 / 3);
- Operational costs for running fab labs over 1 year.

- Timeline

Certification of digital officers to conclude by Q2 2027

Establishment of municipal fab labs starts in Q2 2027 and they are fully operational by Q3 2027.

- Actors Involved

Local Government: Responsible for overseeing the certification process and allocating resources for setting up fab labs.

Training Providers: Conducting certification programs for digital officers.

Municipal Staff: Participating in certification programs and managing fab lab operations.

Community Members: Utilizing fab labs for innovative projects and collaborative work.



| LEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO SOLVE | LINKED SOLUTIONS |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low level of readiness to use new digital tools in public institutions; - Low level of awareness about the relationship between digital and ecological transitions among public officers. - Low ability to map and make use of existing technological, human and financial resources to solve public and private challenges related to digital and sustainability domains. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Develop local digital skills 2 - Map available resources and test innovative ideas 3 - Enable Knowledge Sharing |

A3.2) Test 10 sustainable business models in living labs

- *Description*

These living labs serve as real-world environments where these business models can be implemented, observed, and refined by innovation teams. The goal is to assess the viability, scalability, and impact of these models in practical settings, fostering innovation and sustainable practices.

- *Costs*

€ 20,000 - € 35,000 for operational costs and external experts support for mentoring and support activities.

- *Timeline*

The development and selection of sustainable business models proposed by teams is expected to be finished by Q3 2027 and the testing phase in living labs will start immediately, lasting 4 months until the end of 2027.

- *Actors Involved*

Research Institutions and teams of young entrepreneurs/startups, to be involved in the development and selection of sustainable business models.



Then Living Lab Managers for setting up the testing environment and coordinating the testing process will be selected.

Community Members: Providing feedback and insights on the feasibility and desirability of the tested business models.

| LEGAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTACLES TO SOLVE | LINKED SOLUTIONS |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low level of readiness to use new digital tools for personal and working reasons; - Low level of awareness about the relationship between digital and ecological transitions. - Low level of digital entrepreneurship and creation of new business initiatives - Low ability to map and make use of existing technological, human and financial resources to solve public and private challenges related to digital and sustainability domains. | <p>2 - Map available resources and test innovative ideas</p> |



Funding Opportunities

This Action Plan has been conceived to tackle the Twin Transition through a transnational approach. It is expected to generate impacts and benefits that should be complementary with national and regional efforts.

For this reason, the Interreg Programmes show remarkable opportunities:

In this section, we provide a list of Interreg Programmes that could allow a joint proposal involving Italian and Croatian Partners:

- Interreg Central Europe
- Interreg Euro-MED
- Interreg IPA-ADRION (Adriatic-Ionian)
- Interreg Italy-Croatia
- Interreg Europe
- Interact
- URBACT

Since several actions are aimed at enhancing green and digital skills, knowledge and awareness, another Programme to monitor is:

- Horizon Europe (especially Cluster 4 - Digital)

Linked to Horizon Europe and other EU Programmes, the Digital Europe Programme should be taken into consideration.

It does not address challenges in isolation, but it complements the funding available through other EU programmes, such as the Horizon Europe (for research and innovation) and the Connecting Europe Facility (for digital infrastructure), the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Structural funds, to name a few. It is a part of the long-term EU budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

Under this Programme, a network of National Contact Points and European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) has been created. They are available here:

https://european-digital-innovation-hubs.ec.europa.eu/edih-catalogue?f%5B0%5D=edih_so e%3Aedih&f%5B1%5D=edih_so e%3Aso e



European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH) serve as strategic allies on companies' path towards addressing digital challenges and enhancing competitiveness.

Although EDIH operate at a regional level, they derive strength from their participation in a pan-European network. These all-encompassing hubs are structured to deliver localized assistance specific to regional requirements while simultaneously being part of a larger European framework. Their localized expertise ensures services finely tuned to meet distinct needs and innovation ecosystem.

EDIH aid companies in modernizing their processes, products, and services through cutting-edge digital technologies. Companies can test new technologies risk-free with the 'test before invest' option. Moreover, EDIHs offer technical proficiency, financial guidance, and training and skill development — all crucial elements on the road to achieving successful digital transformation..

Each collaboration between an EDIH and a company is meticulously planned and evaluated using the Digital Maturity Assessment Tool (DMAT). This process enables the EDIH to grasp the digital requirements of each company accurately, facilitating tailored interventions.

By assessing a company's digital readiness before and after its engagement with an EDIH, the Digital Maturity Assessment Tool furnishes quantifiable and valuable insights into the advancement of its digital maturity.

