



D6.2 – ADVISORY BOARD

*Connecting Europe and Latin America
Transforming Today's Data into
Tomorrow's Solutions*



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Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Title
AI	Artificial Intelligence
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
DIAS	Data and Information Access Services
EGNSS	European Global Navigation Satellite System
EO	Earth Observation



Project Summary

The COMUNIDAD project, led by Lesprojekt, utilises Copernicus satellite data and the European Global Navigation Satellite System (EGNSS), along with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data technologies to transfer technologies and know-how to Latin America. The COMUNIDAD project focuses on improving agricultural and forestry management in Chile and Colombia and aims to develop an infrastructure and a platform that serves as the basis for creating applications that enhance precision, efficiency, and sustainability. This initiative contributes to the socio-economic growth of the South American region. Technological advancements are expected to contribute significantly to practical applications.

Lesprojekt, the project coordinator, draws on its expertise in technology applications in agriculture and forestry to guide the consortium. The project provides actionable insights by employing advanced techniques to incorporate Copernicus services, EGNSS and other spatial datasets. These insights help stakeholders, including farmers, advisors, policymakers, and land managers, make informed decisions that support sustainable practices. Essential data on crop health, land use, and forestry conservation are provided, enhancing land management practices and boosting agricultural productivity.

The COMUNIDAD project transfers experiences and know-how through developing technological components and various training activities and creating training materials utilising developed technical components, the infrastructure, and the platform.

The COMUNIDAD project aims to transform agricultural and forestry management in Latin America through technological innovation and international collaboration based on experiences and know-how from European partners and based on international cooperation with partners from Latin America. The integration of cutting-edge technologies with strategic data analysis is set to improve different domains and promote environmental sustainability in the region.



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Executive Summary

The **COMUNIDAD project** represents a significant international collaboration between Europe and Latin America, aimed at addressing key environmental and agricultural challenges in Chile and Colombia. The project focuses on integrating Copernicus Earth Observation (EO) data and the European Global Navigation Satellite System (EGNSS), alongside advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data analytics, to enhance decision-making processes. These technologies are applied in areas such as precision farming, environmental monitoring, disaster management, and urban planning, with the ultimate goal of improving sustainability and socio-economic outcomes in the region.

This document provides a detailed overview of the role and structure of the advisory board established to support the COMUNIDAD project. The advisory board plays a key role in offering strategic guidance, leveraging the expertise of its members to help align the project with both local needs. The document explains the rationale for forming the advisory board, outlining how it ensures that the project benefits from external perspectives, expert knowledge, and strong connections within key sectors.

Main Sections

1. **Selection Process for Advisory Board Members:** This section outlines the methodical approach taken to select the advisory board members. The selection process was designed to identify individuals who could add significant value to the project through their expertise and local networks. Criteria for selection included proven technical expertise, regional knowledge, and the ability to contribute to key project areas such as innovation, policy, and community engagement. Emphasis was placed on ensuring diversity in expertise, with candidates chosen from both Colombia and Chile to reflect the project's focus on improving local agricultural and forestry management. Additionally, a member from Spain was included to support the project's final event and increase its European outreach.
2. **Composition of the Advisory Board:** The document outlines the composition of the advisory board, which consists of seven members with diverse backgrounds in agriculture, forestry, government, and policy. This balance of regional and international expertise ensures the project benefits from a wide range of perspectives. The advisory board members bring specific expertise in areas like





precision farming, rural development, technology integration, and public policy, which are critical to the success of the project's goals.

3. **Role of the Advisory Board:** The advisory board's role is advisory in nature, focusing on providing high-level strategic guidance in key areas such as policy alignment, technical validation, stakeholder engagement, and community involvement. The board is expected to ensure that the project's activities align with local policies and regulatory frameworks in Chile and Colombia, while also fostering partnerships and stakeholder cooperation. The board's members will help tailor the technological solutions being developed to the specific socio-economic conditions of the region, ensuring both relevance and impact.
4. **Working Operative of the Advisory Board:** This section details how the advisory board will operate within the project's framework. The advisory board will meet twice annually to review progress, provide feedback, and offer strategic recommendations. Regular communication will be maintained through virtual meetings and email exchanges, with clear reporting mechanisms in place to capture the board's feedback and integrate it into the project's action plans. While board members will not receive financial compensation, their contributions will be acknowledged in the project's communication and dissemination activities.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Board's Effectiveness:** A system for monitoring the effectiveness of the advisory board is presented in this section. The board's performance will be evaluated based on their ability to open networking opportunities, provide expert advice, offer solutions to technical challenges, and facilitate stakeholder engagement. Feedback loops between the advisory board and the project team will ensure continuous improvement in the board's operations and contributions to the project.
6. **Risk Management and Contingency Planning:** The advisory board's role in the COMUNIDAD project, while invaluable, faces potential risks such as inconsistent engagement, misalignment between strategic vision and operational needs, limited local representation, and gaps in technical expertise. Additionally, there is a risk of sensitive information leakage due to the board's access to confidential project data. To mitigate these risks, the project has established several contingency strategies, including flexible scheduling of meetings, clear role definition, and supplemental stakeholder engagement. Performance reviews and feedback loops will ensure ongoing effectiveness, while technical gaps can be



addressed by external experts. The confidentiality of project information is safeguarded through rigorous enforcement of Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) terms, reinforced throughout the project's duration.

7. **Future Outlook:** Looking beyond the project's funded period, the document discusses the advisory board's potential long-term involvement. Although not legally obligated, board members are expected to continue supporting the project through stakeholder engagement, dissemination of outcomes, and helping to shape future initiatives. The board's expertise will be invaluable in scaling the project's solutions to other regions and fostering long-term sustainability through ongoing partnerships and collaborations.

Conclusion

The advisory board is a critical asset to the COMUNIDAD project, providing strategic guidance, technical expertise, and local insights that will ensure the project's success and long-term impact. Through their involvement, the board members will help the project navigate challenges, foster stakeholder engagement, and tailor technological solutions to the needs of the region. This document outlines the essential framework for the advisory board's operations, ensuring that its contributions are effectively integrated into the project's structure and that its role in promoting the project's sustainability and growth is clearly defined.

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive overview of the advisory board's role within the COMUNIDAD project. It details the rationale behind establishing the board, the selection process for its members, the composition of the board, and the operational framework that will guide its activities.

The advisory board has been designed to offer strategic guidance and expert advice, ensuring that the project stays aligned with its objectives of improving agricultural and forestry management in Chile and Colombia through the integration of Copernicus satellite data, EGNSS technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Big Data. The document outlines the specific roles the advisory board will play, the criteria and processes used in selecting its members, the diverse expertise represented on the board, and the



mechanisms for ensuring effective collaboration between the board and the project team.

By establishing this advisory board, the COMUNIDAD project aims to enhance its strategic oversight and ensure that it leverages the expertise and networks of key regional and international stakeholders to achieve its long-term goals of sustainability and scalability.

1. Selection Process for Advisory Board Members

Selection criteria

The selection process for the advisory board of the COMUNIDAD project focused on identifying reputed individuals who could add significant value to the project. A key priority in the selection was to ensure that each candidate brought substantial expertise and could provide added value to the project's objectives, ensuring their contributions would drive success in both technological and socio-economic aspects. Additionally, it was established that the candidates should be from Colombia and Chile to ensure they possess deep knowledge of local agricultural realities and have strong local networks to support the project's activities. These areas were prioritized to align the board's skill set with the project's goals of improving agricultural and forestry management in Latin America through technology transfer and collaboration.

1. **Expertise and experience:** Advisory board candidates were required to have proven technical expertise, industry knowledge, research capabilities, or relevant experience that aligned with the objectives of the COMUNIDAD project. Ideal candidates had strong backgrounds in precision farming, AI, satellite data application (Copernicus and EGNSS), or sustainable land management practices. Additionally, candidates demonstrated a genuine passion for the project's goals and mission, ensuring they would not only provide insights but also actively drive the project's impact.
2. **Networking and resources:** Members were selected based on their extensive local networks, providing opportunities to connect the project with additional resources, partners, and experts. Given the project's focus on Chile and Colombia, candidates with strong local networking capabilities were prioritized, particularly for key tasks



such as pilot projects, training, dissemination, and exploitation activities. Their ability to link the project to regional networks was considered essential for amplifying its visibility and impact.

3. **Regional knowledge:** A crucial element of the selection was ensuring that candidates possessed deep knowledge of the specific conditions, challenges, and needs of the farming and forestry industries in the Zona Cafetera (Colombia) and Aysén (Chile). Their practical experience in these regions was seen as key to tailoring solutions relevant to the unique environmental and socio-economic contexts. This local expertise was prioritized to ensure added value in addressing regional challenges.
4. **Supportive personality and collaborative spirit:** Ideal candidates demonstrated a willingness to generously contribute their knowledge and experience. A collaborative, supportive approach was emphasized during the selection process, as these individuals were expected to play a key role in introducing the COMUNIDAD project to stakeholders and actively supporting its implementation. Their personal commitment to dedicating time and energy to the project was considered essential to their selection.
5. **Diversity:** Diversity of expertise, industry background, and perspectives was a key consideration for building a balanced and comprehensive advisory board. The project aimed to incorporate diverse viewpoints and skill sets to provide more holistic guidance and address a broad spectrum of challenges. This diversity was seen as an added value in ensuring the board could approach issues from multiple angles, enhancing the overall impact of their advice.

Selection process

A structured three-step process was implemented to identify the most qualified candidates, with an emphasis on ensuring that those selected could add real, measurable value to the project. Additionally, as the project focused on Chile and Colombia, project partners from both countries played a key role in the selection process due to their knowledge of key local personalities and reference professionals in the region. The process was designed to be fair, transparent, and aligned with the project's strategic needs.

1. **First selection of candidates (Completed by August 24):**



- Without directly contacting the candidates, consortium members and stakeholders, especially those from Chile and Colombia, proposed potential candidates based on the criteria above. For each nominee, a short explanation was provided detailing how they could add value to the project in one or more of the identified key areas. Public profiles, such as LinkedIn, were collected to provide initial insights into the candidates' backgrounds.
 - After gathering all proposals, the consortium developed a shortlist of 7-8 candidates, prioritizing those who demonstrated the strongest potential contributions across the five critical areas.
2. **Final decision (Completed by September 24):**
- The shortlisted candidates were contacted to gauge their interest and willingness to serve on the advisory board. At this stage, it was ensured that candidates were enthusiastic about the project and prepared to commit their time and resources.
 - Initially, the advisory board was planned to be composed of six members, three from Chile and three from Colombia, in order to maintain balance and regional expertise. However, it was deemed necessary to add an additional member from Spain, due to the importance of the project's final event taking place in Spain. A well-connected professional was selected to support the project in enhancing the impact and outreach of this final event.
3. **NDA signature (Currently underway):**
- Once selected, advisory board members are undergoing a formal onboarding process, which includes signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). This step is crucial for protecting the confidentiality of project data and intellectual property. The NDA ensures that sensitive information shared within the board remains secure and is used solely for advancing the project's objectives.

Transparency and fairness

To ensure transparency and fairness, the selection process followed a structured and impartial approach:



- **Objective criteria:** The evaluation of candidates was based on clearly defined selection criteria, ensuring an objective assessment of how each candidate could contribute to the project.
- **Clear communication:** All steps in the process were documented, and candidates received transparent communication regarding their status and the reasons for their selection or non-selection. This ensured a fair and equitable process for all involved.

Diversity and inclusivity

The COMUNIDAD project values diversity as a key strength of its advisory board. Efforts were made to ensure gender balance and representation from both Latin America and Europe. In addition to geographic diversity, candidates from various sectors—ranging from academia and industry to policy-making and civil society—were considered to ensure a broad spectrum of perspectives. This inclusive approach allows the project to benefit from comprehensive advice that spans technical, societal, and policy-related domains.

Onboarding process: NDA signing

Once the final members of the advisory board were selected, the onboarding process began. This process includes:

- **Introduction to the project:** Members receive comprehensive onboarding materials to familiarize them with the project's objectives, structure, key activities, and expected roles.
- **NDA signing:** All advisory board members are required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). This agreement ensures that sensitive information related to the project—such as proprietary technology, data, and strategic plans—is kept confidential. The NDA forms a crucial part of the ethical and professional framework governing the advisory board's work.

This structured process ensured that the advisory board is composed of individuals who can contribute meaningfully to the COMUNIDAD project, ensuring its success and alignment with the socio-economic goals of agricultural and forestry management in Latin America.





2. Composition of the Advisory Board

Number of Members

The project initially aimed to include six advisory board members with equal representation from Chile and Colombia to ensure comprehensive expertise in local agricultural and forestry sectors. To enhance strategic outreach and coordination with European initiatives, an additional member from Spain was added to support the organization of the final event in Spain. Also, the inclusion of the Spanish advisory board member brings considerable value to the Comunidad project, particularly in forestry management and agricultural policy. This member has extensive experience in forestry, having led initiatives that integrate digitization and Big Data within the forestry and agri-food sectors. Additionally, their background in shaping policy frameworks and advising on agricultural and forestry legislation at Spain's Ministry of Agriculture enables them to guide the project effectively.

With the confirmation of all seven advisory board members now complete, the composition provides a balanced mix of local insights and European collaboration, ensuring well-rounded guidance for the project's objectives.

Final selection of the Advisory board

Colombia

Name	Luis Fernando Giraldo Castellanos
Position	Departmental leader of rural extension of the coffee growers committee of Caldas
Country	Colombia
Gender	Male





Professional background	Agricultural engineer graduated from the University of Caldas and Master's degree in sustainable development and environment from the University of Manila with more than 20 years of experience linked to the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia in the process of developing rural extension in the department of Caldas.		
Technical expertise	Specializes in rural extension services and the adoption of precision farming technologies in coffee cultivation. He has extensive experience in improving agricultural practices through technology transfer to enhance productivity and sustainability in Colombia's coffee-growing regions.		
Linkedin or similar	https://caldas.federaciondecafeteros.org/federacion/estructura/		
What value do you think she/he brings to the project?	Networking	Knowledge of local farming	Expertise
	Working with community coffee makers	Knowledge of the coffee-growing area of the Department of Caldas (farms, villages, municipalities)	More than 20 years working in the Department of Caldas
Please, explain	Through the work he currently carries out and the roles he has played in the extension service of the county of Caldas, he has had the opportunity to meet the coffee growers of the department, and understand their farms, needs, and development. He has contributed to the adoption of technologies to improve their production systems and has developed and formulated productive projects aimed at improving their living standards through the continuous enhancement of their productive processes.		
Additional information you consider relevant	He is eager to contribute to new projects, research, and initiatives that enhance the coffee cultivation systems in the department, aiming to improve overall productivity and sustainability.		

Name	Natalia Aguirre
Position	Leader of the Manizales cluster community
Country	Colombia
Gender	Female
Professional background	Natalia Aguirre is an Industrial Engineer, specializing in project management. She has been the coordinator of business projects at the Manizales Chamber of Commerce and leads cluster initiatives at a regional level. She supports the consolidation processes of the speciality coffee cluster in Caldas.





Technical expertise	Focuses on industry-wide innovation within the coffee sector, including technology adoption and cluster management. Her experience includes promoting technology transfer to local entrepreneurs in agri-industrial sectors.		
Linkedin or similar	https://www.linkedin.com/in/nathalia-aguirre-valencia-977a6931/?originalSubdomain=co		
What value do you think she/he brings to the project?	Networking	Knowledge of local farming	Expertise
	Yes		Yes
Please, explain	The Caldas specialty coffee cluster initiative brings together around 92 entrepreneurs from the department. All these companies are linked to the Manizales Chamber of Commerce for Caldas, which promotes relationships with entrepreneurs and industrialists as well as the transfer of knowledge and technology to the sector.		
Additional information you consider relevant	Natalia also leads different cluster initiatives such as metalworking, marketing industries, and dairy, among others, which are sectors that are interrelated with the coffee sector in the region.		

Name	Marcelo Salazar Velasquez		
Position	Coffee grower – President of the Caldas Coffee Growers Committee - FNC		
Country	Colombia		
Gender	Male		
Professional background	Marcelo Salazar is an Agricultural Business Administrator from Unisarc and a Business Administrator from UAM. With 35 years of experience in coffee production, he has a deep understanding of the industry. Additionally, he has served as a union representative for 17 years, demonstrating his extensive expertise in both agricultural management and leadership within the sector.		
Technical expertise	Brings expertise in sustainable coffee production technologies and business management, with a focus on adopting innovative farming practices to improve sector efficiency and environmental impact.		
Linkedin or similar	https://caldas.federaciondecafeteros.org/listado-noticias/nueva-mesa-directiva-comite-de-cafeteros-de-caldas/		
What value do you think	Networking	Knowledge of local farming	Expertise





she/he brings to the project?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Please, explain	<p>Marcelo Salazar brings tremendous value to the COMUNIDAD project advisory board through his extensive network of contacts within the coffee sector, his expertise in coffee business management, and over 35 years of industry experience. His deep understanding of sustainable coffee production technologies and his comprehensive knowledge of the coffee sector and its economy make him a key contributor to the project's success.</p>		

Chile

Name	Erik Adio Maldonado
Position	Regional Administrator of the Government of Aysén (GORE Aysén)
Country	Chile
Gender	Male
Professional background	<p>Erik Adio is the Regional Administrator of the Government of Aysén (GORE Aysén), Chile. He is responsible for coordinating various regional projects, particularly those related to infrastructure, emergency management, and social investment. Under his administration, significant initiatives have been advanced, such as the acquisition of vehicles for emergency services and the development of a public transportation project for Coyhaique.</p> <p>In terms of his professional background, Erik Adio has been involved in the execution of regional budgets and has worked closely with both municipal authorities and the regional government. His role emphasizes improving regional connectivity and supporting infrastructure projects.</p>
Technical expertise	Involved in regional project management and development in Chile, with knowledge in infrastructure and strategic areas for regional growth. His experience also extends to rural and community development projects in Patagonia.
Experience related to policy frameworks, legislation, or regulations	As Regional Administrator for Aysén, Chile, he manages regional policies and development projects, including rural and community initiatives.





Linkedin or similar	https://www.linkedin.com/in/erik-adio-maldonado-7a2504122/?originalSubdomain=cl		
What value do you think she/he brings to the project?	Networking	Knowledge of local farming	Expertise
	Yes		Yes
Please, explain	Erik Adio is a valuable asset to the COMUNIDAD project due to his role and extensive experience. His insights can introduce new perspectives on the deployment of applications, while also addressing the broader impact of pilot developments in Aysén, specifically in the Chilean Patagonia. Furthermore, his in-depth knowledge of funding sources, key local stakeholders, and strategic areas for regional development makes him a critical contributor to ensuring the project's long-term success.		

Name	Juan Carlos Aravena Donaire		
Position	Head "Nodo Ciencia Austral Project"		
Country	Chile		
Gender	Male		
Professional background	Juan Carlos Aravena holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Chile and a PhD in Environmental Sciences from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. He is the Director of the Gaia Antarctic Research Center at the University of Magallanes. He has experience leading regional, national, and international projects and is an academic representative of UMAG at the Regional Climate Change Board. He is also a member of the National Panel of the Climate and Resilience Science Center (CR)2 and the Director of Nodo Ciencia Austral.		
Technical expertise	Expert in environmental sciences and regional climate change. He integrates geospatial data and technology applications for ecosystem monitoring, including forestry management, through the Nodo Ciencia Austral project.		
Linkedin or similar	https://hojaderutanodo.cl https://www.linkedin.com/in/juan-carlos-aravena-76342158/?originalSubdomain=cl		
What value do you think she/he brings to the project?	Networking	Knowledge of local farming	Expertise
	Yes		Yes





Please, explain	<p>Dr. Aravena is highly valuable to the COMUNIDAD project, as he has been leading the Nodo Ciencia Austral project for approximately three years. This leadership allows him to stay connected to the needs of the southern macrozone, facilitating a coordinated working strategy between the regions of Aysén and Magallanes. In this context, the project has identified and proposed a roadmap for the macrozone, which includes collaboration not only with academic organizations but also with a wide range of key stakeholders from governmental sectors and non-profit organizations. He also participates in various science committees and contributes to strengthening productive development initiatives in the regions.</p> <p>Moreover, Dr. Juan Aravena is the director of the Nodo de Ciencia Austral project, which includes regional projects on natural laboratories where several experts on native forests, peatlands, and sub-Antarctic ecosystems are involved. In this sense, through collaboration with the advisors, the internal involvement of contributors from the forestry sector allows us to strengthen and enrich the project in this area.</p>
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Name	Marcos Maldonado Vargas
Position	Head of R&D in the State Public Policies Division Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation Government of Chile
Country	Chile
Gender	Male
Professional background	Marcos Maldonado Vargas currently holds the position of Head of Research and Development (R&D) in the State within the Public Policy Division at the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation of the Government of Chile. His responsibilities include fostering innovation and scientific research across various governmental sectors. He works to align science and technology policies with the country's long-term development objectives, ensuring that public policies effectively support technological advancements. Additionally, he plays a crucial role in coordinating efforts between governmental bodies, academic institutions, and the private sector to promote sustainable development and strengthen the national research ecosystem.





Technical expertise	Experienced in public policy and R&D coordination in Chile, with insights into sustainable development and research policies. His work includes fostering innovation projects aligned with forestry and agricultural priorities.		
Experience related to policy frameworks, legislation, or regulations	His role in Chile's Ministry of Science involves aligning research policies with national development strategies, including sustainable development goals relevant to agriculture and forestry.		
Linkedin or similar	https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcosmaldonado/?originalSubdomain=cl marcos.maldonado@usach.cl		
What value do you think she/he brings to the project?	Networking	Knowledge of local farming	Expertise
	X		X
Please, explain	The role of Marcos Maldonado Vargas as an advisor to the COMUNIDAD project is invaluable due to his expertise in central government agencies and his deep understanding of Chile's research and development strategies. His insights will help ensure that the project aligns with national priorities in science and technology. With his experience in innovation projects and previous work at CORFO, he brings a wealth of knowledge that will help refine the project's focus. His participation guarantees that the COMUNIDAD project will benefit from strategic feedback, particularly in terms of fostering collaborations with key governmental and non-profit sectors, enhancing the project's overall impact and ensuring a sustainable, innovative approach.		

Spain

Name	Andrés Montero Aparicio
Position	Head of Unit for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan-Senior Advisor Office of the Spanish Prime Minister
Country	Spain
Gender	Male
Professional background	Andres Montero has a distinguished career, with a blend of high-level government advisory roles and academic expertise. He currently serves as the Head of Unit for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan at the Office of the Spanish Prime Minister . His responsibilities include coordinating the plan's implementation, providing economic advice, drafting key speeches, and leading negotiations with the





	<p>European Commission. Montero also prioritizes investment projects in collaboration with regional governments and economic sectors.</p> <p>In academia, Montero is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Economics at the University Carlos III of Madrid, focusing on green transition economic aspects.</p> <p>Previously, Montero has held influential positions in Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, leading focus groups on innovation and digitization in agri-food and rural sectors, as well as roles in various EU and H2020 projects. He has extensive experience in project management, EU negotiations, and advisory roles in agricultural research and innovation, significantly contributing to Spain's strategic development in these fields. His background also includes working in the private sector, where he supported senior management in food and vending industries.</p> <p>His educational qualifications include a PhD in Agricultural Engineering (Economics), further demonstrating his expertise in environmental economics and agricultural innovation.</p>		
Technical expertise	Experienced in public policy and R&D coordination in Chile, with insights into sustainable development and research policies. His work includes fostering innovation projects aligned with forestry and agricultural priorities.		
Experience related to policy frameworks, legislation, or regulations	Experienced in advising on rural development policies, having coordinated digitization efforts in agri-food and forestry sectors, and working on EU negotiations and strategic planning in Spain.		
Linkedin or similar	http://lnkd.in/AfARSR		
What value do you think she/he brings to the project?	Networking	Knowledge of local farming	Expertise
	Yes	Yes	Yes
Please, explain	<p>Andres Montero would be a valuable member of an advisory board for the Comunidad project for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive Expertise in Agri-Food Systems and Innovation: Montero has a strong background in agri-food knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) through his work with the European Commission and as the Co-Chair of SCAR SWG AKIS. 		





- Also, Andrés Montero brings **valuable experience in forestry management** through his role as the coordinator of a focus group on digitization and Big Data in agri-food, forestry, and rural sectors at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food, and Environment in Spain (2017–2018). He led a multidisciplinary team of experts, advising on research and innovation policies, strategic planning for Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS), and contributing to the development of Spain’s Agri-food Digitization Agenda. His efforts raised awareness and integrated forestry considerations into policy recommendations.
- Extensive networking capabilities at both European and LATAM levels, which will be crucial for coordinating stakeholders across sectors, governments, and institutions. His connections would be invaluable for organizing the project’s final event in Spain, ensuring the involvement of key actors from both continents and maximizing impact.
- Experience in High-Level Advisory Roles: His work advising the Spanish Prime Minister and leading negotiations with the European Commission for the Recovery and Resilience Plan has given him valuable experience in high-stakes decision-making.
- Familiarity with Digital and Big Data Applications in Agriculture: Montero has led several focus groups and projects on digitization and big data in agriculture, including projects within the H2020 framework.
- **Understanding of Latin American Agricultural Context:** His past consultancy projects, including working on international cooperation and agricultural innovation in Chile, demonstrate a familiarity with the specific needs, challenges, and opportunities in Latin American agriculture. This insight would ensure that the project is tailored to local contexts and maximizes its impact in Colombia and Chile.

Areas of Expertise

The advisory board members were carefully selected to ensure a wide range of expertise across key areas essential to the success of the COMUNIDAD project. Their contributions cover several domains:



- **Agricultural and Forestry Management:** Members from Colombia bring deep knowledge of the coffee sector, particularly in the Zona Cafetera region, where sustainable coffee cultivation practices are critical. Chilean members bring expertise in environmental sciences and regional climate change, focusing on sustainable forestry management and the integration of climate resilience strategies. Their practical experience ensures the project's technological solutions align with the unique conditions in both regions.
- **Government and Policy:** Several members from both Colombia and Chile hold influential positions within local and regional governments. They provide invaluable insight into public administration, policy-making, and the alignment of project activities with local and national priorities. This ensures that COMUNIDAD's efforts are not only technically sound but also well-supported by existing governmental structures and funding mechanisms.
- **Innovation and Technology:** Members such as Juan Carlos Aravena and Andrés Montero offer strong backgrounds in the application of cutting-edge technologies like geospatial data, AI, and Big Data to improve agricultural and forestry practices. Their expertise in the development and deployment of these technologies is crucial for advancing the technical goals of the project, including the use of Copernicus satellite data and EGNSS technologies for sustainable development.
- **Project Management and Industry:** The advisory board includes individuals with extensive experience in managing large-scale projects, both in the public and private sectors. Members such as Marcelo Salazar and Natalia Aguirre bring leadership in industry clusters and community engagement, particularly in the coffee sector. Their experience in coordinating multiple stakeholders and driving innovation ensures that the project is effectively managed and positioned for economic impact and scalability.

Balance of Representation

The composition of the advisory board ensures a well-rounded representation from various sectors and regions, crucial to the success of the COMUNIDAD project:

- **Geographic Diversity:** The advisory board is composed of members from Colombia and Chile, ensuring strong regional representation for the project's agricultural and forestry initiatives. Colombian members bring expertise in the





Zona Cafetera, a vital coffee-producing region, while Chilean members contribute knowledge from regions such as Aysén and Magallanes, with a focus on forestry management and climate resilience. The addition of a Spanish member strengthens the project’s connection to European expertise, especially for coordinating the final project event in Spain and ensuring alignment with EU strategies.

- **Sectoral Diversity:** The board members are drawn from a variety of sectors, including government, academia, and industry. For example, **Erik Adio** from Chile offers insights into regional administration and public infrastructure, while **Luis Fernando Giraldo Castellanos** and **Marcelo Salazar** from Colombia bring hands-on experience in coffee production and rural extension. **Juan Carlos Aravena** adds academic depth with his background in environmental science and climate research, enhancing the board’s capacity to address both environmental and socio-economic issues.
- **Technical and Policy Expertise:** The advisory board balances technical expertise with policy-making experience. Members like **Andrés Montero** and **Juan Carlos Aravena** offer strong backgrounds in geospatial technologies, agricultural innovation, and climate science, while others, such as **Natalia Aguirre** and **Erik Adio**, bring valuable perspectives on regional development, policy alignment, and public investment. This blend of expertise ensures that the project receives comprehensive advice that integrates technological innovation with local and national policy frameworks.

This diverse composition enables the advisory board to offer comprehensive guidance to the COMUNIDAD project, helping achieve its objectives of technology transfer, improved agricultural and forestry management, and sustainable development in Colombia and Chile.

Table 1 Advisory board members, summary of competencies and areas of expertise

Name	Country	Agricultural and Forestry Management	Government and Policy	Innovation and Technology	Project Management and Industry	Notes
Luis Fernando Giraldo Castellanos	Colombia	High	Medium	Medium	High	Extensive experience in rural extension and coffee farming in Caldas, with over 20 years of





						experience in local agricultural development.
Natalia Aguirre	Colombia	Medium	Medium	High	High	Leads the Manizales coffee cluster, supports industry-wide innovation, and has strong links with local entrepreneurs.
Marcelo Salazar Velasquez	Colombia	High	Medium	Medium	High	Over 35 years of experience in coffee production, with deep sector contacts and leadership within the coffee growers' union.
Erik Adio Maldonado	Chile	Medium	High	Medium	High	Government role in Aysén, focusing on regional projects like infrastructure and social investment, with some technology application experience.
Juan Carlos Aravena Donaire	Chile	Medium	High	High	High	Head of the Nodo Ciencia Austral Project, with extensive experience in climate science and environmental management, leading national and regional collaborations in Chile.
Marcos Maldonado Vargas	Chile	Medium	High	Medium	High	Experience in public policy and R&D coordination in Chile, with insights into sustainable development and research policies.
Andrés Montero Aparicio	Spain	Medium	High	High	High	Extensive background in agri-food systems, innovation, and high-level government advisory roles, with a focus on digital agriculture and EU negotiations.

Initial Assessment of the Advisory Board's Expected Impact

Opening doors and creating networking opportunities for the project

The current composition of the advisory board is well-positioned to open doors and create valuable networking opportunities for the COMUNIDAD project. With key members holding leadership roles in local and regional governments in Chile and Colombia, as well as in industry clusters, the board has extensive connections within both the public and private sectors. This should facilitate the engagement of local stakeholders, such as policymakers, agricultural experts, and industry representatives. The inclusion of a Spanish member with connections at the European level also enhances the board's ability to bridge the project to larger international networks, particularly those in the EU.



Expected Impact: High

Providing valuable expertise on local conditions and context in Chile and Colombia

The advisory board's members have strong ties to the local agricultural and forestry sectors in Chile and Colombia. Their expertise in coffee production, rural development, and regional government ensures that the project is grounded in a deep understanding of local needs and challenges. This will be crucial for tailoring the project's technological solutions to the specific contexts of the Zona Cafetera and Aysén, allowing for a more accurate and effective implementation of tools like Copernicus services.

Initial Impact: High

Supporting training activities such as workshops and hackathons by helping attract a wide representation of stakeholders

Given the board's deep connections within the agricultural and government sectors in both Chile and Colombia, its members are well-suited to attract a diverse range of stakeholders to participate in the project's training activities, including workshops and hackathons. Their local influence, combined with established ties to farmers, local government officials, and regional organizations, will be instrumental in mobilizing community and industry participation. Their understanding of local dynamics also ensures that training materials and events are relevant to the participants' needs.

Initial Impact: High

Facilitating administrative processes, especially those related to compliance, funding, or regional partnerships

The board's composition, particularly with members from regional governments and industry associations, is an asset when it comes to navigating administrative processes related to compliance and securing funding. Their experience in public administration, managing regional budgets, and working with governmental policies gives them the capability to support the project in aligning with local regulatory frameworks, ensuring smooth administrative operations. The advisory board also has the ability to facilitate partnerships that could enhance the project's long-term sustainability.

Initial Impact: High



3. Role of the Advisory Board

Strategic Guidance

The Advisory Board of the COMUNIDAD project plays a crucial role in providing high-level strategic guidance. Comprised of experts from diverse sectors such as agriculture, forestry, government, innovation, and project management, the board will offer insights that help shape the project's direction, tackle challenges, and seize emerging opportunities. Their knowledge will be instrumental in aligning the project's objectives with broader regional and international strategies, such as the CELAC strategies for Copernicus data implementation and the sustainable development goals of both Colombia and Chile. Through their advice, the project will stay on course to deliver impactful solutions that enhance precision farming and sustainable forestry management.

The board will also monitor the progress of the project, offering advice on overcoming potential obstacles related to regional policy, technical challenges, or stakeholder coordination, ensuring the project remains responsive to both local and global shifts in agriculture and forestry practices.

Expert Advice on Key Project Areas

The advisory board is expected to add significant value across several critical areas, directly supporting the COMUNIDAD project's mission to implement advanced technological solutions for sustainable agriculture and forestry in Colombia and Chile. Their contributions include:

- **Policy and Regulatory Alignment:** Members from government and public administration roles will ensure that the project remains aligned with regional policies and regulatory frameworks. Their guidance will ensure that the project's deployment of Copernicus services and geospatial technologies aligns with local and national policy objectives in both Chile and Colombia, as well as with broader CELAC strategies.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The board members' extensive networks in agriculture, government, and industry will facilitate effective engagement with key



stakeholders, including farmers, policy-makers, and local communities. Their involvement will be instrumental in ensuring that the project reaches and resonates with its target audiences, securing long-term commitment and adoption of the solutions introduced.

- **Technical and Scientific Validation:** With board members specializing in agricultural management, geospatial data, and sustainability, the advisory board will provide crucial validation for the technical solutions developed under the COMUNIDAD platform. Their input will help ensure that technologies such as satellite data and AI applications are tailored to the specific needs of local farming and forestry practices.
- **Community Involvement and Social Innovation:** The board will play a key role in fostering social innovation and community involvement, especially in rural areas of Colombia and Chile. With insights into the socio-economic dynamics of the regions, board members will help bridge the gap between technology and local communities, ensuring that solutions introduced are accessible, equitable, and designed to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and forestry workers.
- **Project Scalability and Sustainability:** Advisory board members with expertise in project management and industry will provide strategic advice on how the project can be scaled beyond its initial scope. This includes insights into how the COMUNIDAD platform can be integrated with other regional or international initiatives, securing long-term sustainability through partnerships, further funding, or commercialization pathways.

Decision-Making Influence

The role of the advisory board is purely advisory. While they will offer strategic and technical recommendations, final decision-making authority rests with the project leadership and management team. The advisory board will not hold formal decision-making powers but will contribute substantially to guiding the direction and priorities of the project through their insights, expertise, and feedback on key project milestones.

4. Working Operative of the Advisory Board

Meeting Frequency

The Advisory Board will convene **twice annually** to provide strategic guidance and feedback on the project's progress. These meetings will be scheduled at key milestones to ensure that the board's input aligns with critical stages of the project. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed based on the project's requirements or emerging opportunities.

Communication Channels

Regular communication between the advisory board and the project team will primarily be conducted through **virtual meetings and email correspondence**. This ensures continuous engagement despite geographical constraints. Virtual meetings will allow real-time discussions on strategic topics, while email communication will serve for ongoing updates, documentation sharing, and direct feedback on specific issues.

Reporting and Feedback Mechanism

Feedback from the advisory board will be captured directly during meetings and through email exchanges. During each virtual meeting, detailed minutes will be recorded, documenting the board's suggestions, concerns, and recommendations. Email communication will be archived to ensure that ongoing feedback is systematically reviewed and incorporated into the project's action plans. The project team will review and integrate this feedback into key deliverables, ensuring that the board's insights directly shape the project's progress.

Compensation and Acknowledgement

Advisory board members **will not receive economic compensation** for their contributions. However, they will be acknowledged in the project's communication and dissemination activities when relevant. Their involvement will be highlighted in official project reports, publications, and events, ensuring that their contributions are recognized by both the consortium and external stakeholders.



Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of Advisory Board's Effectiveness

- **Regular Review of Contributions:** The contributions of the advisory board will be reviewed periodically in a collaborative and supportive manner. The focus will be on understanding how the board's input has helped the project in areas such as:
 - Facilitating networking opportunities and fostering relationships that enhance the project's reach.
 - Offering valuable expertise on the local conditions, particularly in Chile and Colombia.
 - Helping to address technical or operational challenges encountered during pilot projects.
 - Supporting the organization of training events, workshops, and hackathons by drawing diverse stakeholders.
 - Assisting with administrative aspects, including regulatory processes and partnerships.

This process is intended as a constructive assessment aimed at recognizing and celebrating the board's valuable input. Feedback from both the project team and the advisory board will be used to fine-tune the collaboration and ensure that the advisory board's role continues to align with project needs

- **Feedback Loops**

To maintain open communication and continuously enhance the board's involvement, a feedback loop will be established. After each advisory board meeting, both the advisory board members and the project team will be invited to share insights through a brief survey, focusing on:

- The clarity of communication and overall meeting effectiveness.
- Suggestions for improving engagement or areas where the board could provide further support.
- The project team's perspective on how the board's advice is contributing and any additional areas where further input may be valuable.

These feedback discussions will be reviewed together at subsequent meetings to ensure an ongoing, proactive approach that fosters positive collaboration and maximizes the board's contributions throughout the project.

5. Risk Management and Contingency Planning

Key Risks related to the advisory board and contingency planning

The advisory board, despite its valuable expertise and strategic input, may encounter certain risks that could limit its ability to fully deliver its intended impact on the COMUNIDAD project. These risks include:

- **Inconsistent Engagement:** One potential risk is inconsistent participation by advisory board members. Given their high-level roles in government, industry, and academia, members may face conflicting commitments or limited availability, which could reduce the frequency and depth of their input. This could affect the timeliness and quality of feedback, leading to missed opportunities for strategic guidance at critical project stages.
- **Misalignment of Expectations:** There is a risk that the board's strategic vision may not always align with the project's immediate operational needs, particularly in areas such as technology implementation or local community engagement. If the board focuses too heavily on high-level advice without providing actionable input, the project could suffer from a gap between strategic goals and on-the-ground execution.
- **Limited Local Representation:** While the advisory board includes strong regional representation from Chile and Colombia, there is a potential risk that the board may not fully represent the diversity of local voices, particularly from more marginalized or hard-to-reach farming communities. This could limit the board's ability to advise on the most effective stakeholder engagement strategies and may lead to underrepresentation of key local needs in the project's decision-making.
- **Lack of Technical Depth in Specific Areas:** While the advisory board brings substantial expertise in agriculture, government, and policy, there may be gaps in



addressing specific technical challenges related to the integration of AI, satellite data, or other advanced technologies in local contexts. If not addressed, this could slow down the project's ability to deploy solutions effectively during pilot phases.

- **Leakage of Sensitive Information:** Advisory board members have access to confidential project data, proprietary technologies, and strategic plans related to the deployment of Copernicus services, GEOSS data, and other advanced technologies. Any unauthorized disclosure of this information could compromise the project's competitive edge, result in intellectual property theft, or jeopardize future partnerships.

Contingency and mitigation Planning

To mitigate these risks, the COMUNIDAD project can implement several contingency strategies to ensure the advisory board's impact remains aligned with project goals:

- **Regular Engagement and Scheduling Flexibility:** To address inconsistent engagement, the project can ensure that advisory board meetings are scheduled well in advance, with flexibility for virtual participation. Between meetings, ongoing communication via email and collaborative platforms should be maintained to allow board members to provide feedback even when direct participation in meetings is not feasible. Additionally, assigning a project liaison to follow up on actions and feedback from each member will help maintain momentum.
- **Definition, management and monitoring of the value proposition for AB members:** To prevent misalignment between advisory board members' expectations and the Comunidad project's requirements, this section of the contingency plan aims to clearly define, monitor, and manage the AB members' value proposition throughout their participation. The goal is to ensure that their contributions align with the project's objectives while fulfilling their anticipated benefits, promoting engagement and maximizing the board's strategic impact. Regular updates and flexible participation options will help address evolving expectations and maintain alignment. Overall, we will enhance members' engagement by emphasizing professional networking, influence on strategic initiatives, and access to expertise. Contributions will be publicly acknowledged in reports and publications.

Initially, we proposed a unified Value Proposition for all AB members, which was validated through their willingness to join the project without monetary compensation. However, as we gain deeper insights into each member's

individual interests and motivations, we may introduce tailored elements to better align with their specific aspirations. This approach allows us to personalize the benefits, enhance engagement, and ensure that each member's participation remains meaningful and rewarding. This initial definition of their VP is the following:

- Professional Networking: Members gain visibility in international collaborations, expanding networks across Europe and Latin America.
- Access to Expertise: The project connects members with specialists in precision agriculture, forestry, and environmental management.
- Influence on Strategic Initiatives: Members contribute to impactful efforts promoting sustainable agriculture and forestry practices.
- Collaborative Engagement: Involvement allows members to work with diverse stakeholders, enhancing their professional roles and insights.

We have validated this value proposition by obtaining the approval to participate in the project without monetary compensation.

To prevent misalignment between advisory board members' expected benefits and the Comunidad project, mechanisms for each point in the value proposition are as follows:

1. **Professional Networking:** Facilitate introductions and connections with key stakeholders during project milestones and events. Regularly update members on relevant collaboration opportunities to expand their networks. Moreover, we will maximize visibility of advisory board members by promoting their participation in project communication and dissemination efforts, such as presentations, reports, social media, and events. We will highlight their involvement and expertise to relevant stakeholders in both Europe and Latin America, ensuring their visibility and reputation grow within international collaboration networks.
2. **Access to Expertise:** Include members in targeted consultations and working groups related to their expertise. Provide access to project data and insights to deepen their understanding of precision agriculture, forestry, and environmental management.
3. **Influence on Strategic Initiatives:** Actively involve members in decision-making processes for major project milestones. Their input will be sought for strategic decisions to ensure their expertise directly impacts project direction.



4. **Collaborative Engagement:** Schedule flexible and diverse participation opportunities, such as ad-hoc consultations or thematic workshops. Regularly recognize and publicize their contributions in reports and communications to enhance their professional standing.
- **Clear Role Definition and Expectation Management:** To avoid misalignment of expectations, it is essential to establish clear guidelines for the advisory board's contributions at the beginning of the project. This can be achieved by defining specific, actionable areas where the board's input is most needed, ensuring a balance between high-level strategic advice and practical, operational guidance. Periodic reviews of the board's contributions can ensure that expectations remain aligned throughout the project.
 - **Additional Local Stakeholder Engagement:** To ensure more inclusive local representation, the project team can conduct supplemental consultations with local farmers, community leaders, and other stakeholders in Chile and Colombia. These consultations would complement the advisory board's high-level guidance, ensuring that local needs and perspectives are incorporated more fully into project planning and execution.
 - **Expanding Technical Expertise:** If the advisory board's technical expertise in certain areas (e.g., satellite data integration, AI deployment) proves insufficient, the project could bring in external experts or consultants to support these technical aspects. The advisory board can still play a critical role by identifying such needs early and facilitating connections to appropriate technical resources.
 - **Performance Monitoring and Feedback Loops:** Adjust KPIs to focus on qualitative feedback, such as the value members perceive in their contributions, rather than rigid metrics. This ensures KPIs are meaningful and tied to the members' professional growth and project alignment.
 - **Clear Role Definition and Expectation Management:** Clearly communicate the opportunities for advisory board members to influence strategic decisions and recognize their input's impact on the project's success.

6. Future Outlook

Future Growth and Sustainability Strategy

The COMUNIDAD project's long-term success depends not only on the immediate impact of its activities but also on the sustainability of its outcomes beyond the project's funding period. A key element of this strategy is the continued involvement of the advisory board. Although there is no legal obligation for advisory board members to remain engaged after the project's completion, efforts will be made to foster ongoing collaboration with these key individuals. Their deep expertise and established networks make them valuable partners for ensuring that the project's innovations are sustained and scaled in the future.

Long-Term Involvement of Advisory Board

Post-project, the advisory board's role could evolve into supporting activities that ensure the continuity of the COMUNIDAD platform and its associated services. The board's members, particularly those from Chile and Colombia, are well-positioned to remain engaged in stakeholder engagement efforts and local capacity-building initiatives that extend the platform's reach. Their established relationships with regional and national authorities, as well as with the agricultural and forestry communities, would be critical in sustaining momentum. By maintaining this collaboration, the advisory board can help facilitate the scaling of the project's results to new regions, sectors, or communities in Latin America.

Board members may also be involved in promoting the project's outcomes through their professional networks, conferences, and policy forums, helping to drive policy changes that align with the sustainability goals of the COMUNIDAD project. Their ongoing support could further enhance the integration of Copernicus and EGNSS services into national strategies in Chile and Colombia.

Guiding Future Initiatives

The advisory board is also expected to play a key role in shaping future projects or spin-off initiatives that build on the COMUNIDAD project's outcomes. Their expertise in agricultural and forestry management, policy, innovation, and project execution can guide the development of new proposals or collaborations aimed at tackling emerging challenges in sustainable land use, climate resilience, or technology-driven farming practices.



Potential future initiatives could focus on expanding the "Hub4Everybody" platform's functionalities to other sectors or regions, leveraging the advisory board's networks to attract new stakeholders and secure further funding. Additionally, their insights will be valuable in adapting the platform to evolving technological trends, such as AI-driven precision farming, enabling the long-term impact of COMUNIDAD's innovations to persist in a changing landscape.

Plans for the Advisory Board's Role After the Project's Conclusion

While the advisory board's formal role will conclude with the end of the COMUNIDAD project, there are plans to invite board members to remain informally engaged in key follow-up activities. These may include participating in post-project evaluation events, contributing to dissemination efforts, or even serving as mentors in subsequent projects or initiatives that arise from COMUNIDAD's success.

By keeping the advisory board connected to the project's evolution, their expertise and insights can continue to guide future initiatives, spin-offs, or the replication of the project's results in other Latin American countries. This approach ensures that the advisory board's influence extends beyond the life of the project, reinforcing its long-term impact and sustainability.

Conclusion

The COMUNIDAD project, through its innovative integration of Copernicus data, EGNSS technologies, and advanced tools such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data analytics, holds great potential for transforming agricultural and forestry management in Chile and Colombia. By leveraging these technologies, the project not only aims to address immediate challenges in precision farming and sustainable land management but also seeks to create long-lasting socio-economic benefits for the region.

The advisory board plays a crucial role in guiding the project toward these objectives. Its members, with their diverse expertise in agriculture, forestry, government, policy-making, and technology, contribute invaluable insights that enhance the project's



strategic direction, local relevance, and implementation success. By maintaining strong connections within the local contexts of Chile and Colombia, the board helps ensure that the technological solutions developed are deeply aligned with the region's unique challenges and opportunities.

Through their input, the advisory board fosters greater engagement with stakeholders, from farmers and policymakers to industry leaders, enhancing the project's visibility and adoption. Their expertise supports the project's goal of creating a scalable and sustainable platform—one that can be adapted and applied to other regions and sectors across Latin America.

Looking ahead, the advisory board's influence is expected to extend beyond the immediate scope of the COMUNIDAD project. Their continued involvement will play a key role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project's innovations, helping to guide future initiatives and spin-offs that emerge from the platform. As the project progresses, the advisory board will remain an essential component in ensuring that the benefits of Copernicus and EGNSS technologies reach their full potential, contributing to sustainable development and environmental resilience in the region.

In conclusion, the COMUNIDAD project stands as a model of international collaboration, combining cutting-edge European technologies with local knowledge and networks in Latin America. The advisory board's strategic guidance will be critical in achieving the project's objectives and ensuring its lasting impact on agricultural and environmental management in the CELAC region.





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