R-Map

MAPPING THE EFFECTS OF REMOTE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

R-Map PLATFORM User Guide

Version 1.0 - April 2026

Funded by the European Union

The R-MAP project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101132497.

Table of Contents

1. ABOUT THE R-MAP PLATFORM 3

1.1 WHO THIS GUIDE IS FOR 3
1.2 WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THE PLATFORM 3

2. GETTING STARTED 4

2.1 SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS 4
2.2 OPENING THE PLATFORM 4
2.3 NAVIGATING THE PLATFORM 4

3. BROWSING THE DATASET CATALOGUE 5

3.1 OPENING THE CATALOGUE 5
3.2 READING THE COLUMNS 6
3.3 SEARCHING AND PAGINATING 6

4. VIEWING DATASET DETAILS 7

4.1 OPENING THE DETAIL PANEL 7
4.2 WHAT THE DETAIL PANEL SHOWS 8
4.3 OPENING THE DATASET 8

5. VISUALIZATIONS AND MAP VIEWS 9

5.1 MAP VIEW 9
5.2 COMPARING TWO INDICATORS ON THE MAP 10

6. EXPLORING THE R-MAP MODEL 12

6.1 OPENING THE MODEL DASHBOARD 12
6.2 THE FOUR VIEWS AT A GLANCE 12
6.3 COUNTRY RANKINGS 13
6.4 WHAT DRIVES REMOTE WORK? 14
6.5 HOW FACTORS CONNECT 14
6.6 TESTING A POLICY SCENARIO 15

7. WORKING WITH TAGS 17

7.1 THE R-MAP THEMATIC DIMENSIONS 17
7.2 FILTERING BY TAG 17

8. NUTS LEVELS — A QUICK REMINDER 18

9. SUPPORT AND FEEDBACK 19

1. About the R-Map Platform

The R-Map Platform is a digital online tool created under the R-Map project (Horizon Europe). It is designed to support policy makers in exploring how remote working arrangements are reshaping European territories.

The platform brings together harmonized territorial datasets and visualizes the outputs of the R-Map model. Datasets cover EU Member States and associated countries, at various NUTS levels of granularity.

You can access the platform at https://r-map-platform.eu. No installation is required — only a standard, up-to-date web browser.

1.1 Who this guide is for

This guide is written primarily for policy makers, regional and metropolitan planners. No specialist technical background is required. Readers familiar with statistical portals such as Eurostat or national statistical offices will find the platform's logic immediately recognizable.

1.2 What you can do with the platform

- Browse a curated catalogue of policy-relevant datasets, organized by thematic tags.
- Inspect each dataset's metadata — country coverage, time period, NUTS level — to judge whether it fits your policy question.
- Visualize indicators across European regions and compare territories.
- Explore the outputs of the R-Map model, which integrates these indicators into composite measures of rural attractiveness, telework intensity and territorial sorting.
- Assemble evidence for policy briefs, regional strategies and consultations on rural development, urban–rural rebalancing and territorial cohesion.

2. Getting started

2.1 System requirements

- A modern desktop or laptop browser (Chrome, Edge, Firefox or Safari, current versions).
- A screen resolution of 1280 × 800 or higher is recommended for the catalogue and map views.
- A stable internet connection. No software installation is required.

2.2 Opening the platform

- Open your browser.
- Navigate to https://r-map-platform.eu.
- The landing page introduces the platform and provides entry points to the dataset catalogue, the map/visualisation views and the project information.

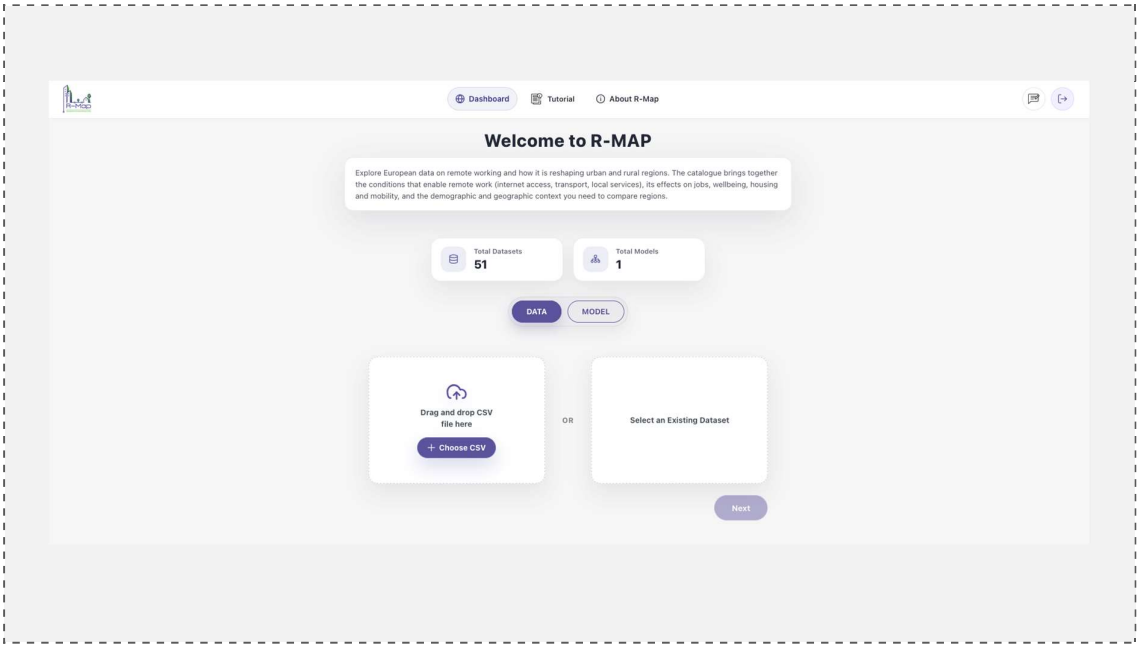


Figure 1. R-Map Platform — landing page.

2.3 Navigating the platform

The R-Map landing page is organised into four main components:

1. Top navigation bar. Three sections: Dashboard (active), Tutorial, and About R-Map — providing access to the working area, onboarding material, and project information respectively.

2. Welcome & scope panel. A header introducing R-Map and a short description card that frames the platform's purpose: exploring European data on remote working and its impact on urban and rural regions. It outlines the thematic coverage — enabling conditions (internet access, transport, local services), effects on

jobs, wellbeing, housing and mobility, and the demographic/geographic context for cross-regional comparison.

3. Catalogue summary cards. Two at-a-glance counters showing the contents of the platform: *Total Datasets* (26) and *Total Models* (1). These give the user an immediate sense of available resources.

4. Mode selector and input area. A toggle switches between **DATA** and **MODEL** workflows. Below it, two parallel entry points let the user either:

- *Upload* their own data via drag-and-drop or the **Choose CSV** button, or
- *Select an existing dataset* from the catalogue.

A **Next** button at the bottom right advances the user to the subsequent step once an input is provided.

Together, these components form a clean entry funnel: orient the user (header + description), show what's available (counters), and let them choose between bringing their own data or working with the curated catalogue.

3. Browsing the dataset catalogue

The catalogue is the entry point to all the data and model outputs available on the platform.

3.1 Opening the catalogue

- From the main menu, choose “Select an Existing Dataset”, or upload your own Dataset if you are logged in.
- The catalogue opens as a paginated list. Each row corresponds to one dataset and displays its thematic tags, a short description, and the upload date.

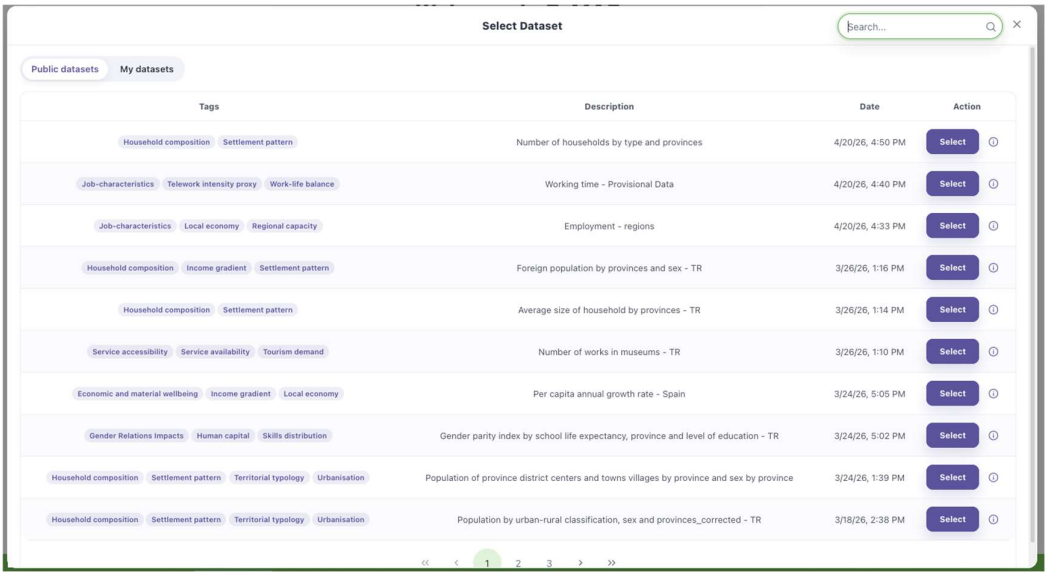


Figure 2. Dataset catalogue — list view with thematic tags, descriptions and dates.

3.2 Reading the columns

- **Tags.** Coloured chips indicating the R-Map themes the dataset belongs to (e.g., “Digital Acceptance”, “Spatial Sorting”, “Health and Wellbeing”). One dataset may carry several tags.
- **Description.** A short title summarising the indicator (e.g., “Employed persons working from home by professional status”).
- **Date.** The date the dataset was uploaded.
- **Action.** A “Select” button to open the dataset, and an information (i) icon to view full metadata before opening it.

3.3 Searching and paginating

1. Use the search box at the top right to filter the catalogue by keyword (for example, “telework”, “households” or “Spain”).
2. Use the pagination controls at the bottom to move between pages.
3. Use the “Public datasets” filter chip to limit the list to publicly available data (visible by default).

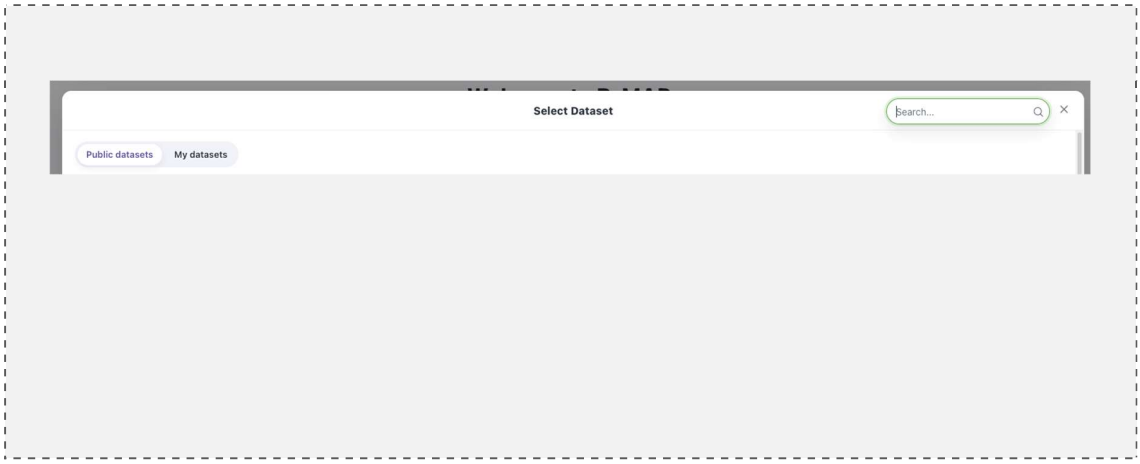


Figure 3. Catalogue search and pagination controls.

4. Viewing dataset details

Before opening a dataset it is good practice — especially for policy use — to check its metadata. The platform provides a dedicated detail panel for this purpose.

4.1 Opening the detail panel

- In the catalogue, locate the dataset of interest.
- Click the information icon (“i”) at the right-hand side of the row.
- A side panel opens showing the dataset's full metadata.

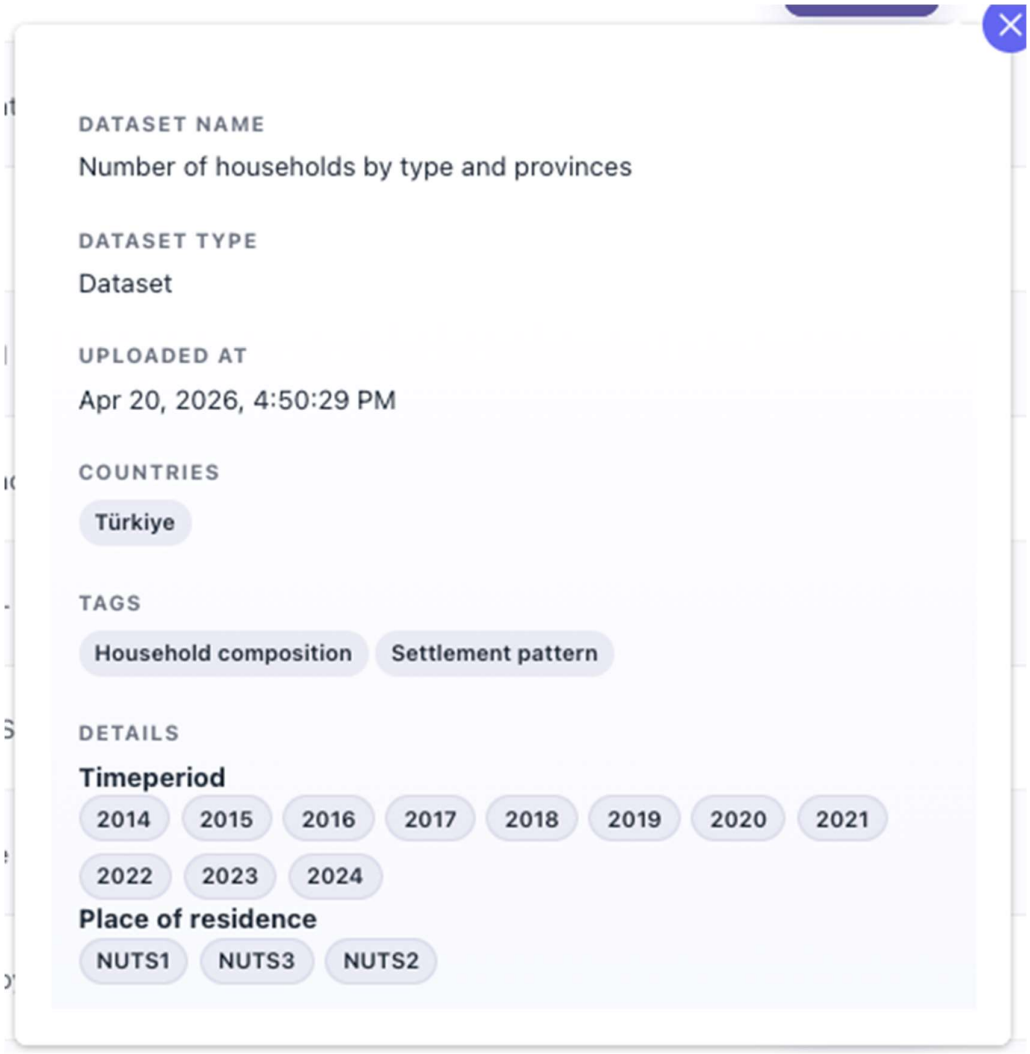


Figure 4. Dataset detail panel — metadata for a single dataset.

4.2 What the detail panel shows

Field	What it tells you
Dataset Name	The full title of the indicator or dataset.
Dataset Type	Whether the entry is a dataset, or a survey.
Uploaded At	Date and time the dataset was uploaded on the platform.
Countries	The country or countries covered (e.g., Italy, Spain, Türkiye).
Tags	R-Map thematic dimensions associated with the dataset.
Time period	The years for which observations are available, shown as discrete year chips so that gaps are immediately visible.
Place of residence	The NUTS levels (0, 1, 2 and/or 3) at which the dataset can be displayed.

Tip for policy use

Before citing a dataset in a policy document, check the time period chips and the NUTS level. A national-level series cannot answer a NUTS-3 question; an indicator that ends in 2019 may not capture post-pandemic dynamics.

4.3 Opening the dataset

- From the catalogue, click the “Select” button on the dataset row.
- The platform opens the dataset in the visualization view, where it can be explored on a map and through charts.

5. Visualizations and map views

Once a dataset is selected, the platform displays it in an interactive visualization. The exact controls depend on the type of indicator (numeric, categorical, time-series), but the general logic is consistent across the platform.

5.1 Map view

- Each region is shaded according to the value of the selected indicator.
- Hover over a region to see the exact value, the unit of measurement, and the year of observation.
- Use the year selector (where available) to move through the time series and observe change over time.
- Use the NUTS-level selector to switch between NUTS 0 (country level), NUTS 1 (large regions), NUTS 2 (basic regions) and NUTS 3 (small regions).
-

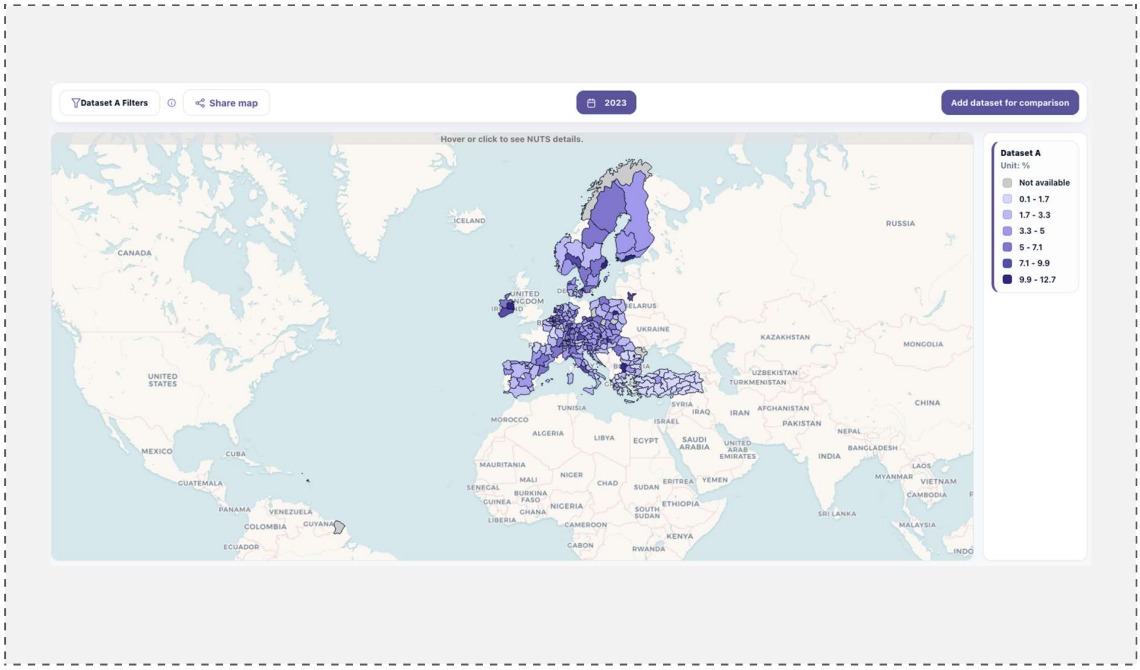


Figure 5. Map view — territorial visualisation of a selected indicator.

5.2 Comparing Two Indicators on the Map

R-Map allows you to overlay **two datasets at once** on the same European map, so you can visually correlate enabling conditions (e.g. digital infrastructure, transport, services) with outcomes (e.g. employment, demographics, housing). This sub-chapter explains how to read the dual-dataset view and how to drill down into individual regions.

- **The dual-dataset map**

When two datasets are loaded, they are rendered together using complementary visual encodings so that neither obscures the other:

- **Dataset A** is shown as a **choropleth layer** — each NUTS region is filled with a shade of purple corresponding to its value. Darker shades indicate higher values.
- **Dataset B** is shown as **proportional green circles** placed at the centroid of each region. Larger and circles indicate higher values.

The two **legends** on the right-hand side of the map make the units and class breaks for each dataset explicit. Always check these before drawing conclusions, as the unit (e.g. *PPS per inhabitant*, *% of households*) and the binning method directly affect how the colours and circle sizes should be interpreted.

A header above the map shows the titles of both active datasets, with an info icon (ⓘ) next to each providing the full metadata description.

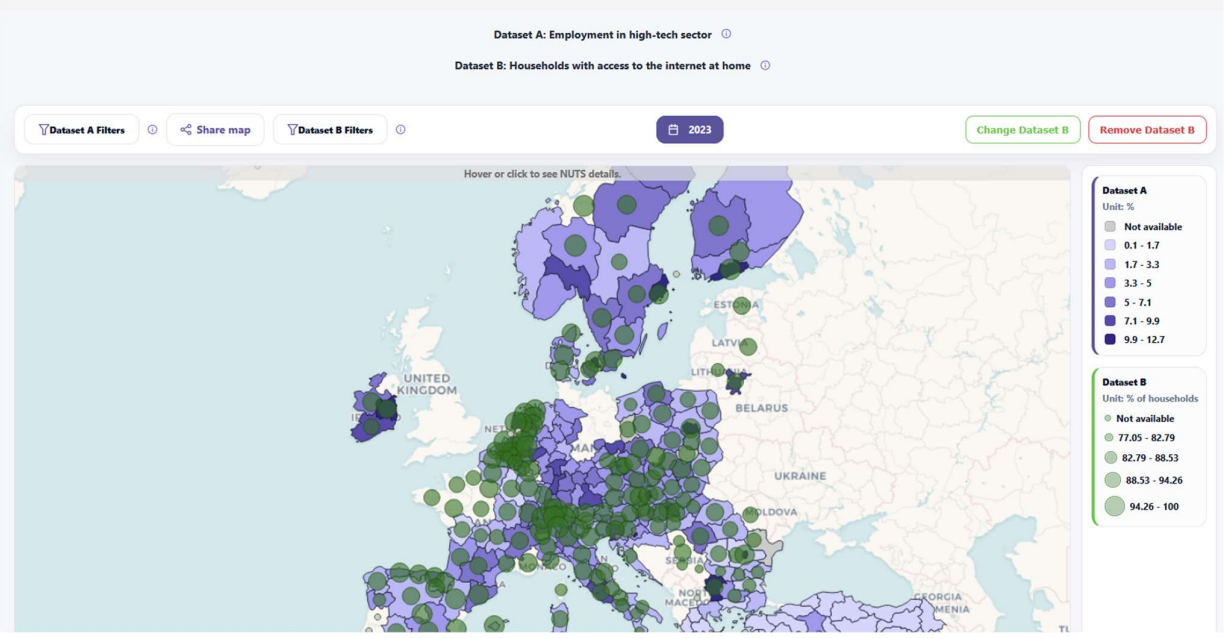


Figure 6. Map view — Comparing Two Indicators on the Map.

- **Inspecting a region: the Feature Details panel**

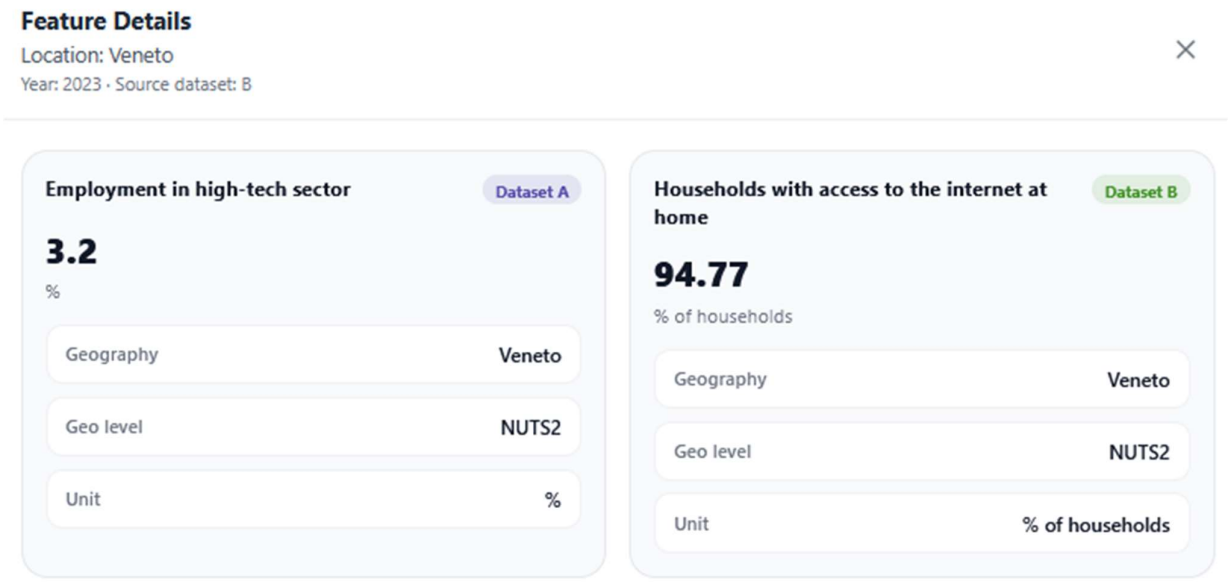
Hovering over or clicking on any region opens the **Feature Details** panel, which displays the precise values for that location across both active datasets.

For each dataset, the panel shows:

- The **indicator name** and the value, in the dataset's native unit;
- The **geography** (region name);
- The **geo level** (NUTS 0, 1, 2, or 3);
- The **unit** of measurement;
- The **source dataset** reference and the **year**, shown at the top of the panel.

For example, selecting *Veneto* in 2023 with *Employed persons in high-tech sectors* (Dataset A) and *Households with access to the internet at home* (Dataset B) loaded returns 3.2% employment rate and 94.77% of households respectively — values that can be quoted directly in a briefing or compared against neighbouring regions by clicking through the map.

The panel can be closed using the **×** in the top-right corner, returning you to the full map view.



6. Exploring the R-MAP Model

Beyond the catalogue of indicators, the platform offers a Model Dashboard — an interactive exploration of the R-MAP causal model. The model is a Bayesian Network that maps how remote working arrangements drive spatial, social, and economic impacts across European regions. The Dashboard turns this model into views that a non-technical user can navigate and reason with, without writing code or running statistical software.

The Model Dashboard complements the dataset catalogue: where the catalogue surfaces individual indicators, the Dashboard exposes the relationships between them and lets you ask what-if questions about policy interventions.

6.1 Opening the Model Dashboard

From the main menu, choose “R-MAP Model” (or click the equivalent button on the landing page). The Dashboard opens with four interactive views, each answering a different policy question.

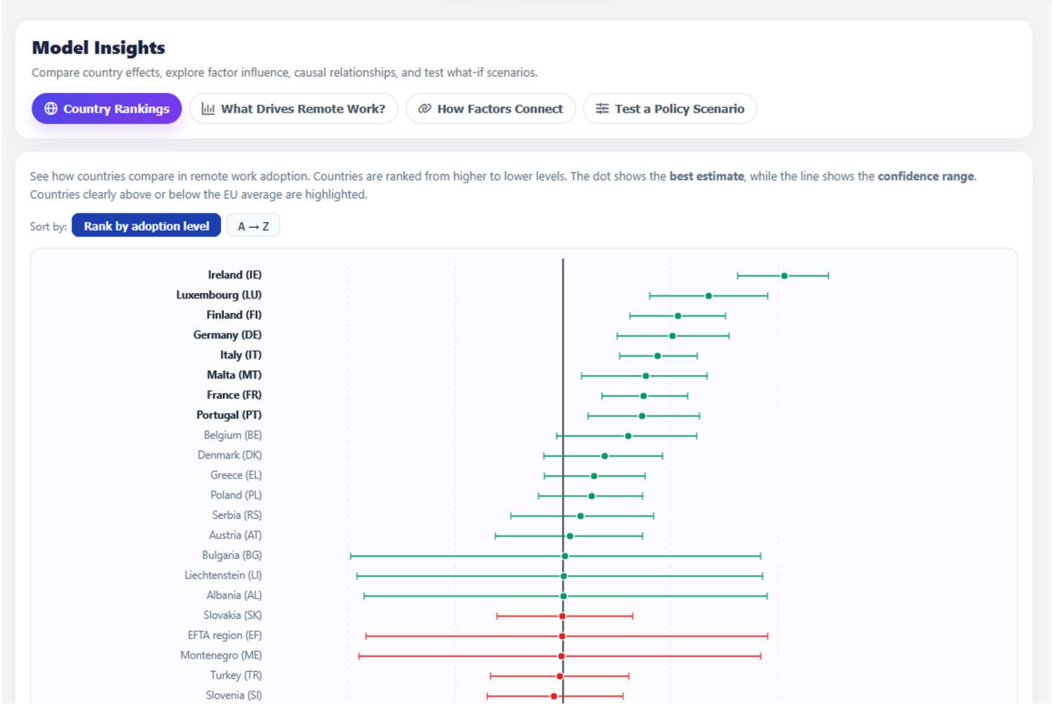


Figure 7. Model view — the Model Dashboard.

6.2 The four views at a glance

The Dashboard provides four complementary entry points into the R-MAP model. Each view answers a distinct policy question, and you can move freely between them — selections in one view do not constrain the others.

- **Country Rankings —** where does a country stand on remote work adoption relative to others, and how certain is that estimate?

- **What Drives Remote Work? —** which factors promote or inhibit remote work in European regions, and by how much?
- **How Factors Connect —** how are GDP, demographics, infrastructure and other factors linked to each other and to remote work adoption?
- **Test a Policy Scenario —** adjust factor sliders and see the predicted impact on remote work adoption in real time.

The four views are described in detail in sections 6.3 to 6.6 below.

6.3 Country Rankings

Country Rankings shows where each European country sits on remote work adoption. The view is a quick way to answer the policymaker's first question: where does my country stand, and how does it compare to its neighbours?

- Each country appears as a row, with a dot at the best estimate and a horizontal bar showing the confidence range — that is, how certain the model is about that estimate.
- Countries shown in bold have confidence ranges entirely above or below the European average, meaning they clearly stand out from the pack.
- Hover over a country row to see the numerical estimate and the bounds of the confidence range.

Tip for policy use

When using rankings in a policy brief, always report the confidence range alongside the point estimate. A narrow range supports stronger claims; a wide range calls for a more cautious wording.

Figure 8. Country Rankings — point estimates and confidence ranges by country.

6.4 What Drives Remote Work?

This view answers the question: which factors promote or hold back remote work in European regions?

- Each factor is shown as a horizontal bar. Bars extending right are enablers; bars extending left are barriers. Longer bars mean stronger effects.
- Diamond markers show what experts initially expected (the prior), so you can immediately see where the data confirms assumptions and where it tells a different story.
- Hover or click on a factor to see its description, the magnitude of its effect, and a link to the underlying evidence in the Dataset Observatory.

Tip for policy use

Use this view to identify the policy levers most likely to move remote work adoption in your region. Factors with strong positive bars are the most actionable enablers; factors with strong negative bars highlight constraints that may need complementary measures.

Figure 9. What Drives Remote Work? — enablers and barriers ranked by effect size.

6.5 How Factors Connect

This view exposes the causal structure behind the model. It is the most useful entry point when you need to understand not only which factors matter, but how they reinforce or counteract each other.

- Each node is a factor — for example GDP, population change, tourist demand, employment in remote-friendly sectors.
- Arrows show which factors influence which others, and in which direction.

- You can drag nodes to rearrange the network, click a node to highlight its direct connections, and trace indirect pathways step by step.

Why this matters

Remote work does not only have a direct effect on a region. It cascades — changes in remote work adoption can affect population change, which in turn affects GDP, which feeds back into other factors. The network view helps you trace those indirect pathways before reasoning about policy interventions.

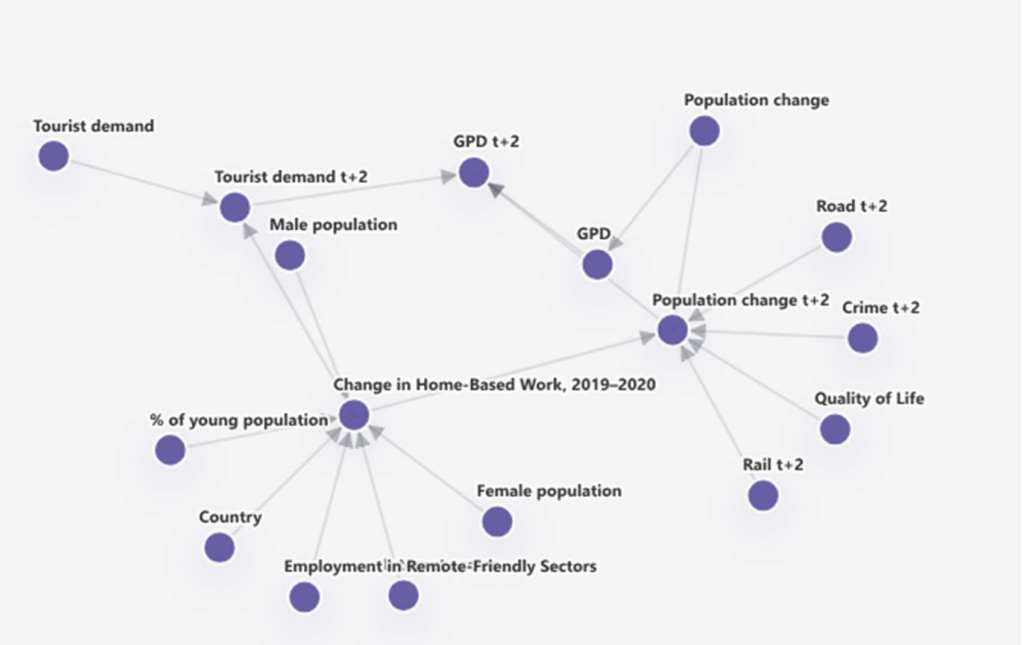


Figure 10. How Factors Connect — interactive causal network of factor relationships.

6.6 Testing a Policy Scenario

The What-If Scenario tool lets you simulate the effect of policy changes before committing resources. It is the most directly actionable view in the Dashboard.

- Select the country (or, where available, the region) of interest from the drop-down at the top of the panel.
- Adjust the sliders for the factors you want to test — for example Internet Access, Remote-capable Employment, Female Population Share, Male Population Share, and Young Population Share.
- Read the Predicted Remote Work Adoption (RWA) Score on the right of the panel. The score updates in real time as you move the sliders.

- Inspect the Contribution Breakdown to see exactly how much each factor adds to or subtracts from the predicted score, including the country-level structural effect.

Reading the Contribution Breakdown

The “Country Effect” bar reflects each country’s structural characteristics. When it dominates the breakdown, short-term policy levers will move the score only modestly. When other bars are large, there is more room for policy to make a difference.

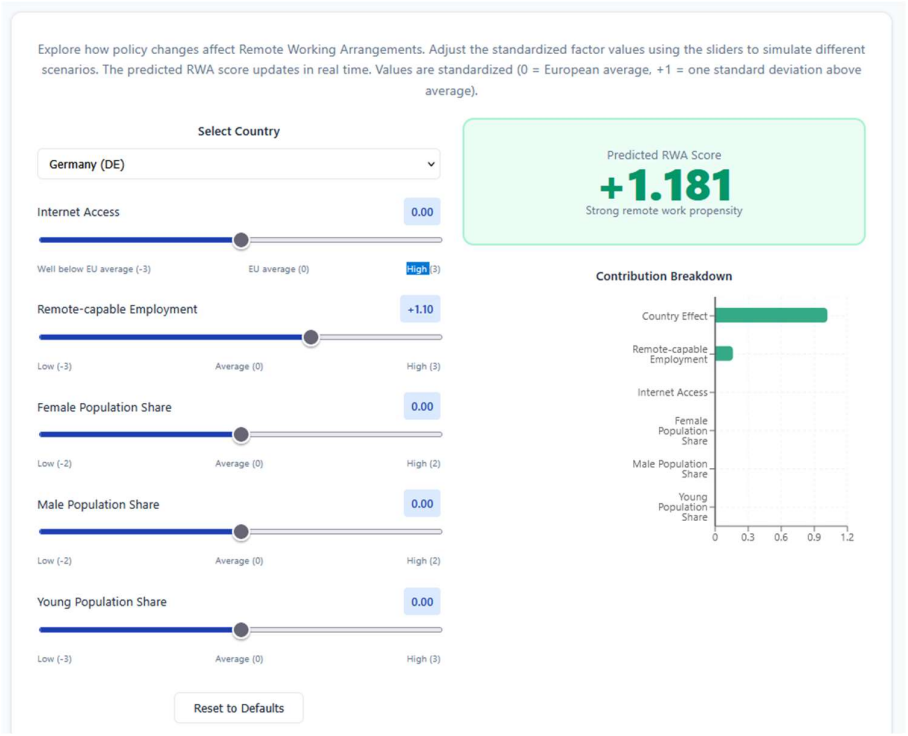


Figure 11. Test a Policy Scenario — sliders, predicted RWA score, and contribution breakdown.

7. Working with tags

R-Map organises datasets along a set of thematic dimensions designed to map onto the policy questions the project addresses. Understanding the tag system makes it much faster to assemble the evidence for a given question.

7.1 The R-Map thematic dimensions

- **Digital Acceptance —** broadband adoption, e-services use, digital skills.
- **Spatial Sorting —** where people choose to live and how that is changing.
- **Economic and material wellbeing —** income, employment, material conditions.
- **Family and Community —** household composition, social ties, life satisfaction.
- **Health and Wellbeing —** service availability, health workforce, hospital capacity, life satisfaction.
- **Gender Relations Impacts —** gender parity, female employment, work-life balance.
- **Job-characteristics, Job satisfaction, Work-life balance —** labour-market quality dimensions.
- **Remote work adoption, Telework intensity proxy —** indicators of how widespread teleworking is.
- **Organizational Effectiveness —** productivity, sectoral composition.
- **Household composition, Settlement pattern, Urbanisation, Territorial typology —** structural characteristics of territories.
- **Service accessibility, Service availability, Tourism demand —** services of general interest and local economy proxies.
- **Income gradient, Local economy, Regional capacity —** regional economic structure.
- **Human capital, Skills distribution —** education and skills.

7.2 Filtering by tag

- From the catalogue, use the search bar with the tag chip to find the dataset.
- The catalogue filters down to datasets carrying that tag.

8. NUTS levels — a quick reminder

Many datasets on the platform are available at one or several levels of the EU's NUTS classification (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics). Choosing the right level is essential for sound policy interpretation.

Level	What it represents	Typical policy use
NUTS 0	Country level (Member States of the EU)	National-level reporting, EU-wide benchmarking, framework legislation.
NUTS 1	Major socio-economic regions (e.g., Nord-Ovest in Italy).	National strategy and macro-regional comparisons.
NUTS 2	Basic regions for the application of regional policies (e.g., autonomous communities, regions).	Cohesion-policy programming, ERDF/ESF allocation.
NUTS 3	Small regions for specific diagnoses (e.g., provinces, departments).	Rural-attractiveness analysis, service-accessibility studies.

Why this matters

An indicator displayed only at NUTS 2 cannot reveal intra-regional disparities (e.g., between a metropolitan core and its surrounding rural areas). When such disparities are central to your policy question, prefer datasets that expose the NUTS 3 level.

9. Support and feedback

If you encounter a technical issue or need clarification on an indicator, please contact the R-Map team at **[support@r-map-platform.eu]** or reply to any communication from the R- Map consortium.

The R-Map consortium actively welcomes feedback from policy makers and planners. A short feedback form is available on the platform by clicking  at the top right of the screen. Your input directly shapes the next releases of the platform.