

# R-Map Press Release

Mapping, understanding, assessing and predicting the effects of remote working arrangements in urban and rural areas

Brussels, 16 October 2024

## **R-Map Project Advances Towards Understanding the Impacts of Remote Work Across Europe**

Launched in February 2024, R-Map is making notable progress in analysing the social, economic and spatial impacts of remote working arrangements in both urban and rural areas of Europe. As the project reached its six-month mark, the consortium gathered at the University of Twente, Netherlands, for a successful progress meeting and co-creation workshop.

### About R-Map

R-Map is a 3-year EU-funded initiative designed to explore how remote work affects the urban-rural gap in Europe by mapping, understanding, assessing and predicting the social, spatial and economic effects of remote working arrangements. It uses state-of-the-art research methods and works closely with stakeholders to fully understand the impacts of remote work and provide solutions. The aim is to provide practical insights and strategies empowering policymakers and communities to better shape the trends of remote working in their territory.

### Recent Milestones

Since its launch, R-Map has made significant progress, such as completing a literature review exploring the spatial and socio-economic implications of remote working and deploying a large-scale survey collecting comprehensive data on workers' perceptions and needs. These findings will play a crucial role in shaping the Integrated Assessment Framework (R-Map model) and offering key perspectives on how remote work influences urban and rural dynamics.

At the recent co-creation workshop in September 2024 at the University of Twente, experts from various fields collaborated on defining key factors, such as infrastructure, job roles and regional dynamics, that will shape the Integrated Assessment Framework (R-Map model). The outcomes from the workshop will drive the next stages of the project. R-Map has also established an Advisory Board of 14 distinguished experts from various fields to provide strategic input throughout the project. Their insights have already proved valuable in guiding R-Map's efforts to bridge the urban-rural divide and further advance the research objectives.

## Quote

**Prof. Efstratios Stylianidis**  
Project Coordinator, Aristotle  
University of Thessaloniki,  
School of Spatial Planning and  
Development, Laboratory of  
Geoinformatics

*As we advance into the next phase of the R-Map project, we are encouraged by the progress made in assessing the impacts of remote working across Europe. The collaborative efforts from our diverse team of experts and stakeholders are auspicious in shaping a comprehensive understanding of how remote work influences both urban and rural dynamics. With continued focus on innovation and co-creation, we are confident that R-Map will provide valuable insights to help policymakers and communities navigate the evolving landscape of remote working.”*

## Consortium Partners

The project brings together a diverse group of leading institutions and organisations, each contributing unique expertise and resources towards our shared goal of R-Map. Specifically, the consortium comprises **twelve (12)** partners from **seven (7)** different EU Member States and EU Neighbourhood countries, led by the **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (ATh)**

## Next Steps

Looking ahead, R-Map will continue to refine the Integrated Assessment Framework (R-Map model), with further workshops and collaborative efforts as well as a series of policy workshops planned in the coming months. A key next step is the development of the R-Map visualisation platform, which will integrate the model's key factors into a dynamic tool for policymakers and stakeholders. This platform will offer interactive features, such as dashboards, maps and charts allowing users to explore how different factors influence urban-rural dynamics. The goal is to inform evidence-based policymaking and provide insights into the broader impacts of remote work. R-Map remains committed to fostering synergies and continuing to explore innovative solutions to shape the future of Europe's urban-rural landscape

## For more information

Please visit [www.r-map.eu](http://www.r-map.eu)

### Contact Information

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