

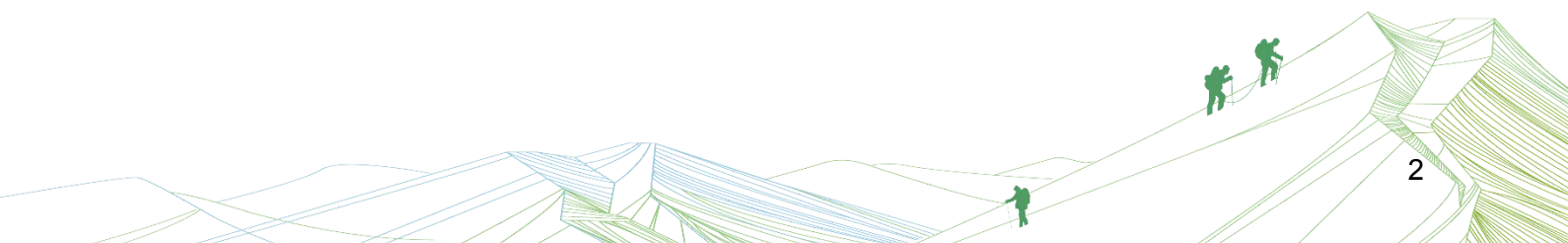
OUTCOME 1.1

*COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF
THE SPILLOVER EFFECTS OF YOUTH MIGRATION*



Content

1. INTRODUCTION
2. THE PARTIES IN THE COLLABORATION SCHEME
3. THE COLLABORATION SCHEME DEVICES/TOOLS AND RECIPIENTS
4. THE COLLABORATION METHODOLOGY AND PARTIES INVOLVED
5. THE LEVELS OF COOPERATION AND GOVERNANCE
6. CONCLUSIONS



1. INTRODUCTION

The OUT4INGOV project was born in a context characterized by profound social, cultural, and economic transformations, particularly affecting mountainous and peripheral areas of the Alpine region. Youth emigration, and specifically the so-called "brain drain," is not just a depopulation problem, but also a real vulnerability factor for areas already marked by demographic fragility and a lack of employment and training opportunities. The progressive loss of skilled and qualified young people risks weakening not only the economic fabric, but also social and cultural capital, reducing the capacity for innovation and cohesion of local communities.

Faced with this challenge, OUT4INGOV is a transnational initiative that aims to transform a threat into an opportunity, acting as a collective laboratory for reflection and experimentation. The project aims not only to describe and analyze migratory phenomena, but to identify concrete tools to address them, strengthening institutional cooperation, promoting youth leadership, and activating processes of social innovation.

The project's expected outcomes are multiple and encompass different dimensions. On a tangible level, OUT4INGOV envisions the production of guidelines, research reports, collections of best practices, and experimental models of social innovation, along with the implementation and full operation of the digital platform. Above all, it envisions the creation of governance tools such as a consultative body model, a cooperation network model, and an observatory model. These governance tools themselves promote cooperation among stakeholders and are therefore fully integrated into the collaborative framework discussed in this document.

On an intangible level, but no less importantly, the project intends to strengthen the capacity of local communities to address the challenge of youth emigration, increase the involvement of younger generations, stimulate mutual learning between different regions, and consolidate stronger social and institutional capital.

The project's objective is to share important knowledge, develop awareness, test tools, and develop institutional learning among the various actors and stakeholders, both internal and external to the project.

The **collaboration framework for the multilevel governance of the spillover effects of youth migration** on the local communities contributes to this objective.

It incorporates mechanisms to enable knowledge exchange, providing a common ground for collaboration among the six project partners (at the stakeholder and decision-making levels), primarily enhancing and systematizing the approaches, methodologies, and tools envisioned and tested in the project.

Below are better explained the stakeholders involved in the collaboration, its tools, and methodologies. Finally, it discusses how the collaboration fits into multilevel governance.

2. THE PARTIES IN THE COLLABORATION SCHEME

The following entities are involved in the collaboration model:

The OUT4INGOV project partners: these are public entities with territorial representation responsibilities at the provincial (in Italy), departmental/local (in France), and municipal (in Slovenia)

levels; representative associations at the supra-regional level; and research centers. They are the promoters of this collaboration model.

The Stakeholders: the entities (individuals, groups, or organizations) that have a direct or indirect interest in, or are influenced/involved in, a given project, policy, or decision-making process. The project specifically identifies among these the local communities in which youth migration-related phenomena and impacts occur, the stakeholders (associations, local committees, NGOs), and administrators.

The Young people: they are the ultimate beneficiaries of the project's action aimed at managing the effects of migration.

The Decision makers: these are the individuals, groups, or institutions (typically public ones) that have the formal or informal power to make strategic decisions.

The cooperation structures of the Alpine area: Eusalp through the Youth Council and Action Group 3 in particular, by virtue of their expertise in the labor market, education and training.

3. THE COLLABORATION SCHEME DEVICES/TOOLS AND RECIPIENTS

OUT4INGOV offers numerous tools and mechanisms aimed at fostering cooperation in the project area, which therefore fully fall within the collaborative framework: communities of practice, youth councils, cooperation networks, and observatories.

Communities of practice: one of the distinctive elements of OUT4INGOV lies in the desire to build a transnational community of practice, a place of identity and operation where partners and stakeholders can not only exchange experiences but also jointly develop new models of territorial governance. This tool transcends the logic of episodic planning to embrace a medium- to long-term perspective. In this sense, the community of practice represents a stable framework for relationships and collaboration, capable of producing benefits beyond the duration of a single project, ensuring the long-term sustainability of governance.

Intended audience: partners, stakeholders (NGOs, youth workers, local institutions, etc.)

Youth Councils are consultative tools designed as spaces for active **participation** for younger generations. Their value goes far beyond simple consultation and the expression of opinions and suggestions: they are true laboratories of active citizenship, where young people can exercise leadership skills, contribute to the development of proposals, and guide local policies. The activation of these councils responds to the need to give a voice to those who, more than others, are affected by the migration phenomenon, while also strengthening young people's sense of belonging and connection to their local communities.

Intended audience: young people and Eusalp structures

Cooperation networks, understood as dynamic networks for exchange and discussion between local communities, institutions, and social actors. These networks allow for the valorization of diverse experiences and the testing of tools borrowed from other contexts, through benchmarking sessions and study visits. In this way, partners can not only share best practices, but also adapt them to their

specific needs, giving rise to bottom-up innovation processes that can be brought to decision-makers.

Intended audience: partners, stakeholders (NGOs, youth workers, local institutions, etc.).

Observatories— research, analysis, and monitoring tools that enable the collection of reliable data and knowledge, capable of accurately describing migration dynamics and their consequences—in the OUT4INGOV project represent, above all, a space for dialogue between institutions, experts, and local communities, where information becomes a shared asset and a starting point for informed decisions.

Audience: Institutions, experts, local communities, and decision makers

Digital platform: To support these tools, OUT4INGOV uses an innovative and interactive digital platform that fosters participation, content sharing, and the promotion of initiatives. The platform is not simply a technological container, but a living space for relationships, breaking down geographical barriers and including in the process those who, due to distance or lack of opportunities, would otherwise risk being excluded.

Audience: Young people, NGOs, local communities

4. THE COLLABORATION METHODOLOGY AND PARTIES INVOLVED

Methodologically, the project envisions various approaches and methods to foster collaboration in developing the planned activities. Collaborative working methods have already been tested during WP1. The project promotes a **participatory and inclusive approach**, which takes shape through information and awareness-raising sessions, thematic workshops, peer-to-peer discussions, and transnational co-programming and co-design processes.

Peer-to-peer: meetings between peers, i.e., partners and stakeholders in similar situations (young people, social workers, local administrators), who exchange experiences, best practices, and skills. Peer-to-peer meetings are based on a horizontal, non-hierarchical exchange that leverages the participants' experiential knowledge.

It is based on direct discussion, mutual learning, and empowerment. The project uses it both in the discussion of topics and in the validation of results and pilot projects.

Stakeholders involved: Young migrants and natives sharing experiences of inclusion, employment, and education. Administrators from various municipalities discussing effective governance tools.

Co-creation groups: collaborative working groups in which different stakeholders (institutions, young people, communities, businesses, the third sector) jointly design solutions to a common problem.

The co-creation group methodology promotes a participatory and inclusive process and is not limited to consultation: participants co-design and co-decide. It enhances collective creativity and shared ownership of solutions.

The OUT4INGOV project uses co-creation to build governance tools (e.g., a Consultative Body).

Stakeholders involved: partners, stakeholders, and decision makers.

Capacity building: a process of strengthening the skills, resources, and tools of individuals and organizations to make them more effective, autonomous, and resilient. Includes technical training, development of transversal skills, and mentoring. It aims for sustainability: enabling communities to act without dependence on external aid.

Stakeholders involved: individuals (e.g., young people, professionals), institutions (e.g., local authorities).

Informative workshops: training and interactive sessions designed to provide practical and theoretical knowledge on a specific topic to a group of participants, while also encouraging dialogue and active participation. They involve a facilitator/speaker who leads the meeting, encourages participation, and provides content.

Stakeholders: These sessions may be aimed at young people, social workers, local administrators, teachers, and citizens.

5. THE LEVELS OF COOPERATION AND GOVERNANCE

The cooperation covered by this framework is divided into "internal" and "external" to the project. Within the OUT4INGOV project, each partner has the opportunity to launch initiatives, stimulating processes of sharing and involvement.

The lead partner – the Autonomous Province of Trento – ensures overall coordination, ensuring at least one quarterly meeting for discussion and joint reflection. This distributed governance model within the project represents an interesting experiment in multilevel institutional cooperation, in which the weight of decisions is balanced and shared.

External cooperation, i.e., that which involves the project within the cooperation area, requires constant dialogue with certain governance structures that intervene within the Alpine Space Programme territories and the EUSALP strategy in particular.

The overall cooperation framework envisages the involvement of the Eusalp Youth Council as observers in the information workshops and co-creation groups (for example, the one for defining the consultative body). It also provides for discussion of the outcomes with the Eusalp GA3.

The internal and external collaborative working model can be replicated in other transnational co-programming and co-design processes for experimental actions to be tested in diverse contexts and with the involvement of various key players and stakeholders from different areas. The concrete functioning of the community of practices and other tools and methodologies could constitute a prototype for an active and effective institutional relationship, extending to the entire Alpine institutional spectrum through its progressive expansion to other institutions interested in the topic.

The overall collaboration model mobilizes various levels of governance, represented in the following table, which links the main stakeholders and involved with the proposed tools and methodologies.

Governance	Type of subjects	Tools of collaborarion	Collaboration methodologies
Local/regional	Project partners	Community of practices	Peer-to peer

		cooperation's Network Observatories	Co-creation groups Capacity building Information and training Workshops
Local/regional	Stakeholder (local communities, NGO's, operators)	Community of practices cooperation's Network Observatories	Peer-to peer Capacity building Information and training Workshops
Local/regional	Recipients (young people)	Youth councils Digital platforms	Peer-to peer
Local/regional	Decision makers (institutions)	Cooperation's Network Observatories	Capacity building information and training Workshops
Transregional/ european	External to the project (es. Eusalp, other alpine space or european territories)	Youth councils Observatories	Co-creation groups information and training Workshops

6. CONCLUSIONS

Through these extended cooperation methods, OUT4INGOV aims to become a reference model for transnational cooperation in Alpine regions. The experience gained can be gradually extended and adapted to other regions, contributing to the development of innovative and sustainable policies. From this perspective, youth emigration is no longer seen solely as a loss, but as an opportunity to rethink territorial policies, revitalize the attractiveness of mountain areas, and develop new forms of rootedness and active citizenship.

The proposed collaboration framework and the governance tool prototypes will need to be further tested in subsequent project phases, and any adjustments may be necessary based on the findings of the trials, capacity building sessions, and peer reviews. Therefore, it is anticipated that this document should be read in conjunction with the subsequent Output 2.2, expected by the end of the project, which will summarize all phases of prototype creation and validation.

